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PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.
The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.300,000

BRANCHES IN:

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(Established by Khedival Decree, June 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to bearer.
Capital, £3,000,000 (in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.) Reserve Fund, £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. Rowlatt, Esq. Head Office: Cairo.
London Committee
E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G. Hon. Algernon Mills.
Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Hon. Sidney Peel.
LONDON AGENCY:
6 & 7 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager: J. T. Beaty-Pownall.
Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Circular Notes issued. Every kind of Banking business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-El-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah and Zagazig; and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Said and Suakim.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS.		
STERLING RESERVE, held in London at Exchange of 2s. per $ = £1,500,000 Sterling, invested in Consols and other Sterling Securities	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG.
LONDON COMMITTEE.
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Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bt.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.
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Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,033,410

Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24 28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C
Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.
Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.
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Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
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London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa: and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
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Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
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Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C
West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { A. Rossi. R. B. Handley. G. Costa.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK.

Incorporated by Imperial Russian Government Decree.

Capital Authorised...	Rbls. 65,000,000
Do. Subscribed...	Rbls. 45,000,000
Do. (Subscribed by the Imperial Chinese Government) Kouping	Taels 3,500,000
Reserve Funds	Rbls. 23,398,000
	Rbls. 71,898,300

HEAD OFFICE: AT PETROGRAD.
Branches at all the principal Towns in Russia, Manchuria, Siberia, Central Asia and China; also at Paris, Bombay, Hongkong and Yokohama.
Interest paid quarterly allowed on Fixed Deposit Accounts for one year and over at 4 per cent. per annum; for shorter periods, and on current accounts, at rates to be learnt on application.
Banking business transacted of every description.
CHANTREY INCHBALD, London Manager.
64 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 19,600,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwang	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

New Modderfontein Gold Mining
COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

Issued Capital, £1,400,000, in 350,000 Shares of £4 each.

DIRECTORATE.

R. W. SCHUMACHER (Chairman) W. H. DAWE C. S. GOLDMAN, M.P. E. A. WALLERS
J. G. CURREY S. C. BLACK W. T. GRAHAM.

Extracted from the Annual Report for the Year ended 30th June, 1915.

		Per Ton, based on Tonnage Milled.
Total Working Revenue	£1,169,691 18 1	£1 18 3
Total Working Costs	486,241 8 9	0 15 11
Working Profit	£683,450 9 4	£1 2 4
The **Total Profit** for the year was		£692,126 13 8
To which should be added—		
Unclaimed Dividends forfeited	£177 5 11	
Balance Unappropriated at 30th June, 1914	230,114 3 0	
		230,291 8 11
		£922,418 2 7
Less: Expended on Development and Equipment (*less* balance of Working Capital on hand at 30th June 1914, viz., £48 24/ 11s. 9d.)	£21,462 4 1	
Annuity in respect of undermining rights leased from the Government	17,310 0 0	
Government Taxes	92,963 6 7	
		131,735 10 8
		£790,682 11 11
The **Dividends** declared during the year—No. 17 of 15 per cent. and No. 18 of 16¼ per cent.—amounted to		437,500 0 0
Leaving a Balance unappropriated of		£353,182 11 11

The **Payable Ore Reserves** at 30th June, 1915, were estimated as follows:—

	Tons.	Value. Dwts.
Main Reef	5,887,800	8·20
South Reef	123,000	5·87
Total and Average	6 010 800	8·15

The full Report and Accounts (with Plan of Workings) may be obtained from the London Secretary, A. MOIR, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

NOURSE MINES, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

Issued Capital, £827,821, in 827,821 Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE.

H. C. BOYD (Chairman). E. A. WALLERS.
W. T. GRAHAM. S. C. BLACK. E. J. RENAUD.
R. W. SCHUMACHER. H. NOURSE. A. G. GILL.

Extracted from the Annual Report for the Year ended 30th June, 1915.

		Per Ton, based on Tonnage Milled.
Total Working Revenue	£789,481 5 1	£1 6 3
Total Working Costs	631,437 15 7	1 1 0
Working Profit	£158,043 9 6	£0 5 3
The **Net Profit** for the year was		£151,625 14 6
To which should be added		
Unclaimed Dividends Forfeited	£20 15 11	
Balance unappropriated at 30th June, 1914	96,568 14 3	
		96,589 10 2
		£248,215 4 8
Less		
Annuity in respect of Undermining Rights leased from the Government (less £1.2.6 18s. 3d. for Plant sold)	£415 1 9	
Government Taxes	21,079 18 2	
		21,494 19 11
		£226,720 4 9
The **Dividends** declared during the year—No. 21 of 8¾ per cent. and No. 22 of 5 per cent., amounted to		113,825 7 9
Leaving a balance unappropriated of		£112,894 17 0

The **Payable Ore Reserves** at 30th June, 1915, were estimated as follows:—

	Tons.	Dwt.	Value. s.	d.
Main Reef	1,116,900	5·1	21	5
Main Reef Leader	696,600	6·3	26	6
South Reef	1,138,900	6·0	25	2
Total and Averages	2,952,400	5·7	23	11

The Full Report and Accounts (with Plan of Workings) may be obtained from the London Secretary, A. MOIR, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

TENDERS FOR LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BILLS.

1. The Corporation of Liverpool hereby give notice that Tenders will be received at the Chief Cashier's Office, at the Bank of England, London, on Tuesday, the 5th October at one o'clock, for Liverpool Corporation Bills to be issued under the Liverpool Corporation Acts, 1900, 1905, 1913, and the Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 5) Act, 1915, to the amount of £1,500,000, one million five hundred thousand pounds), of which £1,000,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on the 10th idem.

2. The bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000, or £10,000. They will be dated the 9th day of October, 1915, and will be payable at six months after date, viz., the 9th day of April, 1916.

3. The Tenders must specify the net amount per cent. which will be given for the amounts applied for; and the Tenders of private individuals must be made through a London banker.

4. The bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England, London.

5. The persons whose Tenders are accepted will be informed of the same on Wednesday, the 6th October, and payment in full of the amounts of the accepted Tenders must be made to the Bank of England in London not later than twelve o'clock on Saturday, the 9th October.

6. The Corporation of Liverpool reserve the right of rejecting any Tenders.

7. Tenders should be on the printed form, which can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, Municipal Offices, Liverpool; and at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, London; or at any of the branches of that Bank.

8. The Treasury has been consulted under the Notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this issue. It must be distinctly understood that in considering whether they have, or have not, any objections to new issues, the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes, or for the correctness of any of the statements made, or opinions expressed, with regard to them.

EDWARD R. PICKMERE, Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices,
Dale Street, Liverpool.
28th September, 1915.

THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY.

FOUR-PER-CENT. ONE HUNDRED-YEAR ADJUSTMENT MORTGAGE BONDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of this Company has declared to be due and payable on the first day of November, 1915 an annual instalment of interest (being the nineteenth instalment) upon the Unstamped Adjustment Mortgage Bonds at the rate of Four per Cent. (4%) on the par amount thereof, being Forty dollars ($40) upon each One thousand dollar ($1,000) bond, and Twenty dollars ($20) upon each Five hundred dollar ($500) bond. Such interest will be paid at the Office of the Company, No. 5 Nassau Street, New York City, on the Coupon Bonds upon presentation and surrender of the respective coupons numbered 19 and on the Registered Bonds to the registered holders thereof. The Transfer Books of the Registered Bonds will Close on October 2, 1915, and will remain Closed until November 3, 1915.

STAMPED ADJUSTMENT MORTGAGE BONDS.

SEMI-ANNUAL INTEREST.

A semi-annual instalment of Two per Cent. (2%) in respect of interest on the Stamped Adjustment Mortgage Bonds, being Twenty dollars ($20) upon each One thousand dollar ($1,000) bond, and Ten dollars ($10) upon each Five hundred dollar ($500) bond, will be paid at the Office of the Company, No. 5 Nassau Street, New York City, on November 1, 1915 on the Coupon Bonds upon presentation and surrender of the respective coupons numbered 38 and on the Registered Bonds to the registered holders thereof. The Transfer Books of the Registered Bonds will Close on October 2, 1915, and will remain Closed until November 3, 1915.

C. K. COOPER,
Assistant Treasurer.
New York City, September 14, 1915.

RUSSIAN SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

IMPERIAL RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT. BONDS.

ISSUE OF £7,096,700.

The Anglo-Russian Trust, Limited, Hereby Gives Notice that fully paid Provisional Scrip Certificates should be lodged at—

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 16 and 17 Pall Mall, London, E.C.,

on and after 29th September, 1915, for exchange for Definitive Stamped Bonds of a corresponding number, in accordance with the following table:

Scrip Certificate Nos.	Relative Bond Nos.
£20 each, A 00001-5000	00001-07003
£100 each, B 00001-19363	23001-42363
£500 each, C 00001-1400	42364-43763

The Certificates must be lodged between the hours of 11 and 3 (Saturdays excepted), and left at least seven clear days for examination.

Country holders should instruct their Bankers or their Agents to make the exchange on their behalf, as the Bonds will not be sent through the post, and can only be delivered *by hand*.

28th September, 1915.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Eighteenth Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders for the year ended 30th June, 1915, will be held in the Board Room, The Corner House, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, 24th November, 1915, at 11 A.M., for the following business:—

1. To receive and consider the Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1915, and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.

2. To elect Directors in the place of those retiring in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association.

3. To determine the remuneration of the Auditors for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.

4. To transact any other business which may be transacted at an Ordinary General Meeting or which is brought under consideration by the Report of the Directors.

The Share Transfer books of the Company will be closed from the 24th November, 1915, to the 30th November, 1915, both days inclusive.

Holders of Share Warrants who desire to be present or represented at the Meeting shall produce their Share Warrants (or may at their option deposit same) at the places and within the times following:—

(a) At the Head Office of the Company in Johannesburg, at least twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the holding of the Meeting.

(b) At the London Office of the Company, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C., at least thirty days before the date appointed for the holding of the Meeting.

(c) At the Office of the Crédit Mobilier Français, 70 and 72 Rue Tronchet, Paris, at least thirty days before the date appointed for the holding of the Meeting.

and shall otherwise comply with the "Conditions as to the issue of Share Warrants" now in force.

Upon such production or deposit a certificate, with proxy form, will be issued, under which such Share Warrant holders may attend the Meeting either in person or by proxy.

By Order of the Board,
RAND MINES, LIMITED, Secretaries.
S. C. STEIL, Joint Secretary.

Head Office:
The Corner House,
Johannesburg, Transvaal,
20th September, 1915.

DOMINION OF CANADA FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT BONDS, 1920-25.

The Coupons falling due 1st November, 1915, on the above-mentioned Loan will be paid on and after that date by the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Coupons must be left for examination between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), three clear days prior to payment being made. Forms may be had on application on and after the 18th inst.

For Bank of Montreal,
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.
1st October, 1915.

DOMINION OF CANADA THREE AND A HALF PER CENT LOAN, 1909-34.

The half-year's Interest due 1st December, 1915, on the above-mentioned Loan will be paid on and after that date, by the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

The Ledger of the Inscribed Stock will be struck on the evening of the 1st November, 1915, after which date the Stock will be transferred, ex dividend.

Coupons must be left for examination between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), three clear days prior to payment being made.

Lists may be obtained on application on and after the 18th November, 1915.

For Bank of Montreal,
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
2nd October, 1915.

CITY OF WESTMOUNT FOUR PER CENT DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st November, 1915, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented, on or after the 18th inst., between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
1st October, 1915.

COSTA RICA FOUR PER CENT. FIVE PER CENT REFUNDING LOAN OF 1911.

Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son beg to announce that they have received for account of the Republic of the above Loan, in cash and three months' Bills, sufficient Funds to provide for the payment of the Coupons falling due on 1st January, 1916.

70 Old Broad Street, 28th September, 1915.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	3,600,000
Total Assets over	80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G.
Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES: 66 PRINCES STREET, E.C. / 126 HAYMARKET, S.W.

CHARTERED BANK of INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.
Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Capital, £1,200,000. Reserve Fund, £1,800,000

Court of Directors.
Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Chairman.
Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, K.C.I.E.
Thomas Cuthbertson, Esq.
Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G.
William Henry Neville Goschen, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I.
William Foot Mitchell, Esq.
Lewis Alexander Wallace, Esq.
Managers: T. H. Whitehead and T. Fraser.
Sub-Manager, W. E. Preston.

BANKERS.—The Bank of England. The London City and Midland Bank, Limited. The London County and Westminster Bank, Limited; The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; The National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts, and Transact General Banking business connected with the East.

Deposits of money are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application; interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (Limited).

Established 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES.

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Sante Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires).

URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency).

BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curityba, Manaos (Agency).

CHILI.—Valparaiso.

FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halevy).

BELGIUM.—Antwerp (22 Place de Meir).

Agency in New York and Agents throughout the World.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

7 Princes Street, E.C.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	350,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application, and conducts every description of Australasian Banking business.

DAVID GIBB, Manager.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

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NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO, CANADA.
BRANCHES:
Montreal, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton.

Paid-up Capital - $1,500,000.
Reserve Fund - $1,500,000.

Acts as Executor and Trustee and, as Agent for clients and corporations, invests funds in carefully selected First Mortgages on farms and improved city properties in Canada—Exceptional facilities offered for investing British Capital—Also Guaranteed Trust Investments.

Correspondence invited

28 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. A. L. NUNNS, London Representative.
References:—
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

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Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

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Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale.

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,660.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

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For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE B. HART, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.
West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
Sub-Governor—ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
Deputy Governor—CHARLES N. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.
Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq. Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

THE
OCEAN
Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

Assets - - £3,000,000
Claims paid - £12,500,000

Accident Insurance of all kinds.
Employers' Liability. Fidelity Guarantees.
Fire and Burglary. Public Liability.
Motor Car. Excess Bad Debt and Credit.
Boiler and Lift Insurance.
Executorships and Trusteeships.

Head Office: MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.
T. M. E. ARMSTRONG, *Manager and Secretary.*

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

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LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bonus Policy is designed specially to meet present conditions, and provides for old age, or for widow and orphans in case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3 840 000.

Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

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Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

ABSTAINERS AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LD.

Head Offices:—BIRMINGHAM.
London Office: CRAVEN HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.

LIFE ASSURANCE
Reduced Rates for Abstainers.

Personal Accident, Fire, Burglary, Plate Glass.
Forward postcard for Company's popular booklets, "Total Abstinence an Asset in Life Assurance" and "Homes and How to Own Them."

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TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

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For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

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OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

First and Second Churches of Christ, Scientist, London, Branch Churches of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, U.S.A.

ANNOUNCE

A LECTURE
ON
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
BY
Mr. CLARENCE W. CHADWICK, C.S.B.

(Member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, U.S.A.),

Cannon Street Hotel (Great Hall), E.C.,
WEDNESDAY NEXT, OCT. 6th, at 1 p.m.

DOORS OPEN AT 12.30.
LECTURE WILL TERMINATE AT 1.45.

ADMISSION FREE. No Tickets required.

All are cordially invited to attend.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11 000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

Teach your Children Thrift.

Standard Life Deferred Assurances for Children possess exceptionally attractive features. No medical examination is required; there is an entire absence of troublesome formalities; they are free from all restrictions as to residence abroad; and there is a wide range of options at age 21.

Write for Leaflet "D.12" giving full particulars.

The STANDARD LIFE Assurance Co. Estd. 1825.

Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.
London: 83 King William Street, E.C., and 3 Pall Mall East, S.W. Dublin: 59 Dawson Street.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, October 1, 1915.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 17s. 6⅜d.	£97 15s. 1½d.	£96 12s. 5½d.	£95 10s.
Discount Rate	4½ %	4⅝ %	4¾ %	4¾ %

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4⅝-¾	4⅝-¾	4¾	5
Trade Bills	—	5¼-⅝	5½-¾	6

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates. Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses. Call.	Discount Houses. Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

MONEY.

ARE HIGHER RATES ESSENTIAL?

On the whole the Money market has been quite firm this week, and if anything rates are a shade higher than they were a week ago. This is partly due, of course, to the fact that three months' bills taken this week mature either just before or just after the turn of the year. Another factor has been the relatively short supplies of floating money in consequence of the payment of the last call on the War Loan and the purchase at the Bank at the end of September of an additional £16,000,000 of "Treasuries." The effect of these various influences on market balances was shown by the Bank of England return, which disclosed that the "other" deposits in the week ended Wednesday have been reduced only £13,000,000, and that the total amounted to only £76,689,000, in comparison with £157,983,000 early in July.

In the current week bankers' balances will be largely restored by Government payments, which will include the interest on the debt, and the temporary short supply of floating money which caused a few people to go to the Bank of England at the end of September will disappear. It is, however, essential that the market should not permit rates for money and for discount to fall away. It is true that the new loan of £100,000,000 in America will give to London about £48,000,000 of exchange, and that the money thus provided will materially reduce the amount of gold shipments. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that the country's purchases of goods from foreign and Colonial countries are enormous, and that unless something is done to increase our productive and exporting power these purchases must lead to the export of large amounts of gold.

It may be possible, however, somewhat to curtail the amount of gold that may be shipped by offering such rates of interest in London that foreign bankers will find it more advantageous to leave their money here for employment in the London Money market than to take it away to their various countries. If this is to be effected it is evident that the rate of interest here must be a profitable one.

Already there are signs of trade expansion the world over, and of the money which returned to England during the trade contraction in foreign countries again flowing out. If the rate of interest in London is not a tempting one the large unfavourable trade balance to which we are now exposed cannot fail to cause the export of a greater amount of gold than London can afford to spare. Further, the market will realise that practically nothing has yet been done either to induce or to compel the British people to become more economical or to provide a larger part of the expenditure upon the war by domestic economy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced this week that the sale of 5*s.* vouchers up to the end of August amounted approximately to £244,000. If we assume that the whole of these vouchers were sold in August, the amount received from the savings of the working classes is at the rate of less than £3,000,000 a year, a sum that is scarcely worth talking about, having regard to the money needed not merely to cover the great Budget deficiency, but to provide for the country's adverse trade balance. Of course, if one could be sure that the War will be brought to an end within the next few months, one would not need to trouble about the position; but if the War is continued beyond a few months, it is evident that trade throughout the world will greatly expand in volume, that the demand for money in all countries will largely increase, and that the demand upon London for gold may be greater than London can meet, unless it becomes possible to borrow very largely from foreign countries. Thus, having regard to the steady increase in pressure upon London for money, and to the entire situation, it is of the highest importance that bankers should do everything in their power to retain here all the foreign money that can be retained by a profitable rate of interest.

We would specially call attention to the fact that in the last three weeks the reserve of the Bank of England has been reduced from £54,000,000 to under £48,000,000 and that it is usual for cash to be withdrawn from London on home account in the later months of the year. With this situation we have to face the fact that the country is buying enormous amounts of goods over and above what it can pay for by exports and by services, or even by the sale of securities, and that it is possible, indeed probable, that notwithstanding the substantial loan from America we may witness a reduction in the Bank's reserve in consequence of the outflow of cash to the country being attended by a substantial outflow of gold on foreign account. Furthermore, it is evident that the loss of reserve in recent weeks would have been still greater but for the expansion in the circulation of Treasury notes. Since the end of July the increase in the Currency notes outstanding has been no less than £27,000,000. Of this sum about £11,000,000 has been used for the purchase of Government securities, while £19,000,000 has been deposited with the Bank of England. And the recent reduction in the Bank of England's reserve has been in spite of this great increase in the Currency note circulation, which must have brought into the Bank a very large sum of gold. How much gold remains in circulation is unknown. The amount is probably large. But it is evident that after the issue of £72,000,000 of Currency notes the amount has been greatly reduced, and it is clear that the quantity of gold in the country is now not nearly as great as it was early in the year. Having regard to all these considerations we think that an open market rate of discount of at least 5% is called for, and that the time is approaching when it may be necessary for the Bank of England to advance its rate above 5%, and to cause the open market rate to be correspondingly raised.

Several lines of bills placed here on foreign and Colonial account, and falling due shortly, are expected to be paid off at maturity. These consist of £600,000 of Norwegian Government Treasury bills due next week, a similar amount of Province of Ontario bills due November 3 out of funds raised recently in New York, and £3,000,000 of Japanese Government Treasury bills. The Japanese bills fall due as to £1,875,000 on February 16 next, and £1,125,000 on March 13, the money with which to pay them off being provided by means of an internal loan. All this is to the good.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BILLS.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England, London, on Tuesday next, October 5, for Liverpool Corporation bills to the amount of £1,500,000, of which £1,000,000 will be in replacement of bills

falling due on the 10th inst. The bills will be dated October 9, 1915, and will have a currency of six months.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE Bank of England reserve this week was reduced £2,068,000, notwithstanding an increase of £1,700,000 in the currency notes in circulation. This reduction brought the reserve down to £47,659,000, a figure which compares with £54,558,000 at the beginning of the month. The loss of gold was £891,000, and the total has been reduced to £62,009,000. Beyond the gold held by the Bank of England the amount held against the currency notes is £28,500,000, so that the total stock of gold in the Bank against the notes in circulation of both descriptions is £90,509,000. Until recently this stock of gold was more than sufficient to cover the whole of the notes in circulation, but now the currency notes in circulation amount to £72,000,000, while the Bank of England notes in circulation are £32,800,000. Hence the total notes in circulation are £104,000,000, or about £14,000,000, in excess of the gold held. Of course, it is quite unnecessary to hold anything like £90,000,000 of gold against this note circulation. At the present time the gold held by the Bank of Germany is only £120,000,000, while its notes in circulation are £277,000,000, and while the Bank of France holds £180,000,000 in gold, its note circulation amounts to 532,000,000. With so small an excess of Bank of England and currency notes over the gold held against them, it will be evident the position of this country is wonderfully strong in comparison with the position in Continental countries. Still, it is necessary at the present moment with so great an adverse trade balance to note that we are losing gold, and that our note circulation is increasing. The increase in public deposits for the week was only £7,478,000, in spite of the payment of the recent instalment on the War Loan, and the issue of an additional £16,000,000 of Treasury bills. The "other" deposits have been reduced £12,956,000, and now stand at only £76,689,000, a smaller figure than at any time since the beginning of August last year. The "other" securities were reduced £3,363,000 to £132,314,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is only slightly lower for the week at 24.75 per cent., the loss in reserve having been largely neutralised by a reduction in liabilities.

MONEY IN INDIA.

EXCHANGE from India is again firmer, and now comes from Calcutta at 1*s.* 4 3/32*d.* There was a good demand for the 50 lacs of Council drafts, and tenders for bills at 1*s.* 4*d.* received only 10%, while 12 lacs of transfers were placed at 1*s.* 4 1/16*d.* Money continues to flow out into circulation, and according to the latest currency return the efflux of silver for the week was as much as 102 lacs, making a total of nearly 300 lacs in the first three weeks of September.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 5 per cent. (June 2, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, September 29, are:—

	Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers.			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	*s. d.*	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	15,00,000	1,51,000	10	1 4	1,91,00,000*	19,20,000	10
—	—	—	—	1 4 3/32	1,72,00,000	17,29,000	10
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	12,00,000	12,00,000	100
Total ...	15,00,000	1,51,000	—	Total ...	3,75,00,000	48,49,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered.	Tendered.	Accepted.
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	... Rs. 3,90,00,000	... Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.
Calcutta ...	30,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 14,18,000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 20,29,000	1 4 035	1/4 3/32
Bombay ...	15,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 5,02,000	1 4	1/4
Madras ...	1,05,000	1/4	1/4	Imm. 9,00,000	1/4.062	1/4 3/32

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Madras	4,01,362	1/4 3/32
Transfers on Calcutta (Deferred)	10,000	1/4 3/32
Transfers on Calcutta (Deferred)	10,00,000	1/4

From April 1 to September 28 inclusive the Council granted remittances for **rs. 4,73,73,935, realising £3,156,448. Up to September 29** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs. 5,59 44,861, realising £3,733,127.** The total sales for the week ended **September 28** amounted to **Rs. 66,14,971,** realising **£441,515.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be **50** lacs.

SILVER.

The Silver market has remained steady, and after falling to 23 5/8*d.* the price has recovered to 23 7/8*d.* per ounce. With business in the East showing distinct signs of recovery the Eastern demand for silver may soon show appreciable recovery. At the present time there is an unusually heavy demand for silver coin in the belligerent countries. Indeed, at the moment it is somewhat difficult to obtain silver coins from the London banks, and it is evident that if the unusually large demand for silver for coinage is supplemented by a greater demand from the East a marked recovery in the price of the metal may be witnessed. As far as we are able to gauge the situation we anticipate a distinct advance in silver in the next few weeks.

	Sept. 24	25	27	28	29	30	Oct. 1
London ...	23 7/8	23 7/8	23 7/8	23 7/8	23 15/16	23 7/8	23 7/8
India ...	Rs. 60 7/8	60 7/8	60 7/8	60 7/8	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2
Exchange	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

Stock Exchange.

THE War incidents have not had any appreciable effect in bringing about market movements on the Stock Exchange, but, to use an euphemism, the spirits of members have been "bucked up." Gratification is felt at the strength displayed on the New York Stock Exchange and the response of America to the Anglo-French Loan proposals. Though price fluctuations here have not been of any appreciable extent during the week, in general the trend is what in olden times would have been called a steady one. There has been a good deal of discussion about the influence on different classes of securities of the taxes on excess profits. All the varied calculations which have been put forward in different quarters are to be received with reserve, for there are many conditions in regard to which the outsider cannot have knowledge. A mere rough-and-ready calculation of 50% of excess profits is no true criterion in respect of individual companies. In the case of ammunition, &c., works there come into consideration the erection of new buildings and plant of a temporary nature, interference with good-will through the transference of business for a longer period than initially thought of, and other allowances and reliefs to be adjusted by special tribunals.

Apropos of the steps we last week referred to for clearing up the position on the Paris Bourse, private advices from that centre report a strong belief in well-informed quarters that the progress achieved will be great, it being expected indeed that the matter will

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be adjusted with much more smoothness than at one time was thought probable.

ARGENTINE RAILWAY RESULTS.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN.

SPECULATION as to the results secured by the leading Argentine Railway Companies in the past twelve months is set at rest by the dividend announcements made this week. Three Companies have declared their final distributions for the year, and, as far as the market is concerned, they come up to expectation. In each case, however, the dividends to be paid have not been earned, and the policy of the directors appears to have been more a question of expediency than as reflecting the real earning power of the Companies. The Buenos Ayres Western and the Central Argentine have been distinctly more fortunate than the Great Southern, whose annual distribution is reduced from 5% to 4%, whereas the two former undertakings are maintaining their rates at 5% per annum. In making its interim distribution at the rate of 4% per annum in April last, it will be recollected the directors of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway announced that the reserve fund had been drawn upon, but to what extent was not disclosed, and although nothing further is taken from reserve at the close of the year, the final distribution, also at the rate of 4% per annum, is rendered possible only by reducing the balance carried forward from £316,000 to £58,000. In the absence of data as to reserve appropriations six months ago, the profit of the Company for the past year appears to have been about £734,000, as against £989,000, a decline of £255,000, or nearly 26%. It should, however, be pointed out that last year's divisible surplus of £989,000 was after charging revenue with £138,000 for extraordinary flood repairs, and, if this item be eliminated, the real decline in profit has been as much as £393,000, or nearly 35%. Indeed, it has been even greater than this if allowance is made for the unknown sum taken from reserve in April, and which apparently is included in the profit balance of £734,000 shown for the year. Considering that the decrease in traffic receipts was about £512,000, whilst interest charges on balance were practically unchanged, the saving in expenses would appear to have been relatively small. However, the report must be awaited to ascertain these details. All that is known at the moment is that, including reserve appropriations, the profit-earning capacity of the Company in the past year has been reduced to a basis of only 2½% on the Ordinary capital. A comparison of profit earned, dividends paid, &c., for the last five years is given beneath:—

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Profit for Ordinary ...	734,000	989,000*	1,927,000	1,420,000	1,434,000
Ordinary Dividend ...	992,000	1,146,000	1,590,000	1,421,000	1,421,000
Rate per cent. ...	(4%)	(5%)	(7%)	(7%)	(7%)
Balance ...	...Dr. 258,000	Dr. 157,000	Cr. 337,000	Dr. 1,000	Cr. 13,000
Brought forward ...	316,000	473,000	136,000	137,000	124,000
Carried forward ...	58,000	316,000	473,000	136,000	137,000

* After charging revenue with £138,000 for extraordinary flood repairs.

Fortunately the Company is now doing better, the increase in traffic receipts since the close of June being nearly £152,000, or 17.6%. It is true that comparison is being made with the exceptionally poor results of a year ago, consequent on the outbreak of war, but with the financial and commercial outlook in Argentina brighter than it has been for a considerable time a rapid recovery in earnings and profits is now likely to be experienced. The price of the Ordinary stock is about 78, and on a 4% dividend basis the yield afforded is £5¼ per cent.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN.

Unlike the other Argentine railway companies, the Buenos Ayres Western in the past year more than recovered the loss of earnings at one time shown in its traffic returns. In the middle of February the decline in receipts was as much as £188,000, whereas the year closed with a gain of about £20,000. This apparently has been accompanied by an increase in working expenses, for, although interest charges were probably not more £70,000 heavier, the profit for dividend comes out some £110,000 smaller than in 1913-14. The surplus available for distribution is about £459,000, equal to not quite 3½% on the Ordinary stock. The payment of 5% (less tax) calls for approximately £610,000, and there is thus a deficit in earning the dividend of £151,000. The decision of the directors to draw upon the reserve in order to maintain the dividend is in accordance with the settled policy of the board twelve months ago. Then the Chairman stated that, whilst it was not advisable in the circumstances to trench upon the fund, they would have had no hesitation in supplementing the dividend in this way had it not been for the outbreak of war. The amount now taken is £160,000, and the fund is thereby reduced from £930,000 to £770,000. This more than makes good the deficiency in earning the dividend, and the surplus of £9,000 is consequently added to the balance carried forward, which is raised from £47,000 to £56,000.

A comparison of the net results of working for the last five years is set out herewith:—

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Profit for Ordinary ...	459,000	568,667	772,000	618,100	866,100
Div. on Ordinary ...	610,000	646,712	795,000	659,600	705,500
Rate per cent. ...	(5%)	(5%)	(7%)	(7%)	(7½%)
Balance	Dr. 151,000	Dr. 78,045	Dr. 23,000	Dr. 41,500	Cr. 160,600
Brought forward ...	47,000	125,105	148,000	189,100	163,500
	Dr. 104,000	47,060	125,000	147,600	324,100
To reserve		-	-	-	135,000
From reserve ...	160,000	-			
Carried forward ...	56,000	47,060	125,000	147,600	189,100

The immediate future of the Company largely depends on the coming crops, about which nothing definite can yet be said. The weather is fairly good at the moment, although rain is said to be wanted in the south, and, unless something unforeseen happens in the next two months, a satisfactory harvest will be reaped. If, moreover, prices continue high, and the produce of Argentina commands a ready market in the coming months, the wealth and prosperity of the country will be further largely augmented, and the railway companies will quickly recover lost ground. Since the beginning of July the earnings of the Buenos Ayres Western have increased £77,000, which exactly makes good the loss sustained in the corresponding quarter of the past financial year. This rate of improvement should be accelerated if the crops turn out well, and especially so if the growing wealth of the country induces purchases from abroad, and thus brings about an increase in up traffic, the loss of which is undoubtedly adversely affecting the companies at the present time. The price of Buenos Ayres Western stock is 83½, and, allowing for accrued dividend, the yield afforded by the distribution of 5% is nearly £6 5*s.* per cent.

INCH KENNETH RUBBER ESTATES.

THE amount of rubber harvested during the twelve months to June 30, 1915, by the Inch Kenneth Rubber Estates was 255,402 lb., as compared with 253,565 lb. for the previous year. But of this 11,730 lb. were unfortunately lost in consequence of the sinking of the s.s. *Troilus* by the German cruiser *Emden*. Consequently the amount of rubber sold for the twelve months was only 243,672 lb. The average yield was approximately 2.53 lb. per tree, or 268 lb. per acre. The crop realised a gross average price of 2*s.* 2.26*d.* per lb., as compared with 2*s.* 4.27*d.* for the previous year. The selling expenses, which included freight, dock charges, insurance, brokerage, &c., amounted to 1.83*d.* per lb., making a net price of 2*s.* 0.43*d.* per lb., as compared

with 2*s.* 2.54*d.* per lb. twelve months ago. A very satisfactory reduction has taken place in the f.o.b. average cost of production, which has fallen from 1*s.* 3.5*d.* per lb. to 10.6*d.* Altogether "all-in" costs, including depreciation, London selling charges, and home expenses, are 1*s.* 2.46*d.* per lb.

The following gives particulars of the land owned by the Company, the crops, prices realised, and expenses:—

Year ended June 30—						
Under cultivation ...	1,395.18	1,395.18	1,387.18	1,427.37	1,331.75	1,462
Total	1,707.46 Lb.	1,707.46 Lb.	1,698.38 Lb.	1,692.83 Lb.	1,692.50 Lb.	1,695 Lb.
Selling expenses ...						

The net proceeds of the rubber sold has amounted to £24,805, as compared with £28,049, but as the Company has been able to make a saving in expenses the net profit works out at £11,287, as compared with £9,689 twelve months ago. Consequently, it has been decided to increase the dividend from 15% to 20%, and, after writing off £2,582, the carry-forward amounts to £3,430.

The manner of distributing the profits for the past six years is as follows:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net proceeds of rubber sold	24,805	28,049	46,321	44,851	44,526	55,477
Miscellaneous receipts	556	634	1,051	423	815	440
	25,361	28,683	47,372	45,274	45,341	55,917
Estate expenses... ...	11,279	16,372	21,061	19,577	17,926	12,000
Home expenses, transfer fees, &c.	1,899	1,682	1,878	1,470	1,583	2,174
Interest	896	940	942	627	—	—
Profit	11,287	9,689	23,491	23,600	25,832	41,743
Dividends	5,400 (20%)	4,231 (15%)	12,713* (45%)	16,950 (60%)	16,500 (55%)	30,000 (100%)
	5,887	5,458	10,778	6,650	9,332	11,743
Reserve funds, &c. ..	2,582	4,500	10,000	7,133	8,000	8,000
	3,305	958	778	483	1,332	3,743
Brought forward ..	126*	1,319*	2,459*	4,481*	4,249	506
Carried forward ...	3,430	2,277	3,237	3,998	5,581	4,249

* After deduction of extra remuneration for directors.

The system which was in progress last year of thinning out has been continued, to the great benefit of the remaining trees, the individual yield of which has been largely increased, with a corresponding reduction of cost per lb. of rubber collected. The capital expenditure during the year was £1,290. The capital account is now closed, and all future expenditure on the present planted area will be chargeable to revenue. During the year Debentures to the amount of £5,000 have been repaid to holders at par, leaving still outstanding £15,000. The capitalisation of the Company is a moderate one, being £30,000 only, and there has been accumulated a reserve fund equal to the paid-up capital, namely, £30,000. It is practically all invested in the business, however. A summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last is appended:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	30,000	Purchase price, &c.	65,502
Debentures	15,000	Buildings, &c.	6,650
Reserve fund	30,000	Investments . . .	9,606
Debenture redemption fund...	9	Stock	5,083
Sundry creditors ..	2,125	Sundry debtors . .	603
Profit and loss .	10,063	Cash, &c. . . .	8,744
	96,188		96,188

It is hoped that the crop for the current year will exceed 300,000 lb., and there should be little difficulty in securing a higher average price for the crop than was the case last year, and if the Company is able to reduce still further the cost of production, which is still relatively high, the possibilities for a further increase in dividend are good. The present price of the £1 share is 2½, and on a 20% basis a yield of 8½% is forthcoming. On the whole, shareholders should be able to count on a higher return for the current year.

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Mining Topics.

With so much attention now being given to Eastern Rand affairs, we would call the attention of intermittent readers of The Statist, and also those who have been too busily engaged in other directions for the time being to read The Statist, to the series of articles we have recently given upon the Eastern Rand, and which we hope to continue. Last week and the week before we gave some extended remarks upon the New Modderfontein Company, while this week we deal with the Modderfontein B. We purpose continuing these articles upon individual companies.

The further rise to a record price of New Modderfontein shares is to be attributed both to the recognition of the intrinsic merits of the Company, and the favourable influence of the announcement that the long-continued expression of desire of shareholders for the splitting of the £4 shares into four shares of £1 each is likely to be brought about early next year.

An incident of the week has been the severe fall of ground reported to have occurred at the 9th and 10th levels of the Village Main Reef mine, and it is expected to cause complete cessation of, or material reduction in, output for three weeks or a month. Earth tremors are reported to have been felt over an extended area of the Rand on Wednesday last. The effect of its trouble upon Village Main Reef shares was a decline to the record price of 20*s.*

Geduld.—The following is a cablegram of date October 1:—"The board of directors has decided to immediately increase the capacity of the reduction plant to enable it to crush 40,000 tons per month. The increase will be so made as to permit of a still further addition at a minimum of expenditure, and development will be continued at full speed with this end in view. It is expected that the increased plant will be in operation before the end of next year. The expenditure involved will not interfere with the payment of dividends, as the necessary funds are in hand."

Gaika.—The ore reserves at the end of the June quarter are returned as 95,570 tons of an average assay value of 60*s.* per ton. This shows that the rate of development being effected is equal to the quantity of ore being milled.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN.

The report of the New Modderfontein has been issued this week, and shows that the sum available for the dividends aggregating 31¼% exceeded the amount required by £144,354. This as to £21,462 has been used for capital purposes and the position strengthened by increasing the unappropriated profits from £230,114 a year ago to £353,182 at June 30, 1915. After the appropriation to capital purposes from the profit of the year to June 30, 1915, the cash held by the Company, less the amount for the final dividend payment and sundry creditors, amounted to about £237,000. In the main the difference between the above figures and those we gave in The Statist of September 18 arises from the inclusion in the annual report of £30,000, the "Modders" quota of special war levy, the Union of South Africa Government, in respect of its financial year ending March 31, 1916, having imposed a special tax of £500,000 upon the Rand industry.

The ore reserves given this year appear to be more conservatively estimated than at June 30, 1914. After excluding all ore partially blocked out below the 10th level the net remaining ore, after deduction of shaft and boundary pillars, is returned as 5,719,000 tons, of an average assay value of 34*s*. 7*d*., comparing with 5,913,700 tons, of an average assay value of 35*s*. 3*d*. a year ago. A year ago the ore reserves were based on a stoping width of 63 inches, while this year 62½ inches is taken.

In the report of the Consulting Engineer there occur the following remarks as to the ore reserves:—

(1) The tonnage of ore partially developed in the circular shaft section totals just over one million tons.

(2) During the year very considerable additions will be made to the ore reserve, which will then be still more capable of supplying the requirements of a much larger reduction plant.

It is foreshadowed that to complete the extra plant will take about two years—*i.e.* to about the middle of 1917.

RE-CONVERSION OF £4 SHARES.

Intermittently for years we have called attention to the anomaly of this important Rand gold-mining Company retaining its capital in the present form of £4 shares. There were only two other instances in the history of the Rand where companies had or have the capital expressed in £4 shares. With one of these—the Wolhuter—the directors not so very long ago extinguished the £4 form by giving for each old share four £1 shares, while the other—the City and Suburban—retains its shares in £4 form.

A notice has this week been issued that the directors of the New Modderfontein Company stating in response to numerous applications from shareholders a meeting will be convened for January next to consider the subdivision of the capital into £1 in place of £4 shares. It is true from the intrinsic point of view it is immaterial whether a £4 share is quoted at £16 or a £1 share at £4. The dividend yield is the same in both cases, but in the one instance we have, in market parlance, a heavy share, and in the other a share of smaller denomination not only appearing cheaper but being in a more readily marketable form.

Few of the present generation of speculative investors in mines are aware that in quite early days of the Modderfontein the old £1 shares of the Company, then having a comparatively small capital, went up at one time to over £20 each. On a rearrangement of the capital, and mainly for the purpose of securing a quotation for the shares on the Paris Bourse, and introducing them on the Parquet or official market (where the lowest denomination of shares was £4, or 100 francs), it came about that the shares, which in their £1 form had formerly stood—on the mere ideas of big possibilities—at an enormously high price, subsequently after the property had been proved to be valuable receded in the form of £4 shares to as low as par. All the huge inflation of price had disappeared.

The retention of a share of £4 denomination obscures the position. A few years ago Modderfontein shares were higher per £1 than Modderfontein "B" £1 shares, and now the reverse. Now that in equivalent £1 form the Modder shares are about £4 and the "B" shares £5½, if so quoted there would be a disposition to investigate the respective merits of the two undertakings to see why there should be such a remarkable change. Many speculative investors, seeing a price of £15½ for Modderfontein shares, do not realise they are of £4 denomination. We imagine shareholders will insist on this matter of the conversion of £4 into four £1 shares.

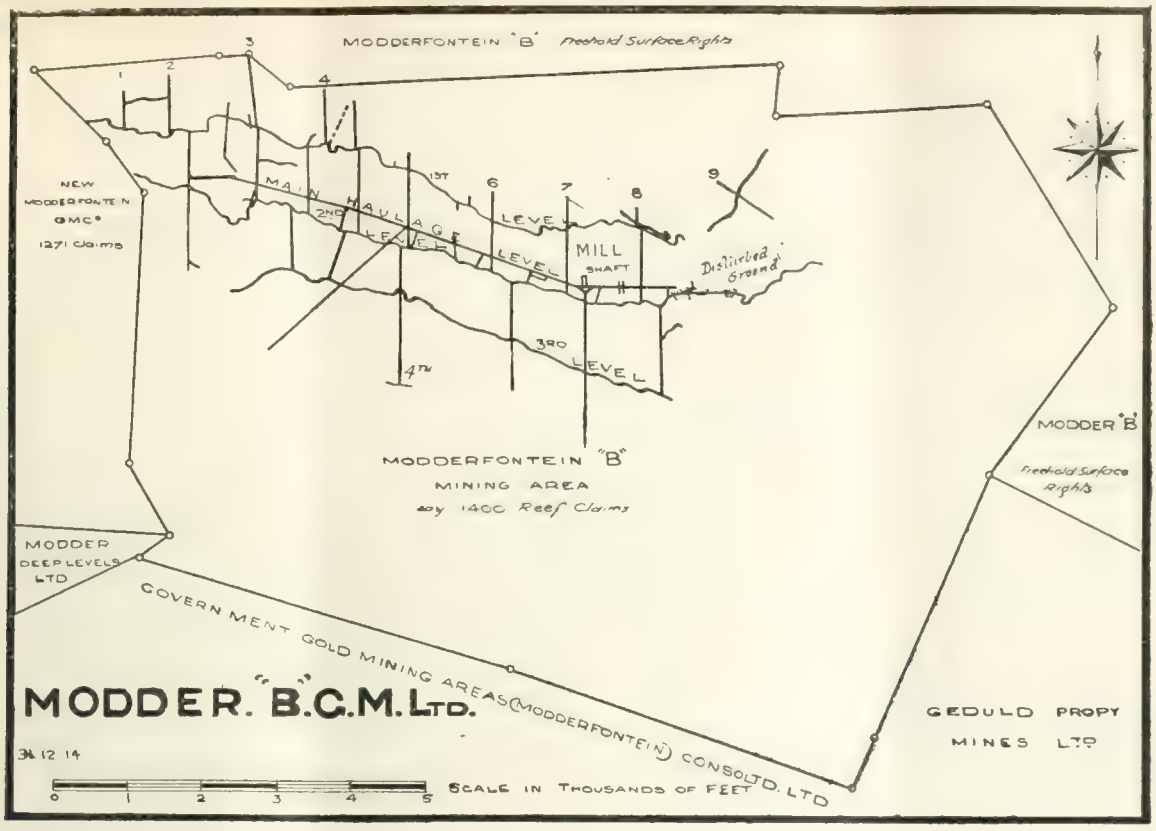
MODDERFONTEIN B.

As far back as the early nineties capitalists sought to acquire areas in the Eastern Rand including areas now known as the New Modderfontein, and further east the Modderfontein B. We have already dealt *in extenso* with the history and progress of the New Moddderfontein, and we will now give attention to the Modderfontein B area.

A series of prospecting pits were put down in this B property in the early nineties. Indications of reef values and widths were not at first exhilarating, and for years the property was allowed to remain fallow. With actual encouraging results secured by the neighbouring New Modderfontein mine, a project was formulated for the enlargement of the initial area of the Modderfontein Extension property—now known as the Modderfontein B—and to provide the Company with adequate capital wherewith to pursue developments with the view of bringing the area to the stage of production. Of the considerable area passed over to the Modderfontein B Company part is what is known as estate area. Some outside reef area and other that at present the Company has only surface rights of. But beyond such estate area the Company secured mining claims, and it is reckoned that about 1,400 claims of mine area are reef-bearing. The extent of the mining ground is considerable—very close to 2½ miles on the strike of the reef from east to west, and an average of over 1¼ mile on the dip from the outcrop of reef. The plan we give shows the position of this mining area, which lies east of the New Modderfontein and Modderfontein Deep, north of the Government Areas and north-west of a portion of the Geduld that is being operated upon.

Briefly we may set out that after the reconstruction and provision of capital in 1908, a start was made in the sinking of two large pattern shafts, one to the west and one to the east. The developments effected by means of the western shaft were at first the most promising, while initial developments at the eastern shaft were of discouraging character, as calcite was met with. A policy of perseverance was pursued, and the calcite was passed through, driving was effected to the west, and eventually the eastern shaft was adopted as the hauling shaft, and the sinking of the western shaft was discontinued. The mine does not suffer from being worked with only one main shaft, for the reason that there are approximately nine prospecting shafts which connect with the 1 to 1½ mile of underground workings and afford ventilation to the mine. The plan shows the location of the eastern shaft, adjoining which is the site of the mill and reduction plant. It also shows how driving has been effected for a considerable length from east to west at three levels, and by the end of 1914, according to the official plan issued by the Company, driving had been commenced at the fourth level.

No apprehensions were entertained as to the nature of the ore body to the west of the property, for the reason that the eastern portion of the adjoining New



Modderfontein mine have disclosed good ore, and this has continued, certainly as to the upper levels in the Modderfontein B. Doubt is felt however as to the nature and value of extension of reef in the eastern portion of the B Company's ground. Apropos of this doubt the first reason for entertaining it is that, a little to the east of the eastern shaft, disturbed ground is met with, but we note from the report of the Consulting Engineer accompanying the annual report for 1914, that from the furthest eastern prospecting shaft—winze—driving has been effected both to the east and to the west. While at this point the western drive has disclosed disturbed ground, is noteworthy that driving to the east for approximately 640 feet is reported to have disclosed ore of average value of 31*s.* 10*d.* per ton over the stoping width, and the actual stoping width adopted in 1914 was 59 inches. Moreover, the report says that during the current year developments on this eastern section of the mine will be effected as rapidly as circumstances permit. Referring above to the stoping width, we mention what has been the average width adopted in respect of extraction of ore during 1914, but the ore reserves at December 31, 1914, were estimated over a stoping width of 55 inches, giving the quantity of 2,772,540 tons of an estimated value of 36*s.* 1*d.* per ton.

Prior to 1908, it may be recalled, the property, except for prospecting at surface, was entirely untouched, but after 1908 developments were pressed on so quickly, and with such good results, that a few figures may be given of the progress made. In the first place the yearly progress of developments may be set out:—

	Reef Exposed	Width Inches	Assay Value	Estimated Value
	Feet			
Year 1910	11,295	11·85	1·0·4	1·.18
,, 1911	6,···	11	11··	1·.18
,, 1912	3,489	15	···	1,492
,, 1913	····	12·3	149·1	1,833
,, 1914	5,170	18	102·1	1,846
,, 1915 Mar. qr.	2,079	19	89·6	1,700
,, ,, June qr.	1,···	23	77·3	1,776

Of course, in the early part of the period covered by the above table it was all development work, and for a period every labourer was put on the work of opening up the mine. Subsequently much labour was employed on plant erection, and later on production. Quite late in 1911 a start was made with crushing, 80 stamps at first, and by the time crushing commenced there had been accumulated very close to 2,400,000 tons. In the period of crushing from December 1911 to December 31, 1914, there were milled an aggregate of 1,232,067 tons. In the interval developments were effected to a greater extent than the amount of ore consumed; hence at December 31, 1914, there remained 2,772,540 tons of developed ore reserves above referred to. In all probability the ore reserves, despite the increased use of ore that has been going on in 1915, will be about maintained, and now that an enlargement of plant has brought up the capacity to about 45,000 tons a month, or, say, 540,000 tons per annum, the ore in sight may roughly be calculated to last the mill for not far short of five years. The ore reserves in recent years have been as under:—

	Tons	Value	Stoping Width Inches
		£ *s.* *d.*	
1911	2,···,···	31 10	51
1912	2,···,···	·· ··	54
1913	2,800,400	34 10	···
1914	2,772,540	36 1	55

Now there has been a vast difference in the conditions of operating the Modderfontein B and the New Modderfontein, for with the New Modderfontein the start of equipment was made under adverse conditions and a high rate of working costs. In the interval since a huge amount of modernisation and increased efficiency of plant has been brought about, and the plant of the Modderfontein B is of the most up-to-date pattern, while considerable savings are effected through the extensive use of labour-saving appliances not known of 10 years or so ago. Hence the feature that for 1914 the working costs of the Modderfontein B Company were 15*s.* 7*d.* per ton, and the working costs of the New Modderfontein Company, say 10 [illegible] high as 25*s.* 7*d.* per ton. Before dealing with the outlook we may first of all set out the particulars of the results secured from the start to the most recent date, and these are given below:—

Year ended Dec 31	[illegible]	Tons [illegible]	Sorted [illegible]	[illegible]	Value per ton	Profit	[illegible]
					£ *s.* *d.*		
1911 (7½d.						80,997	
1912			11				
1913				781,428	38 9		
1914						342,328	
1915.							
March							
June							
July							
Aug.							

Detail of the profit and loss statements of each of the last two years is given below, and it will be noted from the previous table that the Company in respect of 1914 paid 55% dividends, against 45% dividends for 1913, and after provision for dividends was able in each year to apply considerable amounts out of profits towards capital purposes, that is for the purpose of construction of additional plant. It so applied £25,733 in 1913 and £41,592 in 1914, while in the current year, according to the quarterly statements, the outlays on capital account have been very small, for the six months to June 30 only aggregating £4,000.

Capital, £700,000.

	1914		1913	
	£	Per Ton	£	Per Ton
Gross receipts	(440,000 tons) 785,567	35,10	(404,580 tons) 784,425	38,9
Expenses	342,527	15/7	330,898	16,4
Mine profit ...	446,340	20,3	453,530	22,5
Sundry net revenue ...	16,560		15,460	
	462,900		468,990	
Donations, &c. ...	£1,496	£975		
Phthisis cost	6,500	4,371		
Strike expenses ...	—	3,393		
Taxes	44,335	43,800		
Dividends ...	(55%) 385,000	(45%) 315,000		
	437,331		367,539	
Surplus	25,569		101,451	
Balance left forward	199,163		123,435	
	224,732		224,886	
Applied to capital ...	41,592		25,723	
Carried forward ...	183,140		199,163	

The Company has now in operation, as we have already stated, plant to deal with approximately 540,000 tons a year. Such plant is 80 California stamps and 16 Nissen stamps, also five tubes and necessary cyanide, &c., appliances. There will not be a total of so much as 540,000 tons in respect of 1915, for only now is the enlarged plant in full operation; but it may be admissible to make a forecast of the results of 1915, relying upon the actual results made known for eight months and estimating the remaining four months.

Estimate for 1915 (*assuming* 500,000 *Tons Milled in the Year*).

	£	£
Receipts, 8 months to August 31		654,000
,, 4 ,, at, say, £94,000 per month		376,000
		1,030,000
Expenses	£261,000	
Four months, say	139,000	
		(400,000)
Mine profit		630,000
Sundry revenue		14,000
Appropriations, say—		644,000
Phthisis	£4,000	
Taxes	60,000	
		(64,000)
Available for dividends, &c.		578,000
75% dividend equals		525,000

We defer to next week a consideration of the life of the mine and a valuation of the shares.

KALGURLI.

As in the case of other West Australian mines, the life of the Kalgurli has several times been threatened, but as each successive alarm has been unfounded shareholders have conceived that there was "plenty of life in the old dog yet." The report of the General Manager issued this week, however, does not encourage the retention of this belief. On the subject of the ore reserves he states that, in the absence of development of any new ore bodies of much importance, the tonnage available would have shown heavy reduction had it not been that some blocks have produced considerably more ore than anticipated. The pay ore remaining in the mine is thought to be sufficient to supply the mill for one year, but as there is a limited supply of high-grade ore the future mill returns must be considerably lower than the recent average of 40*s.* per ton. The failure of the ore bodies to persist in depth necessitates reliance on the old levels, and these have been closely explored already. Therefore, the General Manager concludes, "unless we are fortunate enough to discover something in unexpected quarters, the profitable life of the mine cannot extend much beyond the period above indicated," viz., one year.

In the circumstances the fall this week of the Company's £1 shares from 30*s.* to 18*s.* 6*d.* is not surprising.

ST. JOHN DEL REY.

MINING AT A MILE BENEATH SURFACE.

The St. John del Rey has long since passed the age of threescore years and ten allotted to man. The Company was formed as long ago as 1830. In 1834 it abandoned the property it was originally formed to acquire, and commenced to work the Morro Velho mine, situated in the State of Minas Geraes, Brazil. In 1868 a fire caused a collapse of the mine, and not until 1874 could mining operations be recommenced. In 1886 another disaster occurred, resulting in the entire destruction of the excavations down to a depth of 1,850 feet. Then entirely new shafts were sunk, and since 1888 operations have been attended with complete success, about 3,000,000 tons of ore having been extracted, yielding gold of a value of about £7,600,000. Altogether from commencement of operations gold aggregating about £11,000,000 in value has been obtained. Naturally a mine cannot be operated for so many years without the workings becoming very deep, and the St. John del Rey's lowest developed level is 5,226 feet deep vertically, or all but a mile beneath the surface, while two further levels have recently been commenced, respectively 5,526 feet and 5,826 feet deep from the surface. Despite the great depth of the mine, however, recent operating results have been very good. Indeed, the financial year ended February 28, 1915, was a record one, both the gold yield and the mining profit being larger than obtained in any previous similar period, and for the first six months of the current year the high gold yield has been maintained. As regards working costs, naturally the increasing depth of the mine has made its influence felt, and, if one includes development and necessary capital outlays, working expenses per ton of ore milled have risen appreciably in the past few years; but purely mining costs have been remarkably well kept down in the circumstances, and this reflects very clearly the good management of the undertaking. It is to be noted in respect of the last financial year that the low rate of exchange was an appreciable help to working costs. The progress of milling operations since 1900, and the fluctuations in the price of the Company's £1 shares, will be seen from the following:—

Year to Feb. 28	Ore Milled Tons (2,240lb.)	Gold Yield £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Extraction %	Mining Costs* Per Ton	Mining Profit* £	Mining Profit* Per Ton	Price of Shares End of Period
1900 ...	120,465	320,566	53 3	—	24/6	172,844	28/9	27/6
1902 ...	154,356	271,420	35/2	—	22 8	96,300	12/6	19,6
1905 ...	145,230	293,927	40 6	87.04	29/6	79,670	11,0	12/0
1907 ...	189,040	263,755	31/11	87.93	29/0	74 422	10/0	8/6
1910 ...	181,000	416 330	46/0	93 03	30 0	144,006	16 0	17/0
1911 ...	189 600	421,178	44/5	93.66	29/8	140,438	14/9	15/0
1912 ...	192,600	442,488	45/11	92.4	28/11	163,666	17/0	16/6
1913 ...	172,208	395,109	46 0	93.35	30 2	135,516	15/.0	16/6
1914 ...	174,000	418,410	47 7	93.13	30 5	153,911	17/2	16/0
1915 ...	191,500	457,427	47,7	93.32	28,3	185,219	19,4	15,6
6 mos. to Aug. 30	96,200	235,000	48,10	—	—	—	—	15,0

* Before allowing for development expenditure, State and Federal duties, and transport charges.

From the mining profits shown above development expenses, Government duties and transport charges, office and other expenses have to be deducted, and sundry revenue added, before the net profit is arrived at. Allowing for these items the net profit of the year ended February 28, 1915, amounted to £135,765, in comparison with £109,364 in the previous year. In the past six years a very conservative policy in the matter of dividend distributions has been adopted, large amounts of the profits earned each year being set aside for capital expenditure in view of the increasing depth of the mine. In respect of the year to

February 28, 1915, of the net profit of £135,765, as much as £60,000 was transferred to capital account. The 10% dividend on the Preference shares absorbed £10,812, while the Ordinary shares likewise received 10%, as in the previous two years, requiring £54,626. Thus the dividend payments called for less than 50% of the net profit earned.

The issued capital of the Company is £646,265 in 100,000 10% Preference shares and 546,265 Ordinary shares, both of £1 denomination, and in addition £13,370 of 7% Debentures are outstanding.

A comparison of the net profits earned in the past 11 years and the manner of their allocation will be seen from the following table, as will also the ore reserve position and the increasing depth of the mine:—

Year to Feb. 28	Net Profit*	Transferred to Capital Acct.	Bond Interest	Bond Redemption	Pref. Div.	Ordinary Dividend		Estimated Ore Reserves Tons (2,240lb.)	Vertical Depth of Lowest Levels Feet
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%		
1905 ...	49,170	7,447	7,969	—	6,113	28,679	5	—	3,400
1906 ...	51,424	5,000	7,565	10,000	9,565	16,729	2·9	—	3,700
1907 ...	46,581	7,675	6,811	9,823	10,498	14,339	2½	—	3,700
1908 ...	70,517	10,159	6,760	14,420	10,500	28,678	5	—	4,000
1909 ...	83,215	28,721	5,756	—	10,499	38,239	6¾	1,031,400	4,000
1910 ...	120,067	55,849	5,458	—	10,583	48,177	7½	998,844	4,300
1911 ...	118,061	43,057	5,425	—	10,583	42,996	9½	1,158,560	4,600
1912 ...	134,221	24,794	4,756	36,275	10,583	57,813	10	1,013,320	4,600
1913 ...	112,430	41,520	4,505	—	10,583	55,822†	10	813,788	4,900
1914 ...	109,364	35,000	1,958	—	10,583	54,626	10	887,400	4,900
1915 ...	135,765	60,000	1,153	—	10,812	54,626	10	699,776	4,900

* After deducting income tax and directors' percentage.
† Dividend for second half of year paid less income tax, previous dividends free of tax.

It will be noted above that during the year ended February 28, 1915, there was a substantial diminution in the quantity of the ore reserves. This is attributable to the fact that no new level, or horizon, as it is officially termed, was opened up in the period. For the past three years the lowest developed horizon has been the 18th, at 4,900 feet depth from adit level, equal to 5,226 feet from surface. For the purpose of attacking ore at greater depth a shaft termed "G" has been sunk from the end of a tunnel at the 16th horizon, and from this "G" shaft horizons 19 and 20, respectively 5,202 feet and 5,502 feet below adit level, have been commenced. While this work is being carried out the addition of ore to the reserves has been in abeyance, and this explains the falling off in the ore reserves. However, the 19th horizon is expected to be developed and ready for raising ore by June next, and the 20th horizon by April 1917. The opening up of these two new levels is expected to add something like 600,000 tons to the ore supply, and it is believed that values will be maintained.

If the mine could be worked down to the 20th horizon only it might be assumed that its life would not be longer than about six years. However, there is no intention to stop work at the depth attained by the 20th horizon. The Superintendent's last annual report deals very exhaustively with this subject. He says, in effect, that except for the rapidly increasing temperature of the mine, supposing the lode continued the same size and value to horizon 26 (vertical depth 7,626 feet), it could be worked profitably to that point and even to a greater depth, but from the temperature chart the rock at horizon 26 would be no less than 126.5° Fahr. at the moment of opening. It is not believed that much more can be done in present circumstances in the matter of increasing the volume of ventilating air, but the opinion is advanced that by artificially cooling the air passed down the mine the difficulty can be got over and the mine worked to considerably greater depths than yet reached. An air cooling and drying plant has been designed, which, it is stated, "represents a thoroughly practicable scheme which will effectually remove the one serious obstacle against the Company being able to work the mine to a great depth."

Of course, the more the depth of the mine increases, the greater will be the need for capital expenditure, and therefore the policy of allocating a large proportion of the yearly profits for this purpose will have to be maintained. Happily, thanks to this policy in the past, the present financial position of the Company is strong, the surplus liquid assets at end February 1915 amounting to £135,000.

The price of the Ordinary £1 shares is 15*s.*, and though, as we have shown, the mine is extraordinarily deep, its future may yet warrant the present quotation. Furthermore, the Company owns a large extent of very rich iron-bearing area in Brazil, and this asset, already of considerable value, may be expected to become still more important in course of time.

Geduld Proprietary.—The capital authorised is £1,000,000; issued, £970,000, in £1 shares. Plant has been enlarged to 60 stamps and five tubes, having a capacity of 26,000 tons a month. There is the probability of early increase of plant to 35,000 or 40,000 tons a month.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			%	£		£		£		
1914 ...	53½	av. 244,585	15½	395,457	32/4	298,489	24/5	96,968	7/4	—

[Profit irrespective of £10,647 miscellaneous revenue in 1914.]

1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	71,330	6½	113,683	31/10	78,412	21/11	35,271	9/11	2¾0
June qr.	60	74,760	9½	113,713	30/5	78,525	21/0	35,188	9/5	28/9
July ...	—	26,050	—	38,251	29/4	25,606	19/8	12,645	9/8	29/3
Aug. ...	—	26,200	—	39,304	30/0	26,536	20/4	12,768	9/8	32/3

Gold reserve: 4,431 oz. July, Aug..
Monthly and quarterly profits include sundry revenue.

The sorting in this mine is both on surface and underground; very slight on surface.

Dividends—1914, Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Modderfontein.—Capital, £1,400,000, in £4 shares. Six tube mills in use. Present capacity of plant, 52,500 tons per month. Additional plant of capacity of 40,000 tons monthly arranged for, to raise total capacity to about 1,100,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			%	£		£		£		
1913-14	180	510,350	4½	990,352	38/9	437,663	17/1	552,689	21/8	13⅛
1914-15	180	611,500	17	1,169,692	38/3	486,256	15/11	683,436	22/4	14¼
1915-16.										
July ...	180	52,500	15¾	103,792	39/6	44,430	16/11	59,362	22/7	14⅜
Aug. ...	—	52,500	—	101,245	38/6	44,991	17/1	56,289	21/5	15

Returns include profit from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 16¼ per cent.

Modderfontein B.—Issued capital £700,000, in £1 shares. Plant of capacity to deal with 540,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			%	£		£		£		
1914 ...	83¾	440,000	10	780,132	35/11	342,328	15/7	447,804	20/4	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	96	120,700	12	231,021	38/3	93,922	15/7	137,099	22/8	4⅜
June qr.	96	123,200	17½	241,979	39/3	99,978	16/2	142,001	23/1	5⅛
July ...	96	42,600	—	85,078	40/5	34,178	16/2	50,900	24/3	5⅛
Aug. ...	96	43,500	—	86,989	40/1	35,100	15/2	52,889	24/11	5⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 25; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 32½ per cent.

Knights Deep.—Development showings of recent quarters are set out below:—

Period 1913-14.	Main Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	Main Reef: Width Inches	Main Reef: Assay s.	Main Reef: Assay d.	South Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	South Reef: Width Inches	South Reef: Assay s.	South Reef: Assay d.
Oct. qr. ...	2.5	54.5	46	8	270	58.9	87	10
Jan. „ ...	140	58.0	91	5	65	55.6	28	0
April „ ...	18[illegible]	54.1	87	1	5[illegible]	2[illegible].2	55	6
July „ ...	195	56.1	27	6	135	24.1	15	0
1914-15.								
Oct. qr. ...	690	44.3	23	2	665	40.1	20	11
Jan. „ ...	1,[illegible]80	41.1	20	8	1,080	36.8	34	2
Apr. „ ...	905	42.8	22	6	640	40.5	41	0
July „ ...	1,[illegible]35	55.6	31	10	350	56.0	47	0

Wolhuter.—Recent developments as under:—

Year ends October 31	West Section—Stope: Sampled Width Inches	West Section—Stope: Value	West Section—Face: Sampled Width Inches	West Section—Face: Value	East Section—Stope: Sampled Width Inches	East Section—Stope: Value	East Section—Face: Sampled Width Inches	East Section—Face: Value
12 months, 1913-14 ...	56.1	30.2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	52.[illegible]	19.1
1914-15.								
Jan. qr.	76.2	55.3	23.4	[illegible]	2,204	55.5	23.4	[illegible]
Apr. qr.	4.7	52.9	19.3	[illegible]	2,006	54.0	21.3	[illegible]
July qr.	6.2	55.5	27.2	[illegible]	2,076	51.7	17/5	[illegible]

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, September 29, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£80,267,625	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	61,817,625
	£80,267,625		£80,267,625

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£31,286,742
Rest	3,777,147	Other Securities	132,314,524
Public Deposits	116,216,656	Notes	47,467,640
Other Deposits	76,888,867	Gold and Silver Coin	191,286
Seven-day and other Bills	24,502		
	£211,260,172		£211,260,172

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4½
1915.										
Aug. 25	31.8	67.3	134.1	89.5	45.6	142.1	53.9	24·13	5	4⅛
Sept. 1	32.3	68.4	137.9	87.9	44.4	145.1	54.6	24·15	—	4⅛
— 8	31.8	67.5	129.6	85.9	34.4	145.2	54.1	25·11	—	4½
— 15	31.5	63.7	121.5	90.1	31.4	145.0	50.6	23·93	—	4½
— 22	31.6	62.9	108.7	89.6	31.3	135.7	49.7	25·00	—	4½
— 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	76.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24·75	—	4½

* July 30, '14 + to 4%: July 31, 8%: Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 6%: Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Sept. 1 ...	158,185,821	100,438,787	57,747,034	28,500,000	49·3
Week to " 8 ...	5,246,411	2,149,883	60,843,562	28,500,000	46·8
" " 15 ...	8,731,433	2,423,541	67,151,454	28,500,000	42·4
" " 22 ...	5,708,267	2,532,149	70,327,572	28,500,000	40·5
" " 29 ...	5,427,770	3,733,017	72,022,325	28,500,000	39·5

II.—Balance Sheet, September 29, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	52,528,722	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	17,483,603	Other Bankers	214,000
Certificates outstanding ..	2,010,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	332,500
Investments Reserve A/c	443,455	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	20,400,000
		Balance at Bank of England...	22,969,280
Total	72,465,780	Total	72,465,780

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Sept. 23, Thursday ...	38,000 bars.	208,000 U. S. coin. 43,000 bars. 400,000 sovs. U.S.A. 275,000 Spain. 50,000 Portugal.
" 24, Friday ...	Nil.	50,000 sovs. U.S.A.
" 25, Saturday ...	Nil.	262,000 bars. 26,000 Foreign coin. 6,000 Canada.
" 27, Monday ...	70,000 bars.	Nil.
" 28, Tuesday ...	Nil.	380,000 sovs. U.S.A. 50,000 Switzerland.*
" 29, Wednesday	725,000 bars.	270,000 sovs. Egypt.*
Total for week ...	833,000	2,020,000
Net aggregate ...	[1,187,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Sept. 30, Thursday ...	Nil.	200,000 sovs. Spain. 5,000 bars.
Oct. 1, Friday ...	Nil.	154,000 sovs. U.S.A. 220,000 sovs. Egypt.*

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns, Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£29,3	£29,6	£29,6	£35,0	£32,8
Public Deposits	14,2	13,9	9,7	22,2	116,2
Other Deposits	45,2	43,1	39,8	137,2	76,6
Government Securities	18,7	13,3	15,3	24,7	31,2
Other Securities	35,3	34,2	28,2	116,8	132,3
Reserve	23,8	27,8	26,4	38,4	47,6
Ratio to Liabilities	40 %	48·74%	53·26%	22 81 %	24·75%
Bullion (both Departments)	34,6	38,9	37,6	52,9	62,0
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛%	3⅛%	4⅛%	3⅛%	4½-⅜%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 16	25 28	25 28	25 20	27 30½
Hamburg 8 days	20 43½	20 48	24 12	nom.	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 82·50	4 82 15	nom.	4 69½
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 1/16	1/4 3/16	1/4 5/16	1/3 1/16	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	89⅜	74 1/16	73 7/16	68⅜	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 75	90 25	87 90	76	66.50
Silver, London spot oz.	-/28⅜	-/29 1/16	-/28 7/16	-/24	-/23⅛
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	26/8	31/7	31/6	37/6	43/3
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/5·71	-/6·31	-/7·89	-/5·30	-/6·85
Iron, Scotch pig ton	54/0	72/3	60/4½	57 0	70/7½

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Sept. 1, 1915	Pesos 233,500,000
Aug. 25, 1915	233,122,963
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 4, 1915	£5,221,324
Aug. 28, 1915	5,409,724
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,197	£786	£8,693	£47
July 31, 1915 ...	5,946	300	6,246	4,579	2,087	11,352	649
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6,255	3,808	2,912	11,293	647
Aug. 31, 1914 ...	3,829	144	3,973	8,175	1,395	10,788	625
Aug. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,154	4,816	1,111	8,036	58

FRANCE.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Sept. 16, 1915...	£177,502	£14,585	£192,087	£9,806	530,681	£3,035	£101,652
Sept. 23, 1915...	180,003	14,646	194 649	9,983	532,384	4,725	103,505
Sept. 30, 1915...	182,006	14,566	196,572	11,189	538,332	2,563	107,839
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	287,327	15,302	37,930
Oct. 2, 1913...	138,392	25,392	163,784	66,038	229,603	7,403	24,833

GERMANY.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†	£62,660	£13,741	£76,401	£2,248	£114,164	£145,471	£62,923
Sept. 15, '15...	120,710	2,150	122,860	10,969	258,312	278,534	100,468
Sept. 23, '15...	120,745	2,125	122,870	10,111	266,962	277,433	112,462
Sept. 23, '14...	83,791	1,435	85,226	8,820	241,882	199,641	135,449
Sept. 23, '13...	68,976	14,106	73,082	4,891	51,310	92,385	38,577

HOLLAND.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Sept. 18, 1915 ...	32,072	173	32,245	5,532	7,117	43,326	2,341
Sept. 25, 1915 ...	32,102	189	32,291	5,735	7,036	43,505	2,440
Sept. 26, 1914 ...	13,111	408	13,519	14 890	11,194	36 737	2,728
Sept. 27, 1913 ...	12,278	688	12,966	5,799	7,522	25,663	214

ITALY.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,204	£8,887
Aug. 10, '15 ...	£45,894	£4,616	50,510	7,093	37,089	111,891	28,319
Aug. 20, '15 ...	45,915	4,561	50,476	7,254	35,086	110,494	28,571
Aug. 20, '14 ...	—	—	49,264		40,017	83,841	12,034
Aug. 20, '13 ...	—	—	49,162		20,355	85,786	8,297

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Cash.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits.—Public.	Deposits.—Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Aug. 14, '15...	21,267	639	7,732	29,862	21,402	2,034
Aug. 21, '15 ..	21,179	639	6,838	30,735	21,706	2,293
Aug. 22, '14...	21,818	3,541	8,059	32,568	13,912	1,686
Aug. 23, '13...	21,614	4,722	8,141	32,210	17,637	821

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve.—Own Vaults.	Reserve.—In Depositories	Reserve.—Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	—	—	£89,888	£411,238	£387,185	£8,316	£1,720
Sept. 18, '15 ...	£105,784	£33,670	139 434	539,768	577,534	7,348	43,400
Sept. 25, '15 ...	103,672	34,684	138,356	546,876	584,552	7,328	41,752
Sept. 26, '14 ...	—	—	83,136	445,342	396 650	27,452	Def. 8,142
Sept. 27, 13 ...	—	—	83,246	388,573	356,668	9,036	2,644

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Sept. 15, 1915...	3,446	3,753	783	3,961	8,322	1,488
Sept. 22, 1915...	3,359	3,790	781	3,907	7,865	1,470
Sept. 22 1914...	2,600	1,361	503	6,500	7,257	1,263
Sept. 22, 1913...	2,500	1,778	504	3,795	5,727	418

RUSSIA.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Sept. 5, '15...	163,802	3,189	166,991	6,854	360,693	410,146	139,323
Sept. 14, '15...	164,105	2,796	166,901	10,916	389,251	421,084	137,135
Sept. 14, '14...	178,849	5,503	184 455	7,142	137,293	255,357	95,713
Sept. 14, '13...	163,552	7,112	170,664	5,355	97,955	157,145	106,027

SPAIN.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Sept. 18, '15...	29,638	29,528	59,166	40,796	13,777	80,863	25,330
Sept. 25, '15...	29,674	29,602	59,276	40,872	13,777	80,914	25,403
Sept. 26, '14...	21,949	27,524	49,473	49,304	13,778	79,432	23,029
Sept. 27, '13...	18,855	29,726	48,381	40,328	13,778	75,916	16,344

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£5,717	£8,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Sept. 11, '15 ...	6,299	5,627	2,673	4,305	15,709	4,455
Sept. 18, '15 ...	6,300	5,834	2,651	4,882	15,590	3,666
Sept. 19, '14 ...	5,739	2,650	1,201	8,501	15,390	3,481
Sept. 20, '13 ...	5,701	4,128	1,264	7,207	11,699	2 823

SWITZERLAND.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Sept. 15, 1915...	9,676	2,436	12,112	6,249	16,224	3,077
Sept. 23, 1915...	9,670	2,458	12,128	6,303	16 290	3,005
Sept. 23, 1914...	8,866	405	9,271	11,701	17,271	3,487
Sept. 23, 1913...	6,784	1,253	8,037	4,533	10,589	2,080

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash.—Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash.—Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Aug. 27, 1915...	£53,636	£57,611	£8,568	£63,398	£3,348	£77,997	82·1%
Sept. 3, 1915...	53,682	57,537	8,591	62,463	3,534	77,655	83·3%
Sept. 10, 1915...	56,401	60,448	8,652	65,611	3,505	80,684	83·6%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	6	Aug. 20, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 9, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	5	Sept. 1, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-5	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts Revenue	Receipts Total including Loans	Expenditures Supply Services	Expenditures Int. on Debt.	Expenditures Advances, &c.	Expenditures Total	Treasury Balance Amt. for Period	Treasury Balance + or − Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Sept. 11	3.743	19,189	38.384	– 347	38,037	74,724	–18,849		237,499
7 „ Sept. 18	6.093	38,143	45,397	831	46,228	66,640	– 8,084		237,273
12 „ Sept. 30	6,713	104,623	54,514	2,562	57.076	64,187	– 2,453		253,488
183 days to Sept. 30, 1915	102,867	967,448	651,978	284,734	986,712	64,187	–19,264*	+176,338*	
183 days to Sept. 30, 1914	76,182	159,511	118,615	47,380	165,995	£3,951	–6,484*	—	

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15	Sept. 17, '15	Sept. 10, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 75	11 78	11 70	11 15
—	Cable	11 55	11 58	11 50	11 54½
Italy	3 mos.	29 80	30 00	29 95	30 40
—	Cable	29 40	29 60	29 55	30 00
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	35½	35	35	35⅞
New York.....	do.	4 72	4 70⅜	4 70	4 78½
—	Cheques	4 72⅜	4 71⅛	4 71½	4 69½
Paris	3 mos.	27 65	28 00	27 85	28 20
—	Cable	27 25	27 60	27 45	27 79½
Petrograd	do.	138½	137½	139½	135½
Scandinavia	do.	18 12	18 15	8 12½	18 17½
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46	46⅛	46½
—	Cable	24 75	24 85	24 85	24 95
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 35	25 40	25 25	25 40
—	Cable	24 95	25 00	24 85	25 00

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15	Sept. 17, '15	Sept. 10, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 55c.	11fl. 58½c.	11fl. 58½c.	11fl. 54½c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Buenos Ayres ...	90 days	48⅛d.	48⅛d.	48⅛d.	48⅛d.
Calcutta.....	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 9⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.	1s 9⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 45c.	29lr. 60c.	29lr. 55c.	30lr. 05c.
Lisbon	Sight	35⅛	35⅛	35	35⅞
Madrid	Sight	24p. 75	24p. 92½	24p. 90	24p. 92½
Montevideo	90 days	52⅜d.	52⅜d.	52⅜d.	52⅜d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 73	$4 71½	$4 71½	$4 75½
New York.....	Sight	$4 72*	$4 71	$4 70	$4 69½
—	60 days	$4 69⅛*	$4 68½	$4 66⅛	$4 65½
—	Cables	$4 72⅛*	$4 71½	$4 70⅜	$4 70½
— on Paris	Sight	5 76f.*	5.87f.	5.77f.	5.96f.
— on Berlin	Sight	84½c.*	83½c.	83½c.	82½c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight	40½c.*	40⅜c.	40⅜c.	40⅜c.
— on Mexico	Silver $	38½c. U.S.*	38½c. U.S.	38c. U.S.	38c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 27½c.	27f. 60c.	27f. 37½c.	26f. 86c.
Petrograd	Sight	138	137½	139	136
Rio de Janeiro..	90 days	12½ d.	12 7/16d.	12⅛d.	12½d.
Scandinavia	Sight	18kr. 07½	18kr. 12½	18kr. 10	18kr. 17½
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4d.	2s. 3 5/16d.	2s. 3⅛d.	2s. 3 5/16d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 95c.	25f. 00c.	24f.85c.	25f. 02½c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 5/16d.	9½d.	8 15/16d.	8 15/16d.

* Previous day's rates.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Agg.	Inc. or Dec.*	
	1915.	£	£	£	£	%
BIRMINGHAM...	Sept. 25	1,285.907 +	394.014	64,201.416	+ 5.763 828	+ 9·8
BRISTOL.....	„ 25	622 000 +	84.000	29.379.000	+ 1,903.000	+ 6·5
DUBLIN	„ 25	3.246.100 +	355 500	142.462.200	+ 14.599.3 10	+ 11·4
LEEDS	„ 25	484.239 +	121.361	24 113.519	+ 4.945 325	+ 25·9
LEICESTER.....	„ 25	315.423 +	105.292	15.131.183	+ 3.540.836	+ 30·5
LIVERPOOL ...	„ 25	5 040.941 +	1.737.010	209.830 6'9	+ 34.524.249	+ 19·7
MANCHESTER ...	„ 25	5.856.238 +	1 440 514	255 850 502	+ 2 942 978	+ 1·1
NEWCASTLE ...	„ 25	1.305.000 +	283.000	58.182.305	+ 11.216.600	+ 25·0
NOTTINGHAM ...	„ 25	293.432 +	63 672	13 559.578	– 520.140	– 3·7
SHEFFIELD ...	„ 25	355.520 +	27.481	22.663.262	+ 3.280.360	+ 16·9
LONDON—	1915.	(000's omitted from the London clearings.)				
TOWN	Sept. 29	209.301 +	36.769	8,070.078	– 1,965.930	– 19·6
METROPOLITAN	„ 29	14.893 +	1.305	691.811	+ 47.479	+ 6·3
COUNTRY	„ 29	26,844 +	4.770	1.158.022	+ 133.839	+ 13·1
TOTAL.....	„ 29	250.838 +	42.844	9.920.911	– 1.784.612	– 15·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month.		
1915	£	+ or —*	1915	£	+ or —*	1915	£	+ or —*
Aug. 27	42.899	—	July 1	59 808	– 37.562	July 3	45 682	– 19.891
Sept. 15	45.083	—	Aug. 5	52.168	—	Aug. 4	56.083	– 4.722
Sept. 29	48.863	—	Sept. 1	54.180	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15.393
1915 agg	748.241	—		434.108	—		411.952	– 90.371

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	25/0	8/8	10/6
Aust, to U.K. or Cont.	—	—	32 6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	12/6
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	52/6	20/9	1.w 21/0
Burmah o.c.	—	32 6	26/0
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	67/6	—	—
Danube to A.R.	—	—	12/0
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	11 0
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	62/6	21/0	14.0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	150/0	—	35/0

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	11 0	2/3	2/6
N.O to L.H. (cotton)	180/0	—	—
N.O. to U.K. Cont. (gr.)	—	3 4½	3 3

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	—	45 0	30 0	—
1914...	9/8	9/9	7/6	11/9	7/6
1913...	11/6	12/3	9/6	20/6	9 3

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

OCT. 2.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ...ton	70/7½	57/0	60/3
— Middlesbro' warrants .....ton	64/8	50/11	54/3
— Hematite warrants.....ton	95/0	68/0	67/3
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12	£9	£9
— Common bars .....ton	£11 12/6	£8	£7 5
— Stock, Middlesbro'.....tons	142.354	103.320	171.360
Steel Rails .....ton	£9 2/6	£6 15	£6 10
Copper—Standard .....ton	£73 2/6	nom	£73 15
— Stock, Europe&afft., Sept. 30 tons	34.106	34.594	28.819
Tin—English ingots.....ton	£151	£135	£191 10
— Straits .....ton	£151	£135 10	£188
Tinplates—Coke I.C. .....box	17/0–17/3	14/3–18/6	14/3–18/6
Lead—Soft Foreign .....ton	£25	£18 15	£20 10
Spelter—Ord. Foreign .....ton	£70	nom.	£20 18/3
Quicksilver—(75lb.) .....bottle	£16	£7 17/6	£7 5
Aluminium .....ton	£190–£200	£80–£83	£86–£88
Antimony—Regulus .....ton	nom.	£37 10–£40	£28 10–£30 10
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21/3	20/3
— — (best) Newcastle .....ton	18/9	13/6	14/9
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	13/6	11/0	11/3
Soda—Crystals ex ship .....ton	£2 2/8–£2 5	£2 2/8–£2 5	£2 2/6–£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb.	1/9–1/10	2/0–2/3	1/10–2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits .....ton	£23 12/6	£23 10–£24	£31 10–£32
Gambier—Good marks ... ...cwt.	34/6	18/10½	18/0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	13/6–15/6	11/0–11/6	3/0–3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£27 15	£25 10	£23 15
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb.	54 6	46/3	48/6
Olive Oil—Spanish.....tun	£52	£55	£48–£49
Palm Oil—Lagos' .....ton	£29 10	£32	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/9½	nom	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£37 10–£38	£35 10	£32
Soya Oil .....ton	£39 15	£25 10	£26 10
Tallow—Aust. mixed .....cwt.	35/9–36 0	27/8–30/6	33/8–35/3
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit...cwt.	35/3	31 9	30/0
Rape Seed—Toria .....416lb.	53 6	51 0	47/8
Rubber—Para, spot.....lb.	2/4½	2 9½	3 4½
— Fine plantation (std.) ...lb.	2/4½	2/11	2/2
—World's Vis. sup. (all kinds) Mayton	19.085	21.500	17.619
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair...cwt.	89/0	55/0–58/0	94/0–92/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	-/6·85	-/5·30	-/7·89
— Egyptian good fair .....lb.	-/9·35	/7·45	-/10·15
— Pernambuco, fair .....lb.	-/7·92n.	-/5·90	-/7·95
— Mid. Upl. New York .....lb.	12·00c.	nom	14·20c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Sept. 24 bales	1,033.960	828.510	449.000
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol .....ton	£65	£36	£35
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£33	£24 5	£25–£27
— Manila, fair strips .....ton	£30	£26 10	£31
Jute—First Marks, spot .....ton	£25	£35	£34
— Red SOC .....ton	£23	£32	£31 15
Silk—Blue Elephant.....lb.	9/6	11/3–11/6	10/9–11/0
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0–1/1	-/11½–1/0	-/11½–1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs .....lb.	1/5½	-/11½–1/0½	1/0½–1/1
Hides—English Ox. 90lb. &over lb.	-/9½–-/9¾	-/8½–/7½	-/7–/7½
Leather—Dressing Hides .....lb	2/1–2/7	2/0–2/6	1/4–1/8
VEG. FOOD. CORN. &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Sept. 27 bus.	11.844.000	48.170.000	49.333.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb ...bushel	124c.	113½c.	98½c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	43 3	37 6	31 6
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	44 0	37 0	30 0
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	38/9	29 3	30 1
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr	26/1	23 3	17 9
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	80½c.	79½c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100'b.	8/8–8/8½	7 10	5 0½
— La Plata .....480lb. qr	32/1½	24/0–29/0	24 0 –24/3
Potatoes—Kents .....ton	75/0–80/0	65/0–75 0	77/8
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	33.009	21.733	9.453
— Deliveries do. .....tons	22.867	18.036	11.910
— Stock .....tons	17.317	8.392	4.908
— Price, Bassein .....cwt.	17/6	16/6–17/6	7/10½–8/3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ...cwt.	19/0–24/0	15/6–18/0	15/0–20/0
Hay—Best.....2,016lb. load	115/0–127/8	85/0–92/6	105/0 –115/0
Hops—English .....cwt.	£5 10–£7	£3 5–£5 5	£10 15–£12
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	5/0–5/4	4/10–5 0	3/0–3/5
— Scotch sides 8lb	8 4–6 6	5/0–5 2	4/4–4 10
— English 8lb	5 4–5 10	4 4–4/8	3 8–4/3
Mutton—Scotch 8lb	6/4–6/8	5/4–5 8	5 0–5/4
— English wethers 8lb	5/8–6 4	4/8–5 2	4 2–4/10
— New Zealand frozen 8lb	4/9–5/1	3/9–4/0	3/8–3/11
Pork—English .....8lb.	6 4–7 4	4/2–4 8	4 4–5/2
Bacon—Irish .....cwt.	100 0–105 0	76 0–83 0	76 0–83/0
— Danish .....cwt.	102/0–107/0	66/0–80/0	75/0–82/0
Hams—Amer. long cut .....cwt.	78/0–82/0	70/0–74/0	66/0–82/0
— — short cut .....cwt	76 0–78 0	70 0–74/0	68/0–71/0
Lard—Amer. pails .....cwt.	52/0	54/0–55 0	56/8–57/3
Butter—Danish ... .cwt.	198 0–202/0	136/0–140/0	132/0–133/0
— Siberian.....cwt.	116/0–142/0	110/0–122/0	90/0–106/0
— French.....cwt	120/0–162 0	94/0–112/0	90/0–120/0
— New Zealand .....cwt.	—	—	—
— Australian .....cwt.	—	112/0–112/6	100/0–118/0
Cheese—Canadian .....cwt.	75/0–76/0	73/0–78/0	64/0–66/0
— New Zealand (white) .....cwt.	75/0–77 0	—	—
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	473.985	519.050	666.687
— Deliveries do. .....tons	656.770	578.420	617.837
— Stock .....tons	40.741	52.541	104.722
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. .....cwt.	20 6	21 0	10 10½
— — Mauritius, crystals .....cwt.	24 6–26 0	28 6	15 0–15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 .....cwt.	29 0	33 6	18/3
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	53.504	40.836	32.245
— Home consumption do. ...tons	14.847	11.425	11.441
— Exports do.....tons	18.439	19.047	15.758
— Stock .....tons	33.230	20.892	13.430
— Price Costa Rica, f. to bond cwt.	74 0–84 0	73/0–85 0	82/0–90 0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt.	36 6	36/3	49 4½
Tea—Imports...(for 8 months) lb	240.107.991	198.247.056	183.483.545
— Home consumption do.....lb.	217.214.322	215.643.861	200.504.329
— Exports do. .....lb.	37.634.063	33.557.451	36.835.994
— Stock, Aug. 31 .....lb.	93.482.000	81.039.000	82.243.000
— Price, Indian, Pekoe Souc. Ord. lb	10½	8	8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Soug. Ord....lb.	9½	8	8½
— — Common Ceylon ... ...lb.	7½	6½	4½–5½
Cocoa Grenada, good to fine cwt.	80/0–82/0	52/0–54/0	67/0–68 6

* Prices more or less nominal, owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Sept. 24	80	—	£3,578	+ 101	38	144 278	+ 12,335
Cork Ban.&S.C.	Sept. 24	103	—	2,129	+ 135	38	79,400	+ 3,490
Dublin & S.E.	Sept. 24	160	—	6,271	+ 777	38	213 472	+ 599
Gt. Northern	Sept. 24	561	—	25,835	+ 985	38	886,145	+ 27,995
Gt.S.&Western	Sept. 24	1,130	—	36,014	+ 92	38	1,257,262	+ 101,530
Mid. Gt. West.	Sept. 24	538	—	13,273	+ 508	38	486,326	+ 16,101

. *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Aug. 21	862	+11	1,05,000	− 17,646	21	26,18,612	+ 21,388
Barsi Light ...	Sept. 4	116	—	13,900	+ 3,900	23	4,95,700	− 48,300
Bengal & N.W.	Aug. 28	2,041	+13	2,56,750	− 501	22	77,32,810	−11,31,538
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 4	163	—	21,071	− 6,947	23	5,88,422	− 40,168
Beng. Nagpur	Aug. 28	2,885	+ 7	6,71,000	+ 73,000	22	1,64,09,000	+ 1,47,000
Bomb. Baroda	Sept. 18	2,859	+32	11,48,000	+ 78,000	25	2,81,90,000	− 4,83,000
Burma	Aug. 28	1,342	—	3,39,892	− 49,255	22	79,94,002	−13,75,821
East Indian ...	Sept. 25	2,716	− 2	19,91,000	+1,58,000	26	5,21,68,000	− 1,80,000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Sept. 18	2,981½	+15½	14,06,300	+4,79,900	25	3,72,89,710	+ 8,31,312
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 4	3,131½	−1½	7,80,000	+1,47,462	23	2,01,55,432	+ 9,67,667
Nizam's Guar.	Aug. 28	797	—	1,47,111	+ 14,357	22	40,52,497	− 5,25,475
Rob.&Kumaon	Aug. 28	545	+ 1	64,765	+ 7,426	22	15,97,083	− 10,199
South Indian	Aug. 28	1,763	+10	5,37,157	+ 73,106	22	1,20,43,467	− 2,48,443
South Punjab	M. of May	823	—	6,80,058	− 70,012	2†	11,33,202	− 71,759

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Sept. 21	4,865	+295	$481,400	− 85,500	11	3,581,400	− 726,000
Can. Pacific...	Sept. 21	12,921	+694	2,408,000	− 170,000	11	22,933,000	−4,651,000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Sept. 21	816	—	£22,184	− 518	11	150,466	− 68 287
Grand Trunk	Sept. 21	4,008	—	170,741	− 9,205	37	5,815,379	− 523,204
Grd. Trunk W.	Sept. 21	336	—	32,877	+ 1,501	37	1,077,963	+ 15,168
Det. Grd. Ha.	Sept. 21	189	—	12,462	+ 1,289	37	390,221	+ 22,556
Mashonaland	M.of July	761	—	48,992	− 21,116	10†	399,211	− 238,742
Mid. W. Aust.	M.of July	277	—	5,268	− 4,279	1†	—	—
New CapeCent.	Aug. 28	205	—	1,405	+ 359	35	62,740	+ 201
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.of July	1,397	—	83,636	− 13,491	10†	636,711	+ 229,016

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Sept. 25	33	—	Ps. 7,500	− 2,500	39	472,200	− 34,250
Antofagasta ...	Sept. 26	619	—	£ 25,495	+ 5,135	39	913,900	− 356,884
Arauco	M.of July	64½	—	£ 6,750	+ 225	7†	44,625	− 10,649
Arg. N. East...	Sept. 25	752	+ 85	£ 7,234	+ 2,509	13	84,085	+ 22,440
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290	− 10	12	2,370	− 1,210
Bolivar	M.of Aug.	110	—	£ 7,250	+ 1,374	2†	14,250	+ 1,879
Brazil	M.of May	3,382	—	M 3,282,000	− 17,244	5†	15,963,000	− 804,584
Paulista.....	M.of May	721	—	M 1,500,000	−238,338	5†	8,850,000	+ 101,324
Mogyana ...	M.of May	1,131	+ 57	M 1,263,000	−256,423	5†	7,833,000	+ 261,381
B.A. & Pacific	Sept. 25	3,535	+ 17	£ 67,000	+ 12,000	13	998,000	+ 195,000
B.A. Gt. So....	Sept. 26	3,792	+ 63	£ 84,000	+ 21,000	13	1,013,908	+ 151,967
B.A. Western	Sept. 26	1,867	+ 75	£ 41,000	+ 1,000	13	534,000	+ 77,000
Cent.Argentine	Sept. 25	3,307	+ 45	£ 112,600	+ 10,200	13	1,398,400	+ 174,300
Cent. Uruguay	Sept. 25	271	—	£ 9,878	+ 2,037	13	131,126	+ 24,315
„ (E. Ext.)	Sept. 25	311	—	£ 3,121	+ 804	13	41,617	+ 10,801
„ (N. Ext.)	Sept. 25	185	—	£ 1,551	+ 371	13	22,094	+ 4 617
„ (W. Ext.	Sept. 25	211	—	£ 1,597	+ 458	13	18,765	+ 4,499
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	86	—	£ 9,512	− 2,928	5†	47,412	− 1,155
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Aug.	65½	—	£ 21,771	− 3,829	2†	42,826	− 10,274
Cord. Central	Sept. 25	1,186	—	£ 28,100	− 8,880	13	429,800	− 49,765
Cuban Central	Sept. 25	354	+ 8	£ 8,259	+ 1,751	13	94,971	+ 10,610
Dorada Ext....	M.of Aug.	71	—	£ 9,900	− 100	8†	62,900	− 6,700
EgyptianDelta	Aug. 31	619	− 4	£ 4,897	+ 363	21	60,878	− 23,754
Entre Rios...	Sept. 25	730	—	£ 9,000	+ 1,100	13	112,000	+ 18,000
Gt. S. of Spain	Sept 11	104	—	Ps. 63,302	+ 18,200	37	2,151,515	− 337,960
Gt. W. Brazil	Sept. 25	1,010	—	£ 7,500	− 300	39	363,900	− 160,900
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Aug.	23	—	£ 5,750	− 3,000	8†	54,750	− 22,500
Leopoldina ...	Sept. 25	1,806	+ 33	£ 31,272	+ 9,056	39	1,105,091	− 42,907
Manila North	Sept. 25	315	+ 2	£ 3,352	− 778	39	203,748	− 37,392
„ South	Sept. 25	286	+ 91	£ 3,427	+ 50	39	145,062	+ 15,997
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Aug.	319	—	£ 12,553	+ 5,099	2†	22,766	+ 5,610
Nitrate(2wks.)	Sept. 15	366	—	£ 19,093	+ 7,127	36	224,475	− 236,413
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Aug.	113	—	$ 26,060	+ 8,257	2†	46,500	+ 8,941
ParaguayCent.	Sept. 25	255	—	c 489,000	+229,000	13	5,406,000	+2,243,000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Aug.	1,059	—	d 819,039	+164,095	2†	1,543,877	− 98,566
Puerto Cabello	M.of Aug.	24	—	£ 3,266	+ 649	8†	29,424	− 943
Salvador	Sept. 25	100	—	$ 15,750	+ 1,180	13	255,500	+ 19,764
San Paulo.....	Sept. 19	153½	—	£ 36,425	+ 18,026	12	438,068	+ 115,605
Taltal	M.of Aug.	184	—	£ 18,218	+ 1,253	2†	26,378	− 15,135
U. of Havana	Sept. 25	681	—	£ 23,806	+ 6,254	13	296 448	+ 57,603
Urug.Northern	M.of Aug.	73	—	£ 1,745	+ 446	2†	3,632	+ 678
W. of Havana	Sept. 26	147	—	£ 5,039	+ 343	13	62,600	− 6,885
Zafra & Hlva.	M.of Aug.	112	—	£ 9,613	− 542	8†	62,817	− 45,898

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Sept. 23	369½	+21½	£ 50,319	− 1,307	38	1,930,886	− 138.404
Auckland(4wks)	Aug. 27	25½	—	£ 19,876	− 1,170	8	42,029	− 2,328
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Aug.,	—	—	M. 6,576,000	+409,900	8†	50,963,110	+1,889,962
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Aug.	30	—	£ 35,064	+ 1,892	8†	244,714	+ 12,887
Bristol.....	Sept. 24	31	—	£ 9,761	+ 1,435	38	366,098	+ 32,729
BritishColumbia	M.of Aug.,	242	+ 5½	$ 507,126	−167,686	2†	1,017,849	+ 346,988
Calcutta	Sept. 25	35½	—	R 62,872	− 3 703	39	25,16,528	− 1,04,739
Cape Electric...	M.of Aug.	42·3	—	£ 17,640	+ 2,704	2†	34,962	+ 4,006
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Aug.	9	—	£ 1,523	+ 1,235	8†	14,328	− 4,642
Cork Electric...	Sept. 23	9½	—	£ 1,113	+ 22	39	41,476	− 241
Dublin United	Sept. 24	54½	—	£ 6,469	+ 807	38	234,393	+ 8,849
Havana Electric	Sept. 5	—	—	$ 49,437	− 2,631	36	1,832,457	− 89 001
Isle of Thanet...	Sept. 25	17½	+ 9	£ 536	− 199	52	22,493	− 10,929
Kalgoorlie	M.of July	20½	—	£ 2,775	+ 223	7†	18,954	+ 880
Lanarkshire ...	Sept. 23	28½	—	£ 2,172	+ 396	38	74,325	+ 2,041
London C. C. ...	Sept. 22	141½	− 1	£ 46,960	+ 4,984	25	1,095,822	− 4,285
Madras Electric	Sept. 15	—	—	R 30,845	+ 3,588	37	499,757	+ 6,862
Manila Electric	M.of Aug.	—	—	$ 126,650	− 1,850	8†	976,343	− 121,253
Provincial	Sept. 25	21½	—	£ 2,420	+ 317	51	112,611	+ 11,546
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Aug.	25	—	£ 4,510	− 119	8†	38,884	− 3,054
U.of Montevideo	M.of Aug.	30	—	£ 26,493	+ 418	10†	278,346	− 31,392
Yorks.W.Riding	Sept. 26	24 7/8	—	£ 1,550	+ 199	39	62,172	+ 5,222

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 243,042 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. ( ) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
423 Cos. (000's omitted)	July	(e) $262.948	+ $2,324	$87,685	+ $9,851
12 *mos.*	*to* June	(f) *2,937,516*	− *154,681*	*564,364*	+ *22,616*
Alabama Gt. Southern a	July	402.000	− 11.000	109.000	+ 23,000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*4,776,000*	− *649,000*	*944,000*	− *23,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Aug.	128.000	− 11.000	23.000	+ 6.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*252,000*	− *21,000*	*39,000*	+ *9,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Aug.	294.000	− 24.000	73.000	+ 36.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*587,000*	− *64,000*	*142,000*	+ *40,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Aug.	119.000	− 17.000	13.000	− 2.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*240,000*	− *31,000*	*27,000*	− *5,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Aug	10.904.000	+ 738.000	3.601.000	+ 206.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*21,326,000*	+ *1,551,000*	*6,959,000*	+ *684,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	July	2.177.000	− 381.000	235.000	− 79.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*31,536,000*	− *5,370,000*	*7,038,000*	− *2,011,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Aug.	9.385.000	+ 648.000	3.395.000	+ 627.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*18,056,000*	+ *1,172,000*	*6,472,000*	+ *1,432,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug.	1.192 800	− 174.900	238.800	− 5.900
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,399 000*	− *563,000*	*623,990*	− *151,300*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Aug.	8.801.000	− 1,117.000	3.442.000	+ 79.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,697,000*	− *3,703,000*	*6,243,000*	− *899,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	July	3.643.000	+ 378.000	1.258.000	+ 323.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*39,463,000*	+ *2,004,000*	*11,908,000*	+ *862,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Aug.	7.329.000	− 440.000	1.782.000	− 265.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*14,519,000*	− *613,000*	*3,401,000*	− *661,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy.. a	July	7.374.000	− 487.000	1.960.000	− 459.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*91,125,008*	− *2,562,000*	*26,678,000*	+ *132,000*
Chicago Great Western a	July	1.129.000	+ 46.000	194.000	+ 30.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*13,921,000*	− *429,000*	*2,890,000*	− *37,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 96.000	2.510.000	+ 350.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,504,000*	+ *490,000*	*6,322,000*	+ *778,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	July	5.666.000	− 369.000	658.000	− 352.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*70,937,000*	+ *2,261,000*	*14,033,000*	+ *330,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.465.000	− 213.000	338.000	− 169.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,898,000*	− *360,000*	*704,000*	− *254,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	July	3.163.000	+ 16.000	750.000	+ 20.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*20,206,000*	+ *475,000*	*3,660,000*	+ *2,386,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1.246.000	+ 67.000	326.000	+ 24.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,354,000*	+ *51,000*	*542,000*	+ *66,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	July	420.000	+ 38.000	210.000	+ 48.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*5,207,000*	+ *42,000*	*2,727,000*	+ *257,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	July	2.045.000	+ 48.000	776.000	+ 106.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*12,827,000*	+ *81,000*	*4,071,000*	+ *589,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	July	2.002.000	− 1.000	529.000	+ 92.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*21,823,000*	− *1,770,000*	*6,511,000*	+ *388,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Aug.	5.946.000	+ 457.000	2.269.000	+ 769.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*41,234,000*	+ *1,882,000*	*10,560,000*	+ *2,027,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶a	Aug.	£804.200	− £53.000	£263.000	+ £23.700
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*5,644,850*	− *478,000*	*1,514,250*	+ *50,900*
Grand Trunk Western a	Aug.	138.100	− 2.000	39.700	+ 14.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*983,100*	+ *8,550*	*84,800*	+ *63,050*
Great Northern ..... a	July	$5.858.000	− $982.000	$2.366.000	− $530.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*67,134,000*	− *9,689,000*	*25,703,000*	+ *1,412,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	July	543.000	+ 92.000	225.000	+ 117.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*6,181,000*	− *840,000*	*1,997,000*	− *221,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Aug.	5.080.000	− 316.000	569.000	− 137.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,959,000*	− *833,000*	*1,100,000*	− *312,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Aug.	807.000	− 78.000	288.000	+ 19.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,638,000*	− *192,000*	*609,000*	+ *9,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Aug.	3.780.000	+ 9.000	1.090.000	− 52.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,514,000*	+ *161,000*	*2,119,000*	+ *58,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	July	4.486.000	− 318.000	1.180.000	+ 104.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*51,697,000*	− *8,301,000*	*10,029,000*	− *2,264,000*
Michigan Central..... a	July	3.050.000	+ 211.000	886.000	+ 214.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*19,608,000*	+ *507,000*	*4,209,000*	+ *883,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	July	2.388.000	− 97.000	749.000	+ 20.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*27,763,000*	− *1,543,000*	*8,149 000*	− *24,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	July	2.517.000	− 199.000	471.000	− 158.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*32,899,000*	+ *1,018,000*	*8,585,000*	+ *1,393,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	July	4.763.000	− 480.000	947.000	− 462.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*68,209,000*	− *1,776,000*	*13,054,000*	− *1,031,000*
New York Central..... a	July	13.862.000	+ 833.000	4.376.000	+ 1.343.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*89,415,000*	+ *3,234,000*	*22,707,000*	+ *7,976,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	July	6.248.000	+ 492.000	2.195.000	+ 633.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*65,379,000*	− *2,073,000*	*18,733,000*	+ *4,077,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Aug.	912.000	− 89.000	347.000	− 14.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,874,000*	− *120,000*	*2,488,000*	+ *7,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	July	4.467.000	+ 718.000	1.688.000	+ 594.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*42,988,000*	− *1,663,000*	*13,277,000*	+ *382,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	6.472.000	+ 398.000	2.408.000	+ 636.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*11,822,000*	− *46,000*	*3,826,000*	+ *408,000*
Pennsylvania System:					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*159,031,000*	− *2,470,000*	*34,056,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 463.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*73,715,000*	− *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,925,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	July	3.390.000	− 86.000	801.000	− 77.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*21,829,000*	− *811,000*	*3,882 000*	+ *47,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry..... b	Aug.	4.230.000	+ 101.000	1.330.000	+ 94.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*8,313,000*	+ *362,000*	*2,766,000*	+ *403,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	− 503.000	Dr. 107.000	− 134.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,791,000*	− *509,000*	*178,000*	− *114,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	July	3.550.000	− 266.000	987.000	− 20.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*42,967,000*	− *1,949,000*	*11,801,000*	+ *1,615,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	July	1.627.000	− 206.000	384.000	− 50.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*21,280,000*	− *4,140,000*	*5,296,000*	− *1,661,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Aug.	13.208.000	+ 1.536.000	4.597.000	+ 1.242.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*26,171,000*	− *2,866,000*	*9,190,000*	+ *2,563,000*
Southern ..... a	Aug.	5.312.000	− 376.000	1.390.000	+ 295.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*10,624,000*	− *869,000*	*2,707,000*	+ *433,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Aug.	8.446.000	− 22.000	3.402.000	− 53.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,293,000*	+ *266,000*	*6,251,000*	+ *120,000*
Wabash ..... a	July	2.422.000	− 227.000	421.000	− 235.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*29,083,000*	− *1,132,000*	*4,931,000*	+ *412,000*
Western Pacific..... a	July	702.000	+ 141.000	250 000	+ 156.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*5,708,000*	− *543,000*	*931,000*	+ *234,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Sept. 7	$84.000	+ $2.000	9	$878.000	− $70.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 21	911.000	+ 78.000	11	10.108.000	+ 958.000
Chicago Great Western	Sept. 21	321.000	− 55.000	11	3.288.000	− 152.000
Colorado & Southern	Sept. 14	297.000	+ 8.000	10	2.912.000	+ 68.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Sept. 21	594.000	− 39.000	11	6 911.000	+ 159.000
Great Northern	M.of Aug.	6.075.000	− 842.000	2†	11.933.000	−1.824.000
Illinois Central	M.of Aug.	5.080.000	− 316.000	2†	9.959.000	− 833.000
Louisville & Nashville	Sept. 14	1.141.000	+ 56.000	10	11.342.000	− 318.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Sept. 7	617.000	+ 38.000	9	5.440.000	+ 4.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Sept. 21	594.000	− 39.000	11	6.814.000	− 437.000
Missouri Pacific	Sept. 21	1.183 000	− 71.000	11	13.465.000	− 765.000
Southern Railway	Sept. 14	1,259,000	+ 11,000	10	13,005,000	− 892,000



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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 1915.

WAR FINANCE.

One cannot but wish that those persons who are spending money so freely and so gaily at the present time should be placed under the necessity of answering the questions of how the country's great national expenditures are to be met in the absence of private economies, and how it will be possible for the country to provide for its present adverse foreign trade balance unless everyone contributes his share by keeping down his domestic expenditures to the lowest possible level consistent with efficiency. Already practically the whole of the War Loan issued early in July has been expended, and in a very short time a fresh loan will be needed. The whole of the Government's existing financial resources consist of not more than about £75,000,000 still to be received on account of War Loan, the £50,000,000 about to be raised in the United States, and current revenue, which may be expected to come in at the rate of about £4,000,000 a week. Roughly speaking, therefore, the funds in hand and the revenue that is being received are now only about sufficient to last not longer than until the end of October, and it will soon become necessary for bankers to subscribe for additional large amounts of Treasury bills, while preparations for another great loan cannot be long delayed. Mr. McKenna recently told the country that the expenditure in the current year would be £1,590,000,000. To this sum, however, must be added an expenditure of £3,000,000 against capital and the repayment of £160,000,000 to the Bank of England. Hence the total sum which the country has to provide in the current fiscal year is no less than £1,753,000,000. Here are the figures:—

Estimated Expenditures Current Fiscal Year.

	£
Expenditure	[illegible]
Capital Expenditure	3,275,000
Repayment to Bank of England	160,427,000
Total	1,753,408,000

Of this total of £1,753,000,000 the expenditure up to the end of September has been £674,497,000 in respect of interest and services, £160,427,000 has been repaid to the Bank of England, and other expenditures have amounted to £2,474,000—an aggregate expenditure to date of £837,398,000. The actual expenditures for the first six months of the year are set out below:—

Actual Expenditures Six Months to September 30.

	£	£
June Quarter	[illegible]	[illegible]
September Quarter	116,021,000	1,322,000
Total	674,497,000	3,681,000
Repaid to Bank of England	160,427,000	
Other Expenditures (net)	2,474,000	
Total Expenditure	[illegible]	

This means that if the estimates of expenditure are attained the sum that will have to be provided in the last six months will be no less than £915,000,000, or at the rate of exactly £5,000,000 a day. In the first six months of the year the revenue has been £102,867,000, and the net sum borrowed has been £716,268,000, leaving a deficiency of £19,264,000 to be provided out of the cash balance. The manner in which the expenditures of the country have been financed in the first six months of the current fiscal year is shown below:—

Revenue Expenditure and Loans Six Months to September 30, 1915.

	£	£
Expenditure		[illegible]
Revenue		102,867,000
Deficit		734,531,000
	£	
4½% War Loan	528,000,000	
4% War Loan	35,798,000	
Exchequer Bonds	242,345	
Treasury Bills (net)	176,338,000	
Other Advances	1,000,000	
Total	741,378,345	
Debt Repaid	26,110,000	
Net Sum Borrowed		715,268,[illegible]
Deficiency		[illegible]

Thus towards meeting total estimated payments of £1,753,000,000 for the current year, £818,000,000 has been provided so far, leaving a balance of £935,273,000 to be supplied in the second six months. The calculation is as follows:—

Estimated Payment 12 Months to March 1915. and sums already received.

	£	£
Payment to September 30	837,398,000	
Last six months	916,010,000	
Total Year		1,753,408,000
Revenue Received	102,867,000	
Sums already borrowed	715,268,000	
Total sum provided first six months		818,135,000
Balance to be provided 6 months to March 31, 1915		935,273,000

If the Budget estimate of revenue is not exceeded, the amount of income that will be received in the six months to the end of March next will be £202,000,000. To this should be added the balance of the War Loan not yet received. How much this will amount to has not been publicly stated. Mr. McKenna informed the House of Commons that subscriptions to the War Loan through the Bank of England had amounted to £570,000,000, and that substantial subscriptions had been received through the Savings Banks. But we find from the returns of Savings Banks deposits that the money needed to meet War Loan subscriptions by depositors was almost entirely drawn from the deposits of Savings Banks, which between June 12 and September 4 were reduced nearly £23,000,000. Inasmuch as the Government has to provide the money for these withdrawals, it is evident that the subscriptions for the War Loan received through the Post Office must be almost entirely disregarded. The

diminution in the deposits of the Savings Banks since June is shown below:—

Deposits of Savings Banks.

1915	Trustee £	Post Office £	Total £
June 12	55,118,000	199,156,000	254,274,000
July 10	54,607,000	197,512,000	252,119,000
Aug. 7	50,372,000	181,649,000	232,021,000
Sept. 4	49,826,000	181,632,000	231,458,000
Reduction since June	−5,292,000	−17,524,000	−22,816,000

In view of this reduction in the deposits of the Savings Banks it is presumable that the total amount to be received on balance in respect of the War Loan is not a very large one. On the assumption that the net amount of the Loan was no greater than the subscriptions to the Bank of England the sum still to be received from the War Loan is not more than £42,000,000. If, however, we include Post Office subscriptions, the amount to be received may be about £75,000,000. To this must now be added £48,000,000 net that will come from the American loan and the revenue to be collected in the last six months of the year. The manner in which the revenue has so far come in is exceedingly encouraging, and we anticipate that the estimated income of £305,000,000 will be exceeded. Should, however, it not be exceeded, the amount of revenue to be received will be £202,000,000. Thus the total funds in sight to meet the payment of £915,000,000 in the next six months is £325,000,000, and the deficiency still to be provided is about £600,000,000. If the cash balance is restored to the amount at which it stood on April 1 last, the deficit to be provided in the current six months is £610,000,000. The calculation is below:—

Estimated further Borrowings next Six Months still needed to cover Budget deficit for year to March 31, 1915.

	£
Balance of Expenditure to be provided 6 months to March 31, 1915, as above	935,273,000
Sums in Sight.	
Balance of War Loan, say	75,000,000
American Loan	48,000,000
Revenue to be received	202,000,000
Total sum in sight	325,000,000
Remaining Deficit to be provided for	610,000,000

Of course, no one doubts that this great sum of money will be obtained by the Government in one way or another. But it is of the greatest importance that the country should recognise the vastness of the sum to be raised and should take in good time the measures necessary for providing it. Certainly the extravagant expenditures that are still going on, taken in conjunction with our enormous adverse trade balance and the relatively onerous terms which we have had to pay for money borrowed from a foreign nation, should make even the man in the street stop to think and debate with himself whether the situation ought not impose rigorous economy as a duty upon every British citizen, whether man or woman.

THE LOAN FROM AMERICA.

The Franco-British delegation to the United States for the purpose of arranging for credits with which to purchase American goods are to be highly commended for the manner in which they have carried out their very responsible and important mission. They have induced American bankers to undertake a financial operation greater than has ever hitherto been performed by the United States, and they have thus provided means for the French and British nations of purchasing much larger quantities of American goods than otherwise would have been possible. The transaction will indeed be of benefit not merely to America, which will be able to market abroad a much greater quantity of goods than otherwise would have been possible, and to Great Britain and France, who have obtained the means of buying, but to the whole world, which will derive indirect advantage from the maintenance of Europe's purchasing power. The reasons for the credit are twofold. First of all, both France and England have become accustomed to purchase large quantities of American goods every autumn, more especially of cotton, and have obtained the funds with which to purchase mainly from the great expenditures of American tourists during the summer and autumn. How great these expenditures are is difficult to estimate. After a careful investigation the writer of this article came to the conclusion that the net sum expended by American tourists on travelling to Europe and during their stay in Europe was no less than £40,000,000 a year, and that beyond this sum they spent a great deal of money upon the purchase of goods which figure in the trade returns as imports into the United States. For instance, a great deal of American money is spent upon tailoring in London, and still more is spent upon Paris costumes, while the expenditures upon jewellery, furniture, and artistic productions of all kinds and descriptions are very large. Probably altogether the expenditures in Europe of American tourists, including goods purchased, is not far short of £80,000,000 a year. This sum, of course, includes the substantial amounts remitted to American residents in Paris and elsewhere who have now returned to the United States. The outbreak of war has practically stopped these tourist expenditures, and consequently Europe has not the means of paying for the goods normally bought from the United States to the extent of some £80,000,000 because of the loss of income that has been sustained through the absence of American tourists. Hence, unless America were prepared to purchase securities of one kind and another, either American or foreign, it was obvious that Europe in general, and France, Italy, and England in particular, would not have been in a position to purchase the normal amount of goods this autumn which they usually buy from the States. And just when these countries are denuded of a great deal of income and the means of purchasing American goods, they need to buy a much larger quantity than usual. In part this arises from the closing of the Dardanelles, which prevented Russia from exporting her food supplies, and had made the consuming countries more dependent than ever upon other food-producing nations, so that the demand for American productions became greater than usual, while their means of paying for imports became reduced. These considerations are altogether apart from, and distinct from, the purchase of munitions of war in the United States. It was necessary for France and England either to borrow in the United States or to sell American securities in order to obtain the means of purchasing the great quantities of food and raw material they need for their sustenance. The joint loan of £100,000,000 arranged for by the Commission is no more than is required for this purpose. How the Allies will finance their purchases of munitions is another matter. Presumably the supplies of munitions will be paid for by sales of American securities.

From the statement we give elsewhere it will be seen that even during the months of small exports the excess of exports from over the imports into the United States has averaged over £25,000,000 a month, and partly in consequence of the loan we anticipate that in the next few months the excess of exports may amount to between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 a month. And it is obvious that if the United States continue to sell goods so freely it must take payment for them either in gold or in securities. American banks are very full of gold and need no additional supplies of the metal. Consequently the only available method of taking payment for the trade balance is by the purchase of securities, and it is evident that America by means of her exports will be in a position to buy in the next twelve months a very much greater quantity

of securities than £100,000,000. We anticipate, indeed, that America will by means of her exports be prepared to purchase between £300,000,000 and £400,000,000 of securities in the current crop season from August 1 this year to August 1 next year.

The terms of the new loan are about what we expected them to be. The bonds are to be jointly guaranteed by France and Great Britain, and will be repayable at the end of five years or convertible at the option of the holder into 4½% bonds of the British and French Governments, repayable not earlier than fifteen years and not later than twenty-five years from the present time by the two Governments jointly and severally. The bonds will be issued to the public at the price of 98, and, including redemption, will thus yield £5 9*s*. 3*d*. per cent. The whole issue is to be sold to an underwriting syndicate at the price of 96, so that as far as the British Government is concerned the rate of interest paid is equal to £5 18*s*. 10*d*. per cent. At first sight this rate of interest seems to be a high one, especially in comparison with the rate of interest at which both the French and British Governments can borrow in their own countries. But it is essential to remember that hitherto the American people have had little or no experience in the matter of foreign investments, and that they are able for the most part to invest their money in their own country at high rates of interest. Consequently, in order to place so great a loan, it was necessary to offer a rate of interest that would cause the loan to compete on equal terms with other issues upon the American money market. Moreover, in considering the terms on which the loan has been obtained, one may reasonably expect that at the end of five years the loan will be converted by the holder into 4½% bonds with a currency of at least ten years, and possibly of twenty years. Therefore for all practical purposes the loan may be regarded as a 4½% issue at the price of 93½, affording a yield of £5 2*s*. 8*d*. per cent. on the basis of a currency of fifteen years and of £4 19*s*. 3*d*. on the basis of a currency of twenty-five years. There is, moreover, another factor to take into account in considering the relatively high yield afforded, namely, the heavy loss by exchange that would fall upon the British people in making remittances to America had no loan been concluded. It will be remembered that prior to the negotiations for the loan, exchange fell to 4.50, and had negotiations for the loan not been initiated the fall might not have stopped even at this figure. Hence persons in this country, including the British Government, who had to make remittances for goods ordered from the other side, would have been subjected to a very heavy percentage loss in making remittances. Even at the current rate of 4.72 for sight drafts the depreciation in exchange is 3%, and had no loan been arranged the depreciation might have been over 10%. When these matters are taken into account it will be obvious that the terms of issue are not nearly as onerous as they appear to be from merely comparing the rate of interest on the new loan with that at which the British Government can borrow in this country. Of course we realise that the difference between the rates of interest is much greater than it appears to be, as the interest on British loans is subject to income tax, and the interest on the Allied loan is to be free of income tax. But such considerations are quite valueless at a time such as this. The fact of the matter is that the country is spending an enormous sum of money and that if it does not borrow money abroad it cannot spend nearly as much as it is now doing. Indeed, it should be realised that unless we are able to borrow money from the United States, or sell securities to that country, it will be practically impossible for us to pay for the munitions ordered, or to buy the great quantities of cotton and wheat which we need for the support of our people and the maintenance of our production.

Last week we showed that on foreign trade account, including the promised advances to our Allies, the trade balance against Great Britain is now at the rate of over £500,000,000 a year, and, including the additional loans we shall probably be called upon to make to our Allies before the end of the current fiscal year, the adverse trade balance is at the rate of at least £600,000,000 a year. It will be quite obvious to everyone that we cannot possibly meet this adverse trade balance unless we borrow from abroad at rates which will enable us to secure the greater part, if not all, the money we need, and that this consideration is a much more important one than the mere question of an extra rate of interest on a foreign loan.

The proceeds of the new loan are to be divided equally between Great Britain and France. Hence, towards meeting our adverse trade balance at the rate of £600,000,000 a year, we have secured £50,000,000, and the remainder has to be provided for by economy in consumption, bringing curtailed imports, by increased exports, by shipments of gold, or by sales of securities.

The task of negotiating the loan has undoubtedly needed great tact and skill, and it was a happy inspiration which induced the Chancellor of the Exchequer to invite Lord Reading, whose sound judgment and great ability are so widely recognised, to act as Chairman of the Commission and to appoint as his colleague Sir Edward Holden, with his wide knowledge of financial conditions on both sides of the Atlantic. Indeed, all the Commissioners, both English and French, as well as Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., the British commercial agents in the United States, are to be congratulated upon their success in arranging for a credit large enough to take care of the exchange for some time to come.

THE WAR.

For eight or ten days now our troops and our gallant Allies of France have been making continuous and considerable progress. As we observe elsewhere, it is clear that the supply of munitions is now so plentiful that they are able, not only to assume the offensive, but to overpower the enemy even in gun-fire. There are evidences, likewise, that the enemy, in their overconfidence regarding their chances in Russia, have been drawing too seriously upon the forces in France and Belgium; that, consequently, at every point they were outnumbered and outmatched; and that, moreover, they have lost confidence in themselves, and no longer display that courage and vigour which they showed until recently. The capture of so extensive a line of trenches and of as many as 121 guns in Champagne alone seems to testify to this. We do not say all this with any wish to disparage the fighting qualities of our enemies. Still less do we desire to inspire too great confidence at home. We have an exceedingly difficult task before us yet; and we shall do well, therefore, to remember that war is always liable to surprises. Still, there is confidence on the part of our leaders and our men, and for more than a week now they have proved that they are more than a match for the enemy. In the Eastern theatre of warfare, likewise, there is decided improvement. The Russians, obtaining fuller supplies from the Japanese as well as from ourselves and from the United States, are once more able to take the offensive in certain directions and to inflict losses upon the invader. Moreover, it is to be recollected that the winter is now rapidly approaching, and that, therefore, the position of the Germans there is becoming perilous. It is reported from Petrograd that, with their usual rashness, those in the highest command in Germany are once more transferring troops from the East to the West. If the news is true, it is highly satisfactory, for it shows, firstly, that the brilliant successes in France and Flanders are relieving the pressure upon our Russian Allies; and, secondly, that the enemy is not able to find at home sufficient reinforcements to

seriously check the advance of the British and French. It is not alone, however, from these directions that we have received good news since last writing. There has been a brilliant victory obtained in the neighbourhood of the Tigris, and it looks as if Bagdad lay open to us. The Italians are, likewise, employing a large force of Austrians and Germans. But, perhaps, not the least important news of the week comes from the Balkans. First we had a remonstrance from all the leading men of the Russian Duma addressed to the Bulgarian people and reminding them of how much they owe to Russia. Next came Sir E. Grey's warning in the House of Commons. Now we have a practical demand on the part of the Greek Government to the Bulgarian to demobilise. Clearly, therefore, the Balkan question must be settled very soon. Either Bulgaria must defy Greece, or M. Venizelos, who seems to have won the acquiescence of the King and the support of even his political opponents, must take measures which will bring to a final decision the action of the Bulgarian Government. A little while ago, when the Russians were retreating and the Germans seemed to be carrying everything before them, while the French and British in the West were sitting idle, it was easy to understand that King Ferdinand hoped that he might succeed in the course he had adopted. But now that the Germans have been pushed so hard in France and Belgium, that their armies in Russia are being weakened, and that Russia is not only sure of plentiful supplies of all kinds from her Allies and from the United States, but is as full of courage and determination as ever, it will be strange indeed if King Ferdinand finds Bulgarian leaders fools enough to follow him in a course that must end in disaster to the country.

OUR SUCCESSES IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS.

The brilliant successes of our gallant French Allies and of our own splendid troops, which began at the end of last week, notify to all concerned that at last our supply of munitions has increased so much that we are not only in a position to take the offensive and establish a decided superiority over the enemy, but that we are likewise able to supply our Allies. In saying this it is not meant, of course, that there should be any relaxation in our efforts. In this war munitions are indispensable. Whoever has the most powerful guns and the best explosives is sure to win in every encounter. Consequently, it is our first duty to see that our own men and our Allies have not merely enough, but far more than enough of everything that will enable them to beat down the arrogant and unprovoked foe. In this Journal we have been arguing from the beginning that while in war, as well as in peace, the real strength and wealth of a country reside in its manhood, yet that manhood cannot assert itself at its best unless it is provided with everything necessary for the work upon which it is engaged. There ought, therefore, to be no pause and no relaxation. We ought to do everything that is necessary. For the first of all the duties incumbent upon us is to spare as far as we can the lives and the health of our gallant soldiery. Happily, the lesson has at last been taken to heart, though we are sorry to say there is still too much scolding and too great an inclination to throw upon others the blame of what was, in fact, the ignorance and miscalculation of our Government. However, let bygones be bygones. Let us exert ourselves to the utmost now to turn out sufficient munitions for every portion of the great field over which operations are being conducted, and let us not forget that our very wealth and strength lay the obligation upon us to supply all our Allies, great and small, with what they may need. We shall do well not to forget that war is proverbially liable to extraordinary changes. It is said that already reinforcements are being dispatched from the Eastern field to the Western, and, therefore, it is possible that the enemy may mass a large body of men at some particular spot and attempt to take either us or our French Allies at a disadvantage. We must not, then, be too much disappointed even if we do not score a victory every day and wherever we attack. We must remember that the field of operations is very extensive, that it is impossible to keep enough of men at every point, and that, therefore, the enemy may take us by surprise in some position.

Frankly, the writer, though saying this, has no such opinion either of the strategical or the tactical ability of the German leaders as would induce him to look with apprehension upon their very worst or best endeavours, whatever you like to call them. They have blundered from beginning to end. Indeed, the War would now be nearing its termination if our own Government and the Allied Governments had realised what modern warfare is and had provided accordingly. If it be true that the Guards, or at least a portion of the Guards, are being transferred from Russia or Poland to France or Belgium, the Germans are again committing the same kind of mistake they have so often committed in this War. Their engineers had sufficient knowledge of what a great war would be likely to be, and they constructed strategic railways on an extraordinary scale, with the result that they have been able to send reinforcements from West to East and from East to West with remarkable expedition and very often. They are now repeating the same course, and we have every reason to be gratified, for every man withdrawn from the Eastern field of operations gives breathing time to our Russian ally. Our readers know that we of this Journal have never felt disappointment because the Russian armies had to retreat so persistently before the better armed invader. We held then, and we hold now, that as soon as Russia is fully provided with the requisite munitions she will make her foe understand the folly he committed in pushing so far into her territory. But though the manufacture of munitions is going on so satisfactorily, Russia is not yet in a position to take a really successful offensive. Therefore, it is matter for great congratulation that we have been able to compel the enemy to send reinforcements back from the Eastern field. It is surprising the ignorance and want of foresight that have been shown by the German Government and the German General Staff from the beginning of operations. They started with the notion that they could break through Belgium without serious trouble, overrun France and capture Paris, and that having accomplished so much they could then, at their leisure, throw the whole force of the two Central European Empires upon Russia. They made the attempt. They were stopped at the Marne and driven back gradually to the lines they now occupy. Yet they held on like grim death, and, instead of recognising their failure and throwing their whole force upon Russia before she was prepared, they wasted the whole winter and spring before they seriously attacked Russia. Indeed, they did not bring an adequate force against Russia until the summer was drawing towards a close. Now, when they have forced the Russians out of Poland and have made their entrance even into Russia proper, they are weakening their forces in Russia and augmenting those in France and Belgium. If their very enemies were given the choice in the matter, they could hardly select a course more suitable to themselves.

Meantime an official notice has appeared this week confirming the statement that Japan had undertaken to supply Russia with a very large quantity of munitions. We called attention to the report in our last issue, and we have great pleasure now in finding it confirmed, and confirmed with this gratifying addition, that not only has Japan undertaken to supply Russia with an immense quantity of munitions of all kinds, but that so earnest is she in the work that

she is enlarging her own naval and military factories used for supplying herself. The financial arrangements attending this have been settled, and we may hope confidently that before long Russia will be as well provided as the Western Allies. The increase in our own manufacture of munitions is so gratifying that we may hope that we can send large quantities also to the help of Russia. And, of course, our readers are aware that Russia is buying immense quantities in the United States. We have now entered upon the month of October when, no doubt, the rains as usual will be very heavy and will make the movement of great guns difficult. In a very short time, then, we may expect the winter, so that it is probable that the Germans in Russia will be able to do exceedingly little more this year. It may be objected that this very consideration answers what we have said above about the incompetence of the German Great General Staff. But it does not seem to us anything like an answer. Everybody, since the great Napoleon's disastrous failure, was aware of what an invading army would have to expect in the closing months of a year in Russia. The General Staff must have known all the facts as well as the ordinary reader, to say the least. And, therefore, it was their bounden duty to make such arrangements as would not place them in danger of what overtook Napoleon. Clearly, they did not bear the facts properly in mind; or they are so entirely incompetent that they did not know how to adopt a better plan; or, finally, the military experts have been overruled by the Kaiser. Whatever the explanation may be, those who have the final determining voice have from the beginning shown the most utter incapacity.

Even if the German Great General Staff had proved itself to be as able as it was supposed to be by its numerous admirers abroad, and especially in this country, we doubt exceedingly whether Germany could have escaped disaster. She might, it is true, have overrun France. Indeed, considering that she chose her own time and her own pretext she ought to have been able to reach Paris before serious resistance could be offered to her. But in the long run the defeat of Germany was as certain as anything humanly speaking can be said to be so. The British Empire alone, let us never forget, contains over 400 millions of souls, that is to say, roughly between one-fifth and one-fourth of the whole population of the earth. Then Russia is credited with something between 150 and 170 millions. And to these figures have to be added France, Italy, Serbia, Japan, and Belgium. Practically, that is to say, the two Central European Empires challenged Powers who could, without serious inconvenience, put in the field between three and four times the number of men that they could raise. Unless, therefore, the *Entente* Allies were struck with idiocy there could be but one result. Nevertheless, we must not forget that the *Entente* Powers were none of them prepared, while Germany and Austria-Hungary had been preparing for half a century. Therefore, there was some method in the madness of our enemies; but it was madness all the same. For all that we must not take it for granted that everything now will turn out just as would suit ourselves. We ought, on the contrary, or at all events our Government, our Generals, and our General Staffs, to assume that the enemy will do everything humanly possible, that he will raise even yet fresh reinforcements, and that he will prefer to die with his back to the wall rather than confess that he is utterly defeated. That is the spirit which will enable us to carry the War to a successful ending. But while we must be prepared for desperate action by desperate men we must never for a moment lose sight of our own vast superiority. Nor must we for a moment hesitate to use that vast superiority with such effect that we shall disable the enemy from entering upon a war of revenge for at least [illegible] generations.

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Financial Notes.

AT the Convention of the Edison Companies at Spring Lake, New Jersey, on the 16th ult., Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, President of the National City Bank of New York, spoke at some length upon the prospects of the American Money market. He said: "Do not be deceived by the present banking situation. Do not let low rates for bank loans lead you into any belief that the destruction of capital in Europe will not have its effect upon the price of investment capital in America. It is true that we see the lowest bank rates that we have known for years, and that there are the greatest surplus reserves that our banks have ever held, but there is an essential, fundamental difference between bank funds and investment funds. The great fund of money in the banks is not capital owned by the bankers that they may invest at will. It is a fund held by the bankers subject to the order of their depositors, and must be invested in the main by the bankers in such manner that they can get it back [illegible]

He went on to observe that bankers find it difficult at present to invest their idle funds. But he urged that the present low rates do not controvert the statement that investment funds promise to be increasingly difficult to obtain as long as the destruction of wealth and the prodigious borrowing by Governments goes on. He pointed out that the present plethora of money in the United States is the result

of bad trade. It is largely the consequence of the War in Europe. It is due, moreover, to the fact that the country has not yet accustomed itself to the new banking law. And it is, likewise, caused in some measure by the new banking law, which greatly reduced the reserves which the banks were bound to keep formerly, and by letting loose that portion of the old reserve, has made money appear much more plentiful in the United States than it really is.

The main argument upon which Mr. Vanderlip depended is the right and the true one, that the present plethora is due to indecision and apprehension; but that the waste of wealth by all the belligerents is on so prodigious a scale that it must make money scarce and dear all the world over. It is never to be lost sight of that London, Paris, and Berlin have been for a considerable time now great lenders of capital. They have advanced prodigious sums to the newer and more backward countries. Now Berlin is shut off from the rest of the world, while London and Paris find it as much as they can do to raise the funds required at home for themselves and their Allies. But the world's need for borrowed capital does not end simply because it is not convenient to either London or Paris or Berlin to give the funds. The needs are there, and every day that passes will increase them.

Meanwhile New York is changing its position. Heretofore the United States was a borrowing country. Remember that the whole population of the United States is, in round figures, only 100 millions; whereas the country is capable of supporting five or six times as many. The need, therefore, for opening up the country will continue. Towns will have to be built, houses will have to be erected on an immense scale. Railways will have to be improved in numerous ways. The trade of the country will expand, and with the expansion there will be need for further capital. Just while this is becoming apparent to all the world the United States is called upon to take upon itself the character of a lender of money to nations less well provided than itself. For example, to regulate the New York exchange upon London and Paris, we are glad to say that an agreement has been arrived at by which a body of bankers, headed by the Messrs. Morgan and Company, have pledged themselves to lend 100 millions sterling to England and France.

Is it possible that the United States can lend so large a sum, can provide itself with all its own requirements, and can meet the demands of neighbours like Canada and South America without a great rise in the value of money? One wonders, indeed, that money has remained so plentiful and cheap. Of course, the explanation is that hitherto the War has been dragged out so much longer than ordinary people expected that there has been uncertainty as to its probable result. People hoped that when three great Powers like the British Empire, Russia, and France entered into a struggle of the kind they would very quickly have vanquished the enemy, not bearing in mind that the enemy was prepared while the others were unprepared. The bulk of the American people have not realised the conditions in Europe. They have been puzzled by the practical immobility of the British and French Armies throughout the summer. And they had begun to doubt whether after all the Central European Powers might not win.

There is another circumstance which must not be overlooked. And it is that the relations between the United States and Germany are by no means pleasant. Germany has carried on the War in such a manner that she has committed acts which a less patient man than President Wilson would probably have resented before now. Therefore, the American people have never been able to rid themselves of the apprehension that Germany might in the end do something which may make it impossible to maintain peace between the two countries. This feeling continues, and is likely to continue. And, therefore, it not only has checked enterprise, but to all intents and purposes it has prevented speculation.

We need not refer to the condition of Mexico. Everybody will have that in his mind. And generally the condition of Brazil also is unsatisfactory. But the main reason of all is the continuance of the War, the waste of life and of wealth, the apprehension that the United States, with all its desire for peace, may be drawn into the struggle; and not less than all, the presence in the United States of an immense proportion of citizens who have been either born in Germany or else are of German descent, who, therefore, sympathise very naturally and very strongly with the Fatherland, and who in case of war between the two countries, might prove to be an inconvenience if not a danger.

Considering all the circumstances, there is nothing in the least surprising in the fact that money is both plentiful and cheap. But it is equally certain, as Mr. Vanderlip points out, that money must become both scarce and dear as soon as anything happens which will either involve the United States in the War, or will show that fortune has ultimately declared itself in favour of the *Entente* Allies. For, in either case, Americans will see their way clearly. Everybody will recognise either that America will need all the money she can dispose of, or else that the *Entente* Allies can be backed because they are sure to win. In the latter case speculation is almost certain to revive. And the very instant that speculation begins there will be a rapid advance in the value of money.

COAL AND STEEL.

In the Scottish coal trade export trade is less than the normal at this period of the year. Tonnage is scarce and freights are high. The rise in freights affects particularly the Mediterranean trade, as owing to the wholesale commandeering of its shipping by Greece our shipowners are scared into a feeling that there will be a still further shortage. The Licensing Committee has placed no general embargo on exports from British coal districts recently, though individual firms are sometimes refused licences for reasons which have nothing to do with the course of trade, but are intimately related to the War. Sweden is still a prohibited area, and is likely to remain so, in the circumstances. On the whole, therefore, while not merely "marking time," the Scottish coal trade is not in a flourishing condition, and the demand from abroad is decidedly not equal to the supplies on hand. That raises a question referred to more than once in these notes—the probable effect of the restricted demand on the outlook of the miner. While the Scottish Coal Conciliation Board, which was to have been disbanded at the end of this month, has been continued for a further period, a new wages agreement is ripe for settlement very soon. The state of the market and the stocks on hand are bound to have an influence on the negotiations.

Owing to the heavy Governmental demands on steel and iron works, whose resources are fully occupied in meeting them, and freight difficulties, though there have been a number of important inquiries addressed to Scottish makers, mainly from India, South Africa, New Zealand and Japan, the orders have had to be refused. Some of the inquiries have been referred to English firms, though there is little hope of the demands being met in England either. In fact, Scottish makers are so gorged with Governmental orders that they have had to insist on a proportion being undertaken in England. Ship-plates are nominally priced at 10 guineas and angles slightly higher.



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American Topics.

AMERICA'S WEALTH.

No one could witness the expansion in the wealth of nations and the increase in the well-being of nearly the whole of mankind during the past century without experiencing a sense of exhilaration and a feeling of pleasure that modern conditions of life had rendered possible such wonderful progress, but no one, whatever may be his nationality, can mark the present destruction of life and of wealth without becoming conscious of a sense of depression, mingled with feelings of anger against the few men who caused this great War, and who by so doing have so grievously injured not only their own countries but all the nations of the world.

When one realises that no nation can become wealthy without bringing advantage to all other nations, and that no nation can suffer misfortune without other nations being injured, one appreciates the retarding effect which this great War must have upon the universal progress which previously had been so noteworthy. It is indeed fortunate for the future well-being of the world in general and of Europe in particular that the destruction of wealth is practically confined to Europe, and that the countries of the New World are continuing to expand their wealth and their productions, so that, while the net growth of wealth throughout the world has greatly diminished, it has not altogether disappeared. Indeed, when one recollects that the destruction of wealth by the War consists mainly of what would have been the new savings of the belligerent nations, one realises that the wealth of the whole world is still showing considerable expansion in spite of the War, and that when the War is over the increased wealth of the New World should bring substantial advantage to the countries now at war, and should greatly assist them to repair the ravages of and to make good the losses caused by war.

In recent times the world's wealth has grown at a rate of over £3,000,000,000 a year, and this growth has brought advantage to practically everyone in all countries, as it has permitted a vast expansion in production to take place, and has placed at the service of everyone a rapidly increasing volume of agricultural, mining, and manufactured products. No one who gives a moment's thought to the matter can fail to be impressed by the wonderful influence for good upon the world's welfare exercised by the expansion of the United States in population, in wealth, and in productive power. Indeed, in no small measure has the expansion in the consuming power of Europe resulted from the immense growth in America's producing and, therefore, in her purchasing power. Each year the amount of American goods sent to Europe and to other countries for consumption has grown in volume and in value, until in the past twelve months to the end of August the value of the goods exported from the United States has reached the great total of $3,034,000,000, or over £600,000,000, a greater export trade than ever previously attained either by the United States or by any other country. The highest total attained by British exports was in the twelve months to March 1914, when the value reached about £530,000,000. But for the vast quantity of produce which America had available for sale in the past twelve months after supplying her own needs the supply of food in Europe would indeed have been small. And, as everyone knows, the whole world depends for its clothing mainly upon America's production of raw cotton. Moreover, it is evident that, with Europe's power of production seriously curtailed at the present time, the world will depend in a still greater measure in the coming twelve months upon America's productions of manufactured goods, as well as of food and raw material. In measuring the influence for good upon the world's welfare of the growth of capital and of production in the United States, it is essential to recollect that America in normal times receives mainly from Europe poor people to the number of about 700,000 a year, and in a very short time enables them to attain to a relatively high standard of comfort and to accumulate for themselves large amounts of wealth. At the present time the productions of America are enough not only to maintain in a high state of comfort and of well-being its own great population of 100,000,000, but are sufficient to send abroad, as we have said, over £600,000,000 of goods in a single twelve months for the consumption of the rest of the world. No official figures are available as to the amount of wealth produced annually by the people of the United States, but from the data available it is evident that the income of the American people is now not very far short of £7,000,000,000 per annum, of which nearly £2,000,000,000 consists of agricultural products, £500,000,000 of minerals, and £2,000,000,000 of manufactured goods, after deducting the cost of material used. This is equal to an annual income per head of population of nearly £70, against an average annual income of the British people of £52, and against a much smaller average income per head of the other nations of Europe. Out of this great income of some £7,000,000,000 a year the American people devote about one-fifth, or £1,400,000,000 a year, to capital purposes. Indeed, the annual growth in the wealth of the nation is at a rate still more rapid [illegible] due to natural causes and to immigration in ordinary times of about 1,600,000 a year is bringing about

a marked appreciation in the value of land. There has recently been issued by the Department of Commerce an official valuation of the national wealth of the United States, and this valuation discloses that in 1912 the wealth of America was close to $188,000,000,000, or about £39,000,000,000. A similar valuation in 1900 disclosed that the estimated wealth was then no more than $88,000,000,000, or about £18,000,000,000, so that in a period of twelve years the wealth of the American people has expanded nearly $100,000,000,000, or £21,000,000,000. Including the increment in the value of land that has occurred, the growth of American wealth in the 12 years averaged £1,700,000,000 a year. If, however, the increment in values be excluded, and account be taken merely of new money expended, it is evident that for the 12 years the American people have on the average saved some $70,000,000,000, or an average of about $6,000,000,000 a year, or £1,200,000,000. If it be remembered that the savings increase from year to year with the expansion in production, it is evident that the current rate of saving in the States is not less than £1,400,000,000 a year. The details of the wealth indicate the purposes upon which these great sums of money have been expended in the 12 years. A great deal of the money was, of course, expended upon houses, business premises, and factories needed to take care of an increase of nearly 20,000,000, or 25%, in population, and a further very large sum was expended upon house construction, factories, and farms in consequence of the expansion in the well-being of the whole community. The increase in the value of real property and improvements during the 12 years was no less than $58,000,000,000, of which probably about one-half was due to increment. On the average new capital amounting to $600,000,000, or £120,000,000 per annum, has been provided for the construction, improvement, and equipment of railroads. Rather less than one-half of this amount has been spent upon street railways. About $300,000,000 a year has also been expended on manufacturing machinery, tools, and equipment. This sum is over and above the amounts expended upon the erection of factories, the value of which is included in real property. Approximately the capital available for purposes other than the erection of buildings has been about £700,000,000 a year on the average. The greatness of the increase in the wealth of the United States between 1900 and 1912 will be still more evident to the reader from the following contrast:—

At the present time this information is of special value. In consequence of the War, immigration into the United States has practically ceased, and the capital which the country usually accumulates for the purpose of providing for about 700,000 newcomers per annum is available for other purposes. In the first eight months of the current year the exports of the United States have exceeded the imports by $1,100,000,000, and for the whole of the current calendar year it is not improbable that the excess will amount to nearly $2,000,000,000, as normally at this time of the year the exports from the United States are very heavy. We shall probably not be very far wrong if we calculate that the excess of exports over imports in the current calendar year, after meeting America's obligations for interest and services, will be not very far short of $1,500,000,000, or £300,000,000, and it is evident that even this great excess of exports over imports does not fully reflect the power of the United States to supply other nations with capital now that immigration into the country has practically stopped. It is, of course, unnecessary to point out that the new loan of £100,000,000 to Great Britain and France will materially assist in maintaining and increasing the volume of America's exports in the next few months. If the American people continue to be willing to take securities in payment for their goods at a time when foreign nations are unable to pay by any other method, we should not be surprised if next year the excess of exports over imports considerably exceeded £400,000,000, and the amount of capital invested abroad were in the neighbourhood of £400,000,000. If these expectations are realised, the growth of American wealth, including the holdings of foreign securities, may even in this time of war, when immigration is so small, be nearly as great as usual.

The great value of America's exports and the excess of exports over imports are shown by the following comparison:—

Merchandise (Adjusted).

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	$	$	$
Imports	141,730,000	129,768,000	− 11,962,000
Exports	261,976,000	110,367,000	+151,609,000
Excess ..	Exp.120,246,000	Imp.19,401,000	+139,647,000

The growth of America's exports month by month, and the smallness of the imports since the War com-

THE WEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

	1912	1900	Increase, 12 Years	
	$	$	$	%
Real Property and Improvements Taxed ..	98,363,000,000	46,325,000,000	+52,038,000,000	+112·3
Real Property and Improvements Exempt ..	12,513,000,000	6,213,000,000	+ 6,100,000,000	+ 98·2
Live Stock	6,238,000,000	3,306,000,000	+ 2,932,000,000	+ 88·6
Farm Implements and Machinery	1,368,000,000	749,000,000	+ 619,000,000	+ 82·6
Manufacturing Machinery, Tools and Equipment	6,091,000,000	2,541,000,000	+ 3,550,000,000	+139·7
Gold and Silver Coin and Bullion	2,617,000,000	1,677,000,000	+ 940,000,000	+ 56·0
Railroads and their Equipment	16,148,000,000	9,036,000,000	+ 7,112,000,000	+ 78·7
Street Railways	4,597,000,000	1,576,000,000	+ 3,021,000,000	+191·7
Telegraphs	223,000,000	211,000,000	+ 12,000,000	+ 5·7
Telephones	1,081,000,000	400,000,000	681,000,000	+170·2
Pullman and Privately Owned Railway Cars ..	123,000,000	99,000,000	24,000,000	+ 24·2
Shipping and Canals	1,491,000,000	538,000,000	953,000,000	+177·1
Irrigation Enterprises	361,000,000		361,000,000	—
Privately Owned Waterworks	290,000,000	268,000,000	+ 22,000,000	+ 8·2
Privately Owned Central Electric Light and Power Stations	2,099,000,000	403,000,000	1,696,000,000	+420·8
Agricultural Products	5,240,000,000	1,455,000,000	3,785,000,000	+260·1
Manufactured Products	14,694,000,000	6,087,000,000	+ 8,607,000,000	+141·4
Imported Merchandise	827,000,000	425,000,000	+ 402,000,000	+ 94·6
Miscellaneous	815,000,000	327,000,000	+ 488,000,000	+149·2
Clothing and Personal Adornments	4,295,000,000	2,000,000,000	2,295,000,000	+114·7
Furniture, Carriages and Kindred Property ..	8,463,000,000	4,880,000,000	3,583,000,000	+ 73·4
Total	187,739,000,000	88,517,000,000	+99,222,000,000	+112·1
Population	95,410,000	75,995,000	+ 19,415,000	+ 25·5
Per Head	$1,967	$1,164	$803	69·0

menced, will be evident from the following statement:—

Merchandise Exports from and Imports to the United States.

(In hundreds of thousands of $: 00,000's omitted.)

	Exports			Imports		
	1914-15	1913-14	+ or −	1914-15	1913-14	+ or −
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Sept. ..	156,1	218,2	− 62,1	139,7	171,1	− 31,4
Oct. ..	194,7	271,9	− 77,2	138,1	132,9	+ 5,2
Nov. ..	205,9	245,5	− 39,6	126,5	148,2	− 21,7
Dec. ..	245,6	233,2	+ 12,4	114,7	184,0	− 69,3
Jan. ..	267,9	204,1	+ 63,8	122,1	154,7	− 32,6
Feb. ..	299,8	173,9	+125,9	125,1	148,0	− 22,9
Mar. ..	296,6	187,5	+109,1	158,0	182:6	− 24,6
Apr. ..	294,7	162,6	+132,1	160,6	173,8	− 13,2
May ..	274,2	161,7	+112,5	142,3	164,3	− 22,0
June ..	268,6	157,1	+111,5	157,7	157,5	+ 2
July ..	268,0	154,1	+113,9	143,1	159,7	− 16,6
Aug. ..	262,0	110,4	+151,6	141,7	129,8	+ 11,9
Year ..	3,034,1	2,280,2	+753,9	1,669,5	1,906,6	−237,1

Excess of Exports from or Imports into U. States.

	1914-15	1913-14
	$	$
Sept.	Exp. 16,342,000	Exp. 47,155,000
Oct.	Exp. 56,631,000	Exp.138,912,000
Nov.	Exp. 79,411,000	Exp. 97,303,000
Dec.	Exp.130,976,000	Exp. 49,170,000
Jan.	Exp.145,731,000	Exp. 49,324,000
Feb.	Exp.174,682,000	Exp. 25,875,000
Mar.	Exp.138,630,000	Exp. 4,944,000
Apr.	Exp.134,170,000	Imp. 11,209,000
May	Exp.131,933,000	Imp. 2,549,000
June	Exp.110,856,000	Imp. 457,000
July	Exp.124,879,000	Imp. 5,538,000
Aug.	Exp.120,246,000	Imp. 19,401,000
Year	Exp.1,364,487,000	Exp.373,528,000

The United States probably need to send abroad at the present time about $400,000,000 a year for interest, services, and gifts. Moreover, in the later months of 1914 they had to remit a substantial sum to cover the tourist expenditures of the summer of 1914. In the past twelve months the United States have probably bought back securities from Europe and made fresh investments in neighbouring and other countries amounting to about $800,000,000, or £160,000,000.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

TAKING all things into consideration, the results of the Norfolk and Western Railway for the year to June last were highly satisfactory, and, as far as one can gauge the outlook for the current year, the Company has entered upon a period of unexampled prosperity. It is no exaggeration to say that the growth of business and of earnings of the Norfolk in the past has exceeded even the most optimistic expectations, and inasmuch as the traffic has all the time been handled with really wonderful economy, profits have shown steady progress. The prosperity of the Norfolk has come in the main from a great increase in bituminous coal traffic, coal representing over 71% of last year's tonnage. Ten years ago the quantity of bituminous coal conveyed was under 8,200,000 tons, and in the past year the quantity has been nearly 23,300,000 tons, an expansion in the period of no less than 185%. The development of the immense coal deposits of the United States reads like a fairy story. Only 30 years ago the output of bituminous coal was under 64,000,000 tons, whereas for 1914 it reached 423,000,000 tons. This latter figure, we would add, compares with 478,000,000 tons for 1913, the shrinkage last year having been due to abnormal causes, such as strikes, &c., and the acute depression in the iron and steel trades that existed for a time after the outbreak of war. When one takes into account the bituminous coal production of West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky, all of which are served by the lines of the Norfolk and Western, the growth is seen to be even more rapid. In 1885 the production of these three States was only 5,275,000 tons. By 1895 the output had risen to 14,388,000 tons, and by 1905 to 45,088,000 tons. For 1914 we have not the exact figures at hand, but we understand the production was at least 100,000,000 tons. With an expansion in the bituminous coal production of the territory served exceeding 100% during each decade, it is little wonder the business of the Norfolk has reached a considerable magnitude, and it will be appreciated that only by the utmost skill of the officers and the adoption of every device tending to economical operation has the Company been enabled to cope with the immense amount of traffic it has been called upon to convey.

The past year has been one of mixed conditions for the Norfolk, abnormal depression in the iron and steel, and therefore in the coal, industries, which occurred in the earlier months of the period, having been followed by almost unprecedented activity. Before the War the iron and steel industries were suffering from a setback in trade, and for the first few months after hostilities commenced the decline in business became accentuated. Indeed, it was not until the spring of this year that immense orders for war materials began to pour into the United States and the condition of the iron and steel industries began to show signs of rapid recovery. The demand for bituminous coal as a result of the lethargy of the steel business fell off so considerably that few of the mines in the territory served by the Norfolk were operated between November and April, but with the receipt of heavy war orders and a large export demand for coal, a general revival occurred, and at the present time the mines are enjoying a busier period than ever before. Some idea of the fluctuations in the coal business in the past year is apparent from the revenues of the Norfolk, for wheras in August 1914 gross earnings were only a few thousand dollars less than ever before recorded for any month, in February they were lower than since January 1912, while by June they had risen so considerably that they far exceeded the figures of any previous month.

It is not surprising, in these circumstances, that for the past year the gross receipts declined $1,248,000, but by means of a saving of $1,888,000 in operating expenses there was a gain of $640,000 in net earnings. Miscellaneous income was, however, $234,000 lower, and additional taxes and higher interest charges called for an extra $458,000. The net result was that the profit available for dividend was only $52,000 less than for the previous year, certainly a satisfactory showing having regard to the conditions that existed last year in those industries whose prosperity is of prime importance to the Norfolk. The balance for the Common last year was $9,490,000, a sum equal to 8.79% on the stock, against 9.15% earned for 1913-14. The difference in the rate of profit earned is due in the main to the amount of Common having been increased during the year by exchange of Convertible Bonds into stock. After paying, for the fourth consecutive year, a dividend of 6%, calling for $6,477,000, over $3,000,000 was available for capital and other purposes. The immense growth in the earnings and profits of the Norfolk in the past decade, and the large margin in excess of dividend requirements, will be evident from the appended income statement. In view of the new method of compiling the accounts last year we have adjusted the data for previous years in order to afford accurate comparison.

The ability of the officers to effect savings in operating expenses is a noteworthy achievement, especially taking into account the very considerable advance in wages in recent years. More money than ever before was expended last year upon maintenance of way, the gain of $740,000 in expenses on this item being due, as to $643,000, to the setting up of depreciation accounts on the larger structures. The use of these depreciation accounts in connection with the roadway and structures is at present optional with the carriers,

Income Statement of the Norfolk and Western Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Int. and other Charges.	Net Profit.	Div. on 4% Pref.	Balance.	Inv. on Common.— Earned.	Paid.	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$	$
1915	2,042	43,402,000	28,247,000	65·08	15,155,000	2,042,000	17,197,000	1,878,000	4,909,000	10,410,000	920,000	9,490,000	8·79	6	6,477,000	3,013,000
1914	2,036	44,650,000	30,135,000	67·49	14,515,000	2,276,000	16,791,000	1,620,000	4,709,000	10,462,000	920,000	9,542,000	9·15	6	6,260,000	3,282,000
1913	2,023	43,923,000	28,757,000	65·47	15,166,000	1,764,000	16,930,000	1,452,000	4,372,000	11,106,000	920,000	10,186,000	10·56	6	5,787,000	4,399,000
1912	2,010	39,902,000	25,856,000	64·79	14,046,000	1,363,000	15,409,000	1,410,000	4,525,000	9,474,000	920,000	8,554,000	10·78	6	4,760,000	3,794,000
1911	1,972	35,670,000	23,081,000	64·71	12,589,000	1,302,000	13,891,000	1,320,000	5,014,000	7,557,000	920,000	6,637,000	9·53	5	3,499,000	3,138,000
1910	1,945	35,171,000	21,163,000	66·43	14,008,000	1,146,000	15,154,000	1,119,000	5,130,000	8,905,000	920,000	7,985,000	12·12	5	3,295,000	4,690,000
1909	1,925	29,418,000	17,832,000	60·62	11,586,000	981,000	12,567,000	1,009,000	5,043,000	6,515,000	920,000	5,595,000	8·71	4	2,579 000	3,016,000
1908	1,881	29,082,000	18,863,000	64·86	10,219,000	921,000	11,096,000	1,021,000	4,547,000	5,528,000	920,000	4,608,000	7·14	4½	2,901,000	1,707,000
1907	1,876	31,164,000	19,514,000	62·62	11,650,000	89,000	11,739,000	996,000	3,961,000	6,782,000	920,000	5,862,000	9·09	5	3,223,000	2,639,000
1906	1,853	28,488,000	17,065,000	59·90	11,423,000	165,000	11,588,000	735,000	3,589,000	7,264,000	920,000	6,344,000	9·84	4	2,579,000	3,765,000
1905	1,799	24,089,000	14,614,000	60·67	9,475,000	119,000	9,594,000	671,000	3,306,000	5,617,000	920,000	4,697,000	7·28	3	1,934,000	2,763,000

but the Norfolk is among the few companies which are availing themselves of the permission to set up such accounts and is doing so on a somewhat liberal basis. The creation of these accounts tends to strengthen the financial position of the road, and as the years pass and the allocations for these purposes increase the effect upon the capital account should be appreciable. As regards equipment, the expenditures for maintenance exceeded those of any previous year, except 1913-14, when such outlays were abnormally high. In the aggregate no less than 32.44% of last year's gross receipts was devoted to maintenance, against the previous highest proportion of 31.83% in 1913-14. The most satisfactory feature of the expense account last year was the considerable reduction in the cost of conducting transportation, the ratio to gross receipts having been brought down to 30.46%, which is not only 2.7 points less than for 1913-14, but is the lowest ratio since 1909-10. How last year's expenditures compare with those for previous periods will be evident from the following statements:—

Operating Expenses of the Norfolk and Western Railway.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	—Maintenance of— Way	Equipment	Cond. Trans. portation.	Gen. & Misc. Exp.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915	43,402,000	5,738,074	8,341,419	13,221,492	946,075	28,247,060
1914	44,650,000	4,988,042	9,214,007	14,806,268	1,116,519	30,135,406
1913	43,740,000	5,542,960	8,336,631	13,884,480	801,742	28,565,813
1912	39,735,000	4,816,378	7,676,464	12,411,736	764,852	25,669,430
1911	35,557,000	4,328,717	6,638,842	11,259,340	731,381	22,958,280
1910	35,064,000	3,752,045	5,951,907	10,621,533	721,275	21,046,760
1909	29,327,000	3,331,888	4,919,455	8,851,098	644,335	17,729,756
1908	28,962,000	3,384,709	4,910,242	9,799,854	669,909	18,764,714
1907	31,164,000	3,895,548	5,239,899	9,793,902	585,187	19,514,536
1906	28,488,000	3,439,797	4,749,833	8,355,373	519,621	17,064,624
1905	24,089,000	3,095,910	3,917,268	7,136,484	464,772	14,614,434

Ratio of Expenses to Gross Receipts, Norfolk and Western Ry.

			%	%	%	%	%
1915	...	...	13·22	19·22	30·46	2·18	65·08
1914	...	..	11·19	20·64	33·16	2·50	67·49
1913	...	..	12·67	19·06	31·74	1·84	65·31
1912	...	...	12·12	19·32	31·23	1·93	64·60
1911	...	..	12·17	18·67	31·67	2·06	64·57
1910	...	...	10·70	16·97	30·29	2·06	60·02
1909	...	..	11·76	16·77	30·12	2·20	60·45
1908	...	...	11·69	16·95	33·84	2·31	64·79
1907	...	...	12·50	16·81	31·43	1·88	62·62
1906	...	...	12·08	16·67	29·33	1·82	59·90
1905	...	...	12·85	16·26	29·63	1·93	60·67

The physical condition of the road has always been strong, but as each year passes it is becoming still stronger, and this factor is chiefly responsible for the ability of the officers to handle the traffic with increasing economy. Considerable attention has been devoted to strengthening the road-bed and bridges, and a great amount of work has been performed in laying down heavier types of rail. As recently as 1910 the standard weight of rail was 85 lb. per yard, but now the standard rail is 100 lb. About 70 miles of rail of this heavier weight replaced a similar length of lighter rail taken up last year, making a total of 346 miles of 100-lb. rail laid. The capacity of the rolling-stock has also been increased, more particularly freight locomotives, the average tractive of which at the end of June last was 43,657 lb., against 41,407 lb. at June 30, 1914, and 30,047 lb. ten years ago, an increase of 5% for the year and of 44% for the decade.

The result of improvements effected in the condition of the property has enabled the weight of the freight trains to be increased, and thus has curtailed freight-train mileage, and, notwithstanding the immense strides made in this direction in past years, the average load of the freight trains last year increased 5% to as much as 841½ tons. Only 10 years ago the load was 531½ tons, so that the addition in the interval has been about 60%, an expansion of as much as 109% in the amount of business handled—tons carried one mile—having been accompanied by an increase of only 32% in the freight-train mileage. The growing economy with which the traffic has been dealt with in recent years will be evident from the subjoined statement:—

Freight-Train Results, Norfolk and Western Ry.

Year to June 30	Rev. Ton-Miles.	Freight-Train Miles.	Freight-Train Load.	Loaded Car Miles.	Loaded Car Load.	Ton-Miles per Mile of Road.
1915 ...	8,918,549,288	10,599,317	841·43	273,881,083	32·56	4,367,663
1914 ...	9,155,506,727	11,414,940	802·06	289,721,585	31·60	4,497,010
1913 ...	8,853,070,381	11,594,100	763·84	289,670,521	30·57	4,378,016
1912 ...	8,030,301,398	11,597,193	692·43	266,588,270	30·12	3,994,718
1911 ...	6,797,365,271	10,577,662	642·61	234,536,220	28·98	3,446,748
1910 ...	6,722,495,887	10,578,541	635·48	229,973,392	29·23	3,456,296
1909 ...	5,377,020,950	8,725,516	616·24	196,878,914	28·02	2,793,258
1908 ...	4,985,915,528	8,729,553	571·15	183,048,174	27·24	2,650,673
1907 ...	5,252,561,457	9,230,699	569·01	205,913,056	25·50	2,799,873
1906 ...	5,011,465,563	8,648,623	579·49	200,000,928	25·57	2,704,515
1905 ...	4,270,233,257	8,034,639	531·45	176,796,635	24·15	2,373,674

The average train load secured last year by no means represents the maximum effort that can be put forward, and as new high-capacity equipment and more powerful engines are brought into operation, it would not be surprising if in a short time the average load is raised to 1,000 tons. Although this figure may not be attained in the current year, a distinct improvement in loading is looked for, with resultant saving in conducting transportation, especially as considerable further economies will be rendered possible by the completion of the scheme of electrification of that section of the main line between Bluefield and Vivian, W.Va. Although only about 30 miles of road have been electrified, it is upon this section that practically the whole of the immense coal business of the Norfolk originates, and therefore any economies that can be introduced there will have an important bearing upon expenses as a whole. The Norfolk and Western is the first great American railway to introduce electrification for the sole purpose of increasing trackage capacity and effecting economies of operation, and railwaymen the world over will follow with close interest the results of the installation. Indeed, it is possible that subsequently electric traction may be more extensively adopted on the Norfolk. The power plant and line work on the 30 miles are finished, and eight of the twelve powerful electric freight locomotives contracted for are in service. In the report just published the President states that the traffic results already obtained from this work indicate that the capacity of the line has been doubled, and that the operating cost per ton per mile will be materially reduced.

At the present time, by reason of the War, the iron and steel industries of the United States are more busily engaged than ever before, and not only are the various plants operating at full capacity, but unfilled orders are of considerable magnitude, and the demand for iron and steel products for domestic purposes is again becoming an important factor. Further, the crops of this year are very considerable. It will thus be realised that in the current

fiscal year the traffic of the Norfolk and Western will assume great dimensions, especially as, beyond large home requirements for bituminous coal, there is also a considerable demand for export purposes. A good start was made in the first month of the year, the gain in the gross earnings for July having been $718,000, or 19%, and in the net earnings after taxes as much as $594,000, or 54%. The small increase in expenses arose entirely from larger appropriations for maintenance of way and higher taxes. The gain in net profit for the month was $554,000. Interest charges this year are expected to be no higher than for 1914-15, and therefore almost the whole gain in net earnings may represent additional net profit. It is, of course, too soon to foretell what will be the profits of the current year, but, having regard to all the circumstances, it would not be surprising if they equal between 11% and 12% on the stock.

As in the case of the physical side of the property, the financial position is excelled, indeed is equalled, by few railway undertakings. Besides holding on June 30 last $7,382,000 of cash, including $1,000,000 of time drafts and deposits, against which there were outstanding working liabilities of $6,102,000, $9,671,000 was invested in short-term securities. Of course, this money will not permit of much new construction work being undertaken, but beyond actual cash resources in the Company's treasury on has to bear in mind that the credit of the undertaking renders possible the borrowing of additional sums as they are needed, for it is obvious that to provide for future growth of traffic capital expenditures must continue. The Company has no short-term notes outstanding. Its bonds are exceedingly well secured, the interest and other charges last year calling for only 32% of the net income, and this year the proportion should be still lower. A factor contributing to the financial strength of the undertaking has been the conservative distribution of the profits. For the last ten years the net profit available for dividend on the Common stock has aggregated about $75,000,000, of which only $41,000,000 has been paid in dividends, the balance of nearly $34,000,000 having been available for various capital purposes.

The prices of and yields afforded by the Company's securities are set out below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Norfolk & Western Ry.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div.—Rate %	Paid 1st of	Price	Yield % per Ann. £ s. d.
6% General Mortgage	7,276,000	May 1931	6	M & N	123¼†	4 12 8
Imp.& Exten.6% Mort.	5,000,000	Feb. 1934	6	F & A	123½†	4 12 8
Scio.Val.&N.E. 1st Mt.	5,000,000	Nov. 1989	4	M & N	87*	*n*4 12 0
N.&W.4%1st Cons.Mt.	10,587,500	Oct. 1996	4	A & O	96†	*n*4 8 5
4%1st Lien & Gen. Mt.	23,000,000	July 1944	4	J & J	91†	4 19 4
Winst.-Sal.So'bd.1st Mt.	5,000,000*g*	July 1960	4*g*	J & J	82*	5 0 4
Pocahontas 4% bonds	17,982,000*h*	Dec. 1941	4	J & D	86¼*	4 18 6
N.& W.4%Conv.bonds*c*	3,409,000	June 1932	4	J & D	122¼†	*n*3 10 2
4%20-Yr.Conv.Bonds*d*	546,000	Sept. 1932	4	M & S	114*	*n*3 10 2
4½% Convertible Bonds*e*	9,629,000	Sept. 1938	4½	M & S	122½†	*n*3 10 2
4%Non-Cum.1ref.stock	22,991,800	—	4	F17MAN	91	4 13 0
Common stock	...108,154,400	—	6	M18JSD	120¼†	5 5 6

(*) New York price. (†) London price. (*c, d, e,*) Convertible into Common $ for $—(*c*) Prior to June 1, 1917; (*d*) Prior to Sept. 1, 1922; (*e*) Prior to Sept. 1, 1923. (*g*) Guar. by N. & W. Ry. and Atl. Coast Line. (*h*) Joint obligation of N. & W. Ry. and Pocahontas Coal & Coke Ry. (*n*) Not allowing for redemption. (*r*) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

MISSOURI, KANSAS AND TEXAS RAILWAY.

SOMEWHAT unexpectedly the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway has this week passed into the hands of a Receiver, but inasmuch as the gentleman appointed to this post is Mr. Schaff, who for some years has been President of the undertaking, the Receivership is regarded as of a friendly character and merely in order to make the necessary reorganisation of the capital. The present trouble arises in no way from inability to pay interest charges, for judging from the results for the twelve months to July last interest charges are more than covered. So far as can be gauged there was a surplus profit for the period of about $1,250,000, equal to the full 4% dividend on the Preferred stock and to at least 1% on the Common stock. It is certainly somewhat unusual for a Receiver to be appointed to an undertaking earning profits such as here indicated. The reason for the adoption of the present course arises from the position of the capital account. Some months ago $19,000,000 of 5% Notes fell due, and only after considerable difficulty were they renewed for a further twelve months to May next on a 6% basis. At the time the notes were renewed a small committee of directors was appointed to formulate a plan for readjusting the capital account and for raising the requisite funds to retire the extended notes and to provide a further sum of about $8,000,000 with which to pay off bankers' loans and to meet certain capital expenditures.

It is impossible at the moment to say whether the appointment of a Receiver arises from the failure of the committee to agree upon a workable arrangement or whether it is part of the plan of readjustment. It has long been recognised that the Company's interest charges absorb an undue proportion of the net income and that some scheme of readjustment was essential to reduce interest charges. Further, the amount of Common stock is very large in proportion to the size of the undertaking, and, although the outlook is for larger traffic, revenues, and profits in coming years, the day could not be foreseen when the Company could distribute such dividends on the stock as would permit of the raising of new capital by the issue of Common stock. For no undertaking can be considered financially strong unless able to make stock issues, and it is hoped that as a result of the Receivership, which is anticipated to be of short duration, there will emerge a new and financially sounder "Katey" whose interest charges will be less than those of the existing undertaking and whose ability to earn high rates of dividend on the then outstanding Common stock will be greater than hitherto.

Whether beyond a scaling down of the capital account an assessment will be decided upon, and, if so, what the amount of assessment will be, we cannot venture to predict, but if the proprietors have to put their hands in their pockets it is highly probable that for every dollar paid up full value will be received in new securities. Although at the moment gross earnings are showing a falling off, a decided change for the better is looked for shortly, when the bumper corn crops come forward in the States served. To some extent recent shrinkages in earnings have resulted from smaller shipments of winter wheat, this crop in the territory served having been considerably below last year's level, but the loss in this direction is expected to be more than made good by the largeness of the corn crop. Comparison of this year's estimated corn crop and wheat crop in the States served, with those for 1914 and with the average for the five years 1909-13, is appended:—

	Miles Operated	Corn Crop— 1915* Million Bushels	1914 Million Bushels	5-Yr. Aver. 1909-13 Million Bushels	Winter Wheat Crop— 1915* Million Bushels	1914 Million Bushels	5-Yr. Aver. 1909-13 Million Bushels
		"Katey"					
Texas	1,773	167.7	124.8	120.3	21.1	14.1	8.2
Oklahoma	1,036	12.1	50.0	75.4	58.8	48.0	17.2
Missouri	543	207.9	158.4	200.2	54.1	15.5	31.9
Kansas	494	150.8	108.2	129.7	118.6	176.4	73.7
		658.5	441.4	526.3	212.6	284.7	130.8

* Preliminary estimate.

The 4% First Mortgage bonds are now quoted in London at 80½, the 4% Second Mortgage bonds at about 53, and the 4½% General Mortgage bonds at 58. The Preferred stock stands at about 12, and the Common at 5¾.

ATLAS ASSURANCE CO.—Interim dividend of 3*s.* per share, less tax.

NEW ENGLAND BREWERIES CO.—Interim dividend of 1½% on Ordinary.

DARRAGH (A.) AND CO.—Dividend at rate of 7½ per annum on Preferred Ordinary.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA.

THERE can now be no reasonable doubt that the United Railways of the Havana will be in a position to maintain the dividend of 5% on its Ordinary stock in respect of the past year. When we dealt with the position of the Company in our issue of March 27 last the traffic receipts of the line were showing improvement on those of the preceding year; nevertheless, there was at the time a falling off in the aggregate of over £42,000, and a reasoned calculation pointed to the conclusion that for the complete twelvemonth the total gross receipts would probably attain to the level of 1913-14. We pointed out, however, that possibly the improvement in the remaining weeks would be at an accelerated rate, and that conceivably the previous year's excellent results might be exceeded in 1914-15. Such, fortunately, has proved to be the case, and for the 52 weeks to the end of June there was an expansion in earnings of no less than £106,000, or 6.5%. The importance of the gain thus recorded will be appreciated when we state that until the end of January there was a persistent falling off in earnings, and for the 30 weeks to January 23 the decrease amounted to no less than £67,000, so that in the last 22 weeks of the year the increase has been upwards of £173,000. This improvement, moreover, continues, and for the first quarter of the current year a further gain of nearly £60,000 has been recorded. The excellence of the past year's gross results and the marked advance which has taken place since the end of January last will be seen from the following table, showing the course of earnings monthly since July 1912:—

Course of Traffic Receipts since July 1, 1912.

Month	1915-16 £	1914-15 £	1913-14 £	1912-13 £
July	106,600	90,800	94,100	94,200
August	95,300	74,600	80,100	78,800
September	94,500	73,400	77,000	77,560
October		93,000	98,000	96,500
November		81,100	82,700	99,700
December		97,200	116,700	120,500
January		184,400	208,500	157,900
February		200,400	186,800	193,400
March		206,000	203,300	241,300
April		208,000	170,500	197,300
May		253,000	166,500	200,700
June		166,000*	137,600*	107,200*
Total, year	-	1,728,000	1,622,000	1,665,000

* Estimated.

The course of expenditure has yet to be ascertained, but having regard to the fact that for seven months of the year business was slack, and that with the outbreak of war retrenchment of every kind was probably initiated, the relative cost of working in the past twelvemonths may have been sensibly reduced. Assuming, however, that 50% of the growth in earnings has been absorbed by increased expenditure, the net revenue balance for the year would come out some £53,000 larger than in 1913-14. On the other hand, interest and other charges have probably called for an extra £40,000, and the profit for dividend would thus show an increase of £13,000. This would raise the divisible surplus from £466,000 to £479,000, a sum equal to nearly 7½% on the stock. The maintenance of the 5% distribution is, therefore, practically assured.

To show the strength of the various capital issues and the relatively large margin which is likely to have been earned in the past year behind the 5 per cent. dividend on the Ordinary capital we give the following statement:—

Year—	1914-15* £	1913-14 £	1912-13 £	1911-12 £	1910-11 £
Gross earnings	1,728,000	1,621,864	1,635,250	1,422,098	1,224,775
Expenses	1,008,000	955,118	891,056	778,247	734,744
Ratio	(58·33)	(58·96)	(54·49)	(54·72)	(59·98)
Net earnings	720,000	666,746	744,194	643,851	490,031
Miscellaneous	308,000	307,918	260,465	244,081	89,959
Net income	1,028,000	974,664	1,004,659	887,932	579,990
5% "A" Irred. Deb. stock	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
5% Cons. Irred. Deb. stock	71,000	71,295	71,295	71,295	71,295
5% Irred. Deb. stock (1909)	158,000	141,205	141,205	141,205	141,205
4% Red. Debs. & Deb. stock	52,000	51,547	51,547	51,547	51,547
4½% Red. Debentures	44,000	44,507	44,578	44,547	—
Miscellaneous	65,000	54,456	56,475	42,430	27,901
Total charges	409,000	382,010	384,100	370,024	310,948
Net profit for Pref. stock	619,000	592,654	620,559	517,908	269,042
Div. on 5% Cum. Pref. stk.	140,000	126,766	114,110	114,028	38,500
Profit for Ordinary	479,000	465,888	506,449	403,880	230,542
Dividend on Ordinary	328,000	328,001	293,000	263,700	190,400
Rate per cent.	(5%)	(5%)	(5%)	(4½%)	(4%)
Surplus	151,000	137,887	213,449	140,180	40,142
Transferred to—					
Reserve	—	50,000	125,000	75,000	15,000
General renewals account	—	50,000	50,000	50,000	25,000
Insurance fund	—	—	5,000	10,000	—
Pension account	—	—	20,000	—	—
Expenditure on works	—	40,000	15,000	—	—
Total to reserve funds	—	140,000	215,000	135,000	40,000
Balance	—	Dr. 2,113	Dr. 1,551	5,180	Cr. 142
Brought forward	—	16,330	17,881	12,701	12,559
Carried forward	—	14,217	16,330	17,881	12,701

* Estimated.

The Company is essentially a sugar carrier, although its traffic also consists of a variety of general produce, and its passenger business is of considerable importance. The present position of the Cuban sugar industry is very satisfactory, owing to the European situation, and enormous profits are being made by planters and others from the high prices now ruling. Last season's crop, it is true, was somewhat smaller than that of the previous year; but, as prices were about 100% higher, the profits realised were very large, and the wealth of the country has been greatly augmented. The coming crop, moreover, is expected to exceed all previous records. New plantings are reported to have been made on an extensive scale, and all available land has been utilised for sugar-growing. Unless, therefore, the weather behaves unkindly in the next month or so, a bumper crop is likely to be gathered, and as it will probably be sold at very remunerative prices, the wealth and prosperity of the island will be further greatly enhanced, and the railway companies continue to enjoy a period of unexampled activity. Cuba may not, it is true, always gather large crops, nor will it always obtain the abnormally high prices now ruling; but it is interesting to note that, despite the fluctuating character of the crops, the past record of the United Railways Company has been remarkably good. A retrospect of the main results of working for a decade is given below:—

United Railways of the Havana.

Year	Gross Earnings £	Expenses £	Ratio %	Net Earnings £	Profit for Ordinary £
1914-15*...	1,728,000	1,008,000	58·33	720,000	479,000
1913-14 ...	1,621,864	955,138	58·96	666,746	465,888
1912-13 ...	1,635,250	891,056	54·49	744,194	506,449
1911-12 ...	1,422,098	778,247	54·72	643,851	403,880
1910-11 ...	1,224,775	734,744	59·98	490,031	230,542
1909-10 ...	1,250,204	685,285	54·81	564,915	305,315
1908-09 ...	1,093,394	639,745	58·51	453,649	183,040
1907-08 ...	929,828	637,155	68·52	292,673	71,804
1906-07 ...	1,220,731	668,197	54·74	552,534	312,037
1905-06 ...	840,831	443,101	52·70	397,730	234,453
1904-05 ...	554,587	251,025	45·26	303,562	198,681

* Estimated.

Financially, also, the Company is in a strong position. It has ample capital resources with which further to develop its system when normal conditions again prevail, and its reserve and renewal funds now amount to a fairly respectable total. This, together with the fact that the earnings of the line are progressive, that the outlook for Cuba is bright, and that, consequently, the various subsidiary undertakings in which the Company is interested are likely to earn increased profits, all points to the conclusion that, sooner or later, higher dividends than 5% will be forthcoming. The Ordinary stock is, therefore, distinctly attractive at the present time for those willing to risk a little in order to obtain the high return now forthcoming. At the price of 72½ the yield from

the dividend of 5% is as much as £7 7*s.* 1*d.* per cent. The 5% Cumulative Preference stock at the price of 84½ is a good purchase, having regard to the fact that the dividend is covered nearly four and a-half times, and that it is cumulative. The Debenture issues of the Company are well secured, the total fixed charges representing less than 40% of the past year's estimated net income. The yields range from about £1 16*s.* 7*d.* to £5 11*s.* 11*d.* per cent.

The capital of the Company and the yields afforded by the various securities at the present time will be seen from the table appended:—

	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ s d.
5% "A" Irred. Deb. stock ...	380,000	5	104¾	4 16 7
5% Consol. Irred. Deb. stock ...	1,425,000	5	96½	5 8 5
5% Irred. Deb. stock (1906) ...	2,062,500	5	90⅝	5 11 11
4% Debs. and Deb. Stock Red....	1,281,165	4	70	5 1 7
4½% Debs. to Bearer	388,500	4½	85	5 4 0
5% Cum. Preference stock ...	2,788,628	5	81½	6 0 1
Ordinary stock	6,921,005	5	72¼	7 7 1
Ordinary shares	91	—	—	
Deferred Ordinary stock ...	194,679	—	—	
Total	16,576,797			

BIRMINGHAM SMALL ARMS.

The most recent report of this Birmingham Company covers a period shorter by three weeks than the usual time, inasmuch as early in July last formal notification was received from the Minister of Munitions that the works were placed on the list of controlled establishments as from July 12, 1915. That date being so near the end of the Company's financial year the directors thought it would be more convenient to close the accounts as on July 10, and the balance sheet has accordingly been made up at as that date. It was, of course, known that the Company, being engaged on Government work, would make a satisfactory showing when the accounts were published, and the figures of the profits fully verify the general assumption that the past year would be a prosperous one. The profits have, indeed, increased to such an extent that the shareholders have benefited by a larger dividend. Not only so, but they also secure the advantage of a capitalisation of practically the whole of the reserve fund.

The original object of this Company was the establishment in Birmingham of a factory for the manufacture by machinery of military rifles for the British and foreign Governments. Subsequently there was added the manufacture of cycle component parts, and later on, through the acquisition of another business, the manufacture of cycles was added. In addition, through the purchase from the Government of the Royal Small Arms Factory at Birmingham, the Company took up the manufacture of engineers' small tools and twist drills. The latest addition to the business is that of the manufacture of motor buses, motor cars, motor wagons. The Company dates back originally to 1873, though the business was started in 1861, but it was reorganised in its present form in 1896. In 1902 a further alteration was made in the capital account, and it was decided to distribute a reserve fund amounting to £65,900, together with a sum of £36,575 taken from profits, as a bonus to the Ordinary shareholders in the shape of one new Ordinary share for every two shares held. A further expansion occurred eight years ago, when the business of the Eadie Manufacturing Company was taken over, the Eadie shareholders receiving in exchange for their shares 45,000 fully-paid Ordinary shares of £5 each of the Small Arms Company. In September 1910 another important move was made, perhaps the most important in the history of the Company, when the Birmingham Small Arms Company took over the important business of the Daimler Motor Company. This took place by means of an exchange of shares, the holders of shares in the Daimler Company receiving, first, for every £1 Preference share the sum of 25*s.* in cash, and, secondly, for every four Ordinary shares five fully-paid Ordinary shares in the Birmingham Small Arms Company. For various reasons the accounts of the Daimler Company were not merged in those of the Birmingham Small Arms Company, but a new Daimler Company was formed, the shares in which are held entirely by the Small Arms Company. The result of the amalgamation was to increase the Ordinary share capital of the Small Arms Company from £517,225 to £766,982, the Preference share capital remaining unchanged at £203,150.

In 1913, in order to provide additional working capital and replace sums amounting to upwards of £150,000 paid in 1910 to shareholders in the Daimler Company, it became necessary to increase the capital, and accordingly 500,000 £1 6% Cumulative "B" Preference shares were created, of which 300,000 were offered for sale in October 1913, at the price of 21*s.* per share. The paid-up capital was thereby brought up to £1,270,132, and at July 10 last this figure was unchanged. A comparison of the balance-sheet figures with those of last year will show that a very large amount has been expended this year on extensions, the item of freehold land and buildings, plant, machinery, &c., rising from £579,184 to £1,049,889. This increase is due mainly to the rifle department to provide the enormously increased output demanded by the Government. This expenditure has been met out of the reserve fund and the balance brought forward at July 31, 1914, amounting altogether to £418,284, consisting of accumulated profits made prior to the War. The directors have had under consideration the desirability of capitalising £383,491, part of this amount, and now recommend that this should be done by the issue to the Ordinary shareholders of 383,491 Ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid up, to be distributed in the proportion of one new share for every two Ordinary shares now held, the new shares ranking for dividend as from July 10, 1915. When this is carried out the paid-up capital will amount to £1,653,623. Stocks and stores at July 10 last amounted to £352,530, as compared with £235,230, while investments rose from £653,720 to £704,933. In the following table we set out the liabilities and assets of the Company for 1901, the year before the first capitalisation of the reserve took place, and for subsequent years following the acquisition of the Eadie and Daimler businesses, from which the substantial growth in the capital of the Company during recent years may be well seen:—

LIABILITIES.

Year ended July 1	1901	1910	1912	1914	1915
	£	£	£	£	£
Share capital	406,300	720,375	970,132	1,270,132	1,270,132
London City & Mid. Bank	12,285				
Sundry creditors ...	[illegible]	66,797	82,126	75,022	366,057
Reserve funds	[illegible]	150,000	240,000	[illegible]	388,323
Profit and loss account ...	65,756	113,735	190,758	208,201	[illegible]
	[illegible]	1,053,297	1,483,016	1,891,678	2,450,192

ASSETS.

Year ended July 31—	1901	1910	1912	1914	1915
	£	£	£	£	£
Land, buildings, &c. ...	370,408	663,838	[illegible]	579,184	1,049,889
Sundry stocks	59,984 }	158,234	208,410	235,230	352,530
Work in hand & in process	77,960 }				
Sundry debtors	33,259	[illegible]	123,956	207,769	135,056
Investments, &c. ...	55,150	12,586	351,832	653,720	[illegible]
Cash in hand ...	-	121,381	202,898	215,775	207,784
	596,797	1,030,907	1,483,016	1,891,678	2,450,192

The profits for the twelve months to July 10, 1915, including rent and income tax, from the Daimler Company, Limited, and other investments, have amounted to £408,455, as compared with £190,429 for the previous year. The amount required for Preference dividend has risen from £19,684 to £25,224, after which there remains a balance of £383,231, which is very nearly sufficient to provide for a distribution of 50% on the paid-up Ordinary capital. The actual distribution has been increased from 15% to 20%, thereby leaving a surplus of £229,835. Of this £133,491 is transferred to the general reserve fund, bringing it up to £483,491, while the balance of £96,344 is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £164,628. It may be added that after the portion of the reserve is capitalised the balance remaining at its credit will be £100,000.

We show below how the profits have been distributed since 1909:—

Yr. ended July 31 —	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit ...	408,455	190,429	187,921	178,453	232,818	98,776	84,086
Pref. div. 5%...	25,224	19,684	9,565	9,565	9,565	9,565	9,621
	383,231	170,745	178,356	168,888	223,253	89,211	74,465
Ordinary div....	153,396	115,047	115,047	115,047	115,047	77,584	51,722
	(20%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(10%)
	229,835	55,698	63,309	53,841	108,206	11,627	22,743
Reserve fund ...	133,291	50,000	60,000	50,000	100,000	10,000	—
	96,544	5,698	3,309	3,841	8,206	1,627	22,743
Brought forward	68,284	62,586	59,277	55,436	47,230	45,603	22,860
Carried forward	164,828	68,284	62,586	59,277	55,436	47,230	45,603

It will be realised that the Company has enjoyed an exceptionally prosperous time during the past twelve months, and, in view of the demands that will continue to be made upon the Company for the supply of rifles and other articles required for the purposes of the War, the activity that has now been enjoyed since the outbreak of war will be continued, and there is no doubt that substantial profits will be made. Naturally, however, the Company's results will come within the purview of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a large proportion of the excess profits will have to be returned to the National Exchequer. What the exact amount of this sum will be is impossible to say. Presumably, however, the Company will be able to secure allowance for the new capital expenditure necessary to meet Government requirements. By keeping in hand, however, so large a carry-forward the Company has placed itself in such a position that it can regard the whole question with equanimity, and though it may be necessary to set aside a very large sum to meet national requirements, there is no doubt that profits will remain on sufficiently large a scale that the shareholders will be perfectly content with the distribution that is made to them, though it is accompanied by the handing over of a large sum to the nation. There can be little doubt that the results of the current year's trading will be sufficiently large, after providing for the excess war tax, to justify a substantial distribution to the shareholders. At the outbreak of war the £1 Ordinary share could be secured in the neighbourhood of £2. The present price is 59*s.*, so that it will be realised that a substantial gain has occurred. On the basis of a 20% distribution the yield afforded is slightly over 8%, apart from any calculation as to the value of the bonus share distribution. The £1 Second Preference share is quoted at 20*s.* 6*d.*, thereby affording a return of about 5¾%. The £5 Preference share stands at $5\frac{9}{32}$, at which price the yield is nearly $4\frac{3}{4}$%. Doubtless the Company will remain busily employed in all its departments, and the general outlook therefore is of the best possible character, and it is certainly of immense advantage to the nation that such a Company as the Birmingham Small Arms Company should have works so well organised and fitted up that it is able to meet in so satisfactory a fashion the demands of the Government for the various classes of goods and materials that it requires for the successful prosecution of the War. We append a statement of the present capital, prices, and yields afforded:—

Amount	Description				Yield
£			£		£ *s.* *d.*
2[illegible]	5% Cum. Pref. ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4 14 9
300,000	6% Cum. Pref. ...	1	20 6	[illegible]	5 17 1
766,982	Ordinary shares ...	... 1	59 –	20*	8 0 10

* [illegible]

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.—It has been announced that this Bank has taken over the old-established banking business of Messrs. Thomas Barnard and Co., of Bedford, which will be conducted in the future as a branch of Parr's Bank, Limited, without change of management, and under the personal superintendence of Mr. Thomas Barnard as local director.

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"THE MODERN METHOD OF STORING SAVINGS."

Insurance Notes.

SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

[illegible] years ago this life office was founded in Edinburgh, one of its founders being Sir David Paulin, who still acts as the Company's Manager. The growth of a life office must necessarily be slow, and instances must be rare in the history of life assurance where the chief official of such an institution during his occupation of the post has seen the assurance fund, begun with the first premium paid, gradually increase to over two millions sterling, as in Sir David's case. It took 25 years to get the first million together, the second was accumulated in less than one-third of that time, and the rate of future progress bids fair to be accelerated. As far as regards bonuses the Company has a fine and consistent record. Six quinquennial divisions of profit have been made, the last following the actuarial investigation as at December 31, 1910, and on each of these occasions the bonuses on participating policies have been in reversionary form at the rate of 40*s.* per cent. per annum for each premium paid during the valuation period, excepting the year of entry in the case of assurances participating for the first time.

Although the progress shown in the development of the Company in 1914 is not so great as in 1913, when the largest new business in the Company's history was reported, yet it exceeds what might have been expected under the unprecedented conditions prevailing in the last five months of the year. The Company gave every facility to its employees to join His Majesty's forces for the duration of the War, full salaries being paid and posts being kept open for their return. The Chairman announced at the annual meeting on February 22 that more than 50 per cent. of the Company's staff, including, with one practically

unavoidable exception, every man in its service between the ages of 18 and 35, had volunteered for service, and although all were not accepted a large proportion were then with the Colours. Many of the Company's working agents throughout Great Britain and Ireland are also at the Front or under training.

New policies for £443,300 were issued by the Company in 1914, of which £23,000 was reassured, leaving as the net retention £420,300, as compared with £521,046 in 1913. The total net life premium income, increased by £3,758, amounted to £208,920, apart from a sum of £9,985 representing consideration for new annuities granted. Expenses of management, inclusive of commission, representing about 15.7% of the premiums, show a slight reduction, which is satisfactory looking to the fact that, although the new business was less than in 1913, which in itself would tend to reduction in the ratio, yet, on the other hand, a considerable amount of unproductive expenditure had to be met in connection with the salaries of members of the staff who had gone on active service.

The incidence of mortality during 1914 was favourable, notwithstanding fatalities in warfare. The claims by death, amounting to £73,632, included £10,000 due to these causes. They represented only 81% of the amount anticipated by the mortality tables employed by the Company, and but for the War the proportion of actual to expected claims would have been as low as 70%. Through the year's operations the life assurance fund was increased by £137,623 to £2,172,973. The average yield on the funds throughout the year, before deduction of income tax, amounting to £4 8*s*. 11*d*. per cent., differed very slightly from the Company's experience in 1913; but after such deduction the net yield showed a diminution of 2*s*. 6*d*. per cent., from £4 5*s*. to £4 2*s*. 6*d*. This indicates, however, a profit of £1 2*s*. 6*d*. per cent. over the valuation rate of 3%, at which it is actuarially assumed that the funds will fructify.

The Company has a small and select accident department. Premiums in this section amounted to £6,594, and, after transference of £1,916 to profit and loss, the relative fund on December 31, 1914, amounted to £6,847, exclusive of sums reserved for outstanding liabilities.

The Company's subscribed capital amounts to £500,000, of which £50,000 is paid up, in shares of £10 with £1 paid on each. The dividend in respect of the operations of 1914 is 10%, free of income tax, as for the previous year. By far the greater part of the dividend is earned from interest on shareholders' funds and the profits of the accident business. It is officially stated that the Company's participating life policyholders receive a larger proportion of life and annuity profits than is the case in any other British proprietary office.

The Company's total assets, according to the balance sheet, amounted on December 31, 1914, to £2,276,660. The Stock Exchange securities were taken at or under the values at which they stood at the last quinquennial valuation for those then held by the Company, and at or under cost price in the case of subsequent investments.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

The annual report of this Company for 1914 is presented in a new form, which seems an improvement. Comment had been made in these columns in former years on the uninforming character of previous reports. From the report for last year it is possible at least to compute the profit from trading, which was not the case with former productions of the kind. The directors explain that the revenue account, profit and loss account and balance sheet for 1914 are in the form in which they are presented to the Board of Trade, but without the voluminous details required by that department.

The Society's main business relates to the descriptions of insurance indicated in its title, and a large amount of the Company's vast employers' liability transactions is written in America. Fire and miscellaneous insurance are also undertaken. The Company has many foreign and colonial branches, and thus its operations are world-wide.

The Company's net premium income in all classes amounted in 1914 to £1,932,177, which exceeds that of the previous year by £197,210. After adjustment of the reserve for unexpired risks, and deduction of claims and expenses of every kind, inclusive of taxes, the trading profit, apart from interest earnings, appears to have amounted to £149,682.

The shareholders' capital amounts to £1,000,000, of which £200,000 is paid up, in shares of £10 with £2 paid on each. The dividend for the year 1914 is declared at the same rate as was announced last year—viz., 16*s*. per share, or 40%, free of income tax. This indicates a splendid return to shareholders, but more than the amount required for its distribution (£80,000) was covered by earnings on the investments. Thus the sum of £81,281 is credited to profit and loss account from these sources. This brings the total profits for the year up to £230,963, and after provision for the full dividend the sum of £150,226 has been added to the general reserve fund (thereafter amounting to £944,525) and £737 to the investment reserve fund (thereafter £67,468).

The total assets as valued in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £2,658,235. The auditors report that a valuation of the investments was made, based upon the prices current on June 30, 1914, and that the balance standing to the credit of the investment reserve fund was more than sufficient to cover the depreciation ascertained on that basis. Apart from capital, investment reserve fund, and provision for dividends and outstanding claims and expenses the reserves are as follows:—

Reserve for unexpired risks...	£772,871
General reserve	944,525
	£1,717,396

This represents about 88.8% of the premium income in 1914, and seems to indicate a fairly strong financial position as compared with liabilities, while the attractions of the Company to policyholders are increased through the second line of security afforded by the large amounts of the paid-up and uncalled capital.

The practice of paying dividends entirely out of interest earnings is to be commended in the present circumstances of this Company, relating to a rapidly progressive business, and under normal circumstances dividends may be expected to keep pace relatively with the enhanced accumulations. After the reserves have reached a certain and considerably higher standard the directors may feel justified in dividing a portion of the trading profits, as well as the interest earnings, and, so far as can be judged from the accounts presented, there would appear to be attractive possibilities to shareholders, beyond estimates based on the very handsome yield on the original holdings at present shown.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

During recent years steps have been taken to extend the business and broaden the basis of this well-known coal and iron Company. First of all, the business of Rylands Brothers, Limited, was absorbed by means of a purchase of shares, thus giving Pearson and Knowles control of the works of what was formerly its largest customer, so safeguarding and developing the trade in wire rods. Subsequently there were acquired the shares of the Moss Hall Coal Company and the Wigan Junction Collieries Company. In 1910 a further step was taken in the way of consolidating and broadening the basis of the business. Originally the Company manufactured iron only, but in order to meet the altered circumstances of the trade

which have taken place in recent years, which have had the important effect that malleable iron has for the purpose been superseded by Bessemer and Siemens steel, it became necessary to adapt the works and machinery to deal with steel in constantly increasing proportions, and as a matter of fact at the present time steel instead of iron is used in the greater part of the Company's finished products. The raw material for this branch of the trade is semi-manufactured steel in billets and blooms, for the supplies of which the Company has been dependent upon other manufacturers. After careful consideration, the directors finally decided to establish works for the production of semi-manufactured steel on the banks of the Ship Canal, in a position where steel can be produced in successful competition with any British or foreign works for the supply of the Lancashire district, in which there is a large and steady market for steel in addition to the Company's own requirements.

The benefit of these works has been experienced during the past year. During the first six months of the year under review the Company's trading was most unsatisfactory. Coal was almost unsaleable. During the greater part of the period the Company was only able to find work for its miners for three days a week. Not only so, but it was burdened with heavy contracts at unremunerative prices, together with an increased cost of production. Similarly, the iron trade was burdened by contracts of a like nature on sales made based on material to be supplied before the War at low prices. These purchases were mainly made from Germany, and when the War intervened the Company was not only denuded of its ordinary supplies, but also when purchasing elsewhere was obliged to pay prices which left the contracts previously made for delivery of the finished articles most unprofitable. Many manufacturers found it necessary to shut down their works, but Pearson and Knowles began immediately to feel the benefit of its investment in the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited, from whom it was able to obtain stocks to fill up the void produced by the War with Germany, and, consequently, to continue its business. And, as the Chairman pointed out at the meeting on September 29, the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited, "was projected and permitted by the board with the sole object of safeguarding the supplies of war material for the parent Company against the dangerous uncertainty inseparable from dependence upon German importations, and it is a matter of satisfaction to the directors that not only has this object been amply achieved in the present crisis, but the works have served a great national purpose in producing a continuous supply of shell steel for months past for war purposes, first for the French and then for both the French and British armies."

Naturally the profits made by the Company have shown very considerable fluctuations, and since 1900 they have varied between a minimum of £16,010 and a maximum of £142,424. For the twelve months to June 30, 1915, the profit has amounted to £122,359, a figure which has only been surpassed on two previous occasions.

To indicate the manner in which the profits have fluctuated we show below the profits and dividends since 1897:—

Year ended June 30	Profit	Div. Ord.	Year ended June 30	Profit	Div. Ord.
	£	%		£	%
1915... ...	122,359	7½	1905... ...	57,187	4
1914... ..	98,813	5	1904	46,748	3
1913... ...	118,870	8	1903	53,427	4
1912... ..	78,141	5	1902.. .	62,865	6
1911... .	70,978	4	1901...	142,424	12½
1910... ...	66,618	5½	1900. ..	123,044	10
1909... .	61,890	4½	1899... ..	69,042	5
1908... ..	16,010	1¼	1898 .. .	27,454	1½
1907... ...	110,680	10	1897.	38,215	2
1906... ...	62,866	5			

The profit for the past twelve months of £122,359 compares with £98,813 for the previous year. After providing for depreciation and Preference dividend there is a balance of £93,090, as compared with £60,958. The Ordinary dividend is increased from 5% to 7½%, and of the balance of £51,719 a sum of £47,500 is carried to the reserve, and the surplus added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £26,061.

We indicate the manner in which the profits of the past seven years have been distributed:—

Yr. ended Jn. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Net trading profits ...	£ 122,359	£ 98,813	£ 118,870	£ 78,141	£ 70,978	£ 66,618	£ 61,890
Written off ...	8,254	15,819	15,156	14,528	19,501	18,126	9,240
	114,105	82,994	103,714	63,613	51,477	48,492	52,650
Pref. div., 6%...	21,015	22,036	22,036	22,036	16,107	14,250	14,250
	93,090	60,958	81,678	41,577	35,370	34,242	38,400
Ord. dividend	41,371 (7½%)	28,664 (5%)	45,952 (8%)	28,720 (5%)	22,979 (4%)	18,744 (3½%)	25,979 (4½%)
	51,719	32,294	35,726	12,857	12,391	15,698	12,430
Reserve fund ...	47,500	30,000	30,000	12,394	15,000	15,000	10,000
	4,219	2,294	5,726	463	−2,609	698	2,430
Brought forward	21,842	19,548	13,822	13,359	15,968	15,270	12,087
Carried forward	26,061	21,842	19,548	13,822	13,359	15,968	14,517

At the meeting the Chairman pointed out that the transfer to reserve is the largest ever made in the history of the Company, and several reasons have induced the directors to transfer so large an amount rather than further increase the dividend. Particularly there is to be faced the great uncertainty which will arise about business at the close of the War, and also freedom has not occurred from the state of confusion "which exists amongst those appointed to regulate our trade matters, and who seem to forget that considerations of finance and exchange require the encouragement of the export trade so far as is possible consistent with war requirements." The expenditure on capital account for the year is £8,254, which has been written off from profits.

To show the extent to which the profits have been drawn upon for depreciation and reserve purposes since 1897 we set out the following:—

Year ended June 30	Written off for Depreciation	To Reserve Fund	Year ended June 30	Written off for Depreciation	To Reserve Fund
	£	£		£	£
1915... ..	8,254	47,500	1905	6,810	10,000
1914... ...	15,819	30,000	1904	4,987	10,000
1913	15,156	30,000	1903 — ...	10,000	5,000
1912... ...	14,528	12,394	1902	5,000	10,000
1911... ...	19,501	15,000	1901	25,000	25,000
1910... ...	18,126	15,000	1900	28,609	20,000
1909... ...	9,240	10,000	1899	15,000	10,000
1908... ...	12,333	20,000	1898	6,000	Nil
1907... ...	15,756	20,000	1897	10,000	Nil
1906... ...	6,875	10,000			

The issued share capital of the Company is £1,000,000, and the reserve fund amounts to £402,500. The land, buildings, collieries, ironworks, &c., are valued at £744,381. The reserve fund is specially invested, the investments standing in at £388,879. The Company formerly showed in its books colliery leases and goodwill at £315,560, but this has all been written off out of profits. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ..	1,000,000	Land, buildings, &c. ...	744,381
Reserve fund	402,500	Reserve fund investment	388,879
Debentures	21,000	Mine rents suspense account	13,657
Loan	215,700	Stock	396,186
Creditors	144,045	Sundry debtors	322,998
Profit and loss	133,694	Cash and bills	80,838
	1,946,939		1,946,939

At the meeting Sir J. S. Harmood Banner, M.P., gave some interesting information as to the position. He pointed out that the trading this year will be affected by the Coal Prices Limitation Bill, and by the pre-War contracts having run off, and as for the past year profits were barely 6*d.* per ton on the output an improvement will be very welcome. Rylands Brothers' works for the first half of the year were affected by pre-War conditions and difficulties in obtaining supplies. These works are now a munition area, and 80% of excess profits are taken by the Exchequer. As regards the outlook, a great deal of the work will arise from employment by the British Government and Allied Governments, and if the profits exceed the basis on which the Company has

paid income tax this year, the Exchequer will take one-half of them, and in the case of Rylands Brothers 80%. But, barring anything unforeseen, the Chairman hopes that the profits for the current year will reach the 1913 basis, when a dividend of 8% was distributed, though he rather warned the shareholders not to expect so large a distribution because of the necessity of improving the reserves. At the present price of 4¾ for the £5 share the yield on a 7½% basis is as much as 8½%. On the Second Preference shares the return is 6¾%, and on the First Preference shares about 6%.

The following table sets out the capital, prices, dividends, and yields afforded:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
250,000	6% Cum. Pref.	5	5⅛	6	5 17 7
140,000	6% Cum. 2nd Pref.	5	5⅛	6	5 14 4
610,000	Ordinary	5	1¼	4	8 10 5

CHILEAN TRADE AND RAILWAYS.

Trade conditions in Chile are steadily improving. Prior to the European war the country was enjoying a fairly high degree of prosperity, but since the outbreak of hostilities business has been very depressed. This is indicated by the trade returns for 1914 recently issued by the United States Consul-General. They show that the total trade of Chile for the year declined by no less than £11,488,000, or over 20%, whilst the surplus of exports over imports fell by as much as £3,057,000 to the relatively small total of £1,970,000. Chile depends very largely upon the export of nitrate, and as Germany and Austria are among the largest consumers of the fertiliser, the outbreak of war practically meant the entire stoppage of work in the nitrate fields. In the last few months, however, there has been a distinct recovery, owing to the increased demand for nitrate for the manufacture of explosives as well as for agricultural purposes in the United States, and the general trade situation to-day is much less depressed than during the latter part of 1914. Representatives of the Chilean Government abroad, principally diplomatic and consular officers, are actively seeking new or wider markets for Chilean products, particularly nitrate, iodine, copper, hides, wool, and wine, and in this way new outlets are expected to be found which will enable the country to get through the present trying period. The price of nitrate has been steadily rising of late, and the quotation is now well over 9*s.* per quintal, so that considerably larger profits are being made both by the Government and those connected with the industry. Already the railway companies are showing signs of recuperation, and recent traffic returns have been a distinct improvement on those of a year ago. In the last seven weeks the Antofagasta Railway has added no less than £61,000 to its gross traffic receipts, and although in the aggregate to date there is a heavy falling-off as compared with a year ago, much of this is likely to be made good by the end of the year. The Taltal Railway is also doing better, and the Nitrate Railways Company, after its severe set-back of the past thirteen months, has now commenced to report increases in earnings. Antofagasta stock is steadily recovering in price, the Ordinary being quoted at 82¾, whilst the Deferred has risen to about 126. The price of Taltal Ordinary which recently dropped to under 4 has now recovered to 5⅛.

Bell's United Asbestos Co.—Interim dividend on Ordinary shares of 1*s.* per share, less tax.

Holdron (H.).—Interim dividend at the rate of 6 .

International Steam Pump Co.—We are informed that the plan of organisation, dated August 5, 1915, has been declared operative by the Joint Reorganisation Committee.

South British Insurance Co.—Dividend for last six months 2*s.* 3*d.* per share.

United States and South American Investment Trust Co.—Interim dividend at the rate of 4% per annum on Ordinary.

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CHAS. WINDETT, Actuary and Secretary.

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Capital Subscribed - £129,000. | Invested Funds exceed £699,000.

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Whole-Life and Endowment Assurance.
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The "City" Life Assurance and House Purchase Policy.
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The popular series of "Ideal" Policies.
The Pure Endowment "Advance" House Purchase Policy.
The Scout Policy; and many other attractive tables.

Active Agents wanted. Liberal Terms. Exceptional opportunities for early promotion to lucrative positions.

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M. GREGORY, *General Manager.*

COMMERCIAL UNION

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - CORNHILL, LONDON.

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ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Total Funds - £20,409,644

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Commercial.

THE WHEAT POSITION.

In the days of yore the outbreak of hostilities between nations led to very severe fluctuations in the price of wheat, and speculators took advantage of the position to forestall and make huge profits. The Governments of these days have taken all possible means to prevent this heartless system of forestalment, and the outcome of Government action has been an appreciable set-back from a big rush up in prices of wheat. The last week or two there has been a hardening trend in the market, but, while there is some divergence of opinion upon the subject, we believe, on examination of the statistical position, that this trend is likely to be only

temporary, for the increase in the acreage and crops of the world have been very considerable, and the surplus quantities of producing countries over their actual requirements have been very great. The statistics present very interesting features.

A week ago the *London Grain, Seed and Oil Reporter* gave particulars of the probable requirements of importing countries this season and the estimated surpluses in exporting countries, based on the latest information available:—

	Estimated Requirements Qrs.		Estimated Surpluses Qrs.
United Kingdom ..	25,000,000	United States	45,000,000
France	7,000,000	Canada	24,000,000
Italy	7,000,000	Argentina	12,000,000
Holland and Belgium ..	7,000,000	Australia	8,000,000
Spain and Portugal ...	1,000,000	India	6,000,000
Scandinavia, Switzerland, Greece, &c.	6,500,000	North Africa, &c. ...	1,500,000
		Total	96,500,000
Total Europe ...	53,500,000	Russia (including balance of 1914 Crop)	30,000,000
Non-European Countries	9,000,000	The Balkans	10,000,000
Grand Total ...	62,500,000	Grand Total ...	136,500,000
Germany	9,000,000		

In this weeks issue it says:—

"The market has ruled firm in tone throughout the week, and a good trade has been done at steadily advancing prices, more especially in wheat afloat and for early shipment. The principal causes for the improvement are the continued small shipments to, and imports into, the United Kingdom, and the improvement in values in America, where the successful arrangement of the loan for the Allies has more than counterbalanced the effect of increasing receipts at the different grain centres.

"This week's shipments are expected to show a fair increase, and, judging from the very large quantity of wheat daily arriving at Winnipeg and being despatched from that place to the shipping centres, exports from Canada next month and also in November and December promise to be on a considerable scale; in fact, if freight room be obtainable, it is quite possible that the shipments from Canada in the next three months will furnish a record. Farmers delivered English wheat more freely last week, and, in view of the much bigger crop this year, native wheat ought to come forward in large quantities for some months. It is most probable that towards the end of October there will be sufficient wheat arriving from abroad, added to the supplies of native wheat, to satisfy the consumptive requirements of the United Kingdom, whilst later on, if the present favourable crop outlook in Australia and Argentine materialise, very large quantities of wheat will be available, and exports will, to a great extent, be only restricted by the amount of freight room procurable and the rate of freights."

COLONIAL WOOL SALES.

A SUGGESTION TO THE IMPORTERS' COMMITTEE.

YESTERDAY saw the finish of the sixth series of Colonial sales, after lasting from September 7. This is the first time in the history of the trade for a good many years that a series of sales has taken place so early in autumn, but the Importers' Committee acted very wisely in deciding to hold a series early, and as far as we know the trade has not in the least been inconvenienced. It is imperative that as wool arrives from Australasia buyers be given the opportunity of getting at the wool with all possible speed, and also it is to the advantage of the dock people to be shifting it on to consuming centres with equal facility. There is still congestion at the Port of London, though uptown warehouses seem able to deal more effectively with the wool than the dock people. Of course, the Port of London Authorities are responsible for handling all arrivals; but the trade will know well the increased difficulties which they are having to face, and there has been less railing at the Authorities by buyers during the past month than heretofore this year, the trade recognising it must make the utmost allowance for the present unparalleled conditions.

Before we finish this article we have a recommendation to make to the Port of London Authority Importers' Committee, and the selling brokers, which if acted upon will help materially in the conduct of the sales, and enable selling brokers to catalogue 10,000 to 12,000 bales per day in place of the present 8,000 bales.

Looking over the course of the auctions, we are faced with the feature of the hearty reception which good shafty merinos and crossbreds have met. From first to last these wools have been in prime favour, and they have been bought in a real encouraging way. Neither importers nor selling brokers can complain that no interest has been shown in wools of good length and decent condition, and we consider that good merinos have sold on a full parity with the close of July, and often made a fraction more. The huge quantities of medium and faulty parcels have hung fire and sold most irregularly. Unfortunately, this class of staple has formed the bulk of the offerings, and here there has been no regularity about the market whatever. Often lots have been put in at a price and finally sold at 2*d.* to 3*d.* more, the auctions at times being very slow and dragging. Even selling brokers themselves hardly know what to put the decline at, and medium parcels can be called 1*d.* cheaper both in grease and scoureds, while the more faulty wools, which cannot be used without being carbonised, have lost ground anywhere from 1½*d.* to 3*d.* Anything that has not needed to be carbonised has not sold at all badly, and scoured clean, straight locks and pieces that can be used straight from the bale have made relatively good prices, it being the seedy, faulty, burry wools, both greasy and scoured, that have lost ground sensibly.

The way Cape wools have moved has certainly been disappointing. Long combing, greasy Capes have not eased more than ¼*d.*, but heavy, faulty wools are down about ½*d.* Super snow-whites have also lost on an average 1*d.*, while the medium and faulty wools have lost fully 2*d.* to 2½*d.* America has bought very little indeed of scoured Cape wools, a line of action they have not pursued for several series.

The course of crossbreds has been creditable. We are glad that the War Trade Department made it clear early in the auctions that they were prepared to consider favourably applications for the export of this class of wool to our Allies and the United States. We know there are a few interested spinners in Bradford who would deliberately refuse the export of all wool, but such a policy is selfish in the extreme. The opposition that some have shown to the granting of licences for the export of wool and tops is indeed incredible. Of course, their retention in this country would have meant distinctly lower prices for crossbred wool and tops, while a keen demand for crossbred yarns would have maintained prices for that commodity at the present high level, and so increased spinning margins. We are glad that wiser counsels have prevailed.

Some three to four months ago, when we discerned that the Government was not in need of further khaki, and that no new orders were going to be given out, we saw clearly that there were surplus stocks of crossbred and English wools that could be exported to safe destinations, and the present move is one which we entirely endorse. Even for economical reasons it is imperative that what we can export should be allowed out of the country to safe quarters, and we believe the privilege of export through the Textile Alliance to America will not be abused. The result is that crossbred wools have directly benefited through American competition. We are not able at this writing to say the exact amount of wool purchased on American account, but the several thousand bales which have been taken has all assisted prices for good parcels, the result being that for really well-conditioned wools values have appreciated ½*d.* to 1*d.* per pound on the semi-slump values that ruled towards the end of July. We cannot see any improvement in medium and faulty wools, these being

taken readily by the home trade at unchanged rates. Scoured crossbreds and slipes have sensibly eased, particularly the latter. This is the direct result of there being no new khaki orders in prospect, and good sliped lambs both half-bred, three-quarter bred, Leicester and Lincoln, have depreciated all round 2*d.*, while seconds and thirds have lost anywhere up to 3*d.* Of course, these wools have been abnormally dear, realising sensibly above their intrinsic value, and the fall was in no sense unexpected, although importers do not like it.

The next series has been fixed to begin on October 26, and the final auction for the year on December 7. What to-day is engaging the Port of London Authority and the Importers' Committee is the congestion at the docks. The trade is up against a very serious problem, and it needs the combined wisdom of all sections of the trade to solve it. Buyers have grumbled a good deal because they have been compelled to sit for four weeks in succession at the sales, and if a remedy could be found for this it would be a real godsend. We have strongly maintained that three weeks is long enough, and suggest that auctions lasting that length of time could be held, with a vacation of the same duration. The most serious difficulty for selling brokers is the delay which the dock people have to contend against in staging wool. About 8,000 bales seem at present to be the maximum. This is not enough, and a remedy ought to be found. This is our solution to the problem. With the beginning of the next series there should be available big straight lines of new-clip wools. Is it necessary to stage every bale in a lot, say, from 20 bales upwards? In Australia the selling brokers stage about 10% of the offerings, and that satisfies buyers. Cannot the same be done in London until the War finishes? We respectfully suggest that it is absolutely unnecessary to catalogue every bale in lots figuring from 15 to 50 bales, and if half the quantity were catalogued, buyers having the privilege of demanding the inspection of all the bales, we are satisfied that the warehouse-keepers could then stage sufficient wool to cover the disposal each day of anywhere from 10,000 to 12,000 bales. With Australian selling brokers adopting this we are confident it could easily be done in Coleman Street, with the same satisfactory results. It is, as a rule, on the small lots where irregularity in classing occurs, and every buyer knows that on good standard clips, with which everyone is familiar, there is a uniformity of classing and baling which would justify 10 bales out of every 20 being shown. It might be necessary to catalogue the whole of the skin wools in a lot, but on good station classed clips it is absolutely unnecessary to catalogue the whole, and we strongly contend that by submitting, say, half the wools, in the same way as the English wools were offered in July, that would satisfy buyers, and so enable selling brokers to offer daily anywhere from 10,000 to 12,000 bales. This would shorten the series, and be the means of wool moving more freely into the hands of consumers.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday.

OUR market has been under the influence of a wave of speculative buying, which has swept everything before it in the American exchanges, and has brought about an advance to correspond here. The business in futures transacted in New York has reached extraordinarily large dimensions; the outside American public has caught the "bull" fever badly, and has followed the advance blindly until its enormous purchases have left that market in a very vulnerable and extremely dangerous position. The "bull" enthusiasm has infected Southern spot holders, who have demanded an impracticable basis for their cotton, and Liverpool importers have been able to make only occasional purchases. Consequently hedge selling by importers has been very restricted, and no weight of cotton has been thrown in the market to resist the upward trend of values. Winter positions have sold well over 7*d.*, but the market tone lately has been unhealthy and feverish, violent fluctuations have been witnessed. On Wednesday the difference between the highest and lowest prices paid was nearly ¼*d.* per pound. To-night's closing rates show gains of fully ½*d.* per pound for American and over 1*d.* per pound for Egyptian. At the close Jan./Feb. American was quoted 6.98*d.* and January Egyptian 10.20*d.*

A little while ago there was a disposition to look upon the crop prospects as suggesting a yield of 14,000,000 bales, which would have been much in excess of the world's requirements. The then impending decision of the British Government to declare cotton contraband, and its action in preventing cotton supplies reaching enemy countries, and so cutting off an effective demand of anywhere between two and three million bales, was considered to be a potent "bear" factor, and the majority of traders looked for lower prices. A spell of unfavourable weather, followed by the industrious dissemination of small crop estimates of 10 million bales and even lower; exaggerated estimates of consumption, and the apparent failure of the contraband declaration to affect prices adversely; the intimation that in case of need the British Government would support the market, produced a revulsion of feeling and a rush to buy, which has carried prices up by leaps and bounds. As we believe that the market is being misled by unduly small crop estimates and by unduly large consumption estimates, we think prices are now above the intrinsic value of cotton, and when later on the facts of the position assert themselves we expect to see prices decline.

Although the sudden advance has made business in Manchester very difficult, spinners have continued to buy freely on the spot. The narrowing of the difference between distant and near positions has left merchants with an inadequate carrying premium, and has rendered them more disposed to meet buyers and sell rather than incur a loss in holding expenses. Nevertheless the selling basis has been well maintained, and better qualities with staple still command full rates.

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All profits (less 5% guarantee premium) are returned to the Insured in the form of discounts from renewal premiums.

These facts present the prospect of unparalleled advantages to members of the "Pool."

NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Roanoke, Va., August 31, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Norfolk & Western Railway Company:

Your Board of Directors submits the following report for the year ending June 30, 1915 :—

MILES OF ROAD AND TRACK IN OPERATION.

	June 30, 1915. Miles.	June 30, 1914. Miles.	Inc. Miles.
Main line	1,542.98	1,542.98	
Branches—	Miles.	Miles.	
Operated as second track	90.36	90.36	
Other branches	396.27	389.53	
	486.63	479.89	6.74
Total miles	2,029.61	2,022.87	6.74
Operated under trackage rights	13.98	13.98	
Total miles of road in operation	2,043.59	2,036.85	6.74
Second track	524.32	490.74	33.58
Third track	3.46	3.20	.25
Sidings and yard tracks	1,254.50	1,229.88	24.62
Total miles of all tracks in operation	3,825.86	3,760.67	65.19
Average miles of road operated	2,041.95	2,035.91	6.04
Average miles of track operated	3,792.50	3,645.33	147.17

The increase in miles of road in operation is as follows :—

Branches—	Miles.
Alma Branch	.69
Mate Creek branch	4.48
Mitchell Branch of Mate Creek branch	1.57
	6.74

INCOME STATEMENT.

For the Year ending June 30, 1915, and Comparison with Preceding Year.

	1914-15. $	1913-14. $	Inc. or Dec. $	Inc. or Dec. %
Railway Operating Income—				
Rail Operations—Revs. :				
Freight	36,550,549 91	38,038,621 63	−1,488,071 72	3.91
Passenger	4,739,533 08	4,908,679 22	− 169,141 14	3.44
Mail	388,861 67	389 245 42	− 383 75	.10
Express	540,049 90	571,078 57	− 30,978 67	5.42
All other transportation	264,260 80	275,816 52	− 11,555 72	4.19
Total Transportation revs.	42,483,310 36	44,183,441 36	−1,700,131 00	3.85
Rev. from operations other than transportation	503,733 41	466,868 18	+ 36,865 23	7.90
Total operating revenues	42,987.043 77	44,650,309 54	−1,663,265 77	3 73
Rail Opers.—Expenses—				
Maint. of Way & Structures	5,738,074 23	4,998,612 25	+ 739,461 98	14.79
Maint. of Equipment	8,341,419 27	9,214,007 34	− 872,588 07	9.47
Traffic	699,827 30	737.690 26	− 37,862 96	5.13
Transportation	12,521,665 44	14,068,577 31	−1,546,911 87	11.00
Miscellaneous Operations	109,467 52	199,565 09	− 90,097 57	45.15
General	826,606 72	916,954 43	− 80,347 71	8.76
Transportation for Investment—Cr.	*415,245 13*	—	*+ 415,245 13*	—
Total oper. expenses	27,831,815 35	30,135,403 68	−2,303,591 33	7.64
Ratio of Exp. to Total Oper. Revenues	64.74 %	67 49 %	− 2.75 %	—
Net Revenue from Rail Opers.	15,155,228 42	14,514,902 86	+ 640,325 56	4.41
Deduct—				
Railway Tax Accruals	1,878 000 00	1,620,000 00	+ 258,000 00	15 93
Uncollectable Railway Revs.	1,766 01	363.86	+ 1,402 15	385.35
Railway Operating Income	13,275,462 41	12,894.539 00	+ 380,923 41	2.95
Add—Non.-Oper. Income —				
Hire of Freight Cars— Credit Balance	1,100,803 70	1,123,885 81	− 23,082 11	2.05
Rent of Other Equipment	88,943 86	87,697 65	+ 1,246 21	1.42
Miscellaneous Rents	77,663 16	87,849 38	− 10,186 22	11.60
Div. and int. income	753,410 69	775,549 29	− 25,138 60	3.24
Miscellaneous income	25,411 98	202,399 57	− 176,987 59	87.44
Total Non-Oper. income	2,043,233 39	2,277,381 70	− 234,148 31	10.28
Gross Income	15,318,695 80	15,171,920 70	+ 146,775 10	.97
Deductions from Gross Inc.—				
Rent of Equipment other than Freight Cars	49,540 73	42,773 31	+ 6,767 40	15.82
Miscellaneous Rents	108,636 01	97,369 71	+ 11,266 30	11.57
Separately oper. properties	661 77	700 85	− 39 08	5.57
Interest deductions for Funded Debt :				
Mortgage bonds	3,622,359 00	3,622,380 00	− 21 00	—
Convertible bonds	598,599 84	693 382 49	− 94,782 65	13.67
Equipment Obligations	519,503 00	248,372 31	+ 271,130 69	109·16
Miscellaneous deductions	9,490 59	4.515 55	+ 4,974 04	110.18
Total	4,908,790 94	4,709,494 22	+ 199,296 72	4.23
Net Income	10,409,904 86	10,462,426 48	− 52,521 62	.50
Divs. on Adjust. Pref. Stock	919,671 00	919,668 00	+ 3 00	—
Inc. Balance transferred to Profit and Loss	9,490,233 86	9,542,758 48	− 52,524 62	.55

The Income and Profit and Loss statements conform to the arrangement prescribed in the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission taking effect July 1, 1914. The figures of the preceding year have been rearranged to facilitate comparison.

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT.

	1914-15 $	1913 14 $	Inc. or Dec.— $	Inc. or Dec.— %
Credits—				
Balance July 1	12,565,090 91	11,423,106 35	+1,141.984 56	10.00
Credit balance from Income Account for the year	9,490,233 86	9,542,758 48	− 52,524 62	.55
Delayed Income Credits (see note)	386.165 97		+ 386 165 97	—
Miscellaneous Credits	15,573 34	45,875 69	− 30,302 35	66.05
Total credits	22,457,064 08	21,011,740 52	+1,445,323 56	6.88
Charges—				
Dividend Appropriations of Surplus (Common stock)	6,476,622 00	6,260,923 50	+ 215,698 50	3.45
Surplus appropriated for Investment in Physical Property	1,534,095 48	2,093,918 00	− 559,822 52	26.74
Debt Discount extinguished through Surplus	—	76,308 15	− 76,308 15	—
Loss on Retired Road and Equipment	47.595 65	—	+ 47,595 65	—
Miscellaneous Debits	14,616 86	15,499 96	− 883 10	5.70
Total charges	8,072,929 99	8,446,649 61	− 373,719 02	4.43
Credit balance June 30	14,384,134 09	12,565.090 91	+1,819,043 18	14.48

NOTE.—The delayed income credit $386,165.97 consists of passenger earnings accumulated before July 1, 1914, but held in suspense pending decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case described in full Pamphlet Report.

The dividends were as follows :—

No.	Payable	Stock of Record	Per Cent.	Outstanding Stock $	Amount of Dividend $
Adjustment Preferred Stock—					
45	Nov. 19, 1914	Oct. 31, 1914	1	22,991,700	229,917 00
46	Feb. 19, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	1	22,991.800	229,918 00
47	May 19, 1915	Apr. 30, 1915	1	22,991,800	229,918 00
48	Aug. 19, 1915	July 31, 1915	1	22,991,800	229,918 00
					919,671 00
Common Stock—					
37	Sept. 19, 1914	Aug. 31, 1914	1½	107,806,700	1,617,100 50
38	Dec. 19, 1914	Nov. 30, 1914	1½	107,817,900	1,617,268 50
39	Mar. 19, 1915	Feb. 27, 1915	1½	107.913,400	1,618.701 00
40	June 19, 1915	May 31, 1915	1½	108,083,400	1,621,251 00
			6		6,474,321 00
Dividend adjustment on Common stock issued in exchange for Convertible bonds					2,301 00
					6,476,622 00

The increase in the amount of dividends on Common Stock is due to the issue of additional shares in exchange for Convertible Bonds surrendered.

CAPITAL STOCK.

The amounts of Adjustment Preferred and Common capital stock authorised and issued are now as follows :—

	Authorised	Issued. Par Value	Issued. Shares
Adjustment Preferred stock	$23,000,000	$23,000,000	230,000
Common stock	150,000,000	108,156,000	1,081,560
Total June 30, 1915	$173,000,000	$131,156.000	1,311,560
Total June 30, 1914	173,000.000	130,760,500	1,307,605
Increase (all Common stock)	—	$395,500	3,955

The additional 3,955 shares of Common Stock outstanding were issued in exchange for $395,500 Convertible Bonds, surrendered for conversion, as follows :—$132,000 Convertible 10-25 year 4% Gold Bonds of 1907, $67,300 Convertible 10-20 year 4% Gold Bonds of 1912, $196,200 Convertible 10-25 year 4% Gold Bonds of 1913.

There are in the Treasury 82 shares ($8,200) of Adjustment Preferred Stock and 16 shares ($1,600) of Common Stock. One share of Adjustment Preferred Stock was exchanged for Dividend Scrip issued by the old Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, in accordance with the Company's policy of taking up the securities of the old Company, of which but few are now outstanding.

Of the $41,844,000 authorised but unissued Common Stock, $15,066,000 is reserved for the conversion at par of the outstanding Convertible Bonds.

FUNDED DEBT.

The aggregate Funded Debt outstanding is as follows :—

	June 30, 1915.	June 30, 1914.	Dec.
Mortgage bonds	$83,276,500	$83,283,500	$7.000
Convertible bonds	15,066,000	15,461 500	395.500
Equipment trust obligations	11,100,000	12,900.000	1,800,000
	$109,442,500	$111,645,000	$2,202,500

The decrease in the amount of Mortgage Bonds outstanding is due to the retirement by purchase of $7,000 General Mortgage Bonds, the par of which was paid by the Trustee of that mortgage out of the proceeds of the sale of the Company's Maple Shade Inn property at Pulaski, Va., to the Maple Shade Inn Company, Incorporated; the premium and accrued interest on the bonds were paid by your Company. The purchase price of the property was $27,000, and since the close of the fiscal year $20,000 additional General Mortgage Bonds have been similarly purchased.

The decrease of $395,500 in the amount of Convertible Bonds outstanding is due to the conversion into Common Stock of $395,500 of Convertible Bonds as described above

under the head "Capital Stock." The decrease in the amount of Equipment Trust Obligations results from the payment of matured Equipment Trust Certificates. The interest on Equipment Trust Obligations shows an increase over the preceding year because the $10,000,000 Equipment Trust Certificates, Series of 1914 (which were sold April 9, 1914), bore interest for less than three months of the preceding year.

There are in the Treasury $13,000 First Consolidated Mortgage 4% Bonds, $269,000 Convertible 10-20 year 4% Gold Bonds of 1912, and $1,213,000 Convertible 10-25 year 4½% Gold Bonds of 1913.

There is still an unissued remainder of $8,431,000 of the Convertible Bonds authorised by the stockholders October 11, 1906.

On April 1, 1915, the final payment of $200,000 was made under the Company's Equipment Trust, Series "C," and a bill of sale was thereupon executed by the Commercial Trust Company, Trustee, conveying to your Company the following equipment forming the security under said Equipment Trust:—17 freight locomotives, 2,000 hopper coal cars, the original cost of which was $2,024,082.92.

Pursuant to the provision of the Company's First Consolidated Mortgage, the Trustee of that mortgage has cancelled and surrendered to the Company the following described old Divisional Lien Bonds, to wit:—$496,000 Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad Company's Second Mortgage Bonds, $980,000 Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company's Enlarged Mortgage Bonds, $1,000,000 Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company's Fourth Mortgage Bonds, $1,012,300 Southside Railroad Company's Consolidated Mortgage Bonds.

The Trustee of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company's General Mortgage, pursuant to the provisions of that mortgage, has cancelled and surrendered $722,700 Southside Railroad Company's Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, $5,000 Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company's Enlarged Mortgage Bonds.

A release of the Norfolk and Petersburg Mortgage has been executed by the Trustee and recorded in all the counties in which the mortgage was recorded. Arrangements are being made for the release of the Virginia and Tennessee Mortgages and the Southside Consolidated Mortgage, but as the individual trustees named in these mortgages have been dead for many years it will be necessary to petition the proper courts for the appointment of new trustees to execute the releases.

ROAD AND EQUIPMENT.

The total additions to cost of road and equipment shown in detail in full Pamphlet Report were $6,870,149.60.

From the commencement of operations, October 1, 1896, to June 30, 1915, your Company's Property Investment in road and equipment increased	$123,649,404	16
There were also direct charges to income for additions and betterments, aggregating	15,473,521	12
Total road and equipment expenditures	$139,122,925	36

Of these expenditures, your Company's income provided the following amounts:—

Direct charges to income as above	$15,473,521	16
Appropriations from Surplus Income for additions and betterments	17,019,102	46
Total	$32,492,623	62

In addition, by means of charges to operating expenses and surplus income, depreciation reserve credits have been created as follows:—

Charges to operating expenses for a road depreciation reserve	$642,793	52
Charges to operating expenses for an equipment depreciation reserve	10,833,934	68

From October 1, 1896, to June 30, 1915, there have been added to your Company's property 459.32 miles of main line and branches, 470.30 miles of second track and 3.45 miles of third track and 816.11 miles of sidings, and to its equipment 682 locomotives, 206 passenger train cars, 31,320 freight train cars, and 913 work train cars.

The increases in tractive power and capacity are very much greater than in the number of locomotives and cars, as is shown in the following table comparing the equipment of October 1, 1896, with that of June 30, 1915:—

Locomotives—Increase in number, 168 %; in tractive power, 385 %.
Freight cars—Increase in number, 196 %; in ton capacity, 436 %.

The double track work reported in the preceding annual report as in progress has been completed.

Double track work is now in progress between Jack, Va., and Ford, Va., 13.58 miles, which will be completed by December 1915. There is also under construction a low-grade line between Burkeville, Va., and Pamplin, Va., a distance of 36.93 miles, which it is expected to put in operation in the early part of 1916. There will then be in operation between Lambert's Point and Columbus 686.24 miles of double track main line (including as second track the low-grade lines around Petersburg, Va., and Lynchburg, Va., the Big Sandy Line and the Burkeville-Pamplin Line), and 19.83 miles of single track.

The single track is between Radford, Va., and Coaldale, W. Va., in sections which total 15.90 miles, east of Wharncliffe, W. Va., 2.22 miles and at Columbus, O., 1.71 miles. The latter and the parallel track of the Cleveland, Akron and Columbus Railway are operated jointly by the two companies as double track.

The new equipment received during the year was as follows:—

40 freight locomotives (steam).
8 freight locomotives (electric).
5 all-steel dining cars.
2 all-steel flat bottom gondola cars, 180,000 pounds capacity.
537 all-steel hopper coal cars, 110,000 pounds capacity.
88 steel underframe cabin cars.
2 steam derrick cars.
2 locomotive cranes.
1 harbour barge.

Of the new equipment, two all-steel flat-bottom gondola cars, 537 all-steel hopper coal cars, and 88 steel underframe cabin cars, were built at your Roanoke Shops.

ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS TO WAY AND STRUCTURES.

10.60 miles of main track were relaid with 100-pound rails.

10.64 miles of re-sawed 85-pound-rails were laid, 8.74 miles on Clear Fork Branch and 1.90 miles on Durham District.

404,846 cubic yards of stone and 115,100 cubic yards of gravel were used in standard ballasting on main line.

Passenger stations and freight depôts were built or enlarged at Waverly, Riverton, Wirtz, South Boston, and Shawsville, Va., Charles Town and Kermit, W. Va., and Mayodan, N.C.

Shelter sheds were erected at New Bohemia, Hopewell, Overall, Rocky Mount, Doran, and Faraday, Va., Buffalo Creek, Canebrake and Havaco, W. Va., and Beaver Pond, Ohio.

Section houses were erected at Sutherland, Va., and Excelsior and Maybeury, West Va.

Tool houses were erected at Wellville, Pamplin, and Spout Spring, Va., and Sciotoville, Ohio.

Motor-car houses were erected at Coaldale and Devon, W. Va.

Stock pens were erected at Shenandoah, Va., and Charles Town, W. Va.

A 100-foot turntable was installed at Roanoke, Va.

150 ton scales were installed at Norfolk, Va., and Ironton, Ohio, and a 200-ton scale at Bluefield, W. Va.

Crossing-gates were erected at South Norfolk, Wakefield, Lynchburg, and Abingdon, Va., and crossing-bells were installed at Norfolk, Ivor, Roanoke, and Meadowview, Va., Landgraff, W. Va., and Locks and Columbus, Ohio.

An ice-house was constructed at Clare, Ohio.

A government coal inspectors' office was constructed at Lambert's Point, Va.

The superstructure on Pier No. 1 at Lambert's Point, Va., was removed and the pier prepared for the handling of pig iron and lumber business.

Automatic signals were installed between Dwight, Va., and Disputanta, Va., and between Bluefield, W. Va., and West Vivian, W. Va., making 98.7 miles of single track and 515 miles of double track equipped with automatic signals.

Interlocking plants were installed at Waverly, Va., and Glen Jean, Ohio.

A power-house for automatic signals was erected at Dwight, Va.

Two 50,000-gallon water-tanks were erected at Farm, W. Va., and a 100,000-gallon tank at Pulaski, Va.

Pump-houses were erected at Norton, Va., and Farm, W. Va.

A boiler-house was erected at Williamson, W. Va.

A foot-bridge was erected over main-line tracks at Roanoke Shops.

Three pneumatic ash-hoists were erected at Bluefield, W. Va.

360 feet of Pepper Tunnel were lined with concrete.

The lining of Dingess Tunnel was completed, 682 feet of brick lining being placed, including a 9-foot portal on the east end.

Pocahontas Tunnel No. 2 was lined with concrete.

126 feet of wooden bridges and 68 feet of iron bridges were replaced by masonry.

743 feet of wooden trestle and 121 feet of light iron bridges were replaced by fit iron bridges removed from main line. 520 feet were replaced by new steel structures.

1,580 feet of bridges were built to increase water way for flood defence in the State of Ohio.

Passing sidings were extended at Lowry, Bedford, Montvale, Bonsack, and Walton, Va., and Dorney, Ohio.

The yards at Lambert's Point and Norfolk, Va., and Bluefield and Williamson, W. Va., were enlarged.

15 highway grade crossings were eliminated [illegible] by undergrade crossing of steel, two by undergrade crossings of masonry, ten by overhead crossings of steel, and two by [illegible] One railway grade crossing was eliminated by undergrade crossing of masonry.

23.41 miles of [illegible] were erected.

MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES.

The expenses for Maintenance of Way and Structures and comparison with the preceding year are as follows:—

	1914-15.	1913-14.	Inc. or Dec.	%
Total expenses	$5,738,071 23	$4,998,612 25	+ $739,461 98	14.79
Av. per mile of road oper.	2,810 09	2,455 22	+ 354 87	14.45
Av. per mile of track oper.	1,513 01	1,371 23	+ 141 78	10.34

The expenses for Maintenance of Equipment and comparison with the preceding year are as follows :—

	1914-15.	1913-14.	Inc. or Dec.	%
Total maintenance of equipment expenses	$8,341,419 27	$9,214,007 34	— $872,588 07	9.47
In which are included :				
Locomotives : Repairs, renewals and depreciation	3,107,385 09	3,298,700 94	— 191,315 85	5.80
Aver. per locomotive ..	2,855 18	3,119 84	— 264 66	8.48
Aver. per 100 miles run	13 36	12 40	+ 0 96	7.74
Pass. Train Cars : Repairs, renewals & depreciation	368,507 86	384,576 43	— 16,068 57	4.18
Aver. per pass. car ...	826 40	870 42	— 44 02	5.06
Aver. per 100 miles run	1 53	1 55	— 02	1.29
Fr't. Train Cars: Repairs, renewals & depreciation	4,339,385 65	4,998,963 33	— 659,577 68	13.19
Aver. per freight car	90 75	107 76	— 17 01	15.78
Aver. per 100 miles run	0 90	1 01	— 11	10.89
Work Equipment Cars : Repairs, renewals and depreciation	63,945 78	80,357 31	— 16,411 53	20.42

There were in the shops undergoing and awaiting repairs at the close of the year, 195 locomotives, or 17.9% (63 needing only light repairs); of this number there were 55 heavy freight locomotives, or 7.9% of this class of locomotives, the remaining 140 being passenger engines and light freight engines, the latter of obsolete types which may be sold or scrapped; there were also 19 passenger cars, or 4.2% and 2,108 freight and work equipment cars, or 4.3%. These figures evidence the fact that the decrease above shown in the cost of maintenance of equipment was not obtained at the expense of efficiency.

Additions to and replacement of shop machinery have been made at a cost approximately as follows :—

Roanoke shops	$8,119
Portsmouth shops...	426
Bluefield shops	330
Williamson shops...	1,380
Outlying shops	17,457
Total	27,712

TRAFFIC AND REVENUE COMPARISONS.

Comparison of traffic and revenue figures with those of the preceding year shows the following interesting changes :—

				%
Number of passengers	increased	148,633		2.37
Average haul of passengers...	decreased	2.47	miles	6.74
Revenue from passenger fares	decreased	$169,141.14		3.45
Average rate per passenger per mile ...	increased	0.025	cent	1.17
Revenue freight carried	decreased	1,232,871	tons	3.63
Average haul of freight	increased	2.90	miles	1.08
Revenue from freight transportation ...	decreased	$1,488,071.72		3.91
Average rate per ton per mile	decreased	0·065	cent	1.20
Average tons of rev. fr't. per train mile ..	increased	39.37	tons	4.91
Shipments of coal	increased	60,067	tons	0.26
Shipments of coke	decreased	484,291	tons	35.40
Shipments of ore	decreased	155,857	tons	19.80
Shipments of pig and bloom iron ...	decreased	211,243	tons	33.98
Shipments of lumber	decreased	306,937	tons	17.02

POCAHONTAS COAL AND COKE COMPANY.

The sinking fund provided for in the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company's Purchase Money First Mortgage dated December 2, 1901, amounted for the calendar year 1914 to $224,465.49. Through this and other sums received by the Trustee under the terms of the mortgage, bonds aggregating $259,000 were purchased and cancelled. From the beginning of its operation in 1906 to date, the sinking fund has received from royalties on coal mined the sum of $1,923,420.30 and from the sales of lands the sum of $131,794.22, a total of $2,055,214.52, by means of which there have been purchased and retired bonds to the aggregate amount of $2,277,000, reducing the outstanding bonds to $17,723,000, and leaving a cash balance of $47.55 in the Sinking Fund.

The work of unifying the Company's properties, completing its titles and surveying, monumenting and mapping its lands is progressing. Your Company has advanced to the Pocahontas Coal and Coke Company for these purposes the further sum of $74,000, making a total to date of $1,465,000 charged in your Company's accounts as advances to that Company for property expenditures.

VIRGINIA-CAROLINA RAILWAY.

The North Carolina Division of the Virgina-Carolina Railway was completed and has been in operation since May 31, 1915, to Elkland on the Ashe-Wautauga County Line, N.C., a distance of 48.64 miles. The cost of this division to June 30, 1915, was $1,207,759.12.

The operations of the Virginia-Carolina Railway have been profitable, and the indications are favourable for continued prosperity.

NEW RIVER, HOLSTON AND WESTERN RAILROAD.

The extension from Rocky Gap to Suitars in Bland County, Va., a distance of 13.87 miles, was completed and put in operation September 10, 1914. The total cost of the extension to June 30, 1915, was $253,857.60.

The extension of this line gives access to large bodies of timber, the development of which is proceeding.

TUG RIVER AND KENTUCKY RAILROAD.

The bridge over Tug River, referred to in the previous annual report, has been erected, and track has been laid a distance of 0.89 mile to Blackberry Creek. The grading of the line up Blackberry Creek to the mouth of Peters Fork, a distance of 1.38 miles, has been completed.

By deeds dated June 23, 1915, your Company conveyed to the Tug River and Kentucky Railroad Company the Poplar Creek Branch ,1.93 miles in length, in consideration of the sum of $16,130.85, and the Freeburn Branch, 1.55 miles in length, in consideration of the sum of $49,668.99. These branches are located in Kentucky; they have been operated by the Tug River and Kentucky Railroad Company from July 1, 1915.

WILLIAMSON AND POND CREEK RAILROAD.

Leckie Spur, 1.03 miles in length with a Y connection 0.15 mile in length, is being built to reach operations of the Leckie Collieries Company.

BURKEVILLE TO PAMPLIN LOW-GRADE CONNECTING LINE.

This line, 36.93 miles in length, is under construction from Pamplin, Va., to Burkeville, Va. Instead of double-tracking your Company's present line an entirely new line is being built with better grades and curvature and at less cost, which will be operated as a second track, furnishing a low-grade line for east-bound traffic. Its maximum grade will be 0.1 per cent., and its maximum curvature 1.5 degrees. It is expected that the line will be in operation in January 1916.

JACOBS FORK BRANCH.

Jacobs Fork Branch is under construction from its junction with Dry Fork Branch at Rift, W. Va., a distance of 3.93 miles, to reach operations of the New River and Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company. Grading is about 75 per cent. completed. The Cucumber Branch of Jacobs Fork Branch, 1.28 miles in length, to other operations of the same Company is under construction. Grading is 90 per cent. completed.

MATE CREEK BRANCH.

This branch, 4.48 miles in length, and Mitchell Branch of Mate Creek Branch, 1.57 miles in length, with 3.39 miles of sidings, to operations of the Red Jacket Consolidated Coal and Coke Company and the Red Jacket Junior Coal Company were purchased from those companies May 7, 1915, at a cost of $98,000.

ALMA BRANCH.

This branch, 0.69 mile in length, to operations of the Crystal Block Coal and Coke Company was purchased from that Company on December 20, 1913, at a cost of $5,000. The grade was revised and track relaid and its operation as a branch was commenced in September 1914. An extension of 2.55 miles was placed in operation shortly after July 1, 1915.

ELECTRIFICATION.

The electrification of the line between Bluefield and Vivian, W. Va., a distance of 29.35 miles, is practically completed.

The power plant and line work are finished and 8 of the 12 electric locomotives contracted for are in service. The traffic results already obtained from this work indicate that the capacity of the line has been doubled and that the operating cost per ton mile will be materially reduced.

The cost of the electrification to June 30, 1915, was $3,128,224.04.

TRACKAGE AGREEMENT.

Under authority of your Board an agreement dated July 21, 1915, has been executed granting to the Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway Company trackage rights over 61.86 miles between Waverly and Valley Crossing, Ohio. The agreement runs for five years and may then or thereafter be terminated by two years' notice by either party.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway will be a connecting line between the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway at or near Edgington, Ky., and the Hocking Valley Railway at Valley Crossing, Ohio. It is expected that the line from Edgington to Waverly, now under construction, will be completed during the fall of 1916, when the trackage contract with your Company will become effective.

NEW INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION CLASSIFICATIONS.

Taking effect July 1, 1914, new classifications of Investment in Road and Equipment, of Operating Revenues and Operating Expenses and of Income, Profit and Loss and General Balance Sheet Accounts were ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, superseding previous classifications which had been in effect from two to seven years. The changes are so numerous and important as to make it impracticable to present with the usual completeness detailed comparisons of operating expenses with those of the preceding year.

In addition to the Equipment Depreciation Reserve, which has been in operation for seven years, the new classification of operating expenses provides for the creation of depreciation reserves for other railroad property by means of charges to operating expenses. The use of these depreciation accounts, however, is for the present optional with the carrier. Your Company has availed itself of the permission to set up such accounts, but, to begin their operation conservatively and to avoid large initial charges to operating expenses for depreciation of such property, only the larger structures have been considered, leaving the extension of the plan to cover smaller structures for consideration at a later date, when experience shall have more clearly indicated the best permanent course. As a result, there has been charged to operating expenses the sum of $642,793.52, which has been credited in the General Ledger to the appropriate reserve account specified in the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission. No charges to operating expenses for a

depreciation reserve for roadway and structures had been made in previous years.

Among the new accounts opened in Operating Expenses is "Transportation for Investment—Credit." By means of this account operating expenses are credited with the cost of transporting on revenue trains men engaged in and material for construction, which expense is concurrently charged to the appropriate property investment accounts.

WEST VIRGINIA 2-CENT PASSENGER-RATE CASE.

In 1907 the Legislature of West Virgina passed an act fixing the maximum fare for intrastate passengers on railroads at two cents a mile. After the rate had been tested by operating under it from May 1907 until September 1909, your Company, considering it to be confiscatory, brought suit in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, West Virgina, to restrain its enforcement, and under the terms of an interlocutory injunction restored the rates for passenger fares in effect before the Act was passed. Pending the determination of the suit, which was decided by the Circuit Court against your Company and appealed to the United States Supreme Court, the amounts collected from passengers in excess of two cents a mile were not included in operating revenues, but were held as a fund to be distributed, in the event of a final adverse decree, to the holders of receipts given to passengers under the order of the Court, for fares paid in excess of the statutory rate. In an opinion dated March 8, 1915, the United States Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Circuit Court and declared the rate fixed by the West Virginia act to be confiscatory as to your Company, whereupon a final decree was entered May 10, 1915, in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County which established the title of the Company to the entire accumulation in the fund. This included the sum of $386,165.97 which had accrued between September 16, 1909, and June 30, 1914. Application was made to and granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to credit this amount to Profit and Loss in the accounts of the year covered by this report. The additional amount accrued in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, has been included in the passenger revenues of that year.

TAXES.

The amount charged to Income for Railway Tax Accruals again shows a substantial increase. In the last three calendar years the ratio of Taxes to Net Railway Operating Revenues was as follows: 10.00 per cent. in 1912; 10.76 per cent. in 1913; 11.85 per cent. in 1914.

CONDENSED GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915.

ASSETS.

			Compare June 30, 1914.
INVESTMENTS			
Investment in Road and Equipment			
Road	$197,879,000 41		I. $184,561,491 56
Equipment	58,580,073 31		I. 56,018,581 14
General Expenditures	27,267 45		I. 1,429 90
		$256,486,430 17	
Deposits in Lieu of Mortgaged Property Sold		60,738 70	D. 11,578 47
Miscellaneous Physical Property		527,641 80	D. 46,091 00
Investments in Affiliated Companies:—			
Stocks	$1,189,016 10		I. 76,220 00
Bonds	603,673 50		
Advances	5,340,946 94		I. 1,073,109 91
		6,830,636 54	
Other Investments:—			
Stocks	$4,008 00		
Bonds	9,670,988 00		I. 1,780,870 00
Notes	1,730 00		
		9,679,726 00	
Total Investments		$273,365,366 23	
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	$6,381,531 21		D. 1,253,119 54
Time Drafts and Deposits	1,000,000 00		I. 1,000,000 00
Loans and Bills Receivable	1,209 60		D. 200 40
Traffic and Car Service Balance Receivable	2,865,134 10		I. 1,492,228 21
Net Balances Receivable from Agents and Conductors	1,136,008 26		I. 69,301 20
Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable	839,215 17		I. 39,249 52
Material and Supplies	3,684,200 91		D. 641,463 46
Interest and Dividends Receivable	126,913 27		D. 50,638 90
Other Current Assets	873 94		I. 312 07
Total Current Assets		15,094,089 86	
DEFERRED ASSETS			
Working Fund Advances		17,315 00	I. 1,929 17
UNADJUSTED DEBITS			
Rents and Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	$54,380 27		I. 7,318 23
Other Unadjusted Debits	220,108 45		D. 382 17
Securities Issued or Assumed Unpledged			
Par Values of Bonds at Close of Year	$1,602,800		
Total Unadjusted Debits		274,488 72	
		$289,651,259 81	

LIABILITIES.

CAPITAL STOCK:—			
Adjustment Preferred	$23,000,000 00		D. $100 00
Held in Treasury	8,200 00		
	$22,991,800 00		
Common	$108,156,000 00		I. 395,500 00
Held in Treasury	1,600 00		
	108,154,400 00		
		$131,146,200 00	
LONG-TERM DEBT			
Mortgage Bonds	$83,276,500 00		D. 7,000 00
Held in Treasury	15,000 00		
	$83,261,500 00		
Convertible Bonds	$15,066,000 00		D. 20,500 00
Held in Treasury	1,482,000 00		
	13,584,000 00		
Equipment Obligations	$11,100,000 00		D. 1,800,000 00
Held in Treasury	96,000 00		D. 17,000 00
	11,004,000 00		
		107,849,500 00	
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Traffic and car service balances payable	$1,571,329 09		I. 1,458,038 08
Audited Accounts and Wages Payable	2,413,604 33		D. 253,424 00
Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	264,852 92		I. 55,287 31
Interest Matured Unpaid	562,588 00		I. 4,151 85
Dividends Matured Unpaid	1,476 50		I. 566 00
Funded Debt Matured Unpaid	6,000 00		
Unmatured Dividends Declared	229,918 00		I. 1 00
Unmatured Interest Accrued	1,019,171 66		D. 21,058 49
Other Current Liabilities	32,911 35		I. 1,140 79
Total Current Liabilities		6,101,851 85	
DEFERRED LIABILITIES			
Other Deferred Liabilities		205,254 25	I. 205,254 25
UNADJUSTED CREDITS			
Tax Liability	$898,459 72		I. 167,839 44
Premium on Funded Debt	240,707 50		D. 4,902 50
Operating Reserves	10,021 40		I. 105,194 71
Accrued Depreciation—Road	642,793 52		I. 642,793 52
Accrued Depreciation—Equipment	10,833,954 68		I. 1,689,164 17
Other Unadjusted Credits	319,323 34		D. 2,456 66
Total Unadjusted Credits		12,945,217 16	
CORPORATE SURPLUS			
Additions to Property through Income and Surplus	$17,019,102 46		I. 1,534,095 48
Profit and Loss Balance	14,781,134 09		I. 1,819,015 18
Total Corporate Surplus		31,800,236 55	
		$289,651,259 81	

The balance Sheet conforms to the arrangement prescribed in the Order of the Interstate Commerce Commission taking effect July 1, 1914. For comparison with figures of the preceding year headings have been changed with the new Order.

INDUSTRIES.

Among the new local industries are the following: 15 manufactories of mineral, metal and other products, 13 manufactories of lumber products, 6 manufactories of farm implements and farm products, 6 coal mines.

At Hopewell, Va., on the City Point Branch, the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company is constructing an extensive nitro-cellulose plant, from which an average shipment of 20 cars of nitro-cellulose daily is already being made.

At the close of the year there were 146 companies organised for producing coal and coke on your Company's lines, with a total of 233 separate mines, of which 214 were in actual operation.

Of the 13,931 coke ovens, 2,034 were in blast.

Of the 22 iron furnaces with a total daily capacity of 3,490 tons of pig, 5, having a total daily capacity of 930 tons, were in blast.

OBITUARY.

W. C. Walstrum, Superintendent of Telegraph, died on May 8, 1915. Mr. Walstrum had held this position for twenty-six years, and had rendered most efficient and loyal service.

The vacancy in the office of Superintendent of Telegraph, occasioned by the death of W. C. Walstrum, has been filled by the appointment of George W. Jett.

The certificate of Price, Waterhouse & Co., the independent autditors elected by the stockholders to audit the books and accounts of the Company, is attached to the Balance Sheet.

The Board expresses its acknowledgement to the officers and employees for the faithful discharge of their duties during the year.

By order of the Board of Directors,
L. E. JOHNSON, *President.*

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THE SHEEPBRIDGE COAL & IRON COMPANY, LTD.

THE shareholders of this Company held their annual meeting at Sheffield on September 27, the directors present being Mr. Frederick Fowler, Right Hon. Lord Aberconway, P.C., Mr. W. H. McConnel, Sir Henry Norman, Bart., M.P., Mr. M. Deacon, and Mr. W. B. M. Jackson, with the Secretary, Mr. T. E. Haslam.

Effect of the War.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report, said the profit was £168,375, as compared with £217,092 in the previous year. The profit would have been larger but for the War, which, of course, had upset everything. Many things had conspired to reduce the profit. In the first place, the men did not work so well, and they got such high wages that they could afford to play at the end of the week. Recent legislation had also added greatly to the cost of coal production, so that there was not the same margin of profit.

The Future.

As to the future, he apprehended that soon after the War there would be some activity in reconstruction work, but there would be no enterprise and no great activity of trade, in his opinion, for a long time, probably years after the cessation of hostilities. He thought that the price of coal would keep up, at any rate, during the War, but the high cost of production would also keep up, so that the margin of profit would probably not be very seriously different from what it was at present. The coal at the new colliery at Rossington, in which the Company were largely interested, had proved to be 6 feet thick and of good quality. The leases in connection with the new Firbeck Colliery were now mostly arranged, and it had also been arranged with the railway companies to make a branch line to the colliery site.

Increased Cost of Production.

Lord Aberconway, who seconded, said that those who had read in the newspapers of the high price of coal might have expected a larger profit and perhaps a better dividend, but he thought that those who had looked at the balance sheets of other companies would agree with him that so far from colliery concerns having made larger profits during the War in nearly every case they had been smaller than for the year preceding it. He was interested, as a director, in at least 15 very important collieries, and what had happened in the case of Sheepbridge had happened in every other case without exception. The profits for the year down to the end of last June were less than for the corresponding year 1913-14. While prices were no doubt at a higher level now than they were six or twelve months ago, costs had very materially risen and were likely to rise still more, and the effect of legislation in cutting down prices at the pit and restricting the export of coal to neutral countries would, of course, be to reduce the margin of profit to the coalowner. He admitted that the public had had to pay high prices for fuel, but the profits had not gone to the coalowner. The coal merchant had had his share, the miners had had large increases in wages, and everybody who supplied stores to collieries had also had his share.

Shortage of Output.

The really important point to consider was the position of the coal trade as affecting the finances of the country during the War. The Sheepbridge group formed a very important element in the production of coal, and their turnover had been much reduced. Coal, pig iron, ironstone—everything except finished iron—had shown a reduction in output. That naturally meant a smaller profit. The capacity for production had enormously diminished during the War. From Sheepbridge and its subsidiary concerns 2,350 of their best men had enlisted, and what was true of Sheepbridge was true of every colliery in the country. He was sorry to say that the men who remained at home had not always worked their best. Higher wages in the coal trade did not, apparently, mean better work. How was this shortage of output affecting our national finances? Italy, Egypt, and the Argentine were some of our best customers for coal, and if collieries had worked to the fullest extent we should have been able to sell to these countries as much as in the previous year. Instead of that, we had not been able to deliver the coal. Altogether in those three countries alone our sales had been reduced by four million tons, which meant a serious loss to this country. When they considered the difficulty we were in in paying huge sums to the United States, and sending gold to buy the munitions of war, was it not the duty of every Englishman to work his level best to promote our exports? The coal question was not merely one for their own pockets, it affected the financial position of the country. With regard to the finances of the Sheepbridge Company they had to look forward to further expenditure at Rossington, Firbeck, and Glapwell, and also in connection with the Newstead Colliery, but with the funds already in hand and the further amount to come in next year from the new shares they were in a strong position to face the future.

The War Profits Tax.

[illegible] referred to the [illegible] war profits, saying that no one could complain of the policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, like all other Englishmen, they must put their hands in their pockets to carry the War through to a successful conclusion, but it must be remembered that the reduction in the exports of coal, due to the withholding of licences, has thrown a considerable quantity of coal back on the market, and finally, the price of coal is limited by the new Act of Parliament. He only hoped that by the men working their very best and endeavouring to increase the output, they would assist the national finances as far as possible.

The Report was adopted, and a dividend of 15 per cent. agreed to.

Lord Aberconway and Mr. W. H. McConnel were re-elected directors, and Messrs. Alfred Tongue and Co. were re-elected auditors.

THE PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE forty-second annual meeting was held at Warrington on September 29, 1915.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—I do not think I need say much about the accounts, the principal changes being: Additional amount owing to creditors 1914 £84,234, to 1915 £144,045, and a very large increase in amounts of stock, £83,569, and sundry debtors £72,969, and a decrease of £31,036 in cash and bills, leaving that amount at £80,838. The increase in sundry debtors arises from the higher prices current for sales, from Government orders not paid for on June 30, and from the inclusion of the dividend on the shares in the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited, £22,656, *i.e.*, 10% less income tax on £250,000 amount of our investment. I think we may all congratulate ourselves on this good return for the money so invested.

The Profit and Loss Account.

Now, as regards the profit and loss account and the disposal of the balance of profit, you will probably ask why we starved you by declaring no interim dividend to the ordinary shareholders in March last, and also why we

increased the transfer to reserve by so large a sum as £47,500, the largest transfer ever made in the history of the Company. Well, as regards the first question, our trading to December 31 was not unsatisfactory. We were luckier than most manufacturers in not having to shut down our works, and we began at once to feel the benefit of our investment in the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited, from whom we were able to obtain stocks to fill up the void produced by the war with Germany, and to continue our business. This was most important for both our works and also our men, but the result of the half-year arising from the prices at which our old contracts were made was unsatisfactory, and when the balance was struck to December 31 last the directors felt that they were not justified, with the uncertainty to face during the remaining six months of the year, in declaring an ordinary dividend. No doubt you will have all excused the omission when you have received the satisfactory dividend of 7½% which we are now paying out of the full twelve months' trading.

Large Transfer to Reserve.

As regards the second question, why we have transferred so large a sum as £47,500 to reserve instead of increasing the dividend, several reasons have induced us to adopt this figure; principally we have to face the great uncertainty which will arise about business at the close of the War, and we consider that we ought to build up a strong reserve to face the position at that time in case of difficulty. We are not yet free either from the state of confusion which exists amongst those appointed to regulate our trade matters, and who seem to forget that considerations of finance and exchange require the encouragement of the export trade so far as is possible consistent with war requirements. Now, as regards our allied works, I think I may reasonably congratulate the shareholders on the splendid property they possess in their holding of the Ordinary shares of the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited. In the coal trade production has decreased over 10%, whilst wages and the cost of material was largely increased, with the result that our profits are less by one-half of the profits of 1913, and £10,000 less than the profits of last year. There have been numerous discussions over wages, and the miners are now receiving considerable increases in the amounts payable to them before the War. Our trading this year will be affected by the Coal Prices Limitation Bill and by the pre-war contracts having run off, and as for the year under review our profits were barely 6*d.* per ton on the output, we can do well with an improvement. Rylands Brothers' works were for the first half-year of the year affected by pre-war contracts and difficulties in obtaining supplies. The improvement in the latter half of the year had a good deal of leeway to make up, and we have been fortunate in doing so.

As these works are now a munition area, I must not enlarge upon either the nature of the work we do or in what way we are useful to his Majesty's Government. I am sure the Munition Ministry are in good hands, and I only hope we shall be able to keep up to the average of 1913 profits, which we are entitled to keep for ourselves. As a munition area not 50% war tax, as in the present Budget, but 80% of excess profits are taken by the Exchequer, and there is no guarantee against loss or undertaking not to injuriously affect our goodwill.

The Outlook.

Now you may say that you expect me to indicate the probable results of the present year, and this is a difficult question. In the first place, a great deal of our work will arise from employment by the British Government and the Allied Governments. In the next place, if our profits exceed the basis on which we have paid income tax this year, the Exchequer will take one-half of them, and, as I have told you, in the case of Rylands Brothers, which has been included in the munitions area, 80%. And, lastly, there is the uncertainty as regards the War. I am sure you will be the last to complain of the tax on war profits, whether it be, as at present, 50%, or whether it has to be increased to 100%. Sacrifice is demanded all round, and thousands who are shedding their blood are making greater sacrifices than we are; but, barring any unforeseen accidents, I should quite hope that we might reach the basis on which we are this year paying income tax—namely, the basis of 1913, when we distributed a dividend of 8%. I think we should hardly give you as much, because of the necessity of improving our reserves, and what proportion of the 8% you would have to spend as actual cash I cannot tell, as income tax may absorb a large proportion of the profits available for dividend.

Mr. John J. Bleckly seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

THE MERGUI CROWN RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

THE second ordinary general meeting of the Mergui Crown Rubber Estates, Limited, was held on September 28 at the registered offices of the Company, Nos. 3 and 4 Great Winchester Street, E.C., Mr. J. D. W. Wilson (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—The property consists of 2,050 acres, and is held under lease direct from the Secretary of State for India in Council for 30 years from 1911, renewable at the Company's option without additional payment of premium for a further period of 20 years. Rent on 1,542 acres for the first period of 30 years is Rs. 5 per acre per annum, afterwards at an increase not exceeding 50% of the former rent; the balance of the estate is free of rent for eight years from 1911.

The Accounts.

We will now briefly consider the accounts. On the debit side of the balance sheet, representing our liabilities, we will take the capital account, the nominal amount of which is £100,000, capital issued 750,007 shares of 2*s.* each, 750,000 of which being credited as fully paid up, seven shares being signatory shares being paid for in full, and 150,000 shares upon which the sum of 1*s.* has been credited, leaving an uncalled liability of 1*s.* per share (or £7,500), making an issued capital of £82,500 14*s.*, the balance of 99,993 shares, equivalent to £10,000 (less 14*s.*) being held in reserve for future issue if required. I may here state emphatically that the directors have no intention at the present either of calling up the unpaid liability of £7,500 or of issuing any portion of the shares held in reserve. You will observe that the Government of India stands as a creditor for £65,000 (of which the sum of £2,000 has been paid during the period covered by these accounts, leaving a balance of £63,000). This item represents the premium for the lease of the property payable to the Government, it carries interest at the rate of 4% per annum, and it is to be discharged by annual instalments varying in amount according to the average selling price of rubber, or, in other terms, according to the ability of the Company to defray the same. Turning to the credit side, representing the assets, you will notice that the consideration paid to the shareholders of the old Company in shares of this Company was £82,500, which represents the total amount of our issued capital, not counting the signatory shares. In the distribution of the assets and liabilities of the old Company, taken over by this Company, there remained a credit of the sum of £4,185 18*s.* 4*d.* in our favour, which, deducted from £82,500, leaves the sum of £78,314 1*s.* 8*d.*; this sum, together with the sum of £65,000 payable to the Government of India, makes the cost of the estates to this Company £143,314, or approximately £70 per acre for the planted area. In considering this figure it must be remembered that the planted area consists of 1,963 acres, 1,232 acres being in bearing with rubber of eight to nine years old and upwards, and 731 acres immature rubber; of the latter 330 acres are expected to be in bearing next year, and the balance 400 acres in the year following. Although at first sight the cost may appear somewhat high, it must be borne in mind that the debt to the Government of India, viewed in the light of a redeemable Debenture repayable out of the profits, will in the course of time disappear, leaving the actual cost of the estate (so far as capital money raised is concerned) very little more than £40 per acre.

The Rubber Output.

The net yield of rubber for the year was 383,330 lb., against an estimated production of 375,000 lb. The net "all-in cost," excluding interest and war risk insurance, which amounted to 1.30*d.* per pound, was 1*s.* 3.85*d.* per pound, including those items, 1*s.* 5.15*d.* The average gross price obtained was 2*s.* 1.87*d.* per pound, the net profit being 8.72*d.* per pound.

Profit and Loss Account.

The net profit for the year, as per the third division of the profit and loss account, is £13,929 12*s.* 7*d.*, from which, after deducting £2,000 paid to the Government on account of the lease and writing off the whole of the preliminary expenses attending the formation of the Sterling Company, stamp duties in London and Burma, &c., amounting to £1,236 14*s.* 2*d.*, leaves £10,692 18*s.* 5*d.* The directors now propose to pay a final dividend for the past year of 7½%, which, with the interim dividend paid in March last, absorbs £8,250 1*s.* 4*d.*, leaving £2,442 17*s.* 1*d.* to the credit of profit and loss account to be carried forward.

We will now turn to the current year, of which five months have already elapsed. The estimated output for the current year is 400,000 lb., at a cost "All-in Rangoon" of 10.81*d.* per pound, as compared with 11.69*d.* for the past year. With regard to the future, this is "on the knees of the gods," and I do not think it would serve any good purpose to speculate as to what will be the level of prices for rubber during the next year. I would, however, state for your information that your directors have considered it a wise policy, by selling forward a portion of the production, to insure the Company against any wide fluctuations in the price, and to make sure of sufficient working capital to cover

the whole or at least a very large proportion of the cost of cultivation, &c. In accordance with this policy they have made the following forward sales for delivery during the financial year 1915-16—viz., 63 tons first latex, say 141,000 lb., at an average of 2*s.* 2½*d.* per pound, and also for the next financial year, 1916-17, 57 tons first latex, say 127,700 lb., at an average of 2*s.* 3*d.* per pound, which I trust you will consider satisfactory. In order to promote the growth of the trees and provide more light and air this Company has, in company with many other similar undertakings, found it necessary to adopt a judicious system of thinning out, an operation that may at first somewhat interfere with the production, but which will afterwards undoubtedly increase the production of the trees.

Mr. E. Moreau seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Horne, Allan and Company were reappointed auditors.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the staff in the East and to the Chairman for presiding.

THE BUXTON LIME FIRMS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held at the Company's offices on Thursday, September 30, Mr. H. A. Hubbersty in the chair.

Before the business of the meeting was commenced, Mr. Ryan, the managing director, referred to the great loss sustained by the Company through the death of Colonel A. C. Cantrell-Hubbersty, who had held the position of Chairman of the Company since its incorporation in 1891, and proposed a vote of condolence with the deceased gentleman's family, which was seconded by Mr. R. B. Morten, one of the oldest shareholders in the Company, and carried in silence.

In moving the adoption of the balance sheet and directors' and auditors' reports, the Chairman said that owing to the War the demand for lime for building purposes had practically ceased, and that the general demand for lime was much less than in previous years, but the volume of rawstone trade was well maintained. The War had told heavily on the staff and workpeople, a large percentage of whom had enlisted, and he was sorry to say that a number of them had been killed and wounded. No doubt the shareholders would join the directors in offering sincere sympathy to the relatives of the brave men who had fallen.

A Very Trying Time.

The Company had passed through a very trying time, especially in the first half of the year. They had to face a shrinkage in volume and a constant increase in the costs of production, disorganisation of railway traffic, and a shortage of labour, and he thought the thanks of the shareholders were specially due to the managing director, Mr. Ryan, for the tact and energy he had exercised in organising the Company's resources to such an extent that the directors were able to overcome the serious difficulties with which they were confronted, and to make sufficient profit to enable a dividend to be paid. During the year they had expended out of revenue on repairs and renewals to plant and rolling-stock the sum of £18,052.

Profit and Dividend.

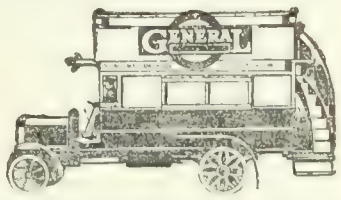
The profit for the year, after providing £7,780 for Debenture interest, and writing off £13,520 for depreciation, amounted to £18,974 1*s.* 2*d.*, which with £9,582 15*s.* 8*d.* brought forward from last year gave £28,556 16*s.* 10*d.* available for distribution. They proposed to declare a dividend at the rate of 6% per annum, which with the interim dividend paid in April made 4½% on the share capital of the Company for the year ended June 30, and absorbed £21,050 2*s.* The balance of £7,506 14*s.* 10*d.* they proposed to carry forward.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. T. H. Cooper and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Major W. P. C. Cantrell-Hubbersty and Mr. J. J. Lees, were re-elected, and Messrs. Jno. Adamson, Son and Company, chartered accountants, of Manchester, were re-elected auditors of the Company.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman for his services in the chair, and to Mr. Ryan for his able conduct during the past year, concluded the proceedings.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY COMMITTEE.—In accordance with a long-contemplated intention to reduce his business activities, Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., has resigned his position on the Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company, and his son, Mr. T. Hewitt Skinner, has been elected a member of the Committee in his stead. Mr. R. M. Kindersley has been elected Governor of the Company. Mr. Leonard Cunliffe, having retired from the position of Deputy-Governor, Mr. Charles V. Sale has been elected to that post.



D A 154

LITTLE COUNTRY WALKS FOR ALL.

No. 7. A TOUR IN KINGSBURY'S MEADOWS.

Alight at the Upper Welsh Harp, and in ning down Cool Oak Lane take the stile on the right, just past the lodge. Follow through the meadows bearing left at divergence paths, out into a tangled track leading, right, into Kingsbury Lane, where turn left to the picturesque Green, with its old cottages, and an inn claiming eight hundred years of existence. Go down across the Green along an elm-shaded lane to a swing gate beside a white fence giving entrance to the fields, which bear straight across to St. Andrew's, of Neasden-cum-Kingsbury, where Mr. Gladstone worshipped when staying at Dollis Hill. Here in the lane turn left, cross the grounds of the Gun Club, and so along Cool Oak Lane again, with the waters of the Welsh Harp for company, out to the Edgware Road. Walk about 3¼ miles.

ROUTE

83. Golder's Green and Hendon (Station Road) (Sundays and Weekdays).
142. Kilburn Park Station and Watford.
167. Charing Cross and South Harrow (Sundays only).
16. Victoria and Cricklewood, connects with Nos. 142 and 167 at Cricklewood.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd., Electric Railway House, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

NEW ZEALAND.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

NEW ZEALAND is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD and SILVER.

Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of Interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,
13 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

African Steamship Co.—Interim dividend of 4 , tax free.

Alliance Tea Co., Ceylon.—Interim dividend of 7 , less tax.

Barker (John) and Co.—Interim dividend of 8*d.* per share on Ordinary.

British Canadian and General Investment Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 4 per annum on Ordinary.

Bukit Lintang Rubber Estates.—Final dividend of 30 , making 40%, less tax, for the year.

Bukit Rajah Rubber Co.—First interim dividend of 6%, less tax.

Ceylon Tea Plantations Co.—Interim dividend of 20%, less tax.

Evans (D. H.) and Co.—Interim dividend of 5½ on Ordinary.

Federated (Selangor) Rubber Co.—Interim dividend of 7½%, less tax.

Howard and Bullough.—Quarterly interim dividend at rate of 10% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada.—Interim dividend of 1½% on the Ordinary.

Jabez, Johnson Hodgkinson and Pearson.—Dividend of 8% and a bonus of 12% on Ordinary shares.

Kamuning (Perak) Rubber and Tin Co.—Dividend of 15%, less tax.

London and Brazilian Bank.—Interim dividend of 14*s.* per share, less tax, being at the rate of 14% per annum.

London Asiatic Rubber and Produce Co.—Interim dividend of 10% (actual).

London and Provincial Trust.—Interim dividend at rate of 4% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary stock.

Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend of 5% (actual).

North British Canadian Investment Co.—Interim dividend at the rate of 8% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Rubber Estates of Bentota.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

Sapumalkande Rubber Co.—Interim dividend of 3% (actual).

Galang Besar Rubber Plantations.—Dividend on the Preference and Ordinary shares of the Company of 5%, free of tax.

Straits Rubber Co.—Second interim dividend of 7½% (actual), less tax.

Sungei, Buaya (Sumatra) Rubber Co.—Final dividend of 10%, making 15% for the year.

Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 6% per annum, tax free, on Ordinary stock.

West of Scotland American Investment Co.—Interim dividend of 4%.

Thom (Alexander) and Co.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5 per annum

Vulcan Foundry.—Dividend of 15% on Ordinary shares for year.

Winterbottom Book Cloth Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 10 per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

The increase in the income tax necessarily involves many calculations of deductions from future dividends, interest payments, rents, &c., and a number of useful tables are being published with the object of simplifying the work of clerks and others in writing out warrants and cheques. Messrs. Effingham Wilson have issued several tables at the price of 6*d.* each for deductions at rates varying from 1*s.* 8½*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £ on sums of 1*s.* to £1,000. The tables also show what would be the gross amount of net dividends of £1, £5, £10, £50, £100, and £500, which should prove useful in claiming remission or exemption from income tax and in making out gross incomes for super-tax returns. Messrs. Edwards and Smith have also published tables on cards showing income tax at 1*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £ on gross amounts of 1*s.* to £100,000. These likewise can be obtained at the price of 6*d.* each.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

The organ of the wealthy classes of the North-Western Counties and of North Wales. Its influence is wide and far reaching.

It is the **best provincial medium for all classes of financial advertising.** Investors in a wide area can only be thoroughly reached through its columns.

An application to the London Manager, 187 Fleet Street, E.C., will bring details of Charges. Private wire to Liverpool is open day and night.

The Liverpool Courier

AUSTRALIA
For Manufacturers.

To the British manufacturer with capital Australia offers a remarkable field for enterprise. ¶ Australia's raw material is as varied in character as it is unlimited in quantity. Further, it is cheaply won. ¶ The Australian people are extremely prosperous, and are, in consequence, liberal spenders. Already the Commonwealth is Great Britain's third best market. ¶ But under the Revised Tariff the Australian manufacturer gets a substantial protection. The Australian people are showing a growing preference for home-made goods. The British manufacturer will do well to consider the establishment of branch factories in Australia. ¶ Australia is rapidly filling up her empty spaces. The most pronounced movement to-day is the spread of farming. More farmers mean more production, more wealth and more people—an ever-expanding market. Now is the time for the manufacturer to establish himself inside the tariff.

For particulars apply to—

The High Commissioner for Australia, 72 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.

ESTABLISHED 1841. INCORPORATED 1914.
Chief Offices ... BIRMINGHAM.
London Branch Offices:
HALTON HOUSE, 20-23 HOLBORN, E.C.

Accumulated Funds Exceed £2,300,000. | Claims Paid Exceed £7,500,000.

Annual Valuations and Distribution of Profits.

Copies of the Annual and Valuation Reports, Prospectuses, with revised Rates of Premiums, &c., on application.

A. L. HUNT.
General Manager.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid-up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and
9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised - $25,000,000
Capital Paid up - - $11,560,000
Reserve Funds - - $13,000,000
Aggregate Assets - $180,000,000
Head Office MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, President. E. L. PEASE, Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS—Bridgetown; DOMINICA—Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras: BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana: GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager*
JAMES MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., President.
ALEXANDER LAIRD, General Manager.
JOHN AIRD, Assistant General Manager.
Paid-up Capital £3,082,192
Reserve Fund £2,773,972
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal.
This Bank having its own Branch at SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., is able to offer special facilities to visitors to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Branches at Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, and other points on the Pacific Coast.
Drafts, Money Orders and Travellers' Letters of Credit issued, payable at any of these places.
London Office: 2 LOMBARD STREET.
H. V. F. JONES, Manager.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.
CAPITAL AUTHORISED $10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP $7,000,000
RESERVE FUND $7,000,000
Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.
SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.
Agents: ENGLAND—LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 17 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.
Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.
DRAFTS issued upon and remittances cabled to any point in **CANADA** by the Agents of the Bank in England and Scotland, through whom inquiries regarding Canadian securities and business generally can be made and will be promptly attended to.

CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1840.
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000 RESERVE FUND £620,000
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.
COURT OF DIRECTORS:

F. R. S. Balfour	E. Geoffrey Hoare.
J. H. Brodie	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mayne Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whatman.

Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.
Current Accounts opened.
Coupons purchased.
ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.
CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000
THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.
Authorised Capital £1,500,000
Called up £600,000
Reserve Fund £55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £900,000
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANÇQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOTTLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking and Agency business in connection with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
T. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880.
Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.
Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Reserve Fund £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... 4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve £7,000,000
HEAD OFFICE: 71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.
TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.
BILLS are purchased or sent for collection.
DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.
Paid-up Capital £250,000 0 0
(25,000 Shares of £10 each)
Reserve Fund ... £680,000 0 0
Reserved Profits £21,878 0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.
Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents.
The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.
Capital, Reserve and Profits } $8,808,891.79
Assets - - - $39,077,630.77
$5 equals approx. £1.
41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID $3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ... $3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ... $6,880,000
President—E. T. STANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address - London Agents—
"POURBANK." SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government of the British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	Uganda
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State. Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa. London Offices—Circus Place, London Wall, E.C., and 117 Cannon Street, E.C.
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ... £2,782,420
With power to increase to ... 4,000,000
Reserve Fund 525,000
Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
Deposits received. Current Accounts opened and all descriptions of Banking business connected with South Africa and the Belgian Congo transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

RUSSIAN & ENGLISH BANK

28 NEVSKY, PETROGRAD.
Capital authorised and fully paid up, £1,057,000.
Reserve Fund, £126,000.
English Members of the Council of the Bank include
Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T.
Sir Ian H. Amory, Bart.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking Business; collects Cheques, Bills, Documentary Bills in all parts of the Russian Empire. Undertakes the Agency of Banks and the purchase and sale of Russian Stocks and Shares.
Telegraphic Address: Britorusse, Petrograd.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.
Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES,
£2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

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BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.300,000

BRANCHES IN:

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits	$3,600,000
Total Assets over	$80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA

London Committee:
J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G.;
Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C.
26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capita	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£240,000

Head Office ... AMSTERDAM.
London Agency... 2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
London Manager J. COST BUDDE.

All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS.		
STERLING RESERVE, held in London at Exchange of 2s. per $ = £1,500,000 Sterling, invested in Consols and other Sterling Securities	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Chairman.
Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bt.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.

Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.

9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,033,410

Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.

London Offices:
24 28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C

Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Guaranteed by the Australian Government.

Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.

London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL		£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	£1,548,525	
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000	
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575	
		£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	Rt. Hon. Lord Welby, P.C., G.C.B.

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.

OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.

MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.

THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.

COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.

PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.

DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.

EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.

NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.

LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C
West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.

Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.

Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { A. Rossi. R. B. Handley. G. Costa.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.

CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.

Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD. Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and

SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.

Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital fully paid and Reserve ... £3,460,000

Head Office: MILAN.

The Bank has Branches at Genoa, Rome, Turin, Naples, Florence, Catania, Bari, and numerous other important towns in Italy.

LONDON BRANCH:
22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.
Managers { I. GEORGE MANZI-FE. DAVID A. HORNER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having Correspondents in all European Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.
Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cable, London."
Telephones: 7802, 7803 City.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 19,600,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwang	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE KYSHTIM CORPORATION, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

To be presented to the Shareholders at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, to be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Thursday, the 14th day of October, 1915.

The Directors present herewith the Sixth Annual Report of the Corporation, together with Statement of Accounts, for the year ending 13th January, 1915.

As at the date of these Accounts (13th January, 1915), the holders of £635,600 Debentures had exercised their rights of conversion, 254,240 shares being issued in redemption of these Debentures. The Debenture and Share Capital of the Company is now as follows:—

SIX PER CENT CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES.

Issued	£650,000
Lodged up to expiry of option for Conversion into Shares	635,600
Outstanding	£14,400

£1 SHARES.

	Shares.
Original Issue	1,000,000
Shares allotted in Redemption of above Debentures to the date of expiry of option, i.e. 1st January, 1915	254,240
Total	1,254,240
Balance of unissued Shares	5,760

The interests and commission receipts, together with the dividend declared by the Russian Company, are shown in the Income and Expenditure account. The amount standing to the credit of this account has been applied to Debenture Interest, standing charges, general expenses, &c., in London, leaving a credit balance of £302,533 13s. 3d. to Appropriation Account as at the 13th January, 1915. Of this balance, the last instalment of final dividend declared in respect of the year ending 13th January, 1914, absorbed £94,035, and after provision for Income Tax there remains a balance for appropriation of £208,498 13s. 3d.

The Directors recommend a further dividend in respect of the year ending 13th January, 1915, the payment on 1st November, 1915, of 1s. per share, free of Income Tax, to Shareholders registered in the books of the Corporation on the 14th day of October, 1915, and to holders of Share Warrants to bearer. This dividend will require £62,712 and leave a balance to be carried forward of £145,786 13s. 3d.

The large amount carried forward, namely, £145,786 13s. 3d. compared to £6,302 8s. 10d carried forward from 13th January, 1914 is mainly represented by gold and silver residues, the export of which from Russia has been prohibited by the Russian Government. The realisation of these residues, which have hitherto been refined in London, is the subject of negotiations with the Ministry of Finance in Petrograd. The Directors hope that these negotiations will result in an arrangement which will enable them to distribute the profits earned, but not yet realised.

As Shareholders are aware, this Corporation holds the total Share Capital of the Kyshtim Mining Works (a Russian Company); for the information of the Shareholders of the Kyshtim Corporation, Limited, the Reports of the Board of the Russian Company, and Mr. R. Gilman Brown, the Consulting Engineer of the Russian Company, are enclosed herewith, together with a translation of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Kyshtim Mining Works Company.

Reference to the Report of the Board of the Kyshtim Mining Works Company will show that the trading profit of that Company for the year ending 13th January, 1915, amounted to £367,443, which was allocated as follows:—

	£
To Reserve Fund	18,372
Depreciation	100,000
Reserve for Profit Tax in Russia	38,545
Payment of Dividend	210,526
	367,443

For the purposes of comparison with figures of previous years the rate of exchange has been taken at Rs. 9.5 to the £1, but in view of the present rate of exchange and other conditions this Corporation has valued the dividend to be received from Kyshtim Mining Works Company, Limited, at the exchange of Rs. 11.5 to the £1.

The Directors retiring by rotation, Messrs. A. J. Hugh Smith, Saveli Polak, and T. Blair Reynolds, are eligible, and offer themselves for re-election.

The Directors report with regret the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr. S. J. Blumlein.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company, offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Board,
J. P. B. WEBSTER,
Secretary.

7 Gracechurch Street, E.C.,
30th September, 1915.

BALANCE SHEET, 13th January, 1915.

To				By			
Share Capital Authorised, 1,260,000 shares of £1 each	£1,260,000 0 0			Shares in Kyshtim Mining Works Company at cost		£1,620,469 15 1	
Issued, 1,254,240 shares of £1 each		£1,254,240 0 0		Kyshtim Mining Works Company	£331,150 13 8		
Six per Cent. Debentures—				*Less* Amount written off for Loss in Exchange	11,640 0 2		
Authorised and Issued	£650,000 0 0					319,510 13 6	
Less Redeemed	635,600 0 0			Debtors and Debit Balances		4,052 11 3	
Outstanding		14,400 0 0		Slimes in transit since realised		25,452 15 7	
Premiums on Shares issued in Redemption of Debentures		381,760 0 0		Cash at Bankers and in Hand		54,456 6 0	
Debenture-holders for Interest accrued to date		156 18 5					
Unclaimed Debenture Interest and Dividend		4,368 16 0					
Creditors and Credit Balances Reserve for further Loss in Exchange	£25,000 0 0						
Reserve for Income Tax	33,500 0 0						
Other reserves	1,946 18 7						
Sundry Creditors	6,435 15 2						
		66,882 13 9					
Appropriation Account Balance		302,533 13 3					
		£2,023,942 1 5				£2,023,942 1 5	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 13th January, 1915.

To			By			
Debenture Interest	£1,561 2 6		Interest and Commission		£63,324 5	
Directors' Remuneration	5,000 0 0		Dividend for year ending 13th January, 1915 declared by Kyshtim Mining Works Company, taken at exchange of Rs. 9.5 to the £1	£210,526 6 4		
Salaries, Rent and Office Expenses, Printing and Stationery, Advertising, Trustees' Fees, Legal Expenses, Travelling Expenses, &c. *Less* Transfer Fees and Fees received from other Companies	4,650 7 1		*Less* Loss in exchange written off as above £11,640 0 2			
Balance carried to Appropriation Account	225,999 1 9		Amount reserved to meet possible further losses in exchange	25,000 0 0		
				36,640 0 2		
					173,886 6 2	
	£237,210 11 4				£237,210 11 4	

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

To			By		
Income Tax for years ended 13th January, 1914 and 1915	£34,602 17 4		Balance as at 14th January, 1914		£329,060 8 10
Dividend Account—			Income and Expenditure Account—		
Dividend No. 3 paid 20th January, 1914, 2s. per Share, free of Income Tax (interim dividend for year ended 13th January, 1914)	123,988 0 0		Balance as at 13th January, 1915	225,999 1 9	
Dividend No. 4, paid 1st October, 1914, 1s. 6d. per Share free of Income Tax (on account final dividend for year ended 13th January 1914)	94,035 0 0				
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	302,533 13 3				
	£555,059 10 7				£555,059 10 7

C. F. H. LESLIE,
D. J. MORGAN, } *Directors.*

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE KYSHTIM CORPORATION, LIMITED.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet, dated 13th January, 1915, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the Books of the Company.

5 London Wall Buildings, E.C.
23rd September, 1915.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants, } *Auditors.*

The LIST will OPEN on SATURDAY, October 9th, and CLOSE on or before MONDAY, October 11th, 1915.

The Treasury has been consulted under the notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this issue. It must be distinctly understood that, in considering whether they have or have not any objections to new issues, the Treasury does not take responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes, or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.

The permission of the Committee of the Stock Exchange has been granted for dealing in these Debentures.

THE PULLMAN CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Companies' Acts, 1908 and 1913.)

SHARE CAPITAL.

Ordinary Shares of £1 each, fully paid - - - - - - - - £250,000

DEBENTURE CAPITAL.

6% First Mortgage Sinking Fund Equipment Debentures, Series A (this issue) £150,000

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

Messrs. HIGGINSON & CO.

having contracted to purchase

£150,000

SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE SINKING FUND EQUIPMENT DEBENTURES.

(Series A.)

Due October, 1, 1930,

offer them for sale at the price of

£98 per Cent.

payable as follows:—

On Application	...	£1 0 0	per Deb. of £20	
On Acceptance	...	£18 12 0	„	„
		£19 12 0	per Deb. of £20	
On Application	...	£5 0 0	per Deb. of £100	
On Acceptance	...	£93 0 0	„	„
		£98 0 0	per Deb. of £100	

Interest payable on April 1 and October 1.
Redeemable on any interest date as a whole or in part on six months' notice by the Company at 105.
Debentures will be issued in denominations of £20 and £100 in bearer form.
Interest Coupons are payable in London at BARCLAY and COMPANY, LTD.

The following information is summarised from a letter from the Chairman of the Company, set out in the particulars to which applicants are referred for full information:—

The business of the Company is to provide and operate Pullman Cars on various Railways in Great Britain. Under satisfactory agreements the necessary cars, attendants, and service are furnished in return for the additional fare payable by the passengers. The service has been in operation since 1882.

These Debentures, Series A, will be secured by a First Mortgage on Pullman cars valued at over £235,000. Further series of Debentures may only be issued for 66 per cent. of the cost of new rolling-stock to be secured by a first charge thereon. All series will be further secured by a floating charge on other assets.

On or before October 1, 1916, and annually thereafter up to and including October 1, 1920, £6,300, and on October 1, 1921, and annually thereafter until maturity of the issue on October 1st, 1930, £12,600 will be applied as a Sinking Fund for the redemption of the present issue, either by drawings at 105 or by purchase at or below 105. This Sinking Fund will be sufficient to retire the entire issue by maturity.

After providing for all interest and Sinking Fund requirements all nett profits must be carried to a Special Reserve Fund until such Reserve Fund reaches £25,000. Thereafter at least 20 per cent. of net profits must be carried to such Reserve Fund until this Fund is equal to the total amount of the Debentures outstanding including future issues. Not more than Six per cent. annual dividends may be paid on the Share Capital until the Special Reserve Fund amounts to £50,000.

The Company has recently installed Third-Class cars between London, Brighton, and Eastbourne, and the contemplated extension of this service is expected largely to increase earning capacity.

Earnings are received in cash taken daily on the cars or by the railways on behalf of the Company. The bulk of the revenue is derived from fares payable by passengers using the cars, and only a small proportion from the Company's restaurant service. Nett earnings, before depreciation, but after charging all renewals and maintenance for the last four years, have been as follows, as certified by the Auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat & Co.:

For the year ending 30th June,	1912 ...	£17,788 19 10
„ „ „	1913 ...	21,568 8 4
„ „ „	1914 ...	22,008 19 10
„ „ „	1915 ...	14,342 6 11*

*It will be noted that earnings for the last year show a considerable diminution, which is accounted for by the running of the cars having been temporarily suspended under Government necessity at the outbreak of war. In consequence, for the three months, August, September and October 1914, the Company's profits totalled only £713 10s. 9d. (approximately). Since November 1st, 1914, normal working has to a large extent been resumed, and earnings have shown a steady improvement from month to month.

Average annual earnings as above for the past three years amount to	£19,306
Interest charges upon this issue amount to ...	£9,000
Leaving a surplus of	£10,306

available for Sinking Fund, depreciation, etc.

During the last eighteen months new cars costing £76,000 have been delivered, and this new rolling-stock, together with the inauguration of third-class services, is expected largely to increase earnings which are conservatively estimated for the year 1915-1916 at not less than £25 000.

For the two months and a half ending September 15th, 1915, the earnings were £6,170 9s. 4d. (approximately), or at the rate of nearly £30,000 per annum.

An independent examination and valuation of the Company's rolling-stock has been made by the instruction of Messrs. [illegible] Mr. W. C. Sparks, Managing Director of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Company, Limited, [illegible] of the rolling-stock [illegible] the Pullman Company, Limited [illegible]

Letters [illegible] Debentures [illegible] April 1st, 1916.

Further [illegible] forfeiture.

Application [illegible] Quotation on the Stock Exchange.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles [illegible] the Company and of the [illegible] Messrs. Higginson and [illegible] sale, and the originals of the letter from the Chairman of the Company [illegible] Messrs. Bircham [illegible] London, E.C., on [illegible] business [illegible]

Particulars of this offer and Form of Application may be obtained from

MESSRS. HIGGINSON AND CO.

Bank Buildings, Princes, Street, London, E.C.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PULLMAN CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

[illegible]

[illegible] M.P. [illegible]

Son, 55 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

FRANK [illegible]

Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

THOMAS [illegible]

BANKERS TO THE COMPANY.

[illegible]

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

[illegible]

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

[illegible]

London, E.C.

SOLICITORS TO THE TRUSTEES.

[illegible]

E.C.

AUDITORS.

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the Year ended June 30, 1915, to be submitted to the Seventeenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Company's Board Room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg, on Friday, November 26, 1915, at 11 a.m.

To the Shareholders,
CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Your Directors beg to submit their Report, together with the Reports of the Consulting Engineer and General Manager, as also the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June, 1915.

PROPERTY.—With the exception of the sale of the freehold of certain stands in the Maraisburg Township, there has been no change in your Company's property holdings since the last General Meeting.

MINING OPERATIONS.—The Reports of the Consulting Engineer and General Manager give full details of the work accomplished during the year under review.

The tonnage crushed during the year shows an increase of 53,759 tons, with a corresponding improvement of profit earned of £21,656.

The payable Ore Reserves show an increase from 693,460 tons, valued at 7.34 dwt. over 48.6 inches, to 855,600 tons, valued at 7.53 dwt. over 48.5 inches.

FINANCIAL.—The Appropriation Account may be summarised as follows:—

Credit Balance brought forward from previous year ...		£55,423 3 1	
Profits earned during year ...		128,265 7 3	
Owners share of Claim Licences, Interest and Sundry Revenue		9,674 19 3	
		£213,363 9 7	
From which have to be deducted:—			
Government Tax on Profits for previous year ...	£9,561 12 0		
Audit Fees for previous year ...	315 0 0		
		10,276 12 0	
Shaft Sinking	9,470 16 5		
Dividends Nos. 13 and 14 declared during the year ...	115,545 10 0		
Directors' extra remuneration in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association	1,700 0 0		
Contribution to Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	5,324 4 6		
Sundry Items	1,172 5 5		
		133,212 16 4	
			143,489 6 4
Leaving a balance to be carried forward of ...			£69,874 1 3

The following items of Capital Expenditure have been incurred during the year:—

Buildings			1,789 15 8
Machinery and Plant			11,385 16 9
Shafts			19,973 0 3
Furniture			17 10 0
Stable Equipment			11 11 10
Dams and Surface Works			309 15 6
Less—			
Proceeds of sale of Freehold Stands in Maraisburg	£260 0 0		£33,497 10 0
Investments sold	25 15 0		
		285 15 0	
			£33,211 15 0

Of this total a sum of £9,470 16*s.* 5*d.* has been written off against the year's profits, the remainder being provided from the funds secured under the amalgamation scheme in 1909, the balance of cash available from this source being at 30th June, 1915, £16,379 19*s.* 2*d.*

DIVIDENDS.—On the 31st December, 1914, your Directors declared an interim dividend (No. 13) of 1*s.* 3*d.* per share (6¼ per cent.), for the first half-year, and on the 30th June, 1915, a dividend (No. 14) of 1*s.* 3*d.* per share (6¼ per cent.) was declared for the second half-year, making 12½ per cent. for the year. You will be asked to confirm your Board's action in the matter.

DIRECTORATE.—In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, all the members of your Board retire from office, but, being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election. The retiring Directors are Messrs. W. H. Dawe, C. S. Goldmann, A. A. Auret, J. H. Ryan, A. G. Gill, E. A. Wallers, F. R. Lynch, H. J. King, E. J. Renaud, and W. H. B. Frank.

AUDITORS.—The retiring Auditors, Mr. J. P. O'Reilly and Messrs. A. Aiken and Carter, being eligible, offer themselves for reappointment. You will be asked to appoint Auditors for the current year, and to fix the remuneration for the past audit.

We are, Gentlemen Obediently yours,
W. H. DAWE, *Chairman.*

A. G. GILL, M. HONNET,
O. SCHEUERMANN, F. R. LYNCH,
J. JOURDAN, J. EMRYS EVANS, *Directors.*
J. H. RYAN, P. DREYFUS,
W. ROCKEY,

Johannesburg, 27th August, 1915.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT
For Year ended 30th June, 1915.

The Chairman and Directors, CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATES, LIMITED, JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sirs,—The details of the last twelve months' milling operations compared with those of the previous year are as follows:—

Year.	Tons Milled	Total Yield.	Yield per ton Milled	Cost per ton Milled.	Profit per ton Milled.	Total
1914	241,007	£379,551	31*s.* 5·96*d.*	21*s.* 9·84*d.*	9*s.* 8·12*d.*	£116,609
1915	294,766	442,649	30*s.* 0·41*d.*	20*s.* 7·83*d.*	9*s.* 4·58*d.*	138,265

There was an increase of 53,759 tons milled and of £63,098 in the total yield; a decrease of 1*s.* 5.55*d.* in the yield and of 1*s.* 2.01*d.* in the working costs per ton milled, or a decrease of 0*s.* 3.54*d.* in the profit per ton milled, and an increase of £21,656 in the total profit, as compared with the previous year.

The increase in the tonnage milled and the total profit is due almost entirely to the larger number of native labourers available throughout the year. The average number of natives employed underground was 1,675, as compared with 1,442 during the previous year, and the percentage of rock broken in the stopes by machines was decreased from 60.6 to 58.6 per cent.

A total development footage of 18,882 feet was accomplished, showing an increase of 3,872 feet; and, omitting shaft sinking, station crosscuts, and ore chutes, the footage driven, crosscut, raised, and sunk, amounted to 17,405 feet, an increase of 2,977 feet.

The driving done on reef and in country was 11,105 feet, an increase of 3,326 feet, this being an enormous footage for a mine which milled a little less than 25,000 tons per month. During the year 382,620 tons of an average value of 7.85 dwts. over an estimated stoping width of 48.5 inches were developed, thus showing an increase of 144,140 tons and an improvement in the average of 0.23 dwts. per ton over the exposures of the previous year.

The ore reserves are estimated to be 855,600 tons of an average value of 7.53 dwts. over a stoping width of 48.5 inches, an increase of 162,140 tons, and also an increase in value of 0.19 dwts. per ton.

Eastern South Section.—The increased development footage has been accomplished entirely in this section of the mine. The total footage done was 9,112 feet, an increase of 5,466 feet, and, omitting shaft sinking, station crosscuts, and ore chutes, the total footage driven, crosscut, raised, and sunk, was 8,118 feet. Almost the whole of the driving has been done on Main Reef Leader, for the South Reef exposed in a few places in this section has shown disappointing values.

Main Drives.—The reef exposed in these drives gave satisfactory values. Of 4,403 feet driven on the Main Reef Leader, 4,200 feet was sampled, and gave an average value of 8.2 dwts. over an assumed stoping width of 48 inches.

East Drives.—The values exposed in these drives on the Main Reef Leader were disappointing. The reef in the Eastern drives is much more broken by dykes and faults than in the West, and, of 2,044 feet of driving, only 1,325 feet was sampled. Of this length, 465 feet gave an average value of 9.7 dwts. over an assumed stoping width of 48 inches, and the remaining 860 feet gave quite unpayable values.

Considerable progress has been made in the cutting of the engine chamber, &c., for the Subsidiary Incline at this shaft, and, before the close of this year, this work will be finished. It will be possible during this year to sink this Incline to the 27th, and to accomplish some development on the 26th level.

Given a continuation of the present labour supply, the rate of profit earned during the past year should be maintained during the ensuing year.

Yours truly,
D. WILKINSON, *Consulting Engineer.*

Johannesburg, 1st September, 1915.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1915.

Dr.			
To Capital—950,000 shares of £1 sterling each.	£950,000 0 0		
25,636 shares in reserve... ...	25,636 0 0		
924,364			£924,364 0 0
Funds Transferred from Appropriation Account—As per last Account ...	135,673 16 5		
Expenditure on sinking of old shafts for year ended 30th June, 1915 £9,730 16 5			
Less received for sale of stands 260 0 0			
	9,470 16 5		
			145,144 12 10
			£1,069,508 12 10
Sundry Shareholders—Dividend No. 14 declared and unpaid	£ 57,772 15 0		
Interests Nos. 7 to 13 unpaid	3,895 3 11		
Share fractions unpaid	253 1 7		
Debenture Interest unpaid	6 2 3		
			£61,927 2 9
Sundry Creditors, etc....			36,148 19 3
Balance—Appropriation Account			69,874 1 3
Contingent Liability on Shares—Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.—633 shares at 8*s.*	249 4 0		
Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.—Deposit of 12*s.* 6*d.* per native uncalled on complement of 2,610 natives	1,631 5 0		
Witwatersrand Co-operative Smelting Works, Ltd.—688 shares at 12*s.* ...	412 16 0		
			£2,293 5 0
There are Contingent Liabilities on Machinery Contracts &c., amounting to £3,166 1*s.* 0*d.*			
No provision has been made for the following:—			
Government Tax on Profits for the year ended 30th June, 1915.			
Special War Levy for Period April to June, 1915.			
Income Tax for year ended 30th June, 1915.			
			£1,237,458 16 3

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE, LIMITED—*continued.*

			Cr.
By Property—			
Freehold of Farm Paardekraal No. 42, Township of Maraisburg, Myn-pachten, Mining Claims, Water-rights, etc., as per last Account	£495,780 0 0		
Less received for Sale of Freehold Stands, Maraisburg Township	290 0 0		
		£495,490 0 0	
Buildings		61,601 5 10	
Machinery and Plant		289,819 14 11	
Shafts	48,190 2 2		
Shaft No. 3 (Deep Level)	144,348 16 11		
		192,538 19 1	
Furniture	442 9 4		
Stable Equipment	388 0 0		
Dams and Surface Works	2,584 14 6		
		3,415 3 10	
Investments—			
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.—			
623 shares of £1 sterling each, 12s. paid up and 25s. per share deposit	1,152 11 0		
Native Recruiting Corporation, Ltd.—			
27 shares of £1 sterling each, £27, and deposit in respect of native complement, £978 15s.	1,005 15 0		
Witwatersrand Co-operative Smelting Works, Ltd.—			
688 shares of £1 sterling each, 8s. per share paid up	275 4 0		
Victoria Falls & Transvaal Power Co., Ltd.			
7,500 Preference Shares	7,500 0 0		
Rand Mutual Assurance Co., Ltd.—			
30 shares of £10 sterling each	300 0 0		
		£10,233 10 0	
		£1,056,128 13 5	
Bearer Share Warrants	482 5 6		
Stores on hand	34,590 10 7		

Brought forward		£35,072 16 1	£1,056,128 13 5
Sundry Debtors—			
Including Native Labour Expenses, Gold Insurance, and sundry payments in advance		23,995 3 4	
Main Reef East, Ltd.—Shareholders' unpaid calls		911 15	
Main Reef Deep, Ltd.—Shareholders' unpaid calls		911 15	
Gold Consignment Account			2,224 6 1
Cash			14,219 5 8
Current Account, Johannesburg	£26,465 18 11		
Deposit with Bankers	10,000 0		
Dividend Account, share Fractions, and Debenture Interest Accounts, Johannesburg and London	1,681		
Current Account, London	581 3 1		
Cash at Mine	1,436 18 4		
			10,915 6 0
			£1,087,488 16 5

A. GREGOR, Acting Secretary.

W. H. DAWE, Chairman.
J. H. RYAN,
M. H. NOLT,
Directors.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS, CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE, LTD. We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and have received all the information and explanations we require in connection therewith. In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and to the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company. Payments have been made to the authorities in England of individuals made to Aliens Enemies in accordance with the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1914 (England).

J. P. O'REILLY,
Incorporated Accountant (Eng.),
A. AIKEN AND CARTER,
Auditors.

JOHANNESBURG, 24th August, 1915.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books for the Four-and-a Half per Cent. Preference Stock, Consolidated Ordinary Stock, and Deferred Stock of this Company are Closed from the 1st October to the 16th October, inclusive, for the preparation of Dividend Warrants.

F. FIGHIERA, Secretary.

3A Coleman Street, London, E.C.,
30th September, 1915.

THE ROBERT SIMPSON COMPANY, LIMITED.

PREFERENCE SHARE DIVIDEND NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend has been declared upon that portion of the Capital Stock of the Company consisting of Preference Shares, being a half-yearly Dividend at the rate of Six per Cent per annum upon the said Preference Shares, and that the same will be payable at the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5 Princes Street, London, E.C., England, or, at the option of the holder, at the Office of the Union Trust Company, Limited, Toronto, Canada, on and after the First day of November, 1915, to Shareholders who appeared on the Register on the 15th day of October.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from October 16th to October 31st, both days inclusive.

W. E. DOUPE, Secretary.

Toronto, September 14th, 1915.

LA ROSE CONSOLIDATED MINES COMPANY.

The Board of Directors has today declared a Quarterly Dividend of 1 per cent., payable October 20th, 1915, to Shareholders of record of September 30th, 1915. The Transfer Books of the Company will Close September 30th and Reopen October 19th, 1915.

S. J. LeHURAY, Secretary and Treasurer.

201 Inspector Street, Montreal,
September 17th, 1915.

WORTHINGTON & CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Five-and-a-Half per Cent. First Preference Shares and the Five-and-a-Half per Cent. "B" Preference Shares of this Company will be Closed, prior to payment of Dividends, from the 11th instant to the 30th instant, both days inclusive.

By Order,
W. F. CARNLEY,
Secretary.

Burton-on-Trent, October 5th, 1915.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four-and-a-Half per Cent., Five per Cent., and Five per Cent. (Bolivia) Debenture Stocks of the above Company will be Closed from the 16th to the 30th October, both days inclusive, for payment of interest.

By Order,
A. W. BOLDEN,
Secretary.

6th October, 1915.

JONES & HIGGINS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Debenture Transfer Books will be Closed from the 18th to the 30th inst., both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
R. G. STANNARD, Secretary.

19 Rye Lane, Peckham,
9th October, 1915.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COMPANY OF CANADA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company so far as regards the Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, will be CLOSED from SATURDAY, the 16th October, to MONDAY, the 8th November, 1915, both days inclusive.

Warrants for the dividend for the half year to the 30th June, 1915, will be forwarded on the 8th November next to all proprietors of the stock registered on the Books of the Company on the 16th October, 1915.

By Order,
H. H. NORMAN,
Secretary.

Dashwood House,
9 New Broad Street, London, E.C.,
8th October, 1915.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

Issue of Second Mortgage Debenture Stock.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the above Stock will be CLOSED from the 16th October to the 30th October, 1915, both days inclusive, for the purpose of the preparation of the Warrants for the Interest payable on the 1st November 1915.

By Order of the Board,
JOHN PONSFORD,
Secretary.

Registered Offices:
5 & 6 Queen Street Place, London, E.C.,
9th October, 1915.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—		
Subscribed	... £4,500,000	
Unissued	... 500,000	
		£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up		£2,250,000
Reserve Fund		1,400,000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders		2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors		£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places of South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. The Purchase and Sale of Funds, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	... £3,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	... 2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	... 750,000
RESERVE FUND	... 685,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	... 1,500,000

Receives Deposits of £50 and upwards, for 1, 2 or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum.

Drafts, Letters of Credit and Wire Remittances granted, and Bills on New Zealand purchased or sent for collection.

H. FRESHWATER, Secretary and London Manager.
17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

TENDERS.

THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED,

are prepared to receive Tenders for the supply of:—

STEEL BEARING PLATES (about 58 tons), and LINERS (about 54 tons) for 5-ft FLAT-BOTTOM RAILS.

Specification and form of Tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices.

Tenders addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, marked "Tender for Steel Bearing Plates," must be left at the Offices of the Company not later than one o'clock on Monday, the 18th instant.

The Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any Tender.

A charge, which will not be returned, will be made of 10s. for each copy of the Specification.

Copies of the drawings may be obtained on payment at the Office of Robert White, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Consulting Engineer to the Company, 3 Victoria Street, S.W.

91 York Street, Westminster, S.W.,
7th October, 1915.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and accepts correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application, and conducts every description of Australasian Banking Business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

RUSSIAN & ENGLISH BANK

28 NEVSKY, PETROGRAD.

Capital authorised and fully paid up, £1,057,000.

Reserve Fund £126,000.

English Members of the Council of the Bank include

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T.
Sir Ian H. Amery, Bart.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking Business, collects Coupons, Bills, Dividend Warrants, Bills in all parts of the Russian Empire, Undertakes the Agency of Banks and the purchase and sale of Russian Stocks and Shares.

Telegraphic Address: Britorusse, Petrograd

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated 29th July, 1861.
(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)
LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.
Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.
ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

7 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000 Shares of £20 each	£2,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	1,[illegible]
RESERVE FUND	1,400,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre. River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto.
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PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0	0
Paid up Capital	539,437	10	0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10	0
Reserve Fund	350,000	0	0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.
REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia
E. M. JANION, Manager.

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Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.
A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to
EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

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OMRAH	[illegible]	Oct. 23	Oct. 31	Nov. 1
OSTERLEY	12,129	Nov. 20	Nov. 28	Nov. 29

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE B. HART, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

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(JULY-SEPTEMBER 1915)
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Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,
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51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.
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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, October 8, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

DATES FIXED.	BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.	DEPOSIT RATES. BANKS. NOTICE.	DISCOUNT HOUSES CALL.	DISCOUNT HOUSES NOTICE.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2½
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2½
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3½
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4½
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 Months.	6 Months.	9 Months.	12 Months.
Price	...£98 17*s.* 3¾*d.*	£97 14*s.* 10½*d.*	£96 12*s.* 5¼*d.*	£95 10*s.*
Discount Rate	4⅓ %	4⅓ %	4⅓ %	4⅓ %

Discount Rates:—

	60 Days.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4⅜	4 11/16	4¾	4 7/8
Trade Bills	—	5⅛-⅓	5⅓-¾	6

MONEY.

October dividend payments and the maturing of 15 millions' worth of Treasury bills increased the supply of short money available, but made little difference to rates, owing to the success with which the market is maintaining the regulations that it has imposed on itself in order to keep up the price of credit. On one or two days loans over the night were said to have been arranged at below 3½%; but these were only exceptional transactions with moneylenders outside the circle of the self-denying ordinance. In ordinary times the payment of the dividends and such a maturity of Treasury bills, happening together, would have flooded the market with unusable credit and had a depressing effect on discount rates; but in these days the market is under strict military discipline and knows that it must do all that it can to keep steady. This it does with considerable success, having been stimulated in its effort by the evidence, given at the end of September, that, in spite of the bloated figures of the other deposits in the Bank return, the available surplus of cash is not nearly as great as might be supposed, according to the old-fashioned measures of the market's resources, according to which stringency was only expected to begin when the other deposits fell to the neighbourhood of 40 millions.

Another influence that has kept discount rates steady, in spite of the big gap made in the supply of bills, was the news that a big credit has been arranged for Russia by means of acceptances to be granted by English banks and accepting firms. The credit is described as commercial, and so is presumably granted to supply exchange for private Russian traders who have payments to make in England. The bills are to be drawn by Russian banks, and the repayment of the credit is to be guaranteed by the deposit of Russian Treasury bills payable a year after peace. This item in the programme has been criticised to a moderate extent among those affected who have a healthy prejudice against a liability or an asset (and this arrangement involves both) which is indefinite in the matter of date; but it is recognised, of course, that any attempt to improve the position of the Petrograd exchange is to be welcomed, and that the terms and conditions must not be scrutinised in a carping spirit. An interesting feature of the arrangement is the fact that the credit is to be given by the clearing banks and private firms, and not by the Bank of England. This, no doubt, was done with a view to avoiding the inflation that inevitably follows when the Bank of England makes advances, and thereby increases the supply of what moneylenders describe in their balance sheets as cash and use as the basis for a still larger amount of bookkeeping credits for their customers.

As it is, a certain amount of inflation will be involved by the arrangement, since the credit given will be based not on the shipment of goods, but on the deposit of promises to pay some day. A mass of finance paper will thus be created, increasing the amount of available banking currency, and so tending to raise prices and depreciate the value of the sovereign in other centres. Russia's circumstances are so exceptional, with her two chief channels of export closed, that a certain addition to current inflation may well be suffered in order to assist her. But that is all the more reason for reducing, by all means possible, the extent of inflation due to other causes. It is therefore very satisfactory to note that the Bank of England's holding of securities has been further reduced by 13 millions, as shown by the return issued on Thursday. Its total holding of securities is still at a quite abnormal level—150½ millions, against 60½ on July 1, 1914. We hope to see this 90 millions excess rapidly and steadily reduced, since it produces a state of affairs in the Money market which is decidedly adverse to the national interest.

When the nation is engaged in a war of such enormous magnitude, it is above all important that the power of the people to compete against the Government by extravagant purchases of goods and services should be strictly limited so that prices may be kept down. It is also of very great importance that the exchanges should be kept as favourable as possible. Both these desirable ends are made difficult when the Bank of England, by holding securities to an abnormal extent, manufactures credit and so multiplies buying power in the hands of the public, and at the same time, by increasing the mass of our bookkeeping currency, helps to turn the exchanges against us. For the success of the Indian closing of mints, in raising the value of the rupee, has shown very clearly how close is the connection between the volume of a country's currency and its exchange value into those of other countries. The increase in deposits, due to the increase in the Bank of England's securities, has exactly the same effect as the issue of a mass of uncovered bank-notes. It increases the currency and makes it less valuable for exchange into dollars or any other form of foreign money.

Reduction of consumption is, of course, the chief remedy for adverse exchanges, but reduction of inflation is almost equally salutary, especially as it would assist the reduction of consumption. The problem is a serious one, as is shown by the huge adverse balance in the month's trade returns and by the very slight effect on the American exchange produced by the satisfactory conclusion of the loan negotiations. We pointed last week to the likelihood of the need for higher rates here, and the events of the week, involving the probability of a widening of the area of war and an increase in the number of Allies requiring military and financial assistance, have shown that every effort must be made, and made soon, to repair weaknesses in our financial armour.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Only once since the commencement of the War has so much money come out of the public deposits as that shown in this week's Bank Return—viz., £34,841,465. The market also benefited to the extent by £656,097 through the payment of the dividend on Bank stock. Altogether the market received approximately 30½ millions. The principal outgo was 13 millions, represented by a decrease in the other securities, which now amount to £119,266,000, as compared with more than £192 millions at the end of July last. The reserve is £836,000 down, but on balance £21,613,000 was added to bankers' balances or "other" deposits. The loss of £836,000 in the reserve was due to an efflux of £1,008,000 in gold, offset by a return of £248,902 from the country, whilst the note circulation was practically unchanged. Thanks to the considerable decrease on balance in deposit liabilities, the ratio has risen more than 1¼% to 26.06%, a higher proportion than at any time since the end of February.

POSITION IN NEW YORK.

The last return of the Associated Banks and Trust Companies showed an addition of £8,762,000 to the loans and discounts, which now stand at £555,638,000. There was an increase of £7,388,000 in the public deposits, which now amount to £591,940,000. The surplus reserve is £3,172,000

down, owing to a falling-off of £1,556,000 in the actual reserve held. Notwithstanding the satisfactory arrangement of the Loan, the sterling exchange is slightly lower.

The following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—			Rate Oct. 7	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London	...	sight	$4 70	4 86¼ dollars for £1	3·4
,,	...	cables	$4 70½		
,,	...	60 days	$4 68		
Amsterdam	...	sight	40¼c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem.0·6
Berlin	...	sight	82½c.	95 cents for 4 marks	12·7
Paris	...	sight	5 80fr.	5.18 francs for $1	11·9
Mexico	...	Mex.silver $	38½c. U.S.	50c. U.S. for 1 Mex. $	23·0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Oct. 7, 1915	...	Prime paper	... 3-3½%	Call money	... 1½%
Oct. 8, 1914	...	,, ,,	... 6½-7%	,, ,,	... 6-8%

POSITION IN INDIA.

The applications for the 50 lacs of Council drafts on Wednesday last were considerably smaller. The rates accepted were the same, but applicants got 20% of the amount applied for, as compared with 10% at the previous allotment. A return of the Currency Department made up to September 30 shows an expansion of 67 lacs in the note circulation, the total of which now amounts to 6,380 lacs. The increase was represented by an addition of 66 lacs to the silver reserve, which has risen to 3,774 lacs, whilst the gold in India is one lac higher at 591 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 5 per cent. (June 2, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, October 6, are:—

Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers.			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4 3/32	10,000	10.000	100	1 4	1,78,00,000*	36,68,000	20
1 4	8,35,000	1,74,000	20	1 3 31/32	50.00.000*		—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	1.00 000	1.00.000	100
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/32	50,00,000	10.48,000	20
Total ...	8,45,000	1,84,000	—	Total ...	2,79,00,000	48.16,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered.	Tendered.	Accepted.
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	... Rs. 2,87,45,000	... Rs. 50,00.000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.
Calcutta ...	6.000	1/4	1/4	Def. 33,00 000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 1,00,000	1.4 062	1/4 3/32
Bombay ...	20 000	1/4	1/4	Def. 3.48.000	1 4	1·4
Madras ...	1,58,000	1/4.001	1/4	Imm. 10,48,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Madras	10,000	1/4 3/32

From April 1 to October 5 inclusive the Council granted remittances for Rs. 5,37,85,297, realising £3,584.594. Up to October 6 of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was Rs 5,01 5 r 861 realising £3,747.072. The total sales for the week ended October 5 amounted to Rs 64,11,362, realising £428,146. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

SILVER.

The London Silver market continues strong, and to-night's price of 23 15/16d. is the highest touched since March 16 last. There has been much complaint of the dearth of silver in the country, and it is understood that the Mint has been requested to increase the coinage as rapidly as possible. There has been very little business for the Far East, but brokers report some inquiries for the Continent.

	Oct. 1	2	4	5	6	7	8
London ...	23 3/4	23 7/8	23 3/4	23 3/8	23 3/4	23 1/2	23 1/8
India ... Rs.	60 3/4	60 7/8	61 1/8	61	61	61	61
Exchange	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

Rubber Plantations Trust.—We would call attention to the report of the meeting of this Company given elsewhere. This week the shares have ranged at about 9*s.*—a price which looks extraordinarily low having regard to the Company's possibilities. In the course of his remarks the Chairman stated that the shares had, in his estimation, a value of between 19*s.* and 20*s.*

Stock Exchange.

Settlement of pre-War open position deferred to a year after peace declaration.—*Vide* Emergency Rules as to conditions.

	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.	Consols.
Settlement Days	Wed., Oct. 13	Thurs., Oct. 14	Fri., Nov. 5

In The Statist of September 11 we referred to the retention of the archaic practice of transferring Government, &c., inscribed stocks. Not till provision was made in the Finance Act of 1911, Section 17, had there been any other system of transfer than by personal attendance either of the inscribed holder of the stock or his attorney. But very few of the multitude of holders of Government, &c., stocks are aware of the provisions by which they can elect to change from the form of inscribed to a registered stock, by the filling up of a "document for registration." The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce under date September 20, addressed a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this subject advocating the discontinuance of the "antiquated and inconvenient" practice with regard to inscription, and further proposing that the transfer should be effected by deed in a similar manner, as, for example, by the London and North-Western and other British railways; and, as with the railways, that there should be the issue of certificates by the Bank of England to be surrendered when transfers by deed are effected. The suggestion is further made that the deeds should be free of transfer duty, but that 1*s.* per share fee be charged for sums under £100, and 2*s.* 6*d.* fee for sums over £100 nominal. In a word, it suggests a change of procedure so as to render the registration of transfers by deed and certificate normal and the present "inscribed" method abnormal.

At March 25, 1914, the *personnel* of the Stock Exchange was about 4,850 members and some 2,400 clerks having the *entré* of the "House." A large number of both members and clerks have in one way or another put their services at the disposal of the country, some 960 members and nearly 900 clerks thereby securing the right to accept the exemption from paying subscription for the current year; there have also been resignations, deaths, &c., and, further, over 500 members have elected to take a year's "holiday." The loss of subscriptions consequently has been very large. Heretofore the practice has been to declare an interim dividend of £4 per share at about this time of the year, and the final dividend in May (the official year ends March 25). Consequent on events the trustees and managers intimate that this year there will be no interim distribution. Recent dividends per share of £13 have been:—

	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14
		£	£
Interim	Nil	4	4
Final	—	3	6

In the general Stock markets price movements have not been of any consequence, and the discomforts of the situation in the Near East have not been reflected to any great extent in market movements. Government issues have been remarkably steady, War Loan showing a small appreciation compared with a week ago. There continues a mild amount of speculative investment in rubber and tea shares, both markets being affected by the respective commodity prices. Appreciation in the price of rubber has been gradually going on, and we have now the standard description of plantation rubber in the region of 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound. It should be noted that in years of falling prices for rubber companies exerted every effort to reduce costs, which are now at a very low level with well-managed companies; and now the price of rubber is on the upward grade, working costs, fortunately, do not move sympathetically.

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Mining Topics.

In the main movements, and these but small, have been confined to copper shares. Notwithstanding the evidence of the shrinkage in profits of the Rio Tinto Company the price remains firm, and this has been contributed to by the declaration of an interim dividend elsewhere referred to. The principal movement has been in American companies, which are doing remarkably well. The price of copper has this week again hardened, being now quoted at about £72. There was a sharp recovery in the price of tin on a rumoured export tax, but subsequently there was reaction, a small improvement on balance being shown.

The South African section has presented an uncertain appearance. The main interest continues to be confined to the Eastern Rand group, and prices have been fairly steady, but, as a rule, an easing tendency has been shown.

Miami.—In dealing with the return of this Company for the six months to June 30 we pointed out that the profits for that period were equal to nearly four times the amount of the 50 cents dividend declared May, and paid for the March quarter. In August, however, on behalf of the June quarter, a further dividend of 75 cents was declared, and it is just announced that the distribution for the September quarter is increased to $1, making a total distribution so far for the year of $2.25 per share, and on this pleasant news the London quotation of the $5 share advanced to £7, a rise in a little over a year of 2¾. It may be, too, that there are grounds for the rumour that the Anaconda Company is preparing to absorb the Arizona areas of the Miami and adjoining Inspiration copper properties.

Rio Tinto Dividend.—This week an interim dividend of 20*s.* has been declared on the Ordinary capital. A year ago the Company, consequent on the War, did not pay any interim dividend. The contrast of dividends and amounts since January 1, 1912, is given below:—

Dividends on Ordinary £5 Shares.

	Per Share— Interim	Final	Total Dividends Amount	Carried Forward
			£	£
1912	40/0	50 0	90/0 1,687,500	194,596
1913	40/0	35/0	75 0 1,406,250	185 872
1914	Nil	35/0	35/0 656,250	162,439
1915	20/0	—	— ½-yr. 375,000	—

MODDERFONTEIN B.—II.

LIFE AND VALUATION.

Last week we gave a record of the progress made at the Modderfontein B mine, and concluded with an estimate of the 1915 results based on the use of 500,000 tons for the year. On conservative lines we estimated a dividend of 75% with a fair balance in excess. We reserved till this week a consideration of the life of the mine and valuation of the share, and we give below the life estimate.

One has to take into account that much has yet to be ascertained as to the nature and the value of the reef in the Company's unexplored portion of area. In view of the probability—certainly as to the eastern area—of disturbed ground, possible dykes and poor zones, it seems reasonable to reckon on approximately one-third, or, say, 30% of the aggregate 1,400 claims as having to be eliminated, and, allowing this proportion for possible faulted country, the 1,400 Modder B reef claims, less 420 claims assumed as non-payable through faults, &c., would leave 980 net reef claims. Taking 14 degrees dip, a stoping width of 54 inches, and about 12% sorting, would mean, say, 21,730 tons per claim. The following result is shown:—

	Tons
Say 980 net reef claims at 21,730 mill tons per claim ...	21,295,400
Used to December 31, 1914	1,295,400
Remaining at January 1, 1915	20,000,000

In the calculations as to the reef contents of the B area, estimates are only based on the Van Ryn reef, but the existence of the South or Modderfontein Reef has not only been disclosed in the Geduld and Modderfontein Deep bores, but also in the north-west corner of the Modderfontein Company's own ground. This point of existence of a parallel South Reef may have an important bearing on the future, under the circumstances of low working costs.

Life.—Dividing an estimated, say, 20,000,000 mill tons by, say, 540,000 tons per annum to be used, some 37 years' life for the Modderfontein B Company is shown.

We conclude with the attempt to estimate, conservatively, a valuation of the Company's £1 shares, which are at present quoted in the region of 5½. If it be assumed that an average of 75% dividends will be paid during a life of 37 years, the present value of the share, assuming that out of dividends the investor appropriates enough to pay him 10% on his investments and sets aside excess dividend to a sinking fund to redeem his capital at the end of the life, works out at £6 13*s.* 6*d.*

We would call attention to the conservative nature of the 75% dividend estimate, because it is based on the use of only 500,000 tons per annum, whereas the capacity of the plant is in course of being extended

to 540,000 tons a year. One reason for our conservatism is that the Modderfontein B is not so favourably situated as the Modderfontein proper. The older Company is surrounded on the dip of its reef by areas that have been proved to be rich—to the west the Van Ryn Deep, to the south the Modderfontein Deep, and to the east the Modderfontein B. With the Modderfontein B, to the east, at all events, the outlook is an uncertain one, and the showings far distant to the south, both in respect of the Government Areas and Geduld. are nothing like of such pleasant character as are those of the western and southern areas bordering on the New Modderfontein. There is quite a probability that as an average for the estimated life of the Modderfontein B the dividends may be in excess of the 75%, but it would be unwise to build up optimistic views on a higher average dividend.

There is one other circumstance beyond the existence of the parallel reef referred to that must not be ignored. To the east of the Company's area there is a considerable extent of ground over which the Company owns the surface rights, and to which at present no mining rights attach. There is the possibility that the Government may enter into an arrangement for the Modderfontein B to work this area on defined conditions, and this, of course, would mean a prolongation of life; but it is sufficient for present purposes to take the valuation on the above basis.

Financially the Company is in very comfortable circumstances. At June 30, 1915, cash and gold in hand amounted to £478,314, against which creditors figured for some £323,000.

Market Price of £1 Shares. Capital, £700,000.

	Highest	Lowest		Highest	Lowest	Dividend
1909 ...	3⅜	2¼	1912 ..	3⅝	2¼	20
1910 ...	3⅛	2¼	1913 ..	4¼	3¼	45
1911 ...	3⅛	1⅝	1914 ..	4⅜	3⅛*	50
			1915 ..	5⅛ (Sept.)	4⅛ (Jan.)	¼-yr. 12½

* Price June 30.

GEDULD'S EXTENSION POLICY.

We briefly referred last week to the decision come to by the directors of this Company to increase the total capacity of the plant to 40,000 tons a month. At the present its capacity is about 26,000 tons monthly, and on the actual results of eight months of 1915, and estimating about the same rate of profit for the remaining four months, the outlook is that the total for 1915 will show something over what would equal a dividend of 12%; 5% was declared on account in June last.

It is known that when the present mill was planned provision was made for convenient and economical additions. How long it will take to increase the plant from the capacity of 26,000, as at present, to 40,000 tons a month is a moot point in the present circumstances; but when the plant is enlarged to deal with 40,000 tons a month it is interesting to take note that on 30*s.* extraction and 19*s.* working costs, giving a mine profit of 11*s.* per ton, the clean profit, after taxes, &c., available for dividend would equal over 20%. It is also worth noting that an increase of 1*s.* per ton in the extraction plus a reduction of a like amount per ton in the working costs, would raise the profit on 480,000 tons a year to an amount to give a dividend of 25%, as each shilling per ton saved in costs or increase in grade is equal to about 2½% dividend on the £970,000 of capital. The costs of this Company have been high in the past, and even at the 19*s.* taken above are approximately 4*s.* per ton higher than those of the Modder B, whose property lies to the north of the Geduld.

The Geduld mine area is so large—2,480 claims—that a long life is certain. Even if one assumes a deduction of one-half the claims, as subject to disturbance, unpayable zones, supporting pillars to be left, &c., we roughly calculate that the use of 480,000 tons a year on the enlarged plant basis would mean a life of well over 50 years—nearer 60 perhaps.

Geduld Proprietary.—The capital authorised is £1,000,000; issued, £970,000, in £1 shares. Plant has been enlarged to 60 stamps and five tubes, having a capacity of 26,000 tons a month. Increase of plant to 40,000 tons a month was decided on on October 1, 1915. Such increase is expected to become operative late in 1916.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	53½	av.244,585	10½	396,457	32/4	298,489	24/5	98,968	7/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	71,330	9½	113,685	31/10	78,412	21/11	35,271	9/11	24/0
June qr.	60	74,760	9½	113,713	30/5	78,525	21/0	35,188	9/6	26/9
July ...	60	28,050	2½	38,261	29/4	25,606	19/8	12,655	9/8	29/3
Aug. ...	—	26,240	—	39,854	30/0	26,536	20/4	12,768	9/8	32/3
Sept. ...	—	25,700	—	39,923	30/9	26,854	20/10	12,779	9/11	32/6

Gold reserve: 4,431 oz. July, Aug..
Monthly and quarterly profits include sundry revenue.

The sorting in this mine is both on surface and underground; very slight on surface.

Dividends—1914, Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

RAND PROFITS.

A CONTRAST of the profits of each of the last four months is given below. It should be noted that sundry revenue is included in the profits:—

	Sept. £	Aug. £	July £	June £
Aurora West	4,039	4,074	4,162	4,287
Bantjes	1,112	2,701	1,304	(*d*)1,756
Brakpan	31,022	32,812	32,181	29,653
City and Suburban ...	21,183	20,338	20,625	20,414
City Deep...	60,086	62,227	62,196(*c*)	53,759
Cons. Langlaagte ...	29,024	31,531	31,677	31,270
Cons. Main Reef... ...	13,547	12,018	12,322	12,936
Crown Mines	95,515	97,118	101,531	108,807
Durb. Rdprt. Deep ...	5,850	6,212	5,829	6,048
East Rand Propy. ...	55,011	56,049	55,548	52,020
Ferreira Deep	50,887	42,482	31,490	23,060
Geduld	12,779	12,768	12,045	11,780
Geldenhuis Deep ...	11,484	11,576	10,353	10,105
Ginsberg	4,169	4,193	4,070	4,059
Glencairn...	2,430	2,135	2,387	2,324
Glynn's Lydenburg ...	1,924	2,985	3,001	2,239
Gooh	8,035	8,440	8,061	7,123
Government Areas ...	15,216	17,880	17,567	14,727
Heriot	8,815	8,760	9,006	8,756
Kleinfontein (*a*)	22,339	23,027	24,233	22,103
Knight Central	4,062	3,348	2,596	3,145
Knights Deep	—	12,735	14,081	16,023
Langlaagte Estate ...	—	13,281	12,803	13,668
Luipaard's Vlei	—	5,935	3,042	3,340
Main Reef West	3,671	3,697	4,334	4,294
Meyer and Charlton ...	20,767	20,489	20,037	20,200
Modderfontein	57,762	56,234	59,362	64,947
Modderfontein B ...	61,160	62,889	50,940	45,921
Modderfontein Deep ...	34,746	34,664	34,874	30,242
Nourse	11,095	11,437	12,627	16,356
Primrose	6,077	6,165	5,631	7,463
Randfontein Central ...	—	61,305	57,032	57,089
Robinson Deep	—	26,001	25,034	25,203
Robinson Gold	38,403	41,610	41,070	43,637
Roodepoort United ...	2,539	943	81	1,504
Rose Deep	18,535	28,402	23,482	26,628
Simmer and Jack ...	—	30,132	32,565	30,169
Simmer Deep	—	4,343	5,000	5,753
Transvaal Gold	13,646	15,099	15,547	15,928
Unified Main Reef ...	5,037	5,150	5,208	5,177
Van Ryn Deep	43,119	43,630	44,507	44,380
Van Ryn G. M.	19,599	19,442	16,244(*d*)	19,480
Village Deep	25,771	26,598	29,184	28,388
Village Main Reef ...	—	26,009	24,097	23,347
West Rand Consolidated	10,278	10,473	9,700	9,418
Witwatersrand Deep ...	16,034	16,068	18,352	18,321
Witwatersrand Gold ...	25,035	24,819	24,822	24,392
Wolhuter	13,672	14,021	13,068	14,023

(*b*) Reduced profit due increased costs, owing shortage labour and return to more normal recovery. Grade April and May abnormally high.
(*c*) Return states "yield recently has been higher than that called for by the ore reserves."
(*d*) Decreased profit due to temporary falling off in stope values.

Far Eastern Rand.—A cable from the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times* reports that the Rand Mines has purchased 951 claims on farm Vogelstruisbult 36, south of the farm Daggafontein, which it adjoins. In 1912 the East Rand Trust was formed with a capital of £25,000, in £1 shares, 5,000 of which were offered for subscription, to acquire "some 951 claims on the farm Vogelstruisbult No. 36," and apparently it is these same claims that the Rand Mines

has now secured. Further south, apparently in the north-west corner of Vlakfontein and in the north-east corner of adjoining Grootfontein some areas have been secured by the Consolidated Gold Fields. The farm Vlakfontein used to be owned by the Lydenburg Gold Farms, which held 19 farms in this region as well as ground in other areas. It is interesting to note that the Rand Mines has increased its interest in the Eastern Rand region, while the Consolidated Gold Fields, though somewhat late in the day, has taken a first interest.

NOURSE MINES.

THE report of the Nourse Mines for the year to June 30, 1915, is not an exhilarating document, despite the augmentation of the quantity of ore reserves by adopting, as to Main Reef Leader and South Reef, a greater stoping width, an increased tonnage being gained at the expense of a reduction in the grade. The ore reserves contrast as under:—

1915 Tons	Value s. d.	1914 Tons	Value s. d.
2,952,400	... 25 11	2,473,700	... 26 10

For 1914-15 there was an increase of some 62,000 tons crushed, which gave about £25,000 addition to the gross revenue, but with the set-off of a small saving in expenses the profit per ton was only 5*s*. 3*d*., against 7*s*. 1*d*. for 1914.

It is clear, from a contrast of the extraction results of the last 10 years, that the mine is becoming poorer. In 1906 the extraction secured was 36*s*. 9*d*., while in 1915 it was as low as 26*s*. 3*d*. It is of no use to compare the appropriations of 1915 period with a year ago, as the statement for 1914 was obscured by suspense items, and in the statement below we give the mining results only:—

Year to June 30 1915	£	Per Ton	1914 £	Per Ton
Gross revenue ... (602,110 tons)	783,481	26/3	(5[illegible] tons)	26/4
Expenses	683,488	21/0	572,284	21/5
Mine profit	99,993	5/3	142,226	5/1
Sundry revenue, &c....	8,770			
	166,813			
Amount for redemp... £12,000				
Interest, &c. £1,000				
Taxes £2,000				
Debentures ... (15[illegible])	1[illegible],487			
Sundries ...	16,326			
Profit for year ...	50,[illegible]			
Balance carried forward ...	112,895			

Not improbably the further diminished grade was contributed to in 1915 by the inadequacy of native labour early in the year and the increased use of rock drills in stoping. A considerable proportion of the work was from the South Nourse main incline shaft, which has now been carried to well below the 24th level.

Nourse Mines.—Issued capital £827,821, in £1 shares. Mill, 260 stamps, 7 tube mills, making [illegible] about 58,000 tons for the month.

Year ended June 30	Tons Sorting Milled	Revenue Amt	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price of £ Period
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7 4 8	284	572 [illegible]	2[illegible]3	[illegible]38	7 1	1[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7 8 8	2 5	[illegible]436	21 6	1 8 [illegible]	2 5	1[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7 5 2	2 4 7	[illegible]38	2 3	15 27	4 1	1[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	2 8 8	52 [illegible]	9 9	11 487	3 11	1[illegible]

Monthly profits realise revenue from accumulated stimes.

Dividends—1914, June [illegible]; Dec., 8½ per cent.
1915, June 5 per cent.

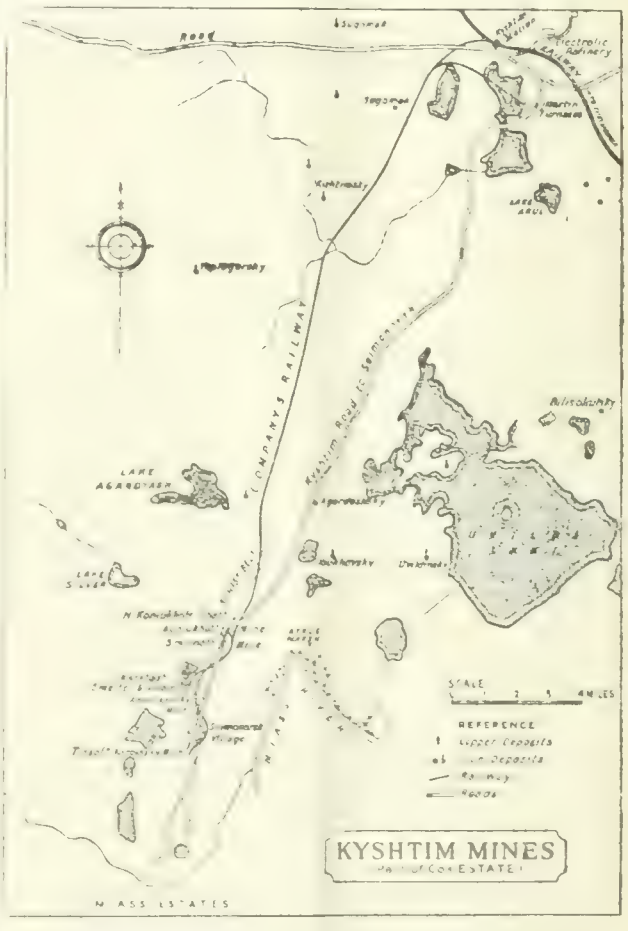
KYSHTIM CORPORATION.

THROUGH its ownership of the capital of the Kyshtim Mining Works Company, a Russian undertaking, the Kyshtim Corporation, Limited, an English-registered concern, formed in October 1908, acquired, in two blocks of ground, some 1,400,000 acres of mineralised and forestal property, included in the total being some 840,000 acres of timber land, over which the Russian Company has sole right, both as to local consumption and export. Very speedily after the formation of the English Company development of copper-bearing area was succeeded by the production stage, and the output of copper by the year 1913 had reached very close to 8,000 tons. The plant for dealing with the ore is designed to have a capacity of producing 10,000 tons of metal per annum, and would deal with this amount if present circumstances permitted.

The events of 1914 marred progress, bringing down the output for the year to 7,588 tons; but the report of the Company just issued sets out that if the progress of the first six months of 1915 is continued the output for the year may reach 8,800 tons, but this is only put forward as a possibility, and not a probability.

The existence of both iron and copper in the area was known of for a great number of years, and in the early history of the property, prior to its control being secured by English interests, but little attention was given to copper area, the main effort made being to utilise the high-class iron ore deposits. The occurrence of the War has, this year, given a fillip to the iron industry, but both the iron and copper sections have been hit through the restricted supply of labour, so many hands having been called to the Colours.

It will be of interest to repeat the plan we gave in our description of the property on July 11, 1914, such plan still holding good excepting that it does not show the position of the Ivanhoff discovery, which is about two miles north of the river.



We would remind our readers that the aggregate area is divided into two sections—western and eastern. At the southern portion of the eastern area there is a long stretch of copper-bearing schist formation, and payable ore deposits have been exposed at points along the line of the schist formation. In a direction from north to south to late in 1912 there had been discovered what are termed the Koniukhoff, south thereof the Smirnoff, and still further south the Tissoff-Karpinsky, while very late in the year there was added the Amerikansky to the other ore bodies. About the end of 1913 yet another ore body, the Ivanhoff, midway between the Tissoff "Mine" and the river at southern boundary, was discovered. The earlier-named properties are all copper propositions; the Ivanhoff, however, is a deposit of oxidised

barytic ore, not containing payable copper contents—at all events as to surface. It is used as fluxing ore, and is important from its gold contents, the ore containing an average of approximately 1 oz. to the ton.

The Koniukhoff mine has been developed down to the 5th level, the Smirnoff to the 4th, the Amerikansky so far to the 200-foot level, and the Tissoff to the 4th. Shareholders who have received the report, if they turn to the Kyshtim Mining Works Company's report of developments, &c., will find at pages 8, 9 and 10 some interesting information concerning the showings at the different deposits above referred to. The four copper mines in work have disclosed ore of an average width of 11.7 feet and average contents of 2.79% of copper, also varying quantities of gold and silver. Borehole tests have also been effected, to which reference is made in the report at pages above mentioned. We may, however, give some of the more recent developments and some of the boring features:—

Developments

	Length Driven	Average Width Feet	Contents Copper %
Koniukhoff—			
4th Level	1,100	11.5	2.72
5th ,, (so far)	750	13.2	2.98
Smirnoff—			
3rd Level	1,700	11.4	2.18
4th ,, (so far)	750	15.3	2.04
Amerikansky—			
2nd Level (so far)	400	11.9	3.94
Tissoff—			
3rd Level	800	11.9	2.68
4th ,, (so far)	450	12.5	3.09

As to bores, the showings at depth are given as:—

	Vertical Depth Feet	Ore Width Feet	Contents Copper %	Gold Oz.
Koniukhoff—				
Bore 23	970	10.2	3.64	.23
,, 24A	1,315	6.3	4.3	.62
Smirnoff—				
Bore	665	10	2.05	—
A deeper bore is now in progress.				
Amerikansky—				
Bore 11	741	10.5	4.21	.11
,, 12	735	19.2	4.51	.15
Tissoff—				
Bore 18	916	8.3	3.32	.02

At the middle of April 1915 the "assured" ore proved by development and boreholes was 2,031,000 tons, and a further 636,000 tons is reckoned for extensions beyond the limits of present exploration, making a grand total of 2,667,000 tons.

	"Assured" Long Tons	"Extensions" Long Tons	Total Long Tons
Koniukhoff Mine	505,000	163,000	668,000
Smirnoff Mine	497,000	212,000	709,000
Amerikansky Mine	576,000	104,000	680,000
Tissoff Mine	453,000	157,000	610,000
Totals...	2,031,000	636,000	2,667,000

The ore mined in the year to middle of April 1915 is returned as 352,000 tons, consequently on the rate of output of 1914 the "assured" ore has a life of about six years, and the extension is estimated to give a further life of nearly two years. Against 352,000 tons used in the year the fresh ore brought into sight was estimated at some 558,000 tons. The fact has to be grasped that from its incorporation in 1908 to the end of 1913 the Company in 1913 had attained an output of copper metal of 7,971 tons.

The authorised share capital of the Kyshtim Corporation was fixed at £1,260,000. For a period it had a round million of £1 shares issued, and then the Company was financed for a period by £650,000 of 6% Debentures, convertible into shares. All the Debentures—an insignificant amount excepted—have since been converted, so that at the present time the issued capital is £1,254,240, and the balance of 5,760 shares is reserved against the conversion of the remaining £14,400 of Debentures; so to all intents and purposes the capital may be taken as £1,260,000.

As a consequence of the War there has been a serious effect upon the exchange rate, which for the time mars the dividend outlook. Altogether four dividends have heretofore been paid—1s. in December 1912, 3s. 6d. July 1913, 2s. January 1914, 1s. 6d. October 1914. It is proposed to declare a dividend in respect of 1914 of 1s. per share, and to carry forward £145,786. This carry-forward compares with only £6,002 a year ago, and the large amount at end of 1914 after providing for dividend is not free for disposal, being mainly represented by silver and gold residues in Russia, the export of which has been prohibited by the Russian Government. We should say that in all our calculations above as to results secured the sterling amounts have been taken at the uniform rate of exchange that has all along been adopted of 9.5 roubles to the £. The shilling dividend recommended will be paid November 1 next, free of income tax, and will absorb £62,712.

The price of the £1 shares at the present time is about 1⅛. Were there to be an early termination of the War and ability to again expand output the prospects of the shareholders would vastly improve.

The results of operations of the Russian Company for each of the past four years are set out below:—

	1914 Tons	1913 Tons	1912 Tons	1911 Tons
Ore treated	340,087	349,916	338,379	233,052
Yield, refined copper	7,588	7,971	7,547	5,020*

* Of this production only 3,804 tons of refined copper were delivered during the year.

Russian Company's Trading Profits and Appropriations.

	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £
Copper, pyrites and precious metals	462,700	525,986	544,727	172,394
Iron working	10,659	42,450	26,275	23,439
Timber	23,357	27,013	8,705	29,651
Sundries	5,214	10,860	4,237	15,047
	502,130	606,309	583,934	240,531
Estate and general expenses, taxes, interest on advances, &c.	134,687	129,432	115,532	119,135
Balance	367,443	476,877	468,402	121,396
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average sale price of copper per ton	92 10 10	94 2 6	97 11 3	
Mine cost per ton	37 16 10	32 13 10	34 2 10	34 6 5

The balance of profit was applied as follows in each of the last three years:—

	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £
To Reserve fund	18,372	23,843	23,420
,, Depreciation fund	100,000	83,047	100,000
,, Reserve for profit tax in Russia	38,545	58,408	48,560
,, Payment of dividend	210,526	311,579	296,421
	367,443	476,877	468,401

The position as to the Corporation's finances is disclosed in the particulars that appear in our advertisement pages.

Globe and Phœnix.—Those of our readers who studied the analysis of this Company's position which we gave in THE STATIST of May 1, will not be surprised at the official announcement that the directors have deposited £84,000 with the Company's bankers to await the result of the John Bull Litigation, and therefore do not propose to make a dividend for the quarter. In the course of our remarks on May 1 we pointed out that "the total distribution of 120% for 1914, calling for £240,000, exceeded the profit of the year, after providing for capital expenditure, by more than £40,000." The balance sheet showed, after allowing for the payment of these dividends, an excess of current liabilities over liquid assets of

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no less than £70,000. We concluded by saying: "It is better that dividends should be temporarily reduced than that the Company should stand on the brink of financial trouble, which some serious unexpected incident or accident might precipitate." We are glad, therefore, to note the setting aside of £84,000, as this must be considered a necessary safeguard.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.

DURING the half-year ended June 30 this Company's mine and mill only worked half-time, owing to lack of smelter capacity. Nevertheless, the 130,320 tons of ore treated was nearly 18,000 tons greater than in the previous six months, and only 42,000 tons less than the quantity for the half-year to June 30, 1914—a normal period, immediately prior to the outbreak of the War. It should be noted that by the treatment of the crude ore from its mine the Company does not itself produce pure metal, but only lead concentrates, containing mostly lead and silver, and tailings (residues), containing zinc. Both the lead concentrates and the zinc tailings are sold to other concerns for further treatment and smelting, and the Company receives payment on the basis of the price eventually realised for the metals produced. Prior to the War the lead concentrates and the zinc concentrates obtained from the tailings by the purchasing companies were sold to German smelters. Consequently, when the War broke out the outlet for the concentrates was almost entirely cut off. Luckily there existed local smelteries, but their capacity was entirely inadequate. Their extension, however, was immediately taken in hand, and it is expected that by the end of this year there will be ability to cope with the full normal lead concentrate output of the four Broken Hill companies—of which the South is one—who are associated with the extension of smelting scheme.

The uncomfortable position in regard to zinc has not been so easily overcome. The Company's tailings were sold to two local treatment companies—the Amalgamated Zinc and the Zinc Corporation—which in turn used to sell the zinc concentrates they produced to Germany. At the present time the Amalgamated Zinc is continuing to treat the tailings material, but the production of concentrates, apparently, is for the most part being stacked, awaiting a market. Recently it has been advised that some thousands of tons of these concentrates have been sold to America and France, but the quantity so disposed of does not bear a large proportion to the stock on hand and current production. The Zinc Corporation's tailings plant is not working at all.

This brief explanation is necessary for a proper understanding of the Broken Hill South Company's accounts for the half-year to June 30, 1915, inasmuch as the course adopted has been to take credit in the profit and loss statement for the value of the production, and, as a large proportion of this has not been paid for, the profit shown, though earned, had not been realised. During the half-year, 24,961 tons of lead concentrates were produced and 80,880 tons of zinc tailings. The profit and loss account gives the value of the lead concentrate production as £218,525, while the revenue from zinc tailings is placed at £68,221. After adding small sundry receipts to these two items, the total revenue of the half-year comes out at £287,231. Total working expenses absorbed £133,400, so that the working profit shown by the accounts is £153,831. After providing office charges, taxes, plant depreciation, and expenses of the interest on the £200,000 of Debentures issued for the purpose of financing the Company's share in the local smelting works, a net profit of £123,772 for the six months is shown by the accounts, which compares with £90,000 for the previous half-year. A dividend of 15% for the past half-year, against nil for the previous similar period, absorbed £30,000, leaving £93,772 to be added to the carry-forward, which now stands at £326,419, against £143,682 immediately prior to the outbreak of the War. The necessity to finance a large proportion of the output pending its disposal is responsible for the smallness of the dividend and the great increase in the carry-forward. During the year ended June 30, 1914—that is before the War—the dividends paid aggregated 140% on the issued capital. A comparison of the operating results and earnings of the past four half-years, showing the effect that the War has had on the Company's prosperity, is given in the following table, which also shows the increase in the Company's surplus assets and the fall in the price of the £1 shares, of which there are 200,000 in issue in addition to the £200,000 of recently subscribed Debentures.

Half-years ended	June 30, 1915	Dec. 31, 1914	June 30, 1914	Dec. 31, 1913
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
[illegible]	130,320	112,750	172,330	168,957
[illegible]	24,961	20,375	28,745	27,594
[illegible]	20.5	20.6	21.4	20.11
[illegible]	£21 [illegible]	£18 [illegible]	£18 [illegible]	£19 [illegible]
	£	£	£	£
Value of output	218,525	161,289	314,301	318,920
[illegible]	68,221	24,179	[illegible]	35,866
Sundry receipts	485	[illegible]*	2,471	1,735
[illegible]	287,231	[illegible]	351,566	356,521
Working costs	133,400	116,216	185,615	176,719
Working profit	153,831	106,006	165,951	[illegible]
Brought forward	232,647	143,682	142,523	110,993
	386,478	249,688	[illegible]	290,795
Office, &c., charges and taxes	11,028	[illegible]	19,195	2,711
[illegible]	6,520	6,116	5,597	5,561
Debenture issue expenses	11,593	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dividends paid	30,000	Nil	140,000	140,000
Carried forward	326,419	232,647	143,682	142,523
	386,478	249,688	308,473	[illegible]
Surplus assets	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Price of £1 shares	7¼	7	[illegible]	[illegible]

* [illegible] in the balance sheet.

As will be seen above, in eighteen months there has been an increase of as much as £300,000 in the Company's surplus assets. The figures include, as is the official custom, the value of stores and products on hand unrealised, and, strictly speaking, neither of these items can be termed liquid, though the products on hand are realisable in due course. In taking note of the huge increase in the surplus assets at the end of June compared with the figure six months previously the fact that the Company has made a Debenture issue of £200,000, on account of which it had at date of the accounts received £174,528, must not be overlooked. On this account the cash, debtors, and investments of the Company show a substantial increase, while the whole of the large undistributed profits of the past half-year will be found reflected in the much higher value attaching to products on hand unrealised. A detailed comparison of the surplus assets at the end of the past four half-years is important as showing the Company's financial position before and since the outbreak of the War.

Surplus Assets.

	June 30, 1915*	Dec. 31, 1914	June 30, 1914	Dec. 31 1913
Assets	£	£	£	£
Cash at banks	107,442	46,678	18,454	45,077
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Debtors	96,588	22,911	40,514	19,118
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	47,500	41,420
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Assets	558,261	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liabilities				
Creditors, &c.	[illegible]	31,506	35,209	26,814
Surplus Assets	512,381	249,916	202,459	212,501

* Assets include £174,528 on account of £200,000 of Debentures issued.

It will be observed that in the year of War the output unrealised has had to be financed to the extent of no less than £200,000, and, as payment will in due course be received, the Company's cash position will eventually become exceedingly strong, and a very large sum of money—equal to 100% on the Company's capital—will be set free for divi-

dends in addition to the profits earned by current production. Furthermore, the scale of operations has recently been increased, and when the smelter capacity is able fully to cope with the supply—which it should be able to do in a few months' time—the profits, and especially the dividends, of the Company should show very considerable expansion. The mining position is very strong, there being in sight about 3,350,000 tons of ore, representing about 10 years' supply for the normal plant capacity.

The net profit shown by the accounts of the past six months to June 30, 1915, was equal to 60% on the Company's share capital, and the necessity for temporarily financing the output alone prevented the payment of more than 15% dividend.

The price of the £1 shares is £7¼, and, if continuance of a high quotation for lead can be relied upon, they do not appear to be over-valued. As to the Debenture issue of £200,000, this will be represented by what should be a very profitable investment in the shares of the local works for smelting the Company's lead concentrates.

Burma Corporation.—The indication of sharp falling off in the metal contents of the ore body at the 540-foot level, first noticed in the internal shaft crosscut driven in July, is much more conspicuous in the two crosscuts in course of being driven further to the south. This will be seen from the following contrast:—

540-foot Level Crosscuts.

	Distance Driven Feet	Assay Values—Silver Oz.	Lead %	Zinc %
Crosscut 1,500-foot S. (Internal Shaft) ...	25	12·0	15.0	14.0
	15	30.0	30.0	30.0
	20	5.0	9.0	5.0
	10	2.0	3.0	3.0
Total...	70	—	—	—
Crosscut E. 1,564-foot S.... ...	15	4½	6.0	11.0
	5	3	4.5	4.0
	5	21	2.5	21.0
Crosscut W. 1,564-foot S. ...	10	11	16	10.0
	10	7	10½	4.5
Crosscut E. 1,600-foot S. ...	10	6.0	7.5	10.0
	5	2	2.5	7.0
Crosscut W. 1,600-foot S. ...	10	4	10.0	2·0
	5	12.5	23.0	4.0
	5	4.0	4.0	1.5

Driving both north and south in the level from the internal crosscut, however, indicated high-grade ore for the width of the drives. The showings are set out below:—

540-Foot Level.

South Drive. Distance Feet	Assay Values—Silver Oz.	Lead %	Zinc %	*North Drive.* Distance Feet	Assay Values—Silver Oz.	Lead %	Zinc %
15	34	43	25	15	41	44	36
20	25	28	33	5	41	45	25
10	20	16	37				
5	22	24	24				
30	26	32	21				

Too much importance should not be attached to the crosscut showings. The width of the lode is still great, and the extraordinarily high values met with nearer to surface could not reasonably be expected to continue without fluctuation. The high values have continued deep enough to bring a large tonnage of very rich ore into sight.

KNIGHT CENTRAL.

To December 31, 1914, south of the dyke developments at the 13th to 16th levels were in unpayable zone, a total of 5,280 feet sampled, principally driving work, having shown an average assay value of only 2.7 dwt. over 56 inches.

In the March quarter this year 430 feet sampled on *South Reef* was reported to have averaged 1.9 dwt. over 70 inches.

Early in June, at the 16th level the east drive from the west shaft (on *South Reef*) for 90 feet sampled had given an average of 31*s.* 5*d.* over 54 inches.

A mid-September cabled advice was that the *Main Reef* had been intersected at the 17th level, west shaft. Four samples taken were reported to show an average of 95*s.* 1*d.* over a width of 40 inches.

About October 4 advice was received that at same level (No. 17) cross-cut from west shaft *South Reef* was intersected: "Four samples average 8.3 dwt. (35*s.* 3*d.*) over 12 inches." Such value over stoping width would not pay.

Brakpan.—Capital issued, 750,000 £1 shares; 160 stamps. Nine tube mills now working. Present rate of output about 760,000 tons a year.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue—Amt. £	Per ton	Expenses—Amt. £	Per ton	Profit—Amt. £	Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	140	621,573	13½	859,116	27/7	575,660	18/6	283,456	9 1	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	150	167,910	10½	232,802	27/8	155,539	18/6	77,233	9/2	2⅞
June qr.	150	181,010	10	248,456	27/5	160,002	17/8	88,454	9 7	2⅝
July ...	150	64,300	15½	84,823	27 11	57,742	17 11	32,181	10/0	3
Aug. ...	—	64,200	—	88,417	27 6	55,605	17/4	32,812	10 2	2⅝
Sept. ...	-	61,800	—	87,283	28/3	56,261	18/2	31,022	10/1	3½

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

Kleinfontein.—Capital issued, £1,151,540, in £1 shares; £175,000 6% Debentures. 220 stamps. Four tubes. Capacity of plant in use is at present over 650,000 tons a year.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue—Amt. £	Per ton	Expenses*—Amt. £	Per ton	Profit—Amt. £	Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	200	601,000	19	791,722	26/4	528,452	17/7	263,270	8/9	
1915.										
Mar. qr.	200	155,050	17	200,137	25 9	132,458	17/1	67,679	8 8	24/6
June qr.	200	156,800	16	203,380	25/11	135,932	17/4	67,448	8/7	22/9
July ...	200	54,350	16½	70,481	25 11	46,258	17/4	24,223	8 7	23...
Aug. ...	200	55,000	—	69,774	25/4	46,747	17/0	23,027	8/4	22/3xd
Sept. ...	200	53,800	—	68,579	25 6	46,240	17 2	22,330	8 4	23 6

* Not including considerable expenditures in connection with the Apex and Benoni sections.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.



TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, October 6, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£79,516,735	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	61,066,735
	£79,516,735		£79,516,735

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£31,286,742
Rest	3,121,050	Other Securities	119,768,493
Public Deposits	81,475,181	Notes	46,640,215
Other Deposits	98,361,697	Gold and Silver Coin	183,058
Seven-day and other Bills	24,889		
	£197,375,827		£197,375,827

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—000,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	28.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Sept. 1	32.3	68.4	137.9	87.9	44.4	145.1	54.6	24·15	5	4½
— 8	31.8	67.5	129.6	85.9	34.4	145.2	54.1	25·11	—	4⅛
— 15	31.5	63.7	124.5	90.1	34.4	145.0	50.6	23·93	—	4⅛
— 22	31.8	62.9	108.7	89.6	31.3	136.7	49.7	25·00	—	4⅛
— 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	76.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24·75	—	4⅛
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	81.4	98.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·08	—	4⅛

* July 30, '14 + to 4 %; July 31, 8 %; Aug. 1, 10 %; Aug. 6, 6 %; Aug. 8, 5 %

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below :—

I.—Issue Account.

	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
1915.	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Sept. 8 ..	163,482,232	102,588,670	60,843,562	28,500,000	46·8
Week to „ 15 ...	8,731,433	2,923,541	67,151,454	28,500,000	42·4
„ „ 22 ..	5,708,267	2,532,149	70,327,572	28,500,000	40·5
„ „ 29 ..	5,427,770	3,733,017	72,022,325	28,500,000	39·5
„ Oct. 6 ..	5,982,646	2,768,094	75,236,837	28,500,000	37·9

II.—Balance Sheet, October 6, 1915.

Notes outstanding—	£	Advances	£
One Pound	54,850,793	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	18,226,094	Other Bankers ..	204,000
Certificates outstanding ..	2,160,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	289,500
Investments Reserve A/c	445,852	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	21,400,000
		Balance at Bank of England ..	26,289,239
Total	75,682,739	Total	75,682,739

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows :—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Sept. 30, Thursday ...	Nil.	200,000 sovs. Spain. 5,000 bars.
Oct. 1, Friday ...	Nil.	154,000 sovs. U.S.A. 220,000 sovs. Egypt.*
„ 2, Saturday ...	Nil.	Nil
„ 4, Monday ...	Nil.	565,000 sovs. U.S.A.
„ 5, Tuesday ...	Nil.	250,000 sovs. U.S.A. 450,000 sovs. Egypt.*
„ 6, Wednesday	1,100,000 bars.	264,000 sovs. U.S.A.
Total for week ...	1,100,000	2,108,000
Net aggregate ...	[1,003,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Oct. 7, Thursday ...	Nil.	500,000 sovs. Spain. 9,000 bars. 50,000 Portugal.
„ 8, Friday ...	Nil.	300,000 bars. 200,000 sovs. Continent.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns, Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted) :	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£29.8	£28.2	£28.2	£34.8	£32.9
Public Deposits	12.0	10.4	6.0	17.8	8.4
Other Deposits	42.3	45.3	41.2	146.6	98.3
Government Securities	18.7	13.3	14.5	27.9	31.3
Other Securities	32.4	32.9	25.5	113.9	129.3
Reserve	21.0	27.2	24.9	40.4	46.8
Ratio to Liabilities	38⅜%	48·81%	52·79%	24·54%	26·05%
Bullion (both Departments)	32.3	37.9	35.7	56.7	61.2
Money :—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛%	4⅜-½%	4⅝%	3⅛-⅝%	4-½%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 26½	25 28½	25 05	27 30
Hamburg 8 days	20 43½	20 49	20 49	nom.	
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 82 10	4 81 60	nom.	4 66½
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4⅛	1/4⅜	1/4⅜	1/3⅛	1/4
Prices :					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88⅛	73⅝	72⅝	68⅛	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99·65	83·62	87·95	75·50	66.50
Silver, London spot	23⅝d.	29d.	28⅜d.	23⅝d.	23⅝d.
Wheat, *Gazette* average	qr	26/9	31/8	31/3	37/1	43/5
Cotton, Mid Upland	lb.	5·49d.	6·26d.	7·86d.	5·30d.	7·18d.
Iron, Scotch pig	ton	55/6	72/10½	59/1½	56/9	70/4½

ARGENTINA. Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Sept. 1, 1915	Pesos 233,500,000
Aug. 25, 1915	233,122,963
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	235,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 4, 1915	£5,221,324
Aug. 28, 1915	5,409,724
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,801
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ..	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,197	£786	£8,693	£47
July 31, 1915 ...	5,946	300	6,246	4,579	2,087	11,352	649
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6,255	3,808	2,912	11,293	647
Aug. 31, 1914 ...	3,829	144	3,973	8,175	1,395	10,788	625
Aug. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,154	4,816	1,111	8,036	58

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Sept. 23, 1915...	£180,033	£14,616	£194,649	£9,983	532,384	£4,725	£103,505
Sept. 30, 1915...	182,006	14,566	196,572	11,189	538,332	2,668	107,839
Oct. 7, 1915...	184,054	14,545	198,599	10,698	546,563	2,771	105,081
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	267,327	15,302	37,930
Oct. 9, 1913 .	138,432	25,326	163,808	57,962	230,407	6,618	21,909

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†	£62,660	£13,741	£76,401	£2,248	£114,164	£145,471	£62,923
Sept. 23, '15...	120,745	2,125	122,870	10,111	266,962	277,433	112,462
Sept. 30, '15...	120,972	1,872	122,844	44,853	374,188	307,881	220,813
Sept. 30, '14...	85,804	1,068	86,872	17,191	239,318	224,545	117,536
Sept. 30, '13...	57,146	13,278	70,424	2,520	80,573	122,782	35,173

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,496	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Sept. 25, 1915 ...	32,102	189	32,291	5,735	7,006	43,505	2,440
Oct. 2, 1915 ...	32,533	153	32,686	5,864	7,121	45,178	1,174
Oct. 3, 1914 ...	13,029	337	13,365	15,579	10,984	37,761	2,148
Oct. 4, 1913 ...	12,360	630	12,990	6,419	7,615	26,643	328

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,204	£8,887
Aug. 20, '15 ...	£45,915	£4,561	50,476	7,254	35,086	110,494	28,571
Aug. 31, '15 ...	45,961	4,496	50,457	5,821	33,930	111,017	28,364
Aug. 31, '14 ...	—	—	49,637		42,127	80,601	13,780
Aug. 30, '13 ...	—	—	49,026		22,382	67,134	8,117

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Cash.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£37,722	£13,818	£1,521
Aug. 21, '15...	21,179	639	6,838	30,735	21,706	2,793
Aug. 28, '15 ..	21,050	616	6,891	33,144	20,840	2,246
Aug. 29, '14....	21,824	5,348	8,783	35,731	13,585	1,319
Aug. 30, '13 ..	21,633	6,545	8,644	34,956	18,564	690

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14† ..	—	—	£39,883	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1,720
Sept. 25, '15 ..	£103,672	£34,684	138,356	543,876	584,552	7,328	41,752
Oct. 2, '15 ...	102,154	34,646	136,800	535,638	591,940	7,298	38,580
Oct. 3, '14 ..	—	—	84,950	440,428	393,256	27,760	Def. 3,598
Oct. 4, 13 ...	—	—	82,270	399,381	358,806	8,970	1,119

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Sept. 22, 1915...	3,359	3,790	781	3,907	7,865	1,470
Sept. 30, 1915...	3,465	3,705	781	4,045	8,220	1,254
Sept. 30, 1914...	2,402	1,492	508	6,630	7,454	1,061
Sept. 30, 1913...	2,441	1,807	504	4,113	6,000	418

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£8,589	£78,081	£163,411	£109,911
Sept. 14, '15...	164,105	2,796	166,901	10,918	369,251	421,084	137,135
Sept. 21, '15...	162,713	2,489	165,202	5,846	386,319	446,164	142,413
Sept. 21, '14...	182,912	5,182	188,094	10,932	135,145	259,087	93,605
Sept. 21, '13...	164,964	6,566	170,530	7,827	98,553	162,703	107,246

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,855
Sept. 25, '15 ..	29,674	29,602	59,276	40,872	13,777	80,914	25,403
Oct. 2, '15...	29,977	29,522	59,499	41,640	13,777	81,603	25,337
Oct. 3, '14 ..	21,971	27,409	49,380	50,200	13,777	79,707	23,180
Oct. 4, '13...	18,707	29,480	48,187	41,608	13,777	76,910	16,541

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,655	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Sept. 18, '15 ...	6,300	5,834	2,651	4,882	15,590	3,666
Sept. 25, 15 ...	6,300	5,713	2,666	5,048	15,651	3,575
Sept. 26, '14 ..	5,746	2,840	1,201	8,193	15,354	3,980
Sept. 27, 13 ..	5,700	4,153	1,264	7,255	11,882	2,937

SWITZERLAND.	Cash Gold.	Cash Silver.	Cash Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Sept. 23, 1915...	9,670	2,458	12,128	6,303	16,290	3,005
Sept. 30, 1915	9,726	2,461	12,187	7,188	17,430	2,887
Sept. 30, 1914...	8,972	470	9,442	11,663	17,793	3,142
Sept. 30, 1913	6,869	1,161	7,970	5,653	11,672	1,869

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Sept. 10, 1915...	£56,401	£60,448	£8,652	£65,611	£3,505	£80,684	83·6%
Sept. 17, 1915...	57,728	60,928	8,732	63,391	3,312	81,238	84·9%
Sept. 24, 1915...	58,045	62,629	8,886	65,988	3,070	83,540	82·2%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, 15	6	Aug. 20 '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 9, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	5	Sept. 1, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-3½	Feb 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts—Revenue	Receipts—Total including Loans	Expenditures—Supply Services	Expenditures—Int on Debt &c.	Expenditures—Total	Treasury Balance—Amt.	Treasury Balance—+ or − for Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Sept. 11	3.743	19,189	38 384	– 347	38,.37	74.724	–16.849	237 499
7 „ Sept. 18	6 093	38.143	45.397	831	46.228	66.640	– 8.084	247.273
12 „ Sept. 30	6.713	104,623	54,514	2 662	57.076	64.187	– 2.453	253 488
183 days to Sept. 30 1915	102,867	967,448	651.978	284,734	986,712	64.187	–19,264*	+176,338*
183 da s to Sept. 30, 1914	76,182	159 511	118 615	47,380	165,995	3,951	–6,434*	—

Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Oct. 8 '15	Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15	Sept. 17, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 70	11 75	11 78	11 70
—	Cable	11 47	11 55	11 58	11 50
Italy	3 mos.	30 00	29 80	30 00	29 95
—	Cable	29 60	29 40	29 60	29 55
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	35	35½	35	35
New York.....	do.	4 70½	4 72	4 70⅜	4 70
.....	Cheques	4 71	4 72⅜	4 7 ⅜	4 71½
Paris	3 mos	27 72	27 65	28 00	27 85
—	Cable	27 32	27 25	27 60	27 45
Petrograd	do.	139	138½	137⅜	139½
Scandinavia	do.	18 00	18 12	18 15	8 12½
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46¼	46	46½
—	Cable	24 75	24 75	24 85	24 85
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 40	25 35	25 40	25 25
—	Cable	24 97½	24 95	25 00	24 85

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Oct. 8, '15	Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15	Sept. 17, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 49c.	11fl. 55c.	11fl. 58½c.	11fl. 58½c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 3 3/32d.	1s. 4 1.	1s. 4d.	1s 4d.
Buenos Ayres ...	90 days	48½d.	48¼d.	48¼ l.	48¼d
Calcutta.....	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 9½d.	1s 9⅝l.	1s. 9⅝d.	1s 9 9/32d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 60c.	29lr. 45c.	29lr 60c.	29lr. 55c.
Lisbon	Sight	35½	35½	35½	35
Madrid	Sight	24p. 75	24p 75	24p 92½	24p 90
Montevideo	90 days	52¼d.	52¼ l.	52¾d	52¾ l
Montreal	Cables	$4 71	$4 73	$4 71½	$4 71½
New York.....	Sight	$4 70*	$4 72⅜	$4 71	$4 70
—	60 days	$4 68*	$4 69	$4 68½	$4 66½
—	Cables	$4 70½*	$4 72⅝	$4 71½	$4 70⅜
— on Paris	Sight	5.80f *	5 76f.	5.87f.	5.71f.
— on Berlin	Sight	82½c.*	84¼c.	83½c.	83¼c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight	40½c.*	40¼c.	40½c.	40sc.
— on Mexico	Silver $	38½ c. U.S.*	38¼c. U.S.	38½c. U.S.	38c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f 30c.	27f. 27½c.	27f. 60c.	27f 37½c.
Petrograd	Sight	1 8⅜	138	137½	139
Rio de Janeiro..	90 days	12 3/32d.	12 1/32 l	12 3/32d.	12 3/32d.
Scandinavia	Sight	18kr 07½	18kr. 07½	18kr. 12½	18kr. 10
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4 2d.	2s. 4 1.	2s. 3 29/32d.	2s. 3 29/32d
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 95c.	24f. 95c.	25f. 00c.	24f.85c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 3/32d.	9 5/32d.	9½d.	8 29/32d.

* Previous day's rates.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Agg.	Inc. or Dec.*	
	1915.	£	£	£	£	%
Birmingham...	Oct. 2	2,355.867 +	550.436	68,557.033	+ 6.317.284	+ 10·5
Bristol.....	„ 2	818 000 —	42 000	30.225.000	+ 1.761.000	+ 6·2
Dublin	„ 2	3.802.900 +	118 430	148 065 100	+ 14.717.700	+ 11·2
Leeds	„ 2	856.787 +	174.192	24 970.236	+ 5 119 517	+ 25·9
Leicester.....	„ 2	439.373 +	74.193	15.570 .58	+ 3.615.0 9	+ 30·4
Liverpool ...	„ 2	8 486.709 +	2.897.124	213.317 328	+37.421.373	+ 20·9
Manchester	„ 2	8. 01.368 +	1 807 9 5	264 052 070	+ 4 770 984	+ 1·8
Newcastle ...	„ 2	1 607.000 +	418.000	57 784 300	+11.634.600	+ 25 2
Nottingham	„ 2	486 849 +	58 165	14.2 3 447	– 462.015	– 3 2
Sheffield ..	„ 2	1.004.372 +	302 6 4	23.867 634	+ 3.532 934	+ 17·8
LONDON—	1915.	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
Town	Oct. 6	235 572 +	50.552	8.305.650	– 1.915 378	18 7
Metropolitan	„ 6	20.513 +	2.433	715.324	+ 49.962	+ 7 5
Country	„ 6	35,770 +	5.531	1.191.792	+ 139.470	+ 13·2
Total.....	„ 6	291.855 +	53.666	10.212.766	– 1.725.948	–14·4

The following special items are included in the London clearings:

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month		
1915	£	+ or –*	1915		+ or –*	1915		+ or –*
Aug 27,	42.899	—	Aug. 5	52.163	—	Aug. 4	56.063	4 722
Sept. 15	45.084	—	Sept. 1	54 186	—	Sept. 4	39.724	+ 15.393
Sept. 29	46.853	—	Oct. 1	52 016	—	Oct. 4	4 .176	+ 6,7 8
1915 agg.	748.241	—		486 124	—		459.119	87.653

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.—According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	25 0	8 6	9 6
Aust. to U.K. or Cont.	—	—	31 9
Azoff to L.H.A.R	—	—	11/9
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	52 6d. w.	20/9	18/6
Burmah o o	30 0		28 3
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	67/6d. w.	2 5/0d. w	22/0
Danube to A.R	—	—	11 0
Odessa to L H A.R.	—	—	10 0
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	62/6	19.3	13 6
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	160/0	—	32/6

Homewards *cont.*	1915	1914	1913
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. (Cont (grain)	11'0	2 9	2 4½
N.O. to L.H (cotton)	180/0	—	—
N.O. to U.K. Cont. (gr.)	—	—	—

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bom bay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915 ..	—	—	45 0	30 0	—
1914 ..	9 6	9 9	7 9	12 0	7 6
1913 ..	12 6	12 3	9.0	20/6	9 6

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

OCT. 9.	1915	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ton	70/4½	58/9	59/1½
— Middlesbro' warrants ton	84/2½	50 0½	62 11½
— Hematite warrants ton	95/0	68 0	66 6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12	£9	£9 10
— Common bars ton	£11 12/6	£7 17 6	£7 10
— Stock, Middlesbro' tons	133 949	103.271	169.282
Steel Rails ton	£9 2/6	£8 15	£8 10
Copper—Standard ton	£72 7/6	nom.	£71 5
— Stock, Europe & adt. Sept. 30 tons	34 106	34 594	28.819
Tin—English ingots ton	£150	£132—£133	£188—£189
— Straits ton	£150	£135 10	£185 15
Tinplates—Coke I.C. box	17/6 –17/9	12/9	13 0
Lead—Soft Foreign ton	£24 7 6	£18 15	£20 12/6 –20 15
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ton	£72 10	£18	£20 17 6
Quicksilver—(75lb.) bottle	£18	£10	£7 5
Aluminium ton	£190—£200	£80—£84	£83 –£84
Antimony—Regulus ton	nom.	£48—£47	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ton	nom.	20 6	19/10½
— — (best) Newcastle ton	18/9	13 3	15 0
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	13/9	11/3	11/3
Soda—Crystals ex ship ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver lb	1/9—1 10	2 1—2 6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ton	£24 2 6	£22 12 6—£23	£31 5—£31 10
Gambier—Good marks cwt	3s 6	16 10½	18 0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine lb.	13/6—15 6	13/6—14 0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot barrels ton	£27 15	£25 10	£23 15
Linseed—Calcutta, spot 410lb	55 6	43/0	45/9
Olive Oil—Spanish tun	£51 10	£55	£48—£49
Palm Oil—Lagos ton	£29 10	£32 5	£36
Petroleum—American gallon	-/9½	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ton	£37 10—£39	£35 10	£32
Soya Oil ton	£24	£25 10	£26 10
Tallow—Aust. mixed cwt.	35/9—36/0	27/6—30 6	33/0—34 6
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit cwt	35/3	32/9	30 4½
Rape seed—Toria 416lb.	55 0	51 0	47 6
Rubber—Para, spot lb.	2/4½	2/10½	3 4
— Fine plantation (std.) spot lb	2 4½	2 7½—2 8	2 7½
—World's Vis. sup (all kinds) Mayton	19 085	21.500	17.618
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair cwt	69/0	55/0—58/0	89/0—90/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland lb.	-/7 18	-/5 30	-/7 65
— Egyptian good fair lb.	-/9 63	-/7 25	-/9 80
— Pernambuco, fair lb.	-/7 63	-/5 85	-/7 71
— Mid. Upl. New York lb	12 55c	nom.	13 70c
— Stock, Liverpool Oct. 1 bales	993.440	814.700	411.030
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol ton	£57	£36	£35
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£33	£23 15	£29 5
— Manila, fair strips ton	£29 10	£26	£29 5
Jute—First Marks, spot ton	£24 10	£24	£35
— Red S 00 ton	£22 10	£31 10	£32
Silk—Blue Elephant lb.	9 6	11 3 –11 6	11/3 –11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av. lb.	1/0—1/1	1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs lb	1/5½	-/11½—1/0½	1/0—1/1
Hides—Eng. Ox., best 85lb. up. lb.	10½	8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides lb	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/6
VEG. FOOD CORN &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Oct 4 bus.	18.754.000	52.301.000	53.259 000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb bushel	128c	117 c	97½c
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb qr	43 5	37 1	31 3
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb	45 0	33 6	30'0
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb qr	40 4	29 1	29 9
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. qr	26 5	22 9	17 10
Maize—N.Y. (new bushel) 56lb	nom.	81½c	78c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool 100'lb	8/8—8 8½	7 9½	4 11½
— La Plata ... ... 480lb qr	33/3	23 0	24 0
Potatoes—Kents ton	70/0—80/0	65/0—70 0	77 6
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	33 197	21.841	9 848
— Deliveries do. tons	23 259	18 744	12.008
— Stock tons	16 913	7.792	5.003
— Price Bassein cwt	17 6	16 6—17 0	7 10½ –8 3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium cwt	19'0—24 0	15 0 21 0	15 0 –20 0
Hay—Best ..2,016lb. load	115/0—127/8	85'0—90'0	77 6 –87 6
Hops—English cwt.	£5 5—£5 7	£3 5—£5 5	£9 9—£11
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	5'0—5'4	4'4—4 5	3'4—3'8
Scotch sides 8lb	5 6—6'0	4 8 –5 0	4 6 5 2
— English 8lb	5'0—5'8	4'4—4 9	3'9 –4 3
Mutton—Scotch 8lb	5 8—6'0	5'4—5 8	5 4 5 8
— English wethers 8lb	5'6—6 0	4 8 –5'2	4 4 4 10
New Zealand frozen 8lb	4 9 –5 1	4 4 4 8	2 11 3 2
Pork—English 8lb.	6 8—7 8	4 2 4 10	4 6 5 4
Bacon—Irish cwt.	100 0—105 0	75 0 83 0	70 0 –79 0
Danish cwt	100 0 –107 0	66'0—73 0	88'0—77'0
Hams—Amer long cut cwt	80 0 86 0	70 0—74'0	64'0—82'0
— — short cut cwt	77 0 –79 0	70 0—72'0	67 0 –70'0
Lard—Amer. pails cwt.	55 6 –58 0	54 6 55 6	56'6 57 6
Butter—Danish cwt.	205 0 209 0	140 0 –144 0	132/0 –133/0
Siberian cwt	112'0—142 0	114 0 –124 0	83 0 106'0
French cwt	120 0 –164 0	98'0—120'0	90'0—103'0
— New Zealand cwt.	—	—	—
— Australian cwt.	—	116'0—130'0	100'0—120'0
Cheese—Canadian cwt.	76 0 78'0	75 0—77 0	63'0—65 0
— New Zealand (white) cwt.	78 0—77 0	—	—
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan 1 tons	493.364	524.182	677.515
— Deliveries do. tons	684 231	592 898	635.003
— Stock tons	47.859	43.225	98.334
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. cwt.	20 6	21 0	10/10½
— — Mauritius, crystals cwt	24'6 –28 0	28'6—30 0	15'0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 cwt	50 0	33 6	18/4½
Coffee—Imports since Jan 1 tons	54 193	41.006	32.503
— Home consumption do. tons	15 183	11.621	11.7'0
— Exports do. tons	18 763	19 220	16 283
— Stocks tons	33.252	20 643	12 892
— Price Costa Rica, good cwt	74 0 84 0	73 0 85 0	84'0 90 0
— Brazil, Santos cwt	37 7½	36 3	49 4½
Tea—Imports (for London) lb.	300.370 933	235.485.576	230 757.590
— Home consumption do. lb.	245 405 967	233.351.367	235.251.371
— Exports do. lb.	42 37 7 9	41.280.172	41.592 675
— Stock, Sept. 30 lb.	119.623.901	83.093.000	99.717.000
— Price, Indian Pekoe, good lb.	10½	8½	8
— — Ceylon, Pek. Soug. Ord. lb.	9½	8½	8½
— — Common Congou lb.	7	6½	4½ – 5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	81 0–83 0	52 0 –54 0	67 0—68 6

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Oct. 1	80	—	£3.369	− 325	39	147 647	+ 12.010
Cork Ban.&S.C.	Oct. 1	103	—	2.264	+ 65	39	81.664	+ 3.555
Dublin & S.E.	Oct. 1	160	—	6.315	+ 589	39	219 767	+ 1.188
Gt. Northern	Oct. 1	561	—	28.800	+ 2.900	39	914.945	+ 30.895
Gt.S.& Western	Oct. 1	1.130	—	38.402	+ 1.492	39	1.295.744	+ 103.022
Mid. Gt. West.	Oct. 1	538	—	13.274	− 2.576	39	499.600	+ 13.525

. *On August* 5, 1914, *Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act,* 1871.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Aug. 28	862	+11	1.02.000 −	17.788	22	27.20.612 +	3.600
Barsi Light ...	Sept. 11	116	—	13 600 +	5.000	24	5.09.300 −	43.300
Bengal & N.W.	Aug. 28	2.041	+13	2 56.750 −	501	22	77.32.810	−11.31.538
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 4	153	—	21.071 −	6.947	23	5.88.422 −	40.168
Beng. Nagpur	Sept. 11	2.685	+ 7	6.51.000 −	1.11.000	24	1.76.96.000	—
Bomb. Baroda	Oct. 2	2.859	+32	13 85.000 +	3.41.000	1	—	—
Burma	Sept. 4	1.342	—	3.08 945 +	42.583	23	83.17.669	−13.18.516
East Indian ...	Oct. 2	2.716	− 2	19 33.000 +	1.95.000	1	—	—
Gt.Indian Pen.	Sept. 30	2.981½	+15½	29.88.200 +	12.46.900	26	4.03.48.117	+18.49.594
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 11	3.131½	−1½	7.75.000 +	1.48.653	24	2.09.30.432	+11.16.320
Nizam's Guar.	Sept. 11	787	—	2.00 548 +	63.010	24	43.82.324 −	4.73.470
Roh.&Kumaon	Aug. 28	545	+ 1	64.765 +	7.426	22	15.97 083 −	10.199
South Indian	Sept. 4	1.763	+10	5.40.873 +	51 147	23	1.25.84.340 −	1.97.296
South Punjab	M. of May	923	—	6.80.058 −	70.012	2†	11.33.202 −	71.759

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Sept. 30	4.965	+295	$832 200 +	67.700	13	4.413.600 −	658.300
Can. Pacific...	Sept. 30	12.921	+694	3.371.000 +	76.000	13	26 692.000	−4.462.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Sept. 30	916	—	£31.254 −	1.104	13	181.720 −	67.371
Grand Trunk	Sept. 30	4.008	—	232.206 −	6.013	39	6.047.585 −	529.217
Grd. Trunk W.	Sept. 30	338	—	42.928 +	5.389	39	1.120.891 +	20.557
Det. Grd. Ha.	Sept. 30	139	—	16.017 +	3.345	39	406.238 +	25.901
Mashonaland	M.of July	751	—	48.992 −	21.116	10†	399.211 −	238.742
Mid. W. Aust.	M.of July	277	—	5.263 −	4.279	1†	—	—
New CapeCent.	Sept. 4	205	—	1.517 +	270	36	64.258 +	471
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.of July	1.397	—	83.836 −	13.491	10†	636.711 +	229.016

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Oct. 2	33	—	Ps. 11.000 +	3.000	40	483.200 −	31.250
Antofagasta ...	Oct. 3	819	—	£ 25.145 +	7.319	40	939.045 −	349.565
Arauco	M.of July	64½	—	£ 6.750 +	225	7†	44.625 −	10.649
Arg. N. East...	Oct. 2	752	+ 86	£ 7.705 +	3.705	14	91.790 +	26.145
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290 −	10	12	2.370 −	1.210
Bolivar	M.of Aug.	110	—	£ 7.250 +	1.374	2†	14.250 +	1.879
Brazil	M.of May	3.362	—	M 3.282.000 −	17.244	5†	15.963.000 −	804.584
Paulista.....	M.of May	721	—	M 1.500.000 −	238.338	5†	8.850.000 +	101.324
Mogyana ...	M.of May	1.131	+ 57	M 1.263.000 −	256 423	5†	7.833.000 +	261.381
B.A & Pacific	Oct. 2	3.535	+ 17	£ 80.000 +	24.000	14	1.078.000 +	219.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Oct. 3	3.792	+ 63	£ 92.000 +	24.000	14	1.105.908 +	175.967
B.A. Western	Oct. 3	1.867	+ 75	£ 46.000 +	11.000	14	579 000 +	88.000
Cent.Argentine	Oct. 2	3.307	+ 45	£ 118.400 +	17.800	14	1.514.800 +	192.100
Cent. Uruguay	Oct. 2	271	—	£ 11.901 +	3.543	14	143.026 +	27.858
„ (E. Ext.)	Oct. 2	311	—	£ 4 004 +	1.554	14	45.621 +	12.365
„ (N. Ext.)	Oct. 2	185	—	£ 1.752 +	572	14	23.846 +	5.189
„ (W. Ext.	Oct. 2	211	—	£ 1.704 +	269	14	20.469 +	4.768
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	86	—	£ 9.612 −	2.928	5†	47.412 −	1.155
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Aug.	85½	—	£ 21.771 −	3.829	2†	42.826 −	10.274
Cord. Central	Oct. 2	1.166	—	£ 34.150 −	4.125	14	463.950 −	53.890
Cuban Central	Oct. 2	354	+ 9	£ 8.341 +	2.330	14	103.312 +	12.940
Dorada Ext....	M.of Sept.	71	—	£ 8.400 +	1.400	9†	71.300 −	5.300
EgyptianDelta	Sept. 10	619	— 4	£ 4.309 +	286	22	65.187 −	23.468
Entre Rios...	Oct. 2	730	—	£ 9.600 +	1.700	14	121.600 +	17.700
Gt. S. of Spain	Sept. 25	104	—	Pa. 75.169 +	19.833	39	2.231.553 −	295.775
Gt. W. Brazil	Oct. 2	1.010	—	£ 7.600 +	800	40	371.500 −	100.100
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Sept.	23	—	£ 6.250 +	250	9†	61.000 −	22.250
Leopoldina ...	Oct. 2	1.806	+ 33	£ 36.590 +	12 313	40	1.141.681 −	30.594
Manila North	Oct. 2	315	+ 2	£ 3.431 −	876	40	207.179 −	38.268
„ South	Oct. 2	266	+ 91	£ 3 685 +	356	40	148.747 +	16.353
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Aug.	319	—	£ 12.553 +	5.099	2†	22.766 +	5.810
Nitrate(2wks.)	Sept. 30	366	—	£ 16 615 +	2.786	39	241 090 −	233.627
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Sept.	113	—	$ 22.000 +	7.416	4†	68.500 +	16.357
Paraguay Cent.	Oct. 2	255	—	c 502.000 +	262.000	14	5.908.000	+2.505.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Sept.	1.059	—	d 755.280 +	154.784	3†	2.299.157 +	56.218
Puerto Cabello	M.of Aug.	24	—	£ 3.266 +	649	8†	29.424 −	943
Salvador	Oct. 2	100	—	$ 18 250 +	3.750	14	273.750 +	23.014
San Paulo.....	Sept. 26	153½	—	£ 37.781 +	11.031	13	476.140 +	140.199
Taltal	M.of Aug.	184	—	£ 18.218 +	1.263	2†	26.378 −	16.135
U. of Havana	Oct. 2	681	—	£ 25.089 +	5.715	14	321 537 +	83.318
Urug.Northern	M.of Aug.	73	—	£ 1.745 +	446	2†	3.532 +	678
W. of Havana	Oct. 2	147	—	£ 4.411 +	205	14	67.011 −	6.680
Zafra & Hlva.	M.of Aug.	112	—	£ 9.613 −	542	8†	62.817 −	45.898

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Sept. 30	369½	+21½	£ 49 939 +	685	39	1.980.625 −	137.719
Auckland(4wks)	Aug. 27	25½	—	£ 19.876 −	1.170	8	42.029 −	2.328
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Aug.	—	—	M. 8.576 000 +	409.900	8†	50.963.110 +	1.889.962
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Aug	30	—	£ 35.064 +	1.892	8†	244.714 +	12.887
Bristol.....	Oct. 1	31	—	£ 9.702 +	1.067	39	375 800 +	33.798
BritishColumbia	M.of Aug	242	+ 5½	$ 507.126 −	167.686	2†	1.017.849 +	346.936
Calcutta	Oct. 2	35½	—	R 66.365 +	8.312	40	25.82.893 −	96 427
Cape Electric...	M.of Aug	42·3	—	£ 17.640 +	2.704	2†	34.962 +	4.006
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Sept	9	—	£ 1.952 −	923	9†	15 500 −	5 565
Cork Electric...	Sept. 30	9½	—	£ 1.067 −	55	40	42.542 −	296
Dublin United	Oct. 1	64½	—	£ 6.264 +	114	39	240 662 +	8.956
Havana Electric	Sept. 5	—	—	$ 49.437 −	2.831	36	1.832.457 −	89 001
Isle of Thanet...	Sept. 30	14½	−10	£ 257 −	102	52	22.750 −	11.031
Kalgoorlie	M.of July	20½	—	£ 2.775 +	223	7†	18.954 +	880
Lanarkshire	Sept. 30	28½	—	£ 2.426 +	577	39	76.751 +	2.617
London C. C. ...	Sept. 22	141½	− 1	£ 46 960 +	4.984	25	1.095.822 −	4.285
Madras Electric	Sept. 30	—	—	R 28 304 +	3 750	39	528 061 +	10.812
Manila Electric	M.of Aug.	—	—	$ 126 650 −	1.850	8†	976 343 −	121.253
Provincial	Oct. 2	21½	—	£ 2.172 −	30	52	114.783 +	11.516
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Sept.	25	—	£ 4.445 +	326	9†	43.329 −	2.729
U.of Montevideo	M.of Sept.	90	—	£ 25.070 +	156	11†	303.417 −	31.548
Yorks.W.Riding	Oct. 3	24½	—	£ 1.578 +	107	40	63.750 +	5.329

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 243,042 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‖) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
423 Cos. (000's omitted)	July	(e) $262.948	+ $2.324	$87.685	+ $9.851
12 *mos.*	to June	(f) *2,937,516*	− *154,631*	*564,364*	+ *22,616*
Alabama Gt. Southern a	July	402.000	− 11.000	109.000	+ 23.000
12 *mos.*	to June	*4,776,000*	− *649,000*	*944,000*	− *23,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ... a	Aug.	128.000	− 11.000	23.000	+ 8.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*252,000*	− *21,000*	*39,000*	+ *9,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Aug.	294.000	− 24.000	73.000	+ 36.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*587,000*	− *64,000*	*142,000*	+ *40,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Aug.	119.000	− 17.000	13.000	− 2.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*240,000*	− *31,000*	*27,000*	− *5,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Aug	10.904.000	+ 738.000	3.601.000	+ 206.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*21,326,000*	+ *1,551,000*	*6,950,000*	+ *684,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Aug.	2.017.000	− 197.000	89.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*4,194,000*	− *558,000*	*324,000*	− *94,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Aug.	9.385.000	+ 648.000	3.395.000	+ 627.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*18,056,000*	+ *1,172,000*	*6,472,000*	+ *1,432,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug.	1.192 800	− 174.900	238.800	− 5.900
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*2,399,000*	− *563,000*	*523,900*	− *151,300*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Aug.	8.801.000	− 1.117.000	3.442.000	+ 79.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*16,697,000*	− *3,703,000*	*6,243,000*	− *899,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Aug.	3.974.000	+ 455.000	709.000	+ 315.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*7,617,000*	+ *833,000*	*1,967,000*	+ *638,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Aug.	7.329.000	− 440.000	1.782.000	− 265.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*14,519,000*	− *613,000*	*3,401,000*	− *661,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...a	Aug.	8.147.000	− 595.000	2.675.000	− 506.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*15,521,000*	− *1,082,000*	*4,635,000*	− *965,000*
Chicago Great Western a	Aug.	1.221.000	+ 88.000	285.000	− 890.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*2,350,000*	− *42,000*	*479,000*	− *59,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 96.000	2.510.000	+ 350.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*16,504,000*	+ *490,000*	*5,322,000*	+ *778,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 335.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*12,051,000*	− *652,000*	*1,931,000*	− *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.485.000	− 213.000	338.000	− 169.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*2,898,000*	− *360,000*	*704,000*	− *254,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 196.000	1.095.000	+ 279.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*23,770,000*	+ *671,000*	*4,655,000*	+ *2,665,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1,246.000	+ 67.000	326.000	+ 24.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*2,354,000*	+ *51,000*	*542,000*	+ *56,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	July	420.000	+ 38.000	210.000	+ 48.000
12 *mos.*	to June	*5,207,000*	+ *42,000*	*2,727,000*	+ *257,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	July	2.045.000	+ 48.000	776.000	+ 106.000
7 *mos.*	to July	*12,827,000*	+ *81,000*	*4,073,000*	+ *589,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Aug.	2.243.000	+ 153.000	744.000	+ 244.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*4,245,000*	+ *152,000*	*1,273,000*	+ *336,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Aug.	5.946.000	+ 457.000	2.269.000	+ 769.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*47,234,000*	+ *1,882,000*	*10,560,000*	+ *2,027,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶a	Aug.	£804.200	− £53.000	£263.000	+ £23.700
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*5,644,850*	− *478,000*	*1,514,250*	+ *50,900*
Grand Trunk Western a	Aug.	138.100	− 2.000	39.700	+ 14.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*983,100*	+ *3,550*	*84,800*	+ *63,050*
Great Northern ..... a	Aug.	$6.162.000	− $754.000	$2.623.000	− $600.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*12,020,000*	− *1,736,000*	*4,989,000*	− *1,130,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	July	543.000	+ 92.000	225.000	+ 117.000
12 *mos.*	to June	*6,161,000*	+ *840,000*	*1,997,000*	− *221,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Aug.	5.080.000	− 316.000	569.000	− 137.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*9,959,000*	− *833,000*	*1,100,000*	− *312,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Aug.	807.000	− 78.000	288.000	+ 19.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*1,638,000*	− *192,000*	*609,000*	+ *9,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Aug.	3.780.000	+ 9.000	1.090.000	− 52.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*7,514,000*	+ *161,000*	*2,119,000*	+ *58,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Aug.	4.628.000	− 77.000	1.326.000	+ 341.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*9,114,000*	− *395,000*	*2,506,000*	+ *445,000*
Michigan Central..... a	July	3.050.000	+ 211.000	886.000	+ 214.000
7 *mos.*	to July	*19,608,000*	+ *507,000*	*4,209,000*	+ *883,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug	*4,926,000*	− *21,000*	*1,582 000*	+ *211,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Aug	2.653.000	− 46.000	791.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*5,170,000*	− *244,000*	*1,262,000*	− *173,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	July	4.763.000	− 480.000	947.000	− 462.000
12 *mos.*	to June	*68,209,000*	− *1,776,000*	*13,054,000*	− *1,031,000*
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14.458.000	+ 583.000	4.776.000	+ 897.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*103,873,000*	+ *3,817,000*	*27,483,000*	+ *8,873,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	6.263.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*12,511,000*	− *999,000*	*4,309,000*	+ *1,116,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Aug.	912.000	− 89.000	347.000	− 14.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*1,874,000*	− *120,000*	*2,488,000*	+ *7,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4.729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 489.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*9 196,000*	+ *1,451,000*	*3,222,000*	+ *1,083,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	8.472.000	+ 398.000	2.408.000	+ 838.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*11,822,000*	− *46,000*	*3,826,000*	+ *408,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*159,031,000*	− *2,470,000*	*34,066,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 463.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*73,715,000*	− *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,925,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Aug.	3.747.000	+ 162.000	1 084.000	+ 128.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*25,576,000*	− *651,000*	*4,966 000*	+ *175,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Aug.	4.230.000	+ 101.000	1.330.000	+ 94.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*8,313,000*	+ *362,000*	*2,766,000*	+ *403,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	− 503.000	Dr. 107,000	− 134.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*3,791,000*	− *509,000*	*178,000*	− *114,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.780 000	− 64.000	1.137.000	+ 4.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*7,330,000*	− *330,000*	*2 124,000*	− *16,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1,576.000	− 114.000	339.000	− 24.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*3,203,000*	− *320,000*	*723,000*	− *74,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Aug.	13.208.000	+ 1.536.000	4.697.000	+ 1.242.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*26,171,000*	− *2,866,000*	*9,190,000*	+ *2,553,000*
Southern ..... a	Aug.	5.312.000	− 376.000	1.390.000	+ 285.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*10,524,000*	− *869,000*	*2,707,000*	+ *433,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Aug.	8.446.000	− 22.000	3.402.000	− 53.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*16,293,000*	− *266,000*	*6,211,000*	+ *120,000*
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 83.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	*5,235,000*	− *206,000*	*1,247,000*	+ *173,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Aug	722.000	+ 169.000	256 000	+ 161.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug	*1,424,000*	+ *310,000*	*506,000*	+ *317,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Sept. 14	$77.000	− $12.000	10	$955.000	− $82.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 30	1.209.000	+ 161.000	13	11.387.000	+1.188.000
Chicago Great Western	Sept. 30	300.000	+ 2.000	13	3.594.000	− 144.000
Colorado & Southern	Sept. 14	297.000	+ 8.000	10	2.912.000	+ 68.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Sept. 30	752.000	+ 50.000	13	6.679.000	+ 332.000
Great Northern	M.of Aug.	6.075.000	− 242.000	2†	11.933.000	−1.824.000
Illinois Central	M.of Aug.	5.080.000	− 316.000	2†	9.959.000	− 833.000
Louisville & Nashville	Sept. 14	1.141.000	+ 58.000	10	11.332.000	− 324.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Sept. 14	689.000	+ 7.000	10	6.232.000	+ 24.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Sept. 30	809.000	− 48.000	13	7.623.000	− 485.000
Missouri Pacific	Sept. 21	1.183.000	− 71.000	11	13.465.000	− 785.000
Southern Railway	Sept. 30	1,727,000	− 22.000	13	—	—

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1915.

OUR GREAT IMPORTS.

THE success of the Franco-British loan of £100,000,000 from America, and the remarkable demonstration of friendship for the Allied nations by American business men at a banquet given by the Pilgrims to Lord Reading and his colleagues, have almost entirely destroyed any doubt hitherto held as to the ability of France and of Great Britain to continue to import goods from the rest of the world on the great scale of the current year. By these demonstrations the American people have shown their sympathy with the Allies, and, as everyone knows, sympathy between nations means credit. Moreover, it will be realised that this action of the United States carries with it much greater consequences than the granting of American credit. The American public recognise the goodness of the security which Great Britain and France are able to give for any loans granted to them, and in so doing they set an example to other nations from which the Allies may need to purchase goods to accept payment in securities also if no other method of payment is possible. Having regard to the necessity of the Allies to concentrate their energies on war production, it is obvious that they will not be able to export goods in sufficient volume to pay for all the goods they wish to import, and that unless the countries with goods to sell are willing to accept payment partly in securities, purchases from those nations must be restricted to the amount of the goods which the Allied nations can pay for by other means. Hitherto the Allied nations have paid for goods imported in excess of the amounts paid for by exports, interest, and services by means of considerable sums of floating capital which they possessed in all parts of the world. These supplies of floating capital have now been appreciably reduced, and the question which the American people had to decide was whether or not the Allied Powers must restrict their purchases or be allowed to pay for goods in securities. The reply of the American people in granting the loan, and, moreover, in their reception of the Anglo-French Commission, is clear and definite. They are more than willing to supply the Allied nations with all the goods they need—food, raw material, and munitions, and to take payment in securities for any balance not paid for in goods and services. And what the American people are prepared to do other nations will doubtless be also willing to do, as they will recognise that it is far wiser to sell goods and to take payment in the obligations of wealthy nations enjoying an income large enough to permit them in ordinary times to invest abroad some £300,000,000 a year than not to produce the goods, or to store them with the possibility of having to keep them in store for an indefinite number of years. Practically, therefore, the loan operation in the States means that the Allied Powers will be able to purchase from any country in the world the goods which those countries can supply even should the normal system of exchange not permit them to be paid for until after the War is over.

In this respect we welcome the attitude which Japan is adopting towards the purchases of her goods by Russia, which at the moment has some difficulty in exporting goods in payment for her imports. It is true that Japan has no great amount of surplus wealth available for investment in other countries, but it is evident that if the Japanese people are disposed (and they are so disposed) to work still harder than they normally do, that they will be able to produce a great quantity of goods for export, and by this means may during the War succeed in paying off a large part of their debt to other nations. Furthermore, the reader has doubtless noted that Australia has recently raised a substantial loan for war purposes, and has thus relieved Great Britain of a part of the burden of financing the War, and that now preparations are being made in Canada for the issue of an internal loan, by means of which the Canadian people will also meet their war expenses.

Indeed, the great purchases of goods now being made by Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia are likely to so greatly increase the demand for the goods of all countries that nearly every nation which has hitherto been a debtor country will be able to lend. Normally, of course, the young countries devote their growing capital to their own development, and beyond this import large amounts of capital from France and England. The War, however, has stopped immigration into these countries, and the capital they would otherwise use in providing for the usual influx of immigrants will become available either for investment in the securities of the Allied nations, or for the re-purchase of their own securities of which Great Britain and France hold so many.

As our readers are aware, the foreign and Colonial securities possessed by Great Britain are not far short of £4,000,000,000, and now that Great Britain and France are buying goods so freely not only from the United States, but from Canada, Australia, Argentina, and other countries, it may be possible either to sell back securities to these countries in payment for goods, or to sell securities similar to the Allied loan about to be placed in the United States. But, whatever may be the method adopted, it is obvious that no difficulty is likely to arise in obtaining the credits needed to buy the goods required.

Of course, the British people will recognise that in proportion as they pay for imports with securities and not with goods their wealth is being reduced, and that in proportion as they are economical in their expenditure the loss of wealth through the War will be curtailed. Moreover, it is necessary to recollect that if the British people create debt in Colonial and foreign nations which they will wish to redeem after the War is over, their power to supply new capital in the ordinary manner will then be restricted. These considerations should, however, have no weight whatever if the goods are really needed, as everything must if necessary be sacrificed to secure victory to the Allied forces. But they should have weight when unnecessary expenditures are being incurred, and when the country is under the necessity of borrowing from other nations to meet expenditures that are not essential, and which, by a little self-denial, could be avoided. We know how difficult it is for a large number of persons not to spend money when they have it to spend, and that the practice of economy is not in harmony with British character; nevertheless it is of the greatest importance that everyone should understand that if unnecessary expenditures can be kept down at the present time, the amount of debt which the nation will incur to foreign and colonial countries will be diminished, and that the task which the nation will

have to perform after the War of redeeming its foreign debt will be lightened. Apart from these considerations the willingness of the American people to provide the Allied nations with the credits they need in order to pay for the vast quantities of goods they are now buying in the United States is a most satisfactory and encouraging event, as it means that the Allied nations will be able to purchase all they require from the world, and that trade in the countries which supply the Allies with goods will be both active and profitable.

Prior to the current year the value of the net imports—imports less re-exports—into Great Britain has only once reached £659,000,000, but in the current year the value will probably reach £900,000,000, including, of course, Government purchases, and in the twelve months to June next it is probable that the total will reach upwards of £1,000,000,000. This would be from £350,000,000 to £400,000,000 more than usual. In September our net imports were of the value of rather less than £63,000,000, or at the rate of over £750,000,000 a year, and if to this amount be added Government imports and foreign payment of £20,000,000 per month, we arrive at an aggregate figure of about £1,000,000,000 per annum. On the other hand, the value of British exports, although substantially higher than in September of last year, was only £32,300,000, or at the rate of somewhat under £400,000,000 a year, against about £530,000,000, the highest hitherto reached. Thus our imports now exceed our exports at the rate of about £600,000,000 a year. In considering this position we have, of course, to take into account the income we are deriving from interest, shipping, &c., which probably amounts to some £350,000,000, or even £400,000,000, a year; and, on the other hand, we have to note the large credits that the British people are giving to the Allied countries. The Chancellor of the Exchequer placed the amount of these in the current fiscal year at £423,000,000. Apparently this amount included some of the loans made in the last fiscal year, but when we take into account the additional loans that may still have to be made in the current year to our Allies and the capital subscribed in the London market for colonial and foreign countries, the amount in the current year will probably reach £400,000,000. We are glad to learn that additional credits have now been arranged for in the London market by the Russian Government. Whatever economy we make in our expenditure, we trust that no restriction will be placed upon the amount of money that will be lent to Russia. Indeed we ourselves had expected that the main part of our assistance to the Allies would have consisted in the loan of great sums of money to the Russian people, to enable them to obtain all the war material they needed and to meet their expenditures, and it is obvious that we must allow nothing to interfere with this essential work. When the British people are considering the question of what expenditure they can curtail they should provide for greatly increased and not reduced credits for Russia. Thus, having regard to the public issues of capital for colonial and foreign nations in the London market and the granting of credits to our colonies and Allies, it is obvious that the amount of capital we shall need to provide for colonial and foreign nations in the coming year will be at least £400,000,000, and it may indeed reach the £423,000,000 estimated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thus the income we are drawing from interest, shipping, &c., is no more than sufficient to provide the capital sums we are lending to our Allies, to our colonies, and to other nations.

Hence Great Britain is now importing and proposes to import goods for about £200,000,000 a year in excess of the goods it can export and the income it derives from interest and services, and proposes to lend its credit to its Allies and colonies for another £400,000,000, and the excellent example set by the United States encourages us to hope and to expect that no real difficulty will arise in paying for this excess of imports by sales of British securities or of our investments in the securities of the countries from which the goods are bought.

In the course of an interview in New York, Sir Edward Holden referred to the possibility of another loan in America early next year. The success of the present loan and the growing recognition by American business men and by the American people that there is no practical method of paying for all the goods we are buying except in securities, makes it evident that a second loan may be even more successful than the first. It is, of course, always difficult for a nation to alter its habits, and as hitherto the American people have invested practically the whole of their savings in their own country, the task of inducing them to invest a large sum abroad was particularly difficult. But now that American investors and bankers realise that behind the bonds they are taking at such an attractive rate of interest there is almost unlimited wealth, and, therefore, unlimited security, we have no doubt they will be ready to subscribe whatever sums are needed to permit the Allied Powers in general, and Great Britain in particular, to purchase all the American goods they need. It is scarcely necessary to state that so far Great Britain has paid for the goods she has purchased either by exports or by calling in floating capital or by sales of securities, and that against the capital called in in this manner she has received a nearly corresponding amount of securities from her Allies. In the five months to the end of December the excess of imports over exports was nearly £103,000,000, and after taking into account the imports of Government stores on the one hand and the income from interest and services on the other, it is obvious that Great Britain did not need to call in any capital from abroad to cover its trade indebtedness. In the first nine months of the current year, however, the situation was not quite so favourable. Net imports of £568,000,000 have been attended by exports of £283,000,000, and the excess of imports over exports reached £285,000,000. Were it not for the purchase of Government stores the whole of this sum would have been provided for by the income derived from interest, freights, &c., but including Government stores there has probably been a deficiency of somewhat over £100,000,000, and to this must be added the loans we have made to Allied nations. Altogether it is evident that in the nine months we have called in floating capital from abroad or sold American securities amounting to about £400,000,000. It should be understood, however, that we have already supplied the money lent to our Allies, and made payment for our imports for the nine months, and that all the nation has now to do is to provide for an adverse balance of about £600,000,000 in the next twelve months, mainly arising from loans of some £400,000,000 to Allied nations.

If it were possible for the British people to make economies of £200,000,000, they would entirely cover their own adverse balance of imports over exports, and would merely lend their credit for the purpose of borrowing from the world the sums they are lending to the nations with which they are co-operating for so mighty and so far-reaching a purpose. This would indeed be a wonderful thing to accomplish. But whether or not the nation meets its current expenditures in part by economy or decides to borrow abroad all the money needed to cover the trade balance, we have no doubt whatever that it will be able to buy all the goods it needs, and that within a very short time after the War is over it will redeem whatever debt it incurs to other nations. We set out below a statement of our trade in the first five months of war to December 1914, in the nine months to September 1915, and for the month of September 1915, for the purpose of showing the extent of our imports, the extent of our exports, and the amount of the excess of imports over exports, apart from the Government purchases. In the past the latter may be reckoned

at about £12,000,000 a month; but in future they will probably be in the neighbourhood of £20,000,000 per month. Our income from interest, freights, &c., may be calculated to be £30,000,000 to £35,000,000 a month, and our loans for foreign and colonial countries also at about £30,000,000 to £35,000,000 a month.

	[illegible] 1914	1913	Increase or Decrease	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	[illegible]	328,244,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Re-exports	[illegible]	42,208,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net Imports	233,796,000	286,036,000	[illegible]	- 18·3
Exports	[illegible]	221,025,000	[illegible]	41·0
Excess of Imports	[illegible]	65,011,000	[illegible]	

	—September— [illegible]	1914	Increase or Decrease	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	70,293,000	45,007,000	+ 25,286,000	+56·1
Re-exports	7,564,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net Imports	[illegible]	39,733,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
Exports	32,308,000	26,674,000	[illegible]	+21·
Excess of Imports...	30,421,000	[illegible]	+ 17,362,000	

	[illegible] 1915	1914	Increase or Decrease	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	643,888,000	522,474,000	+ 121,414,000	+23·2
Re-exports ...	75,620,000	76,796,000	[illegible]	- 1·5
Net Imports	[illegible]	445,678,000	+122,590,000	+27·5
Exports	283,092,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 19·2
Excess of Imports.	[illegible]	94,930,600	+150,246,000	

ISSUES OF NEW CAPITAL.

In recent months everyone has been busy in paying up for the last Government loan of nearly £600,000,000; and there have been practically no other public issues of capital. In the first part of the year, however, a considerable sum of money was lent for other than Government purposes, and about £60,000,000 of money has been subscribed for various purposes other than loans for the British Government. Of this amount about £27,500,000 has been for the British Colonies, £19,000,000 for foreign countries, about £9,000,000 for the United Kingdom, and rather less than £4,000,000 for India and the Colonies. Altogether in the current year the amount of capital subscribed has reached the enormous total of £687,689,000, a sum which compares with £537,000,000 in the whole of 1914 and £248,000,000 in 1913. How soon before the British Government will need to place another loan is unknown. It is known, however, that the Government's resources for meeting its expenditure will be exhausted in another month, and consequently it is expected that another loan will be issued some time in November. The very large amount of capital subscribed this year will be evident from the following statement of the quarterly sums, and also by the additional statement of the amounts subscribed monthly since the beginning of 1915.

Capital Subscriptions of U. Kingdom Quarterly since 1910.

Year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4th Qr.	Six Months	Year
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915 ..	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1914 ...	108,605,000	59,956,000	24,536,000	340,677,000	5,327,000	539,081,000
1913 ..	75,574,000	75,702,000	38,491,000	48,131,000	10,339,000	248,237,000
1912 ..	59,798,000	61,183,000	43,905,000	38,014,000	8,437,000	211,337,000
1911 ...	63,152,000	58,689,000	12,077,000	56,429,000	5,869,000	196,216,000
1910 ..	74,845,000	83,412,000	26,905,000	41,826,000	5,155,000	232,143,000

Capital Subscriptions [illegible] U. Kingdom Months since January 1915.

1915	United Kingdom £	[illegible] £	British Colonies £	Foreign Countries £	Total £
Jan. ..	20,000	160,000	476,996	[illegible]	10,187,996
Feb. .	500,000	Nil	[illegible]	9,530,000	10,033,750
March ...	[illegible]	151,200	4,975,000	40,000	[illegible]
3 mos.	33,144,745	311,200	6,046,746	19,110,000	58,612,691
April .	5,133,929	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9,991,859
May .	2,490,588	3,477,700	[illegible]	6,390,000	[illegible]
June ...	294,250	Nil	7,459,000	[illegible]	7,746,750
6 mos.	41,063,512	3,796,830	19,401,746	27,462,500	91,724,538
July .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	591,402,500
Aug. .	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,000	1,448,254
Sept.	111,600	Nil	[illegible]	Nil	114,100
9 mos. ...	637,021,112	3,796,830	27,466,500	19,405,000	687,689,442

† Including [illegible] Treasury Bonds.

THE BALKAN IMBROGLIO.

Events have moved very rapidly during the week in the Balkans, and yet have not cleared up a single doubt that existed. All that can be said with certainty is that a grave crisis has arisen, and that it must resolve itself quickly into decisive action. The mobilisation of the Bulgarian army was immediately followed by a counter-mobilisation of the Greek army, and an intimation from M. Venezelos that Greece is bound by treaty to support Serbia against attack, to which the Bulgarian Government replied that there is no intention on its part to change its policy of perfect neutrality. The Russian Government also sent an ultimatum to Bulgaria, which was endorsed by our own Government and the Governments of France and Italy. But Bulgaria has not budged an inch. The Entente Allies are withdrawing their representatives from Bulgaria. Practically, that is to say, they are at war with the little Kingdom. M. Venezelos, who, having returned to power, obtained a large majority for his policy in the *Boule*, and having taken up so decisive a course, seemed to be safely in the saddle, has learnt from the King that the latter disapproves of his policy; has accordingly resigned; and a Coalition Government has been formed. The apparent cause of King Constantine's wavering policy is that M. Venezelos had given his consent to the landing of British and French armies at Salonika. The landing of those armies has begun. Consequently, the policy of M. Venezelos is, to that extent, being carried out. But M. Venezelos himself has been driven from power, and apparently, therefore, Greece is resolved either to join the Central European Powers or to remain neutral. It is extremely difficult to believe that she can either remain neutral or join the Central European Powers, for, with the consent of a Greek Government, British and French armies are landing in Greece. To attempt to turn them back would be an act of hostility against the Entente Allies. To allow them to use Greece as a base for the protection of Serbia would presumably be regarded by the two Central European Powers as an act of hostility towards them. Greece, at all events, is thus placed in the frying pan, and she must quickly jump from it to one side or the other. Lastly, the attitude of Roumania remains as doubtful as it has been for a long time past. It was almost universally believed that Roumania, as well as Greece, had promised assistance to Serbia should she be invaded. Roumania certainly has refused to allow German and Austrian munitions to be sent through Roumania to the assistance of Turkey. And it has all along been understood that opinion in Roumania was on the side of the Entente Allies. Yet there is as much uncertainty as ever there has been of the real intentions of that Kingdom. Meanwhile, the Germans claim to have invaded Serbia and crossed the Danube, the Save, and the Drina. German newspapers, furthermore, allege that there is an agreement with Bulgaria that she shall invade Serbia with 300,000 men, and that the Austro-Hungarian Army will be not less than 100,000. If we can trust German accounts, and they are very untrustworthy, not only has the invasion of Serbia at last begun, but the Bulgarians have bound themselves to join in the attack. That being so, the British and the French forces must advance from Salonika, and all the Balkan States must without delay make up their minds.

The experience of the past fourteen months in regard to the Balkans brings out very clearly once more how carefully Germany has, during the past half-century, been preparing for the great struggle upon which she so rashly entered at the end of July of last year. Her arrogance and the unwillingness of the British Government to mix up this country with Continental affairs enabled Germany to place upon the thrones of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece three German princelets. At the time any suspicion of an

ambition to rule all Europe on the part of Germany was pooh-poohed as utter nonsense, while our own Government, blandly declaring that it was pursuing a policy of splendid isolation, refused to take a single step to counteract the plots that were being woven. The death of Queen Victoria placed upon the British throne a Sovereign who had a very keen interest in, as well as a very deep insight into, Continental politics; and under his influence the policy of this country has been greatly changed. But the Balkans practically had been garrisoned by German nominees.

Russia, which, at the cost of much blood and much treasure, freed Bulgaria in 1877, finds herself in effect defied by that State, and apparently will have to use force to prevent her from doing mischief. We ourselves allowed another German prince to be placed on the throne of Roumania, and a third upon the throne of Greece. We are now reaping what we sowed. And we are discovering that the much-vaunted watchfulness and foresight of the British Foreign Office are things that never really existed. We have been fooled to the top of our bent, and now we find ourselves with our French Allies not merely attempting to open the Dardanelles, but actually bound to send a military expedition to defend Serbia. Any more deplorable fiasco it would be difficult to discover. However, let the past bury the past. Our business now is to get out of the entanglement the best way we can. Fortunately, for one thing, we have a Navy that enables us not only to reinforce as may be required the troops landed at Salonika, but owing to the immense superiority of that Navy we are in a position to strike at any point that seems desirable to us. Furthermore, it is hardly credible that the Greek people can, with their eyes open, deliberately throw away the greatest opportunity ever likely to be offered to them. If they overrule their King, recall M. Venezelos to power, and heartily join the Entente Powers, they are assured not only of an extension of Greece Proper, but of large accessions of territory in Asia Minor as well. The late elections took place under the influence of a Premier who was chosen specially to carry out the King's policy in opposition to that of M. Venezelos. Yet on the test vote the other day M. Venezelos obtained a majority of 42 in a House which was elected purposely to support the King and defeat the Greek statesman. Therefore, we have the clearest proof that the Venezelos policy is the popular policy and that its majority would be much larger were it not that a certain number of King's men were elected from the new territory obtained by Greece in Macedonia. The real feeling of Greece, then, is manifestly on the side of the Entente Powers. In the same way, it is impossible to doubt that the real feeling of Roumania is in favour of the Entente Powers, or, it would be more correct to say, is in favour of joining the Entente Powers with the object of overrunning Transylvania without delay and winning for the kingdom the Roumanians who have been so trampled upon by the Magyars. Lastly, it is difficult to believe that the Bulgarian people have forgotten their pitiful state under Turkish tyranny, the money and the lives that Russia sacrificed to set them free, and to please an intriguing Sovereign are ready to turn their armies against their best benefactor. While, therefore, the probability is that the crisis will end more favourably than overt acts augur at present, it would be rash to place too much reliance upon that. Governments actually in power have innumerable ways of influencing the public. And when a well-drilled army is called to the Colours it is a very serious thing indeed for either officers or men to refuse to obey orders. We must not, then, expect too much from popular feeling. That the Bulgarian and the Greek Governments are at present running counter to the real popular feeling of their countries we do not for a moment doubt. And yet we shall not be surprised if military discipline enables the two Governments to do a great deal of mischief.

A very few days must make things clear. Therefore, it is useless to indulge further in conjectures. Yet we cannot close without urging our own Government and the Allies generally to act promptly and to act vigorously. We have no wish to say anything that even by accident might assist the enemy. We refrain, therefore, from suggestions of every kind. But the present is an emergency which demands strong and decisive action, and not a moment, therefore, ought to be lost. We have been assured time out of mind during the last fourteen months that we were engaged in a task of the gravest difficulty, and that we should require all the men and all the munitions that can be provided. The answer to all these assurances has been splendid. Is the Government prepared to show that it deserves the confidence that has been reposed in it? Respecting the feeling of Russia, there can be no doubt she has been wounded in her tenderest part, and it is incredible that she will spare any possible action to set things right. Happily, our French Allies and our own gallant troops have resumed the offensive once more with brilliant success. The Germans, therefore, appeared to be thinned both in France and in the Eastern Field of operations. Therefore, there ought to be not a moment's delay in striking hard and striking quickly.

THE WAR AND THE EMPIRE.

This is not a time, we very freely admit, for advocating extensive projects of reform. Yet the very fact that we are engaged in so terrible a war enjoins upon us to make, or at all events to prepare for, certain extremely urgent reforms. We shall to-day advert only to one, for it will have to come, and the sooner we all recognise the fact the better it will be for us. Last week we welcomed the announcement made by the Viceroy of India in the Council at Simla that the British Government admitted the full justice of India's claim to be represented in future Imperial Conferences, but reminded him that the self-governing Dominions and Commonwealths have a voice in the matter, and that, consequently, the United Kingdom could not go farther than has just been stated. It is with the very greatest gratification that we notice that the Press of the self-governing Dominions is, so far as we have been able to see, unanimously of opinion that India henceforward must be represented in future Conferences. The reader will bear in mind that this question is not one of mere prestige, but that it is a practical question of the very gravest importance for India as well as for the other communities which hitherto have been represented in the Conferences. For example, the fourteen months of war have impressed upon the whole world the amazing influence which sea power confers upon the State that possesses it in the fullest measure. The two Central European Empires are dependent entirely for communication with the outside world upon their neutral neighbours. They dare not send a vessel of any kind across the seas. They cannot buy the things they need most direly. And they cannot sell what would help them to bear the cost of the War unless neutrals do the work for them. We, on the other hand, are in constant unbroken communication with every part of the world because our Fleet is able to sweep the seas. Now, this demonstration has two great lessons for all observers. The first is that it is of the utmost value to the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths, and Unions that they are not thrown upon their own resources to keep open their communications with the rest of the world, but that they belong to an Empire which is absolute mistress of the seas. Therefore, they can laugh at the threats of invasion, and they can rest secure that they can buy and sell freely in all the great markets of the world. All these statements are as true of India as of the self governing Dominions; and, therefore, it brings home to all

thinking Indians that whatever drawbacks there may be in their present relations with the British Empire, they have at least this one great overmastering advantage, that the markets of the whole world are open to them, and that though for a while they were alarmed by the antics of the *Emden*, for a whole twelve months now they have seen that the danger of invasion is absolutely gone. After such unquestioned demonstration it will be of the most urgent importance that all parts of the British Empire retain the fact fully in mind and make sure that never in the future shall they be exposed to dangers which would be certain if they lost the supremacy of the seas. The question is as urgent for India as it is for the rest of the Empire. Therefore the maritime policy of the Empire must engage the best attention of every member of the Empire, and it is reasonable and proper for India to assure herself that she shall have a potent voice in settling all such questions.

That, however, is only one of the reasons why we shall have to reorganise the whole Empire. If sea power alone had to be considered many persons, probably alarmed at additional expenditure, would shrug their shoulders and say, We are already able to sweep the seas. But important as it is to maintain sea supremacy, it is still more important, if we can, to ensure peace for as long a time as is practicable. Little more than fourteen months ago the world was flattering itself with the belief that the relations between England and Germany had improved, and that the danger of war, which for some years previously had seemed so imminent, was gradually decreasing. In a single week the whole face of the world was changed and we found ourselves involved in one of the most perilous wars in which we have ever been engaged. At that particular moment there was no time to consult with the self-governing Dominions, or, indeed, with anybody else. Germany took very good care that no such time should be given. When Austria-Hungary seemed to be alarmed by its own rashness in sending an insulting ultimatum to Serbia and was in a mood to draw back, Germany suddenly sent an ultimatum to Russia, giving the latter Power only twelve hours in which to answer. Germany thus chose the moment, and determined that there must be no delay. As things turned out, then, it was impossible to call together an Imperial Conference, or, indeed, adequately to consult any portion of the British Empire beyond sea. Germany took care that while she would pledge herself to respect the integrity of France proper, she must retain full freedom of action regarding France's colonies; and she, likewise, declared that her signature to the Treaty guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Belgium was only "a scrap of paper." Therefore, we have clear proof that there is at present in the world a Power which laughs at the most solemn Treaties and the most solemn pledges of any kind that it gives, and as even at this day there is such a Power, there may be others in the future equally ready to throw over all their obligations. It will, then, be the duty of the Imperial Conference, as well as its right, to seriously consider how even the most immoral of Governments can be bound. We cannot, then, wait till the War is over to reorganise the Empire; for the self-Governing Dominions and India have an unquestionable right to a voice in the settlement of peace, and that they may exercise that right efficiently the arrangements ought to be made without delay. We admit fully that the whole mind of the country and its Government is fully occupied by the War. But that will be no answer by and by if, when the time for negotiating peace comes, measures have to be taken which will give offence both to the self-governing Dominions and to India. We see clearly what is before us, and have learned to our cost what unpreparedness means. We ought to take measures to ensure that we shall be fully prepared when negotiations begin.

THE REICHSBANK.

The return of the Imperial Bank of Germany for the last day of September is always of exceeding interest, for the ending day of that month is one of the four quarterly terms on which occur remarkable changes in the condition of the Bank, and as it is just at the close of harvest time, it usually exhibits very remarkable alterations. The fact that War just now is adding its influences to so many others, makes the return all the more interesting. The total amount of gold held on the last day of September was £120,971,700, against £85,803,550 at the corresponding date last year, showing an increase of £35,168,150, or 41.0%. It will be recollected that at the end of September last year War had existed for two months. Belgium had been trampled underfoot. The great rush upon Paris had taken place. And the invader had been driven back from the Marne and the Aisne. It will be noticed that the increase in the gold-holdings even during the War has been remarkable. It shows firstly, beyond all question, that the German Government has succeeded to a remarkable extent in inducing its subjects to exchange their gold for its notes; and it suggests that possibly Germany may have obtained some gold from Austria-Hungary. The Treasury notes issued at the end of September amounted to £44,256,350, against £16,823,750 at the corresponding date of last year, an increase of £27,432,600, or 163.2%. It will be noticed how materially the Government has been adding to its Treasury notes as well as to all the other paper issues of the Empire. The notes of other Banks, however, amounted to no more than £596,700, against £367,350 at the corresponding date last year, showing an increase of £229,350, or 62.4%. Summing up the three items just referred to, and adding the silver, the total amounts to £176,697,000, being an increase compared with the corresponding date last year of £63,633,650, or 61.1%. Turning now to the circulation, which is limited by these four items, we find that on the last day of September it amounted to £307,881,500, against £224,544,650 at the corresponding date last year, showing an increase of £83,336,850, or 37.1%. The reader will not forget that while the gold and silver are set out as if they seriously and actually affected the solvency of Germany, no paper of any kind can be cashed. Germany is working on inconvertible paper alone, and that inconvertible paper is being issued by the Government itself, by the Reichsbank, and by other banks, several of them having been authorised to issue as a War measure. It would be extremely interesting if we had an accurate statement of the total note circulation of all kinds at the present time, for it would enable us to judge how purely fictitious is the gold holdings. Those gold holdings will be valuable to the victors when peace comes about. But so far as Germany is concerned at present, they are of little more use than to enable her, through neutral countries, to obtain some of the things she most urgently needs, and also to bribe. The bills discounted on the last day of September amounted to £373,528,800, against £237,788,500 on the corresponding date last year, an increase of £135,740,300, or 57.1%. Clearly the Reichsbank is financing both the Government and trade to a great extent. The deposits amounted to £220,812,750, against £117,535,900 on the corresponding date last year, an increase of £103,276,850, or 87.8%.

Review. This is the title of a new monthly magazine, which is intended to pave the way to a better understanding and knowledge of Russia and her peoples and to stimulate commercial and literary intercourse between this country and our great Ally. (J. Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Limited, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1s.)

THE COST OF LIVING.

OUR INDEX-NUMBER OF PRICES.

The world's great crops of foodstuffs have had a very marked effect upon the prices of vegetable foods in the past month, more especially of British wheat and of oats. In the Spring the *Gazette* average price of wheat rose to 62*s.*, and it has now fallen to 43*s.* 5*d.*, or very close to the quotation of a year ago, when it stood at 42*s.* 3½*d.* This lower price was, however, much above normal, as two years ago the price was 31*s.* 3*d.* The recent fall is a very acceptable one, and will materially assist to reduce the cost of living in a great many families. The price of animal food is also lower, owing to a sensible decline in the price of beef. Unfortunately, the cotton crop of the current year is very deficient in consequence of bad weather and the great reduction in the acreage planted. The higher price will, of course, rectify the latter situation next year, but in the meantime it is obvious that the short crops, even with the assistance of the additional stock brought forward from last year, will be barely sufficient to meet the world's needs. The price of American Middling has consequently risen to over 7.18*d.* a lb., whereas at this time last year it was in the neighbourhood of 5*d.*, and later on fell to nearly 4*d.* The full effect of this rise in the price of cotton was not felt in September, and next month's index number for textiles will probably show a further rise. Various sundry materials were also dearer in price, more especially wood and indigo, while various minerals were also dearer.

On balance the index number is higher than it was for August, and is, indeed, the highest reached since the War began, standing at 107.8 against 107 last month, and 82.4 before the outbreak of war. The advance since the War began is thus 25.4, or about 31%. As regards the cost of living of the great mass of the people, however, a fall in the prices of food is much more important than the advance in raw textiles and sundry materials, and it is evident that, in spite of the Dardanelles being closed and the absence of Russian supplies, the great crops of food of this year will make the cost of living sensibly cheaper in the current season than last year.

The following are THE STATIST'S index-numbers of the prices of 45 commodities, the average for the 11 years 1867-77 being 100:—

Annual Numbers.

Period	Average
1873	111
1878-87	79
1890-99	66
1905-14	79
1880	88
1896	61
1905	72
1906	77
1907	80
1908	73
1909	74
1910	78
1911	80
1912	85
1913	85
1914	86

Monthly Numbers.

Month	Index No.
July 1896	59.2
February 1909	71.9
June 1914	81.2
July 1914	82.4
August 1914	87.9
September 1914	89.3
October 1914	89.8
November 1914	88.8
December 1914	91.6
January 1915	96.4
February 1915	100.9
March 1915	103.7
April 1915	105.9
May 1915	107.2
June and July 1915	106.4
August 1915	107.0
September 1915	107.8

The index number of vegetable food is now 101.1, against 105.6 at the close of August, a decline of a little over 4%. Since the War began the advance is still nearly 52%. Notwithstanding a further rise in mutton and pork, the decline in the price of beef has brought down the index number for animal food from 131.8 to 129.3. This shows an advance of 32.6% since the War began. Sugar, coffee, tea, minerals, textiles, and sundries all show advance for the month.

Comparison of the prices of the various classes last month with previous periods is made below:—

	Veg. Food (Corn &c.)	Animal Food Meat & Butter)	Sugar, Coffee & Tea	Minerals	Textiles	Sundries
Year 1873	106	109	106	141	103	106
Aver. 1878–87	79	95	76	73	71	81
„ 1890–99	61	80	63	71	56	66
„ 1905–14	70	92	53	97	75	78
June 1914	66.5	97.5	51.8	93.7	80.6	82.5
May 1915	110.1	134.5	72.0	119.6	86.5	107.5
June „	103.0	127.5	73.4	126.6	91.6	106.2
July „	105.4	130.3	72.9	121.2	89.6	107.1
Aug. „	105.6	131.8	71.4	119.6	92.6	107.7
Sept. „	101.1	129.3	71.5	121.6	93.3	110.2
+ or - % Sept.'15	−4.2	− 1.9	+ 0.1	+1.7	+6.1	+ 2.3
Do. % since June'14	+51.9	+32.6	+38.0	+25.7	+21.9	+33.6

In the aggregate the index number of foodstuffs was reduced during last month from 108.1 to 105.2, or 2.7%. This leaves a net rise of 40.6% since the War began. On the other hand, the index number of materials rose last month from 106.3 to 109.6, or 3.1%, making a total advance of 27.9% since war began.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index-numbers for last month compare thus (1866-77 = 100 in both cases):—

	Food-stuffs	Materials		Food-stuffs	Materials
Year 1873	107	114	June „	105.8	106.9
Aver. 1878-87	84	76	July „	107.7	105.5
„ 1890-99	68	64	Aug. „	108.1	106.3
„ 1905-14	75	82	Sept. „	105.2	109.6
July 1896	60.0	58.6			
May 1907	73.5	88.9	+ or − % in Sept.	−2.7	+ 3.1
Feb. 1909	70.8	72.6			
June 1914	74.8	85.7	Rise % 15 mos.	+40.6	+ 27.9
May 1915	111.1	104.3			

The Silver market was firmer in September, and the price recovered from 23*d.* to 23¾*d.* This advance was due mainly to a short supply from America and to the increased demand for coinage purposes for Europe. The demand for the East has been very slack, although with trade improving there is a more hopeful feeling with regard to future purchases for India.

The price and index-number of silver for last month compare as follows (60.84*d.* per oz. being the parity of 1 gold to 15½ silver = 100):—

	Price *d.*	Index-No.		Price *d.*	Index-No.
Average 1890-99	34	= 55.8	Dec. 1906	$32\frac{5}{16}$	= 53.1
Average 1905-14	$26\frac{11}{16}$	= 43.9	June 1914	26	= 42.7
Average 1893	$35\frac{3}{8}$	= 58.6	Oct. 1914	$22\frac{3}{16}$	= 36.5
Average 1909	$23\frac{1}{16}$	= 38.9	Dec. 1914	$22\frac{11}{16}$	= 37.3
Average 1914	$25\frac{3}{16}$	= 41.6	Aug. 1915	23	= 37.8
Lowest, Nov. 1902	$21\frac{1}{16}$	= 35.6	Sept. 1915	$23\frac{3}{4}$	= 39.0

The great event of September was the visit of an Anglo-French mission to the United States for the purpose of arranging for a credit and its success in arranging for a loan of £100,000,000 bearing 5% interest and redeemable in five years, but with rights to holders to convert into 4½% bonds possessing a currency of not less than 15 or more than 25 years from the original date of issue. The issue price to the public is 98 and to underwriters 96. The arrangements for this loan brought about a marked recovery in the American Exchange, and at the close of the month the rate was 4.72, being equal to a discount of about 3%.

MURRAY, D. AND W.—Final dividend of 6% on Ordinary, making 10% for the year.

NEUCHATEL ASPHALTE CO.—No interim dividend will be paid on the Ordinary shares.

NOVELLO AND CO.—Dividend of 6% on Ordinary for the year.

OWEN, JOSEPH, AND SONS.—Dividend of 6¾% on Ordinary for the year.

PANAWATTE TEA AND RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 6%, less tax.

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Where no funds are available to pay our fee, the £50,000 Consols may be sold at 65 and proceeds, less our fee, re-invested in War Loan at Current market price.

The full Six Months' Dividend on War Loan due 1st December accrues to the Stockholder who converts.

The latest date for conversion is 30th October, 1915.

The Income on £50,000 0s. 0d. Consols is £1,250
,, ,, ,, £33,333 6s. 8d. War Loan is £1,500

with the assurance that the rate of Interest will be increased automatically in the event of a further War Loan being issued at a higher rate of Interest.

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Financial Notes.

The publication by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce of the United States, shows that for the first time in the history of the country the value of the exports from all American ports during the twelve months ended with August exceeded 600 millions sterling. The actual figures are £607,006,656, whereas for the corresponding period of the preceding year the figures were £456,037,158, showing an increase of £150,969,498, or 33.1%. Of the total exports during the twelve months under consideration merchandise accounted for £333,939,787. During the same twelve months the excess of exports over imports of merchandise amounted to £273,066,869. Finally, during the twelve months the net imports of gold amounted to £29,250,955, while the net exports of gold were £18,934,523.

The figures given above show beyond question that the War has exercised a very beneficial influence upon American trade, and especially upon the export trade. In fact, the needs of the belligerents have been supplied to a considerable extent by the United States, with great profit to the latter, as the figures just cited show. One speaker of high position, supporting elsewhere the proposed loan to England and France, stated frankly that just before the War circumstances had so combined that many careful American observers were apprehensive of panic. Circumstances have been so altered by the War, and by good crops, that America now is exceedingly prosperous, and he concluded that it is the interest of all American capitalists, whatever their feelings may be respecting the various belligerents, to support the proposed loan, inasmuch as it will regulate exchange and thereby enable the United States to export the produce of the country as well as the manufactures, which this year have all been most abundant.

It may be added that this year the crop prospects have not affected the Money market at all to the extent that might have been expected. The crops are all abundant and the country is looking forward with great hope to the future. But the recent change in the banking law, together with the check given to every kind of speculation, has made all the banks so well prepared for the demands upon them that they are not now compelled to draw upon their deposits in New York, as in previous years they always have had to do. There is thus an extraordinary abundance of money in the United States. Every exertion is being made to ensure a satisfactory export of cotton and [illegible]

It is to be recollected that the United States is capable of maintaining in a high degree of comfort probably five or six times its present population. When this dreadful War is over the whole of the belligerents will be more or less impoverished. Germany and Austria-Hungary, in particular, will be almost ruined. And there will be a strong desire everywhere to escape from countries reduced so seriously to countries which are highly prosperous. It is reasonable to expect, therefore, that just as large numbers of our present fighting men will betake themselves to the self-governing Dominions, so from the impoverished parts of the Continent there will be a large emigration to the United States. If there is, all the capital that America saves will be required to extend her railway system, to enlarge her towns, to found new towns, and to bring under cultivation the immense stretches of territory that are now more or less given over to grazing.

The Investment Bankers' Association at Denver during the week ended September 25 approved of the loan proposed to be made by the United States to the United Kingdom and France in the following terms: "The Investment Bankers of America, represented in this convention, approve the extension of foreign credits, not as indicating either partiality or prejudice, but solely as a matter of business and practically as a necessary outcome of existing conditions. We believe we should not lose the opportunity now afforded to become a creditor instead of a debtor nation, and broaden the scope of our financial usefulness and interests the world over. We indorse the attitude of neutrality which has been maintained by the national Administration, and urge the investment bankers to support and reflect that attitude in conducting international transactions."

"Commercial Theory and Practice." By W. Abbott, B.A., B.Sc. Price 3*s.* 6*d.* (London: John Murray, Limited.)

"The Quintessence of Capitalism: A Study of the History and Psychology of the Modern Business Man." By Werner Sombart. This is a first translation from the German by M. Epstein, M.A., Ph.D. Price 15*s.* (London: T. F. Unwin.)

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American Topics.

DENVER AND RIO GRANDE RAILROAD.

NOTWITHSTANDING continued adverse conditions in the territory served, the Denver succeeded in getting through the past year with a fair degree of success from the point of view of net income, and again demonstrated its ability to earn sufficient profits to more than cover its own interest and other charges. This was due in the main to the increasing economy with which the traffic of the road was handled. The financial affairs of the undertaking were, however, much to the forefront by reason of the Company's relationship with the Western Pacific Railway. It will be remembered that a few years ago the Gould system of railways was extended to the Pacific Coast by the construction of the Western Pacific, which thus made the Denver the connecting-link between the Missouri Pacific and the new Pacific extension. The burden of financing the Western Pacific fell upon the shoulders of the Denver, and inasmuch as, in the first place, the cost of constructing the new line was far in excess of all anticipations, and, secondly, as a great stretch of line of more than 900 miles was built with only 10 or 20 miles of branch or feeder lines, the net income of the Pacific road was necessarily of small dimensions. To date the capital expenditures of the Pacific Extension amount to, roughly, $100,000,000, of which $50,000,000 was raised by the sale of First Mortgage bonds guaranteed as to interest by the Denver. The balance of the capital cost represents money provided by the Denver, in return for which the latter holds Second Mortgage bonds, and unpaid interest and other accounts represented in the Denver's treasury by unsecured notes of the Western Pacific. The results secured by the Western Pacific were, unfortunately, so unsatisfactory that each year the Denver was called upon to make good the deficiency in meeting the First Mortgage bond interest, besides having to pay interest on the sums it had borrowed with which to finance the Western Pacific. That the Denver was able to bear this dual burden speaks well for the strength of the undertaking. But twelve months ago the directors of the Denver decided that the Company would no longer make good any deficiency in earning the interest on Western Pacific First Mortgage bonds, and steps were taken to readjust the finances of the Pacific line with a view to making the undertaking solvent and of restoring the Denver to its former more prosperous condition. The tardiness of coming to any arrangement to this end resulted in the Western Pacific defaulting on the March coupon on its First Mortgage bonds, and therefore the line passed into the hands of receivers. For the past twelve months, therefore, the Denver has made no contribution towards meeting interest on Western Pacific bonds, but, of course, it has had to pay interest on the money it raised with which to finance that line.

What will be the nature of the readjustment of the Western Pacific's capital account we cannot venture to predict; but it is quite evident that the First Mortgage bondholders will have to modify their security, and it would seem that, in exchange for its large interests, the Denver will receive junior securities. An important matter to be settled is the provision of fresh capital for the construction of feeders and equipment. It is anticipated that eventually the Denver and the Western Pacific will be consolidated into one great system.

With regard to the Denver proper, many factors contributed to the decline in gross revenue in the past twelve months. In 1913-14, owing to a variety of causes, receipts fell off considerably, but in the past year new adverse conditions arose, and the decline in traffic and in revenue was even more marked than in the former period, the decline of $1,771,000, or 7½ %, in gross earnings last year having followed upon a shrinkage of $1,326,000, or 5¼% in 1913-14. Of the falling off of revenue last year freight was responsible for $1,147,000, of which 30% was due to smaller ore and bullion shipments arising from the quieter condition of the copper industry in the first nine months of the year, 40% to reduced tonnage of merchandise and manufactured articles because of general business depression and the diversion of transcontinental traffic to the Panama Canal, 15% to a smaller demand for coal and coke because of the relative inactivity in the copper industry and an unseasonable winter in the North-West, and approximately 15% to lower livestock, wool and lumber shipments. Operating expenses for last year were reduced $2,171,000, or 13.2%, so that there was a gain of $400,000 in net earnings. Taxes and miscellaneous income showed little change, and after meeting an additional $348,000 of prior charges the net profit was $9,000 higher at $1,146,000, a sum equal to 2.3% on the 5% Preferred stock. No dividends have been forthcoming on this stock since the December half of 1910 by reason of the heavy burden of interest charges due to financing the Western Pacific. The addition to the annual interest charges of the Denver on that account has been considerably over $2,000,000, so that, apart from the Pacific extension, the profits of the Denver proper in the past year were, roughly, $3,500,000, or about $1,000,000 in excess of the sum required to provide the full dividend on the Preferred. The course of earnings in recent years and the effect upon profits of the great increase in interest charges will be evident from the accompanying Income Statement, which, we add, does not include the sums which the

Income Statement of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Int.	Int. & Other Charges.	Net.	Pref.	Pref.	Pref.	Int. on Inc. Bds.	Int. on Inc. Bds.	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$	%	%	$
1915	2,598	21,823,000	14,290,000	65·47	7,533,000	1,241,000	8,774,000	1,021,000	6,607,000	1,146,000	2·30	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	1,146,000
1914	2,583	23,594,000	16,481,000	69·76	7,113,000	1,263,000	8,396,000	1,009,000	6,250,000	1,137,000	2·28	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	1,137,000
1913	2,555	24,920,000	17,521,000	70·31	7,399,000	1,248,000	8,647,000	949,000	5,852,000	1,846,000	3·71	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	1,846,000
1912	2,551	23,731,000	17,458,000	73·57	6,273,000	1,196,000	7,469,000	877,000	5,558,000	1,007,000	2·02	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	1,007,000
1911	2,553	23,841,000	16,585,000	69·54	7,406,000	1,850,000	9,256,000	860,000	6,033,000	2,363,000	4·75	2½	1,244,000	Nil	Nil	1,119,000
1910	2,541	24,079,000	16,300,000	67·69	7,779,000	1,538,000	9,317,000	823,000	5,606,000	2,888,000	5·00	5	2,489,000	1·05	Nil	399,000
1909	2,534	21,347,000	14,880,000	69·71	6,467,000	1,380,000	7,847,000	763,000	4,147,000	2,937,000	5·00	5	2,289,000	1·70	Nil	648,000
1908	2,449	20,869,000	13,365,000	64·04	7,504,000	454,000	7,958,000	750,000	3,892,000	3,416,000	5·00	5	2,288,000	2·97	Nil	1,128,000
1907	2,500	20,926,000	13,042,000	62·32	7,884,000	530,000	8,414,000	730,000	3,627,000	4,057,000	5·00	5	2,287,000	4·66	Nil	1,770,000
1906	2,477	19,686,000	12,104,000	61·49	7,582,000	262,000	7,844,000	680,000	3,572,000	3,592,000	5·00	5	2,285,000	3·44	Nil	1,307,000
1905	2,420	17,031,000	10,169,000	59·71	6,862,000	192,000	7,054,000	696,000	3,546,000	2,812,000	5·00	5	2,250,000	1·48	Nil	562,000

Denver provided to June 1914 to make good the deficiency in meeting the interest on Western Pacific First Mortgage bonds.

Probably the most satisfactory feature about the results for last year was the further distinct progress made in the economical handling of the traffic and the evident desire of the officers to do all that in them lies to make the Denver an efficient machine. Of the reduction of $2,171,000 in expenses last year, about 50% was attributable to reduced cost of conducting transportation. In some measure, of course, this was due to the smaller volume of the traffic conveyed, but in large part it arose from economies effected in operating the traffic, with the result that conducting transportation expenditures last year bore a proportion to gross receipts of less than 31%, which is the lowest ratio in the history of the undertaking. The remainder of the curtailment effected in expenses arose from less liberal outlays upon maintenance, more particularly upon maintenance of way; but while the expenditures upon maintenance are less than in the preceding three years, during which time the existing management has been spending abnormal amounts for such purposes, they compare very favourably on the average. Further, apart from the shrinkage in traffic having permitted of lighter maintenance outlays, it has to be borne in mind that in the territory served the weather last winter was not as severe as in the previous year, when unprecedented falls of snow were followed by unusual rainfalls. In all, maintenance expenditures last year represented 29.94% of the gross receipts, against an average of 30.97% for the previous five years. At the present time the condition of the roadway and equipment is stated to be better than ever before, and the truth of this is evident from the marked improvement in transportation efficiency. The reduction in the conducting transportation ratio is the more noteworthy in view of the decline in the average rate secured in recent years, owing to the growing preponderance of low-class freight traffic and an increase in the average length of haul.

The course of expenses in recent years, and the satisfactory downward tendency of conducting transportation costs, will be evident from the following statements:—

Operating Expenses of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maint. of Way & Equip.	Maint. of Equip.	Cond. Trans.	Gen. & Misc. Exp.	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915	21,823,000	2,541,539	3,992,351	6,759,078	996,703	14,289,671
1914	23,594,000	3,413,852	4,528,[illegible]	7,748,954	986,241	16,460,569
1913	24,453,000	3,545,938	4,538,250	8,284,927	678,057	17,047,172
1912	23,280,000	3,201,866	4,326,860	8,819,781	636,011	16,984,518
1911	23,392,000	2,627,895	4,119,189	8,615,711	594,942	15,957,737
1910	23,563,000	2,690,602	3,884,[illegible]	8,745,315	561,918	15,801,955
1909	20,877,000	2,530,109	3,572,326	7,761,500	588,639	14,452,574
1908	20,386,000	2,174,917	3,[illegible]	7,173,458	528,475	12,925,306
1907	20,926,000	2,425,446	3,035,777	7,113,521	[illegible]	14,042,333
1906	19,686,000	2,415,353	2,[illegible]	6,621,986	500,423	12,104,172
1905	17,031,000	1,998,444	2,031,523	5,632,606	506,[illegible]	[illegible]

Ratio of Expenses to Earnings, Denver & Rio Grande RR.

	%	%	%	%	%	%
1915	11·65	18·[illegible]	30·98	4·56	65·18
1914	14·44	18·[illegible]	32·85	4·18	69·77
1913	14·50	18·56	33·88	2·77	69·71
1912	13·75	18·[illegible]	37·89	2·73	72·96
1911	11·24	17·[illegible]	36·83	2·54	68·22
1910	11·42	16·[illegible]	37·11	2·30	67·06
1909	12·12	17·11	37·18	2·82	69·24
1908	10·67	14·95	35·19	2·59	63·40
1907	11·59	14·50	34·00	2·23	62·32
1906	12·27	18·[illegible]	33·63	2·55	61·49
1905	11·73	11·[illegible]	33·07	2·98	59·71

The benefit derived from the larger maintenance outlays of recent years, and the wise expenditure of new capital upon the Denver for reducing gradients by building détour lines, for replacing narrow-gauge track with track of standard gauge, introducing more powerful locomotives and higher-capacity equipment, and strengthening the roadbed, are apparent in the freight-train results now being secured. Until three years ago little progress had been made in loading the trains, and as traffic grew in volume the freight-train mileage was largely increased. But with the new method of working rendered possible by the improved physical conditions, great strides have been made in increasing operating efficiency, and, consequently, there has been a marked saving of train mileage, which, of course, has been the chief factor in bringing about the lower conducting transportation ratio. Whereas in the three years to 1912 an expansion of 24% in ton miles was accompanied by an addition of 13% to the freight-train mileage, with a consequent increase in the average train load of only 9%, in the last three years, although ton mileage has diminished 9%, a saving of as much as 36% has been effected in the train mileage, and the load per freight train has been raised no less than 45%, from 264.64 tons to 383.18 tons. Such an achievement is, indeed, noteworthy, especially bearing in mind that when traffic is declining, as in the past two years, the introduction of economies is much more difficult than when traffic is on the up grade. The improved freight-train results now being secured by the Denver will be apparent from the statement below:

Freight-Train Results of Denver and Rio Grande RR.

Year to June 30	Rev. Ton Mileage	Revenue Freight Mileage	Train Load Rev. Tons.	Train Load Total Tons.	Locomotive Car Miles	Car Load Rev. Tons.	Car Load Total Tons.	Ton Miles per Mile of Road.
1915	1,341,731,435	3,501,537	383·18	432·80	66,197,831	20·27	22·89	521,788
1914	1,420,196,751	4,208,671	337·45	389·79	69,972,830	20·30	23·45	549,767
1913	1,514,612,213	4,963,042	305·18	345·11	74,429,023	20·35	23·01	592,803
1912	1,436,616,951	5,428,646	264·64	299·40	72,840,334	19·72	22·31	563,159
1911	1,392,978,884	5,386,756	258·58	292·29	68,623,708	20·30	22·94	545,624
1910	1,352,626,046	5,225,533	258·85	296·44	66,103,876	20·46	23·43	532,320
1909	1,161,236,025	4,800,083	241·92	280·82	59,606,228	19·48	22·61	458,262
1908	1,082,599,384	4,522,136	239·40	272·78	54,491,277	19·87	22·64	433,213
1907	1,131,113,993	4,790,498	236·11	272·51	62,075,332	18·22	21·03	452,446
1906	1,078,347,946	4,898,556	220·14	252·14	61,094,824	17·65	20·22	435,344
1905	892,141,090	4,320,331	206·50	235·56	53,254,941	16·75	19·11	368,353

That the trainload is no higher arises, of course, from the mountainous nature of the territory served. This places the Company at a disadvantage in competitive business, but as compensation for this the Denver has exclusive access to the rich State of Colorado, and has a very large business in precious ores, fruit, and vegetables. This traffic is expensive to handle, and, therefore, it is not surprising the average freight rate is relatively high, that for the past year having been 1.186c.

In the current fiscal year the traffic of the Denver is showing distinct improvement, there having been a gain of $314,000 in gross receipts for the September quarter. Whilst some of this improvement arises from increased passenger travel in connection with the Panama-Pacific Exhibition, it is also due to a larger quantity of freight tonnage now coming forward for shipment. The prosperity of the Denver is allied not only to that of Colorado, but to Utah also, and, with more active conditions prevailing in those States, the quantity of precious ores carried this year should largely increase. Further, the Denver cannot fail to benefit from the bumper crops of this year, which

will be marketed at high prices, and to derive advantage from the activity that prevails in the manufacturing industries of the country. Further continued savings are contemplated in conducting transportation, and although maintenance outlays may be larger than for last year, the greater portion of any gain in gross earnings may be saved as net, and in the absence of additional interest and other charges may go to swell net profits. The gain of $134,000 in gross receipts for July and August was accompanied by an addition of $336,000 to the net earnings and of $317,000 to the net profit.

Thus, apart from any improvement in the remaining months of the year, the profits of the Denver are equal to about 3% upon the Preferred stock. It is, of course, patent that in present circumstances no dividend is to be looked for upon this stock. The trend of the results of the Denver will be followed with interest in the current year, but chief attention will be directed to the progress made in rehabilitating the finances of Western Pacific, for the settlement of the relationship between the two undertakings will naturally have an important bearing upon the future prosperity of the Denver.

The amounts and prices of, together with the yields afforded by, the Company's securities will be evident from the following statement:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities, Denver & Rio Grande RR.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption	Int or Div. %	Int or Div. Due	Price.	Yield% per Ann. £ s. d.
D.&R.G.4%1stCons.Mt.	34,125,000	Jan 1936	4	J. & J.	72†	7 2 4
D.&R.G.4½% „ „	6,382,000	Jan 1936	4½	J. & J.	75†•	6 15 9
D.&R.G.Imprvmt.5%Mt	8,335,000	June 1928	5	J. & D	71•	8 16 8
R.G.W.1st Mt.50-yr.bds	15,190,000	July 1939	4	J. & J.	7*†	6 15 10
R.G.W. 1st Cons. Mort.	15,080,000	Apr. 1949	4	A. & O.	59½•	7 4 8
D.&R.G.6%1st&Ref.Mt.	33,300,000	Aug 1955	5	F. & A.	47½†	n11 7 4
D.&R.G.7%Cum.Incomes	10,000,000	Apr. 1932	7	A. & O.	43½•	n16 0 0
Den.5%Non Cum Prefd.	49,775,670		Nil	—	14½†	-
Den. Common stock ...	38,000,000	—	Nil	—	1¼†	-
Rio G. So. 4% 1st Mt.	4,510,000	July 1940	4	J. & J.	77•	5 15 3
„ „ Junct. 5% 1st Mt.	2,000,000	Dec. 1939	5	J. & D.	88½†	6 8 1
W. Pac. 5% 1st Mt. ...	50,000,000	Sept. 1933	Nil	M. & S.	29•	
Do. 5% 2nd Mt.	25,000,000	July 1952	Held in Treasury of Denver.			
Do. Notes&Advances	22,552,000	-	do.	do.		
Do. Common .	75,000,000		Nil	Denver owns	62,500,000	

(•) New York price. (†) London price. (a) $2,277,000 guar., principal and interest, by Denver. (n) Not allowing for redemption. (r) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

After having deferred the matter for some time, probably with a view to obtaining a better idea of the magnitude of the crops and the trend of traffic, the directors of the Grand Trunk Railway, at the close of last week, announced a dividend at the rate of 3% upon the Guaranteed stock for the June half of this year. This stock is entitled to non-cumulative dividends of 4%, which were regularly forthcoming for each half-year from January 1898 to December 1913, with substantial margins with which to pay dividends on the three classes of Preference stock. Dividends on the Guaranteed stock are dependent upon the results of each calender year. For the first half of 1914 the Guaranteed stock received its full rate of dividend; but in the latter half of the year, with the disturbance to general conditions in Canada as a result of the War having followed upon the depression in trade that had already existed, and in view of the large addition to interest charges and the heavy shrinkages in the income of subsidiary lines, the profits were so poor that the rate of distribution on the Guaranteed stock was reduced to 3%. Hence the stock received only 3½% for 1914, the profit earned having been £425,000, or some £12,000 less than the sum needed to pay the dividend.

So far as the current year is concerned, gross earnings have continued to fall off; but by substantially curtailing operating expenses some addition to net earnings has been secured, the gain in the net earnings of the Grand Trunk proper and of the Detroit line for the eight months to August having been £51,000. This improvement in net earnings is, however, much more than offset by the addition to interest and other charges, which we estimate for this year will be about £118,000 in excess of those for 1914. Hence, apart from any further improvement that may occur in net earnings in the last four months, the net profit for 1915 is estimated at £358,000, equal to almost 3% on the Guaranteed stock. It has, however, to be recollected that during the remaining months of this year comparison will be made with exceptionally poor results in the last four months of 1914, and, further, that the movement of the great grain crops of this year is expected to bring considerable additional traffic to the line. These factors will, of course, favourably affect the gross earnings, but how far their influence will be reflected in the course of net earnings we cannot say. Nevertheless, further improvement in net receipts is looked for, and, inasmuch as present indicated profits are just about equal to the present rate of distribution on the Guaranteed, it would appear as if ability to pay more than 3% on the stock for the year would depend upon the extent of the gain that may be secured in net earnings in the four months to December 31 next. As far as we can calculate, net earnings must increase in this period by about £142,000 to permit of the payment of the full 4% on the Guaranteed. Our estimate of profits for 1915 on the basis of results to August 31 is as follows:—

Present Indicated Profits of Grand Trunk System, 1915.

	£	£
Surplus after interest and other charges, 1914		425,000
Add Increase in net earnings of Grand Trunk Proper and Det., Gd. Haven and Milw. 8 months to August 1915		51,000
Total		£476,000
Deduct Estimated increase in deficit of Grand Trunk Western, year to June, 1915	£10,000	
On extra 4% Debenture stock	£15,000	
On 5½% Debenture stock 1 Dec. 1914 to 1 Dec. 1915	55,000	
On 5½% Debenture stock 1 Dec. 1915	28,000	
	108,000	
Total Deductions		118,000
Estimated surplus, 1915		£358,000*

* Equivalent to about 3% on the Guaranteed stock. For full 4% on Guaranteed stock to be earned net earnings must increase £142,000.

The announcement of the dividend has caused an improvement in the price of the Guaranteed, which now stands at 61¼, at which the yield from the 3% dividend is £5 0*s.* 5*d.* per cent. The prices of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Preference stocks are 59½, 47½, and 24 respectively. The Ordinary is quoted at 10¼.

NATAL-ZULULAND RAILWAY.

This Company is able to pay a final dividend in respect of the past year of 1%, making, with the interim dividend already paid, 2% for the year, or the same as for 1913-14. The line is at present worked by the Natal Government for a fixed sum of £13,500, which it hands over to the Company quarterly in full satisfaction of all outstanding claims under its original guarantee, such payments to continue until the line is expropriated. The right of expropriation is vested in the Government for an agreed sum of £350,000, and can be exercised at the expiration of completed periods of 10 years, reckoned from June 30, 1907, on giving twelve months' notice. Last year's net revenue balance, after providing for interest on the First and Second Debentures, was £2,682, a sum equal to about 2½% on the share capital. The dividend of 2% calls for £2,163, and there is thus a surplus of £519, which, added to the balance of £733 brought in from 1913-14, leaves an undivided surplus of £1,252 to be carried forward. The only stock officially quoted is the 3% First Mortgage Debentures, the price of which is about 66. The sum which the Government has agreed to pay for the property is equal to the issued amount of Debenture capital.

Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 7% per annum.

Langkat Sumautra Rubber Co. Interim dividend of 7½% (actual).

FOREIGN RAILWAY RESULTS.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY.

THE directors of the Central [illegible] Company have decided to pass the dividend on the Ordinary stock in respect of the past year. From the statement issued it would appear that the cost of working has been relatively heavy, for with a diminution of £76,000 in gross receipts the decline in profit comes out at over £70,000, the divisible surplus being only £3,791, as against £74,220. In the preceding twelve months an interim dividend at the rate of 5% per annum was paid in April, but no final distribution was made, so that the dividend for the year was 2½%, with a balance forward of £54,132. This balance is now increased to £57,923. The severity of the crisis through which the Company has passed will be evident from the following statement of the net results of working for the last five years:—

	1914-15.	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit ...	47,791	110,652	185,742	163,725	135,237
Dividend [illegible]	44	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Profit for Ordinary	3,791	74,220	158,242	136,225	110,487
Ordinary dividend	Nil	50,000	125,917	115,917	101,792
Rate per cent.		[illegible]	[illegible]	16	[illegible]
Balance	3,791	[illegible]	32,325	20,308	8,695
Brought forward ...	54,132	29,912	12,587	7,279	[illegible]
Total surplus	57,923	54,132	44,912	27,587	17,279
To [illegible]			15,000	15,000	10,000
Carried forward ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Until the financial and economic crisis, which commenced early in 1913 and has continued ever since, the development of Uruguay was proceeding rapidly, thanks to the enterprise of both the Government and the railway companies, and although a severe check has been given to the prosperity of the country, which it may take some little time to fully regain, there is no doubt that the present demand for Uruguayan produce of all descriptions, and the high prices that are being obtained, will give a fillip to industrial enterprise throughout the country and bring about a steady revival of commercial activity. In this activity the railway companies will share, and the Central Uruguay, with its wide field of operations, will be among the first to benefit. Since the commencement of July the earnings of the line have continued to recover, and for the 14 weeks to October 2 the increase amounts to £27,858 on the main line and to as much as £50,170 on the combined system. Here are the figures:—

Traffic Receipts, 14 Weeks to October 2.

	1915	1914	Increase	
	£	£	£	%
Main Line ...	[illegible]	115,168	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] Extension	45,621	[illegible]	+12,355	+37·1
Northern Extension	23,846	18,657	+ 5,189	+27·8
Western Extension	20,469	15,701	+ 4,768	+30·3
Total system ...	[illegible]	182,792	+50,170	+27·4

The price of the Ordinary stock is about 60, a figure which clearly shows the confidence of holders in the immediate future of the Company, a confidence which we think is not misplaced. The 5½% Preference shares of £10 each have recently changed hands at 7⅞, and at the price they yield the investor as much as £7 4*s.* 9*d.* per cent. Although the margin of profit behind the dividend has been reduced almost to vanishing-point, the prospects of recovery are so satisfactory that shareholders may regard their investment as fairly secure, seeing that the worst that can happen to the Company has now apparently been experienced.

CENTRAL URUGUAY EASTERN EXTENSION.

The Extension Companies of the Central Uruguay Railway have been less affected by the trade reaction than the parent undertaking, owing to their working agreements with the Central Company and the guarantee arrangements with the Government. Consequently, whilst their earnings show considerable decline compared with the preceding year, the loss of profit has been relatively small, and fairly substantial dividends are forthcoming. The Eastern Extension Company reduced its interim distribution in respect of the past year from 3½% to 3% per annum, and is now able to pay a balance dividend at the rate of 2⅛% per annum, making 2⅝% for the year, as against 3¾% for 1913-14. Three years ago the dividend was 5¾%, but then the Company was doing exceedingly well, and the amount received from the Government was comparatively small. Last year the Government guarantee realised upwards of £25,000, as against £17,000 in 1913-14 and under £8,000 three years ago. Consequently, although the Company's traffic receipts last year declined over £28,000, and the falling off in profit is under £13,000, the divisible surplus being £19,751, as against £32,611. The dividend, less tax, absorbs £21,446, and the deficit of £1,695 is made good out of the balance brought in from 1913-14, and the amount carried forward is lowered from £3,238 to £1,543. The profits of the line for the last five years are set out beneath:—

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Net [illegible]	62,751	75,611	79,779	85,180	87,101
Div. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	36,779	43,314	47,101
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	39,596	46,679	[illegible]
Rate per cent. ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	(5½%)
[illegible] ...	...Dr. 1,695	Cr. 1,400	Dr. 2,817	Dr. 3,365	Cr. 6,559
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The dividend record of the Company for a number of years is appended:—

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.

	1914-15	'13-14	'12-13	'11-12	'10-11	'09-10	'08-09	'07-08	'06-07	'05-06
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Dec. half	3	3½	1½	4½	1¼	3¼	4½	4	4	4
June half	2¼	4	...	4½	6¼	5¾	4¼	5	5	5
Year	5¼	3½	4½	5	5½	5½	8¾	9	9	9

The price of the £10 Ordinary shares is about £4 6*s.*, and the dividend of 2⅝% affords a yield of £6¼%. The £10 5% Preference shares are quoted at 6⅝, and the yield is as much as £7 17*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

CENTRAL URUGUAY NORTHERN EXTENSION.

[illegible] Company [illegible] dividend of 4*s.* per share, making, with the interim dividend paid in April last, 8*s.* per share, or at the rate of 4% per annum, carrying forward a balance of £2,814. Twelve months ago the dividend was also 4%, but the balance carried forward amounted to £4,578. In other words, the dividend has not been fully earned, and the balance brought in from 1913-14 has been trenched upon to the extent of £1,764 to make good the deficiency. The Company had a decrease in traffic receipts of about £31,000, whilst the loss of profit amounts to only £6,400. The following table shows how the profits of the line are made up:—

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.

	1914-15*	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	90,300	121,572	147,143	122,361	106,455
Exp. (as per agreement)	49,300	62,182	71,612	62,611	55,889
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net [illegible] ...	41,000	59,390	75,531	59,750	50,566
[illegible] ...	29,000	18,360	4,587	17,080	24,747
Total income ...	[illegible]	77,750	80,118	76,830	75,313
[illegible] ...	[illegible]	31,357	[illegible]	31,358	31,358
Miscellaneous ...	3,000	4,095	2,513	1,017	1,370
Total charges ...	34,000	35,452	33,870	32,375	32,728
Net [illegible] ...	[illegible]	42,298	46,248	44,455	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	37,667	38,792	45,969	46,042	41,260
Rate per cent.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	Dr. 1,761	Cr. 3,506	Cr. 279	Dr. 1,587	[illegible]
Brought forward	[illegible]	1,072	793	2,380	1,055
Carried forward ...	2,814	4,578	1,072	793	2,380

* [illegible]

The highest dividend paid by the Company in recent years is 4¾%, distributed in 1911-12, and again in 1912-13, and the fact that it has been able to distribute 4% in a period of such financial and economic difficulties as have been experienced in the past two

years clearly demonstrates the stability of the undertaking under its present working and guarantee agreements. The dividend record of the Company for a number of years is set out beneath:

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.

	1914-15	'13-14	'12-13	'11-12	'10-11	'09-10	'08-09	'07-08	'06-07	'05-06	'01-05
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Dec. half	4	4	4	1½	4½	5	5	1	1	4	1½
June half	4	4	5	5	4½	3	5	3¾	4	4	4
Year	4	4	4½	4½	4½	5	5	3¾	4	4	4½

With the price of the £10 shares in the neighbourhood of £4 17*s.* 6*d.* the yield from the dividend of 4% is well over £5 %.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY.

To what extent the profits of the Central Argentine Railway have been affected in the past year by the decline of £270,000 in traffic receipts is not yet disclosed. The dividend is maintained at 5% on both the Consolidated Ordinary and Deferred stocks, but in the absence of further data until the report is issued it is impossible to tell how the Company has really fared. Interest charges have been heavier, owing to the issue of £1,000,000 short-term notes in November last; but the strength of the position lies in the fact that, by reducing the dividend twelve months ago from 6% to 5%, the relatively large balance of £440,000 was brought into the accounts, which has doubtless enabled the lower rate of distribution to be maintained. The Company is benefiting from the big maize crop of the past season, and in the first 14 weeks of the current year its traffic receipts have risen by over £192,000, or 14.5%. The bulk of the crop has now been exported, but sufficient remains to keep the Company busy for some time to come, and, as the outlook for wheat, oats, and linseed is reported to be very satisfactory, a continuance of expanding earnings may be confidently anticipated. With the price of the Ordinary stock at 83½, the yield from the dividend of 5% is about £6 3*s.* 5*d.* per cent. The Deferred stock is quoted 74 and yields as much as £7 4*s.* 11*d.* per cent.

BEIRA RAILWAY.

The European War is having a serious effect upon the working results of the Beira Railway Company. The annual report just issued is for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, and although barely two months of war conditions had then been encountered, the results shown are disappointing, a net profit of £7,420 only having been earned, as against £52.700 twelve months previously. The analysis of traffic for the year shows that the gross earnings of the Beira-Salisbury section declined £136,775, or 21%, against which there was a reduction in expenses of only £25,858, leaving the net earnings some £110,917 smaller than in the preceding twelve months at £299,339. Apart from the effects of the War upon general business, the decrease in gross revenue is chiefly due to the falling-off in mining machinery for Rhodesia and construction material for railway extensions in Rhodesia, which made up the increase in traffic of the preceding year. However, it will be seen from the table appended that both the gross and net earnings of 1913-14 are the smallest since 1909-10:—

Beira Railway.—Beira-Salisbury Section.

Year to Sept. 30	Gross Revenue	Working Expenses	Ratio	Net Revenue
	£	£	%	£
1914	498,578	199,239	39.9	299,339
1913	635,353	225,097	35.4	410,256
1912	513,140	206,816	40.3	306,324
1911	555,524	173,107	31.2	382,417
1910	436,296	142.807	32.7	293,489
1909	314,222	129,323	41.1	184,899
1908	230,420	110,122	47.7	120.298
1907	207,825	123,573	59.4	84,252

It should be pointed out that the profit of £7,400 shown to have been earned for the year is after making provision to the extent of £15,000 for depreciation and renewals, and after writing off £3,164 in respect of depreciation of investments, so that the margin behind the Company's interest and other charges is greater than it appears at first sight. It is to be feared, however, that this margin has entirely disappeared in 1914-15, the revenue returns of the Beira to Salisbury line for the ten months to July 31 showing a further shrinkage of £164,000 in gross receipts, and a drop of £111,000 net. The 6% Income Debenture stock received its full rate of interest for the year 1913-14 in May last, but whether or not it will get its full 6% in respect of the past year is open to doubt, having regard to the heavy falling-off in earnings so far recorded. The last dealing in the stock took place in March last at 65. The price of the 4½% Mortgage Debentures is about 73.

SOUTHERN SAN PAULO RAILWAY.

After some delay the completion of the Southern San Paulo Railway is *un fait accompli*, the final section of 25 kilometres having been taken over from the contractors on April 20 last. The line extends a distance of 101 miles from the city and port of Santos, in the State of Sao Paulo, to Santo Antonio do Juguá, and a through service was inaugurated in May last. The financial crisis in Brazil and the unsettled state of affairs the world over are naturally having an adverse effect on the working of the line, which last year resulted in a loss of about £4,000. Fortunately, the Company enjoys a guarantee from the Government, which on the completed line amounts to 691.2 contos of reis, equal at 16*d.* exchange to £46,000, or just sufficient to cover Debenture interest. The amount received during the past year in respect of the line so far then completed was 606.5 contos, which, taking exchange at an average of 14*d.*, realised £35,573, or about £9,500 short of the sum needed to pay the interest on the Debentures. In consequence of this position the Debenture-holders in July last agreed to accept 6% Income Debenture stock in lieu of payment in cash of the last February and August coupons, and subsequent interest in like manner should such a course be necessary. The shareholders have sanctioned the creation of this stock to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate £300,000, and it ranks as a second charge on the property and undertaking of the Company. Under the circumstances now obtaining it is impossible to give a reliable forecast as to the immediate prospects. The completion of the line brings the railway into steamboat communication with Iguape and the Valley of the Ribeira, and a large proportion of the rice crop, roughly estimated at about 4,000 tons, and which at present is exported from Iguape, is expected to be diverted over the Company's rails. Moreover, attention is being called to Brazil as a meat-producing country, and shipments of chilled meat have already been made, and should this business become important and it is more than probable, writes the General Manager, that the rich lands of the Valley of the Ribeira will be taken advantage of, which would result in a steady revenue to the railway. The price of the Company's 5% Debentures is about 35, as against 74½ quoted at the end of July of last year, prior to the outbreak of war.

BARSI LIGHT RAILWAY.

The announcement is made by the Barsi Light Railway Company of a final dividend in respect of the year to March last of 3%, together with a bonus of 1%, making with the interim dividend already paid a total of 8% for the twelvemonth. This compares with 10% distributed a year ago. The War has affected the Company adversely, for whilst the crops have been above the normal the movement of goods has been restricted owing to the difficulty of arranging shipments from Bombay, and the consequent cessation of demand in that market for produce. The falling off in gross earnings was as much as Rs. 1,68,450, and the diminution in profit is about

£14,000, or 30%, compared with 1913-14. Nevertheless, the sum available for distribution amounts to over £29,000, equal to a dividend of 14½% on the shares; so that after distributing 8% there is a surplus of £13,000. Out of this the directors have transferred the sum of £11,400 to reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, &c., and have added £1,700 to the balance carried forward, which is thereby raised from £13,244 to nearly £15,000. From March last until the middle of July the Company continued to lose traffic, but since then there has been considerable improvement, and apparently the produce held back from lack of shipping facilities is now coming forward in large quantities. For the 15 weeks to July 17 there was a decrease in earnings of Rs. 1,31,900, but the diminution at the beginning of September was only Rs. 48,300, so that the Company is picking up well.

The short extension into Pandharpur City was opened for traffic on July 16, and the "Willingdon Bridge" over the Bhima River was formally opened by his Excellency the Governor of Bombay on July 29. Further extensions of the line from Pandharpur are in contemplation, and the directors announce that all the crucial points in connection with the concessions for the extensions to Lonand and to Miraj have now been settled with the India Office.

The improvement in traffic now being shown, together with the fact that last year's profits were equal to 14½% on the Ordinary shares, clearly indicates that any further cut in the dividend will not be necessary, but that the distribution of 8% will be at least maintained in the current year. The price of the £10 shares is about 11½, and the yield from the dividend of 8% is as much as £7 5*s*. per cent.

THE 50% EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the occasion of the introduction of the Budget stated:—

"It is proposed to introduce a special tax in respect of profits which have increased during the war period. The tax is to extend to all trades, manufactures, concerns in the nature of trade and businesses, including agencies, whose profits for any business year of account ending on any date between September 1, 1914, and July 1, 1915, exceeded the profits on the income-tax assessment by more than £100."

To make the method of calculating the excess profit quite clear we may quote the instance given by Mr. G. A. Touche, M.P., in the House of Commons on September 28. A manufacturing concern makes the following profits:—

Year to Dec. 31	£
1911	15,000
1912	20,000
1913	30,000
Total	65,000

The average of the three years to be taken for assessment for the year 1914-15 is, therefore, £21,600. The earned profits for the year to December 31, 1914, being £35,000, such profits coming in a year ending between the defined period, September 1, 1914, and July 1, 1915, the excess profit taxable would be £13,400, less the £100 allowed, and the 50% tax would therefore be £6,650.

In reply to a question, the Chancellor stated that this tax would apply to English companies working gold and other mines abroad. We think there may be a little disappointment at the amount that may be derived from this class of industry, for the reason that many important mining companies are Colonial or foreign registered. Of the important gold-producing companies of the Rand the bulk are registered abroad, and we take it the new tax would not apply to them, as they have already to bear the taxation of the country of their registration. Among the few that are English-registered are the Van Ryn, Village Main Reef, and Durban Roodepoort. The first is fairly important, the second is nearing the end of its life, while the third, with a short life, is not of great consequence. It has been stated that an allowance will be made for "obsolescence," and presumably these, and all other mining companies coming within the scope of the Act, supposing they earned excess profits, would be taxed, with due regard to life considerations

Of investment companies holding the shares of Rand mining companies, there are a fair number which are registered in England, including the Anglo-French Exploration, Central Mining and Investment, Consolidated Mines Selection, Consolidated Gold Fields and several companies of similar character associated with it. Among the investment companies which are Transvaal-registered are the Rand Mines, Johannesburg Consolidated, and A. Goerz and Company. There are others, both English and South African registered; but these are of less importance.

As to Indian and West Australian mining companies which are English-registered, no special war profit of any appreciable extent is likely to accue in the aggregate. The majority of other Australasian companies are Colonial-registered. Paying the taxes of the country of their registration, they, of course, would not be expected to bear the burden in this country as well. Some exceptions are the British Broken Hill, Zinc Corporation, and Sulphide Corporation, and the first two, at any rate, will hardly be affected.

Most Canadian mines, with the exception of the Canadian Mining Corporation, are not English-registered.

The Oroville, Nechi, and Plymouth Consolidated Companies will presumably ultimately be affected. The allowance of 6% return on capital and life considerations precludes the possibility of any large sum being handed to the Government. The same remark applies to the recently progressive West African and Rhodesian producers, such as the Abbontiakoon, Prestea A, Taquah, and Shamva. The Rio Tinto and Arizona Copper Companies, with heavy profit decreases in 1914, will apparently not have to contribute at present. There are few other English-registered copper companies.

The position of the tin-mining industry is so poor that any appreciable sum being derived from tin companies is out of the question.

It is of interest to note these features, as the idea is pretty generally held that the great variations in prices of base metals will benefit many companies and yield a substantial amount of excess tax to the Exchequer.

SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

During the twelve months to June 30, 1915, the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company was not able to secure quite as large profits as it did during the previous year, which was its jubilee. Nevertheless, the reduction is comparatively small and has had no effect on the distribution. It might have been expected possibly that having regard to the high prices at which coal had been standing the profits would have worked out on a higher level, but while it is true that the price of coal has risen considerably it should be recalled that the coalowner has not received the whole of the increased price, and, as a matter of fact, there have been two adverse factors which have counterbalanced the rise in price. First of all, the output of coal has been seriously diminished owing to the large number of men who have joined His Majesty's Forces. Beyond this there has been a considerable increase in the working cost owing to the war bonus paid to the workmen and the higher prices of timber and stores. The ironworks have been similarly affected, and, in addition, the cost of pig iron has been greatly increased by the rapid rise in the price of coal. On this point Lord Aberconway said

at the meeting on September 27 that, while prices were no doubt at a higher level now than they were six or twelve months ago, costs had very materially risen, and were likely to rise still more, and the effect of legislation in cutting down prices at the pit and restricting the export of coal to neutral countries would, of course, be to reduce the margin of profit to the coalowner. Another feature was emphasised by the Chairman, who pointed out that the men were not working as well as they might, and they got such high wages that they could afford to play at the end of the week. It is pointed out that the Coal Conciliation Board has been renewed for three years from May 1, 1915, and it has been arranged that the basis upon which wages are to be calculated in future shall be the amount paid in 1911, when they were 50% above the basis of 1888. A war bonus has been given to all ironworkers and colliery employees, the latter receiving 15½% on the gross earnings, which is equivalent to 25½% on the basis of 1888. In the circumstances, therefore, it is not surprising that the profits for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, have only reached £184,946, as compared with £232,524 for the previous year.

The Company ranks among the oldest of our iron and coal companies, being formed as far back as September 1864. It owns freehold ironworks covering about 130 acres near Chesterfield, two leasehold collieries near Chesterfield and Mansfield, ironstone mines in Lincolnshire, Rutlandshire, and Northamptonshire, upwards of 3,000 railway waggons, a controlling interest in the Rossington Main Colliery Company, Limited, Dinnington Main Colliery Company, Limited, Maltby Main Colliery Company, Limited, and Langwith Bye-Product Company, Limited, and half the capital of the Newstead Colliery Company, Limited. The Rossington Main Colliery Company owns an underlease of the Barnsley and other coal seams underlying 8,000 acres of land near Doncaster. It has an authorised capital of £500,000 in 125,000 "A" and 375,000 "B" shares of £1 each, of which 255,000 "B" shares were subscribed for by the Sheepbridge Company and 120,000 by John Brown and Company, Limited. Both classes of shares rank alike in every respect. The Dinnington Main Coal Company was formed in November 1900, and has an authorised capital and issued capital of £287,500 in 275,000 Ordinary shares and 12,500 Deferred shares of £1 each. The Maltby Main Colliery Company was formed in 1907, and owns coal leases over 6,000 acres in the West Riding of Yorkshire; the authorised and issued capital is £350,000 in £1 shares, of which 200,000 are held by the Sheepbridge Company.

Last year it was announced that the directors, having received a favourable offer for the acquisition of a coalfield adjoining about 9,000 acres of the Barnsley seam lying immediately to the east of the Dinnington coalfield, had entered into an agreement for the acquisition of leases and options in a new company called the Firbeck Main Collieries, Limited, which has a nominal capital of £450,001. Of this the Sheepbridge Company agreed to subscribe £150,001 towards a first issue of £300,000. The leases are practically completed, and steps are being taken for the provision of a branch railway to the site of the proposed colliery. The agreement carries with it the obligation for a transfer to the Dinnington Company of leases and options of the Barnsley seam underlying a further area of about 2,000 acres adjoining the Dinnington Company's area, and within workable distance of their existing pits.

It is now stated that some of the leases of the Firbeck coalfield are completed, and the remainder are practically settled. A Bill for the construction of a railway was passed last Session by a Committee of the House of Commons, but arrangements have since been completed for the provision of the necessary railway accommodation by the railway companies concerned. It will thus be realised that the Company has taken steps for the acquisition as far as possible of coalfields to take the places of those that are becoming exhausted in the old Sheepbridge properties. Two properties have been exhausted some time, and the announcement is made in the present report that a further colliery which has been working for 47 years was closed in September 1914, in consequence of the exhaustion of the top hard seam. As a result of this policy of expansion an increased capital has been called for, and an issue of 286,826 new Ordinary shares was made in May 1914, at a premium of 10*s.* per share. Calls have been made of 12*s.* per share during the past twelve months. It is intended to make a further call early in the year 1916, and the last call later in the same year. The nominal capital of the Company is £1,250,000, of which there has been issued the following:—

	£
112,275 Cum. Pref. shares £1 each, fully paid	112,275
137,725 „ „ „ 8*s.* „	55,090
549,700 Ord. shares of £1 each, fully paid	549,700
New issue of 286,826 £1 each, 4*s.* paid	114,700
Calls paid in advance	29,300
Total	861,065

In addition to the above share capital there is also in issue £100,000 of 5% First Mortgage Debenture stock. It may be added that the Preference shares are entitled to a cumulative dividend of 5%, and to rank with the Ordinary shares after the latter have received 5%. Inasmuch as during the last 16 years the Ordinary shares have received this minimum 5% or more, the distribution on the Preference shares during this period has been at the same rate as that on the Ordinary shares. The Company has received by way of premiums on new shares a sum of £72,297. This has been written off the property account. Moreover, it had set aside a reserve fund for development of new properties amounting to £250,000, but of this £200,000 has been appropriated to calls paid on shares in the Rossington Main Colliery Company, Limited, thus leaving only £50,000 to the credit of this account, but it will be enlarged to £120,000 by an allocation of £70,000 from the profits of the year to June 30 last. There is also a general reserve fund of £80,000. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	861,045	Property, &c.	783,462
5% Debenture stock ...	102,083	Stock of loose plant, &c. ...	126,908
Sundry creditors, &c. ...	102,780	Sundry debtors	122,940
Reserve funds	130,000	Loans	345,000
Profit and loss	193,050	Cash in hand...	11,248
	1,389,558		1,389,558

As already indicated, the profit for the past twelve months has amounted to £184,946, as compared with £232,524 for the previous year. Debenture interest has called for £16,550, the Preference dividend £25,104, and the Ordinary dividend £94,266; the rate of distribution in each case being 15%, the rate which was distributed twelve months ago. After allocating £70,000 for further developments the balance carried forward amounts to £44,070, as compared with £65,045 brought in.

In the following table we set out the profits and manner of distributing them for each of the past eight years:—

Year ended June 30	Profit	Depreen. and Interest	Dividends — Prefce. Amt.	%	Ordinary Amt.	%	Further Devlpmnts, &c.	Carry-Forwd.
	£	£	£		£			£
1915 ...	184,946	16,550	25,104	15	94,266	15	70,000	44,070
1914 ...	232,524	15,432	25,104	15	82,455	15	70,000	65,045
1913 ...	257,803	12,807	33,473	20	109,939	20	100,000	25,513
1912 ...	101,035	10,455	16,737	10	54,970	10	30,000	23,829
1911 ...	109,501	10,692	16,737	10	54,970	10	25,000	35,056
1910 ...	87,365	10,701	12,553	7½*	41,227	7½*	25,000	32,954
1909 ...	108,238	10,736	12,553	7½*	41,227	7½*	30,000	35,070
1908 ...	180,250	10,771	20,921	12½*	68,712	12½*	70,000	21,348

* Tax free.

The Chairman is of opinion that the price of coal will keep up during the War, but that the high cost of production will also keep up, so that the margin

of profit will probably not be very seriously different from what it is at present. Altogether, therefore, it would seem as though the Company will do very well if it is able to keep up its profits at approximately the figure touched for the past twelve months. Largely it will depend on a sufficiency of labour, and, consequently, the maintenance of output. The question of a shortage of output is one of importance not only to the Company itself but also to the country as a whole, and Lord Aberconway did good service in referring to this point in his speech of September 27. He said: "The really important point to consider was the position of the coal trade as affecting the finances of the country during the War. The Sheepbridge group formed a very important element in the production of coal, and their turnover had been much reduced. Coal, pig iron, ironstone—everything except finished iron—had shown a reduction in output. That naturally meant a smaller profit. The capacity for production had enormously diminished during the War. From Sheepbridge and its subsidiary concerns 2,350 of their best men had enlisted, and what was true of Sheepbridge was true of every colliery in the country. He was sorry to say that the men who remained at home had not always worked their best. Higher wages in the coal trade did not, apparently, mean better work. How was this shortage of output affecting our national finances? Italy, Egypt, and the Argentine were some of our best consumers for coal, and if collieries had worked to the fullest extent we should have been able to sell to these countries as much as in the previous year. Instead of that, we had not been able to deliver the coal. Altogether in those three countries alone our sales had been reduced by four million tons, which meant a serious loss to this country. When they considered the difficulty we were in in paying huge sums to the United States, and sending gold to buy the munitions of war, was it not the duty of every Englishman to work his level best to promote our exports? The coal question was not merely one for their own pockets, it affected the financial position of the country. With regard to the finances of the Sheepbridge Company they had to look forward to further expenditure at Rossington, Firbeck, and Glapwell, and also in connection with the Newstead Colliery, but with the funds already in hand and the further amount to come in next year from the new shares they were in a strong position to face the future."

Recent prices of the shares on last year's distribution give the following yields:—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Dividend %	Yield £ s. d.
100,000	5 % 1st Mort. Deb. stock ...	100	—	5	—
112,275	Cum. Preference	1	35s.	15	9 1 10
55,080	„ „	8s.	13s.	£15	9 16 7
549,700	Ordinary shares	1	34s. 6d.	15	9 4 7
114,730*	„ „	1s.	34s.	15	9 7 7

* Issue at 10 per cent. premium.

"Salt in Cheshire." An exhaustive work by Mr. A. F. Calvert. A most interesting subject for consideration in normal times, but we doubt whether many persons will care to plough their way through 1,200 pages on such a subject in times like the present (E. and F. Spon, Limited, 57 Haymarket. 21s.)

Hudson's Bay Company.—The sales of farm lands by the Hudson's Bay Company for the quarter year ending September 30, 1915, amounted approximately to 10,900 acres for £31,900, as compared with 1,300 acres for £3,700, and sales of town lots to £1,800, as compared with £150 for the corresponding period of 1914. The receipts are £28,600, as against £40,800 in 1914. The sales for the six months to September 30, 1915, are 19,500 acres for £63,000, and town lots were sold for £3,900, as compared with sales of farm lands 5,500 acres for £20,100, and town lots for £3,600 for the corresponding period of 1914. The total receipts for the six months ending September 30, 1915, amount to £72,000, as compared with £127,300 for the corresponding six months of last year.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE

INSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."
"Low rates a distinctive feature."
The Times.

Funds exceed £24,000,000.

Chief Offices { LONDON: 61 Threadneedle Street, E.C.
EDINBURGH: 64 Princes Street.

THE OLDEST SCOTTISH OFFICE. ESTABLISHED 1805.

CALEDONIAN

INSURANCE COMPANY.

FIRE. LIFE. EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.
PERSONAL ACCIDENT AND ILLNESS. BURGLARY.

Head Office—19 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH.

London Offices { 82 KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.
14 WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, W.

Insurance Notes.

YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

This Company was established with headquarters in York in 1824, and for many years antecedent to recent developments was one of the best representatives of a class of sound provincial fire and life offices which were formerly considerable in number, but which have practically ceased to exist. Much of the business was built up through influential local connections, forming a solid nucleus for subsequent extensions. The Yorkshire has absorbed during the last few years a number of other companies, and its activities now cover every section of insurance business transacted by joint-stock companies. Its financial policy has been skilful and successful. Dividends at a high rate, although well within the Company's earning power, have enabled the directors to increase the capital from time to time on advantageous terms, and the reserves have been maintained at a high standard. The authorised capital amounts to £1,000,000. The subscribed capital was increased in 1914 from £784,525 to £845,856, and the paid-up capital from £96,452 10s. to £125,289, there being on December 31, 1914, 160,126 shares of £5 each with 10s. paid and 45,226 fully-paid shares of £1 each. As the result of the operations in 1914 the dividend is maintained at the rate of 50%, free of income tax, on amounts paid-up on both denominations of the shares. As will be seen from the following analysis of the year's accounts, the dividend has been nearly provided out of interest earnings, apart from those on the life fund, and the total profits of the year have permitted a larger sum than that required for the distribution of the dividend to be applied in strengthening the reserves in various ways. Each department shows a substantial profit, which is a very satisfactory outcome in a year which was beset by special difficulties. Indeed, the Company's report, taken all round, is one of the best that has been issued for 1914 by offices engaged, like the Yorkshire, in comprehensive insurance business. A quinquennial valuation of

the Company's life department fell due on December 31, 1914. In this section the shareholders have a comparatively small pecuniary interest, but the results must be gratifying to the Company's participating policyholders, for bonuses are maintained at the standard announced five years previously, despite the difficulties attendant on providing for depreciation in securities.

In this review of the accounts for 1914 first place may be given to the life department, in view of the actuarial investigation referred to. The Company's new life business in that year amounted to £659,464, of which £55,621 was reassured, the net retention at its sole risk being £603,843, as compared with £645,670 in 1913. About 95% of the net new business in 1914 was effected within the United Kingdom. The total net life premium income, increased by £14,105, amounted to £209,675, apart from a sum of £70,002 received as consideration for new annuities granted. After making a reasonable adjustment for the cost of the annuity business, the expenses of management, inclusive of commission, seem to have absorbed about 13.2% of the premiums, which is less than the average expense ratio in British life offices. Claims by death amounted to £82,474, as compared with £74,027 in 1913. Endowment assurances for £27,160 matured by survivance. The sum of £32,693 was transferred to investment reserve for depreciation in securities from the life fund, which on December 31, 1914, amounted to £2,595,435, showing an increase during the year of £147,051. Apart from a profit on reversions amounting to £13,264, the interest earnings on the life fund taken into the year's account amounted to £104,465, after deduction of income tax, indicating a net yield of about £4 4s. 7d. per cent.

The quinquennial valuation, as five years previously, was made by the O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Tables for ordinary policies, and by the O^M Table for endowment assurances, in combination with 3% interest and net premiums, special reserves being made for various purposes. Annuities were valued by the British Offices' Annuity Tables at 2½% interest. On this basis the disclosed valuation surplus amounts to £212,400, of which £150,000 is distributed—£135,000 to participating policyholders, and £15,000 to shareholders—the balance of £62,400 being carried forward as a provision against there being an adverse mortality experience during the next quinquennium in consequence of the War, or any further depreciation in the value of securities. The directors announce that the amount allotted to participating policyholders gives the same average bonus as on previous occasions, the method of division providing for an increasing reversionary bonus having been maintained. The bonus continues to average over 30*s.* per cent. per annum.

The results in the commercial departments of the Company's business, after adjustment of reserves for unexpired risks, are as follows:—

Fire Department.—Premiums (increased by £7,512), £455,800; trading profit, £32,297 (about 7.1% of premiums); interest profit, £7,794.

Accident Department.—Premiums (increased by £1,112), £14,986; trading profit, £2,289 (about 15.3% of premiums); interest profit, £445.

Employers' Liability (within United Kingdom).—Premiums (increased by £2,748), £106,174; trading profit, £15,860 (about 14.8%); interest profit, £2,723.

General Insurance.—Premiums (increased by £11,292), £308,420, of which £34,090 related to term and transit risks in the live-stock insurance section expired within the year; trading profit, £25,586 (about 8.3% of premiums); interest profit, £5,928.

Marine Insurance.—Premiums (increased by £68,230), £430,047; trading profit taken into account, £22,254. In regard to this it may be pointed out that the marine reserves have been increased from about 88 to about 106% of the premiums, so that a considerable amount of trading profit, apart from that referred to above transferred to profit and loss account, has probably been left in the funds. Interest profit, £12,746.

Profit and Loss Account.—Interest and dividends not carried to other accounts, less income tax, amount to £26,888, and out of shareholders' quinquennial profits of £15,000 above referred to £3,000 is credited to this account as the proportion thereof for 1914. On the other hand, the account is charged with expenses of £7,160 not departmentally debited.

The profits taken into the year's account appear therefore to be as follows:—

Department	Interest Profit £	Trading Profit £
Life	—	3,000
Fire	7,794	32,297
Accident	445	2,289
Employers' liability	2,723	15,860
General	5,928	25,586
Marine	12,746	22,254
Profit and loss	26,888	—
		101,286
Less expenses charged to profit and loss	—	7,160
	56,524	94,126
		£150,650

To this has to be added a sum of £57,762 representing the balance of purchase of business account, including premium on shares issued *re* purchase of the Guarantee Society, Limited, less costs, making a total of £208,412, which is thus disposed of:—

	£
To dividends payable in 1915	62,645
Added to accident fund	1,234
„ „ employers' liability fund	6,083
„ „ general fund	11,514
„ „ sinking fund	1,000
„ „ general reserve fund	17,762
Transferred to investment reserve fund ...	100,000
Added to balance of profit and loss account carried forward...	8,174
	208,412

Apart from capital, life and annuity funds, sinking fund (£52,211), investment reserve fund, and pension and guarantee fund (£11,665), and after provision for dividends payable in 1915 and for estimated liability in respect of outstanding claims in the accident and employers' liability departments, the funds carried forward to 1915 are as follows:—

	£
Fire fund	182,320
Accident fund	11,553
Employers' liability fund	67,516
General fund	151,486
Marine fund	456,550
Profit and loss balance	13,922
General reserve fund	487,885
Dividend reserve fund	20,000
Shareholders' balance of 1914 quinquennial life profits	12,000
	1,403,232

This represents about 109% of the total premium income in the fire, accident, employers' liability and general insurance departments, after deduction of premiums on policies in the last-named section expired within the year.

The total assets as shown in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £4,717,388. The Stock Exchange securities, in accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Trade, were taken at the mean market price of December 31, 1914, securities since purchased being taken at cost, and the directors certify that in their belief the assets set forth were in the aggregate fully of the value stated therein, after taking the investment reserve fund (£100,000) into account.

"England's Guarantee to Belgium and Luxemburg." By C. P. Sanger and H. T. J. Norton. (London: Messrs. George Allen and Unwin. 4*s.* 6*d.*)

LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING CO., LTD.

A DISTINCTLY satisfactory first report is issued by this Company, which, it may be recalled, was formed in June 1914 to acquire from the European and Brazilian Shipping Company, Limited, of Toronto, Canada, its fleet of nine steamers aggregating some 62,600 tons. The price paid was £398,000, payable as to £150,000 in Ordinary shares, £30,000 in cash or Preference shares, and the balance of £218,000 in cash. The total share and loan capital was fixed at £500,000, divided into £200,000 of 5½% first Mortgage Debentures, £100,000 of 7% Cumulative Participating £1 Preference shares, and £200,000 of Ordinary shares of £1 each. The whole of the Debentures were issued, but £8,880 have since been redeemed. The whole of the Preference share capital is also in issue, and £150,000 of the Ordinary share capital. Six of the nine steamers, aggregating about 44,600 tons, had been under time charters to the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company for some time. These charters were cancelled, and the prospectus of the Company drew attention to the fact that new charter parties had been entered into between the Company and the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Company, by which these six steamers were chartered at remunerative rates for periods ranging from eight to nine years. It was added that the average net profits of the six steamers, after fully providing for running expenses and maintenance in good order, and addition of management and administration expenses, together with the amount of the commissions on return freights to be earned by the Company in connection with these steamers during the period of the charters with the Rio de Janeiro Company, would average not less than £43,000 per annum, or more than sufficient to pay the full amount required for Debenture interest and redemption charges, and the 7% dividend on the Preference shares, without taking into consideration the earnings of the three other steamers. Altogether it was estimated that the annual profit before providing for redemption of Debenture interest, depreciation, management, and administration expenses, should exceed £64,300.

Special attention was naturally drawn in the prospectus to the value of the charters with the Rio de Janeiro Company, by which the earnings would be independent of fluctuations in the freight market during the period of the charters; but, as it happened, during the first twelve months the result has perhaps not been wholly in favour of the Company. The first report and statement of accounts covers a period of fourteeen months to July 31 last, and it is pointed out that at the time when the Company commenced business six of its steamers were on a time charter for an unexpired period for several years at a remunerative rate fixed for months before the War, and, in consequence, the Company has not been in a position to take the same advantage of the high rate of freights resulting from the War as have shipping companies which were in a less favourable position in normal times. And it is added, "Much to the regret of your directors, the steamers not on time charter have in consequence of a series of misfortunes been to a great extent prevented from participating in the high freights ruling in the open market. The *Rio Tiete*, having suffered heavy damage while crossing the Atlantic early in April, was compelled to remain under repair for over four months, and the *Rio Lages*, while proceeding down the North Sea, following the very restricted routes prescribed by the Admiralty, ran on the Redcar Rocks off the Tees, and has also been under repair for upwards of four months. In both cases the costs are recoverable, but the shareholders will note that during several months, at a period when freights in the open market were highly remunerative, these vessels remained in enforced idleness, and the Company was deprived of their earning powers." In addition to these set-backs, the Company has not escaped loss by the enemy, as in September last year one boat was sunk by the German cruiser *Karlsruhe*. This steamer was replaced by another, but again the Company met a heavy blow, as the newly acquired vessel had only been purchased a few days when she was torpedoed by an enemy submarine and sunk in the Channel. Altogether, for the fourteen months covered by the accounts, a trading profit of £128,009 was secured. Adding sundry receipts, and after deduction of expenses and debenture interest, there is a balance of £108,267. This enables a distribution of 11½% to be made on the Preference shares and 27% on the Ordinary shares, leaving a balance of £56,546. Of this £9,000 has been set aside for Debenture redemption reserve £25,000 to a reserve for contingencies, and £20,000 carried to general reserve. There then remains to be carried forward a balance of £2,546. This may be seen from the following:—

	July 31—1915 £
[illegible]	128,009
[illegible]	2,579
[illegible]	130,588
[illegible]	9,624
[illegible]	12,697
[illegible]	108,267
Preference dividend, 11½%	11,221
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	54
[illegible]	[illegible]

It may be added that the reserve for the redemption of Debentures, for which £9,000 has been set aside, is the sole provision for depreciation of the fleet, and the auditors' certificate is given subject to this being an adequate provision; and it may be remarked in passing that it represents less than 2% on the book value of the fleet. There are paper assets consisting of underwriting and other formation expenses amounting to £36,728, reduced by an amount of £5,500 from the profits of the year, thus leaving a balance of £31,228. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at July 31 last.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Debentures	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sundry creditors, &c.	101,402	Preliminary expenses, &c. ...	31,228
Reserves	54,000	Uncompleted voyages ...	11,995
Profit and loss	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]
		Cash	14,223
	643,963		643,963

At the meeting on October 7 the Chairman drew attention to the fact that, whereas at the time of the prospectus the steamers aggregated 62,676 tons dead weight, on July 31, with the same number of steamers, the dead-weight tonnage was increased to 71,510—practically 9,000 tons more than the Company started with, and it is also a fact that although the price of ships has increased enormously, yet at the date of the balance sheet, comparing the cost of the fleet with the original cost in 1914, it practically comes out at the same price per ton dead-weight. Since that date the Company has made a most satisfactory sale of their oldest steamer, and that at a price which will reduce the book value of the remaining ships, reckoned per ton dead-weight, very considerably. The Chairman added: "Our outlook in the future is promising. I think that the outlook for shipping generally must be prosperous. Tonnage has decreased, is decreasing, and during the War must go on decreasing; and, even if the War ends more quickly than any of us can hope for at the present moment, there will be an aftermath left which will take a lot of clearing away, and there will be a great deal for shipping to do. We do not know what burdens may be put upon the shipping industry. Whatever those burdens may be the shipping industry is prepared to shoulder them willingly and ungrudgingly as long as those burdens are fair and evenly distributed."

The present [illegible] £1 shares [illegible]

LINGGI-PORT DICKSON FUSION.

Extraordinary general meetings have been summoned by the directors of the Linggi Plantations, Limited, for the purpose of increasing the authorised capital from £125,000 to £200,000, and of authorising an agreement entered into with the object of the purchase of the property and assets of the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates, Limited, a scheme which has been anticipated for some little time past. A portion of the estates owned by the Port Dickson Company originally belonged to the Linggi Company, which will consequently once again secure possession of an area of land it formerly possessed. The authorised capital of the Port Dickson Company is £200,000, and of this £173,545 has been paid up. The Company owns 4,163 acres of land situated in Negri Sembilan, of which 2,984 acres are planted, and approximately 1,000 acres are being tapped. The amount of further capital required to bring the whole planted area to a producing stage is estimated at £28,257. At the end of 1914 the Linggi Company's planted acreage was 7,391 acres, and instructions have been given to plant up an additional 1,000 acres. The Company has since acquired on satisfactory terms a further property comprising 744 acres, of which 600 acres are planted with rubber. Assuming the present proposals are carried into effect the area of the Linggi Company's properties will be approximately 18,190 acres, of which 11,975 acres are planted, leaving 6,215 acres in reserve. Of the planted area 5,700 acres will come immediately into the productive area.

In order to show what the Linggi Company has done in the past we set out herewith a statement of the price secured, the total profits, and dividends paid since 1906:—

	Rubber—			Coffee, &c.	Total Profit	Dividend on Issued Capital—	
	Lb.	£	Av. Price Realised s. d.	£	£	£	%
1906 ...	17,228	1,[illegible]	—	5,095	[illegible]	2,678	15
1907 ...	110,740	18,379	—	[illegible]	14,536	8,522	20
1908 ...	284,873	60,011	—	1,895	45,811	39,614	60
1909 ...	545,210	167,664	7 1.1	5,325	166,964	148,[illegible]	165
1910 ...	878,754	254,182	5 9.4	3,758	272,706	213,750	237½
1911 ...	1,097,719	242,749	4 9.5	1,656	190,166	185,000	1[illegible]
1912 ...	1,156,344	227,651	4 1.6	3,295	150,548	143,750	143¾
1913 ...	1,281,116	161,213	2 6.2	—	83,747	70,000	70
1914 ...	1,389,290	148,775	2 1.7	—	78,899	75,000	75

We further set out a statement showing the production of the various divisions of the estate, the yield per acre in bearing, and the f.o.b. cost per pound:—

	Output—		Yield per Acre in Bearing		f.o.b. Cost per Lb.—			
	1914	1913	1914	1913	1914		1913	
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Seremban ...	316,408	279,666	364	315		8.45	1	0.01
Rantau ...	264,484	241,628	405	376		7.41		9.29
Marjone ...	47,569	28,380	192	192	1	0.87	1	2.25
Ulu Siwah ...	253,991	22[illegible]	445	391		9.96	1	0.97
Siliau	211,916	174,924	416	350		9.63		10.45
Mantin ...	35,451	22,352	252	211	1	3.16	1	4.06
Klang	263,271	310,710	255	305		11.19	1	4.06
	1,389,290	1,281,116	Av. 346	Av. 332	Av.	9.54	Av.1	0.57

The average yield of 346 lb. per acre in bearing compares with an average of 332 lb. in 1913 and 311 lb. in 1912. It is thus evident that the estates are steadily becoming more productive, with the result that costs are reduced.

The following shows the items of which the total costs are made up:—

	1914	1913
	d.	d.
Collecting (including utensils)...	5.24	5.04
Manufacture and forwarding	1.17	1.43
Maintenance of producing area	.99	1.81
Share of general estate expenditure	3.59	3.61
Export duty	.55	.68
	9.54	1s. 0.57

The following are the terms offered to the shareholders of the Port Dickson Company:—

(1) The purchase consideration to be an allotment to the Port Dickson shareholders of one Ordinary share of Linggi Plantations Limited, for every ten shares now held in the Port Dickson Company. (2) The Linggi Company to take over the whole of the liabilities and assets of the Port Dickson Company, including the estates in the East, buildings, equipment, stocks of rubber, cash, &c. (3) The Linggi Company to bear the whole of the expenses of liquidation of the Port Dickson Company. (4) The shares to be issued by the Linggi Company to rank *pari passu* with the other Ordinary shares of that Company in all respects. (5) The Linggi Company will also pay as part of the purchase consideration a sum equal to the amount which would have been received by way of interim dividend on these shares in respect of the year 1915 had they been issued prior to the declaration of the first interim dividend on June 29 last. In order to carry out the scheme it will be necessary to increase the Linggi's issued share capital by approximately £20,000 in Ordinary shares of 2*s.* each. The total issued capital will then stand as follows:—

10,000 7% Preference shares of £1 each,
1,300,000 Ordinary shares of 2*s.* each,

and the capital cost of the planted area will work out at about £11 14*s.* per acre. The following is an estimate of outputs and costs for the years 1916-1920 from the combined properties:—

	Output Lb.	Estimated f.o.b. Cost per Lb.
1916	2,353,000	[illegible]
1917 ...	2,871,000	7·71*d.*
1918	[illegible],415,000	7·23*d.*
1919	3,967,000	6·92*d.*
1920	4,374,000	6·48*d.*

In anticipation of the fusion, Port Dickson shares have gradually risen in price, and it may be added that the shareholders gain the advantage of securing an interest in a dividend-paying concern as against having to wait perhaps for some considerable time before receiving dividends. They will also receive the benefit of securing a wider market for their holdings. Altogether, therefore, there is no doubt that they will be prepared to accept the terms offered by the Linggi Company.

TWO ATTRACTIVE RUBBER SHARES.

BEKOH AND BATANG MALAKA.

The Rubber-share market has for long afforded an attractive field for bargain-hunters with an eye to capital appreciation. The collapse following the boom of 1909-10 eventually brought about a very healthy condition of the commodity market and reduced share values to such an extent as to afford handsome dividend yields on securities of industrial character. With the growth of the motor industry and the huge reduction in the cost of production, there is no longer any doubt that the whole of the plantation output, notwithstanding its steadily increasing quantity, will be readily absorbed. It has come to pass, therefore, that to arrive at the intrinsic value of a rubber share nowadays is practically only an arithmetical calculation, the main factors being the capital, the planted acreage, the progress of output, cost of production, and the price of the commodity. With this state of things it naturally follows that the share quotations of old-established and high dividend-paying companies fluctuate but little, unless with the price of rubber, and, consequently, investors who desire capital appreciation search out the promising young undertakings with planted properties just becoming productive, and therefore offering considerable prospects in the matter of increasing output, reduction of costs, yearly expansion of profits, and larger and larger dividends as the plantations reach the fully-developed stage. We have in mind two companies which may well be placed within this category. These are the Bekoh Rubber Estates and Batang Malaka, both having rubber plantations in the Malay States. The capitalisation in each case is reasonable; the 2*s.* shares have not the disadvantage of a heavy premium, the yearly outputs are rapidly increasing, and with satisfactory reductions reported in costs, dividend prospects in both instances appear good. The merits of the two undertakings are contrasted in the following table:—

	Year	Year	
Issued	£	£	
Market			
Paid	£	£	
Total			
Planted	1,655	1,268	
Market			
Price	£	£	

	1913	1914	1915
Output per planted acre	134 lb. (1914-15)		
Net profit	1,381	£	£
Dividend 1914 1915	7½%	(Probably) Nil	

Current Year's Output.

	Bekoh	Batang Malaka
3 months to Sept.	7,13	

The Bekoh is believed to be on the point of declaring its maiden dividend on account of the year to June 30, 1915, the rate will be 7½. This being the case the market capitalisation per planted acre of only £5⅞ is a decidedly low one for an established rubber company commencing to pay dividends. The output per planted acre last financial year was only 134 lb., whereas 300 lb. is not an unduly high figure for a matured concern. And, moreover, as the output continues to rise with the increasing age of the trees the cost of production should be further reduced. Assuming when in full production in two or three years' time a yield of 300 lb. per planted acre, the total output would be about 500,000 lb. per annum. It would not be unreasonable to expect "all in" costs, now about 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound, to be reduced to 1*s.* per pound, and reckoning on a price of 2*s.* per pound for rubber, a net profit of 1*s.* per pound would give the Company a profit at the rate of £25,000 per annum, equal to more than 25% on the issued capital of £95,000. For the year ended June 30 last the [illegible] profit sufficient to pay more than 7½% on the capital, and the production for the first two months of the current financial year has shown considerable further increase. At par or slightly over, therefore, the 2*s.* shares offer good chance of capital appreciation as the estate progresses towards maturity.

The Batang Malaka is in a slightly different position to the Bekoh, as it has outstanding Debentures of £8,000, which are repayable at the rate of £2,000 per annum, or at 110% on three months' notice But in our calculation of market value per planted acre we have included the £8,000 of Debentures at par and yet the figure works out at only £4 1½. The current year's profit should be in the region of £8,500, which, if there were not the small Debenture debt outstanding, would be equal to 14% dividend on the issued capital of £59,400. As it is £2,000 of the Debentures will certainly be paid off, reducing the amount to £6,000. This would leave about £6,000 profit available, equal to 10% on the capital. It would be much preferable from the shareholders' point of view if the whole of the current year's profits were allocated to Debenture redemption, practically expunging the outstanding indebtedness in this respect. Probably this policy will be adopted. This would set free the profits for dividend purposes and satisfactory dividend distributions would be quickly forthcoming. In any case, however, these shares at 25% discount also appear an attractive rubber speculation.

"The City, July 1914-15," by H. C. Sonne. This little volume contains a brief history of the incidents affecting the Stock Exchange, Money markets, Exchanges, &c., during the period of war to July 1915. It also gives the text of the various proclamations and regulations that have been issued or put into force during the period. London, Effingham Wilson, 5*s.*

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WHEAT.

Though this week the Wheat market has been firm, the price of Manitoba wheat having risen 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per quarter, the outlook appears to be that quantities to come forward to meet European demands will soon appreciably increase. A feature of the week is the publication of the United States crop estimates, and, according to the *London Grain, Seed and Oil Reporter*, wheat, on the whole, was quite favourable during September for the completion of the American spring wheat harvest, and the Washington Bureau reports estimate the yield as 348 million bushels. A month ago the probable outturn was put at 322 million bushels. The total yield of winter and spring wheat is now estimated by one authority at 887 million bushels, and by the other at 933 million bushels. The official estimate this year is 904 million bushels, while last year's crop was officially estimated at 891 million bushels. Latest cables report a further improvement in the quality and condition of the winter wheat now being delivered.

All reports, both official and private, recently received from Australia continue to advise this year's crop outlook as a most promising one. Rains have fallen at the right time, and, provided favourable weather be experienced at harvest time, the yield is expected to be a record one by several million quarters. In New South Wales the area sown was over 50% larger than last year, whilst in Victoria it was 33% larger, and assuming a moderate increase in the other parts of the Commonwealth the total area this year would work out at about 13,500,000 acres against 10,321,328 acres last year and 9,287,398 acres in 1913. In 1913 the crop, which was a good one, gave a yield of 103,344,132 bushels, or 11.1 bushels per acre. A similar yield per acre this year, allowing for the larger area sown, would give a yield of 150 million bushels, or nearly 19 million quarters, leaving a surplus for export of 12 to 13 million quarters.

Other grain estimates, according to the United States Board of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, include:—

(Millions of Bushels)

	1915	1914 (Final)
Maize	3,026	2,673
Oats	1,517	1,141
Barley	237	195
Rye	44	43

The combined grain crops appear certain to be the largest on record.

TIN.

THE movement of prices in tin has for some time past been the subject of considerable disappointment, even in quarters where a rather conservative attitude is usually adopted regarding the market position and prospects, and at present there is rather a sharp cleavage of opinion as to the probabilities of the near future. On the one hand there are those whose opinion is not lightly to be disregarded, who talk of much lower prices being experienced, while on the other there is a not unimportant section of the trade which inclines to the belief that a substantial recovery is due. As against the market there seem to be certain valid arguments, and these, notwithstanding the fact that present costs of production show a considerable appreciation upon those ruling at the beginning of last year, and that American consumption is exceedingly large. The speculative character of the tin market has always been one of its most attractive features to those who have made it a hobby, but since the war broke out it has almost entirely lost this characteristic, for not only is the Continental market practically a dead letter with the closing of Germany and Austria, but there has been a notable diminution of interest shown by America. The cause of the last named is undoubtedly to be sought in the conditions laid down by the British Government for regulating the supplies of tin of British origin reaching the United States. By these regulations tin can only be shipped to America, when it is consigned to certain British Consuls, and such metal will only be released on signed guarantees that the tin will be used by the recipient for his own industrial purposes, and will not be exported. Furthermore, the effects of the war, and also the regulations just referred to, have tended to prevent importers and others carrying stocks of tin in America.

On the other hand, there are a number of considerations which normally should work for higher prices. It is pointed out that the total supplies of tin from August 1, 1914, to August 31, 1915, compared with the previous 13 months, show a very considerable reduction as indicated in the figures below:—

	1914-15 Tons	1913-14 Tons
Straits	69,254	70,360
Australian	1,681	3,125
Banca	11,523	14,711
Billiton	1,717	2,431
Standard	8,751	11,264
Total	92,926	101,891

It will be seen from these that the monthly average of supplies has fallen from 7,790 tons in 1913-14 to 7,130 tons in the following period, and that the reduction applies to all sources of supply. It is probable that the serious fall in the price sustained during the first part of last year has affected the output of the higher cost properties, while financial disturbances arising from causes connected with the war have also played a part. Production under existing circumstances can hardly be expected to increase, although a substantial and sustained recovery in prices would no doubt induce the development of mining propositions which have been rendered idle through the war. As against this falling off in supplies, deliveries during the same period of 13 months have also fallen off, this being especially the case in Holland; while, on the other hand, the apparent consumption in the United Kingdom has been largely increased. America is now taking tin at an enormous rate, the absence of stocks in the hands of dealers in the chief distributing centres necessitating the holding of small stocks in all directions by consumers. The apparent consumption from August 1, 1914, to August 31, 1915, compared with the previous 13 months, is shown in the following figures:—

	1914-15	1913-14
United Kingdom	28,631	19,902
Holland	6,199	17,755
Continent	9,036	11,872
Total	43,866	49,529
America	[illegible]	48,574
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]

From the above it will be seen that the monthly average fell from 7,460 tons in 1913-14 to 6,970 tons in 1914-15. As bearing upon the market situation, it may be remarked that the United States May to August deliveries last year were 14,250 tons, and in the same period of 1915, 19,300 tons, an excess in four months of over 5,000 tons. America is now making preparations to supply a portion of her own requirements by smelting Bolivian ores, but developments in this direction are bound to move slowly, and for the reason that the United States tin-smelting industry is hardly likely to assume much importance for some time to come, although the tendency in this connection deserves to be watched.

There has been a fresh upward flurry in prices within the last day or two, which had its origin in reports circulated by an important New York tin-dealing firm, that it was intended to place an export duty of 10% on all tin shipped from the Federated Malay States. It was felt to be quite in accordance with the topsy-turvy conditions prevailing in most sections of the metal trade that such information should have come from New York, but the most diligent inquiries, here and in the East, have failed to reveal any basis for the rumour. At the same time, in view of the action taken by the Government of Ceylon in placing an export duty upon various staple commodities of that island

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These facts present the prospect of unparalleled advantages to members of the "Pool."

for the purpose of raising revenue, there seems no reason why the Federated Malay States should not pursue a similar course of action. The riots in Singapore must have involved the colony in a considerable additional expense, while above and beyond this the need for raising revenue may impel fresh taxation, and this might easily take the form of an export duty on tin. An article of so highly speculative character as tin has proved itself to be in the past, and in which an annual fluctuation of from £50 to £70 a ton has been quite common, could easily bear a charge of this kind, while the metal itself is one of the very few articles in which an increase in price has never yet proved seriously to have affected its consumption.

It will be of interest to have a record of market movements in price of standard tin per ton over the last three years. This is roughly indicated below:—

	Highest	Lowest
	£	£
1913	252 January	166½ December
1914	184½ February	120 October

Approximate prices in 1915 will show the sharpness of market changes:—

1915	£	1915	£
January 4	151	August 20	148
March 12	190	September 3	154½
April 1	168	October 7	150
July 9	171		

LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

THE range of prices is higher than for a very long time back and the upward movement in raw cotton rates continues. Compared with a fortnight ago American cotton is about three farthings a pound dearer, and Egyptian cotton is a penny a pound up during the same period. It may be said that on September 22 middling American on the spot in Liverpool was at 6.55*d.*, whilst on Wednesday last the quotation was 7.24*d.*, and during the same period fully good fair brown Egyptian cotton advanced from 9.10*d.* to 10.05*d.* Spinners of yarn and manufacturers of cloth have advanced their quotations, but buyers have been slow to follow, and where attempts have been made at business it has been most difficult to bridge differences. Raw cotton has been advancing in price during the last couple of months, and many traders have not believed in the rise and have anticipated a reaction. On Monday last two official reports were issued by the United States Government relating to the growing crop. In the first instance it was stated that the amount of cotton ginned so far this season amounted to 2,900,000 bales, as compared with 3,394,000 bales last year and 3,247,000 bales same time in 1913. It was also stated that the condition of the crop was 60.8%, against 73.5% same time last year. This last statement was rather worse than expected, and prices in New York and Liverpool immediately advanced. It is understood that these statistics indicate a yield of less than 11,000,000 bales, and with a possible consumption of 15,000,000 bales it looks as though stocks at the end of this season will be very low. Some Manchester traders are now more disposed to believe that the higher prices have come to stay for the present, but our customers abroad are not inclined to purchase freely at current rates.

Our shipments in cotton piece-goods are falling off rather rapidly, and some leading merchants in Manchester are fast working off contracts and cannot find sufficient work for their hands. One big warehouse is being closed for the whole of next week, and other important establishments are working short time. These cases refer more particularly to India houses. This is a time of the year when a substantial business is generally done for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, as the result of the monsoon rains is pretty well known. At the beginning of this week freer buying took place in light fabrics, such as dhooties for Calcutta, but the prices taken were very poor, and in some instances the business was due to manufacturers forcing sales. Makers of grey shirtings are in a very poor way and fresh orders are scarce. Isolated transactions occur for China, but in spite of low stocks in Shanghai buyers operate very cautiously. Developments in connection with political matters in the Near East seem likely to have an adverse effect upon our trade in that part of the world, and exporters are looking on pending further news. Some producers of fancy cloths, such as brocades, have recently extended their engagements and a fairly profitable business has been done. On the other hand, many makers of staple goods for our Eastern outlets are stopping looms and losing a lot of money.

It is hard work for spinners of American yarns to maintain their position in face of dearer raw material, as at such times there is generally a tendency for the margin of profit to be narrowed as a result of the difficulty in obtaining adequate advances. Producers, however, are not hampered by heavy stocks and a firm front is being presented to buyers. Some improvement has recently shown itself in medium numbers. The strong position of producers of two-fold yarns is well maintained, and early delivery in the lower counts cannot be secured. In Bolton spinnings prices have now got on to a decidedly high basis, and although in some quarters users who have been short have covered on the best terms possible, there is no disposition to purchase freely at the prices now ruling. The appreciation in values, however, is resulting in delivery instructions coming in on a freer scale against old contracts. There has been business about in bundle yarns for India and in cops for the Continent, but buyers have not readily paid more money and a good deal of the demand has been unworkable.

On Tuesday in last week a further joint meeting was held in Manchester between representatives of the cotton weaving employers and the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation to consider the application of the workpeople for a 5% bonus on wages during the period of the War. After a short discussion it was decided by the masters to refer the question to the local associations for consideration. Special meetings in the various districts have been held this week, and it was arranged that another joint meeting between the masters and the trade union officials should be held yesterday (Friday), when a reply to the application would be given.

THE TINPLATE TRADE.

THE Welsh tinplate makers have ever since the War been struggling against adverse conditions, and their plight has in a good many cases become serious owing to the shutting off of so many of their principal markets, as will be seen from the following table:—

To	1915* Tons	1914 Tons	1913 Tons	1912 Tons
Russia	580	8,956	9,921	9,675
Sweden	—†	5,613	7,660	7,264
Norway	29,311	28,900	25,166	31,503
Germany	—	17,910	34,379	41,379
Netherlands	18,287	30,765	43,009	44,156
Belgium	—	8,744	13,363	18,875
France	39,089	27,739	21,332	31,930
Portugal	9,304	10,983	14,873	15,797
Italy	12,699	16,250	20,418	21,478
Roumania	581	17,512	10,927	35,920
China	7,933	16,203	15,569	9,152
Hong Kong		5,644	6,122	6,254
Japan	15,945	26,166	28,222	23,236
U.S.A.	839	17,468	21,516	2,135
Argentine Republic	8,938	7,789	19,323	10,283
B.E. India	35,211	55,904	51,571	39,952
Straits Settlements		13,640	16,705	13,660
Australia	27,642	31,354	28,961	29,201
New Zealand	—†	4,450	4,241	4,107
Canada	—†	8,246	9,889	7,297
Total export	260,485	435,592	494,497	481,123

* January August. † Not separately specified.

On the basis of 260,000 tons [illegible] Wales should export about 390,000 tons for the complete year, [illegible] with 1913, the last complete year of peace. The absolute closing of Germany and Belgium account for

about 40,000 tons of the deficit, while there is a drop of 10,000 tons in the shipments to Roumania.

The unfortunate situation in which the Welsh makers have found themselves has been added to by the difficulty of and delay in securing permits even for certain of our Allies, while to such countries as Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and Greece, it has for some time past been practically impossible to obtain permits. Consumers of tinplates in these countries, in common with all others whose operations have been brought to a standstill by the action of the Government in respect of Welsh tinplates, turned their attention, therefore, with increasing force to America, with the result that large quantities of American tinplates have been sold for shipment to Scandinavia and other neutral European markets, while some plates were actually sold to United Kingdom consumers. The representations made by the Welsh manufacturers as to the serious nature of the inroads thus being made upon their trade, and of the manifest injustice of a policy which, while permitting America to annex without let or hindrance the trade which Wales had built up as a result of years of experience and the expenditure of enormous effort, prevented Welsh works continuing business, have had one very satisfactory result. The authorities, who had already taken under their ægis the entire tin trade of the United States in so far as it affected tin of British origin, have now made it a condition of the terms on which America can obtain such tin that its exportation from America to neutral Europe in any form whatsoever shall be subject to British permits, exactly in the same way as if the finished material itself were of British origin. This has been brought about by a very clever stroke. Before the tin entering the United States is released by the British Consul, to whom it must be consigned, various forms of guarantee have to be given by United States consumers, and at the close of last month amended clauses came into operation.

Moreover, it has been arranged that the British authorities shall be duly notified of United States exports of any manufactured goods containing tin, even when they are being shipped to a destination outside of Europe, which is not in British possession. In this way it will be seen that the British Government are in virtual control of the United States export business in all goods which consist wholly or partly of tin. The supervision of our authorities thus extends even to tinplates shipped from America to Hong Kong or the Argentine. The absolute control of the seas by the British Fleet has never been more clearly shown than in this demonstration of the ability of the British Government to regulate the overseas trade of neutral countries, and the illustration given may well serve as an object-lesson of the silent pressure which our Fleet exercises.

Correspondence.

THRIFT.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—I ask the hospitality of your columns to put before the public another way than that advocated by you of enabling the country to cover all the expenses of the War. We have at present a Coalition Cabinet in office, a portion of whom are Tariff Reformers. And others who are not Tariff Reformers are members of a party the majority of which is Tariff Reform. Yet, even at a time like the present, the whole Cabinet shrinks from enforcing thrift by heavy taxation. For the present, at all events, we have proof, then, that enforced thrift is out of the question. There remains voluntary thrift. But he must be a wonderfully sanguine man who seriously believes that he can persuade any considerable number of the British people to give up their luxuries, comforts, enjoyments, and so on not because they must, but because it is their duty. For nearly two thousand years the Christian Church has been urging all sorts of self-sacrifice upon its members, with the result that the Christian Church is split up into innumerable sects, and that all the sects together have practically lost all hold upon their members. Can any man honestly believe, in the face of such experience, that newspaper advocacy can achieve what a great Church has utterly failed to do? I accept completely and fully the statement that we ought to take practical and fairly effectual measures to meet the cost of this exceedingly costly War. But I submit that the most efficacious way of doing that is to increase the incomes of the people, not to diminish their spending power. It is of the very utmost importance that we should increase our exports. The imports, whatever we do, will be immense as long, at all events, as the War lasts. But our exports have shrunk, and, I fear, may shrink further. The real duty of the statesman at present is to expand our exports in every possible way. It is his duty, firstly, because it will enable the British public better to stand the strain the War has put upon it. It is his duty, secondly, because by expanding our productive power and selling largely to the rest of the world we shall gain new markets and make a step forward in increasing the national wealth. It is his duty, lastly, because the whole British Empire has rallied with splendid loyalty to the help of the United Kingdom, and, therefore, ought to be rewarded to the very utmost of our ability. It may be objected that we are spending so much on the War that we have neither the labour nor the capital to increase our exports. I demur absolutely to such a statement. Labour is scarce at present and capital is timid, not because there is not a sufficiency of both, but because the Government has not sense enough to see what it ought to do. It makes no difficulty whatsoever about taking into its own control the railways, a great part of the shipping, the munitions factories, and so on. It has bought up the wheat of India and imported it. It has bought immense quantities of sugar and imported it. And yet it asks us to believe that while it can do all that it can neither prevent importers from exacting exorbitant prices, nor can it find the capital for putting an end to the timidity of the banks and the exporting merchants. Let it extend its own control over the banks, and, if necessary, over the manufacturers, and it will find, just as it has found in the cases already referred to, that there is no serious difficulty. It is only timidity and fear of the rich that are standing in the way.—Yours, &c.,

A WAR ECONOMIST.

[We are at one with our correspondent as to the desirability of increasing our exports. Where we differ from him is in the means to be adopted. Our manufacturing industries are now, with one notable exception, fully engaged in producing (1) for war, (2) for the great and unprecedented home trade, (3) for export. The greatness of the home trade is due not only to the War expenditures, but to the fact that the real wages of families—the volume of employment, coupled with the rate of wage, less the higher prices of commodities—are unusually high and that the expenditures of the working classes are unprecedented. Much economy is being practised by the wealthy and by the professional classes, though doubtless still more would be possible, but the great bulk of the nation is spending more freely than ever. If the great working classes could be induced to save their extra wages against the depression in trade which must come sooner or later after the War is over, they would not only assist their country to meet its enormous War expenditures, but would also diminish the period of subsequent trade depression. Moreover, by reducing their consumption they would set labour free for the export trade, and the adverse trade balance would in some measure be rectified by increased exports.—ED. "THE STATIST."]

INCOME TAX ON FOREIGN BALANCES.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—May I be allowed to call attention to a matter of some importance in connection with the incidence of income tax? It is known that large sums of money belonging to foreigners resident abroad are held on deposit by London bankers and merchants, on the interest of which income tax has now to be paid under the provisions of the recent Budget.

This is undesirable, both because the money is in profitable use here and because, if the foreigner elected to withdraw his money at the present time, our nation's gold reserve would suffer.

I would therefore suggest for the consideration of the Government that, in order to prevent withdrawals of foreign balances, which are every day becoming larger, the increased income tax should not be levied upon interest payable to foreign and colonial depositors.

I venture to think that this is a matter deserving of careful consideration.—Yours truly,

BANKER.

London, October 6, 1915.

WAR PROFITS TAX.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech has clearly shown that the present position of our national finances is very serious and disquieting, and every true patriot will be ready and willing to bear his full share of the national burden. At the same time all will admit that no class of the community should be unfairly or excessively taxed. From this point of view will you permit me to call attention through your columns to the special hardship inflicted by the excess profit clauses in the Budget upon merchants trading with South America? They mostly do their business by shipping goods from London, Manchester, and other ports upon orders received from South American importers. This trade is, as a rule, safe and profitable for a certain number of successive years; but these are generally followed by somewhat prolonged periods of depression, when large losses are made, by diminished trade, and by bad debts, often for large amounts, which sweep away much of the profit of previous prosperous years.

During the past three or four years South America has passed through a most severe financial and commercial crisis, and export business to that continent has shrunk to the smallest possible dimensions, whilst many bad debts have been incurred. Thus the assessment for income tax in 1914-15 was with many export firms probably the lowest on record for many years. Therefore, the excess profit clauses in the Budget, if they become law as they now stand, will press very hardly and unfairly upon those firms, seeing that the 1914-15 assessment is to be the datum for calculating excess profits. For if a recovery—perhaps only slight and partial—in trade occurs, the increase in profits, however small, will be subject to the 50% tax, even though the year's profit may be far below the normal amount.

It is true that on appeal 6% on the capital employed may be taken as the datum line, but 6% is obviously an insufficient margin in foreign, and especially South American, business, as the merchant must set aside an adequate reserve annually in prosperous times to meet inevitable losses in bad years.

If, therefore, the excess profit tax is levied upon all merchants alike, without taking into account the special conditions under which their trade is carried on, and the fact that some trades are more risky than others, it is to be feared that many exporters will have to close their business, because it could no longer be carried on profitably. This would mean that our great export trade, which Government speakers tell us must be maintained and increased if we are to pay for imports, will be considerably crippled and diminished.

I am sure the Government do not desire to deal hardly or unfairly with any class of the community or to lessen the volume of our export trade. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the tribunal which they intend to set up will not be fettered by hard and fast rules, but will have discretionary powers, so that relief may be given in cases of special hardship, and that account may be taken of the special conditions and risks of each particular trade. Surely it would not be wise to impoverish and cripple the trader whose business benefits the whole community, but the just and statesmanlike way is to fit the burden to the back that has to bear it.—Yours faithfully,

EXPORT MERCHANT.

London, October 7, 1915.

New Issues.

PULLMAN CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

Messrs. Higginson and Company are offering for sale £150,000 6% First Mortgage Sinking Fund Equipment Debentures of the Pullman Car Company, Limited, at the price of 98%. On or before October 1, 1916, and annually up to October 1920, a sum of £6,300, and on October 1, 1921, and annually until maturity on October 1, 1930, £12,600 will be applied as a sinking fund for the redemption of the present issue, either by drawings at 105 or by purchase at or below 105. The Company's business is to provide and operate Pullman cars on railways in Great Britain, contracts having been entered into with three companies. The average annual earnings for the past three years work out at £19,306, and it is expected that for the current year they should exceed £25,000. Interest charges upon the present issue call for £9,000, leaving a surplus of £10,306 on the three years' average available for sinking fund, depreciation, &c. The Debentures may be regarded as a fair venture at the price at which they are offered.

ALUMINIUM CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This Company is offering to its Preference and Ordinary stockholders an issue of £64,900 6% Mortgage Debenture stock at par in order to raise the necessary funds to increase its water power. The manufacture of aluminium has been conducted by the Company for four years past, and the profits for the past two years on its small output have been about £12,600 per annum, which is more than sufficient to pay the interest on the whole amount of the Debenture stock. It is pointed out that aluminium is an essential munition of war, the importance of which cannot be overestimated, and the Government have not only pressed the Company to increase its output, but have provisionally arranged to take the whole of the metal produced by it up to the end of the year 1916. The Company's works are now a controlled establishment under the Munitions of War Act, 1915, and have been exempted from recruiting by the Ministry of Munitions. The money subscribed in respect of this year will be employed in carrying out the additional works necessary to enable the Company to increase its water power by bringing into use its water-rights in the Dulyn Valley, in discharging liabilities already incurred in connection with such works and other extensions and improvements, and for the general purposes of the Company. The direct result of the increase of water power will be the ability of the Company to increase substantially its output of aluminium. The stockholders of the Company will [illegible] the money asked for, knowing that the proceeds will be put to good use in the interests of the country as a whole.

[illegible] Bank [illegible] dividend [illegible] per share, [illegible] a total distribution for the year of 8%, £9,500 added to the staff pension and guarantee fund, £75,000 [illegible] investments, and £[illegible] carried forward.

CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RY. CO.

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company:

The Board of Directors submit herewith their report of the operations and affairs of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission having prescribed new classifications of accounts, effective July 1, 1914, the results for the preceding year shown in this report have been partially revised for the purpose of comparison.

Average number of miles operated		8,107.82
Operating Revenues—		
Freight	$51,925,360 54	
Passenger	20,528,443 46	
Other transportation	6,694,249 64	
Incidental	1,633,121 46	
Total Operating Revenues		$80,779,675 30
Operating Expenses (69.78% of Operating Revenues)		56,371,573 04
Net Revenue from Railway Operations		$24,408,102 26
Railway Tax Accruals (5.59% of Operating Revenues)	$4,516,943 10	
Uncollectable Railway Revenues	7,254 64	
		4,524,197 74
Railway Operating Income		$19,883,904 52
Non-operating Income—		
Rental Income	$484,441 71	
Dividend Income	1,810,227 00	
Income from Funded Securities	5,265 85	
Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts, and Other Items	709,825 41	
Total Non-operating Income		2,799,999 97
Gross Income		$22,683,904 47
Deductions from Gross Income—		
Rental Payments	$1,066,045 10	
Interest on Funded Debt	9,565,015 81	
Other Deductions	108,136 57	
Total Deductions from Gross Income		10,739,825 48
Net Income		$11,914,049 09
Disposition of Net Income—		
Sinking Funds	$204,053 75	
Dividends—		
8% on Preferred Stock	1,791,600 00	
7% on Common Stock	9,108,015 00	
Total Appropriations		11,103,668 75
Balance Income for the year		$810,380 34

The results as compared with the preceding fiscal year were as follows:—

Freight Revenue decreased	$2,065,614 69
Passenger Revenue decreased	1,012,099 33
Other Transportation Revenue decreased	700,462 04
Incidental Revenue increased	138,542 73
Total Operating Revenues decreased	$3,779,659 41
Operating Expenses increased	3,930,002 26
Net Revenue from Railway Operations decreased	$150,342 85
Railway Tax Accruals increased	$271,152 81
Uncollectable Railway Revenues increased	7,254 64
	271,407 45
Railway Operating Income decreased	$121,064 60

Of the Operating Expenses for the current fiscal year $32,920,365.11, or 58.40%, was paid employees for labour, as compared with $34,098,916.25, or 56.55%, paid during the preceding fiscal year. The decrease of $1,178,551.14 in the amount paid is accounted for as follows:—

Decrease account less time worked	$1,226,711 22
Increase account higher rates of compensation	48,160 08
	$1,178,551 14

MILES OF RAILROAD.

The total number of miles of railroad owned June 30, 1915, was ... 7,946.13 miles

In addition to which the Company operated:—

Through Ownership of Entire Capital Stock—		
Wolf River Valley Railway (Antigo to Van Ostrand, Wis.)	1.98	,,
Under Lease—		
De Pue, Ladd & Eastern Railroad (Ladd to Seatonville, Ill.)	3.25	miles
Belle Fourche Valley Railway (Belle Fourche to Newell, S. D.)	23.52	,,
James River Valley & North Western Railway (Blunt to Gettysburg, S. D.)	39.55	,,
Macoupin County Extension Railway (Benld to Staunton, Ill.)	4.36	,,
Iowa Southern Railway (Miami to Consol, Iowa)	12.25	,,
	82.93	,,
Under Trackage Rights—		
Peoria & Pekin Union Railway (in the City of Peoria, Ill.)	2.02	,,
Chicago, Indiana & Southern Railroad (Churchill to Ladd, Ill.)	2.80	,,
Union Pacific Railroad (Omaha Transfer Station, Council Bluffs, Iowa, to South Omaha, Neb.)	8.73	,,
Missouri Valley & Blair Railway and Bridge Company's track	3.36	,,
Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway—		
Elm to Omaha, Neb.	24.70	,,
Phoenix to Wayzata, Minn.	22.79	,,
In Sioux City, Iowa	2.28	,,
Illinois Central Railroad (Sioux City to Wren, Iowa)	10.10	,,
	76.78	,,
Total miles of railroad operated June 30, 1915	8,107.82	,,

The above mileage is located as follows:—

In Illinois	824.53 miles
In Wisconsin	2,170.03 ,,
In Michigan	4.88 ,,
In Minnesota	650.30 ,,
In Iowa	1,633.14 ,,
In North Dakota	14.28 ,,
In South Dakota	1,065.15 ,,
In Nebraska	1,102.05 ,,
In Wyoming	150.46 ,,
Total	8,107.82 ,,

FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

The details of Freight Traffic for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows:—

	1914	1915	Decrease Amount	Decrease %
Freight Revenue	$53,990,975 13	$51,925,360 44	$2,065,614 69	3.83
			1914	1915 Percentage of Inc. or Dec.
Tons of Revenue Freight Carried			43,309,643	40,399,215 −6.72
Tons of Revenue Freight Carried One Mile			6,229,944,171	6,216,280,599 −.22
Average Revenue Received per Ton			$1 25	$1 29 +3.20
Average Revenue Received per Ton per Mile			.87 of a cent	.84 of a cent −3.45
Average Distance each Revenue Ton was Hauled			143.85 miles	153.87 miles +6.97
Miles of Loaded Freight Train			18,314,329	17,250,525 −5.81
Average Number of Tons of All Freight Carried per Train Mile—				
East of Missouri River			442.36	479.68 +8.44
West of Missouri River			293.95	293.49 −1.19
Whole Road			411.48	441.40 +7.68
Average Number of Tons of All Freight Carried per Loaded Car Mile			20.81	21.11 +3.94
Average Earnings per Freight Train Mile			$2 95	$3 01 +2.03

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The details of Passenger Traffic for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows:—

	1914	1915	Decrease Amount	Decrease %
Passenger Revenue	$21,540,542 79	$20,528,443 46	$1,012,099 33	4.70
		1914	1915	Percentage of Dec. (−)
Revenue Passengers carried		53,389,428	53,054,570	−.63
Revenue Passengers Carried One Mile		1,173,435,140	1,130,297,641	−3.68
Average Fare Paid per Passenger		63 cents	62 cents	−1.62
Average Rate Paid per Pass. per Mile		1.84 cents	1.82 cents	−1.09
Average Distance Travelled per Revenue Passenger		35.14 miles	34.17 miles	−2.76
Mileage of Passenger and Mixed Trains		21,537,781	21,372,414	−.77
Average Passenger-train Revenue per Train Mile		$1 27	$1 22	−3.94

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

The total Operating Expenses of the Company for the year ending June 30, 1915, were $56,371,573.04; of this amount $10,450,739.45 was for charges pertaining to the Maintenance of Way and Structures. Included in these charges is a large part of the cost of 59,969 tons of steel rails, the greater portion of which was laid in replacement of rails of lighter weight in 441.23 miles of track; also the cost of 2,583,111 new ties.

The charges for Maintenance of Way and Structures also include a portion of the cost of ballasting 49.08 miles of track with crushed stone, 146.34 miles with gravel, and 21.44 miles with cinders; the erection, in place of wooden structures, of 55 new steel bridges on masonry, aggregating 3,550 feet in length and containing 3,885 tons of bridge metal; and the replacement of other wooden structures with masonry arch and box culverts and cast-iron pipes, the openings being filled with earth. The wooden structures replaced by permanent work aggregate 8,929 feet in length.

The charges on account of Maintenance of Way and Structures for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows:—

Cost of Rails—	1914	1915	Increase (+) or Decrease (−)
New Steel Rails	$1,212,258 90	$696,965 82	−$515,293 08
Usable and re-rolled Rails	996,460 61	842,610 97	−153,849 64
	$2,208,719 51	$1,541,576 79	−$667,142 72
Less value of old Rails and other items	1,484,363 53	1,191,307 88	−293,055 65
Net charge for Rails	$724,355 98	$350,268 91	−$374,087 07
Cost of Ties	1,762,313 18	1,547,651 05	−214,662 13
Cost of Ballast	227,056 25	117,254 77	−109,801 48
Cost of Other Track Material	539,118 33	375,613 88	−163,504 45
Roadway and Track Labour and Other Expenses	5,073,539 12	4,486,656 40	−586,882 72
Total Charges for Roadway and Track	$8,326,382 86	$6,877,445 01	−$1,448,937 85
Other Charges Account Maintenance of Way and Structures were as follows:			
Bridges, Trestles and Culverts	937,863 85	833,823 69	−104,040 16
Road Crossings, Fences, &c.	331,200 62	296,673 21	−34,527 41
Signals and Interlockers	434,770 48	419,141 63	−15,628 85
Buildings, Fixtures and Grounds	1,229,186 84	995,745 21	−233,441 60
Docks and Wharves	53,975 41	88,452 05	+34,476 64
Superintendence	522,712 02	515,022 78	−7,689 24
Roadway Tools and Supplies	150,540 57	130,502 96	−20,037 61
Sundry Misc. Charges	226,462 07	293,922 88	+67,460 81
Total Charges Acct. Maint. of Way and Structures	$12,213,094 72	$10,450,739 45	−$1,762,355 27

The above charges for Maintenance of Way and Structures for the current year amount to 18.54 of the total Operating Expenses, as compared with 20.25% for the preceding fiscal year.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The charges on account of Maintenance of Equipment for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows :—

	1914. $	1915. $	Inc. or Dec $
Locomotives	4,831,[illegible] 56	4,740,217 79	— 91,218 57
Passenger-train cars	1,[illegible] 05	1,288,877 15	+ 16,583 52
Freight-train cars	5,445,[illegible] 09	5,873,407 23	+427,918 14
Work equipment	145,[illegible] 97	156,987 57	+ 11,104 60
Shop machinery and tools ...	229,[illegible] 15	170,396 43	— 59,024 72
Superintendence	359,[illegible] 39	354,854 54	— 4,672 85
Sundry miscellaneous charges...	94,187 14	84,194 47	— 9,992 67
Total charges account maintenance of equipment ...	12,358,487 73	12,648,935 18	+290,447 45

The above charges for Maintenance of Equipment for the current year amount to 22.44% of the total Operating Expenses, as compared with 20.49% for the preceding fiscal year.

RESERVE FOR ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ON EQUIPMENT.

At the close of the preceding fiscal year there was a balance to the credit of the Equipment Reserve Accounts of		$5,089,239 37
During the year ending June 30, 1915, there was credited to the Equipment Reserve Accounts on account of charges to Operating Expenses for Accrued Depreciation		2,323,461 58
		$8,112,700 95
And there was charged during the year against the above amount the Accrued Depreciation previously credited this account on Equipment retired or transferred from one class of service to another		263,281 48
Leaving a balance to the credit of the Equipment Reserve Accounts on June 30, 1915, of		$8,149,419 47

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES.

The Transportation Expenses of the Company for the year ending June 30, 1915, were $29,753,444.06, or 52.78% of the total Operating Expenses. Of this amount $19,268,640.36, or 64.76%, was charged for labour; $5,842,571.64, or 19.64%, was charged for fuel for locomotives; and $4,642,232.06, or 15.60%, was charged for supplies and miscellaneous items. The decrease in the Transportation Expenses for the year ending June 30, 1915, as compared with the preceding fiscal year, was $2,195,793.88, or 6.87%, distributed as follows :—

Decrease in amount charged for labour	$547,529 01
Decrease in amount charged for fuel for locomotives	1,063,155 48
Decrease in amount charged for supplies and miscellaneous items	585,109 39
	$2,195,793 88

CAPITAL STOCK.

There was no change during the year in the Capital Stock and Scrip of the Company.

The Company's authorised Capital Stock is Two Hundred Million Dollars ($200,000,000.00), of which the following has been issued to June 30, 1915 :—

Common Stock and Scrip held by the Public	$130,117,028 82
Common Stock and Scrip owned by the Company ...	2,338,502 15
Total Common Stock and Scrip	$132,455,530 97
Preferred Stock and Scrip held by the Public	$22,395,120 00
Preferred Stock and Scrip owned by the Company ...	3,834 56
Total Preferred Stock and Scrip	$22,398,954 56
Total Capital Stock and Scrip, June 30, 1915 ...	$154,854,485 53

FUNDED DEBT.

At the close of the preceding fiscal year the amount of Funded Debt, exclusive of Bonds in the Treasury and due from Trustee, was $214,879,000 00

The above amount has been decreased during the year ending June 30, 1915, by Bonds and Equipment Trust Certificates redeemed or transferred as follows :—

C. & N. W. Ry. Consolidated Sinking Fund Currency of 1915, 7%, matured Feb. 1, 1915, viz.		
Redeemed ...	$12,669,000 00	
Unrepresented and transferred to Current Liabilities	163,000 00	
		$12,832,000 00
C. & N. W. Ry. Equipment Trust Certificates of 1912, 4½%, redeemed, viz.:—		
Series A	$300,000 00	
Series B	300,000 00	
Series C	400,000 00	
		$1,000,000 00
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund of 1879, 6%, redeemed		6,000 00
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund of 1879, 5%, redeemed		183,000 00
M. L. S. & W. Ry. Extension and Improvement Sinking Fund Mortgage, 5%, redeemed		26,000 00
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Debentures of 1933, 5%, redeemed		251,000 00
Total Funded Debt Redeemed or Transferred		$14,298,000 00
		$200,581,000 00

And the above amount has been increased by Bonds sold during the year, as follows :—

C. & N. W. Ry. General Mortgage Gold Bonds of 1987, 5%, sold to reimburse the Company for past expenditures made for construction and in redeeming matured Bonds	$[illegible] 00
Total, June 30, 1915	$210,581,000 00
Net Decrease during the year	$4,298,000 00

BONDS IN THE TREASURY AND DUE FROM TRUSTEE.

At the close of the preceding fiscal year the amount of the Company's Bonds in the Treasury and due from Trustee was $4,173,000 00

The above amount has been increased during the year ending June 30, 1915, as follows :

C. & N. W. Ry. 5% Sinking Fund Bonds of 1879, Redeemed	$59,000 00	
M. L. S. & W. Ry. 5% Extension and Improvement Sinking Fund Mortgage Bonds, Redeemed ...	17,000 00	
C. & N. W. Ry. 5% Sinking Fund Debentures of 1933, Redeemed	[illegible] 00	
C. & N. W. Ry. General Mortgage Gold Bonds of 1987 Due from Trustee in Exchange for Bonds Retired, viz.—		
C. & N. W. Ry. Consolidated Sinking Fund Currency 7%, [illegible] 00		
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Bonds of 1879, 6% ... 6,000 00		
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Bonds of 1879, 5%... ... 124,000 00		
M. L. S. & W. Ry. Extension and Improvement Sinking Fund Mortgage, 5% ... 38,000 00		
C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Debentures of 1933, 5% ... 124,000 00		
	12,961,000 00	
C. & N. W. Ry. General Mortgage Gold Bonds of 1987, Due from Trustee on Account of Construction Expenditures made during the year	1,000,000 00	
		14,168,000 00
		$18,341,000 00

The Bonds on hand and due from Trustee have been decreased during the year as follows :—

C. & N. W. Ry. General Mortgage Gold Bonds of 1987, 5%, Sold to Reimburse the Company for past Expenditures made for Construction and in Redeeming Matured Bonds	$10,000,000 00	
M. L. S. & W. Ry. Extension and Improvement Sinking Fund Mortgage, 5% Bonds, Retired	29,000 00	
C. & N. W. Ry. 5% Sinking Fund Debentures of 1933, Retired	4,000 00	
C. & N. W. Ry. 4½% Equipment Trust Certificates of 1913, Retired	[illegible] 00	
		10,[illegible] 00
Total, June 30, 1915		$7,908,000 00
Net Increase during the year ...		$3,735,000 00

CONSTRUCTION.

The construction charges for the year ending June 30, 1915, were as follows :—

On Account of Elevating Tracks, viz.—			
In River Forest, Illinois ...		$142,738 84	
Greenfield Avenue, north, Milwaukee, Wis. ...		285,188 73	
			$427,927 57
On Account of Extensions, viz.—	Miles.		
Kingston Extension, Wisconsin ...	15.60	$94,515 11	
Kooperick Extension, Wisconsin ...	7.19	36,956 29	
			131,471 40
Sundry Construction—			
Land for Transportation Purposes		$97,224 99	
Buildings and Fixtures		459,039 15	
Bridges, Trestles and Culverts		402,157 00	
New Sidings, Yard Tracks and Spurs to Industries		227,3[illegible] 74	
Crossings and Signs		61,530 87	
Strands and Interlockers		25,562 99	
Reduction of Grade between Nelson and Peoria, Illinois		289,482 40	
Betterment of Roadway and Track		694,869 53	
Shop Machinery		30,430 41	
Miscellaneous Construction, including Fences, Wharves and Docks, and other items ...		94,291 65	
			2,[illegible] 37
Equipment			
40 Steam Locomotives, 5,000 Freight Train Cars, 70 Passenger-Train Cars, and 260 Work Equipment Cars ...		$4,[illegible] 95	
Improvement of Equipment		1[illegible] 03	
		$6,[illegible] 98	
Less Original Cost of Equipment Retired, as follows			
50 Locomotives ...	$2[illegible] 0		
2,639 Freight-Train Cars ...	1,120,108 78		
20 Passenger-Train Cars ...	130,795 47		
285 Work Equipment Cars ...	17,754 16		
Other Items	2[illegible] 29		
	1,[illegible] 0		
			4,768,841 68
			$8,107,103 98
Account Cost of Midland Northern Railway ...			14,340 44
Account Cost of Des Plaines Valley Ry.			[illegible] 87
Account Cost of St. Paul Bridge & Terminal Co. ...			[illegible] 63
			$8,[illegible] 94

LANDS.

During the year ending June 30, 1915, 3,663.84 acres and 88 town lots of the Company's Land Grant lands were sold for the total consideration of $41,698.01. The number of acres remaining in the several Grants June 30, 1915, amounted to 327,530.81 acres, of which 18,790.19 acres were under contract for sale, leaving unsold 308,740.62 acres.

Appended hereto [Pamphlet Report] may be found statements, accounts and statistics relating to the business of the fiscal year and the condition of the Company's affairs on June 30, 1915.

By order of the Board of Directors,

WILLIAM A. GARDNER,
President.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, June 30, 1915.

CR.	
Balance, June 30, 1914	$35,398,882 89
Balance Income for year ending June 30, 1915, brought forward from Income Account	810,280 54
Donations	114,611 30
Miscellaneous Credits	72,455 44
	$36,996,208 57
DR.	
Depreciation accrued prior to July 1, 1907, on equipment retired or changed from one class to another during the current fiscal year	$854,174 69
Net loss on property sold or abandoned and not replaced	100,485 45
Debt discount extinguished through surplus	11,807 20
Miscellaneous Debits	20,023 23
Balance Credit, June 30, 1915, carried to Balance Sheet	35,875,758 00
	$36,996,308 57

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS PER MILE OF ROAD.

	Year ended June 30— 1914	1915	Inc. or Dec. Amount	Per Cent.
Average Mileage Operated	8,070 61	8,107 82	+ 37 21	+ .46
Operating Revenues:	$	$	$	
Freight	6,689 64	6,404 17	—285 47	—4.27
Passenger	2,669 01	2,531 93	—137 08	—5.14
Other Transportation	899 27	825 65	— 73 62	—8.19
Incidental	219 52	201 43	— 18 09	—8.24
Total Operating Revenues	10,477 44	9,963 18	—514 26	—4.91
Operating Expenses	7,471 75	6,952 74	—519 01	—6.95
Net Revenue from Railway Operations	3,005 69	3,010 44	+ 4 75	+ .16

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME ACCOUNT.

	Year ended June 30— 1914	1915	Inc. or Dec.
Average Mileage Operated	8,070 61	8,107 82	+ 37 21
Operating Revenues:	$	$	$
Freight	53,989,475 43	51,925,860 74	—2,063,614 69
Passenger	21,540,542 79	20,528,443 46	—1,012,099 33
Other Transportation	7,297,652 30	6,894,249 64	— 403,402 66
Incidental	1,771,664 19	1,633,121 46	— 138,542 73
Total Operating Revenues	84,599,334 71	80,779,675 30	—3,819,659 41
Operating Expenses	60,301,575 30	56,371,573 04	—3,930,002 26
Net Revenue from Railway Operations	24,297,759 41	24,408,102 26	+ 110,342 85
Railway Tax Accruals	4,252,790 29	4,516,943 10	+ 264,152 81
Uncollectable Railway Revenues	—	7,254 64	+ 7,254 64
Total	4,252,790 29	4,524,197 74	+ 271,407 45
Railway Operating Income	20,004,969 12	19,883,904 52	— 121,064 60
Non-operating Income:			
Rental Income	518,778 13	484,441 71	— 34,336 42
Dividend Income	1,579,236 39	1,600,227 00	+ 20,990 61
Income from Funded Securities	5,650 00	5,505 83	— 144 17
Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts, and Other Items	1,137,293 77	709,825 41	— 427,468 36
Total Non-operating Income	3,240,958 29	2,799,999 95	— 440,958 34
Gross Income	23,245,927 41	22,683,904 47	— 562,022 94
Deductions from Gross Income:			
Rental Payments	1,586,064 18	1,066,043 00	— 520,021 18
Interest on Funded Debt	9,239,007 59	9,595,615 81	+ 356,608 22
Other Deductions	114,713 13	108,196 57	— 6,516 56
Total Deductions from Gross Income	10,939,785 20	10,769,855 38	— 169,929 82
Net Income	12,306,142 21	11,914,049 09	— 392,093 12
Disposition of Net Income:			
Sinking Funds	200,472 61	204,053 75	+ 3,581 14
Dividends			
8% on Preferred Stock	1,791,600 00	1,791,600 00	—
7% on Common Stock	9,108,015 00	9,108,015 00	—
Total Appropriations	11,100,087 61	11,103,668 75	+ 3,581 14
Balance Income for the year, carried to Profit and Loss	1,206,054 60	810,380 34	— 395,674 26

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915.

ASSETS.	$	$
Investments		
Road and Equipment		
Balance to Debit of this Account June 30, 1914	359,528,602 22	
Add Sundry Construction and Equipment Expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1915, as see statement elsewhere herein	8,107,103 98	
" Account Cost of Milwaukee, Sparta & North Western Railway	14,240 41	
" Account Cost of Des Plaines Valley Railway	10,502 87	
" Account Cost of St. Louis, Peoria & North Western Railway	53,273 65	
		367,713,923 16
Cash and Securities in Sinking Funds		4,200,342 26
Miscellaneous Physical Property		1,254,788 92
Investment in Affiliated Companies		14,635,605 17
Other Investments—		
$2,000 Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Debentures of 1930	2,051 25	
149,200 Shares of Capital Stock of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Ry. Co.	10,337,152 29	
41,715 Shares of Preferred Stock of the Union Pacific Railroad Company	3,910,575 93	
		14,249,779 47
		$402,054,438 98
Current Assets		
Cash	9,778,403 10	
Bills Receivable	1,712 30	
Traffic and Car-Service Balances due from other Companies	110,905 85	
Net Balance receivable from Agents and Conductors	2,397,428 41	
Miscellaneous Accounts receivable	1,858,672 06	
Materials and Supplies	4,907,020 13	
Other Current Assets	331,452 15	
		19,385,594 44
Unadjusted Debits		
Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	17,162 17	
Common Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. R. Co. held in Treasury	2,338,502 15	
Preferred Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. R. Co. held in Treasury	3,834 56	
$17,000 M. L. S. & W. Ry. Extension Improvement Sinking Fund Mortgage Bonds held in Treasury	17,000 00	
$131,000 C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Debentures of 1933 held in Treasury	131,000 00	
$59,000 C. & N. W. Ry. Sinking Fund Bonds of 1879 held in Treasury	59,000 00	
$3,600,000 C. & N. W. Ry. Equipment Trust Certificates of 1913, Series D, held in Treasury	3,600,000 00	
$4,101,000 C. & N. W. Ry. General Mortgage Gold Bonds of 1987, held in Trust	4,101,000 00	
Other Unadjusted Debits	1,082,005 49	
		11,379,444 37
		$432,819,477 79

LIABILITIES.	$	$
Capital Stock—		
Common Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. Ry. Co., held by the Public	130,117,028 82	
Preferred Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. Ry. Co., held by the Public	22,395,120 00	
		152,512,148 82
Common Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. Ry. Co., owned by the Company	2,338,502 15	
Preferred Stock and Scrip, C. & N. W. Ry. Co., owned by the Company	3,834 56	
		2,342,336 71
Premium realized on Capital Stock		29,657 75
		$154,884,143 28
Long Term Debt—		
Bonds held by the Public	198,944,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates held by the Public	8,396,000 00	
Bonds held by Trustee account Sinking Fund	3,237,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates held by Trustee account Sinking Funds	4,000 00	
Bonds owned by the Company and due from Trustee	4,308,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates of 1913 owned by the Company	3,600,000 00	
		218,489,000 00
Current Liabilities—		
Traffic and Car-Service Balances Due to Other Companies	1,626,795 93	
Audited Vouchers and Wages Unpaid	3,342,790 43	
Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	201,608 11	
Matured Interest and Dividends Unpaid	3,577,880 79	
C. & N. W. Ry. Consolidated Sinking Fund Currency Bonds matured and unpresented	163,000 00	
Unmatured Interest Accrued	1,906,774 99	
Other Current Liabilities	133,939 38	
		10,752,789 63
Unadjusted Credits		
Tax Liability	52,000 00	
Accrued Depreciation— Equipment	8,149,419 47	
Other Unadjusted Credits	419,268 22	
		8,620,687 69
Corporate Surplus—		
Sinking Fund C. & N. W. Ry. General Gold Bonds	1,680,649 09	
Sinking Fund on W. & St. P. RR. Extension Gold Bonds	2,516,450 10	
		4,197,099 19
Profit and Loss		35,875,758 00
		$432,819,477 79

CHICAGO, ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS & OMAHA RY.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company.

The Board of Directors submit herewith their report of the operations and affairs of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission having prescribed new Classifications of Accounts, effective July 1, 1914, the results of the preceding year, shown in this report, have been partially revised for the purpose of comparison.

Average number of miles operated, 1,752.81.

Operating Revenues:		
Freight	$11,523,103 44	
Passenger	4,983,699 89	
Other transportation	1,022,194 88	
Incidental	128,549 47	
Total operating revenues		$17,811,547 68
Operating Expenses (67.86 per cent. of operating revenues)		12,107,597 51
Net revenue from railway operations		$5,733,750 17
Railway tax accruals (5.69 per cent. of operating revenues)	$1,015,028 61	
Uncollectible railway revenues	4,834 59	
		1,019,863 20
Railway operating income		$4,713,886 97
Non-operating Income:		
Rental income	$269,811 98	
Dividend income	46,351 00	
Income from funded securities	15,220 00	
Income from unfunded securities and accounts, and other items	24,111 61	
Total non-operating income		355,494 59
Gross income		$5,069,381 56
Deductions from Gross Income:		
Rental payments	$673,696 23	
Interest on funded debt	2,152,312 50	
Other deductions	24,288 17	
Total deductions from gross income		2,850,296 90
Net income		$2,219,084 66
Disposition of Net Income:		
Dividends:		
7% on Preferred stock	$787,976 00	
7% on Common stock	1,298,934 00	
		2,086,910 00
Balance income for the year		$132,174 66

The results as compared with the preceding fiscal year were as follows:

Passenger revenue decreased	$432,010 30	
Other transportation revenue decreased	48,848 70	
		$480,859 00
Freight revenue increased	95,540 20	
Incidental revenue increased	16,583 09	
		112,123 29
Total operating revenues decreased		$368,735 71
Operating expenses decreased		726,519 41
Net revenue from railway operations increased		$357,783 70
Railway tax accruals increased	$41,145 18	
Uncollectible railway revenues decreased	1,834 59	
		46,580 37
Railway operating income increased		$311,203 33

Of the Operating Expenses for the current fiscal year, $6,599,357.35, or 54.51%, was paid employees for labour, as compared with $6,966,716.33, or 54.28%, paid during the preceding fiscal year. The decrease of $367,358.98 in the amount paid is accounted for as follows:—

Decrease account less time worked	$306,417 18
Decrease account lower rates of compensation	60,941 80
	$367,358 98

MILES OF RAILROAD.

The total number of miles of railroad owned June 30, 1915, was 1,685.22 miles

In addition to which the Company operated:

Under Trackage Rights—		
Northern Pacific Railway (Superior, Wis., to Rice's Point, Minn.)	1.58 miles	
Great Northern Railway (St. Paul to Minneapolis, Minn.)	11.40 „	
Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad (Minneapolis to Merriam, Minn.)	27.00 „	
Illinois Central Railroad (Le Mars to Sioux City, Iowa)	29.20 „	
Sioux City Bridge Company (across Missouri River and tracks at Sioux City, Iowa)	5.99 „	
Chicago and North Western Railway (Sioux City to Sioux City Bridge Company)	.50 „	
	75.67 „	
Total miles of railroad operated June 30, 1915	1,752.81 „	

The above mileage is located as follows:

In Wisconsin	781.14 miles
In Minnesota	473.04 „
In Iowa	179.55 „
In South Dakota	88.20 „
In Nebraska	308.39 „
Total	1,752.81 „

In addition to the foregoing, the Company owned and operated 183.03 miles of second track, located as follows:—

In Wisconsin	157.00 miles
In Minnesota	24.23 „
In Nebraska	1.71 „
Total	183.03 „

FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

The details of Freight Traffic for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows:—

	1914.	1915.	Increase. Amount.	Per Cent.
Freight revenue	$11,427,563.24	$11,523,103.44	$95,540.20	.84

	1914.	1915.	Percentage of Inc. or Dec.
Tons of revenue freight carried	8,466,632	8,794,488	+3.87
Tons of revenue freight carried one mile	1,294,143,291	1,336,106,367	+3.24
Average revenue received per ton	$1.35	$1.31	−2.96
Average revenue received per ton per mile	.88 of a cent	.86 of a cent	−2.27
Average distance each ton was hauled	152.85 miles	151.93 miles	− .60
Mileage of loaded and unloaded trains	4,255,990	4,026,069	−5.40
Average number of tons of freight carried per train mile	330.67	360.13	+8.91
Average number of tons of all freight carried per loaded car mile	19.39	20.39	+5.16
Average freight revenue per train mile	$2.69	$2.86	+6.32

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The details of Passenger Traffic for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows:

	1914.	1915.	Increase. Amount.	Per Cent.
Passenger revenue	$5,415,710.19	$4,983,699.89	$432,010.30	7.98

	1914.	1915.	Percentage of Dec.
Passengers carried	4,881,961	4,767,826	−2.34
Passengers carried one mile	266,685,999	252,305,960	−5.39
Average fare paid per passenger	110.93 cents	104.53 cents	−5.77
Average rate paid per passenger per mile	2.031 cents	1.975 cents	−2.76
Average distance travelled per passenger	54.63 miles	52.92 miles	−3.13
Mileage of revenue passenger and mixed trains	4,510,639	4,349,764	−3.57
Average passenger-train revenue per train mile	$1.40	$1.34	−4.29

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

The total Operating Expenses of the Company for the year ending June 30, 1915, were $12,107,597.51; of this amount $1,956,803.49 was for charges pertaining to Maintenance of Way and Structures. Included in these charges are $130,942.38 for steel rails, $229,376.56 for ties, and the cost of reballasting 24.01 miles with gravel and cinders, also part cost of replacing 1,934 feet of wooden bridging with permanent work.

During the year 11,408 tons of new steel rails and 6,446 tons of usable and re-rolled steel rails were laid in track, a greater portion of which replaced rails of lighter weight; 372,974 ties of all descriptions were laid in renewals.

The details of the charges to Maintenance of Way and Structures for the year, compared with the previous year, were as follows:—

	1914.	1915.	Inc. or Dec.
Cost of Rails:			
New steel rails	$362,057 11	$362,580 63	− $523 48
Usable and re-rolled Rails	143,572 52	138,315 69	− 5,256 83
	$505,629 63	$500,896 32	− $34,733 31
Less value of old material and other items	366,663 79	369,953 94	+ 3,290 15
Net charge for rails	$168,965 84	$130,942 38	− $38,023 46
Cost of ties	253,396 76	229,376 56	− 24,020 20
Cost of Ballast	51,996 80	20,270 06	− 31,726 74
Cost of other Track Material	89,442 67	117,233 06	+ 27,790 39
Roadway and Track Labour	857,749 04	771,745 18	− 86,003 86
Total Roadway and Track	$1,696,179 11	$1,272,567 24	− $423,611 87
Other charges account of Maintenance of Way & Structures were as follows:—			
Bridges, Trestles and Culverts	272,054 49	135,910 88	− 136,043 61
Road Crossings, Fences, &c.	70,010 91	69,[illegible]	− [illegible]
Signs and Interlocking	30,288 21	28,082 14	− [illegible]
Buildings	244,206 25	207,458 28	− 36,747 97
Water Stations	2,636 23	5,368 76	+ 2,732 53
Superintendence	111,551 21	107,451 21	− 4,100 49
Roadway Tools and Supplies	23,742 73	24,502 41	+ [illegible]
Sundry Miscellaneous Charges	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total charges Account of Maintenance of Way	$2,[illegible]	$1,[illegible]	$[illegible] 21

The above charges for Maintenance of Way and Structures for the current year amount to 16.16% of the total Operating Expenses, as compared with 20.47% for the preceding fiscal year.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The charges on account of Maintenance of Equipment for the year ending June 30, 1915, compared with the preceding year, were as follows :—

	1914.	1915.	Inc. or Dec.
Locomotives	$915,313 10	$973,126 79	+$58,813 69
Freight-train cars	920,035 34	1,061,967 59	+141,932 25
Passenger-train cars	287,841 23	265,800 71	− 22,040 52
Work equipment	42,067 12	45,127 09	+ 3,059 97
Shop machinery and tools	53,788 02	51,300 56	− 2,487 46
Superintendence	67,983 97	68,929 43	+ 945 46
Sundry miscellaneous charges	76,095 15	68,704 54	− 7,390 61
Total charges account of Maintenance of Equipt.	$2,363,124 51	$2,476,956 71	+$113,832 20

The above charges for Maintenance of Equipment for the current year amount to 20.46% of the total Operating Expenses, as compared with 17.95% for the preceding fiscal year.

RESERVE FOR ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ON EQUIPMENT.

At the close of the preceding fiscal year there was a balance to the credit of the equipment reserve accounts of	$1,574,172 82
During the year ending June 30, 1915, there was credited to the equipment reserve accounts on account of charges to Operating Expenses for Accrued Depreciation	417,274 83
	$1,991,447 65
And there was charged during the year against the above amount the Accrued Depreciation previously credited this account on Equipment retired or transferred from one class of service to another	78,664 33
Leaving a balance to the credit of the equipment reserve accounts on June 30, 1915, of	$1,912,783 32

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES.

The Transportation Expenses of the Company for the year were $6,737,697.17, or 55.65% of the Total Operating Expenses. Of this amount $3,639,774.85, or 54.02%, was for labour; $1,922,464.65, or 28.53%, was for fuel for locomotives; and $1,175,457.67, or 17.45%, was for supplies and miscellaneous items.

The total decrease in the charges, as compared with the previous year, was $195,205.38, distributed as follows :—

Decrease in amount charged for labour	$188,447 73
Decrease in amount charged for fuel for locomotives	121,627 28
Increase in amount charged for supplies and miscellaneous items	114,869 63
	$195,205 38

CAPITAL STOCK.

No Stock was issued or sold during the year. The Company's authorised Capital Stock is fifty million dollars ($50,000,000), of which the following has been issued to June 30, 1915 :—

Common stock and scrip held by the public	$18,559,086 69	
Common stock and scrip owned by the Co.	2,844,206 64	
		$21,403,293 33
Preferred stock and scrip held by the public	$11,259,911 63	
Preferred stock and scrip owned by the Co.	1,386,921 66	
		12,646,833 29
Total capital stock and scrip, June 30, 1915		$34,050,126 62

FUNDED DEBT.

Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Consolidated Mortgage 6% Bonds of 1880 to the amount of $41,000 were issued for a like amount of Chicago, St. Paul, and Minneapolis Railway First Mortgage 6% Bonds of 1878, retired.

The total of the Funded Debt on June 30, 1915, was $39,387,634.09, of which $39,337,000 is outstanding, and the balance, $50,634.09, is held in the Treasury of the Company.

CONSTRUCTION.

The construction charges for the year ending June 30, 1915, were as follows :—

Balance Cost of Terminal Improvements at Minneapolis, Minn.		$40,020 56
Balance Cost of New Line, Sioux Valley to Omaha, Nebr.		21,014 50
Permanent Bridges (cost of new over old)		132,826 44
Betterments of Roadway and Track		120,207 62
Sidings and Spur Tracks		71,064 13
Buildings		113,207 64
Machinery and Tools		9,135 81
Miscellaneous Charges		16,322 34
Cost of two Coal Storage Plants		33,907 69
Improvements to Equipment		24,687 51
Total		$565,340 66
Less Original Cost of Equipment Retired as follows		
16 Locomotives	$137,800 00	
1 Passenger-train Car	3,300 00	
523 Freight-train Cars	311,935 28	
1 Work Car	1,750 00	
Other Items	90,457 10	
		545,122 38
		$73,218 38

LAND DEPARTMENT.

The Net Receipts from all Grants were $6,100.55.

4,200.83 acres were disposed of, leaving 72,905.19 acres unsold June 30, 1915.

Appended hereto (Pamphlet Report) may be found Statements, Accounts and Statistics relating to the business of the fiscal year and the condition of the Company's affairs on June 30, 1915.

By order of the Board of Directors,

WILLIAM A. GARDNER,
President.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915.

ASSETS.		
Investments—		
Road and Equipment		
Balance to Debit of this Account, June 30, 1914	$74,182,654 43	
Add Sundry Construction and Equipment Expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1915, as see statement elsewhere herein	73,218 38	
		$74,255,872 81
Miscellaneous Physical Property		220,387 40
Investments in Affiliated Companies		529,680 78
Other Investments		1,600 00
		$75,007,540 99
Current Assets—		
Cash	$900,204 19	
Bills Receivable	1,885 83	
Traffic and Car Service Balances Due from Other Companies	127,441 45	
Net Balance Due from Agents and Conductors (including working funds)	442,295 30	
Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable	435,318 36	
Materials and Supplies	1,368,715 03	
		3,275,830 16
Unadjusted Debits—		
C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. Co. Common Stock, held in Treasury	$2,844,206 64	
C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. Co. Preferred Stock, held in Treasury	1,386,921 66	
Consolidated Mortgage Bond Scrip Due from Central Trust Company	634 09	
S. S. M. & S.-W. Ry. Co. First Mortgage Bonds held in Treasury	50,000 00	
Other Unadjusted Debits	596,330 56	
		4,878,092 95
		$83,161,464 10
LIABILITIES.		
Capital Stock		
Common Stock and Scrip held by the Public	$18,559,086 69	
Preferred Stock and Scrip held by the Public	1,259,911 63	
		$29,818,998 32
Common Stock and Scrip owned by the Company	2,844,206 64	
Preferred Stock and Scrip owned by the Company	1,386,921 66	
		4,231,128 30
		$34,050,126 62
Long Term Debt		
Bonds held by the Public	$39,337,000 00	
Bonds and Scrip owned by the Company	50,634 09	
		39,387,634 09
Current Liabilities—		
Traffic and Car Service Balances Due to Other Companies	$ 86,[illegible]84 84	
Audited Vouchers and Wages Unpaid	978,440 99	
Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	104,[illegible]21 15	
Matured Interest and Dividends Unpaid	45,597 00	
Unmatured Interest and Dividends	1,420,545 83	
		2,905,690 12
Unadjusted Credits—		
Tax Liability	$ 86,[illegible]05 82	
Premium on Funded Debt	107,786 19	
Accrued Depreciation—Equipment	1,912,783 32	
Other Unadjusted Credits	137,[illegible]8 05	
		2,844,311 38
Profit and Loss		3,973,701 89
		$83,161,464 10

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME ACCOUNT.

	Year ending June 30, 1914	Year ending June 30, 1915	Inc. or Dec.
Average mileage operated	1,748.39	1,752.81	+ 4.42
Operating Revenues :	$	$	$
Freight	11,427,563 24	11,523,103 44	− 95,540 20
Passenger	5,415,710 19	4,[illegible]85,[illegible]99 89	− 4[illegible]0 30
Other Transportation	1,071,043 [illegible]8	1,022,194 88	− 48,848 70
Incidental	295,766 38	312,349 47	+ 16,583 09
Total Operating Revenues	18,210,083 [illegible]	17,8[illegible]7,[illegible]47 [illegible]8	−[illegible]05,[illegible]55 71
Operating Expenses :	12,834,116 92	12,107,597 51	−726,519 41
Net [illegible] Operations	5,375,966 47	5,733,750 17	+357,783 70
Railway Tax Accruals	973,282 83	1,015,028 61	+ 41,745 78
Uncollectible Railway Revenue		4,834 59	− 4,834 59
Total	973,282 83	1,019,863 20	+ 46,580 37
Railway Operating Income	4,402,683 64	4,713,886 97	+311,203 33
Non-operating Income :			
Rental Income	261,340 92	2[illegible]9,811 [illegible]8	− 8,471 06
Dividend Income	46,351 00	10[illegible]51 [illegible]0	
Income from Funded Securities	12,[illegible]00 00	15,220 00	+ 3,160 00
Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts, and Other Items	40,072 08	24,111 61	− 15,960 47
Total Nonoperating Income	359,824 00	355,494 59	− 4,329 41
Gross Income	4,762,507 64	5,069,381 56	+306,873 92
Deductions from Gross Income :			
Rental Payments	641,603 08	673,696 23	+ 32,093 15
Interest on Funded Debt	2,052,901 43	2,152,312 50	+ 99,411 07
Other Deductions	46,387 78	24,288 17	− 22,099 61
Total Deductions	2,740,892 29	2,850,296 90	+109,404 61
Net Income	2,021,615 35	2,219,084 66	+197,469 31
Disposition of Net Income :			
[illegible]			
7% on Preferred Stock	787,976 00	787,976 00	
7% on Common Stock	1,298,934 00	1,298,934 00	
Total	2,086,910 00	2,086,910 00	
Balance Income for the year, carried to Profit and Loss	65,294 65*	132,174 66	+197,469 31

* Deficit.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, June 30, 1915.

CR.		
Balance, June 30, 1914		$4,097,126 28
Balance of Income for year ending June 30, 1915, brought forward from Income Account		122,174 66
Miscellaneous Credits		45,844 17
		$4,265,145 11
DR.		
Depreciation accrued prior to July 1, 1907, on equipment retired or change from one class to another during the current year		$261,153 11
Net loss on property sold or abandoned and not replaced		28,116 80
Miscellaneous Debits		1,879 31
Balance (credit), June 30, 1915, carried to Balance Sheet		3,973,701 89
		$4,265,145 11

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS PER MILE OF ROAD.

	Year ending June 30, 1914	Year ending June 30, 1915	Increase or Decrease	Per cent.
Average Mileage Operated	1,748.30	1,752.81	+ 4.42	+ .25
Operating Revenues:	$	$	$	
Freight	4,566 05	4,574 08	+ 8 03	+ .18
Passenger	1,097 54	1,015 26	— 82 28	— 8.21
Other transportation	142 39	58 17	— 84 22	— 1.81
Incidental	69 16	178 20	+ 109 04	+ 1.34
Total Operating Revenues	5,415 14	5,825 71	+ 410 57	+ 7.27
Operating Expenses	4,340 53	4,007 54	— 332 99	— 5.90
Net Revenue from Railway Operations	1,074 81	1,274 17	+ 199 36	+ 18.54

FUNDED DEBT, JUNE 30, 1915. (1683.22 Miles).

	Bonds Held by the Public	Bonds Owned by Company and Held in Treasury	Total of Issue	Date of Bond	Date of Maturity	Interest Rate	Interest Payable
Chicago, Saint Paul and Minneapolis Railway, first mortgage bonds	$873,000 00	—	$873,000 00	May 9, 1878	May 1, 1918	6	May 1, Nov. 1
North Wisconsin Railway, first mortgage bonds	576,000 00	—	576,000 00	Jan. 1, 1880	Jan. 1, 1930	6	Jan. 1, July 1
Saint Paul and Sioux City Railroad, first mortgage bonds	6,070,000 00	—	6,070,000 00	July 1, 1879	Apr. 1, 1919	6	Apr. 1, Oct. 1
Chicago, Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway, consolidated mortgage bonds and scrip	17,034,000 00	$631 09	17,034,634 09	June 1, 1880	June 1, 1930	6	June 1, Dec. 1
Chicago, Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway, consolidated mortgage bonds	3,734,000 00	—	3,734,000 00	June 1, 1880	June 1, 1930	4½	June 1, Dec. 1
Sault Ste. Marie and South-Western Railway, first mortgage bonds	350,000 00	50,000 00	400,000 00	Nov. 1, 1890	Nov. 1, 1915	5	May 1, Nov. 1
Superior Short Line Railway, first mortgage bonds	1,500,000 00	—	1,500,000 00	June 1, 1895	June 1, 1930	5	Mar. 1, Sept. 1
Chicago, Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway, debenture gold bonds of 1930	9,200,000 00	—	9,200,000 00	Mar. 1, 1912	Mar. 1, 1930	5	Mar. 1, Sept. 1
Total	$39,337,000 00	$50,631 09	$39,387,634 09				

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATING EXPENSES.

	Year ending June 30, 1914	Year ending June 30, 1915	Inc. or Dec.
Average Mileage Operated	1,748.39	1,752.81	+ 4.42
Maintenance of Way and Structures:	$	$	$
Superintendence	111,551 70	107,451 21	— 4,100 49
Roadway maintenance	843,570 35	178,361 33	—146,967 30
Track laying and surfacing	940 11	518,241 72	— 45 26
Tunnels and subways		894 85	
Bridges, trestles and culverts	295,994 49	159,950 88	—136,043 61
Ties	525,024 76	229,376 56	—295,648 20
Rails	168,965 84	130,942 38	— 38,023 46
Other track material	89,442 67	117,233 06	+ 27,790 39
Ballast	51,996 80	20,270 06	— 31,726 74
Right of way fences	70,010 91	31,088 75	— 6,007 56
Crossings and signs		52,914 60	
Snow and sand fences and sheds	706 28	1,554 91	+ 788 63
Station and office buildings		30,110 96	
Roadway buildings		3,078 93	
Water stations		23,368 71	
Fuel stations		9,740 78	
Shops and engine-houses	244,006 25	79,236 44	— 36,747 97
Gas-producing plants		709 77	
Power plant buildings		155 71	
Power sub-station buildings		26 50	
Power distribution systems		50 48	
Wharves and docks	2,636 23	Cr. 96 30	— 2,732 35
Telegraph and telephone lines	16,203 66	13,059 95	— 3,143 73
Signals and interlockers	30,288 21	28,082 14	— 2,206 07
Power line poles and fixtures		67 80	+ 67 80
Roadway machines	23,742 73	11,381 52	+ 759 68
Small tools and supplies		17,120 89	
Removing snow, ice and sand	15,472 30	75,892 37	+ 60,420 07
Assessments for public improvements		2,174 41	— 2,174 41
Injuries to persons	35,416 27	28,880 21	— 6,536 06
Insurance	12,475 12	7,348 75	— 5,126 37
Stationery and printing	4,761 02	4,093 96	— 667 06
Other expenses	123 89	27 67	— 96 22
Maintaining joint tracks, yards and other facilities—Dr.	160,805 38	118,509 19	— 42,296 19
Maintaining joint tracks, yards and other facilities—Cr.	Cr. 77,206 37	Cr. 81,277 64	— 4,071 27
Total Maintenance of Way and Structures	2,627,188 60	1,956,803 49	—670,385 11
Maintenance of Equipment:	$	$	$
Superintendence	63,083 97	68,929 43	+ 5,845 46
Shop machinery	33,788 02	27,350 57	— 2,487 46
Power plant machinery		3,949 99	
Steam locomotives—repairs	809,431 42	837,034 38	+ 27,602 96
Steam locomotives—depreciation	103,098 26	126,614 45	+ 23,516 19
Steam locomotives—retirements	2,783 42	11,477 96	+ 8,694 54
Freight train cars—repairs	774,693 37	803,956 29	+ 88,262 92
Freight train cars—depreciation	166,384 18	230,791 49	+ 64,407 31
Freight train cars—retirements	40,257 79	27,219 81	— 13,737 98
Passenger train cars—repairs	229,871 02	212,338 68	— 17,532 34
Passenger train cars—depreciation	41,049 64	52,845 41	+ 11,795 77
Passenger train cars—retirements	16,920 57	616 62	— 16,303 95
Work equipment—repairs	27,606 43	27,712 12	+ 105 69
Work equipment—depreciation	5,012 82	7,023 48	+ 2,010 66
Work equipment—retirements	448 17	391 49	— 56 68
Injuries to persons	19,063 97	15,457 78	— 3,606 19
Insurance	5,871 90	3,485 87	— 2,386 03
Stationery and printing	3,103 09	3,278 03	+ 174 94
Other expenses	13,991 93	13,922 34	— 69 59
Maintaining joint equipment at terminals—Dr.	13,985 33	11,378 02	— 2,607 31
Maintaining joint equipment at terminals—Cr.	Cr. 9,020 79	Cr. 8,817 50	+ 203 29
Total Maintenance of Equipment	2,303,124 51	2,476,956 71	+173,832 20
Traffic:	$	$	$
Superintendence	91,625 61	89,537 90	— 2,087 71
Outside agencies	181,788 21	173,915 98	— 7,872 23
Advertising	14,156 02	10,482 58	— 3,673 44
Traffic associations	5,346 54	5,423 45	+ 123 09
Insurance	118 50	205 89	+ 87 39
Stationery and printing	34,130 40	30,599 35	— 3,531 05
Other expenses	204 85	22 00	— 182 85
Total Traffic	357,570 13	344,362 57	— 13,207 56
Transportation:	$	$	$
Superintendence	99,708 26	105,075 89	+ 5,367 63
Dispatching trains	66,527 12	66,460 15	— 66 97
Station employees	868,166 46	855,043 98	— 13,122 48
Weighing, inspection and demurrage bureaus	39,215 48	38,197 32	— 1,018 16
Station supplies and expenses	70,029 90	57,859 62	— 12,170 28
Yardmasters and yard clerks	61,547 17	61,624 21	+ 77 04
Yard conductors and brakemen	346,570 50	318,933 14	— 27,637 16
Yard switch and signal tenders	5,884 65	5,430 00	— 454 65
Yard enginemen	193,117 86	182,317 00	— 10,800 86
Fuel for yard locomotives	299,178 88	283,990 07	— 16,188 81
Water for yard locomotives	10,024 45	9,891 71	— 132 74
Lubricants for yard locomotives	1,465 04	4,135 71	— 29 27
Other supplies for yard locomotives	4,161 28	4,155 41	— 5 87
Enginehouse expenses—Yard	71,317 74	72,270 65	+ 952 86
Yard supplies and expenses	3,566 79	4,069 37	+ 502 22
Operating joint yards and terminals—Dr.	242,215 60	261,002 19	+ 18,786 59
Operating joint yards and terminals—Cr.	Cr. 232,462 02	Cr. 230,524 18	+ 15,937 54
Train enginemen	833,161 26	783,511 76	— 49,611 50
Fuel for train locomotives	1,743,913 05	1,638,474 58	—105,438 47
Water for train locomotives	61,465 14	58,989 46	— 2,675 68
Lubricants for train locomotives	20,216 19	18,432 84	— 1,783 45
Other supplies for train locomotives	13,758 76	11,766 94	— 1,991 82
Enginehouse expenses—Train	194,564 81	186,902 16	— 7,662 65
Trainmen	877,128 21	827,832 21	— 49,796 00
Train supplies and expenses	326,970 92	318,660 47	— 8,310 45
Signal and interlocker operation	31,287 96	27,419 59	— 3,868 37
Crossing protection	17,262 12	17,268 93	+ 6 81
Drawbridge operation	4,488 49	3,388 54	— 1,099 95
Telegraph and telephone operation	20,730 05	13,155 81	— 7,574 22
Stationery and printing	63,233 96	60,591 35	— 2,642 61
Other expenses	6,999 98	4,910 13	— 2,089 85
Operating joint tracks and facilities—Dr.	64,453 61	65,041 16	+ 587 55
Operating joint tracks and facilities—Cr.	Cr. 28,012 25	Cr. 27,981 50	+ 30 75
Insurance	2,483 96	1,400 75	— 1,083 21
Clearing wrecks	27,748 33	20,152 41	— 7,595 92
Damage to property	34,390 85	29,941 46	— 4,449 39
Damage to live stock on right of way	12,287 62	12,736 00	+ 448 38
Loss and damage—freight	183,142 42	227,138 01	+ 43,995 59
Loss and damage—baggage	1,964 40	2,606 14	+ 641 74
Injuries to persons	311,314 92	358,219 13	+ 46,904 21
Total Transportation	6,932,902 55	6,737,697 17	—195,205 38
Miscellaneous Operations:	$	$	$
Dining and buffet service	147,068 01	145,874 13	— 1,193 88
Hotels and restaurants	35,094 25	32,606 88	— 2,487 37
Total Miscellaneous Operations	182,162 26	178,411 41	— 3,750 85
General	431,168 87	433,204 97	+ 2,036 10
Transportation for investment—Cr.	—	Cr. 19,838 81	— 19,838 81
Total Operating Expenses	12,834,116 92	12,107,597 51	—726,519 41
Percentage of operating expenses to operating revenues	79.18	77.56	— 1.62

THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD CO.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

To the Stockholders of The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company:

The Board of Directors submit the following report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.
The results were as follows:—

	1915.	1914.	Increase or Decrease. Amount.	Per Cent.
Average Miles Operated	2,577·40	2,583·27	− 11·81	− ·46
OPERATING REVENUES	$	$	$	
Freight	15,911,101 65	17,058,445 14	−1,147,343 49	− 6·73
Passenger	4,449,044 31	5,077,407 62	− 628,363 31	−12·38
Mail	344,969 77	308,938 97	+ 36,030 80	+11·66
Express	372,078 72	312,464 04	+ 59,614 68	+19·08
Miscellaneous	264,275 46	294,995 27	− 29,719 81	−10·11
Incidental	465,690 49	531,366 41	− 65,675 92	−12·36
Joint Traffic	16,075 81	11,023 93	+ 5,051 88	+ 45·83
Total Operating Revenue	21,823,236 21	23,595,641 38	−1,770,405 17	− 7·50
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Maintenance of Way and Structures	2,541,539 49	3,406,851 81	− 865,312 32	−25·40
Maintenance of Equipment	1,302,571 15	1,628,731 52	− 326,160 37	−20·02
Traffic	477,425 30	497,431 40	− 20,006 10	− 4·02
Transportation	6,290,954 60	7,311,843 46	−1,020,888 85	−13·96
Miscellaneous Operations	345,487 05	401,181 67	− 55,694 62	−13·88
General	651,215 12	585,069 38	+ 66,145 74	+11·31
Transportation for Investment—Cr.	9,302 03	60,520 22	+ 51,018 19	+84·58
Total Operating Expenses	14,289,670 99	16,460,569 32	−2,170,898 33	−13·19
Net Revenue from Operations	7,533,565 22	7,135,072 06	+ 400,493 16	+ 5·61
Tax Accruals	1,020,606 31	1,009,143 53	+ 11,462 78	+ 1·14
Uncollectible Revenues	1,351 82	364 93	+ 986 89	+270·43
Total	1,021,958 13	1,009,508 46	+ 12,449 67	+ 1·23
Total Operating Income	6,511,607 09	6,123,563 60	+ 388,043 49	+ 6·34
NON-OPERATING INCOME				
Hire of Equipment—Credit Balance			+ 82,218 36	
Rent	201,216 13	200,524 78	+ 691 35	+ 0·34
Dividend Income	891,038 31		+ 91,038 31	+11·38
Interest	148,918 76	180,061 58	− 31,142 82	−17·30
Miscellaneous Income	8 17	129 57	− 121 40	−93·69
Total Non-Operating Income	1,241,181 37	1,262,934 29	− 21,752 92	− 1·72
Gross Income	7,752,788 46	7,386,497 89	+ 366,290 57	+ 4·96
DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME				
Hire of Equipment—Debit Balance	126,327 37		+ 126,327 37	
Rent	351,150 04		+ 151,963 48	+41·95
Interest	5,696,573 87	5,805,638 44	+ 70,539 43	+ 1·25
Total Deductions	6,174,051 28	5,986,122 60	+ 347,935 28	+ 5·81
Net Income	1,418,730 58	1,400,375 29	+ 18,355 29	+ 1·31
DISPOSITION OF NET INCOME:				
Income Applied to Sinking and Renewal Funds	273,044 89	263,888 82	+ 9,156 07	+ 3·47
Income Applied to Betterments	211,045 16	80,927 52	+ 130,117 94	+160·78
Total Appropriations	484,090 05	344,816 34	+ 139,274 01	+40·39
Income balance transferred to Corporate Profit and Loss	934,640 23	1,055,558 95	− 120,918 72	−11·46
Operating Revenue per Mile of Road	8,486 71	9,133 25	− 646 54	− 7·08
Operating Expense per Mile of Road	5,557 03	6,373 03	− 815 99	−12·79
Net Operating Revenue per Mile of Road	2,929 68	2,761 26	+ 168 42	+ 6·10
Ratio of Operating Expenses to Operating Revenue	65·48%	69·77%		− 4·29

CAPITAL STOCK.

There has been no change in the Capital stock.

FUNDED DEBT.

The Funded Debt in the hands of the public was decreased $368,000 by purchase of $218,000 face value First and Refunding Mortgage 5% bonds for the Sinking Fund, which have been deposited with the Trustee, and $150,000 of equipment trust obligations were redeemed and cancelled.

NEW LINES.

A narrow gauge branch line was constructed in the State of New Mexico from Taos Junction (formerly Caliente) to La Madera, to serve the Hallack and Howard Lumber Company. The line is 16.43 miles long, and was placed in operation November 10, 1914.

Under contract with the Utah Railway Company and involving an annual rental charge of $191,220, there was taken over for operation November 1, 1914, the new line of railway extending from a point 2.4 miles west of Helper to Mohrland and East Hiawatha 27.43 miles, serving the coal properties of the United States Fuel Company. The completion of this road enabled the immediate discontinuance of operation of exceedingly heavy grade line between Price and Mohrland, Utah, 22.5 miles.

Second main track from Thistle to Provo (20.62 miles), begun in August 1913, was completed and put in operation August 28, 1914. This is the property of the Utah Railway Company, but is operated by this Company under the provisions of a contract dated November 1, 1913. Annual rental $43,500.

There was also taken over for operation 3.68 miles of track extending from a point 1.13 miles east of Helper to Kenilworth, Utah, to serve the coal property of the Independent Coal and Coke Company.

Details of all changes in mileage operated are shown on page 35 of full Pamphlet Report.

ROAD AND EQUIPMENT.

A classified list of Road and Equipment charges, aggregating $558,770.11, appears on page 18 of full Pamphlet Report.

The following are the important items:

The construction of the narrow gauge branch line Taos Junction to La Madera, New Mexico.

The laying in track of 9,330 tons of new 90-pound and 160 tons of new 85-pound section rail.

(Details of composition of track as to rail as constituted at the end of the year are shown on page 28 of full Pamphlet Report.)

Approximately 247,000 tie plates and 65,000 rail anchors were installed.

New steel bridges aggregating 481 lineal feet were erected, displacing those of lighter construction and 739 lineal feet of wooden bridges were eliminated by permanent filling.

The Colfax-Larimer Street viaduct in the City of Denver, being constructed over main line and yard tracks as mentioned in last year's annual report, is about 50% complete.

The rearrangement of tracks and laying of brick pavement on Wynkoop Street, Denver, mentioned in last year's report, was completed in June of this year.

Industrial sidings and yard tracks were constructed and extended to serve new or enlarged industries involving the building of 12 miles of track.

The item of $100,806.20 for "Grading" includes all roadbed work occasioned by the construction of additional track.

Ten new steel standard gauge mail and baggage cars were purchased and placed in service in October 1914.

OPERATION.

The total Operating Revenues were $21,823,256 21, a decrease of $1,770,405.17, or 7.50% under the previous year. The average mileage operated was 2,571.46, a decrease of 11.81 miles.

The revenue from freight traffic decreased $1,147,343.49, or 6.73%. Of this decrease 30% was due to ore and bullion shipments mainly attributable to the depressed condition of the copper industry during the first nine months of the fiscal year; 40% to merchandise and manufactured articles because of the general business depression and to transcontinental tonnage attracted through the Panama Canal; 15% to coal and coke, largely because of the depression in the copper industry, coupled with an unseasonable winter in the Northwest, and approximately 15% to live stock, wool, and lumber shipments.

A comparative statement of commodities giving tonnage moved is exhibited on page 33 of full Pamphlet Report.

The number of tons of revenue freight handled declined 10.04%, although the resulting tons-one-mile decreased but 5.52%, due to longer average haul of 6.34 miles.

The average revenue-per-ton-per-mile was $0.01186, and represents a decline of 3.03% under the previous five-year average.

The revenue from passenger traffic decreased 12.38%, or $628,363.31, of which 65% occurred in local travel and to which the operation of additional electric lines and of automobiles largely contributed.

The total number of passengers carried decreased 15.55%; the number carried one mile decreased 7.48%; the average revenue per passenger per mile was 1.93 cents—against previous five-year average of 1.97 cents.

Complete details of Operating Expenses, exhibiting a decrease of $2,170,898.33, or 13.19%, are recorded on pages 25 and 26 of full Pamphlet Report. For comparative purposes last year's figures have been revised to accord with the regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission made effective July 1, 1914.

Combining the Maintenance of Way and Structures and Maintenance of Equipment expenditures, the ratio of these charges to Operating Revenues equalled 29.94%, as compared with the previous five-year average of 30.97%.

The expenditures per mile of road operated amounted to $988 for Maintenance of Way and Structures.

Notwithstanding substantial reductions in maintenance, the roadway and equipment are in gratifying condition.

The important additions and improvements to road and its equipment that were made feasible from the proceeds of the Adjustment bonds were concluded during the past fiscal year, and it is with much satisfaction that the management refers to the important gain in the efficiency of train operation that has resulted therefrom and is assured for the future.

The passenger train mileage has been reduced to the extent of 6.73 per cent.; total transportation charges have decreased 13.96 per cent., while operating revenues declined 7.5 per cent.

Traffic expenses were reduced $20,006.10, or 4.02 per cent. less than previous year.

The reduction of 16.8 per cent. in total freight train miles was largely accomplished by increasing the revenue tonnage per freight train mile 45.73 tons or 13.55 per cent.

The ratio of transportation expenses to operating revenues was 28.83 per cent.—the average for the five previous years was 33.44 per cent.

OPERATING INCOME.

While suffering a shrinkage in operating revenues of 7.5 per cent., and an increase of 1.14 per cent. in direct taxes, nevertheless operating income exhibits an increase of 6.34 per cent.

Net income, distinguished from operating income in that it represents final results after all deductions, was substantially the same as last year.

Appropriations from net income were :—

	$
For renewal fund and the sinking fund under First and Refunding Mortgage	273,044 89
For road and equipment	211,045 46
Total	484,090 35

leaving a credit for the year to profit and loss of $934,640.23.

With the exception of ordinary current accounts the Company has no floating debt.

Early in the calendar year it became evident that the March 1 interest on the Western Pacific First Mortgage Bonds could not be met either by the principal debtor or by this Company. Thereupon, at the instance of your officers and directors, a series of conferences were held with banking houses representing, directly and indirectly, a large amount of said bonds, with the object in view of formulating a scheme of financial readjustment. It was hoped that a friendly readjustment of the financial relations of the two companies could be carried into immediate effect, thus avoiding receivership of Western Pacific, but before this was physically possible the March 1 interest was defaulted, and on March 5, 1915, the United States Court appointed receivers for the property.

As publicly announced, a committee has been formed to represent the Western Pacific First Mortgage Bondholders, and at some future time the question of this relationship between the two companies will have to be negotiated between your Company and this committee.

By order of the Board of Directors.

B. F. BUSH, *President.*

PROFIT AND LOSS, June 30, 1915.

	$	$	$
Credit Balance, June 30, 1914 ...			7,828,751 13
Credit Balance transferred from Income Account ...	934,640 23		
Unrefundable Overcharges ...	582 42		
Donations for Spur Tracks ...	194 60		
Miscellaneous Credits	6,981 88		
Sale of Interest in the Union Depot and Railway Co., Denver	343,934 00		
		1,286,243 13	
Less: Redemption of Equipment Bonds	12,500 00		
Loss on Retired Road and Equipment	4,058 17		
Miscellaneous Debits ...	22,338 65		
The Union Depot and Ry. Co., Denver, Capital Stock closed out ...	80,000 00		
Settlement of Government Timber Case	25,446 46		
		144,343 28	
			1,141,899 85
Credit Balance, June 30, 1915 ...			8,970,650 98

RENEWAL FUND, June 30, 1915.

	$	$	$
Credit Balance, June 30, 1914 ...			355,382 48
Appropriations from Income during the year	120,000 00		
Adjustment of Securities in Fund to par	14,686 25		
Accretions to the Fund during the year	17,731 86		
		152,418 11	
Less: Redemption of Equipment Bonds		137,500 00	
			14,918 11
Credit Balance, June 30, 1915 ...			370,300 59

FUNDED DEBT CHANGES DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

	$
Funded Debt, including Equipment Trust Obligations outstanding in hands of public June 30, 1914 :	
Funded Debt	123,119,000 00
Equipment Trust Obligations	325,000 00
Total	123,444,000 00
Changes during the Year :	
Funded Debt decreased :	
By the purchase of First and Refunding Mortgage Five per Cent. Gold Bonds, placed in the Sinking Fund, with the Farmers' Trust Co., of New York, Trustee	218,000 00
By the redemption of Equipment Trust Obligations as follows :	
Series A : Sept. 1, 1914	$75,000 00
Series B : Mar. 1, 1915	75,000 00
Total decrease in Equipment Trust Obligations ...	150,000 00
Net decrease in funded debt outstanding in hands of public	368,000 00
Funded Debt, including Equipment Trust Obligations outstanding in hands of public June 30, 1915 :	
Funded Debt	122,751,000 00
Equipment Trust Obligations	325,000 00
Total	123,076,000 00

CONDENSED GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915, Compared with Previous Years.

ASSETS.	1915 $	1914 $	Inc. or Dec. $
INVESTMENTS:			
Investment in Road and Equipment, see page 18 of full report	174,879,279 96	174,320,509 85	+ 558,770 11
Improvements on Leased Railway Property	124 00	-	+ 124 00
Sinking Funds:			
First and Refunding Mtge. Bonds, see page 22 of full report, $850,924 42			
Less—Contra—Bonds Issues, $545,000	13,124 42	10,124 20	+ 3,000 22
Deposits in lieu of Mortgaged Property Sold	-	1,117 00	- 1,117 00
Miscellaneous Physical Property, see page 22 of full report	243,093 60	240,891 90	- 2,798 30
Investments in Affiliated Companies—Bonds, page 22 of full report	43,995,125 35	43,826,586 77	+ 168,538 58
Investments in Affiliated Companies—Stocks, see page 22 of full report	11,860,621 43	10,065,408 93	+1,795,212 50
Other Investments—Unpledged, see page 23 of full report	4,908 14	4,908 14	+ 30 00
Total	[illegible]	228,466,546 79	[illegible]
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special Deposits:			
Book Assets, see page 22 of full report, $7,223,537.96			
Less—Contra—Bonds Issues, $7,205,000	18,537 96	478,259 35	- 459,721 39
Loans and Bills Receivable	965 57	516 00	- 449 43
Balances Receivable	729,742 88	351,342 32	- 378,400 56
Net Balances Receivable from Agents and Conductors	114,859 92	193,227 28	- 78,367 36
Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable	728,775 11	691,144 03	- 37,631 08
Materials and Supplies	1,671,863 44	1,720,341 44	- 48,478 00
Other Current Assets	1,000 00	3,584 64	- 2,584 64
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DEFERRED ASSETS:			
Working Capital Deposited in Treasury	8,449 84	9,181 66	- 731 82
Special Renewal Fund:			
Book Assets, see page 22 of full report, $370,300.59			
Less—Contra—Bonds Issues, $155,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	231 80
Other Deferred Assets:			
Western Pacific Ry. Co., prior to Mar. 5, 1915	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deferred Debits	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UNADJUSTED DEBITS:			
Rents and Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	7,589 01	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other Unadjusted Debits:			
Deficit from Operation of Leased Lines	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Western Pacific Ry. Co.: Prior to Mar. 5, 1915	[illegible]	18,849 87	[illegible]
Subsequent to Mar. 5, 1915	3,744 50	-	[illegible]
Other Items	[illegible]	91,770 30	- 28,025 18
Securities Issued or Assumed—Pledged in Treasury:			
Stocks, see page 23 of full report, $4,130			
Bonds, see page 23 of full report, $3,087,000			
Total	104,965 09	119,594 05	- 14,628 96
Grand Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 2,414,731 19

LIABILITIES.	1915 $	1914 $	Inc. or Dec. $
STOCK:			
Capital Stock:			
Common—Outstanding, see page 21 of full report	38,000,000 00	38,000,000 00	
Preferred—Issued, $49,779,800 Less—Held in Treasury, see page 21 of full report, $4,130	49,775,670 00	49,775,670 00	
Total	87,775,670 00	87,775,670 00	
LONG-TERM DEBT:			
Funded Debt Unmatured:			
Equipment Issued, see pages 17 and 21 of full report, $134,268,000			
Less—Held in Treasury and by Trustees, see page 21 of full report, $10,992,000	123,276,000 00	123,644,000 00	- 368,000 00
Non-Negotiable Debt to Affiliated Cos.:			
Matured Coupons of Leased Lines	544,448 58	676,977 78	- 132,529 20
Total	[illegible]	124,320,977 78	- 500,529 20
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Audited Vouchers and Salaries			
Balances Payable	240,800 60	253,974 97	- 13,174 37
Audited Accounts and Wages Payable	1,279,322 15	1,500,322 41	- 220,929 96
Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	38,252 47	32,601 30	- 5,651 17
Interest Matured Unpaid (Including Bond Coupons and Rents)	1,210,900 00	1,176,370 00	+ 34,530 00
Dividends Matured Unpaid	986 94	986 94	
Unmatured Interest Accrued	1,069,864 36	1,076,089 46	- 6,225 10
Unmatured Rents Accrued	152,608 09	95,519 81	+ 57,088 28
Total	3,992,804 91	4,135,864 89	- 143,059 98
DEFERRED LIABILITIES:			
Other Deferred Liabilities:			
Deposits for Construction	140,371 34	18,975 17	- 121,596 77
UNADJUSTED CREDITS:			
Tax Liability	384,240 26	368,637 12	+ 15,603 14
Accrued Depreciation:			
Equipment	[illegible]	1,952,958 59	+ 530,881 79
Other Unadjusted Credits:			
Deferred Income—Interest on Western Pacific Ry. Co. Second	6,777,844 45	6,152,844 45	+ 625,000 00
Other Items	214,151 77	181,840 49	+ 32,311 28
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1,186,746 21
CORPORATE SURPLUS:			
*Additions to Property through Income and Surplus	2,880,153 46	[illegible]	+ 261,045 46
Sinking Fund Reserves:			
†Retirement Fund	587,124 42	337,124 20	+ 249,800 22
Appropriated Surplus:			
Specifically Invested: Renewal Fund	370,300 59	370,008 73	- 291 86
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 611,077 54
Profit and Loss:	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1,141,899 87
Total Corporate Surplus	12,808,029 45	11,055,052 06	+1,752,977 39
Grand Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2,414,731 19

* $[illegible] Equipment Trust Bonds, Series "B," were retired during the year.

† $[illegible] per cent Gold First and Refunding Bonds were purchased during the year for the Sinking Fund.

SCHEDULE OF FUNDED DEBT, June 30, 1915.

MORTGAGES.	Date of Mortgage.	Miles Mortgaged.	Date of Bond.	Maturity of Bond.	Amount—Authorised. $	Amount—Issued.—Held in Treasury and by Trustees. $	Amount—Issued.—Held by the Public. $	Rate of Int. in Gold. %	Annual Interest on Debt Held by the Public June 30, 1915. $
MORTGAGE BONDS:									
First Consolidated Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co.	July 15, 1888	1,646.83	July 15, 1888	Jan. 1, 1936	35,570,000	1,445,000	34,125,000	4	1,365,000
First Consolidated Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co.	July 15, 1888		Jan. 1, 1898	Jan. 1, 1936	6,382,000	—	6,382,000	4½	287,190
Improvement Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co.	June 1, 1888		June 1, 1888	June 1, 1928	8,335,000	—	8,335,000	5	416,750
First Trust Mortgage, The Rio Grande Western Ry. Co.	July 1, 1889	698.98	July 1, 1889	July 1, 1939	15,200,000	10,000	15,190,000	4	607,600
First Consolidated Mortgage, The Rio Grande Western Ry. Co.	Apr. 1, 1899		Apr. 1, 1899	Apr. 1, 1949	16,475,000	1,396,000	15,080,000	4	603,200
First Mortgage, Utah Central RR. Co.	Jan. 1, 1895	33.71	Jan. 1, 1898	Jan. 1, 1917	650,000	260,000	390,000	4	15,600
First and Refunding Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co.	Aug. 1, 1908	2,540.60	Aug. 1, 1908	Aug. 1, 1955	150,000,000	7,882,000	33,399,000	5	1,669,950
*Adjustment Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co.	May 1, 1912	2,540.60	May 1, 1912	Apr. 1, 1932	25,000,000	—	10,000,000	7	700,000
Total		2,540.60				10,992,000	122,901,000		5,685,290
EQUIPMENT TRUST OBLIGATIONS:									
†Equipment Trust Mortgage, The Denver and Rio Grande RR. Co., Series "B"	Sept. 1, 1907	—	Sept. 1, 1907	Aug. 31, 1917	—	—	375,000	5	18,750
						10,992,000	123,276,000		5,684,040

* Semi-annual interest contingent upon net surplus of preceding six months ending June 30 or December 31. Interest on Adjustment Mortgage Bonds is cumulative and all deferred payments will be due and payable at maturity of the bonds.

† The principal of Equipment Bonds is paid at the rate of $75,000 semi-annually, which reduces the interest charge every six months $1,875.

EQUIPMENT TRUST, June 30, 1915.

Series.	Date.	Original Amount. $	Amount Paid. $	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Semi-Annual Payments.	Equipment Covered.
"B"	Sept. 1, 1907	1,500,000	1,125,000	375,000	Mar. 1 & Sept. 1	1,000 S. G. Gondola Cars, Nos. 40000 to 40999, inclusive, 28 S. G. Locomotives, Nos. 1151 to 1178 inclusive.

SECURITIES OWNED AND OTHER INVESTMENTS, JUNE 30, 1915.

DESCRIPTION	Number of Shares or Bonds	PAR VALUE		BOOK VALUE
		Amount	Total	Total
	$	$	$	$
SINKING FUNDS:				
To Bankers' Trust Co. of New York, Trustee, Sinking Fund:				
First and Refunding Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	545	545,000 00		
Cash (to be invested)		41,924 42	586,924 42	586,924 42
MISCELLANEOUS PHYSICAL PROPERTY:				
Real Estate		203,328 37		
One-fourth Interest Ogden and Salt Lake City Gas Plant		24,850 23		
Leased Rails and Fastenings		9,915 00	238,093 60	238,093 60
INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES—PLEDGED:				
Stocks—				
To Bankers' Trust Co. of New York, Trustee, First and Refunding Mortgage:				
Capital Stock, Western Pacific Ry. Co.	500,000	50,000,000 00		
To The New York Trust Co., Trustee, Adjustment Mortgage:				
Capital Stock, Western Pacific Ry. Co.	125,000	12,500,000 00	[illegible]	4,284,952 85
To Bankers' Trust Co. of New York, Trustee, First and Refunding Mortgage:				
Capital Stock, The Rio Grande Junction Ry. Co.	12,211½	1,221,150 00		
To The New York Trust Co., Trustee, Adjustment Mortgage:				
Capital Stock, The Rio Grande Junction Ry. Co.	7,371½	737,150 00	1,958,300 00	500,885 15
To Guaranty Trust Co. of New York, Trustee:				
Capital Stock, Utah Fuel Co.	100,000		10,000,000 00	6,000,000 00
To Bankers' Trust Co. of New York, Trustee, First and Refunding Mortgage:				
Capital Stock, The Rio Grande & South-Western RR. Co.	1,492		149,200 00	110,371 02
Bonds—				
To Bankers' Trust Co. of New York, Trustee, First and Refunding Mortgage:				
Second Mortgage Bonds, Western Pacific Ry. Co.	25,000		25,000,000 00	18,750,000 00
Notes—				
To The New York Trust Co., Trustee, Adjustment Mortgage:				
Notes, Western Pacific Ry. Co.			14,252,915 45	14,252,915 45
			113,860,415 45	43,995,125 35
INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES—UNPLEDGED:				
Stocks—				
Capital Stock, The Rio Grande Southern RR. Co.	35,797½		3,579,737 50	390,933 50
Capital Stock, The Pueblo Union Depot & RR. Co.	81½		8,120 00	28,120 00
Capital Stock, The Denver Union Terminal Ry. Co.	50		5,000 00	5,000 00
Capital Stock, The Salt Lake City Union Depot & RR. Co.	1,001		100,100 00	[illegible]
Capital Stock, The Globe Express Co.	30,000		[illegible]	74,000 00
Capital Stock, The Colorado Midland Ry. Co.			4,187,500 00	1,000,000 00
Capital Stock, The Western Realty Co.			300,500 00	300,500 00
Securities of Boca & Loyalton RR. Co. and Associated Co.	3,005		1,406,070 00	790,947 19
			12,587,027 50	2,689,600 69
Bonds—				
First Mortgage Bonds, The Rio Grande Southern RR. Co.	1,511		1,511,000 00	1,004,366 63
First Mortgage Bonds, Utah Fuel Co.	665		665,000 00	665,000 00
First Mortgage Bonds, Western Pacific Ry. Co.	75		75,000 00	67,500 00
			2,251,000 00	1,736,866 63
Notes—				
Notes, Western Pacific Ry. Co.		3,670,454 11		
Notes, Salt Lake & Alta RR. Co.		[illegible]	3,684,154 11	[illegible]
Advances—				
Second Mortgage Bond Coupons, Western Pacific Ry. Co.			3,750,000 00	3,750,000 00
			22,272,181 61	11,860,621 43
OTHER INVESTMENTS—UNPLEDGED:				
Bonds—				
Funding Bonds, State of Colorado	4	4,000 00		
Funding Bonds, State of Colorado	1	500 00		
Gunnison County Bonds	4	400 00	4,900 00	4,900 00
Miscellaneous—				
Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Warrant		8 14		
The Denver Reservoir Irrigation Co., Certificate of Indebtedness		35 74	43 88	38 14
			4,943 88	4,938 14
SPECIAL DEPOSITS:				
To The New York Trust Co., Trustee:				
First and Refunding Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co. (Pledged)	7,005	7,005,000 00		
To Blair & Co., Trustee:				
First Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	200	[illegible]		
Cash Proceeds, Adjustment Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.		18,537 96	[illegible]	7,223,537 96
INSURANCE AND OTHER FUNDS:				
Special Deposited Bonds:				
First Mortgage Bonds, The Rio Grande Southern RR. Co.	266		266,000 00	172,900 00
First Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, The Rio Grande Western RR. Co.	88		88,000 00	88,000 00
First Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	51		51,000 00	51,000 00
First Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	32		[illegible]	16,000 00
Cash (to be invested)			42,400 59	[illegible]
			463,400 59	[illegible]
OTHER PLEDGED ASSETS:				
Western Pacific Ry. Co., prior to March 2, 1915:				
Labour, Material, Rental, &c.		[illegible]		
Commission on Adjustment Mortgage Bonds Sold		100,000 00		
Interest on Adjustment Mortgage Bonds while proceeds were held by Trustee		[illegible]		
Deposit and Expenses Account		[illegible]		
Interest per Loan Balance		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SECURITIES ISSUED OR ASSUMED—UNPLEDGED:				
Capital Stock, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	[illegible]	4,130 00		
First Consolidated Mortgage, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
First and Refunding Mortgage, The Denver & Rio Grande RR. Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
First Consolidated Mortgage, The Rio Grande Western Ry. Co.	[illegible]	1,307,000 00		
First Trust Mortgage, The Utah Central Western Ry. Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
First Mortgage, Utah Central RR. Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO RAILWAY

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Richmond, Va., September 16, 1915.

To the Stockholders :

The Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Board of Directors for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, is herewith submitted.

The average mileage operated during the year by The Chesapeake and Ohio Lines was 2,369.2 miles, an increase over the previous year of 23.4 miles. The mileage at the end of the year was 2,371.7 miles, an increase of 4.3 miles over mileage on June 30, 1914. See schedule on page 12 of pamphlet report.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR.

	Year to June 30, 1915.	—Inc. or Dec.—	
	$	$	%
Operating revenues were	39,464,036 99	+ 2,004,173 10	+ 5·35
Operating expenses were	27,556,413 50	+ 1,142,514 99	+ 4·33
Net operating revenue was	11,907,623 49	+ 861,658 11	+ 7·80
Taxes were	1,349,496 96	+ 18,562 07	+ 1·39
Operating income, taxes deducted, was	10,558,126 53	+ 843,096 04	+ 8·69
Miscellaneous income was	1,018,219 08	— 1,126,431 18	—52·52
	11,576,345 61		
Rentals and other payments were	814,767 13	— 138,449 99	—14·52
Income for the year available for interest was	10,761,578 48	— 144,885 15	— 1·33
Interest (75·25% of amount available) amounted to	8,098,041 86	+ 163,394 02	+ 2·06
Net income for the year, equivalent to 4·24% on capital stock outstanding, amounted to	2,663,536 62	— 308,279 17	—10·37
Dividend paid during the year : One dividend of 1%	627,816 00		
Remainder	2,035,720 62		

FINANCIAL.

The changes in funded debt in the hands of the public during the year were as follows :—

	Retired. $
4 per cent. Big Sandy Ry. First Mtge. Bonds	82,000 00
4 per cent. Coal River Ry. First Mtge. Bonds	36,000 00
4 per Cent. Greenbrier Ry. First Mort. Bonds	20,000 00
4 per cent. Raleigh and South-Western Ry. First Mort. Bonds	23,000 00
Equipment Trust Obligations	1,514,392 00
Decrease	1,675,392 00

Other changes in obligations shown under funded debt on balance sheet of June 30, 1915, were :—

	Increase. $	Payments. $
5 per cent. First Lien and Improvement Mtge. Bonds	3,147,000 00	
6 per cent. Equipment Contracts—General Equipment Co.		16,800 00
5 per cent. Equipment Contract—Standard Steel Car Co.		583,252 23
5 per Cent. Equipment Contract—Central Locomotive and Car Works	159,750 00	56,537 15
6 per cent. Equipment Contract—American Locomotive Co.	147,300 00	104,876 60
	3,454,050 00	761,465 98
Net increase	2,692,584 02	

The Five per Cent. First Lien and Improvement Mortgage Bonds were issued during the year for additions and betterments and other capital purposes. The entire issue of these bonds, $40,270,000 face amount, is pledged as collateral for your Company's Five-Year Five per Cent. Secured Gold Notes, no part of the unissued notes having been sold during the year.

Mention was made in last year's report of the sale of your Company's holdings of the capital stock of The Kanawha and Michigan Railway Company. The transaction was completed October 7, 1914, netting your Company a profit of $1,119,315.50, which sum was transferred to surplus. The proceeds of the sale were deposited with the Trustee under the First Lien and Improvement Mortgage, and will be re-invested in improvements and investments, which is permitted under that Mortgage.

Your Company acquired during the year 479 shares of the capital stock of The Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway Company and additional shares of stock of White Sulphur Springs, Incorporated, and of Logan and Southern Railway Company. Additional First Mortgage Bonds of Elkhorn and Beaver Valley Railway Company were acquired at par in reimbursement for advances made for construction purposes.

Further shares of stock and First Mortgage Bonds of The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company of Indiana were issued in respect of the cost of certain additions and betterments made to that line, and were pledged under your Company's First Lien and Improvement Mortgage.

A statement of charges to property accounts will be found on page 16 of full Pamphlet Report, showing a net addition of $3,024,127.55; that is, $1,045,134.97 was added to cost of road and $1,978,992.58 was added to cost of equipment.

A schedule of securities owned June 30, 1915, will be found on page 17 of Pamphlet Report.

During the past six years your Company's increase in capital liabilities in hands of the public, its principal acquisitions of stocks and bonds of other companies, and its expenditures for equipment, branch-line construction, second track and other additions and betterments, have been as follows :—

	Par Value. $	$
Capital Obligations Issued or Assumed :		
General Mortgage 4½% Bonds	3,716,000 00	
First Consolidated Mortgage 5% Bonds	2,000,000 00	
Convertible 4½% Debentures	31,390,000 00	
Three-Year 4½% Collateral Trust Notes	25,000,000 00	
One-Year 5% Collateral Trust Notes	3,500,000 00	
Five-Year 5% Collateral Trust Notes	33,000,000 00	
Coal River Railway Co. First Mortgage 4% Bonds	3,000,000 00	
Raleigh and South-Western Ry. Co. First Mort. 4% Bonds	860,000 00	
Big Sandy Ry. Co. First Mort. 4% Bonds	229,000 00	
Virginia Air Line Ry. Co. First Mort. 5% Bonds	900,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates Series N	1,700,000 00	
Equipment Contracts	4,084,390 00	
	109,379,390 00	
Realising		103,796,715 68
Less—Capital Obligations Paid or Purchased :		
Peninsula Div. First Mtge. 6% Bonds maturing January 1, 1911	2,000,000 00	
Greenbrier and New River RR. Co. First Mtge. 5% Bonds, redeemed February 1, 1911	339,000 00	
General Funding and Improvement Mtge. 5% Bonds	7,302,000 00	
Greenbrier Ry. Co. First Mtge. 4% Bonds retired Nov. 1, 1911	2,000 00	
Three-Year 4½% Collateral Trust Notes	25,000,000 00	
One-Year 5% Collateral Trust Notes	3,500,000 00	
Equipment Trust Payments Through Sinking Funds :	10,967,000 00	
Big Sandy Railway Co. First Mortgage 4% Bonds	326,000 00	
Coal River Railway Co. First Mortgage 4% Bonds	157,000 00	
Greenbrier Railway Co. First Mortgage 4% Bonds	118,000 00	
Raleigh & S.-Western Ry. Co. 1st Mtge. 4% Bonds	33,000 00	
	49,749,000 00	
Costing		50,032,740 58
		53,763,974 42
Acquisitions—Stocks of :		
The C. & O. Railway Co. of Indiana	5,943,800 00	
Elkhorn and Beaver Valley Ry. Co.	30,000 00	
The Gauley and Meadow River RR. Co.	116,300 00	
The Hocking Valley Railway Co.	7,671,800 00	
*The Kanawha and Michigan Railway Co.	4,029,200 00	
Logan & Southern Ry. Co.	292,100 00	
Levisa River Railroad Co. (of Ky.)	50,000 00	
The Levisa River RR. Co. (of Va.)	50,000 00	
Kanawha Bridge and Terminal Co.	400,000 00	
The Silver Grove Land and Building Co.	200,000 00	
White Sulphur Springs, Incorporated	2,550,000 00	
First National Bank Building Corp (Richmond, Va.)	180,000 00	
The Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway Co.	47,900 00	
Miscellaneous	12,300 00	
	21,578,400 00	
Costing		21,808,546 39
Bonds of ;		
The C. & O. Railway Co. of Indiana First Mtge. 5%	6,774,000 00	
Elkhorn and Beaver Valley Ry. Co. First Mtge. 5%	1,026,000 00	
	7,800,000 00	
Costing		6,496,200 00
Properties of :		
Coal River Ry. Co.	2,304,359.88	
Raleigh and S.-Western Ry. Co.	816,562.42	
Virginia Air Line Ry. Co.	1,071,947.12	
Costing		4,192,869 42
Construction of :		
Extensions of Branch Lines, costing	1,557,707 90	
Second Track (173.1 miles) and Additions and Betterments, costing (Excluding $2,214,490.08 expended on Chicago Line to April 30, 1915, for which securities have been acquired.)	15,081,219 47	
		16,638,927 37
Equipment :		
Additional equipment acquired (less retirals) (Excluding $33,248.59 expended on Chicago Line to April 30, 1915, for which securities have been acquired.)		18,865,092 67
Costing		68,001,635 85

* See previous reference to this stock.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The equipment inventory as of June 30, 1915, was as follows :—

		Inc. or Dec.
Locomotives owned	605	+ 19
Locomotives leased	212	— 27
Total	817	— 8
Passenger train cars owned	358	— 8
Passenger-train cars leased	29	—
Total	387	— 8
Freight-train and miscellaneous cars owned	23,911	+ 1,603
Freight-train cars leased	22,435	— 387
Total	46,346	+ 1,216

The changes during the year in the accrued depreciation of equipment account were as follows :—

Balance to credit of account June 30, 1914	$4,212 541 93
Amount credited during year ended June 30, 1915, by charges to operating expenses	786,491 51
Charges to account for: Accrued depreciation on equipment retired during year—20 locomotives, 6 passenger, 1,060 freight and work cars, $92,227.62 ; accrued depreciation on cars changed in class during year, $2,526.15	94,753 77
	$691,737 74
Balance to credit of account June 30, 1915	$4,904,279 67

	1915.	1914.	Inc. or Dec.
Operating revenues amounted to	$39,464,036 99	$37,459,863 89	+$2,004,173 10
Net operating revenue	11,907,623 49	11,045,965 38	+ 861,658 11
Operating ratio	69·8%	70·5%	— ·7%
Tons of revenue freight carried one mile	8,138,347,516	7,064,650,082	+1,073,697,434
Revenue train load, tons	906	870	+ 36
Revenue tons per loaded car	32·3	30·9	+ 1.4

New industries were established during the year as follows : 16 manufactories of farm implements and farm products, 15 manufactories of lumber products, and 30 manufactories of mineral, metal, and other products. At the close of the year there were 215 companies organised for producing coal and coke on your Company's lines, with a total of 338 separate mines, of which 319 were in actual operation. Of the 1,219 coke ovens 445 were in blast, and of the 10 iron furnaces, having a total daily capacity of 1,490 tons, six are in operation, with a total daily capacity of 950 tons of pig iron. 214 new settlers located in your Company's territory during the year, these settlers having purchased 49,011 acres of land from private parties, with an investment of $1,288,811.

An extension of Pine Creek Branch of Logan and Southern Railway, eight-tenths of a mile, has been completed.

The construction of about thirty miles of the Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway has been begun during the year from a point near Edgington, Kentucky, to a point near Waverly, Ohio, on the Norfolk and Western Railway, including a steel bridge across the Ohio River, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 1916. Arrangements have been concluded by The Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway Company with the Norfolk and Western Railway Company by which trackage rights are secured over the Norfolk and Western Railway from a connection near Waverly, Ohio, to the line of the Hocking Valley Railway at Valley Crossing near Columbus, Ohio, which provides a through route from your Company's main line to the line of the Hocking Valley Railway.

The revenue coal and coke tonnage was 21,325,742, an increase of 10.8 per cent. ; other revenue freight tonnage was 8,722,712, an increase of 3.0 per cent. Total revenue tonnage was 30,048,454 tons, an increase of 8.4 per cent. Freight revenue was $31,288,536.62, an increase of 8.4 per cent. Freight-train mileage was 8,979,417 miles, an increase of 10.6 per cent. Revenue ton miles were 8,138,347,516, an increase of 15.2 per cent. Ton mile revenue was 3.84 mills, a decrease of 6.1 per cent. Revenue per freight-train mile was $3.484, a decrease of 2.0 per cent. Revenue tonnage per train mile was 906 tons, an increase of 4.1 per cent. ; including Company's freight, the tonnage per train mile was 962 tons, an increase of 3.8 per cent. Tonnage per locomotive, including Company's freight, was 870 tons, an increase of 5.2 per cent. Revenue tonnage per loaded car was 32.3 tons, an increase of 4.5 per cent. Tons of revenue freight carried one mile per mile of road were 3,435,061, an increase of 14.1 per cent.

There were 6,487,803 passengers carried, a decrease of 0.1 per cent. The number carried one mile was 269,379,558, a decrease of 7.6 per cent. Passenger revenue was $5,696,088.37, a decrease of 6.6 per cent. Revenue per passenger per mile was 2.115 cents, an increase of 1.1 per cent. Number of passengers carried one mile per mile of road was 113,700, a decrease of 8.5 per cent. Passenger-train mileage was 5,008,603, a decrease of 4.2 per cent. Passenger revenue per train mile was $1.137, a decrease of 2.5 per cent. ; including mail and express, it was $1.345, a decrease of 1.7 per cent. Passenger-service train revenue per train mile was $1.375, a decrease of 1.8 per cent.

There were 7,353.2 tons of new rails (3,054.1 tons 100-lb. and 4,229.1 tons 90-lb.) equal to 49.8 track miles, used in renewal of existing main tracks. 2,252 tons of relaying rail were laid in various parts of the lines, with an aggregate expenditure of $29,359.00. 13,500 tons of 100-lb., 3,500 tons of 90-lb., and 500 tons of 125-lb. rail were purchased after July 1, 1915, a portion of which has been laid prior to the date of this report.

The average amount expended for repairs per locomotive operated was $3,013.29 ; per passenger-train car $920.85 ; per freight-train car $81.88.

Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip resigned as a director and member of the Executive Committee August 20, 1914, and Mr. Charles E. Graham was elected a director and member of the Executive Committee on that date to succeed Mr. Vanderlip.

The Board renews its acknowledgment to the officers and employees for faithful and efficient services performed during the year.

By order of the Board of Directors.

FRANK TRUMBULL, *Chairman.*
GEO. W. STEVENS, *President.*

GENERAL INCOME ACCOUNT.

	Year to June 30— 1915.	1914.	Inc. or Dec. $	Inc. or Dec. %
Operating Revenues—	$	$		
Freight Traffic	31,288,536 62	28,866,516 16	+ 2,422,020 46	8·4
Passenger Traffic	5,696,088 37	5,098,058 96	401,970 59	6·6
Mails	438,666 73	426,967 03	+ 11,699 70	2·7
Express	602,941 91	636,785 75	— 33,873 84	5·3
Miscellaneous	1,437,803 30	1,431,535 99	+ 6,297 37	·4
Total Trans. Revenues	39,464,036 99	37,459,863 89	+ 2,004,173 10	5·4
Operating Expenses—				
Maint. of Way and Structures	4,694,522 17	4,149,457 27	+ 545,064 90	13·1
Maint. of Equipment	8,243,170 36	7,827,659 53	+ 415,510 83	5·3
Traffic	650,106 20	669,283 00	— 18,876 80	2·8
Transportation	12,896,078 82	12,532,329 07	+ 363,749 75	2·9
Misc. Operations	252,347 20	248,347 38	— 16,000 12	6·4
General	873,388 70	986,822 26	— 112,939 56	11·4
Trans. for Investment Cr.	33,994 01	—	+ 33,994 01	—
Total Oper. Expenses	27,556,413 50 69·8%	26,413,898 51 70·5%	+1,142,514 99 — ·7	4·3
Net Operating Revenue	11,907,623 49	11,045,965 38	+ 861,658 11	7·8
Income from other Sources—				
Hire of Equipment	77,632 04	684,832 80	— 607,200 76	88·7
Int. from Investments and Accounts	655,345 97	1,168,027 93	— 532,681 96	45·6
Miscellaneous	305,241 07	291,789 53	+ 13,451 54	4·6
	1,018,219 08	2,144,650 26	—1,126,431 18	52·5
Gross Income	12,925,842 57	13,190,615 64	— 264,773 07	2·0
Deductions from Gross Income—				
Interest on Debt	8,098,041 81	7,934,647 79	+ 163,394 02	2·1
Taxes	1,444,436 30	1,330,934 89	+ 18,562 07	1·4
Rentals Leased Roads, Joint Tracks, &c.	860,074 04	835,077 32	+ 24,996 77	3·0
Loss on C. & O. Grain Elevator	Cr. 88,696 23	[illegible]	151,512 51	241·7
Miscellaneous	4,880 27	[illegible]	12,154 25	249·0
Total Deductions	10,262,306 95	10,248,599 81	+ 13,706 10	·4
Net Income	2,663,536 62	2,971,815 79	— 308,279 17	10·4
Amount to credit of [illegible] June 30, 1914				$1,561,853 39
Amount of Net Income for year ended June 30, 1915, transferred to [illegible]				2,663,536 62
				$4,225,390 01
Deduct—Dividend No. 75 [illegible]				627,816 00
				$3,597,554 01
Balance of Discount on Five Year Secured Gold Notes sold previous to [illegible]		$1,647,670 44		
Return [illegible]		1,637 50		
Settlement of [illegible]		125,000 00		1,774,346 94
				$1,823,207 07
Cr.—Profit on Kanawha and Michigan Ry. Co. Stock, sold		$1,119,315 50		
Sundry adjustments		4,987 26		1,124,302 76
Balance to credit of Profit and Loss June 30, 1915				$2,947,539 83

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915.

ASSETS. (Excluding Stocks and Bonds owned of The C. & O. Ry. Co. of Indiana and of the C. & O. Equipment Corporation.)		£
Property Investment		
Cost of Road		$171,906,286 05
Cost of Equipment		49,911,903 17
		$221,818,189 22
Accrued Depreciation of Equipment—Cr.		4,904,279 67
		$216,913,909 55
Securities of Proprietary, Affiliated and Controlled Companies—Pledged		
Stocks		$11,049,599 44
Bonds		3,098,112 01
		$14,147,711 45
Securities—Issued or Assumed—Pledged—		
Bonds (Includes First Lien and Improvement Mortgage 5% Bonds $40,270,000 00. See Contra.)		40,270,001 00
		$54,417,712 45
Miscellaneous Investments		
Physical Property		705,424 09
Special Funds, and Funded Debt Issued and Reserved		
Potts Creek Branch Bonds		$43,641 27
Raleigh and South-Western Railway Co. Bonds authenticated but not delivered		40,000 00
Special Deposits account of Construction (Includes Cash and Notes Trustees K. & M. Ry. Co. Stock Sale.)		4,086,710 42
		4,170,351 69
		$275,807,397 78
Working Assets		
Cash in Treasury	$578,788 86	
Cash in Transit	957,752 12	
		$1,536,540 98
Cash deposits to pay Interest and Dividends		1,577 80
Cash deposits to pay Equipment Trust Principal		112,000 00
Cash deposits to pay Matured Bonds and Scrip		11,174 17
Cash deposit to pay Taxes		10,188 24
Loans and Bills Receivable		158 [illegible] 82
Traffic Balances		870,100 96
Agents and Conductors		1,003,709 15
Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable		878,817 47
Other Working Assets		37,301 32
		$5,075,880 54
Materials and Supplies		2,581,952 18
Securities in Treasury—Unpledged		
Stocks		$4,764,403 45
Bonds		1,543,903 00
		6,308,306 45
Deferred Assets		
Unmatured Interest, Dividends and Rents		$75,147 61
Advances to Proprietary, Affiliated and Controlled Companies		99,961 90
Advances, Working Capital Proprietary Lines		37,675 93
Special Deposits with Trustees, Various Mortgage Funds		44,344 00
Cash and Securities in Sinking and Redemption Funds		51,167 24
Cash and Securities in Insurance Reserve Fund		9,971 41
Sundry Accounts		387,488 42
		756,183 50
		14,722,322 67
Total		$290,529,720 45

LIABILITIES. (Excluding Stock and Bonds owned of the C. & O. Ry. Co. of Indiana and of the C. & O. Equipment Corporation.)			
Capital Stock—			
Common			$62,792,600 00
First Preferred			5,000 00
Second Preferred			200 00
			$62,795,800 00
Common—the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. of Indiana			1,200 00
			$62,797,000 00
Funded Debt—			
First mortgage, Kineon Coal Co., 5% Bonds		1915	$200,000 00
Secured Gold Notes, 5%		1919	33,000,000 00
First mortgage, Terminal, &c., 6% Bonds		1922	142,000 00
General Funding and Improvement, 5% Bonds		1929	3,698,000 00
Convertible, 4½% Bonds		1930	31,390,000 00
First mortgage, R. & S. W. Railway, 4% Bonds		1936	852,000 00
First Consolidated Mortgage, 5% Bonds		1939	29,858,000 00
First mortgage, Craig Valley Branch, 5% Bonds		1940	650,000 00
First mortgage, Greenbrier Railway, 4% Bonds		1940	1,801,000 00
First mortgage, Warm Springs Branch, 5% Bonds		1941	400,000 00
First mortgage, Piedmont Railway, 4% Bonds		1944	4,674,000 00
First mortgage, Flat Top Branch, 4% Bonds		1945	539,000 00
First mortgage, Coal River Railway, 4% Bonds		1945	2,845,000 00
First Mortgage, Potts Creek Branch, 4% Bonds		1946	600,000 00
First mortgage, Va. Air Line Railway, 5% Bonds		1952	900,000 00
First mortgage, R. & A. Division, 4% Bonds		1989	6,000,000 00
Second mortgage, R. & A. Division, 4% Bonds		1989	1,000,000 00
General mortgage 4½% Bonds		1992	48,129,000 00
			$166,686,000 00
Equipment Trust Obligations and Contracts			6,413,163 21
			173,099,163 21
First Lien and Improvement Mortgage, 5% Bonds (see Contra)		1930	40,270,000 00
			$276,166,163 21
Working Liabilities			
Loans and Bills Payable			95,000 00
Traffic balances			409,645 46
Audited Vouchers and Pay Rolls			3,737,859 15
Unpaid Wages			45,985 51
Miscellaneous Accounts Payable			292,756 72
Matured Interest and Dividends Unpaid			381,852 65
Matured Mortgage and Secured Debt Unpaid			11,174 17
Other Working Liabilities			69,573 37
			$5,043,827 03
Deferred Liabilities			
Unmatured Interest and Rents			$1,889,997 36
Taxes Accrued			1,332,088 02
Sundry Accounts			131,916 16
			3,354,001 54
			$8,397,828 57
Accumulated Surplus			
Additions to Property through Income since June 30, 1907			$2,984,365 23
Investment in Sinking Funds			23,852 20
Reserve Invested in Other Reserve Funds			9,971 41
			$3,018,188 84
Profit and Loss—Surplus			2,947,539 83
			5,965,728 67
Total			$290,529,720 45

The Company is liable as guarantor of the following bonds not included in the above: The Greenbrier and Elk Garden Railway Co., First Mortgage 4% Bonds due 1938, $820,000; The Chesapeake and Ohio Northern Railway Co., 5% Gold Notes due 1915, $500,000; Norfolk Terminal and Transportation Co., First Mortgage 5% Bonds due 1948, $500,000; Western Pocahontas Corporation, First Mortgage 4½% Bonds due 1945, $750,000; Western Pocahontas Corporation, Extension Mortgage, No. 1, 4½% Bonds due 1945, $83,000; Western Pocahontas Corporation, Extension Mortgage, No. 2, 4½% Bonds due 1946, $51,000; Louisville and Jeffersonville Bridge Co. Mortgage (C. & O. proportion, one-third) 4% Bonds due 1945, $4,500,000; Richmond-Washington Co. Collateral Trust Mortgage (C. & O. proportion, one-sixth) 4% Bonds due 1945, $10,000,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ACME TEA CHEST CO.—Final dividend of 7½% on Ordinary, making 10% for the year.

ALOR PONGOH RUBBER ESTATE.—Interim dividend of 5 . less tax.

BABCOCK AND WILCOX.—Interim dividend of 6 on Ordinary, tax free.

BALMORAL (CEYLON) ESTATES CO.—Interim dividend of 7%, less tax, on Ordinary.

BANK OF ADELAIDE.—Interim dividend for half-year at 8% per annum.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.—Dividend for half year ended August 31 at rate of 16 per annum, less tax.

BOMBAY GAS CO.—Interim dividend of 3%.

BRITAIN STEAMSHIP CO.—Interim dividend of 10*s.* per share, tax free.

BRITISH GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5% per annum.

BUCKLEY AND NUNN.—Dividend at the rate of 5 per annum, tax free, on Ordinary, making 7½% for the year.

CEYLON (PARA) RUBBER CO.—Dividend of 12½ . less tax.

CHAPLIN, W. H., AND CO.—Interim dividend of 2½%.

CHERAS RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 2 (actual), less tax.

CITY OF SANTOS IMPROVEMENTS CO.—Interim dividend on Ordinary.

CLAN LINE STEAMERS.—Interim dividend of 25*s.* per share, tax free, on Ordinary.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO.—Interim dividend of 10*s.* per share, less tax.

CONSOLIDATED MALAY RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 4*d.* per share, less tax.

CRAIGHEAD TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 8%, less tax, on Ordinary.

DIRECT UNITED STATES CABLE CO.—Interim dividend of 2*s.* per share, less tax.

EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST.—Interim dividends on Deferred stock at rate of 12% per annum, less tax.

EVANS, D. H., AND CO. FOUNDERS' SHARES.—No interim dividend will be paid.

FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD INVESTMENT.—Dividend at the rate of 2½% per annum on Ordinary, making 2½% for the year.

FROME UNITED BREWERIES CO.—Further dividend of 6%, making 10%.

GANDY BELT MANUFACTURING.—Interim dividend of 4% (actual), less tax.

GULA-KALUMPONG RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* per share, less tax.

HEAWOOD TIN AND RUBBER ESTATE.—Interim dividend of 5 actual, less tax.

HIGGODA RUBBER ESTATE.—Interim dividend of 4% on Ordinary, less tax.

HIGHLANDS AND LOWLANDS PARA RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 5% (actual), less tax.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY OF CANADA.—Interim dividend of 1½% on Ordinary.

INTERNATIONAL LINOTYPE.—Interim dividend of 2½%.

LANCASHIRE DYNAMO AND MOTOR CO.—Interim dividend at rate of 6% per annum on Ordinary.

LINDOOLA TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 2%, less tax, on Ordinary.

LONDON AND THAMES HAVEN OIL WHARVES.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

LONGAI VALLEY TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 2%, less tax.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THE RUBBER PLANTATIONS INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

THE sixth ordinary general meeting was held on October 8 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Charles Arthur Lampard (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. S. Woodward, A.C.A., on behalf of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, the Secretaries, read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: Ladies and Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been circulated now for some considerable time, and I have no doubt you will allow me to take them as read. In the first instance, we have to regret the absence of two of our directors to-day; but I feel quite sure that, when I tell you the reason, you will agree with me that there is no necessity on my part to apologise for that absence, because they have both placed their services at the disposal of the State, which has the first claim in the present crisis on every one of us who can be of any use. In regard to Captain Hoare, he is with his regiment, and in regard to Sir Frank Swettenham, he is working very hard indeed at that much abused office, the Press Bureau. Pursuing my usual custom, I will first of all review the figures of the balance sheet.

The Balance Sheet.

Turning to the liabilities side, you will see there is no change in our authorised capital, which remains at £2,000,000 sterling. The issued capital is £1,401,538—I am giving it to you in round figures—as against £1,400,000, and the called-up capital is £894,711, as against £725,736 a year ago—an increase of £168,974. This increase is due to the call of 2*s.* 6*d.*, made in January last, and the balance is due to the exercise of 1,538 options. The premiums account remains the same as it was last year, £582,577. Loans amount to £417,633, as against £257,000 last year, or an increase of £160,633. The profit and loss account is £109,309, against £107,655—an increase of £1,654. Turning to the assets side, the investments in shares and debentures amount to £915,189, as against £862,789 last year—an increase of £52,400. The liability for calls not yet made is £55,013, as against £79,480 last year, or a decrease of £24,467. The cost of properties and development amounts to £755,021, as against £596,769 last year, an increase of £158,252. Debtors are £1,764, as against £7,207 a year ago, a decrease of £5,443. Loans are £115,080, as against £19,929 last year, an increase of £95,151; and cash at bank is £21,925, as against £18,299 last year, an increase of £3,626. The net result of all these figures which I have given you is that the funds employed have increased by £305,803, and this increase is made up as follows:—New investments and calls have absorbed £52,400, properties £158,252, and loans made £95,151; total, £305,803. And these funds have been provided by:—Increased capital receipts, £164,388; loans received, £139,761; and the increase in profit and loss, £1,654, which make up the same total of £305,803. The increase in investments is partly due to calls, which have amounted to £31,670, and new investments, which have absorbed £20,730. The increase in properties is due to their gradual development; and the increase in loans is due to the necessity to find funds for some of the companies in which we are largely interested, and which, under present conditions, they could not get by the usual method of issuing fresh capital. In this connection your auditors refer to the amount which, if called upon, the Trust is liable to advance under agreements with various companies in which it has large interests. I might mention that this liability is spread over a long period in any case, and that whatever is advanced would be secured.

Value of the Trust's Investments.

The amount invested in the Companies printed in the report is £900,923, and it accounts for 98.4% of the total investments held. Those not given amount to only 1.6%, and they are quite small holdings. Loans and investments together amount to £1,030,270, and of this amount 73.06% is invested in sterling shares, 3.16% in rupee shares, 3.30% in guilder shares, and 20.48% in sterling Debentures and secured loans. A valuation of the shares based on the current market prices at March 31 was made as usual by the Company's brokers, and it showed a depreciation then of £193,306, against a depreciation in the corresponding period of the previous year of £198,788. This shows an improvement, a recovery of rather over £5,000 between March 1914 and March 1915. At the date of our last meeting, however, those of you who were present will remember that I pointed out that the depreciation then—*i.e.*, in July 1914—had risen to £275,641, but the depreciation now, as worked out last night, has gone the other way, I am glad to say, for our depreciation has gone down to £161,000, which shows the decided improvement between the position at this meeting to-day and the meeting that we had in July 1914 of £114,000. This, I think, is a most encouraging factor. We have always stated that, in our judgment, the depreciation which we have had to record for a considerable time past was largely artificial, and that it would gradually disappear as our properties came into bearing, and this year the figures which I have given you show that we have made very distinct progress in that direction, and that too in spite of a great deal of depression due, of course, to the War.

Development of Properties Owned.

Turning to the properties owned entirely by this Trust, as I have mentioned the amount invested in them is £755,021. The development of these properties at present is the most important part of this Trust's operations, and when they become revenue producing we shall derive from them a very large portion indeed of our profits. The long wait necessary between planting and a profitable return is gradually coming to an end, but so far the tea and the rubber could not and have not, of course, contributed in any way towards our revenue. The total area of these properties, as set forth in the report, amounts to 54,577 acres. At the date of the balance sheet we had planted 6,019 acres in tea and 3,613½ acres in rubber, and tea in course of planting was 2,475 acres—a total of 12,107½ acres. Since our last report this shows an increase in the planted area of 1,299½ acres—1,145 acres of which are in tea and 154½ acres in rubber. This planted area is divided into nine estates, instead of 10 a year ago, two in Sumatra having been amalgamated to facilitate superintendence and economise in the management. Eight of these estates are in Sumatra and one in Southern India. Of the Sumatra estates six are planted in tea and two in rubber. Of the estate in Southern India, practically half is planted in tea and half in rubber, the two cultivations, of course, being kept separate. For convenience in bookkeeping the accounts of the estates run from January to December, and our object in this is the desire to incorporate in the Trust's accounts—which cover, of course, the period from April to March—the accounts of the properties without undue delay, although this year I regret very much that there has been delay, a delay which has been inevitable and entirely beyond our control.

Tea Production in Sumatra.

With regard to the estates situated in Sumatra, during the past year the first factory for tea was in work and produced its initial crop of 513,390 lb. As you will see from the report, this initial crop cost all-in 10.66*d.*, realised 9.03*d.*, and left a loss of £3,405, which has been charged to profit and loss account. It would have been a perfectly legitimate thing, of course, to charge that to capital. The high cost of this initial crop—of any initial crop—really is inevitable, both in tea and rubber; but it is no guide at all to what the eventual cost of production will be. As the area gets into full bearing yields will increase and costs come down, and even during the current year we look for a very considerable profit from our tea. We are, moreover, satisfied—and that is the great thing, I think, which you should have in your minds—that in due course our tea will be produced at a low cost and yield us a very good profit. Later on I shall give you some figures which we have had by telegram, which will show you how satisfactorily the costs are already coming down. Our second tea factory we expect was completed at the end of September, and the third factory will be finished at the end of this year, or early next year. There have been, of course, many difficulties to contend with in developing tea estates in Sumatra, a country which was entirely new to this industry, and these difficulties have, of course, been accentuated this year very much by the War; but while the cost of opening has been high—higher than we expected—the growth of the business is splendid, and the yield per acre will be highly satisfactory, and considerably higher than we originally anticipated. This is borne out by the reports from Mr. Cockburn, who has spent the whole of his life in Ceylon [illegible] and whose visits to Sumatra we refer to in our report. There was a doubt when we originally started planting tea—there must have been a doubt in a place where no tea had been planted before—but I am glad to say that this doubt has been set at rest; there is no doubt about the yield and no doubt about the quality.

Rubber Production Commenced.

Turning to the rubber, the two estates that we have in rubber are Siantar and Simarito. The first one is 1,559½ acres and Simarito [illegible] acres. The initial crop from these two estates, secured this year, amounted to 26,450 lb., and the proceeds and costs of this have been taken to development. They about balance. The

condition of the rubber estates is reported to be entirely satisfactory, and the new permanent factory on the Siantar estate was expected to be completed by the end of September, and the one for Simarito will be completed at a later date. As the two estates adjoin, the first factory will for a time manufacture for both. Transport in the past has been one of the difficulties we have had to contend with. The district, as I have always made it quite plain to you, was entirely isolated when we first went there. To transport heavy machinery and food for our large labour force it was necessary to employ lorries, and these to start with had to run over very rough roads, entailing a great deal of wear and tear. This difficulty, however, is practically at an end, for not only have the roads been much improved, but the railway is now nearing completion and will be opened next year. The railway passes through two of the Trust estates—Siantar and Martoba—and there will be a station on the latter property, and the central station at Siantar is also within easy reach of all properties owned by this Trust. The labour force employed, apart from local labour, on the Sumatra estates was 6,000, and the health was quite satisfactory; and no doubt this result is due to the very excellent doctor and also to the up-to-date hospital which we have erected, and the value of which is becoming increasingly apparent. The outbreak of war for a time disorganised the recruiting of additional labour, but the management is satisfied that this is only temporary, and that no permanent difficulty will occur in this connection.

Distribution of Investments.

With regard to the Southern India Estate there are 600 acres under rubber and 584 acres under tea. This property will produce its initial crop of tea this year, and the factory for this is in course of erection. The tapping of rubber will, we expect, commence probably a year hence. The general condition of this estate is reported to be quite satisfactory.

Of the sum invested in properties alone, excluding investments, 29.9% is in rubber, 66.4% in tea, and 3.7% in undeveloped land. The crops estimated, as you see from the report, are for tea 1,195,000 lb., and for rubber 130,000 lb., but from a telegram received we expect that the crop of tea will be increased to 1,390,000, and the rubber crop will be reduced to 100.000 lb. The costs are estimated at 6*d.* f.o.b. for the tea and 1*s.* 4*d.* f.o.b. for the rubber, both showing a very satisfactory reduction, and both those prices will yield us undoubtedly a good profit. The cost of bringing our produce home, of course, has risen. Roughly speaking, on tea it means ¾*d.* per lb. that we have to pay by way of additional freight and war insurance, and on rubber possibly more than that. The produce harvested up to the end of September—a period of nine months—was: Tea 889,862 lb., and rubber 69,073 lb. Now, coupling the properties and investments together, the combined amount invested is £1,670,210, against £1,459,559 a year ago, and this is distributed as to 46.5% in rubber, 46 3% in tea, 5.6% in tobacco, coconuts, &c., and 1.6% in undeveloped land. These interests, as a total, represent a holding by this Trust of 25,784 acres, cultivated in rubber, tea, tobacco, and coconuts. Coupling investments, properties, and loans together, the total amount invested is £1,783,987. So far only 37.3%, or £666,575, has given us any return, and as yet even that return is a very small one, while 62.7%, or £1,117,413, has as yet given us no return at all. As our investments and properties mature, as they are steadily doing of course, day by day, the amount of the capital invested giving a return will also increase, and during the current year we look for a partial return—not a full return by any means, but a partial return—on 69%, or £1,231,677, of the sum invested, leaving 31%, or £552,311, unremunerative; and this process will continue until the whole sum becomes remunerative. As the cultivated acreage owned by this Trust in its investments and properties combined represents, as I have previously mentioned, 25,784 acres, the revenue derived therefrom, when mature, will undoubtedly be sufficient to give a satisfactory return on the whole sum invested, but, like all development undertakings, it calls for patience, and the consolation is that if you have that the result in the end is certain. While we have certain small interests in tobacco and coconuts, we are mainly interested in rubber and tea, almost in equal proportions. I pointed out to you that the percentages are 46.5% rubber and 46.3% tea, but bringing these two things together does not indicate that we have the slightest nervousness in regard to rubber, but that we believe in a Trust like this it is a wise thing to have a dual interest in two products such as tea and rubber, both of which have a wonderful future before them.

Profit and Loss Account.

Turning to the profits, our gross profits amounted to £28,236. Our gross expenses, including interest on loan and the loss on this year's tea crop, amounted to £28,614, which shows a small loss of £378. We, however, recovered £2,031 from income tax paid in excess last year, and, therefore, our profit and loss balance is increased by £1,653, and amounts to £109,309, as against £107,655 last year, and, with your consent, we propose to carry forward this amount. The expenses include £18,372 for interest on loans, and I need hardly point out to you, I think, that if we had not incurred those loans it would have meant calling up the uncalled capital more rapidly, which, under present conditions, it was not our desire to do. Had we, however, called up our capital we should have avoided this interest charge, and the £18,000 odd would have appeared as a profit. Nearly the whole of the revenue this year has been derived from dividends and interest, and while these show an increase, it has not been quite the increase we looked for, because all the Companies in which we were interested last year, wisely, I think, were very conservative in regard to the distribution of dividends. The profits from sales of shares and commissions have been trivial. We did not sell shares because we believed that they would advance in value, and the figures which I have given you show that that view was the correct one. The profits from other sources were almost entirely stopped by the War.

Effects of the War.

A little over a year ago I told you that I refused to believe that the whole world was going to allow itself to be involved in war over the alleged transgression of one small State. In common with many others, I was wrong, and we now know that Serbia was only seized upon as an excuse for a long-premeditated aggression on the part of Germany, which this country and its Allies in self-defence were compelled to resist. Apart entirely from the individual sorrow which it has brought to a great many of us, it has, of course, temporarily, I believe, damaged our business interests, and it has affected this Trust in various ways. It has affected it by raising the rates of interest and so increased the cost of its finance; it has raised the cost of freights and all materials, and has delayed and increased the expenses of our factories and machinery; it has made it necessary for us to find money for some of the companies in which we are largely interested, as these companies could not have raised that money by further issues of capital. At the outbreak of war it seriously interfered with the work on the properties, necessitating a revision of the staff and a modification of our general policy, entailing a curtailed planting programme. Some of these difficulties were temporary and, I am glad to say, have mainly disappeared, whilst the others will remain for the period of the war at least. On the other hand, the War has demonstrated, I think in a very wonderful way, what we have always known—those of us who have been interested in the industry—the enormous importance of the plantation industry. It has emphasised the necessity of rubber for mechanical traction both in war as well as in peace. I do not think it necessary for me to say anything more about rubber. I have had to defend rubber in years past, when there were a great number of people who doubted its prospects; but the necessity for now defending it is over. It is realised what a great industry it is, what a great future it has got before it, and of what enormous value it is to this country in the crisis through which we are now passing. None of us looked forward, at least I did not look forward, to this War when I was thinking about this industry in the early days, but if one had thought about this War being likely to occur it would have been the greatest justification imaginable for creating this plantation rubber industry.

Tea Prospects.

In regard to tea, the prospects are, I think, equally encouraging. At the outbreak of war prices fell, and the initial crop harvested for the period under review was sold prior to the subsequent recovery in price, which came about as the outcome of the increased demand. We shall benefit this year both from a reduced cost of production and from an advance in price, and while prices of tea generally may be temporarily interfered with by the imposition of this fresh duty, when peace is restored a great many changes will take place, one of which will, I believe, be a largely increased demand for, and consumption of, tea, not only in this country, but more particularly in Russia.

Value of the Trust's Shares.

I would again impress upon you as I have always done, that this is a development Trust, and that its revenue cannot largely increase until its own properties, and those in which it is largely interested, reach the productive stage. We are getting nearer to this all the time, both with our own properties and those in which we have large interests. It may at times appear to you as being a slow process, but those of us who have been interested in the development of these properties know that in regard to rubber it takes some eight years, and in regard to tea some six years, before you can get any return worth speaking about. However, it only requires patience, and if you exercise patience I am absolutely certain that this Trust will justify the belief that we all have in it. No dividend being paid this year, there may be some shareholders who are quite unable to gauge the value of their shares in this Trust, and, therefore, I feel it my duty to give you some indication of what I believe to be the intrinsic merits of the shares, so that you may be guarded against unduly sacrificing your interests. The net assets of the Company amount in round figures to £1,400,000, and the fully paid up capital and the partly paid—that is 15*s.* per

share paid up—to-day amounts to £1,063,654, leaving a surplus of £336,346. This divisible amongst the shareholders means a premium on the present partly paid shares of 4*s.* 9*d.*, instead of a discount of practically 5*s.* 6*d.* per share. That is what I believe to be the exact position to-day in regard to what is commonly called the break up value price of your shares.

Mr. Lea-Smith: You mean to say that the shares are worth 19*s.* 9*d.*?

The Chairman: That is right. Now, gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, and I will ask Mr. Hamilton to be good enough to second the resolution, and then, if there are any points which I have missed, or any questions which you would like to ask me, I shall endeavour to answer them to the best of my ability.

Confidence in the Future.

Mr. Edward L. Hamilton: Ladies and gentlemen, the Chairman has given you such a clear and exhaustive statement of the affairs of the Trust, and has dealt so fully with its prospects, that it is not necessary for me to do more than formally second the adoption of the report and accounts. I should, however, like to say that I have absolute confidence in the future of the tea and rubber properties owned by the Trust which it is developing, and also in the future of those companies in which we have such a large interest. I am satisfied that they will return a handsome yield on the money which we have invested in them. Our Chairman has told you that it is a very long process, which I admit, but I have no doubt whatever that your patience will eventually be rewarded. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Shareholders' Questions and Criticisms.

Mr. J. Lea Smith said that hitherto he had always been satisfied with the reports issued by this Company, but he could not say the same in regard to the present report. The Chairman had laid a lot of figures before the shareholders which it was impossible for them to follow at a meeting, but he had not said anything about whether they were going to have a call or not, nor had he said a word about the options. Those options would run out in March of next year, and that being so the directors ought long ago to have told the shareholders whether they proposed to extend such options until, at any rate, six months after the termination of the War. He did not think the shareholders were being properly treated by the directors, who should tell them frankly and fully what they were going to do. There was one further point on which he would like some information. A good many companies were reconstructed and brought under the management of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield. This applied to the Asahan and Kasintoe, which had been reconstructed during the past year, but it did not appear that this Trust had taken up an interest in those undertakings.

Mr. Charles Lock remarked that he shared the disappointment which Mr. Lea Smith had expressed with regard to the contents of the report and accounts. In previous accounts very fair profits had been shown, but these had been lumped together, so that it was quite impossible to discover from what sources of business the Company's revenue had been derived. It was a great disappointment to him to find that, instead of being an investment Trust deriving their income partly from dividend-paying investments and partly, perhaps, from properties which they themselves were developing, they had put practically all their money—something like £1,500,000—into existing companies, hardly any of which were paying a dividend, while as regarded their undeveloped properties, naturally they could expect nothing from them for some little time. This appeared to him to be very rash and indiscreet finance; in fact, it meant that they were putting all their eggs into one basket in the worst possible and most vicious form. If they had put their money into something speculative which was producing a high rate of dividend for the time being there would have been something to be said for it, but to put all their money into things which were not yielding any income was the height of folly, and did not inspire confidence in the administration or foresight of the board. He did not wish to imply that the Trust was in a bad position, but he made these remarks with the object of endeavouring to inculcate a little more caution and foresight into the operations of the board. He was pleased to hear from the Chairman that 69% of the Company's investments, including properties, were likely to be remunerative during the coming year. That was to a certain extent reassuring, because it meant that if they received 5% on that portion of their capital it would represent practically a dividend of 3% on their entire capital. In the balance sheet, however, there were temporary loans to the amount of £417,000, and it was quite possible that the revenue derivable from those investments would be largely swallowed up by the interest payable on such loans. Moreover, the Trust was under liability to advance £266,000 to the various companies in which it was interested. There was no reference to this in the auditors' report last year, and he therefore wished to know whether the liability had been undertaken during the period under review. If the board had plunged into obligations to that extent in a period like the past year, he for one would call it somewhat rash. Those two figures represented an aggregate liability of £683,000, and the shareholders no doubt would have to pay up their 5*s.* a share in order partially to meet that liability. If so, he would not quarrel with that for a moment, for it would be sound finance to do it under the existing circumstances. He did not call it sound finance to have got into that position, but having got into it they must get out of it if they could. It was satisfactory to learn that the net depreciation on investments of £193,000, mentioned in the auditors' report, had since been reduced to £161,000. So far as it went that was encouraging. Referring to the profit and loss account, the speaker said that, in his opinion, it was highly improper to take credit therein for interest accrued, especially in view of the fact that this course did not appear to have been adopted in previous years. The net result of the profit and loss account, even taking in the accrued interest, was a loss of £377, which was a lamentable result considering the large amount of capital invested. Having regard to the present liabilities of the Company he would urge upon the board that no further obligations of any kind should be entered into.

Mr. Michael asked what further expenditure had been incurred on the properties since the accounts were made up.

The Options on the Shares.

Mr. Dean inquired whether it was the intention of the directors to extend the options, and also whether the Company had sufficient resources to meet its present liabilities, amounting roughly to £700,000, without issuing further capital. He hoped that when the market revived, and it became possible to realise some of their holdings at a fair profit, the directors would do so. Those holdings were all intrinsically sound, but the shareholders could not wait indefinitely for a return on their capital. He quite agreed with the previous speaker, who had urged that no fresh business in connection with companies in the development stage should be undertaken, because, in his opinion, they had already bitten off more than they could chew.

Mr. Fidler drew attention to the calls in arrear, amounting to £4,585, and asked if the greater part of them had since come in.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the options on shares would not expire until March 31 next, and when the time came to go into the question the board would deal with the matter with the greatest fairness to all concerned.

A shareholder asked when the board would come to a decision on the subject.

The Chairman's Reply.

The Chairman: Long before the options expire—in ample time. Continuing his reply, the Chairman said that the Trust took an underwriting interest in the Asahan and Kasintoe Companies and made a small profit. With regard to the remaining liability on the shares, it had been announced over and over again that their policy was to make the calls gradually, and their object in paying such a large bank interest had been to relieve the shareholders from any further calls as long as they possibly could. With regard to what Mr. Lock had said as to the investment policy of the board, he was perfectly certain that that policy was the right one. Shareholders should recognise the fact that some time must elapse before the properties in which they were interested were fully developed.

An Absolutely Sound Position.

If they wanted a good business they must build it up, and he had no hesitation whatever in saying that in regard to their holdings, they occupied an absolutely sound position, because the trend of all of them was upwards, and they were not of a speculative character. In spite of the depression in these war times, their holdings were steadily increasing in value, because there were a great number of investors who realised the intrinsic merits of the shares held by the Trust, and were quite willing to wait for the results which they would inevitably yield. In reply to Mr. Dean, there could not be any shadow of doubt as to the ability of the Trust to finance any of the business which they had undertaken. Mr. Michael had asked about the expenditure on the properties. It was difficult to state straight off the exact sum expended on the properties, but he would be pleased to give the information at the office. As to the calls in arrear, the amount at present outstanding was £2,100, and a large proportion of that was due either from aliens or from shareholders on this side who were serving their country in some shape or form. In the latter case the utmost consideration had been extended, and with regard to the aliens their shares would be forfeited if they did not pay up. With reference to their liability to advance sums aggregating £266,440, this obligation had been entered into during the past year, but shareholders would realise that if the Trust had a large interest in various companies and, under existing circumstances, those companies could not obtain the money they required, it would be the height of folly on the part of the Trust not to come behind them when they knew that those undertakings were perfectly sound. He did not agree with the suggestion that they had bitten off more than they could chew. They would chew what they had bitten off, and chew it very well, and in due

course the result would be excellent dividends. Of that he was confident.

The motion was then put and carried *nem. con.*

The retiring directors, Mr. C. A. Lampard and Mr. W. Megginson, were re-elected, as were also the auditors, Messrs. Ford, Rhodes and Ford.

Captain Evans proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors. He remarked that the directors had been passing through a very trying time, and he was sure they all hoped that Mr. Lampard's views as to the result would prove correct.

Mr. Palmer seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the vote, and expressed the opinion that the profits of the Trust would increase from now onwards.

The proceedings then terminated.

LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING CO., LTD.

THE annual general meeting was held on October 7 at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, the Earl of Wemyss (the Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: This is the first annual meeting of the Company. Its trading has practically synchronised with the most terrible year in the world's history—a year in which this country has been engaged, and is still engaged, in a war so terrible in its nature, so costly in blood, so destructive of the capital of the country that no man alive dares to predict what may be its ultimate economic and financial result. I am sorry to say that two of our ships during the past year have fallen victims to the enemy. The *Rio Iguassu* was legitimately sunk by the German cruiser *Karlsruhe* and the *Rio Parana* was afterwards sunk by a torpedo in the Channel. I am glad to say that in both cases there was no loss of life. Of course, the loss was covered by insurance, but much valuable earning time was wasted during the period these two ships were being replaced.

Trading Profit.

Our Company, as regards six of its nine vessels, is under a time charter with the Rio de Janeiro Light and Power Company. Under this charter they are sure, no matter how low freights may be, of having continual and remunerative employment, but the system has its disadvantages. We cannot have it both ways, and while freights are high we cannot reap the full advantage of those high freights. Apart from this we have had considerable bad luck, because two of our unchartered ships met with accidents. One of them was laid up for five months and the other for four months at a time when they might have been reaping a golden harvest. If you refer to the balance sheet, gentlemen, you will find that the trading results show a profit of £130,588 0*s.* 7*d.* The directors propose to deal with this sum in the following way:—£4,123 14*s.* 5*d.* goes for various expenses, and £21,697 goes towards paying the interest on and the redemption of Debentures. On this latter item I should like to say one word. Many companies of this nature are handicapped and their earning possibilities chocked by the weight of Debentures round their necks. We have raised £200,000 of 5½% Debentures, towards the liquidation of which we agreed in the prospectus to pay £29,000 annually. We propose to have a reserve for contingencies of £25,000. I will come back to that item in a moment. Underwriting and other formation expenses are written off by £5,500, and £20,000 is put to a general reserve—making reserves of £45,000 altogether, leaving a balance of £54,267 [illegible].

Dividends.

The directors propose, with your approval, to deal with that amount in this way—the payment of the fixed dividend of 7% on the Cumulative shares will absorb £6,721 4*s.* 4*d.*, leaving £47,545 19*s.* 6*d.* available for further distribution. We propose, with your approval, to carry forward £2,545 19*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance of £45,000—exactly the same amount as we are putting to reserves—which we propose to divide in the following way:—A supplementary dividend at the rate of 4½%—under the prospectus the Preference shares are entitled to a first call of 10% on the divisible profits of the Company—which will absorb £4,500, and a dividend of 27½ on the Ordinary shares, which will amount to £40,500. I think you will agree with me that this is a fair arrangement, and it is also a satisfactory one. You will see that we subscribed £40,000 to the War Loan. In the balance sheet £6,000 is put down as paid, but since it was made up we have paid the whole of the balance. You will see on the other side a loan against security of £19,000, and the whole of that has been paid off. As regards bills payable in respect of the purchase of and secured on steamers not included in the Debenture trust, £37,250, the whole of that amount, I am glad to say, has been paid off, and the two steamers which were security for this loan have been included in the Debenture trust. I am glad to tell you this, gentlemen, that, whereas at the time of the prospectus our steamers aggregated 62,676 tons dead-weight, on July 31, with the same

Officers' Complete Equipment



A distinctive smartness in style, perfect fit, and the finest materials obtainable, are guaranteed in every uniform cut and tailored by Hope Brothers.

Service Jacket	£2 9 6
,, ,, Whipcord	2 19 6
Service Trousers	1 1 0
Service Knicker Breeches	1 8 6
Pantaloons	1 15 0
Greatcoat	3 15 0
British Warm	2 15 0
Sam Brown Set of Belts	2 5 0
Service Cap	0 12 6
Khaki Shirts	0 6 6
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Spurs complete with straps and chains)	5 6

Every item of Equipment for Officers of the Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces supplied at shortest notice.

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Naval & Military Tailors and Complete Outfitters,

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REBATE OF INCOME TAX ON LIFE ASSURANCE PREMIUMS

THE STATE has shown its approval of Life Assurance as a means to National Thrift by allowing a liberal rebate of Income Tax on Life Assurance Premiums. This concession applies equally to WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCES and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES (within certain limits) on the life of the taxpayer or his wife. No other mode of investing money offers similar advantages.

A SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND

Policy, besides entitling to rebate of Income Tax at the present high rates, enables the Policyholder at once to restore the capital value of his investments by small annual payments out of income.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND.

Funds: 22 Millions. Claims Paid: 43 Millions.

[illegible] the Society's [illegible]

HEAD [illegible]: LONDON OFFICES:

[illegible]

Manager & Actuary.

number of steamers, the dead weight tonnage was increased to 71,510—practically 9,000 tons more than we started with; and it is also a fact that, although the price of the ships has increased enormously, yet at the date of the balance sheet, comparing the cost of our fleet with the original cost in 1914, it practically comes out at the same price per ton dead-weight. Since that date we have made a most satisfactory sale of our oldest steamer, and that at a price which will reduce the book value of the remaining ships, reckoned per ton dead-weight, very considerably. I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that this is a very satisfactory result indeed. I go so far as to say that I consider it a very remarkable result indeed, and I have less hesitation in saying this because, as Chairman of this Company, I wish to give credit where credit is due. I consider that the directors of a Company of this sort have great duties to perform. The whole responsibility for what happens is on them. It is their duty to dictate the policy, and it is their office to see everything and to approve of everything that is done; but I think that they are wise—a board of this kind—if, having a good manager, they leave to that manager the daily management of the details of the Company. I think that we have been indeed fortunate in the way in which Mr. Petersen—who, after all, is more interested in the finances of this Company than anyone else—has unremittingly and devotedly given his time to the work of your Company. Even at a time when that shadow of bereavement which threatens all our homes probably at the present moment darkened his home and extinguished the light of it he gave his time ungrudingly and unceasingly to the work of the Company, and I think it is to his resource, to his ability to seize an opportunity, to meet difficulties half-way, and, perhaps above all, to drive a very good bargain, that we find ourselves in our present splendid position.

Promising Outlook.

I think that the outlook for shipping generally must be prosperous. Tonnage has decreased, is decreasing, and during the War must go on decreasing. Then, even if the War ends more quickly than any of us can hope at the present moment, there will be an aftermath left which will take a lot of clearing away, and there will be a great deal for shipping to do. We do not know what burdens may be put upon the shipping industry. Whatever those burdens may be the shipping industry is prepared to shoulder them willingly and ungrudgingly as long as these burdens are fair and evenly distributed.

Mr. William Petersen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The supplementary dividend on the Preference shares and the dividend on the Ordinary shares will be posted to the shareholders on the night of October 18, and the transfer books of the Company will be closed from October 13 to October 21.

PLYMOUTH CONSOLIDATED.—Capital, £240,000, in £1 shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Value £	Value Per Ton	Costs* £	Costs* Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 (5 mos.)	44,775	40,625	18/2	30,406	13/7	10,219	4/7	—
1915.								
Mar. qr.	31,100	32,661	21/7	19,765	12/4	12,828	8/3	⅛
June qr.	33,150	35,078	21/2	20,567	12/5	14,511	8/9	⅜
July	11,000	11,317	20/8	6,915	12/6	4,402	8/0	⅜
Aug.	10,800	10,954	20/3	6,525	12/1	4,429	8/2	½

* Including development.

Dividends—1915, June, 1/0; Sept., 1/0.

PROVINCIAL CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES.—First interim dividend of 5%.

SAO PAULO TRAMWAY LIGHT AND POWER.—Dividend of 2½% on Common stock.

SEREMBAN RUBBER ESTATE CO.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax.

SIAK (SUMATRA) RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 9*d.* per share, less tax.

STRATHMORE RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax.

SUNNYGAMA CO.—Interim dividend of 30%.

TALAWAKELLE ESTATES CO.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax, on Ordinary.

TYSPANE TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 7%, less tax, on Ordinary.

UNITED SUMATRA RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 2*d.* per share.

WATSON, JOSHUA, AND CO.—Dividend of 5% on Ordinary.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

The organ of the wealthy classes of the North-Western Counties and of North Wales. Its influence is wide and far reaching.

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BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
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Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
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The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers

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Capital Authorised	-	$25,000,000
Capital Paid up	-	$11,560,000
Reserve Funds	- -	$13,000,000
Aggregate Assets	-	$180,000,000

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T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
JAMES MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Established 1864.

Paid-up Capital	($7,000,000)	£1,438,356
Reserve Fund & Undivided Profits	($7,245,140)	£1,488,727

Head Office: Montreal.
PRESIDENT—SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, C.V.O.
VICE-PRESIDENT—K. W. BLACKWELL.
GENERAL MANAGER—E. F. HEBDEN.

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THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
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ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID)	$6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ...	$9,000,000

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LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

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Authorised Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund ...	510,000
	£1,010,000
Paid-up Capital	125,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits ...	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.
Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.
Drafts issued and **Remittances** effected.
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Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.

Authorised Capital	£1,500,000
Called up	£600,000
Reserve Fund	£55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£900,000

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41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.

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SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
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PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
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Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	...	£2,782,420
With power to increase to	...	4,000,000
Reserve Fund	... ...	525,000

Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
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Capital Issued	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ...	500,000

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London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

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Reserve Fund	22,000,000
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$33,000,000
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PAID-UP CAPITAL...	... ...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	... ...	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	... ...	4,645,575
		£8,194,100

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NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

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HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { A. Rossi. / R. B. Handley. / G. Costa.

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LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	$3,600,000
Total Assets over	$80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital ...	... Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	... ,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	... ,, 19,600,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwang	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

RIO TINTO COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Share Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from Saturday, the 9th, to Saturday, the 30th October, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the Half-yearly Dividend on the Preference Shares, and the Interim Dividend on the Ordinary Shares, which will be paid on the 1st November.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are informed that they will receive payment of the said Half-yearly Dividend on Preference Shares at the rate of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share, less Income Tax, and of the said Interim Dividend on the Ordinary Shares at the rate of Twenty Shillings per Share, less Income tax, on and after Monday, the 1st November, 1915, on presentation of Preference Share Coupon No. 37, and Ordinary Share Coupon No. 36, either at the Company's Office in London, or at the Société Générale, Rue de Provence 56, Paris.

Coupons for payment in London must be left four clear days previously for examination, and may be deposited forthwith.

By Order,
J. GORDON MACLEOD, Secretary.

Offices of the Company:
3 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
13th October, 1915.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

FOUR PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE STERLING BONDS (1908).

The Coupons due on the 1st November next on the above-named Bonds will be paid at the Financial Agency of the Company in London, the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5 Princes Street, London, E.C., where the customary lists may be obtained.

The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Applications for payment must be made between Ten and Two o'clock.

The Transfer Books for the Bonds registered as to Principal and Interest are closed, and will remain so until the 1st proximo inclusive.

The London Joint Stock Bank Limited,
5 Princes Street, London, E.C.

CITY OF SASKATOON FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st November, 1915, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented on and after the 18th inst. between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted) at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
11th October, 1915.

THOMAS TILLING, LIMITED.

For the purpose of preparing the Interest on the Income Debenture Stock the Transfer Books will be closed from October 16th to October 30th inclusive.

C. LOVERIDGE, Secretary.

Winchester House, Peckham, S.E.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

The Board of Directors has declared a quarterly dividend of one per cent. upon the Adjustment Preferred Stock of the Company, payable at the office of the Company, Commercial Trust Building, Philadelphia, Pa., on and after November 19, 1915, to the Adjustment Preferred Stockholders as registered at the close of business October 30, 1915.

E. H. ALDEN, Secretary.

NOTICE.

THE BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Board of Directors of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 27th October, at Twelve o'clock noon, when the Directors' Report and an Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1915, will be presented and the ordinary business of the Company transacted.

Holders of Warrants to Bearer desiring to attend the meeting must deposit their Warrants at the Offices of the Company with a statement of their name and address not later than Twelve o'clock noon on Saturday, the 23rd October, 1915, when they will receive certificates entitling them to attend and vote.

The Transfer Books and Registers of Members of the Company have closed from the 30th September to the 14th October, both days inclusive.

Dated this 14th day of October, 1915.

By Order of the Board,
A. GIET, Secretary.

Offices of the Company:
River Plate House,
Finsbury Circus,
London, E.C.

NOTICE.

THE BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE to the holders of Ordinary Stock Warrants to Bearer that should the Board's recommendation to pay a balance dividend for the half-year ended 30th June, 1915, of 2 per cent. (less Income Tax) on the Ordinary Stock be accepted by the Company in General Meeting convened for Wednesday, the 27th October, 1915, Coupon No. 16 will be payable on and after the 28th instant at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Company, 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN to the holders of Stock Warrants to Bearer that Coupon No. 16, representing interest for the half-year ended 30th June, 1915, in respect of the Five per Cent. Preference Stock, will be payable (less Income Tax) at the same date and place.

All Coupons will be retained three clear days for verification.

By Order of the Board,
A. GIET, Secretary.

14th October, 1915.

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Ordinary Shares of the Company will be closed on the 21st instant until the 10th November next, both days inclusive, for payment of the Half-yearly dividend.

By Order,
ROBERT CARMICHAEL, Secretary.

61 Threadneedle Street,
11th October, 1915.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S

Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale.

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

BRYANT AND MAY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from Wednesday, 20th October, 1915, to Wednesday, 27th October, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order,
JOSEPH H. G. REED, Secretary.

THE NOBEL-DYNAMITE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

(In Voluntary Liquidation.)

The Liquidators of the above Company GIVE NOTICE that, in accordance with the powers vested in them by Special Resolution of the Shareholders duly passed and confirmed at meetings held on 25th August, 1915, and 9th September, 1915, they have now concluded the Agreements then approved, and Shareholders should now surrender their Preference and Ordinary Shares of the Nobel-Dynamite Trust Company, Limited, to be exchanged for Shares of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, Glasgow, in terms of the circular of the 9th August, 1915.

Special forms of surrender are provided and will be sent direct to holders of Registered Ordinary Shares and Preference Shares. Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer can obtain the necessary form at the places hereunder mentioned.

The Company's Registered Office, 220 Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The London City and Midland Bank, Limited (Metropolitan Bank Branch), Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

The Belfast Banking Company, Limited, Belfast.

These surrender forms must be completed and delivered, together with the Share Certificates and or Share Warrants to Bearer (the latter with Talons and Coupons Nos. 31 to 37 attached), to one of the addresses above indicated.

In exchange for their present securities Shareholders will be handed Receipts, to be retained by them, pending the preparation of the Share Certificates of Nobel's Explosives Company, Limited, Glasgow. Due notice will be given when these Share Certificates are ready for issue.

H. J. MITCHELL, M. B. DICKIE, } Liquidators.

220 Winchester House,
Old Broad Street,
London, E.C.,
15th October, 1915.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

For further information please apply:—GRAY, DAWES & Co., 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., and 16 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; or GELLATLY, HANKEY & Co., Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C., and 62 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
Sub-Governor—ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
Deputy Governor—CHARLES S. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.
Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq. Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ORDINARY and INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.
LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bonus Policy is designed specially to meet present conditions, and provides for old age, or for widow and orphans in case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3,840,000.

Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated in Canada 1851.

Paid-up Capital £513,698. **Total Losses Paid exceed £12,600,000.**

FIRE Consequential Fire Loss **MARINE**

Insurances granted at Current Rates.

British and Foreign Office - 14 CORNHILL, E.C.
W. A. MILES, Fire Manager. H. M. BENTLEY, Assistant Fire Manager
R. H. R. BURDER, Underwriter and Secretary.

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

Payable in Advance.

Inland.

ONE YEAR, £1 10 0 | HALF-YEAR, £0 15 0

(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 | HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8

(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,

51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

POINTS
from the
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

for the Year ending 20th November, 1914.

Mortality experience... ... 72½%
Expense Ratio ... ... 10[illegible]%
Rate of Interest, less Tax ... £4 1 10%

"This Line M[illegible] ... and ... best." *Financial Times.*

WRITE FOR PROSPECTUS TO 48 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

ROYAL LONDON
INSURANCE OFFICES.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.
ROYAL LONDON AUXILIARY INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

LIFE, FIRE, ACCIDENT.

Head Office:
ROYAL LONDON HOUSE, FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

[illegible]

A Safe Five per Cent.

with Absolute Security of Capital and freedom from investment worries and expenses. Write for Leaflet "D.14" explaining this ideal form of Family Provision.

The STANDARD LIFE Assurance Co. Estd. 1825.

Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.

London: 82 King William Street, E.C.,
and 3 Pall Mall East, S.W. [illegible]

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, October 15, 1915.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 17s. 3½d.	£97 14s. 10½d.	£96 12s. 5½d.	£95 10s.
Discount Rate	4½ %	4½ %	4½ %	4½ %

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4½-	4½	4½	4½
Trade Bills	—	5¼-½	5½	6

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses—Call.	Discount Houses—Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3⅝
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2½
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2½
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3½
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

MONEY.

Thanks to the heavy maturities of Treasury bills, added to the effect of the Government dividend payments last week, the market has been very full of money, and only the loyalty of the bankers to their agreement not to lend below 4½% has kept the level of rates comparatively steady. An instalment on the War Loan was paid without producing the smallest apparent effect, and the problem of lenders has generally consisted in the difficulty of finding borrowers. This state of things, of course, is bound to be fairly constant under present circumstances, except during times when the Government is sitting on an immoderate amount of money. So much book-keeping credit has been created, through the Bank of England's enormous holding of securities, that the Money market can only be kept from a condition of saturated superfluity by the Government maintaining an exaggeratedly bloated balance.

When the Government has to pay out its quarterly dividends, or to meet a large number of maturing Treasury bills, and its exaggerated balance is thus diminished, straightway the market gets into a condition of flatulent ease, and there is at once a tendency to let discount rates drop. We have frequently pointed out that the maintenance of discount rates here will not suffice to maintain the American exchange, because our weight of purchases of American material is now so overwhelming that the only thing that can keep the exchange steady is heavy borrowing in America, or a reduction of our purchases in America, or an increase in our sales to America. Nevertheless, since firm discount rates assist one form of borrowing in America, they are a help towards one of the means by which the exchange can be steadied, as a state of things which makes it difficult to maintain them requires prompt correction. Even now there is still extreme ease, although the public deposits are over 70 millions. The ease is immediately due to the fact that the public deposits have come down to 70 millions from 177 millions, which they touched in July, but it is primarily due to the addition to credit caused by the great size of the Bank of England's holding of securities.

Cables from New York and hints in the City tend to confirm the view that something is being done to extend borrowing operations in America beyond the £100,000,000, divided between us and France, which has been achieved by the Loan Commission. This is very good news for several reasons. The Loan, by itself, would not have sufficed to steady exchange for long; and, moreover, if arrangements can be made, as reported, for some sort of commercial credit between the bankers of the two centres, in the first place we shall be enabled to draw on the enormous short loan fund now accumulated in New York, as well as the money of investors throughout the various States, and, in the second, this may be the beginning of a machinery for adjusting the exchange position between the two money markets without calling in the ponderous and portentously slow-moving steam-roller that has to be got to work whenever anything has to be done officially.

Of course, kite-flying in New York cannot meet all the requirements of the position; and, if it could, it would not be a sound method to employ beyond a certain point, since bills have a tiresome habit of falling due, and no one can be comfortable with too many of them outstanding. Nevertheless, it will be an enormous gain if London and New York can arrange to come together like two business centres, without any of the red tape and pomposities that are involved before the Government can be got to work. If such an arrangement could have been initiated some months ago, we should have been a richer nation to-day, and our credit would have stood considerably higher.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The figures of the Bank return do not justify the weakness of discount rates which has been marked this week, for although the proportion of reserve to liabilities has risen to 27.16%, which is the highest figure since February last, the stock of bullion has fallen to £59,956,000, the Bank having lost nearly 8½ millions since September 1. Against a further export of £1,670,000 in gold for the week the moderate amount of £375,664 returned from internal circulation, and as there was a contraction of £316,000 in the note circulation, the reduction in the reserve was £978,000, and the total reserve now stands at £45,845,000, which compares with £54,558,000 on September 1. Besides losing on the reserve the market also had to find nearly 10 millions in connection with a reduction in the Bank's portfolio. These various demands upon bankers' balances were, however, almost entirely met by payments out of public deposits, which have run down another 10½ millions. Bankers' balances or "other" deposits are, therefore, only £395,000 lower at £97,907,000.

POSITION IN NEW YORK.

The loans of the New York Banks and Trust Companies have been advancing without a check since the end of July last. They were then £493,000,000, and an addition last week of more than 5¼ millions brought the total to the high figure of £560,976,000. This increase was accompanied by an addition of £4,970,000 to the deposits, which are within a touch of £597,000,000—also a high record. The reserve on the other hand is slightly lower. Money has remained extremely cheap at 1¾ to 2% for day-to-day loans, whilst the exchange upon London has not improved on the eve of the flotation of the Anglo-French loan which was to be offered for public subscription to-day (Friday). The transfer rate, which was 4.68⅞, and fell to 4.68⅛, has now recovered to 4.68¼.

The following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—			Rate Oct. 14	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London	...	sight	$4 67¼	4 86½ dollars for £1	3 8
„ ...	...	cables	$4 68⅛		
„ ...	...	60 days	$4 65		
Amsterdam	...	sight	40⅝c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 0·9
Berlin ...	...	sight	82⅝c.	95 cents for 4 marks	13·0
Paris ...	...	sight	5 85½fr.	5.18 francs for $1	13·0
Mexico	...	Mex. silver $	38½c. U.S.	50c. U.S. for 1 Mex. $	23·0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Oct. 14, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ... 2%
Oct. 15, 1914 ...	„ „ ...	6-7%	„ „ ... 6-7%

POSITION IN INDIA.

There was a much better demand for exchange upon India at Wednesday's allotment of India Council drafts, for whereas 50 lacs were again offered the applications reached nearly 304 lacs, as compared with 287½ lacs in the previous week. This increase was chiefly due, however, to larger applications at an unacceptable figure, with the result that the allotment was only made at the same rate as a week ago, and applicants got a bigger percentage. Doubtless owing to this the Council have decided to reduce the amount next week to 40 lacs. The last return of the Indian Currency Department shows a contraction of 85 lacs in the note

circulation, which has fallen to 6,295 lacs. This contraction has been offset by a reduction of a similar amount in the silver reserve, which has fallen to 3,689 lacs. The stock of gold in India and in London are both unchanged.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 5 per cent. (June 2, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, October 13, are:—

Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers.			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	2,90,000	79,000	27	1 3 13/16	1,24,00,000*	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4	1,16,00,000*	31,77,000	27
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	60,00,000	16,44,000	20
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/8	1,00,000	1,00,000	100
Total ...	2,90,000	79,000	—	Total ...	3,01,00,000	49,21,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered.	Tendered.	Accepted.
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 3,03,90,000	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	8,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 24,39,000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 14,70,000	1/4.033	1/4 1/16
Bombay ...	8,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 7,38,000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 2,74,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/16
Madras ...	63,000	1/4	1/4	—	—	—

From April 1 to October 12 inclusive the Council granted remittances for Rs. 5,87,95,297, realising £3,918,759. Up to October 13 of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was Rs. 5,74,55,861 realising £3,831,653. The total sales for the week ended October 12 amounted to Rs.50,10,000, realising £334,165. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will be reduced to 40 lacs.

SILVER.

Bar silver, which last week rose 1/16d. to 23 15/16d., has further advanced to 24d. The continued strength of the market seems to be due more to European coinage orders than to any Eastern demand.

	Oct. 8	9	11	12	13	14	15
London ...	23 15/16	23 15/16	23 15/16	24	24	24	24
India ...	Rs. 61½	61⅜	61 5/16	61½	61⅜	—	—
Exchange	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

Stock Exchange.

The principal feature in the general stock markets this week has been the improved tone of some descriptions of foreign railways, including more particularly those of Argentine and Mexico. Mexican bonds have also been inquired for. Apparently this revived interest in things Mexican appears to be due to the growing impression that the United States Government will officially recognise the Carranza party. The behaviour of the American markets has been extraordinary and phenomenal rises in prices have occurred, more particularly in industrial shares, which have been on the upward grade for some while past. American Railway securities have also distinctly improved, nor is this to be wondered at having regard to the expansion of trade, and the outlook of the railways having to move a greater quantity of goods and grain than probably ever before. Not only have the Americans been investing in the quite new form to them of foreign Government issues, but also in their home industrial and railway issues. The ability of English holders to dispose of American securities to willing buyers is an economical help to this country.

Mexican Government and Railway Securities.

	Mean Price July 27, 1914	Price Oct. 1	1915 – Oct. 15
Government Stocks—			
Internal 5%, 1894 ...	35½	18½	18½
5% External, 1899 ...	87	51½	52½
6% 10-Year Treasury Bonds, 1912	89½	60	60
4% Gold, 1904 ...	62½	35	35
Railway Securities—			
Interoceanic 5% 1st Pref. ...	47½	20	20½
,, 4% Deb. ...	70	39	40½
Mexican Ord. ...	33	19½	19½
,, 8% 1st Pref. ...	104	55½	55½
,, 6% Deb. ...	116½	72½	72½
Mexican Southern 1st Deb.	72½	65	65
Mexico N.-W. 6% 15-Year Prior Lien Bonds	64½	50	50
National Non-Cum. 4% 1st Pref.	22	12½	12
,, ,, 5% 2nd Pref.	10½	8	8½

CUBA RAILROAD.

Although it is the slack season in Cuba, the earnings of the Cuba Railroad Company are remarkably big, and it is evident that the trade of the island continues exceedingly active. In July the gross earnings amounted to $420,000 or $37,000 larger than in July of last year, and the net profit at $138,000 showed an improvement of $46,000, or 51%. The August results were even more satisfactory, for with an increase in gross receipts of $73,000, the gain in profit comes out at $64,000 or over 100%. For the two months, therefore, the Company has added no less than $110,700 to its gross traffic results, an improvement equal to 15.2% compared with a year ago, which in turn were $40,000 larger than in the first two months of 1913-14. Despite the larger traffic handled, moreover, the Company has been able to save some $3,700 in working expenses, so that the net increase for the period amounts to $114,400, or 39%. On the other hand interest charges have absorbed $3,700 more than a year ago, and the gain in profit comes out at $110,700, or 72.7%. The income statement of the Company for the first two months of the current year is appended:—

	2 months to Aug. 31		Increase or Decrease	
	1915	1914		
	$	$	$	%
Gross earnings	836,724	726,031	+110,692	+15·2
Working expenses	429,244	433,001	— 3,757	— 0·9
Ratio	(51·30)	(59·64)	—(8·34)	—
Net earnings	407,480	293,030	+114,450	+39·0
Fixed charges	144,282	140,571	+ 3,711	+ 2·6
Net profit	263,198	152,459	+110,739	+72·7

We dealt fully with the position of the Company in our issue of September 18, and there showed that in the twelve months to June last the profit for dividend amounted to $1,275,000, a sum equal to 12¾% on the Common stock. As this was after making liberal allowances for betterments, the real profit earning capacity of the road was equal to a still higher dividend on the Common. The excellent result achieved so far in the current year makes the position even more assured, and as the outlook for the coming sugar crop is very satisfactory the growth in earnings and profits for the complete twelve months should be large. There is no public interest in the Common stock, which is all held by the Cuba Company, but the 6% Preferred stock, now quoted at about 94, is an excellent investment, affording a yield of nearly £6¾. To show the margin of profit behind the issue at the present time and the rapid improvement in the earning capacity of the road in the last few years, we give the following statement:—

Cuba Railroad.

Year	Net Profit	Extraordinary Replacements Charged to Expenses	Total Profit	Dividends Earned On Preferred Stock Rate	Dividends Earned On Preferred Stock Amount	Dividends Earned On Common Stock Rate	Dividends Earned On Common Stock Amount	Divs. Paid Pref.	Divs. Paid Com.
	$	$	$	%		%		%	%
1915-16...	1,385,000*	—	1,385,000	6	$600,000	12¾	$1,275,000	6	6
1914-15...	1,874,000	—	1,874,000	6	600,000	12¾	1,275,000	6	6
1913-14...	1,651,000	—	1,651,000	6	600,000	10½	1,050,000	6	6
1912-13...	1,414,000	96,000	1,510,000	6	600,000	8	800,000	6	4
1911-12...	1,060,000	96,000	1,156,000	6	600,000	5½	550,000	5½	—
1910-11...	797,000	96,000	893,000	6	600,000	3	300,000	4½	—
1909-10...	672,000	96,000	768,000	6	600,000	1½	150,000	3½	—
1908-09...	551,000	96,000	647,000	6	600,000	½	50,000	1½	—
1907-08...	355,000	156,000	511,000	5½	512,000	—	—	—	—
1906-07...	288,000	156,000	444,000	4½	450,000	—	—	—	—
1905-06...	37,000	114,000	151,000	1½	150,000	—	—	—	—

* Based on the results for the first two months only.

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Mining Topics.

The War and political events of the week have had but a slight adverse effect upon the Rand mining department, and no appreciable changes in prices have occurred, but where movements have taken place they have been to somewhat lower prices. A certain amount of profit-taking apparently has been resorted to in the shares of companies operating in the Far Eastern Rand. On the favourable side there is the improvement in diamond shares, also in Mexican mining issues, to which we call attention, and the strength of the American group of copper shares. As to Mexican issues, the inquiry fidget is due to belief that the Carranzista party will be officially recognised by the United States Government. The American copper group is influenced by improving dividend distributions. Added to the idea of the Anaconda absorbing the Miami and Inspiration Companies, there is an impression that the Utah Copper Company will also be absorbed.

Mexican Mining Companies.

	Make-up July 24, 1914	1915 Oct. 1	1915 Oct. 15
Buena Tierra		10/0	10/0
Camp Bird	8/0	4/6	4/9
Santa Gertrudis			
El Oro	14/0	7/0	7/6
Exploration		7/3	7/0
Mexico Mines of El Oro ...	4	3	3

The recent mild recovery that has occurred in diamond shares, and more particularly De Beers, is in the main due to the prosperity of the United States, always in times of good trade a big buyer of diamonds. The idea that the De Beers Company will materially benefit from entering into war contracts is quite a third-rate consideration.

Rand Profits.—The following is a contrast of the profit results of those Rand companies which have issued their returns since we went to Press last week:—

	Sept. £	Aug. £	July £	June £
Knights Deep	15 232	12 735	14,081	16,023
Langlaagte Estate ...	13 626	13,281	12,803	13,668
Randfontein Central ...	58 756	61,305	57,032	57,089
Robinson Deep	24 273	26 001	25,034	25,203
Simmer and Jack ...	28.514	30.132	32.565	30.169
Simmer Deep	4.042	4 343	5.000	5,753
Village Main Reef ...	25,668	26,009	24,097	23,347

MODDERFONTEIN DEEP.

We dealt generally in our issues of August 28, September 4, and September 11 with Eastern Rand propositions, while on September 18 and 25, also October 2, we considered the affairs of the New Modderfontein. On October 2 and 9 we dealt with the Modderfontein B; also the Geduld's extension policy was briefly dealt with on October 9. This week we propose to discuss the affairs of Modderfontein Deep.

As far back as April 1899 area immediately to the south of the New Modderfontein was taken up by the Modderfontein Deep Levels, Limited. Not till after the end of the Boer war was the step taken of sinking bores to ascertain the location of the reef, but in 1902 by means of two bores this was done. Then there was another period of quiescence, during which there was acquired some small additional area in the acute apex to the east of the triangular property, making the present mine area 377½ claims. The position of these claims will be noted from the plan that accompanies these remarks. In 1910 provision of capital was made and further capital subsequently issued, so that at the present time the issued capital of the Company is £500,000, a final issue of 45,000 £1 shares having been made in November 1914 at the price of 35*s.* per share. In respect of the nominal £500,000 of capital it has to be borne in mind that the Company issued 88,000 shares for the purchase of areas and 412,000 shares for working capital. Beyond the par of £412,000 all but 10.000 shares were placed at premiums aggregating £347,375, and we understand that at the present time the Company has cash resources in hand. There is no floating debt.

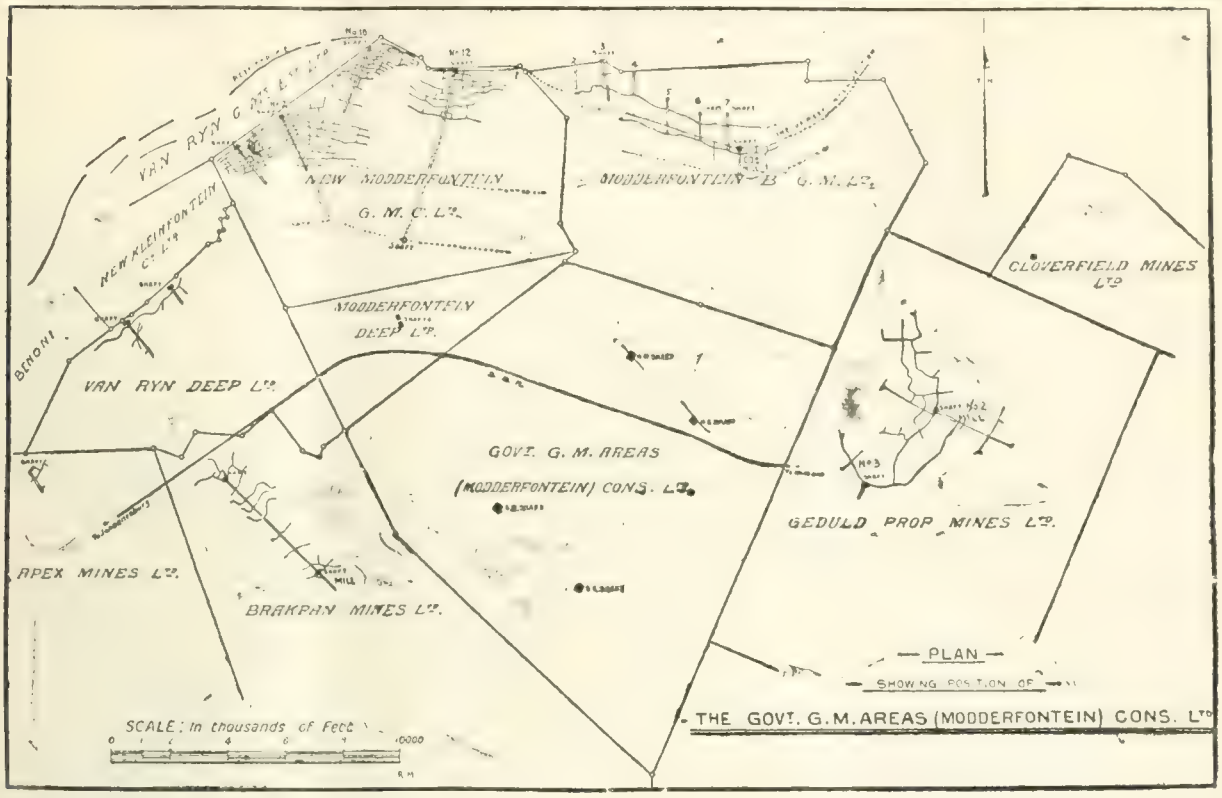
Early in 1910 shaft-sinking was started, and by August 1912 a first shaft intersected reef with satisfactory showings. The erection of a reduction plant was decided upon and quickly consummated, a start of crushing being made December 1904, or about a year from the time erection was commenced. Initially the plant was of 60 stamps and six tube mills. Though designed to deal with 30,000 tons a month, the capacity of the plant has proved to be greater—34,500 tons being milled in July and again in the 30-day month of September.

By the time the mill was ready to start the Company had effected developments that gave it very near to 2,500,000 tons of blocked-out ore reserves, based upon a stoping width of 69 inches, and showing a gross assay value of 34*s.* per ton over such width. The assay value is arrived at after reduction of ore of exceptionally rich showings, and while we take note of such reductions, we may further say that the assay value must not be interpreted to mean the extractable value. Owing, however, to improvements in developments that have been going on, and also as an outcome of sorting effected both below and above ground, we witness the fact that the actual extraction yield of gold per ton crushed has in the past quarter averaged 36*s.* 7*d.* per ton.

We have mentioned that when the first shaft intersected reef the showings were satisfactory, but the developments effected as extensions of driving have been made have proved even more satisfactory. It will be interesting to set out the showings of the past nine quarters, and these are given in the table below:—

	Sampled Feet	Value	Width Inches	Shilling-Inches
1914.				
Mar. qr.	3,345	39 6	48.3	1,908
June qr.	4,980	46 9		2,037
Sept. qr.	2,395	41 8		2,109
Dec. qr.		Not issued		
1915.				
Mar. qr.	180	43 9	53.5	2,330
June qr.	865	57 9	49.4	2,847
Sept. qr.	1,130	60 9	44	2,673

The ore reserves at December 31, 1914, were 2,450,000 tons—these were fully developed reserves, but besides the blocked-out ground that gave such figures a considerable amount of driving had also been



effected but did not block out ground. It looks as if the new developments that have been effected must have fully opened up further ore reserves more than equalling the quantity of ore that has been used since the start of milling, and private advices report discovery of a further leader close to the "roof" of the ore body at first developed on. If this advice is accurate and a leader is found to continue it may add to life.

The nature of the reef formation in this property is quite different to what it is in the New Modderfontein ground. The reef width of the New Modderfontein in recent months has averaged 12 inches, and of very good grade indeed over this thickness. The reef in depth at the Modderfontein Deep alternates with partings of country rock—analogous to the lean and fat layers in "streaky bacon"—and the actual development work shows that the true reef strata vary as to the aggregate as indicated in above development showings. The stoping width adopted at the Modderfontein Deep is 69 inches, comparing with 63 inches at the outcrop New Modderfontein mine. Really, however, the ore at the Modderfontein Deep mine is more valuable than that of the New Modderfontein, in consequence of the considerably larger aggregate thickness of the reef. Thus the June quarterly development statement of the New Modderfontein showed over a stoping width of 63 inches a gross assay value of 33*s.* 5*d.*, while the Modderfontein Deep for the September quarter showed over 69 inches stoping width a gross assay value of 38*s.* 8*d.* It may be noted incidentally that the fact of the Modderfontein Deep having an aggregate wider reef than the New Modderfontein augurs well for the nature of the ground further in depth in the New Modderfontein's property.

In dealing with the New Modderfontein recently, we pointed out that its property was proved all round from outcrop—east, west, and south. With the Modderfontein Deep we have the fact that besides property to the north, property to the south—the Brakpan—has also proved continuity of good reef. We may now set out the progress of the Company since milling commenced.

Modder Deep. — Capital £500,000, in £1 shares. Sixty-stamp mill—six tubes—started December 14, 1914. Capacity of plant at present about 35,000 tons monthly. Arrangements made to increase to total of 40,000 tons monthly. Sorting both below ground and on surface. In table below only the above-ground sorting percentage is given.

Year ends Dec 31 1915.	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt. £	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
Mar. qr.	60	86,050	8	125,769	29/3	79,191	18/5	46,578	10/10	3⅛
June qr.	60	97,000	11	167,246	34/5	80,819	16/7	86,427	17/10	4 1/16
June ½-yr.	60	183,050	9½	293,015	32/0	160,010	17/6	133,005	14 6	—
July ...	60	34,500	6½	63,808	37/0	28,934	16/9	34,874	20/3	4 1/16
Aug. ...	60	34,000	7	62,191	36 7	27,527	16/3	34,664	20/4	4 3/16xd
Sept. ...	—	34,500	—	62,995	36 6	28,249	16/4	34,746	20/2	5

* Profits include sundry revenue.

Dividends—1915, June, 10 per cent.

For the first few months after start of milling a considerable absorption of gold occurs with new plant, but with the Modderfontein Deep's plant this absorption is now over and done with as to the plant in operation. It will be noted how gradually the real stride of the mine was got into. For the first three months of 1915 the profit made was only 10*s.* 10*d.* per ton—this being due to the absorption—and to a less extent the June quarter was similarly affected, the profit being 17*s.* 10*d.* per ton, but in the September quarter the profit slightly exceeded a pound per ton.

The remarkably satisfactory aspect that this mine has presented during its short history as a producer led very quickly to the decision on the part of the directors to increase the capacity of the plant. In July last the announcement was made that the plant was to be extended to a capacity of 40,000 tons a month, it being estimated that the cost of providing the additional plant would amount to some £23,000, and it is expected that it will be ready for operation in the middle of 1916. We have pointed out how the capacity of 30,000 tons initially aimed at has been more than attained, and with the data of nine months' results for this year we can formulate an estimate of what may be very near to the actual results secured for the whole of 1915. In the estimates we give below we set out what may be about the showing of 1915, and then what may be an approximate result for 1916, based on similar results for the June half of 1916 as for the December half of 1915, and assuming that 240,000 tons are dealt with in the December half of 1916 at a profit of 20*s.* per ton. We show what may be the rate of profit on the capital in both years. We go still further and give an estimate for 1917 based on a gross profit of 20*s.* per ton in respect of 480,000

tons, making a liberal allowance for taxes, &c. We summarise these by saying that on the capital of £500,000, 1915 may show a total net profit equal to about 56%, 1916 to about 79%, and 1917 to about 83%. It will be noted that in the figures of the 1915 estimate we wipe out entirely the £23,000 capital cost that may be provided out of profit..

		£
1915.	Profit, actual, June half	153,005
	" " September quarter	104,284
	" Estimated, December quarter	104,711
		362,000
Appropriations		
	Taxes, &c., say £10,000	
	Cost, new plant 23,000	63,000
	Clean profit	279,000

Equal per cent. on £500,000 capital, *55·8 per cent.

* Of this a 10 per cent. dividend paid for June half.

1916.	Profit: first half, say as for December half, 1915	203,000
	" second half, 240,000 tons at 20s. per ton	240,000
		449,000
	Taxes, &c., say	55,000
	Clean profit	394,000

Equal per cent. on £500,000 capital, 78·8%.

1917.	Profit, say, 480,000 tons at 20s. per ton	480,000
	Taxes, &c., say	65,000
	Clean profit	415,000

Equal per cent. on £500,000 capital, 83%.

The next important point to be considered is the question of life. Here we have a property of comparatively small size, which is surrounded by proved reef-bearing ground, and the developments so far are unaccompanied by any important dyke, though here and there faults have been encountered. In recent calculations as to the life we have assumed—adopting a cautious attitude—an allowance of 15% for faults; but it now appears reasonable to reduce this allowance to 10% only, as more proof has been afforded as to the nature of the ore deposits. Hence we may take it that, deducting 10% from the total 377½ claims owned, the net pay area is 340 claims. With a dip of 11 degrees and, say, 69 inches adopted for a stoping width, the gross quantity works out at some 31,000 tons per claim, and, after deduction of 10% allowance for packing underground and surface sorting, we put the net mill tons per claim at 28,000 tons. Applying such mill tons quantity to the net area, we have the following:—

	Mill Tons
340 claims × 28,000 mill tons per claim ... ... =	9,520,000

Such quantity on the use of 480,000 tons per annum would equal about 20 years' life.

In assuming a valuation of the Company's shares there are points to be borne in mind. We have witnessed that a plant designed to deal with 30,000 tons a month has been able to deal with near to 35,000 tons, and if when the designed plant for 40,000 tons is completed there should be excess over that quantity it may mean some slight reduction in the life, accompanied by the benefit of increasing dividends. Without going into intricacies, we may for valuation purposes assume an average rate of 80% dividend for 20 years, 85% for 19 years, and 90% for 18 years. We set out what this would make the present value of the share, on the investor desiring to have an income of 10% and applying excess of dividend he receives to a sinking-fund by investing the excess at 5% for the redemption of his capital at the end of the life. The value upon the different bases varies as under:—

Assumed Life Years	Average Dividend on £500,000	Present Value of £1 Share
20	80%	6½
19	85%	6¾
18	90%	6¾

Heretofore, in making valuations, we have assumed accumulation to be invested for sinking fund at 4% only. We raise the rate to 5%, as conditions are changed.

NEW GEDULD DEEP.

A LITTLE over 13 years ago we emphatically protested against the methods adopted by the promoters of the old Geduld Deep, Limited, in introducing shares on the market at a price of about 2½ in respect of an issued capital of 245,000 £1 shares.

In 1908 a return of 8*s.* 6*d.* per £1 share and reconstruction was effected, the capital of the New Geduld Deep being made £30,000 in 300,000 shares of 2*s.* each. All the 300,000 shares are in issue, as beyond about 245,000 shares credited as fully paid which were passed to old shareholders, approximately 55,000 shares were taken up for cash in 1909 at the price of 5*s.* each.

The position of the New Geduld Deep property is in Geduld farm, immediately south of the Geduld mynpacht and close to the north of the Springs Mines. In its freehold of 200 morgen the Company has a mynpacht of 172.4 mining claims. The rest of the 200 morgen of area was divided up into stands. Of the initial 935 stands 318 have been sold—an aggregate of 28 stands sold in 1913 and 1914 secured £2,252, or an average of about £80 per stand. This left at December 31, 1914, 617 stands unsold .

On the inception of the old Company it could not possibly have been felt that profitable results could be secured with 172 claims only. The cost of shaft sinking and development work would have been wasted on so small a property. If, as expected, the Springs Mines turns out to be a profitable proposition, there is the outlook that the Government will initiate lease conditions in respect of area to the north of the Springs property, inclusive of the property of the New Geduld Deep and "The Springs" triangular ground which belongs to the Government.

Turning to the balance sheet of the Company as at December 31, 1914, we find the Company possesses 172.4 mynpacht mining claims, 617 township stands, and some cash. The position may be summarised as under:—

	£	Approximate Value per Share s.
172 mynpacht claims at £100 per claim ... ... (The £300,000 of the Springs capital that was paid for 1,332 claims at par equals £225, and at market price at £280 per claim)	17,200	1.15
617 stands at £30 per stand	18,510	1.23
Cash	22,000	1.52
	57,750	3.90

This bed-rock valuation of £100 only per claim and £30 per stand can be altered according to individual ideas of what values may be when a comprehensive scheme for working is arrived at.

The present price of the shares in the market is about 2*s.* 6*d.* The Company out of its income paid a dividend of 3*d.* per share in April last.

Particulars of the Company in M.O.A. form are set out below:—

NEW GEDULD DEEP, LIMITED.

(*Registered, S.A., September* 21, 1908.)

The Geduld Deep was wound up voluntarily in August, 1908, and the above property acquired by the New Geduld Deep.

Johannesburg Office—63-4 STOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING. J. S. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Office—5 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS. C. W. MOORE, *Secretary.*

Directors—J. T. WILLIAMS (*Chairman*), E. MANSFIELD (alternate H. SOUTHCOTT), D. SIMPSON (alternate H. HARGREAVES), J. O. REID (alternate R. MATHIESON), A. W. SPEYER.

London Committee—B. HANSFORD, D. E. HIGHAM, R. S. ALLEN.

Accounts—December 31. **Meeting**—(Johannesburg) April 30, 1915.

At December 31, 1914, the Company had about £22,000 cash resources.

Capital—£30,000 in 300,000 shares of 2*s.* each; all issued 245,025 shares were credited (except 25) as fully paid to shareholders of Geduld Deep, Limited, *pro rata* to their holdings.

During 1909 the Company sold its 54,975 reserve shares at 5*s.* per share.

Consolidated Mines Selection Company interested.

Transfer—Common form; fee, 2*s.* 6*d.* per deed.

Dividends April, 1915. 3*d.* per share equals £3,750.

Property - Freehold of 200 morgen (172.4 claims have been granted mining rights) on the southern portion of the farm Geduld (see Map 6), and 935 stands (50 × 100 ft. and 50 × 50 ft.) forming the remainder of the 200 morgen which were not obtained as mining claims. Of such "stand" area 318 have been sold (28 in 1913 and 1914 for £2,252) leaving at December 31, 1914, 617 stands unsold. This portion (200 morgen) of farm Geduld was retained by the President of the late Transvaal Republic at the time he sold the rest of the farm to Messrs. A. Goerz and Company. He afterwards disposed of the present Geduld Deep area to the Springs (Transvaal) Real Estate Company, Limited by whom it was sold to the initial Geduld Deep Co.

It has been anticipated that the reef come upon in the property of the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited, will be intersected in the centre of the area of the Geduld Deep at a depth of about 2,800 to 3,000 feet. In the Springs Mines, Limited, north shaft the reef was met with at 3,438 feet depth. The property is considered too small to equip, and probably some scheme of fusion of area with Government ground may be arrived at.

MAIN REEF WEST.

This Company in its early days did not have a pleasant outlook, but then there was disclosed a run of distinctly good ore which brought the Company in a very large amount of profit in the years ended June 30, 1910 and 1911. Thereafter, however, profits fell off, and there was much unpayable development work and new finds of good ore were wanting. Latest developments are not encouraging, as the crosscuts into ore at the lowest or 15th level are reported as "disappointing." As year by year results have passed from bad to worse, we have a sad contrast of profit per ton and dividends in each year to June 30 to set out as below:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Profit per ton ...	3 9	5 4	7 10	11 3	11 3	11 6	8 10
Dividends % ...	nil	nil	nil	12½	17½	25	(1st)12½

In 1909 an issue of £300,000 6% First Mortgage Debentures was made to provide for equipping the mine with reduction plant, &c., and these were to be redeemable by annual drawings of £25,000 or by purchase in the open market, with a first drawing October 1, 1913. This rate of redemption was effected, and again in 1914, but the directors in September this year secured powers to suspend for three years the redemption or purchase of £25,000 annually of Debentures. It should be mentioned that the capital in issue is £491,888. A contrast of operations and appropriations of each of the last two years is set out below:—

Year ended June 30		1915 £	1915 Per Ton		1914 £	1914 Per Ton
Gross revenue ...	(269,520 tons)	318,711	23/8	(212,972 tons)	308,284	28/5
Expenses ...		267,858	19/11		246,470	23/1
Mine profit		50,856	3/9		62,514	5/4
Surplus net receipts		2,367			5,661	
		53,245			68,175	
Taxes ...	3,518			6,708		
Deb. redemption	25,000			25,000		
,, interest, &c.	15,138			16,442		
Pit-lass, &c.	4,390			4,714		
Cap. expenditure	3,585			10,611		
Sundries ...	315			547		
		51,946			64,022	
Surplus		1,297			4,153	
Balance brought forward		23,414			19,261	
Balance carried forward		24,711			23,414	

The taxes provided in above appropriations were in respect of the year previous, and the 1914–15 Government Unrated War tax have not yet been paid.

The pay-ore reserves at June 30, 1915, were returned as 416,280 tons, of an average assay value of about 24*s.* 9*d.* per ton over a stoping width of 51 inches. During the year the Company milled 269,520 tons, but the developments, in consequence of the shortage of labour, were so backward that the ore reserves were trenched upon to the extent of some 110,000 tons. It will be noted from the appropriations set out above that some small amount has been applied to capital purposes, and the postponement of the obligation to annually retire £25,000 of Debentures will strengthen the Company's cash resources. It is imperative to proceed with the sinking of two secondary incline shafts in the furthest underground workings.

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.

A few years ago two large Rand mining areas of farm Paardekraal had not made any great mark, but the Consolidated Main Reef, the earlier worked Company, was an unsuccessful one, while the Main Reef West, with its deep-level ground, was for a time a successful undertaking. At present we have the feature of the Main Reef West mine showing a falling-off—and an appreciable falling-off at that—in its results, while the Consolidated Main Reef, or the eastern ground, is in depth yielding better results than heretofore have been secured from the upper workings.

With the Consolidated Main Reef "mine" there has happened as often on the Rand—the occurrence of a big dyke intrusion, with a strike from east to west. This occurrence of dyke has necessitated a layout of the deep-level ground as if it were quite a separate mine from the outcrop. Virtually the part north of the dyke area is worked out as to its good-grade reef. In the area south of the dyke a large-pattern vertical shaft was sunk, and the operations from such shaft now yield the ore that is treated at the mill. In the western driving from the central main shaft the showings are not so good as could be desired, but in the eastern drive they are decidedly richer than at the west.

Immediately to the east of the Consolidated Company's ground there lies the property of the Consolidated Langlaagte—a successful enterprise. For the year to June 30, 1915, in contrast with the year previous, the Company, through its ability to secure an adequate supply of labour, obtained better results than in the previous year, and in place of the 5% dividends declared for the two half-years to June 30, 1914, was able to pay 6¼% in December last and again in June this year. A contrast of results is detailed in the following tabular statement:—

Consolidated Main Reef.—£924,364, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; three tube mills.

Year ends June 30	Tons Stps.	Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14...96	av.	241,016	12	379 543	31/6	262,942	21/10	116,601	9/8	..;
1914-15 95½	av.	294,760	12½	442,649	30/0	304,384	20/7	138,265	9/5	19/0
1915–16.										
July ...110		28,110	13	39,842	28/4	27,520	19/7	12,322	8/9	18/9
Aug. ... —		28,180	—	39,532	28/2	27,514	19/6	12,018	8/6	19/0
Sept ... —		23,090	—	41,123	29/3	27,576	19/8	13,547	9/7	19/9

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 6¼ per cent.
1915, June, 6¼ per cent.

In the Consulting Engineer's statement accompanying the report he winds up by saying:—

"Given a continuance of the present labour supply the rate of profit earned during the past year should be maintained during the ensuing year."

The amount of work that is being done with the increased labour is much greater so far this year compared with the corresponding period. Showings for the six quarters to June 30 last are set out in the table of developments below:—

	Feet on Reef	Payable Length Feet	Payable Aver. Value*	Unpayable Length Feet	Unpayable Aver. Value*
1914.					
Mar. qr. ...	1,911	1,196	44/7	686	14/10
June qr. ...	2,872	1,758	36/6	1,014½	13/7
Sept. qr. ...	3,042	1,622	39/8	1,420	16/7
Dec. qr. ...	3,344½	1,840⅛	45/0	1,504	16/1
1915.					
Mar. qr. ...	2,982⅛	2,162½	33/7	770	12/9
June qr. ...	3,803	2,935½	42/6	867½	13/2

* Based on 48 inches width.

The ore reserves were in the last year increased as to quantity, and, to a slight extent, there was a gain in grade, the contrast being as under:—

	1915 Tons	1915 Value	1914 Tons	1914 Value
South Reef... ...	46,050	23/9	52,200	22/6
Main Reef Leader ...	809,550	32/4	641,260	31/10
	855,600	31/11	693,460	31/2

There are three reefs: the Main Reef, scarcely touched, not more than 2% being mined; the South Reef, which is poor and patchy, approximately 22% of which is mined; and the Main Reef Leader, which is the reef chiefly relied upon, there being used last year 76% of this ore.

In 1909, after the ascertainment of the existence of dyke, it was officially computed that there remained 800 claims intact. After allowing for the quantity milled since to June 30, 1915, on an estimate of 22,500 mill tons per claim we arrive at a remaining 16,454,000 tons. The mill in full operation can deal with some 300,000 tons per annum—really probably more, as 103⅓ stamps were in operation in the last twelve months, out of 120 stamps, and dealt with just 295,000 tons. On 300,000 tons milled annually the remaining life of the mine works out at equal to 55 years. There is much uncertainty respecting the unexplored region to the south, but even were a third of the area deducted as unpayable there would still be a long life.

The present price of the shares is about 19*s.* 3*d.*

NORTH ANANTAPUR.

In The Statist of February 6, 1915, we called attention to the £1 Preference shares of this Indian gold mine, then quoted about 30*s.*, since when they have risen appreciably in price. The annual report just issued discloses a marked increase in the profit. During the year ended June 30, 1915, a somewhat smaller quantity of ore was dealt with, owing to the suspension of operations for one month for the purpose of changing over from the old to the new plant. However, there was a very appreciable rise in the gold yield, and, despite higher working costs, due to the smaller tonnage milled, the net result for the year was a working profit of £24,643, in comparison with only £11,519 in the previous twelve months.

The marked progress in prosperity of the undertaking is shown in the following table; and in reference to the much smaller yield of gold obtained in the three months of the current year, it should be noted that this is explained in the Superintendent's report as being due to alteration in the method of stoping the ore, which apparently caused a higher grade of ore than the average to be dealt with in the year 1914-15. However, the increased tonnage now being dealt with, and probable consequent lower working costs, should partially offset the reduced gold yield.

Year ends June 30	Ore Milled	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Working Profit	Per Ton
	Tons	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	£	*s.* *d.*
1913*	22,826	31 5	26 2	5,859	5 3
1914...	25,450	36 10	27 4	11,519†	8 8
1915...	22,860	54 5	33 5	24,643	21 1
1915–16.					
July	2,450	40 0	—	-	-
Aug.	2,400	39 6	—	—	-
Sept.	2,600	38 2	—	—	-

* Tailings untreated until December 1912.
† Including sundry revenue and after deduction of Government royalty.

A comparison of the profits and allocation of the last two years is given below:—

Year to June 30—	1913	1914
	£	£
Working profit	24,643	11,933
Sundry revenue	55	
Amount brought forward	732	629
Total available	25,430	12,562
Allocations—		
Income tax and sundries	1,023	337
Amounts written off...	13,082	5,158
Preference dividend	6,250	*
	(25%)	(22½%)
Ordinary dividend	3,813	*
	(5%)	(2½%)
Carried forward	1,262	731
	25,430	12,562
Surplus liquid assets	16,414	8,755
Preference capital	25,000	25,000
Ordinary capital	76,253	74,248

* The combined dividends absorbed £6,335.

Of the working profit of £24,643 for the year to June 30, 1915, no less than £13,082 was applied to depreciation of plant and other writings off. Dividends aggregating 25% on the Preference shares and 5% on the Ordinary were paid, calling for only £10,063, and a larger balance is carried forward. This conservative distribution of profit has had the effect of greatly strengthening the Company's financial position, and the surplus liquid assets at June 30, 1915, after allowing for payment of the final dividends, amounted to £16,414.

As regards the underground position, the Superintendent reports that the ore reserves at the end of June amounted to 54,000 tons, showing an increase of 2,000 tons for the year, despite the milling of 22,860 tons. The value of the ore reserves is not stated. The development work done at the 750-foot, or second lowest level of the mine, gave satisfactory results during the year, although not as favourable as at the 650-foot level, the average width of the ore body being less. On the other hand, the tendency of the ore body to lengthen northwards is of importance. At the 850-foot level, since the date of the Superintendent's report 5 feet of quartz has been intersected assaying 11 dwt. Driving at this level will be watched with interest.

The Preference £1 shares, which are entitled to a non-cumulative annual dividend of 20%, and thereafter beyond to rank with the Ordinary, are now quoted at 34*s.*, at which price, on continuance of 25% dividends, they would afford a yield of about 15%. The profit earned last financial year, but for the liberal writings-off, would have sufficed to pay 35% on the Preference and 15% on the Ordinary shares of the Company. It must be noted, however, that the ore reserve position is none too strong. The Ordinary shares, of course, are much more speculative than the Preference.

Burma Corporation.—Cabled advice reports that the internal shaft sunk from the 171-foot level has again been in pay ore, the values from 431 feet to 436 feet depth being 8½ oz. silver, 10% lead, and 13% zinc over 72 inches. This point is the deepest in the mine, being over 600 feet vertical from surface, and, moreover, as ore has not been exposed in the internal shaft since 366 feet depth below 171-foot level, its reappearance seems to point to renewed widening of the ore body.

Springs Mines.—Developments as under:—

	Total Footage	Footage on Reef	Footage Payable Sampled	Footage Payable Footage	%	Width In.	Assay Value	Shilling Inches
1913... ..	5,749	634	2,700	—	—	32·71*	36,1*	1,177*
1914... ...	13,411	7,454	8,356	4,428	53	23·4	123/3	2,885
1915								
Mar. qr. ...	2,424	1,867	1,875	1,406	75	29	110/6	3,204
June qr. ...	2,533	1,843	1,750	1,015	58	28¾	91 2	2,619
Sept. qr. ...	3,792	2,755	3,135	1,191	38	22¾	112/7	2,503
Total to date**	27,910	14,554	17,820	9,622	54	26·69	99 9	2,890

* Footage sampled.
** Official total.

MINING RIGHTS AND SURFACE RIGHTS

RAND AND RHODESIA.

An interesting conversation entered into by parties during a railway journey too short to terminate a discussion of the bearings of laws as to mining areas, though it became evident that some of the party were interested as shareholders in a forthcoming legal decision, showed there is a remarkable lack of knowledge about mining regulations in different countries.

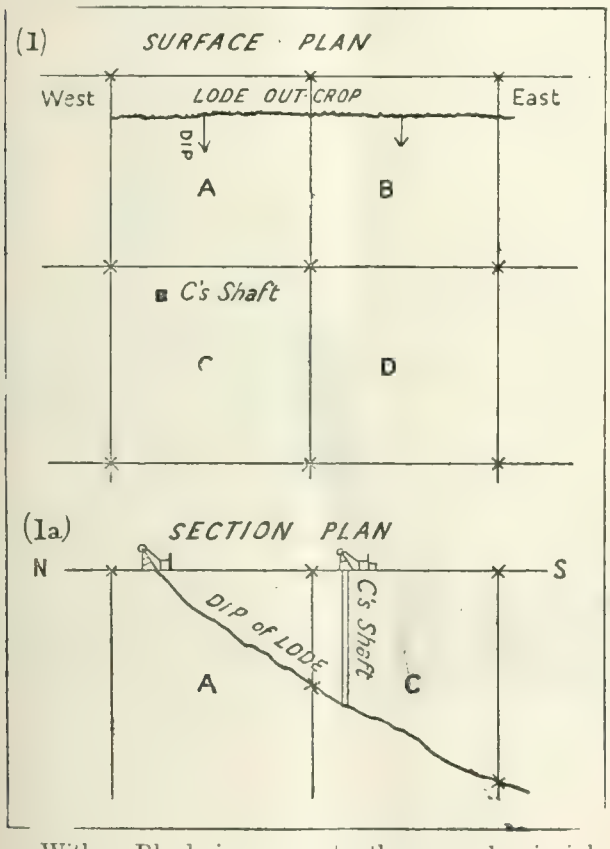
In some countries the area both as to surface and mining rights—as, for instance, the Witwatersrand—is identical. The owner of a Rand property cannot, on the surface, put up plant or in any way encroach on neighbouring properties, nor can he in mining underground go beyond the vertical line of his frontier. In the United States and Rhodesia, not to go farther afield for other instances, the law is such that while the owner of a property is limited as to what he can do in erecting buildings, &c., on the surface, and cannot go outside his boundaries, underground, if he finds the lode that has been discovered to outcrop on his property extends on the dip, he can by the regulations follow such lode indefinitely, though the lode

continues under areas the surface rights of which belong to other persons.

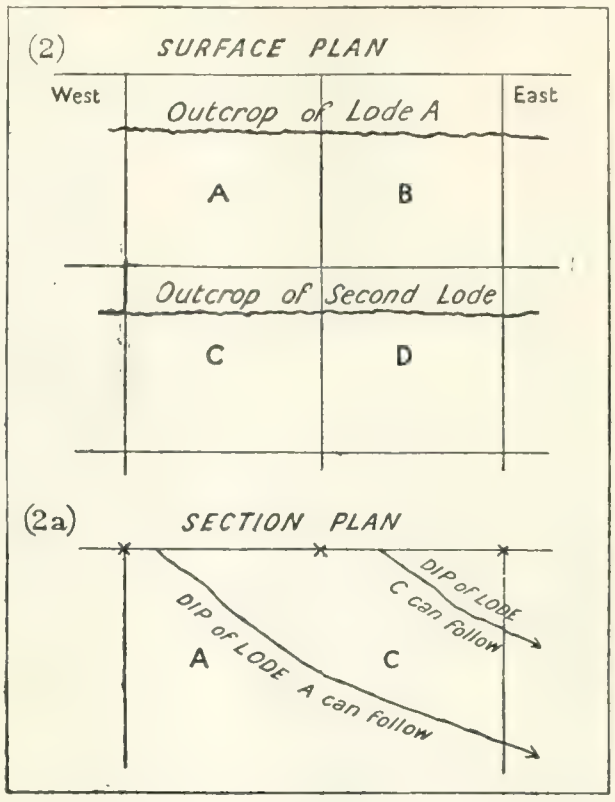
On broad lines, and without going into technical legal variations that may occur through the wordings of agreements, it may be of use in order to understand the matter if we describe variations in regulations and add explanations in diagram form.

In diagram (1) we take the very simple proposition of a Witwatersrand mine. In the Union of South Africa there is a defined area, both as to surface and mining rights below the surface. The four rectangular properties in the diagram (1) have their areas defined by a small cross at each corner. Of course, if the property is of irregular shape there may be several corners. This is very simple, so far.

We add a section plan of A and C areas showing the underground trend of the lode—that is, the "dip" to the south. Parenthetically we may say in the first diagram above the outcrop of the lode at surface has an east to west trend, or, as it is technically termed, a "strike," as shown in the (1A) section-diagram. The owner of property A can only mine lode (or lodes) which outcrops in his property down to the cross that is put vertically under the cross indicating his extent of surface right. The owner of adjoining southern property C has in this case about an equal-sized property as A as to surface rights, and he works the same lode to the extent of his, C's, property, and is able to do so by sinking a vertical shaft, say, to the north of his property, so as to come upon the lode in depth. Similarly with B and D.

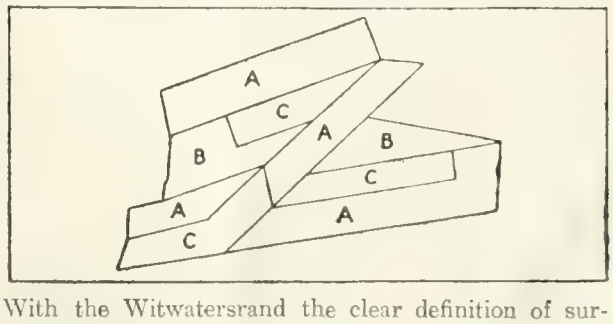


With a Rhodesian property the general principle of the law is different. It is the same as with the Witwatersrand as to the extent of surface rights, but if the discovery of a lode is made though its outcrop in the area of surface right of A, such lode can be followed by A, within the lateral boundaries east and west, "in all its dips, spurs, angles and variations," even though the lode continues beneath the surface rights of C or the owners of other more distant surface rights to the south of the outcrop. Should it occur—as it rarely does—that there is a parallel lode which outcrops on the surface of C's area, C can work and indefinitely follow his lode within lateral boundaries, although he has, unless there be an agreement otherwise, no right to work below his surface rights the lode that outcropped in A's property. Similarly with B and D. The position as to Rhodesia is explained below by diagrams (2) and (2A).



This is a general definition of two quite distinct principles, the one as to the Witwatersrand limiting both surface and mining rights to boundaries, and the second as to Rhodesia and America limiting surface rights, but giving the ability to the owner of the area on which lode outcrop occurs the right to mine the lode discovered in his property indefinitely on its dip under areas possessed by other owners who possess the surface rights.

In the United States regulations somewhat similar to those of Rhodesia have led to much litigation, more especially as in America the surface rights of A, B, C and D are frequently muddled into separate small properties interspersed with one another in manner similar to the plan (3) below, and lodes oftentimes erratically branch off into a network. The rectangular shape generally of Rhodesian areas has simplified the matter of following the lode rights. Consequently in Rhodesia there is little heard of litigation.



With the Witwatersrand the clear definition of surface rights and the limiting of mining to a vertical line within the circumference of such mining rights has been found the most simple, and, consequently, litigation there has been conspicuous by its absence.

Sudan Gold Field.—Capital £63,874, in 10*s.* shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Gold Yield Value £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 ...	16,456	49,898	60/8	36/3	20,047	24/5	3 6
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	—	12,828	—	—	—	—	7 9
June qr ...	4,318	12,143	55/11	—	—	—	8 6
July ...	1,376	3,592	52/0	—	—	—	8/0
Aug. ...	1,310	3,957	60/5	—	—	—	8/3
Sept. ...	1,552	3,877	49/11	—	—	—	8 0

Dividends—1915, March, 1/0.

The tonnage milled, it will be noted, shows considerable increase, while the yield is lower.

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, October 13, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£78,247,935	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	59,797,935
	£78,247,935		£78,247,935

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£25,958,825
Rest	3,158,692	Other Securities	114,706,690
Public Deposits	70,859,619	Notes	46,687,480
Other Deposits	97,967,026	Gold and Silver Coin	157,522
Seven-day and other Bills	33,180		
	£186,511,517		£186,511,517

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Sept. 8	31.8	67.5	129.6	85.9	34.4	145.2	54.1	25·11	5	4⅛
— 15	31.5	63.7	121.5	90.1	34.4	145.0	50.6	23·93	—	4⅛
— 22	31.6	62.9	108.7	89.6	31.3	135.7	49.7	25·00	—	4⅛
— 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	78.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24·75	—	4⅛
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	111.4	93.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·06	—	4½
— 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	—	4½

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 6%; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Sept. 15	172,193,665	105,042,211	67,151,454	28,500,000	42·4
Week to " 22	5,708,267	2,532,149	70,327,572	28,500,000	40.5
" " 29	5,427,770	3,733,017	72,022,325	28,500,000	39.5
" Oct. 6	5,982,646	2,768,094	75,236,887	28,500,000	37·9
" " 13	5,084,861	3,833,255	76,443,513	28,500,000	37·3

II.—Balance Sheet, October 13, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	54,958,885	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	16,874,629	Other Bankers	194,000
Certificates outstanding ..	2,610,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	251,500
Investments Reserve A/c	445,852	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	26,920,563
		Balance at Bank of England ..	21,023,303
Total	76,889,366	Total	76,889,366

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Oct. 7, Thursday ...	Nil.	500,000 sovs. Spain. 90,000 bars. 50,000 Portugal.
" 8, Friday ...	Nil.	300,000 bars. 200,000 sovs. Continent.
" 9, Saturday ...	Nil.	208,000 bars. 250,000 sovs. U.S. 200,000 sovs. Egypt.*
" 11, Monday ...	Nil.	Nil.
" 12, Tuesday ...	Nil.	710,000 sovs. U.S.
" 13, Wednesday	747,000 bars. 400,000 Foreign coin. 600,000 sovs Abroad.	490,000 bars. 415,000 sovs. Egypt.*
Total for week ...	1,747,000	3,417,000
Net aggregate ...	[],670,000 *efflux* for week	
Oct. 14, Thursday ...	Nil.	408,000 sovs. U.S. 225 000 sovs. Spain.
" 15, Friday ...	11,000 bars.	593,000 sovs. U.S.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns, Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£29.4	£28.6	£28.8	£34.7	£32.5
Public Deposits	8.5	9·4	5.3	23.7	70.8
Other Deposits	41.0	46.8	41.8	138.8	97.9
Government Securities	18.5	13.0	14.5	27.6	25.9
Other Securities	28.3	33.5	24.8	109.7	114.7
Reserve	20.6	27.3	25.6	43.0	45.8
Ratio to Liabilities	41⅛%	48·74%	54·30%	26·46%	27·16%
Bullion (both Departments)	31.5	37.6	35.9	59.2	59.9
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5 %	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	3½%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛%	4⅝-⅞%	4⅝-⅞%	3⅜%	4⅜%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 25	25 28	25 10	27 43½
Hamburg 8 days	20 42½	20 50	20 48½	nom.	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 81·75	4 81·35	nom.	4 65
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4⅛	1/4 15/16	1/4 3/16	1/3 5/16	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88⅜	73¼	72¼	68¼	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 50	89 95	87 45	78 25	66.50
Silver, London spot oz	-/28½	-/28⅞	-/28⅛	-/25½	-/24
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	26.9	31/10	31 0	36/8	44/1
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/5·34	-/6·03n	-/7·50	-/5·30	-/7·27
Iron, Scotch pig ton	56·0	72·9	57/9	54/4½	70,6

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Sept. 1, 1915 Pesos	233,500,000
Aug. 25, 1915	233,122,963
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 4, 1915	£5,221,324
Aug. 28, 1915	5,409,724
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,625
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£786	£8,893	£47
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6,255	3,808	2,912	11,293	847
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	979
Sept. 30 1914 ...	3,832	165	3,997	7,350	1,346	11,742	99
Sept. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,227	4,944	965	8,121	67

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Sept. 30, 1915...	£182,006	£14,566	£196,572	£11,189	538,332	£2,568	£107,839
Oct. 7, 1915...	184,054	14,545	198,599	10,698	546,563	2,771	105,081
Oct. 14, 1915...	185,895	14,531	200,426	10,968	550,086	2,377	104,471
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	267,327	15,302	37,930
Oct. 16, 1913	138,549	25,311	163,860	58,426	231,224	10,485	18,488

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†	£62,660	£13,741	£76,401	£2,248	£114,164	£145,471	£62,923
Sept. 30, '15...	120,972	1,872	122,844	44,853	374,186	307,881	220,813
Oct. 7, '15...	121,149	777	122,926	45,236	219,516	293,877	80,771
Oct. 7, '14...	88,535	933	89,468	49,635	167,146	209,944	95,771
Oct. 7, '13...	57,691	12,675	70,636	3,361	65,856	112,630	32,326

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Oct. 2, 1915 ...	32,533	153	32,686	5,884	7,121	45,178	1,174
Oct. 9, 1915 ...	32,554	153	32,707	6 103	6,929	45,339	1,171
Oct. 10, 1914 ...	12,949	258	13,207	15,406	11,300	38,193	1,710
Oct. 11, 1913 ...	12,361	588	12,949	7,099	7,257	26,729	224

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,004	£8,887
Aug. 31, '15 ...	£45,961	£4,498	50,457	5,821	33,950	111,017	28,364
Sept. 10, '15 ...	45,971	4,463	50,434	5,058	31,049	111,587	28 969
Sept. 10, '14 ...	—	—	49,249		39 677	83,498	15 615
Sept. 10, '13 ...	—	—	48,885		21,803	67,057	7,834

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Cash.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,621
Aug. 28, '15...	21,050	618	6,691	33,144	20,840	2,248
Sept. 4, '15	20,979	603	6,023	31,310	20,257	3,860
Sept. 5, '14...	21,643	4,069	8,577	33,395	13,701	1,984
Sept. 6, '13...	21,806	4,978	8,727	33,050	17,803	1,103

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£93,838	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1,720
Oct. 2, '15 ...	£102,154	£34,846	136,800	555,638	591,940	7,298	38,580
Oct. 9, '15 ...	100,280	36,320	136,600	560,976	596,910	7,320	37,520
Oct. 10, '14 ...	—	—	85,690	435,188	387,048	28,828	Def. 1,658
Oct. 11, '13 ...	—	—	81,377	387,194	354,037	8,980	1,348

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Sept. 30, 1915...	3,465	3,705	781	4,045	8,220	1,254
Oct. 7, 1915...	3,555	3,857	781	4,142	8,322	1,301
Oct. 7, 1914...	2,380	1,493	508	6,710	7,370	1,091
Oct. 7, 1913...	2,503	1,768	504	4,186	6,033	457

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£78,081	£163,411	£109,911
Sept. 14, '15...	164,105	2,796	166,901	10,918	369,251	421,084	137,135
Sept. 21, '15...	162,713	2,489	165,202	5,848	386,319	446,154	142,413
Sept. 21, '14...	182,912	5,182	188,094	10,932	135,145	259,067	93,805
Sept. 21, '13...	163,964	6,566	170,530	7,827	98,553	162,703	107,248

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,866
Oct. 2, '15...	29,977	29,522	59,499	41,640	13,777	81,603	25 337
Oct. 9, '15...	30,414	29,316	59,730	41,928	13,777	82,622	25 276
Oct. 10, '14...	21,989	27,399	49,388	60,044	13,778	80 002	23,681
Oct. 11, '13...	18,754	29,382	48,136	41,316	13,778	77,319	16,520

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & for. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,655	£7,495	£13,432	£3,803
Sept. 15, '15 ...	6,300	5,713	2,626	5,048	15,651	3,575
Oct. 18, '15 ...	6,300	6,614	3,066	5,248	17,340	3,357
Oct. 3, '14 ...	5,748	2,768	1,201	8,691	16,255	2,398
Oct. 4, '13 ...	5,700	4,598	1,264	8,107	12,881	2 896

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Sept. 30, 1915...	9,726	2,461	12,187	7 188	17,430	2 887
Oct. 7, 1915...	9,719	2,472	12,191	7,023	17,109	3,112
Oct. 7, 1914...	9,079	510	9,559	11,365	17 303	3,373
Oct. 7, 1913...	6,814	1,137	7,951	5,261	11,158	2,014

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. against Net Liabilities
Sept. 17, 1915...	$57,728	$60,928	$8,732	$63,391	$3,312	$81,238	84·9%
Sept. 24, 1915...	58,045	62,629	8,886	65,988	3,070	83,540	82·2%
Oct. 1, 1915...	56,729	60,028	8,980	64,949	2,859	82,288	82·7%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates — %	Current Rates — Date Fixed	A Year Ago — %	A Year Ago — Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	6	Aug. 20, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 9, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	5	Sept. 1, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3½–4	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts — Total Revenue	Receipts — Total including Loans	Expenditures — Supply Services	Expenditures — Int. on Debt, Advances, &c.	Expenditures — Total	Treasury Balance — + or — Amt.	Treasury Balance — for Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Sept. 18	6,093	38,143	45,397	831	46,228	66,640	— 8,084	237,273
12 „ Sept. 30	6,713	37,473	54,514	—14 588	39,926	64,187	— 2,453	253,612
9 „ Oct. 9	6,167	12,179	31,242	22,534	53,776	22,590	—41,597	235,490
192 days to Oct. 9, 1915	109,034	912,477	683,220	290,118	973,338	22,590	—60,861*	+158,340*
193 days to Oct. 10, 1914	81,538	175,118	133,940	39,513	173,453	12,100	+1,665*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15	Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 64	11 70	11 75	11 78
—	Cable	11 44	11 47	11 55	11 58
Italy	3 mos.	30 40	30 00	29 80	30 00
—	Cable	30 00	29 60	29 40	29 60
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	35½	35	35¼	35
New York.....	do.	4 68½	4 70½	4 72	4 70⅞
—	Cheques	4 69	4 71	4 72⅛	4 71⅞
Paris	3 mos.	27 84	27 72	27 65	28 00
—	Cable	27 44	27 32	27 25	27 60
Petrograd	do.	139½	139	138½	137⅜
Scandinavia	do.	17 90	18 00	18 12	18 15
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46½	46½	46
—	Cable	24 77½	24 75	24 75	24 85
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 40	25 40	25 35	25 40
—	Cable	25 00	24 97½	24 95	25 00

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15	Oct. 1, '15	Sept. 24, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97¼pi.	97½pi.	97⅛pi.	97¼pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fd. 44c.	11fd. 49c.	11fd. 55c.	11fd. 58½c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 3 11/16d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Buenos Ayres ...	90 days	49⅜d.	48 11/16d.	48⅛d.	48⅛d.
Calcutta.....	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 9 1/16d.	1s. 9⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 60c.	29lr. 45c.	29lr. 60c.
Lisbon	Sight	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛
Madrid	Sight	24p. 80	24p. 75	24p. 75	24p. 92½
Montevideo	90 days	53 d.	52⅞d.	52⅝d.	52⅝d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 69½	$4 71	$4 73	$4 71½
New York.....	Sight	$4 67⅞*	$4 69⅞	$4 72⅝	$4 71
—	60 days	$4 65*	$4 66⅞	$4 69	$4 68½
—	Cables	$4 68¼*	$4 70⅜	$4 72⅞	$4 71⅝
— on Paris	Sight	5.85½f.*	5.81f.	5.76f.	5.87f.
— on Berlin	Sight	82½c.*	82½c.	84½c.	83½c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight	40½c.*	40⅜c.	40½c.	40½c.
— on Mexico	Silver $	38½c. U.S.*	38½c. U.S.	38¼c. U.S.	38½c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 42½c.	27f. 30c.	27f. 27½c.	27f. 60c.
Petrograd	Sight	139⅛	138¼	138	137½
Rio de Janeiro...	90 days	12¼d.	12 3/16d.	12 1/16d.	12 7/16d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 90	18kr. 07½	18kr. 07½	18kr. 12½
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4 7/16d.	2s. 4 3/16d.	2s. 4d.	2s. 3 15/16d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 95c.	24f. 95c.	24f. 95c.	25f. 00c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 3/16d.	9 1/16d.	9 1/16d.	9½d.

* Previous day's rates.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	%
BIRMINGHAM...	Oct. 9	1,836,278 +	669,685	68,393,361	+ 6,985,949	+ 11·3
BRISTOL.....	„ 9	815 000 —	117.000	31.040.000	+ 1,878,000 +	6·4
DUBLIN	„ 9	4.197.400 +	179.500	150.262 500	+14.897.200 +	11·0
LEEDS	„ 9	601.901 +	190.424	25.572.187	+ 5.309.941 +	26·2
LEICESTER.....	„ 9	4 [illegible].728 +	191.281	15.989.282	+ 3.806.310 +	31·2
LIVERPOOL ...	„ 9	5 34[illegible].044 +	1.621.319	221.659.372	+39.042.892 +	21·3
MANCHESTER ...	„ 9	7.570.744 +	2.239 005	271.622.794	+ 7.009 968 +	2·8
NEWCASTLE ...	„ 9	1.617.000 +	619.000	59.306.300	+12.253.600 +	26·1
NOTTINGHAM ...	„ 9	468.000 +	94 057	14.489.447	— 387.948 —	2·5
SHEFFIELD ...	„ 9	719.204 +	317.251	24.386 838	+ 3.930 235 +	19·2
LONDON—	1915.	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
TOWN	Oct. 13	220.149 +	18.498	8,525.799	— 1.898.950	—18·2
METROPOLITAN	„ 13	17.788 +	1.974	733,112 +	61.936 +	7·6
COUNTRY	„ 13	31,513 +	5.127	1.223.305 +	144.597	+13·4
TOTAL.....	„ 13	269.450 +	25.529	10.482.216	— 1.700.417	—13·9

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or —*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or —*	"Fourth" of the Month 1915	£	+ or —*
Aug. 27	42.899	—	Aug. 5	52,168	—	Aug. 4	56.063	— 4,722
Sept. 15	45.083	—	Sept. 1	54,180	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15,393
Sept. 28	46.853	—	Oct. 1	52 018	—	Oct. 4	47.176	+ 6.718
1915 agg.	748.241	—		486.124	—		459.119	— 83,653

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	30/0	7/6	9 6
Australia to U.K.	85/0	—	30 9
Asoff to L.H.A.R.....	—	—	11/0
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	52/6	d.w. 20/9	18/6
Burmah o.o.	—	32 6	25/0
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	70/0	d.w. 28/3	d.w. 23/0
Danube to A.R.....	—	—	11/0
Odessa to L.H.A.R. ...	—	—	9/3
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	85/0	25/0	13/6
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	160/0	37/6	33/9

Homewards —cont.	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	12/6	2/9	2/1½
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O. to U.K. Cont. (gr.)	—	11/3	15/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	—	45/0	40/0	35/0
1914...	10/3	—	9/0	11/6	7 6
1913...	12/6	12/3	9/0	18/8	8 8

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

OCT. 16.	1915	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	70/8	54/4½	57/9
— Middlesbro' warrants ....ton	85 7	48 7	51 11
— Hematite warrants .....ton	97 6	68 0	66 6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£9	£9
— Common bars .....ton	£11 12/6	£7 10 0	£7 7/6
— Stock, Middlesbro'... .....tons	138.949	103.878	167.591
Steel Rails .....ton	£9 2/6	£8 15	£8 10
Copper—Standard .....ton	£72 10	nom.	£73 5
— Stock, Europe & adt., Sept. 30 tons	34.106	34.594	28.819
Tin—English ingots.....ton	£151	£124—£1 6	£189—£190
— Straits .....ton	£151	£135 10	£186
Tinplates—Coke I.C. .....box	17/9—18/3	12/7½—12/9	13 0
Lead—Soft Foreign .....ton	£24 17/6	£18 7/6	£20 10
Spelter—Ord. Foreign .....ton	£63	£18	£20 11/3
Quicksilver—(75lb.) .....bottle	£15 15	£10	£7 5
Aluminium .....ton	nom	£80—£84	£81—£85
Antimony—Regulus .....ton	nom.	£58	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21/0—22/0	20/0—21/0
— — (best) Newcastle .....ton	19/0	13/3	15/6
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/4½—14/7½	11/3	11/3
Soda—Crystals ex ship .....ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb.	1/8—1/10	2/1—2/8	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits .....ton	£24 17/6	£22 10—£22 15	£31 5—£31 7/6
Gambier—Good marks ...cwt.	38 0	16 10½	18/0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	13/6—15/0	13/6—14/0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£29 5	£25 10	£23 15
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb.	53 6	42 0	45 9
Olive Oil—Spanish .....tun	£50	£55	£48—£49
Palm Oil—Lagos .....ton	£29 10	£31 15—£32	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/9½	-/7½—8½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ..ton	£37 10—£39	£35 10	£32
Soya Oil .....ton	£28	£25 10	£26 7/6
Tallow—Aust. mixed .....cwt.	37/3	27/6—30/6	33/0—35/0
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit...cwt.	35 9	30 6	30 4½
Rape Seed—Toria .....416lb.	55 0	51 0	48 9
Rubber—Para, spot .....lb.	2/8½	2/9	3/3
— Fine plantation (std. crepe)lb.	2/5—2/6	2/1—2/1½	2/1
—World's Vis. sup (all kinds) Augton	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair...cwt	69 0	55/0—58/0	88/0—89/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	-/7·27	-/5·30	-/7·50
— Egyptian good fair .....lb.	-/9·70	-/7·25	-/9·90
— Pernambuco, fair.....lb.	-/7·71n.	-/5·85	-/7·82
— Mid. Upl. New York .....lb.	12·40c.	nom.	13·80c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Oct. 8 .. bales	933.870	785.770	403.940
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol .....ton	£58	£38	£35
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£33 5	£33 5	£29 10
— Manila, Fair strips .....ton	£38 10	£25	£30 10
Jute—First Marks, spot .....ton	£26 10	£34	£38
— Red SOC.....ton	£23 10	£31	£30
Silk—Blue Elephant.....lb.	9/6	11/3—11/6	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	-/11½—1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs .....lb.	1/5½	1/0½—1/1	1/0½—1/1
Hides—Eng. Ox., best, 65lb. up. lb.	-/10½	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides .....lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/8	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Oct. 11 bus.	19.355.000	58.329.000	57.835.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	129c.	119½c.	98½c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	44/1	36/8	31/0
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	46 0	38 6	30/0
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	41 0	28/10	23/1
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. qr	26 5	22 5	17/10
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	81½c.	76½c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	8/9—8 9½	7 8½	4 9½
— La Plata .....480lb. qr.	33/0	23/0—28/0	22 6
Potatoes—Kents .....ton	85/0	60/0—70/0	60/0—70/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	34.803	22.102	10.018
— Deliveries do. .....tons	24.269	19.845	12.153
— Stock .....tons	17.309	7.152	5.230
— Price, Bassein .....cwt	17/6	15/6—16/6	7/10½—8/3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ...cwt.	17/6—21/0	15/0—21/0	15/0—20/0
Hay—Best .....2,016lb. load	120/0—130/0	85/0—90/0	77/6—87/6
Hops—English .....cwt.	£5 10—£7	£3 5—£5 5	£9 5—£10 10
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 81b	5/0—5/4	3/10—4/4	3/10—4/2
— Scotch sides ... .81b	5/0—5/4	4/10	4/4—4/8
— English 81b	4/10—5/2	4/0—4/5	3/10—4/4
Mutton—Scotch 81b	5/8—6/4	5/4—5/8	5/2—5/6
— English wethers 81b	5/4—5/8	4/8—5/0	3/8—3/8
— New Zealand frozen 81b	4/8—5/1	3/9—4/0	3/6—3/10
Pork—English .....81b.	5/8—7/0	4/2—4/10	4/6—5/4
Bacon—Irish .....cwt.	100/0—105/0	74/0—80/0	70/0—79/0
— Danish .....cwt	100/0—107/0	66/0—74/0	70/0—77/0
Hams—Amer. long cut .....cwt	78/0—86/0	68/0—72/0	64/0—73/0
— — short cut .....cwt	79/0—83/0	69/0—71/0	68/0—69/0
Lard—Amer. pails .....cwt.	81/0	54/6—58/0	56/3—58/6
Butter—Danish .....cwt.	—	140/0—144/0	133/0—138/0
— Siberian.....cwt.	108/0—142/0	114/0—122/0	88/0—108/0
— French... .....cwt.	116/0—164/0	100/0—120/0	92/0—122/0
— New Zealand .....cwt.	—	—	—
— Australian .....cwt.	—	118/0—130/0	104/0—132/0
Cheese—Canadian .....cwt.	78/0—80/0	76/0—77/0	63/0—65/0
— New Zealand (white) ....cwt.	78/0—78/0	—	—
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	511.096	533.320	681.599
— Deliveries do. .....tons	683.237	608.496	649.148
— Stock .....tons	51.385	38.735	88.323
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. .....cwt	20/6	21/0	10/10½
— — Mauritius, crystals .....cwt.	24/6—28/0	28/6—30/0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 .....cwt.	30/0	33/6	18/6
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	55.732	41.119	32.700
— Home consumption do. ...tons	15.591	11.851	11.985
— Exports do.....tons	19.052	19.419	18.915
— Stock .....tons	34.090	20.327	18.188
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	72/0—82/0	73/0—85/0	84/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt	38 7½	37 0	50 9
Tea—Imports ..(for 9 months) lb	300.370.933	235.485.576	230.757.590
— Home consumption do.....lb.	245.405.967	238.551.367	235.251.371
— Exports do. .....lb.	42.678.719	41.280.172	41.582.875
— Stock, Sept. 30 .....lb	118.629.000	88.093.000	99.717.000
— — Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb	-/10½	-/8½	-/8
— — Ceylon, Pek., Soug. Ord....lb.	-/9½	-/8½	-/8½
— — Common Congou... ....lb.	-/7½	-/6½	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	80/0—84/0	53/0—54/0	67/0—68/6

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Oct. 8	80	—	£3,071	— 534	40	150.718	+ 11.476
Cork Ban.&S.C.	Oct. 8	103	—	2.390	+ 355	40	84.054	+ 3.910
Dublin & S.E.	Oct. 8	160	—	5.898	+ 581	40	225.885	+ 1.769
Gt. Northern	Oct. 8	581	—	22.735	− 115	40	937.880	+ 30.780
Gt.S.&Western	Oct. 8	1.130	—	36.255	− 1.372	40	1.331.999	+ 101.650
Mid. Gt. West.	Oct. 8	538	—	14.126	+ 725	40	513.726	+ 14.250

. *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Sept. 11	862	+11	1,12.000	− 201	24	29,46.612	− 7.911
Barsi Light	Sept. 18	116	—	12.900	+ 5.300	25	5,22.200	− 38.000
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 4	2.041	+13	2.39.450	− 1,22.104	23	79,72.260	−12,53.642
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 11	153	—	24.072	− 11.777	24	6,12.494	− 51.945
Beng. Nagpur	Sept. 18	2.885	+ 7	6.93.000	− 17.000	25	1,83.89.000	− 18.000
Bomb. Baroda	Oct. 9	2.859	+32	11,72.000	+ 1,88.000	2	15,41.000	+ 2,76.000
Burma	Sept. 11	1.342	—	3,33.044	+ 58.884	24	86,42.900	−12,67.445
East Indian	Oct. 9	2.716	− 2	21,39.000	+ 2,13.000	2	26,91.000	+ 2,67.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Oct. 9	2.981½	+16½	18,25.900	+ 2,60.800	2	—	—
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 18	3,131½	−1½	7,75.000	+ 1,48.545	25	2,18,12.639	+13,72.072
Nizam's Guar.	Sept. 11	787	—	2,00.548	+ 63.010	24	43,82.324	− 4,73.470
Roh.&Kumaon	Sept. 4	545	+ 1	51.122	+ 4.013	23	16,47.205	− 6.186
South Indian	Sept. 18	1,783	+10	5,41.209	+ 65 449	25	1,36,80.541	− 81.951
South Punjab	M.of June	823	—	8,92.073	+ 1,10,130	3†	20,25.274	+ 38.370

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total	+or−*
Can. Northern	Sept. 30	4,865	+295	$832.200	+ 67.700	13	4,413.600	− 658.300
Can. Pacific	Oct. 7	12.921	+694	2,915.000	+ 642.000	14	29,607.000	−3,820.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Oct. 7	916	—	£39.020	− 17.388	14	220.740	− 49.983
Grand Trunk	Oct. 7	4.008	—	160.458	− 4.083	40	6,208.043	− 533.300
Grd. Trunk W.	Oct. 7	338	—	36.226	+ 5.096	40	1,157.117	+ 25.653
Det. Grd. Ha.	Oct. 7	189	—	12.869	+ 1,362	40	419.107	+ 27.263
Mashonaland	M.of Aug.	751	—	49.470	− 1.930	11†	448.681	− 240.872
Mid. W. Aust.	M of Aug.	277	—	5.800	− 3.082	2†	11.068	− 7.381
New CapeCent.	Sept. 18	205	—	1.548	+ 262	38	67.094	+ 137
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.of Aug.	1.397	—	77.976	− 11.294	11†	714.687	− 240.310

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Oct. 9	33	— Ps.	10.000	+ 1.500	41	493.200	− 29.750
Antofagasta	Oct. 10	819	— £	25.825	+ 3.015	41	964.870	− 346.550
Arauco	M.of July	64½	— £	6.750	+ 225	7†	44.625	− 10.649
Arg. N. East	Oct. 9	752	+ 65 £	6,48	+ 2.223	15	98.038	+ 28.368
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	— £	290	− 10	12	2.370	− 1.210
Bolivar	M.of Sept.	110	— £	7.750	+ 3.202	3†	22.000	+ 5.081
Brazil	M.of May	3.382	— M	3.282.000	− 17.244	5†	15.863.000	− 804.684
Paulista	M.of May	721	— M	1.500.000	−238.338	5†	8.850.000	+ 101.324
Mogyana	M.of May	1.131	+ 57 M	1.263.000	−256.423	5†	7.833.000	+ 261.381
B.A. & Pacific	Oct. 9	3.636	+ 17 £	83.000	+ 20.000	15	1.161.000	+ 239.000
B.A. Gt. So.	Oct. 10	3.792	+ 83 £	91.000	+ 20.000	15	1.198.908	+ 195.967
B.A. Western	Oct. 10	1.867	+ 75 £	47.000	+ 11.000	15	626 000	+ 99.000
Cent.Argentine	Oct. 9	3.307	+ 45 £	117.500	+ 12.500	15	1,632.300	+ 204 600
Cent. Uruguay	Oct. 9	271	— £	11.080	+ 2.192	15	164.106	+ 30.050
„ (E. Ext.)	Oct. 9	311	— £	3.934	+ 1.521	15	49.555	+ 13.876
„ (N. Ext.)	Oct. 9	186	— £	1.527	+ 198	15	25.373	+ 5.385
„ (W. Ext.	Oct. 9	211	— £	1.912	+ 496	15	22.381	+ 5.264
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	88	— £	9.512	− 2.928	5†	47.412	− 1.165
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Aug.	65½	— £	21.771	− 3.829	2†	42.826	− 10.274
Cord. Central	Oct. 9	1,188	— £	24.850	− 14.685	15	488.800	− 68.575
Cuban Central	Oct. 9	354	+ 9 £	7.967	+ 2.416	15	111.279	+ 15.356
Dorada Ext.	M.of Sept.	71	— £	8.400	+ 1.400	9†	71.300	+ 5.300
EgyptianDelta	Sept. 20	819	— 4 £	4.610	+ 850	24	69.797	− 22.818
Entre Rios	Oct. 9	730	— £	9.400	+ 1.400	15	131.000	+ 18.100
Gt. S. of Spain	Oct. 2	104	— Ps.	72.792	+ 11.458	40	2,364.145	− 284.317
Gt. W. Brazil	Oct. 9	1.010	— £	8.400	− 1.400	41	379.900	− 101.500
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Sept.	23	— £	6.250	+ 250	9†	61.000	− 22.250
Leopoldina	Oct. 9	1.809	+ 33 £	31.528	+ 5 862	41	1,173.209	− 24.832
Manila North	Oct. 9	315	+ 2 £	4.098	− 785	41	211.277	− 39.053
„ South	Oct. 9	266	+ 81 £	3.381	+ 155	41	152.128	+ 16.508
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Sept.	319	— £	9.468	+ 2.241	3†	32.234	+ 7.851
Nitrate(2wks.)	Sept. 30	388	— £	16.615	+ 2.786	39	241.090	− 233.627
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Sept.	113	— $	22.000	+ 7.416	4†	68.500	+ 16.357
Paraguay Cent.	Oct. 9	255	— £	498.000	+255.000	15	6,406.000	+2,780.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Sept.	1,059	— d	755.280	+154.784	3†	2,289.157	+ 58.218
Puerto Cabello	M.of Aug.	24	— £	3.268	+ 649	8†	29.424	− 941
Salvador	Oct. 9	100	— $	15.500	+ 3.080	15	289.250	+ 26.094
San Paulo	Oct. 3	153½	— £	36.342	+ 10.563	14	512.482	+ 150.752
Taltal	M.of Sept.	184	— £	21.375	+ 10.245	3†	47.753	− 4.890
U. of Havana	Oct. 9	681	— £	25.931	+ 8.048	15	347 468	+ 71.366
Urug.Northern	M.of Sept.	73	— £	1.543	+ 572	3†	5,076	+ 1.260
W. of Havana	Oct. 9	147	— £	4.598	+ 589	15	71.609	− 6.091
Zafra & Hlva.	M.of Sept.	112	— £	10.158	+ 2.614	9†	72.973	− 43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 7	389½	+21½ £	53.082	− 761	40	2,033.907	− 138.480
Auckland(4wks)	Sept. 24	25½	— £	20.266	− 727	12	62.295	− 3.055
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Aug.	—	— M.	8.576.000	+409.900	8†	50,963.110	+1.889.962
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Sept.	30	— £	36.360	+ 2.329	9†	275.074	+ 15.216
Bristol	Oct.	8	— £	9.096	+ 941	40	384.897	+ 34.738
BritishColumbia	M.of Aug.	242	+ 5½ $	507.126	−167.686	2†	1.017.849	+ 346.986
Calcutta	Oct. 9	36½	— R	69.889	+ 16.648	41	26.52.782	− 79.781
Cape Electric	M.of Sept.	42·3	— £	16 237	+ 1.269	3†	51.199	+ 5.275
Carth. & Herr.	M.of Sept.	9	— £	1.252	− 923	9†	15.580	− 5.565
Cork Electric	Oct. 7	9½	— £	1.281	− 1.210	41	43.823	− 225
Dublin United	Oct. 8	54½	— £	6.076	+ 255	40	246.739	+ 9.194
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	— $	48.765	− 1.184	39	1.984.501	− 90.930
Isle of Thanet	Oct. 9	14½	−10 £	341	− 146	1	—	—
Kalgoorlie	M.of July	20½	— £	2.775	+ 223	7†	18.854	+ 880
Lanarkshire	Oct. 7	28½	— £	2.101	+ 314	40	78.853	+ 2.932
London C. C.	Sept. 22	141½	− 1 £	46.960	+ 4.984	25	1,095.822	− 4.285
Madras Electric	Sept. 30	—	— R	28.304	+ 3.750	39	528.061	+ 10.812
Manila Electric	M.of Aug.	—	— $	126.650	− 1.860	8†	976.343	− 121.253
Provincial	Oct. 9	21½	— £	2.244	+ 146	1	—	—
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Sept.	25	— £	4.445	+ 326	9†	43.329	− 2.728
U.of Montevideo	M.of Sept.	90	— £	25.070	− 156	11†	303.417	− 31.548
Yorks.W.Riding	Oct. 10	24⅛	— £	1.540	+ 76	41	65.291	+ 5.405

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 243,042 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. ( ) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
423 Cos. (000's omitted)	July (e)	$262.948	+ $2.324	$87.685	+ $9.851
12 *mos.*	*to* June (f)	*2,937,516*	− *164,681*	*864,364*	+ *22,516*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Aug.	398.000	− 68.000	128.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*800,000*	− *79,000*	*252,000*	+ *40,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Aug.	128.000	− 11.000	23.000	+ 6.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*252,000*	− *21,000*	*39,000*	+ *9,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Aug.	294.000	− 24.000	73.000	+ 36.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*587,000*	− *64,000*	*142,000*	+ *40,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Aug.	119.000	− 17.000	13.000	− 2.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*240,000*	− *31,000*	*27,000*	− *5,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Aug.	10,904.000	+ 738.000	3.801.000	− 208.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*21,326,000*	+ *1,561,000*	*6,950,000*	+ *684,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Aug.	2.017.000	− 197.000	89.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,194,000*	− *558,000*	*324,000*	− *94,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Aug.	9,385.000	+ 648.000	3.395.000	+ 627.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*18,020,000*	+ *1,172,000*	*6,472,000*	+ *1,432,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug.	1.192.800	− 174.900	238.800	− 5.900
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,399,000*	− *563,000*	*623,900*	− *151,300*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Aug.	8.801.000	− 1.117.000	3.442.000	+ 76.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*16,697,000*	− *3,703,000*	*6,243,000*	− *899,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... a	Aug.	3.974.000	+ 455 000	709.000	+ 315.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,617,000*	+ *833,000*	*1,202,000*	+ *652,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Aug.	7.937.000	− 441.000	2.391.000	− 285.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,127,000*	− *613,000*	*4,010,000*	− *562,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...a	Aug.	8.147.000	− 595.000	2.675.000	− 508.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,521,000*	− *1,082,000*	*4,635,000*	− *965,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Aug.	1.221.000	− 88.000	331.000	− 91.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,350,000*	− *42,000*	*573,000*	− *63,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 96.000	2.610.000	+ 352.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,504,000*	+ *490,000*	*5,322,000*	+ *780,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 335.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,051,000*	− *652,000*	*1,931,000*	− *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.499.000	− 209.000	371.000	− 165.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,932,000*	− *367,000*	*737,000*	− *261,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 186.000	1.095.000	+ 278.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*23,770,000*	+ *671,000*	*4,655,000*	+ *2,665,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1.258.000	+ 67.000	328.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,366,000*	+ *62,000*	*642,000*	+ *48,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Aug.	417.000	+ 74.000	197.000	+ 86.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*837,000*	+ *111,000*	*407,000*	+ *114,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	July	2.045.000	+ 48.000	776.000	+ 108.000
7 *mos.*	*to* July	*12,827,000*	+ *81,000*	*4,073,000*	+ *589,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Aug.	2.243.000	+ 153.000	744.000	+ 244.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,245,000*	+ *152,000*	*1,273,000*	+ *336,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Aug.	5.946.000	+ 457.000	2.269.000	+ 763.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*41,234,000*	+ *1,882,000*	*10,860,000*	+ *2,027,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Aug.	£804.200	− £53.000	£263.000	+ £23.700
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,644,850*	− *478,000*	*1,514,250*	+ *50,900*
Grand Trunk Western a	Aug.	138.100	− 2.000	39.700	+ 14.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*983,100*	+ *8,550*	*84,300*	+ *63,050*
Great Northern ..... a	Aug.	$6.162.000	− $754.000	$2.623.000	− $600.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,020,000*	− *1,736,000*	*4,989,000*	− *1,130,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Aug.	650.000	− 61.000	313.000	+ 28.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,193,000*	+ *31,000*	*538,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Aug.	5.529.000	− 315.000	1.123.000	− 137.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*10,408,000*	− *832,000*	*1,655,000*	− *312,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Aug.	807.000	− 78.000	288.000	+ 19.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,638,000*	− *192,000*	*609,000*	+ *9,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Aug.	3.780.000	+ 9.000	1.090.000	− 52.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,514,000*	+ *161,000*	*2,119,000*	+ *58,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Aug.	4,628.000	− 77.000	1.332.000	+ 341.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,114,000*	− *395,000*	*2,512,000*	+ *445,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Aug.	3.244.000	+ 222.000	1.019.000	+ 134.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*23,851,000*	+ *729,000*	*5,228,000*	+ *1,018,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,926,000*	− *18,000*	*1,582 000*	+ *211,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Aug.	2.663.000	− 46.000	791.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5.170,000*	− *245,000*	*1,262,000*	− *173,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	July	4.763.000	− 480.000	947.000	− 462.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*58,209,000*	− *1,776,000*	*13,054,000*	− *1,931,000*
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14,458.000	+ 583.000	4,776.000	+ 897.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*103,873,000*	+ *3,817,000*	*27,483,000*	+ *8,873,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	6.283.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,511,000*	− *999,000*	*4,309,000*	+ *1,115,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Aug.	812.000	− 89.000	347.000	− 14.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,874,000*	− *120,000*	*729,000*	+ *5,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4.729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 489.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9.196,000*	+ *1,451,000*	*3,222,000*	+ *1,083,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	6.076.000	—	2.408.000	+ 636.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*11,426,000*	− *442,000*	*3,826,000*	+ *408,000*
Pennsylvania System:					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*159,031,000*	− *2,470,000*	*34,056,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11,153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 463.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*73,715,000*	− *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,925,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Aug.	3.747.000	+ 162.000	1 084.000	+ 128.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*25,576,000*	− *651,000*	*4,966 000*	+ *175,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Aug.	4.230.000	+ 101.000	1.330.000	+ 94.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*8.313,000*	+ *362,000*	*2,766,000*	+ *403,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	− 503.000	134.000	+ 106.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,791,000*	− *509,000*	*205,000*	+ *87,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.780.000	− 64.000	1.137.000	+ 4.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,330,000*	− *330,000*	*2,124,000*	− *16,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1.576.000	− 114.000	339.000	− 24.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,203,000*	− *320,000*	*715,000*	− *82,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Aug.	13.208.000	+ 1,536.000	4.697.000	+ 1,242.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*26,171,000*	+ *2,866,000*	*9,190,000*	+ *2,553,000*
Southern ..... a	Aug.	5.312.000	− 376.000	1.390.000	+ 285.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*10,524,000*	− *869,000*	*2,707,000*	+ *433,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Aug.	8.446.000	− 22.000	3.402.000	− 53.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,293,000*	− *266,000*	*6.251,000*	+ *120,000*
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 82.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,235,000*	− *206,000*	*1,247,000*	+ *173,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Aug.	722.000	+ 169.000	256.000	+ 181.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,424,000*	+ *310,000*	*506,000*	+ *317,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Sept. 21	$89.000	+ $2.000	11	$1.050.000	− $ 63.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 7	779.000	+ 73.000	14	12.160.000	+1.261.000
Chicago Great Western	Sept. 30	300.000	+ 2.000	13	3.594.000	− 144.000
Colorado & Southern	Sept. 21	293.000	+ 6.000	11	3.141.000	+ 74.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Oct. 7	548.000	+ 45.000	14	7.227.000	+ 377.000
Great Northern	M.of Aug.	6.075.000	− 842.000	2†	11.933.000	−1.824.000
Illinois Central	M.of Sept	5.570.000	+ 41.000	3†	15.529.000	− 792.000
Louisville & Nashville	Oct. 7	1.078.000	+ 27.000	14	—	—
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Sept. 21	764.000	+ 14.000	11	6.996.000	+ 38.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Oct. 7	596.000	− 70.000	14	8.297.000	− 477.000
Missouri Pacific	Oct. 7	1.237.000	− 1.000	14	—	—
Southern Railway	Oct. 7	1.333.000	+ 38.000	14	17.346.000	− 852.000

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

On SATURDAY NEXT, OCTOBER 23rd, we shall publish a

SPECIAL BANKING SECTION

Showing the growth and present position of all British institutions engaged in Banking in India, Colonial, and Foreign Countries. The Section will also contain the history of and the data concerning the greatest Banks in the World outside of Great Britain. The information given will enable Bankers, Merchants, and Investors to mark the progress not only of the institutions in which so much British capital is invested and British money is placed, but also the economic condition of the various countries.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1915.

WAR FINANCE.

Upon reassembling this week the House of Commons immediately gave its assent to the Allies' loan of $500,000,000 from the United States, bearing the joint and several guarantees of the French and British Governments; and subsequently it has discussed the Finance Bill containing the proposals, with various modifications, recently made to the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In this measure Mr. McKenna has brought forward a new proposal to increase the rebate upon incomes assessed to income tax under £500 a year from £20 to £25 per child. Furthermore, in the course of the discussion the Chancellor stated that the Government did not propose to tax the foreign balances left with British bankers, and from this it would seem that the proposal to tax interest on bank deposits will be entirely abandoned as we sincerely trust it will be. The Finance Bill sets out the method by which the 50% war-profit tax is to be calculated. The pre-war standard of profits for the purposes of this Act shall be taken to be the amount of the profits arising from the trade or business on the average of any two of the three last pre-war trade years, to be selected by the taxpayer, provided that, if it be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue that the amount was less than 6% on the capital of the trade or business as existing at the end of the last pre-war trade year, the pre-war standard of profits shall be taken to be an amount equal to 6% on that capital in the case of a trade or business carried on or owned by a company or other body corporate, and 7% on that capital in the case of any other trade or business. The last pre-war trade year means the year ending at the end of the last accounting period before August 1, 1914, and the three last pre-war trade years means the three years ending at the three corresponding times.

From the discussion of the Budget it is evident that the House is uneasy about Mr. McKenna's proposals. It is recognised that Mr. McKenna has been extraordinarily painstaking in endeavouring to be moderate and to avoid all unfairness and harshness. Nevertheless, everyone who has given any serious study to the matter, whether in Parliament or in the City, recognises that it completely fails to meet the situation, and that fresh proposals need to be made without delay.

Even Mr. McKenna himself seems to have come to the conclusion that the proposals he has so far placed before Parliament need to be supplemented, for on Wednesday Mr. Montagu, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, made a most important statement in the debate on the Finance Bill. In order that the reader may appreciate the importance of this statement we give it in full.

"Before I sit down, I would like to say a word about the real nature of the situation which this Finance Bill is intended to meet. It is an *instalment* of the provisions which we are making to meet the cost of the burden that we have incurred. I do not think that people in this country, and some of our critics in newspapers, some of the pessimists among others, realise what that burden is. We have first of all kept, and we have to keep, an impregnable and inviolable Navy. We have, in the second place, paid for, and we continue to pay for, an Army which has increased from a few thousands to an Army which runs into millions. Third, we are finding by loan to our Great Dominions part of the expenditure of the contingents that they are bringing into the line of battle. Fourth, as regards India, we are paying the whole of the burden of the Indian contingents, except the normal peace expenditure. Fifth, we have advanced to our Allies such sums as it is estimated in some quarters would keep and maintain in the field three millions of their soldiers. That is the sum that we have been lending to them. I cannot say how long, because one does not know what future demands will be made or how demands will grow or diminish. The only reason I draw the attention of the House to these facts is that we have a right to be proud of the share that we in this country are contributing in this great War; that we ought to be proud of the way in which the proposals for meeting the expenditure on the War have been received by all parties; and that anyone who belittles the share which this country is taking in the War, with those facts staring him in the face, seems to me to be flying in the face of the truth. But I would add the following figures in reference to the question of taxing ourselves adequately to meet the obligations which are incurred, that for the current financial year the expenditure is estimated at £1,590,000,000, and the revenue at £305,000,000, leaving a deficit of £1,285,000,000. Next year, if the present rate of expenditure is maintained, the estimated expenditure will be £1,825,000,000, and the revenue, on the present basis, is expected to realise £387,000,000, leaving a deficit of £1,438,000,000. It will be seen, therefore, that our burden involves a total expenditure by the Government amounting to no less than two-thirds of the entire estimated national income; and yet, despite this, there is said to be in the country a feeling of relief that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked for so little taxation.

"I think it absolutely necessary to repeat that the expenditure on this War will have to be borne by the nation almost entirely out of its own pockets and in the form of tax or of loan. And it follows, therefore, allowing for any loans that can be raised abroad, that in order to cover the difference every citizen ought to be prepared to put at least one-half of his current income at the disposal of the State, either in the form of tax or of loan. There seems to be an opinion abroad that the huge deficits can be found out of the enormous accumulated wealth of the country, which is sometimes put at £15,000,000,000, and which my hon. friend the member for Blackburn put at £10,000,000,000. He thinks that it would be quite simple to impose a

tax on that which would raise a revenue of £500,000,000. But you cannot tax capital that you cannot realise. The accumulated wealth is in the form of houses, factories, railways, canals, landed estates, furniture, and, to some extent, securities, none of which can be converted into the goods and services that are required for active warfare excepting in so far as you can sell them or pledge them to foreign purchasers. It is no use lending them or selling them to one another. We have lately raised in America a loan of £100,000,000 sterling. We may find other buyers of our securities, other people who will lend us money; but this is not going to make a very large hole in the figures which I have mentioned.

"There are some people who believe, further, that nothing is easier than for rich men to borrow their money from their bankers and then to lend it to the Government. This device again can have no effect unless the people who carry it out take measures to save and repay the loan from the bankers, at least as rapidly as the Government spends the money. If they do not do that the only effect is that they and the bankers between them have produced a certain amount of credit which can be drawn upon in the form of cheques which they have added to the available supply of currency without any addition to the available supply of goods and services. The only result of this must be increased competition between the Government and the spending public for a limited supply of goods and services. Then follows as a consequence a rise in prices. That stimulates the import of goods from abroad, and, of course, the foreign exchange is depreciated still further. So what is wanted in this War is not artificially created money, but actually produced goods and services which the Government must have for the War, and for which there can be no substitute. As our production of goods and services have been reduced by the flower of our men going to the War, and by the turning of others on to making munitions, the situation can only be met if the rest of the community forego the use of goods and services to which it has been accustomed, so that the labour and energy used in producing them may be transferred to the production of goods and services required for the War. If we are to continue to finance the country for ourselves and our Allies—and nobody doubts that this must be done, and therefore it is what we are determined to do—it can only be by the civil population of this country, of all classes, severely stinting itself and rearranging its whole life on quite a different basis with regard to the consumption of goods and services.

"There is no direction, it seems to me, in which the public can stint itself without exercising a beneficial effect on the national finance. If it goes without goods which are got from abroad it lessens the amount we have to borrow and consequently enables the Government to borrow more cheaply. It also relieves pressure upon our merchant navy, and it tends to check the great rise in freights which have been so important a cause in the rise of the prices of commodities which are imported. If it stints itself by refraining from buying goods made at home it sets free labour and energy to produce things required by the Government, or if sold abroad it improves the state of our commercial balance. If the country refuses to stint itself, in the long run it will be compelled to do so by the consequent rise in prices, which will reduce its buying-power and bring about compulsory reduction of expenditure. I think the sense of relief which has been caused by the moderateness of this Budget arises from an undue appreciation of the state of affairs. It simply means that if there is money left in the pockets of the people that money will have to be got later by loan or taxation. The man who spends on articles which he can do without now, and does not stint himself to the standard of the figures which I have quoted as showing what is necessary, who does not set himself to mould his life so that he will be in a position to afford one-half his income for the country—the man who does not set that ideal before him is, in my opinion, not doing his duty in this War.

"I do not think there has been any true appreciation of that as yet. There is a consumption of more luxuries. Those who dispense luxuries over the counter are doing a roaring trade. The consumption of some luxuries has increased. The consumption of alcohol has increased. I am told that the makers of expensive pianos are enjoying a considerably increased demand. I would observe, further, that there is a tendency to say that whenever you increase taxation you ought, therefore, to increase profits or remuneration, wages, or whatever it may be. If that is the result of the increased taxation you have achieved very little good by it; the money is sent round again, and consumption is not in any way affected. I can only assure this House that we have pledged, and we want to see pledged, the resources of this country to the utmost in this fight. I think it is for the people to see that their resources are ready, and are not dissipated upon private expenditure. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, I can assure the House, intends to develop, with all possible rapidity, the compulsory taxes of the country, but this by itself cannot be adequate to meet the case. Voluntary saving and voluntary readjustment of the standard of life by all patriotic citizens are now required of them more urgently than anything else if the ultimate victory which we confidently expect and look forward to is to be made assured and certain."

This statement of the case leaves little to be desired. At such a time as this it is much wiser to do too much than too little, and if the nation could reduce its domestic expenditures by one-half so much the better. Nevertheless, it is essential for the Government and the nation to realise that words accomplish nothing and that, especially in time of war, deeds alone count. In April the situation was most carefully explained to the country by Mr. Lloyd George, and in July Mr. Asquith's reply to the important deputation of bankers was all that could be wished for, but the Government did nothing, and the result was the great break in the American exchange. Now in September Mr. McKenna has presented another Budget. His statement of the situation left nothing to be desired, but no more than £33,000,000 is provided out of taxation towards meeting the deficit for the year of £1,317,000,000, and practically nothing is done, having regard to what needs to be done, to balance either the Budget or the foreign exchanges. Will Mr. Montagu's statement of the position result in more adequate steps being taken to deal effectively with the situation, or will the Government wait for further object lessons on the danger of procrastination, such as that given by the break in the American exchange, before taking the action which the situation described by Mr. Montagu so urgently demands. The hands of the clock won't stand still whatever one's wishes may be, or whatever one's theories. We would here state that we have no doubt the Government will sooner or later take the essential measures, and that the people of Great Britain will keep their expenditures and their purchases of foreign goods within their power to pay for them without needing to reduce unduly their stock of the precious metals; but as each day passes without the situation being dealt with effectively and comprehensively the problem becomes more and more difficult and the measures needed to put matters right become increasingly drastic.

Now what is the situation, and what are the measures required to deal with it? Mr. Montagu stated that the deficit to be provided this year is nearly £1,300,000,000, and next year, notwithstanding the additional taxation, it will be over £1,400,000,000. He might have added that as a result of these expenditures, and of the method of financing them, the country's adverse trade balance is now at the rate of some £600,000,000 a year, and

with still greater Government expenditures next year the balance may be greater still. Mr. Montagu further stated that, "allowing for any loans which could be raised abroad, every citizen ought to be prepared to put at least one-half of his current income at the disposal of the State," as, roughly speaking, the Government expenditure amounts to about 50% of the expenditures of the entire country.

In considering this position and the power of the nation to meet its expenditure, it is essential to recollect that the domestic expenditures of the nation have been, or ought to have been, greatly reduced by its war expenses. Thus a large number of men are now in the Army, and are being maintained out of the War Loans, who before the War merely assisted the nation to spend its income pleasantly. They did nothing, or next to nothing, to add to it. Thus the wages paid to men who were formerly engaged as men-servants, waiters, gardeners, chauffeurs, gamekeepers, &c., were of the nature of luxury expenditures, and the transfer of these men to the Army has meant that their former employers have that part of their income which formerly went to pay for their services available for war expenditures.

In a certain sense the persons who employed these men are richer because the cost of maintaining servants has been transferred from themselves to the nation. How much additional money this has set free for war purposes cannot be exactly estimated. It must reach a large sum. Again, it is evident that the profits accruing to trade and industry of all kinds and descriptions have very largely increased, and unless the owners are more lavish in their expenditures than formerly, these additional profits are also available for war expenditures. Then, again, the incomes of many wage-earners have so greatly increased that they have large sums of money available for war expenditures after providing for their own maintenance. Lastly, the earnings of many families have been enhanced by the higher incomes of the women who are filling posts previously occupied by men. In fact, it is obvious that without any reduction whatever in the normal rate of the nation's domestic expenditures per head of population that the savings of the nation have been very greatly increased. As far as the data permit an opinion to be formed we have come to the conclusion that, owing to normal savings, to abnormal profits, and to the mere reduction in ordinary expenditure by the transfer of men from the luxury trades to the Army, the savings of the nation available for war purposes have risen from the normal £400,000,000 a year in peace time to about £700,000,000, and that to meet the existing expenditures a further increase of about £600,000,000, rising to £700,000,000, is needed. To find this sum should not be a difficult task. How much we can borrow abroad or realise by the sale of securities can be decided only by experience. Having regard to the friendly spirit of the American people, and the desire of everyone in all parts of the world to do what they can to assist the Allies, not much difficulty should be experienced in raising abroad by loan or by the sale of securities some £300,000,000 a year. In the current year America will probably supply us with £200,000,000, either directly or indirectly, and next year the sum may be greater. If we can borrow about £300,000,000 out of the £600,000,000 to £700,000,000 we need, all that we have to do is to provide the remaining £300,000,000 to £400,000,000 ourselves by increasing production and reducing consumption. We are convinced that the difficulties in solving the problem of finding this additional money will disappear the moment it is squarely faced. No finer temper could be shown by a nation, both in the matter of men and of money, than is being displayed by the British nation to-day. Everyone the writer has met is willing to give himself or his sons for his country, and is prepared to contribute his last shilling if necessary to meet the expenses of the War. Indeed, the only thing required is that the Government should let the country know what is needed, and should distribute the taxation or levy in such a way that all classes are convinced they are dealt with fairly. Graduated contributions from all family incomes of over £80 per year would provide the money required without anyone being compelled to forego expenditure that was really essential. Not only is the nation willing, but expects to make this sacrifice, and is merely waiting for the Government to take the measures essential. We trust that Mr. Montagu's statement means that the Government has at last got its courage to the sticking point, and will no longer delay to take the measures which have already been delayed too long.

In one way or another the financial problem seems to have become involved in the question of conscription, and the arguments applying to the one are applied to the other. Of course we are entirely in favour of doing by voluntary means all that it is possible to accomplish in this way, and we regard the manner in which the men of Britain have come forward without compulsion with pride and pleasure. Moreover the manner in which money has been found for the war in abundance is a matter upon which the nation may well look back with the greatest satisfaction. If this were not such a great war, and we had not such vast financial responsibilities, the policy hitherto pursued would have been all that was required, but it is a very great war, and to meet the cost of it the nation is compelled to adopt every feasible measure of providing all the money required. The British people must use their capital and their credit as far as they can, but they must also resort to the greatest of all reserves that a nation possesses, the power of a determined people to deny themselves luxuries and comforts. The character of the British people renders the mobilisation of this reserve a specially difficult one to pursue in a voluntary manner. Consequently even persons who are strongly opposed to conscription are quite willing to submit to financial conscription, especially as they have always been accustomed to meet the expenditures of the State by taxation. If the extra taxation were to be raised as a levy repayable at the end of the War in War stock their willingness to find the necessary money would doubtless become still greater.

Moreover, the advantages to be gained, especially at the present time from the introduction of greater economy into the domestic expenditures of the nation, would not be confined to the mere finding of money for the War, it would materially assist in finding the men too. In no small measure the difficulties of recruiting have come from the unexampled prosperity of the country arising from the vast war and domestic expenditures, and if these expenditures were checked by economy many men of military age would be set free for service. In fact, the voluntary system of recruiting which so far has been so successful, is being seriously hampered by the vastness of our expenditures, and would be materially assisted by the introduction of economy. Thus, the introduction of economy into the domestic expenditures of the nation by means of taxation or by a levy for war purposes upon all classes of the community other than persons below the poverty line would provide the balance of the money urgently needed for the War that cannot otherwise be supplied, would readjust and maintain the foreign exchanges by bringing about a decline in imports and an increase of exports; and, lastly, would set free from the luxury trades a good many men for the Army.

THE BALKAN CRISIS.

THAT portion of the Press which seems intent upon creating apprehension in the minds of the public with the object, we suppose, of discrediting the Government, has been quick to seize upon Sir E. Grey's speech on the Balkans, denouncing it as denying the

information to which the public is entitled Such conduct is mischievous in the extreme, and we sincerely hope will be condemned unmistakably by public opinion. M. Viviani, the French Premier, has spoken in each Chamber of the French Parliament this week on the Balkan question, as well as Sir E. Grey, and he has been quite as cautious and quite as reticent. From both we learn, firstly, that British and French forces have already been landed at Salonika with the consent of the Greek Government; secondly, that a Russian force will be dispatched to assist in the protection of Serbia as soon as it can be forwarded; and, thirdly, M. Viviani has reason to believe that Italy, likewise, will take part in the operations. Four great Powers, then, allied together are about to exert themselves to protect Serbia, and it is manifest that each one of them is bound not merely to consult with all the others as to what is to be done and what is to be said, but that any Minister of any of them who would venture to say or do anything displeasing to his Allies would be guilty of a grave misdemeanour. Instead, then, of finding fault with the reticence of the speeches of our own Foreign Secretary and the French Prime Minister, we have every reason to commend their caution. We frankly admit that there is much to be said against the policy which has been decided upon by the four Powers. It is believed that the chief cause why M. Delcassé has resigned is that he did not think it wise to send a French force so far away when the soil of France itself has not been freed. And it is notorious that many amongst ourselves are, likewise, doubtful respecting the wisdom of the course adopted. We ourselves venture to give no opinion, for the full facts of the case are not before us, and it seems to us that in so grave a crisis a man is acting contrary to the true interests of his country who blurts out unfavourable criticism when he has not evidence enough to give a well-informed opinion.

It is clear that Serbia alone is not in a position to fight the two Central European Powers. It is equally clear that the action of Bulgaria makes the danger to Serbia greater than ever. Lastly, it is as clear as the sun at noonday that the decision of both Greece and Roumania will be considerably influenced by the course pursued by the Entente Allies. It will be well to bear all this in mind, and to reserve judgment until we have the true facts more clearly before us. Nobody can doubt who knows the relations of the Balkan States one with another the character of the several sovereigns and of their chief ministers, that Bulgaria has been led into a policy contrary to the wishes of the great majority of her people—contrary, likewise, to her own real interests—by promises from the two Central Empires which, it is safe to say, will never be carried out. On the other hand, the two Central European Empires are very close to the Balkans. And it is natural that the Balkan sovereigns and statesmen should hesitate. Lastly, it is never to be forgotten that the sovereigns of Greece, Bulgaria, and Roumania are all Germans, and not unreasonably are believed to entertain pro-German sympathies. The real question, then, is, Are we, as Lord Morley said on Thursday in the House of Lords, dispersing our resources too much, or is it essential that we should so strengthen the Balkan States that we should give them courage to act in their own interests and to open the Dardanelles? Until experience decides there will be differences of opinion on these points. For ourselves we reserve judgment until all the facts are before us. If, for example, both Greece and Roumania desire to assist Serbia, but are afraid to do so until they are backed by the whole great Entente Powers, then we say unhesitatingly that the Government policy is right. If, on the other hand, both Greece and Roumania prefer neutrality, the question becomes more doubtful.

Meanwhile, Sir Edward Grey and M. Viviani tell us that not only have French and British troops landed with the consent of the Greek Government, but that the Greek people strongly sympathise with Serbia. There is a treaty between Greece and Serbia binding Greece to assist Serbia if she is attacked by Bulgaria. A flimsy excuse is put forward by the present Greek Government to justify its inaction, but it is notorious that the present Greek Government has but a very small backing in the Chambers, and at any moment, therefore, it may be overturned and King Constantine may be compelled to fulfil his treaty engagements. Similarly, everybody can see who has studied the Balkan question and followed the course of events both in Austria-Hungary and in Roumania that Roumania has the very strongest interests for not only helping Serbia, but for striking down Austria-Hungary; for if she can wrench Transylvania from the Dual Monarchy she will not only add three millions of enthusiastic subjects to her dominions, but she will also free that number of near kinsmen. There is, then, reasonable ground for anticipating that the action of the Allies will have a beneficial effect upon the policy of both Greece and Roumania. The present Government of Bulgaria has gone too far to withdraw. But there are grounds for believing that the majority of the Bulgarian people strongly object to war against Russia—the Power which freed them 40 years ago from Turkish tyranny. Consequently, a strong allied contingent protecting Serbia may have a powerful influence upon the opinions of the Bulgarian people, and may put an end to a state of things which is, to say the least, very threatening. We would advise our readers, then, to reserve judgment, to take fully into their consideration the strong reasons that exist for doing what is possible to prevent an Austro-German force overrunning Serbia, relieving Constantinople, and opening the way to the Persian Gulf. It is not a very small interest that we are fighting for. The attack of the Central European Empires is an attack upon a position which is of the very utmost interest to us, for it is practically an attack upon the road to India. It may be, of course, that strategic considerations would decide in favour of crushing the enemy in France, Belgium, and Poland rather than in dispersing forces so widely. But it is to be presumed that the British Empire, Russia, France, and Italy have all taken counsel with their military and naval advisers, and that they have not rushed blindly and ignorantly into what they must be aware is a very grave undertaking.

M. DELCASSÉ'S RESIGNATION.

All well-wishers of France have learned with the deepest regret the resignation of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, one of the ablest statesmen of his generation, and a public man who has done more than any other individual to revive in the minds of Frenchmen confidence in their country, and to point out the way by which they could raise her once more to her old position upon the Continent. M. Delcassé, our readers will remember, evoked the strongest hostility in Germany because, when first Foreign Secretary, he dared to reject the policy which had been imposed by Germany upon his country, and to strike out a line for himself which has gradually led up to the Alliance which is now challenging the supremacy of the two Central European Empires. The burst of indignation in Germany created a scare in Paris and M. Delcassé had to resign. For a time, indeed, he had to disappear from active public life. But his countrymen soon recognised the great services he had rendered, and he was restored to office. He served for a considerable time as the representative of France at the Court of Russia, and recently he has been French Foreign Minister. It is well known that he has been lately seriously ill. Unfortunately, he is of a disposition which does not care to work through subordinates, which insists upon doing everything

important himself. Therefore the drudgery he undergoes is very great and, combined with the anxieties and the worries of the present War, no doubt has undermined his health. There would seem to be, likewise, some disaccord between him and his late colleagues. The Prime Minister asserts that up to little more than a week ago M. Delcassé had not expressed any disagreement with the policy that was being pursued. But it would seem that in his last letter of resignation—for he wrote more than one—M. Delcassé himself stated that he was not quite in accord with the policy that was being carried out. However, the Prime Minister declined to read the letter, alleging that he was unauthorised to do so. Therefore no good purpose can be served in following up the matter. We trust and believe that the differences of opinion are slight, and that M. Delcassé is really in a state of health which makes it advisable that he should seek rest. It is true, no doubt, that his colleagues urged upon him to take a temporary rest without resigning. But he may well have considered that the man who guides the foreign policy of France should not be a mere temporary holder of the office, but should feel all the responsibility of the official Secretary of State.

As we see no advantage in pursuing the matter further, we are content to wait until M. Delcassé and the Government are satisfied that the full correspondence can be published without injury to France. In the meanwhile we most sincerely hope that M. Delcassé will be quickly restored to health; that he will take leave of Paris for a while; and in good air, quiet, and seclusion he will recover his strength rapidly. We are quite sure that M. Delcassé is too good a Frenchman to say or do anything that in his opinion would be prejudicial to his country. When he first came forward with the policy which prepared the way for the *Entente* with England he was the only French statesman who recognised that a new generation was springing up in France which was impatient of the subordinate part their country was playing towards Germany, and who were full of confidence in the spirit of the country and the capacity of the people to restore France once more to a leading position. For the moment, owing to the timidity of his then colleagues, he had to resign under German threats. But his country did not forget the service he had rendered, and we feel very sure that as soon as his health is restored he will be as ready as ever to do for France everything that lies in his power. His presence in the Cabinet unquestionably gave confidence to all the Allies, and particularly to our own country. We knew that he was the first to see that an alliance between England and France would help France to retake her old position, and the courage that he showed in preparing the way for the *Entente* has made a deep and lasting impression amongst our people. Most sincerely, therefore, do we regret the necessity he feels himself under to retire even temporarily from the service of his country. But we do not doubt for a moment that, whenever wanted, he will be ready to step forward again.

There are few public men in Europe at present who have perhaps a wider or a firmer grasp of international policy. He has studied it not only in France from the point of view of Foreign Minister. He has studied it likewise as the representative of France at the Russian capital. Properly, then, his presence at the Foreign Office was regarded by all the Allies as a guarantee that the French policy would be wisely carried out, and that nothing would be left undone which foresight and wide experience would dictate. It is, perhaps, well that he should just now take a rest. The colleagues he is parting from are all men of first-rate ability, all filled with his own spirit and patriotism; and all to be depended upon to do everything possible for bringing the War to a successful points of view critical. Especially, it is critical termination The moment, no doubt, is from certain because of the condition of things in the Balkans. But it is to be recollected that the winter is now rapidly approaching; that it is scarcely possible that any new and great military adventure can be entered upon by the one side or the other; and that, therefore, in all reasonable probability we have the winter before us in which to reconsider all our plans, to review calmly the past, and to think out carefully our pressing duty for the spring. France up to the present has made very great exertions. It is true that when the War broke out she was less well prepared than might have been expected considering, firstly, the breathless haste with which Germany was increasing her army and building up a great fleet; and considering, furthermore, the certainty that whenever Germany felt herself ready France would be the very first to be struck at. The excuse for France is that her Parliamentary system was a bad one; that it made it impossible for any Cabinet to live long enough to carry out a well-considered and coherent policy; that Ministries followed Ministries so frequently that practically the administration of the country was left in the hands of the permanent officials, and that Parliament did not recognise in a sufficiently serious spirit the real temper either of France or of Germany. All that has now ceased. Nobody can for a moment doubt that the French people are resolved to see the War fought out to a successful finish; and, therefore, perhaps no better time could be found for M. Delcassé taking a rest which apparently he so urgently needs.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The working results of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company in the past year, as disclosed by the report now to hand, come out much better than they appeared from the preliminary statement. When announcing the payment of an interim dividend at the rate of 4% per annum in April last it will be recollected the directors stated that such a dividend had not been earned, and that the reserve fund had been drawn upon to make good the deficiency. How much had been taken from reserve was not disclosed, but whatever it was it has apparently been refunded, and the dividend of 4% for the year is paid solely out of profits earned plus the greater portion of the balance brought forward from 1913-14. The profit available for distribution is £838,000, a sum equal to not quite 3% on the Ordinary capital, and after paying 4% on the stock, the balance carried forward is reduced from £316,000 to £58,000 only. The Company was able to save approximately 40% of the falling off in earnings by reductions in expenditure, for with a decline in gross receipts of £523,000, the decrease in net earnings comes out at £310,000, or 13.6%. Interest charges on balance were slightly smaller, and the decline in profit amounts to about £290,000, or 25%. The Company suffered from unprecedented floods during the year, causing considerable damage to property. This will involve an expenditure on repairs, &c., of over £200,000, of which £165,453 was incurred during the year under review. This latter sum has been apportioned between the casualty and reserve funds, the former of which has been absorbed. To this extent, of course, the net revenue of the past year has benefited. The total estimated tonnage of the wheat, barley, and outcrops from the 1914-15 harvest from the Company's own district is expected to amount to 1,300,000 tons, of which 1,040,000 tons had been carried at June 30 last. The balance remaining to be transported at that date was larger than is usually the case. Moreover, the weather was quite propitious during the ploughing and sowing of the coming crop, and although rain was at one time wanted, seasonable showers have since occurred which have assisted the young growth. The price of the stock is about 80, and on a 4% dividend basis the yield afforded is of £5$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

WITH HOW LITTLE WISDOM THE WORLD IS GOVERNED.

Few things are more surprising than the attitude taken up at the present moment by the several Balkan States. Evidently the King of Bulgaria is of opinion that the Central European Powers will win; and equally evidently the Sovereigns of both Roumania and Greece entertain strong doubts upon the point. Furthermore, if we listen to our own sensational and militarist Press, we see that there is a widespread impression here at home that, to say the least, Germany has a fair chance. Furthermore, many of the neutrals, judging from their actions at all events, are by no means convinced that the *Entente* Powers will succeed as completely as their Governments declare they are resolved to do. Is there real ground for this uncertainty? It seems to us worth while to answer the question, for it will be seen that the doubts respecting it are influencing the practical conduct of Governments. Upon the side of those who believe that Germany will come out, if not victorious, at least not seriously injured, it may be urged, firstly, that she had devoted herself for half a century to preparing for this particular War; that she chose her own time, satisfied that she was prepared and her enemies were not; and that at the end of fourteen months she holds possession of nearly the whole of Belgium, of a very considerable part of France, and of nearly all Russian Poland. It is an exceedingly strong position, looking at the facts as they exist to-day. It would be foolish to attempt to persuade anybody that Germany has not done a very great deal, and that she has not proved that, at all events in preparation, she has given evidence of great foresight and great resources. Now let us turn to the other side. England had been warned for a whole generation that Germany was preparing to attack her. But English Governments, one after another, had refused to admit that it would be politic on their part to send a great army to the Continent. Therefore, they put their main trust upon the Navy. And they have swept the enemies' shipping from the seas. The enemy, except through neutrals, can obtain no foreign supplies, and the enemy cannot show its flag upon the seas. So far, then, as naval preparation is concerned, England has done as well as she anticipated. She likewise has proved that in naval preparation she has shown great foresight and great resources. On the other hand, after many debates in Parliament, and much discussion in the Press, Lord Haldane decided upon reorganising the Army. He professed to give the country an Expeditionary Force of about 150,000 men, and to raise a Territorial Force which would be sufficient to defend the United Kingdom from invasion. The Expeditionary Force, when the time came, was forthcoming, and did splendid service at Mons and elsewhere. The Territorial Force has also done splendidly. Moreover, in response to Governmental appeals there have been raised new armies amounting to somewhat over 2,000,000 of men. It was notorious to everybody that 2,000,000 of men could not be clothed, armed, fed, and disciplined in a very short time. It is barely fourteen months since the War broke out. Already we have assembled such an army in France as is capable of taking the offensive, and is pressing the Germans hard. We have also an army at the Dardanelles. Now we are sending an army to Salonika. And, in addition to what the United Kingdom itself has been doing, India and all the self-governing Dominions have furnished us with very large forces which have done splendid service both in France and Belgium and at Gallipoli.

The French were admittedly not prepared. Only a month or two before hostilities began the French War Minister admitted that there was a shortage in munitions, and even in boots. As for Russia, it was notorious that after the War with Japan she had undertaken to reconstitute her Fleet and to reorganise her Army on an entirely new principle. Furthermore, she was so doubtful as to the progress she had made that she had publicly announced that she would carry out a test mobilisation in the autumn of 1914. We have often before put these facts before our readers. But, even at the risk of wearying them, we repeat them to-day for the purpose of asking the plain question, Did any one of them when hostilities began expect that three countries like England, France, and Russia who were notoriously, and even admittedly, unprepared, could in fourteen months not only make themselves ready both by land and by sea, but could also drive the enemy, who for half a century had been preparing for the struggle, back over his own frontiers? If people, instead of wasting time in studying dead languages, which they never master, would give some reasonable attention to history, we will not say general history, but even to the history of their own country, they could not possibly make such a mistake. Have our people completely forgotten that their ancestors entered into the war with revolutionary France in 1793, and that, except for two short intervals, the struggle lasted till 1815, a period of twenty-two years? Compare that with fourteen months at the present time. Again, have they completely forgotten that the American War of Independence began in 1776, and peace was not concluded until 1783? Lastly, are they quite ignorant of the fact that the Crimean War began in 1854 and did not end until 1856? And yet the Crimean War was not for conquest. On the contrary, England and France bound themselves not to take any Russian territory. The operations were confined to the siege of a single city. Practically the war resembled very closely the present struggle, except that it was concentrated on one spot, and that the artillery of that day was a very small thing compared with the artillery of the present day. If our people would only read up, even in a casual way, the history of the great wars in which this country has been engaged they would see that those who talked of a short war were persons who were completely ignorant of what war means. In this Journal the present writer at the beginning of hostilities stated again and again that it was understood that Lord Kitchener expected the War to last for three years, and he went so far as to say that the estimate appeared by no means to err on the side of over-sanguineness.

In our deliberate opinion Germany has committed the grossest and the gravest mistakes; whereas the *Entente* Allies have done more in fourteen months than we ventured to hope they could do. And we may add that in our own deliberate opinion, no matter what may happen in the Balkans, Germany and Austria-Hungary are already defeated, and from now onwards will be out-matched both in numbers and in munitions. Recollect that the result of war depends upon three things—namely, the numbers which the several combatants are able to bring into the field; the capabilities of the several combatants to feed, clothe, arm, and supply with everything necessary the men in the field; and generalship. Now it is as plain as that two and two make four that the *Entente* Allies immensely outnumber the enemy and, consequently, can go on fighting for a much longer time. We will say nothing of the loss of life to the enemy because they fight in massed formation. We will assume, for the sake of argument, that the losses have been nearly proportionate. Yet when we bear in mind that Russia alone has a larger population than Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey all added together it is manifestly true that the *Entente* Allies vastly outnumber their enemies. With regard to supplies, England and France have greater credit than Germany and Austria-Hungary; while England, France, Russia, Italy, and Japan, if they find it necessary to make an extraordinary exertion, can furnish themselves with supplies out of all proportion greater than those obtainable by the Central European Powers. Lastly, we come

to the question of leadership. The present writer cannot call to mind any more flagrant case of utter incompetence than that displayed by Germany in the present War until he goes back to our own blundering and floundering during the American War of Independence. Germany assumed that, having control of the resources both in men and material of Austria-Hungary, she could use the latter to keep Russia practically at arm's length, while she herself overran Belgium and France and took possession of Paris. Austria-Hungary was not able to keep Russia at arm's length. Germany found that the "contemptible little British Army" with the French was able to inflict such losses upon the invader that he was turned back at the Marne and the Aisne. The whole winter was spent by Germany in attempts to recover ground, but in vain. And now the British and the French have assumed the offensive and are driving the enemy from trench after trench.

Whether the Germans, disgusted with their failure in France, turned to Russia in the hope of setting things right, or whether Austria-Hungary had so broken down that the Germans feared a Russian invasion of Prussia, we leave to each reader to settle for himself. But the fact is unquestionable that the Germans had very greatly to weaken their armies in France and Belgium so as first to stop the Russian advance, and then to drive them out of Russian Poland. Now the rainy season is in activity. The Russians are assuming the offensive. The Germans are suffering defeat. And there seem good grounds for believing that the German forces in Russia have been very seriously reduced. Each reader will have to decide for himself whether this is done to strengthen the German armies in France, or whether, Bulgaria having been seduced, the troops that it was supposed could be spared from attacking the Russians are being sent to crush Serbia and so relieve Constantinople from the Franco-British attack. But whichever way one looks one sees that the Germans have gained no real advantage anywhere. They are almost on the eve of winter in Russia, when the cold will play havoc with them. They are obliged to spend another winter in the trenches in France. And they are madly engaging in another expedition at the very extremity of Europe. Anything more insane than the strategic plans of Germany it is scarcely possible to conceive. We will not venture upon estimates as to what resources in men remain to the two Central European Empires, for we have not access to the official figures and guessing will not help us much. But unless our own Government, the French Government, and the Russian Government have all combined to mislead the public, the system of attack pursued by the Germans, their massed formations, and their great dependence upon artillery of a huge type make it reasonably certain that the losses of the Germans and the Austrians have been immense; that nearly every man capable of fighting has been called up; and that the question now is practically presenting itself, How are reserves to be found? If men are withdrawn from the mines and the factories to put them into the fighting line, how can those of the fighting itself, How are reserves to be found? If men are if the workers are not withdrawn how is the wastage of war to be supplied?

Canada Landed and National Investment Co.—Dividend of 2½% for quarter.

Commonwealth and Dominion Line.—Bonus of 2%, tax free, on Ordinary shares, making 8% for the year.

Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Interim dividend on Deferred stock at the rate of 12% per annum, less tax.

International Banking Corporation.—Dividend at rate of 6% per annum for half-year.

Merchants Bank of Canada.—Quarterly dividend of 2½% upon the paid up capital stock.

North of Scotland and Town and County Bank.—Dividend for half-year at rate of 12½% per annum, less tax.

National Bank of Australasia.—Dividend on both Preference and Ordinary shares for half-year at rate of 7%.

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Financial Notes.

It is with much regret we record the retirement of Mr. Howard Gwyther from active business life. Mr. Gwyther has been in active business in the City since 1851. He has held successively the position of General Manager and of Chairman of the Chartered Bank or India, and he has sat as director on the boards of several other banks. In every one he has shown the highest capacity. Indeed, few men have been held in higher regard in the City. After so long, so useful, and so distinguished a career, he is well entitled to rest. We trust that he will be able to enjoy many happy years yet. For all that, we frankly admit that we regret his retirement. He belonged to a generation in which a very great number of distinguished bankers flourished. We are not so well provided now that we can spare so competent a man.

The United States Department of Agriculture has published a bulletin on the unusual spread of the boll weevil this year, from which we learn that the weevil usually in the past has advanced into new territory at the rate of about fifty miles per annum, but that in a single fortnight this year it has advanced almost a hundred miles, carrying the insect into twenty-five counties of Georgia, as well as into several districts in the States of Alabama and Florida. The principal cause assigned is the high winds which ruled towards the North-east for several days after the middle of August. It is added, however, that the drought in Alabama and Mississippi aided in the dispersion of the weevil.

The Pilgrims of the United States gave a dinner on the last day of September to the members of the Anglo-French Financial Commission. Sir Edward Holden, being indisposed, was unable to attend. But all the other members of the Commission were present. Mr. Choate, Chairman of the Pilgrims, amongst other things, said that although the United States is a neutral nation, every one of its people is guaranteed by the Constitution the right to freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and freedom of the Press. Therefore, he said, he was justified in

giving vent to his own opinion respecting the Great War. "Whenever I see men fighting for liberty, justice and civilisation, my heart is always with them. On the other hand, when I see men commit the grossest brutality and cruelty my heart is all against them."

He went on: "My friends from England and France have been steadily labouring with financiers, and they have reached a conclusion after two weeks which, if they had appealed to the people of this country, they would have reached in twenty-four hours; I thank them for giving Americans the chance of helping matters along. Fourteen months the War has been waged and now I hope that every man, woman and child of the United States who has got a hundred dollars will invest it in this loan, and what's more I hope that this is only the first instalment. It is a great thing for us to have the opportunity to help, and think that the people here are grateful for it. I am speaking for myself, and constantly, daily and nightly, I am sympathising with the Allies. I verily believe this is the sentiment of ninety millions of the one hundred millions of my countrymen."

It will be in the recollection of our readers that the United States Controller of the Currency gave an opinion that a government is not a person, company, firm or corporation within the meaning of the National Bank Act; and that, therefore, the limitation on the amount of loans to 10 per cent. of a bank's capital and surplus does not apply in connection with loans to a government. It has been pointed out that the Controller is without authority to control the National Banks in such matters, and that the question of participation in loans is entirely a matter for the officers and directors of a bank to determine. Whether that be so or not, it may be worth while to quote the following from the statement issued by the Controller:—

"In response to inquiries which have been received at the Controller's Office, as to whether National banks will be limited in taking Government loans by the provisions of Section 5200 U.S.R.S., which restrict the total liabilities to any national bank of 'any person or any company, corporation or firm for money borrowed' (not including discount of commercial paper, &c., actually owned, and bills of exchange against existing values) to one-tenth of the capital and surplus of the bank, but in no event to exceed 30% of the capital stock of the bank, the Controller of the Currency said to-day: 'This office has been advised by counsel that governments are not corporations or persons within the meaning of Section 5200, and that investments made by national banking associations in Government securities, such as Government bonds, in excess of 10% of the unimpaired capital and surplus of the association would not be in violation of that section.'"

The New Trans-Canadian Railway.—At the invitation of the directors, a party numbering about 140, including the Senators and Members of the Dominion Parliament, this week commenced a ten-day trip across Canada to formally inaugurate the completion of the 3,000 miles of the Canadian Northern Railway from Atlantic to Pacific, fed by about 6,800 miles of contributary lines and branches.

Pacific Loan and Investment Co.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax.

General Steam Navigation.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax, on Ordinary.

Roberts (T. R.).—Dividend on the Preference shares will be deferred until the accounts to December 31, 1915, have been made up.



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of Boston, Mass.

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American Topics.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY.

The ability of the directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway successfully to carry out the big programme entered upon in the spring of 1914 has been increased by the boom in industrial activity in the United States which has arisen from the enormous purchases of the belligerent nations. When $33,000,000 of 5-Year Notes were disposed of in March 1914 the directors agreed to set aside during the currency of the Notes no less than $17,000,000 of net income for various capital purposes, including payments and discounts upon Equipment Trusts. Of this sum $2,000,000 was handed over to the trustee of the Note issue during 1914-15, $3,000,000 is to be handed over this fiscal year, and $4,000,000 in each of the next three years. The agreement covering the Note issue also provided that until 1919 no distributions shall be made upon the stock unless all payments to the trustees shall have been fully met. The significance of this arrangement will be more apparent when we say that out of last year's net income a sum equal to 3.18% on the stock had to be handed to the trustee, that this year the quota so payable will equal 4.76%, and that for each of the following three years the trustee will receive a sum equal to 6.35% on the stock before any dividends are rendered permissible.

From the point of view of business handled, and the revenue derived therefrom, the past fiscal year was an unprecedentedly active period for the Chesapeake. As in the case of the Norfolk and Western, the bulk of the Chesapeake's business consists of bituminous coal, which is carried at exceedingly low rates to tidewater at Newport News. Large quantities of the mineral are also conveyed westward, while a further considerable amount is shipped to the Lakes. In the past year of a total revenue tonnage of about 30,000,000 tons, 21,000,000 tons, or 70%, consisted of bituminous coal. The expansion in the volume of the freight traffic, tons carried one mile, was no less than 15.2%, and arose from several causes. In the first place the Chesapeake conveyed over 122,000 horses and upwards of 30,000,000 bushels of grain for export purposes, these figures in both instances being abnormal. But this traffic, while looming large in gross receipts, was not of a particularly profitable nature. Secondly, and by far the more important factor, was the bringing into operation of the new coal-handling plant at Newport News. Previously the Chesapeake was somewhat at a disadvantage with regard to the facilities at that port in comparison with its competitors, but last year, by means of a pier equipped with every modern appliance for the expeditious handling of coal, the Chesapeake

Income Statement of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Year to June 30	Average Mileage.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Fixed Charges	Net Profit.	Div. on Common. Earned.	Div. on Common. Paid.	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$
1915 ...	2,369	39,464,000	27,556,000	69·83	11,908,000	1,106,000	13,014,000	1,349,000	9,001,000	2,664,000	4·24	1	628,000 2,036,000
1914 ...	2,346	37,460,000	26,414,000	70·51	11,046,000	2,145,000	13,191,000	1,331,000	8,888,000	2,972,000	4·72	4	2,511,000 461,000
1913 ...	2,319	35,636,000	24,957,000	70·03	10,680,000	2,197,000	12,877,000	1,376,000	8,202,000	3,299,000	5·25	5	3,139,000 160,000
1912 ...	2,263	34,785,000	23,126,000	66·48	11,659,000	1,804,000	13,463,000	1,014,000	8,175,000	4,274,000	6·81	5	3,140,000 1,134,000
1911 ...	2,229	33,065,000	22,267,000	67·34	10,798,000	1,532,000	12,350,000	1,066,000	8,056,000	3,228,000	5·14	5	3,140,000 88,000
1910 ...	1,937	31,699,000	19,409,000	61·23	12,290,000	1,171,000	13,461,000	873,000	6,298,000	6,290,000	10·02	4¼	2,669,000 3,621,000
1909 ...	1,897	27,052,000	16,815,000	62·16	10,237,000	736,000	10,973,000	802,000	6,159,000	4,012,000	6·38	2	1,256,000 2,756,000
1908 ...	1,840	26,357,000	17,621,000	66·85	8,736,000	683,000	9,419,000	791,000	5,844,000	2,784,000	4·43	1	628,000 2,156,000
1907 ...	1,827	25,797,000	16,650,000	64·54	9,147,000	244,000	9,391,000	734,000	5,264,000	3,393,000	5·40	1	628,000 2,765,000
1906 ...	1,793	24,603,000	14,870,000	60·44	9,733,000	204,000	9,937,000	570,000	4,760,000	4,607,000	7·33	1	628,000 3,979,000
1905 ...	1,672	20,724,000	13,021,000	62·82	7,703,000	177,000	7,880,000	513,000	4,495,000	2,872,000	4·57	1	628,000 2,244,000

offered a service comparable with, or better than, any competitive road. In view of the really marvellous expansion in the production of bituminous coal in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky—the production for 1914 having exceeded 100,000,000 tons, against only 45,000,000 tons ten years ago—it is little wonder the quantity of traffic the Chesapeake has been called upon to handle has shown continuous increase. As the United States grows in population and in wealth, and the manufacturing industries of the country expand, the demand for the mineral will reach still larger proportions. Indeed, the volume of this traffic anticipated to accrue to the Chesapeake is likely to rise to such totals as will tax the ingenuity of the officers of the road.

Despite some falling off in passenger traffic the gross earnings for the past year expanded no less than $2,004,000, or 5.4%, and inasmuch as there was an increase of $1,143,000, or 4.3%, in expenses the addition to the net earnings was $862,000, or 7.8%. Net earnings last year amounted to $11,908,000, and were the greatest ever secured, apart from those for 1909-10, which reached $12,290,000. Last year's improvement in net earnings was unfortunately more than offset by a decline of $1,039,000 in miscellaneous income, due to three causes. First, the Company received only 4% on its holding of Hocking Valley stock, against 8% in 1913-14. Further, nothing was received on account of Kanawha and Michigan stock through the Chesapeake's holding in this road having been disposed of by order of the courts towards the close of the previous year. Lastly, a great deal of the war traffic handled last year came to the road in foreign cars, and a large expenditure was thereby incurred for hire of equipment. Interest charges and taxes called for a slightly larger sum, and on balance the net profit amounted to $2,664,000, or $328,000 less than for 1913-14. The net profit of last year was equal to 4.24% on the stock, against 4.72% in the previous year. Whereas in 1913-14 four quarterly dividends of 1% each were paid, in the past year only one distribution of 1% was made in December last, since when no dividend has been distributed. To pay this latter dividend required $628,000, thus leaving a balance of $2,036,000, a sum slightly more than sufficient to make the requisite payment to the Note trustee.

Speaking generally the traffic of American railways doubles every decade, but in the case of the Chesapeake the growth is even more rapid. In the past ten years the revenue ton-mileage expanded no less than 117%, but owing to the greater growth of low-class than of high-class traffic the average freight rate secured declined very considerably. Hence gross receipts have not shown a gain anything like that secured in revenue ton-miles. Nevertheless they expanded over 90% in the decade, but against this operating expenses increased no less than 112%, so that there was a gain of only $4,205,000, or 55%, in net earnings, all of which has, however, been slightly more than absorbed by extra interest and other charges. Therefore, in 1914-15 the net profit was a shade less than in 1904-5. It has, of course, to be borne in mind that in the meantime wages and taxes have called for largely increased sums; indeed, since 1909-10 alone the addition to expenses from these causes has been equal to at least 4½% on the stock. Moreover, a good deal of new capital has been expended in recent years upon the Chicago extension and various improvements, as well as upon investments the full benefit of which is not at present being derived. With the application of large surplus profits each year to capital purposes, and the unlikelihood of any marked expansion in interest charges in the next few years, a good deal of the addition to the net earnings that may be secured may be saved as net profit. The course of earnings, expenses, and profits during the past decade will be apparent from the Income Statement herewith.

The increase in expenses last year arose mainly from heavier maintenance costs, for upon both the road and equipment greater expenditures were made than ever before. Per mile of road nearly $2,000 was spent on maintenance of way, against under $1,800 in 1913-14, while upon equipment nearly $300 more was expended per locomotive, $12 more per passenger car, and $8 more per freight car. It will thus be apparent that the physical condition of the road was by no means stinted. In the aggregate maintenance outlays last year represented 32.8% of gross receipts, against 31.9% in 1913-14. A favourable feature was the saving in conducting transportation through the introduction of further economies in operation, the ratio to gross receipts having been 34.24%, against 35.25% in the previous year. The expenditures of last year compare with those for previous years as follows:—

Operating Expenses of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	—Maintenance.— Way.	Equipment.	Cond. Trans-portation.	General Expenses.	Total Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915...	39,464,037	4,691,522	8,243,170	13,512,491	1,106,230	27,556,413
1914...	37,459,864	4,149,457	7,827,660	13,201,612	1,235,170	26,413,899
1913...	35,085,278	4,342,745	7,275,440	12,050,015	783,362	24,451,560
1912...	34,289,870	3,981,646	6,724,460	11,140,382	789,193	22,635,681
1911...	32,583,411	4,141,572	6,198,825	10,659,511	793,707	21,793,615
1910...	31,237,169	3,391,032	5,858,843	9,044,641	642,183	18,936,699
1909...	26,630,718	3,101,151	4,938,938	7,794,725	532,024	16,366,838
1908...	25,843,272	3,135,354	5,369,464	8,241,714	440,215	17,186,747
1907...	25,796,861	3,090,037	4,721,346	8,437,508	401,416	16,650,307
1906...	24,602,988	2,649,557	4,469,590	7,394,111	356,391	14,869,649
1905...	20,724,371	2,188,835	4,077,943	6,447,448	306,934	13,021,160

Ratio of Expenses to Gross Earnings of Chesapeake & Ohio Ry.

		%	%	%	%	%
1915 ...	...	11·89	20·89	34·24	2·81	69·83
1914 ...	...	11·08	20·89	35·25	3·29	70·51
1913 ...	...	12·38	20·74	34·34	2·23	69·69
1912 ...	...	11·61	19·61	32·49	2·28	66·01
1911 ...	...	12·71	19·02	32·71	2·44	66·88
1910 ...	...	10·86	18·76	28·95	2·05	60·62
1909 ...	...	11·64	18·55	29·27	1·99	61·45
1908 ...	...	12·13	20·78	31·89	1·70	66·50
1907 ...	...	11·9	18·3	32·7	1·6	64·5
1906 ...	...	10·8	18·2	30·0	1·4	60·4
1905 ...	...	10·5	19·7	31·1	1·5	62·8

With unsurpassed activity in the iron and steel industries of the United States, and with export demands of great magnitude, the consumption of bituminous coal is now on a large scale, and the Chesapeake is securing an unprecedented amount of traffic. For the 14 weeks to October 7 gross earnings have expanded $1,261,000, or 12%. The latest detailed revenue statement for the two months to August shows that an expansion of $833,000, or 12%, in gross earnings, was accompanied by an increase of only $191,000, or 4% in expenses, thus leaving net earnings $642,000, or 31% higher than for 1914. Interest charges and taxes were a shade lower, and consequently the net profit was as much

as $652,000, or 119% in excess of that of a year ago. Practically the whole increase in expenses arose from heavier maintenance expenses, the outlays for this purpose having been raised by $175,000, or 8%. Conducting transportation costs were only $22,000, or but 1% more. In the aggregate the expenditure for the two months bore a proportion to gross receipts of 64.1%, against 69.2% in 1914. Some idea of the increasing skill with which the existing traffic is handled is evident from the ratio of transportation expenses, which for the two months was three points lower at 28.2%. If the results to August are any criterion of those for the 14 weeks the gain in profit so far secured this year is not far short of $1,000,000. Thus, apart from the further expansion looked for in the remaining period to June next, the profits for the current year amount to about $3,664,000, a sum sufficient to satisfy this year's Note agreement demands, with a balance equal to 1% on the stock. As we have said, still better results are looked for this year, but notwithstanding this it is improbable the Board will resume dividend payments just at present, and the surplus beyond the $3,000,000 needed for the trustee will be carried forward to ensure the prompt settlement of the larger payments to be made in the three years subsequent to June 1916. Indeed, it would appear to be politic to refrain from all dividend payments until such time as the whole of the $17,000,000 shall have been provided.

The low level of the freight rates which the Company obtains, and from which it derives its profits, is shown below:

Average Freight Rate and Haul of Chesapeake & Ohio Railway.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Revenue Ton Miles.	Freight Earnings. $	Av. Fr't Rates, Coal. Cent.	Other. Cent.	Total. Cent.	Rev. Fr't Carried. Tons.	Aver. Haul. Miles.
1915...	2,369	8,138,347,516	31,288,537	·386	·568	·384	30,048,434	271
1914...	2,346	7,064,650,082	28,866,516	·312	·662	·409	27,722,015	255
1913...	2,319	6,694,879,287	27,549,696	·315	·605	·412	25,174,241	266
1912...	2,263	6,692,114,437	27,261,475	·317	·639	·407	26,147,903	256
1911...	2,229	6,082,682,596	25,590,927	·322	·645	·421	24,604,650	247
1910...	1,937	6,123,134,875	24,901,200	·316	·650	·407	22,892,229	267
1909...	1,897	5,095,552,874	20,885,511	·319	·667	·410	18,511,362	275
1908...	1,840	4,525,313,214	19,571,609	·326	·696	·432	16,540,833	274
1907...	1,827	4,617,608,676	19,974,861	·325	·635	·433	16,866,865	274
1906...	1,793	4,619,480,470	19,395,648	·327	·583	·420	16,366,880	282
1905...	1,672	3,754,388,306	16,039,312	·327	·619	·427	13,304,791	282
1904...	1,651	3,166,958,166	14,869,188	·337	·675	·470	11,550,017	274
1903...	1,637	2,631,297,190	12,510,006	·333	·596	·475	9,548,521	276
1902...	1,618	3,194,336,608	12,833,806	·307	·524	·402	10,904,165	293
1901...	1,507	3,051,175,642	11,842,213	·272	·525	·388	10,125,497	301
1900...	1,475	2,946,894,104	10,095,144	·202	·456	·343	9,746,840	302

By means of the improved condition of the road and equipment continued progress was made last year in increasing the train load, which was raised by 4.1% to the high figure of 906 tons. The whole of this improvement was due to better car-loading. The successful introduction of economies is perhaps better indicated by a survey of freight-train working over the past decade. Since 1905 the units of freight traffic have increased 117%, but by adding no less than 63% to the average train-load the Company has needed to run only an additional 33% freight-train miles. The progress made in the economical handling of the freight traffic in recent years is shown below:—

Freight-Train Results, Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Rev. Ton Miles.	Freight-Train Miles.	Train Load — Rev. Tons.	Total Tons.	Loaded Car Miles.	Car Load. Tons.	Loaded Ton Mile per Mile of Road.
1915...	8,138,347,516	8,979,417	906	962	251,609,510	32·3	3,435,061
1914...	7,064,650,082	8,119,349	870	927	228,284,767	30·9	3,011,617
1913...	6,694,879,287	7,937,054	843	901	224,876,129	29·8	2,886,968
1912...	6,692,114,437	8,846,617	756	788	220,538,817	30·3	2,957,056
1911...	6,082,682,596	9,271,608	656	689	208,221,197	29·2	2,728,625
1910...	6,123,134,875	8,739,022	701	733	200,270,768	30·6	3,161,307
1909...	5,095,552,874	7,549,759	675	707	171,462,669	29·7	2,686,667
1908...	4,525,313,214	7,292,695	621	652	155,298,570	29·1	2,459,000
1907...	4,617,608,676	7,748,219	596	628	169,081,956	27·3	2,527,000
1906...	4,619,480,470	7,877,372	586	616	173,251,208	26·7	2,575,000
1905...	3,754,388,306	6,743,296	557	585	143,806,-32	26·1	2,245,000
1904...	3,166,958,166	6,233,592	508	538	131,031,763	24·2	1,918,000

Through the sale of its interest in the Kanawha and Michigan Railway, which formed the connecting link between the Chesapeake and the Hocking Valley, over whose lines access to the Lakes is obtained, the Chesapeake has been placed somewhat at a disadvantage, but this is being rapidly remedied by the construction of a new connecting line. It is proposed eventually to construct a new link of 93 miles, but for the present, at any rate, only 30 miles are being built from Edgington, Ky., to Waverly, Ohio. At the latter point connection will be made with the Norfolk and Western over which trackage rights have been secured to a connection with the Hocking Valley at Columbus, Ohio. Upon its completion a year hence this new line will give the Chesapeake a much longer haul on coal destined for the Lakes than is obtained at present on coal delivered to the Kanawa and Michigan, and will very greatly enhance the profit on this business. The cost of constructing the new line, which will have very low grades in both directions, is estimated at $4,500,000, of which $4,087,000 is available from the proceeds of the sale of Kanawha stock to the Vanderbilt system.

In considering the value of Chesapeake stock account should be had rather of the intrinsic merits than of any temporary absence of dividends. Although it is possible no distribution may be made in the next few years, it should not be ignored that large profits are being earned and turned back into the road. The adoption of such a procedure, of course, has the dual advantage of keeping down the capital account and of increasing the equity of the stock, and when the final payment to the trustee comes to be made, we may expect to find the physical and financial condition of the property to have been so improved as to render the maintenance of steady dividends more assured than ever before. It has to be remembered that, despite past growth, the bituminous-coal industry of the United States is still only in its infancy, and that by reason of its proximity to tens of thousands of acres of coal lands as yet undeveloped, and the possession of a road with fewer curves and lower gradients than any other road shipping coal to tidewater, the business of the Chesapeake cannot fail to show marked growth as the years pass, apart altogether from the present abnormal conditions which the road is enjoying.

The amounts and prices of the Company's principal securities, together with the yields afforded, are appended:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div. Rate. %	Last Price.	Yield % per Ann. £ s. d.
5% 1st Cons. Mort. Gold	29,858,000	May 1939	5	M.&N. 108¾†	4 19 9
4½% Gen. Mort. Gold	48,129,000	Mar. 1992	4½	M.&S. 90½†	n5 5 11
R. & A. Div. 4% 1st Mt.	6,870,000	Jan. 1989	4	J.&J. 81*	n4 18 9
Big Sandy Div. 1st Mort.	1,674,000	June 1944	4	J.&D. 78½*	5 10 2
Gen. Fundg. & Imp. Mt.	3,698,000	Jan. 1929	5	J.&J. 85*	6 15 9
4½% 20-Yr. Conv. Bonds§	31,39 ,000	Feb. 1930	4½	F.&A. 86½†	n5 8 5
5-Yr. 5% Gold Notes	3 ,000	June 1919	5	J.&D. 94½*	6 10 8
Common stock	62,762,600		Nil	63*	

(*) New York prices. (†) London prices. (§) Bonds at 105½ are convertible at par at holder's option into common stock on Jan. 1, 1920. (n) Not allowing for redemption. (r) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

In dealing with the position and outlook of the Canadian Pacific in a recent issue we ventured to remark that the low ebb of traffic had practically passed, and that when the new crops came forward satisfactory improvements in earnings, both gross and net, would be secured. The crops of this year have been most bountiful, and are likely to be disposed of at relatively high prices, which should greatly increase the purchasing power of the agricultural community. At the same time all manufacturing plants in the Dominion are now busily engaged in turning out munitions of war, all of which should tend to the betterment of railway receipts. After a long spell of shrinkages in weekly traffics lasting, with one single exception, from the second week of December 1913 to the third week of September 1915, gains in gross receipts have commenced to be recorded, that for the last week of September having been $76,000 and for the first week of this month $642,000. For July gross earnings declined as much as $2,586,000 and net earnings decreased nearly $1,000,000, but in August a shrinkage of $1,117,000 in gross receipts was accompanied by a small improvement of $79,000

in net revenue. In September the decline in gross receipts was only $263,000, and when the full statement for the month comes to hand it will doubtless be found that a substantial expansion has occurred in net receipts for the month, which is likely to be continued in coming months. After the two years or so of depression the turn in the tide for Canada seems to have come at last, and for the various favourable factors in the outlook for the future we would commend the attention of our readers to the speech of the President of this Line, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, at the recent annual meeting. Few men in Canada are better qualified to express an opinion as to conditions in the Dominion than Sir Thomas, and at the present time his remarks should be studied with more than usual interest.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY.

HAVING regard to the untoward events of the past year the report of the Central Uruguay Railway is not unsatisfactory, although the set-back both in earnings and profits has undoubtedly been severe. In addition to the serious losses resulting from the commercial and financial disorganisation caused by the War, the Company suffered from the effects of heavy floods which occurred in the early months of the year, thereby rendering it doubly difficult to work with economy consistent with efficiency. With few exceptions an all-round decline in traffic has occurred, the principal decreases being in general goods, building materials, coal, and cereals. Cattle traffic shows considerable improvement, but the number of sheep carried declined by over 16%. The diminution in the total gross receipts was £75,700, or 11.6%, on the main line, and £156,500, or 14.2%, on the combined system, the Extension companies faring rather worse than the parent undertaking. By the exercise of rigid economy working expenses were curtailed by £60,000, or 9.6%, of which less than 50% is attributable to the main line. It is noteworthy that, despite the falling off in revenue, renewal, fund contributions are up to the average, 7% of the gross receipts having been debited to the working expenses and credited to the renewal funds. This represents a total of over £66,000, and of course helps to swell the proportionate cost of working, which, on the main line, has been raised from 58.89% to 61.67%. The decrease in net income is thus as much as £47,571, or 15.8%, and, as net revenue charges absorb some £15,290 more than in the preceding year, the decline in profit comes out at £62,861, or over 56%. Indeed, the sum available for the Ordinary amounts to only £3,791, as against £74,220, and no dividend is forthcoming, the balance carried forward being raised from £54,132 to £57,923. The income statement of the Company for the last five years is set out beneath:—

Central Uruguay—Main Line.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	575,298	650,997	738,143	671,195	610,755
Expenses	354,805	383,368	405,766	358,636	320,610
Ratio	(61.67)	(58·89)	(54·97)	(53·43)	(52·49
Net earnings	220,493	267,629	332,377	312,559	290,145
Miscellaneous	31,966	32,401	39,536	42,271	37,878
Net income	252,459	300,030	371,913	354,830	328,023
Permanent 6% Deb. stock ...	24,111	66,346	66,023	66,000	62,257
4% Western Extension Debs.	37,288	37,956	38,441	38,887	39,312
6% 2nd Deb. stock ...	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
5% Debenture stock ...	42,235	—	—	—	—
North-Eastern rent ...	54,256	56,295	59,569	58,988	57,880
Advances under guar. *	15,263	8,512	5,842	12,230	18,339
Western Exten. Railway					
Miscellaneous	16,155	5,269	1,296	—	—
Total charges	204,668	189,378	186,171	191,105	192,786
Net profit	47,791	110,652	185,742	163,725	135,237
Div. on 5½% Pref. shares	44.000	36,432	27,500	27,500	24,750
Profit for Ordinary ...	3,791	74,220	158,242	136,225	110,487
Ordinary dividend ...	Nil	50,000	125,917	115,917	101,790
Rate per cent.		(2½%)	(6½%)	(6%)	(5½%)
Balance	3,791	24,220	32,325	20,308	8,695
Brought forward	54,132	29,912	12,587	7,279	8,584
Total surplus	57,923	54,132	44,912	27,587	17,279
To reserves, &c.	—	—	15,000	15,000	10,000
Carried forward	57,923	54,132	29,912	12,587	7,279

* These advances are repayable out of future surplus earnings of the Western Extension Railway.

Fortunately the outlook for the Company is much more promising. As the directors point out in their report, the products of the pastoral industry, the principal source of wealth of the country, have been in great demand at unprecedented prices, and this will materially assist towards the recovery of the financial position in Uruguay. Moreover, practically the whole of the last maize crop still remains to be carried, and it is expected that exportation will shortly commence. Wheat has been sown under most favourable conditions, and to a considerably greater extent than in the past. Cattle are in good condition, and the demand is such that exceedingly high prices continue to be paid. Unfortunately there have been considerable losses in sheep, and a further falling off in wool traffic is likely to be experienced. On the whole, however, the outlook appears to be satisfactory, and although the General Manager anticipates a somewhat heavy increase in this year's coal bill, the net results should come out considerably better than those for the year now under review. Since the beginning of July the traffic receipts of the main line have increased £30,050, whilst the improvement on the combined system amounts to as much as £54,575, or 27.7%. Here are the figures:—

Traffic Receipts, 15 Weeks to October 9.

	1915	1914	Increase	
	£	£	£	%
Main Line	154,106	124,056	+30,050	+24·2
Eastern Extension	49,555	35,679	+13,876	+38·8
Northern Extension	25,373	19,988	+ 5,385	+26·9
Western Extension	22,381	17,117	+ 5,264	+30·8
Total system	251,415	196,840	+54,575	+27·7

With this excellent start and the promise of still better things later on, the Company should be in a position this year to meet its increased expenses, and at the same time add appreciably to its profits. In gauging the intrinsic value of the Company's securities, sight should not be lost of the fact that the real earning power of the line is much greater than it appears, for if to last year's divisible surplus we add the sum of £66,000 allocated to special renewals, we arrive at a total profit for the year of £70,000, a sum equal to a dividend of 3½% on the Ordinary stock. As the Company is not likely to again experience such a combination of adverse circumstances as it encountered last year, the position of the undertaking may be regarded as sound, and its securities are more likely to appreciate in value then to further recede. The price of the Ordinary stock is about 60¼. The £10 5½% Preference shares can be obtained at about 7⅞, and allowing for accrued dividend the yield afforded is as high as £7¼ per cent. The Debenture issues of the Company are well secured, and at current quotations form attractive purchases. The capital of the undertaking is as follows:—

Central Uruguay Railway.

	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ s. d.
Perm, 6% Debenture stock ...	38,126	6	106	5 16 6
4% Western Exten. Debs. ...	945,800	4	70½xd	5 13 11
6% 2nd Deb. stock, Red. ...	250,000	6	98xd	6 2 6
% Debenture stock	1,281,152	5	84½xd	5 18 4
N.E. Uruguay Ordinary (£10) ...	400,000	7	10xd	7 0 0
,, 7% Pref. (£10) ...	400,000	7	10⅝xd	6 11 9
5½% Preference shares (£10) ...	800,000	5½	7⅞	7 4 9
Ordinary stock	2,000,000	Nil	60¼	—
Total...	6,115,078			

THE NORTHERN EXTENSION.

The gross earnings of the Northern Extension Company come out rather better than estimated in the preliminary returns, which showed a diminution of £30,630, whereas actually they were down only £29,279, or 24%. The decreased earnings are attributable to the unfavourable weather experienced during the early part of the year, as well as to the disorganised state of trade and business in Uruguay and the South of Brazil due to the European War. There was a considerable increase in the number of cattle carried, and, as the staple industries of the northern districts are pastoral, and extremely good prices have been realised, "estancieros" have

strengthened their financial position, and, with a return to normal conditions, increased progress may be anticipated. The net sum retained by the Company under agreement was £42,845, as against £59,390, but the loss thus shown was almost entirely made good by the Government guarantee, which produced £34,632, as against £18,360. The net income for the year is, therefore, practically unchanged; but owing to the higher income tax and an increase in miscellaneous charges, the profit for dividend is reduced by £6,395 to £35,903. This is barely sufficient to pay the dividend of 4%, and the balance carried forward is lowered from £4,578 to £2,814. The income statement of the Company for the last five years is appended:—

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	92,293	121,572	147,143	122,361	106,455
Exp. (as per agreement)	49,448	62,182	71,612	62,611	55,889
Ratio	(53·58)	(51·15)	(48·67)	(51·17)	(52·00)
Net earnings	42,845	59,390	75,531	59,750	50,566
Govt. guarantee, &c. ...	34,632	18,360	4,587	17,080	24,747
Total income	77,477	77,750	80,118	76,830	75,313
Debenture interest ...	31,358	31,357	31,357	31,358	31,358
Miscellaneous	10,216	4,095	2,513	1,017	1,370
Total charges ...	41,574	35,452	33,870	32,375	32,728
Net profit	35,903	42,298	46,248	44,455	42,585
Div. on Ordinary ...	37,667	38,792	45,969	46,042	41,260
Rate per cent. ...	(4)	(4)	(4¾)	(4¾)	(4¼)
Balance	Dr.1,764	Cr.3,506	Cr. 279	Dr. 1,587	Cr. 1,325
Brought forward ...	4,578	1,072	793	2,380	1,055
Carried forward ...	2,814	4,578	1,072	793	2,380

With regard to the immediate future, the General Manager, in his report dated August 21, states that cattle and camps are in a satisfactory condition, but there has been a considerable loss in sheep owing to the superabundance of grass and the sodden condition of the camps. A falling off in the quantity of wool produced in districts served by the railway must be expected, but the traffic derived from Brazil will depend greatly on the conditions offering in the markets of Montevideo and Rio Grande. The Company is now receiving considerable quantities of "yerba" from Brazil, and is in negotiation for the transport of timber, which is at present brought to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres by water from Atlantic ports in the State of Paraná. It will, of course, take some little time for the financial and commercial conditions in Uruguay to be thoroughly adjusted. At the same time it would appear that the corner has been turned, and that in the current year the Company should do at least as well as and possibly better than it did in the past twelve months. The price of the £10 shares has recovered to 4⅞, and on a 4% dividend basis the yield afforded is as high as £8 11*s.* 2*d.* per cent. The capital of the Company is as follows:—

Northern Extension.

Security	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ *s.* *d.*
Permanent 5% Debenture Stock	627,150	5	89¼	5 16 3
Ordinary shares (£10)	1,000,000	4	4⅞	8 11 2
Total capital	1,627,150			

THE EASTERN EXTENSION.

The gross earnings of the Eastern Extension Railway show a decrease of £37,596, or 16.2%, as compared with those of the preceding year, and, as the receipts per mile were proportionately less, the percentage retained by the Central Company under the working agreement was increased to 52.06%, as against 48.68% in 1913-14, thereby reducing the net earnings by £25,845, or 21.8%. Thanks, however, to the Government guarantee, the greater portion of this loss was regained, the total income for the year coming out at £130,612, as compared with £135,780. On the other hand, net revenue charges were £7,700 higher, and the profit for dividend is nearly £13,000 down at £19,751. The dividend of 2⅝% requires £21,446, and the balance carried forward is lowered from £3,238 to £1,543 only. Twelve months ago the dividend was 3¾%, and in 1911-12 as much as 5¾% was distributed. The income statement of the Company for the last five years is as follows:—

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	195,712	231,309	251,712	252,002	218,979
Expenses (as per agreement)	101,847	112,599	122,473	122,438	106,150
Ratio	(52·06)	(48·68)	(48·66)	(48·58)	(48·47)
Net earnings	92,865	118,710	129,239	129,564	112,829
Govt. guarantee	37,747	17,070	8,122	7,998	11,920
Interest, &c.	—	—	150	1,285	11,590
Total income	130,612	135,780	137,511	138,847	136,079
Int. on 5% Deb. stock ...	57,333	56,364	53,353	53,333	48,978
Miscellaneous	10,528	3,805	4,379	334	—
Total charges	67,861	60,169	57,732	53,667	48,978
Net profit	62,751	75,611	79,779	85,180	87,101
Inv. on 5% Pref. shares ...	43,000	43,000	43,000	41,800	40,000
Profit for Ordinary ...	19,751	32,611	36,779	43,314	47,101
Ordinary dividend ...	21,446	31,211	39,596	46,679	40,542
Rate per cent.	(2⅝%)	(3¾%)	(4¾%)	(5¾%)	(5¼%)
Balance	Dr.1,695	Cr. 1,400	Dr. 2,817	Dr. 3,365	6,559
Brought forward	3,238	1,838	4,655	8,020	1,461
Carried forward	1,543	3,238	1,838	4,655	8,020

The large maize crop now awaiting transportation should help the Company considerably in the coming months, and, as the agricultural and pastoral outlook generally is very satisfactory, the improvement in earnings to date should continue. The price of the £10 shares is about £4 6*s.*, and the dividend of 2⅝% affords a yield of £6¼%.

The issued capital of the Company is as follows:—

Eastern Extension.

Security	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ *s.* *d.*
5% Permanent Debenture stock	1,146,666	5	85	5 19 9
5% Preference shares (£10) ...	860,000	5	6¾	7 17 6
Ordinary shares (£10)	860,000	2⅝	£4 6*s.*	6 5 0
Total capital	2,866,666			

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL.

The passing of the interim dividend on Great Western of Brazil Preferred and Ordinary shares in respect of the current year was a forgone conclusion having regard to the continued falling off in earnings and the low rate of exchange. The decrease in traffic receipts for the six months to June 30 was £89,000, or over 24%, the drop in exchange being mainly responsible. Since the beginning of July there has been a further diminution, and although some recovery has been shown in the last few weeks, the decrease in earnings to date is as much as £100,000, or 21%. The busy season in North-east Brazil is just commencing, and by comparison with last years exceedingly poor results the Company should continue to add to its weekly takings. Unfortunately the crops this year are backward, and the general opinion is that they will be considerably smaller than those of the past season, which were only moderately good. Prices, it is true, are high, but owing to the low exchange and high freights the benefit to planters and merchants is greatly nullified. It looks, therefore, as though any pronounced recovery in earnings is not likely to be experienced this year. On the other hand, greater economy of operation should be possible, as in the absence of floods, which last year were abnormally heavy, material savings will doubtless be effected in maintenance and renewal outlays as well as in transportation expenses. At the same time it is apparent that the Company has a difficult task to perform in order to again pay the full dividend on its 6% Preferred shares. Last year the profit available was £76,000, and the margin behind the dividend was thus only £16,000. Unless, therefore, there is a marked change for the better in the coming three months, it certainly looks as though the Company will be short of the sum needed to pay the Preferred dividend in full. It must, however, be recognised that the course of events at the moment is unprecedented, and that when peace is restored and matters again right themselves, as they must do sooner or later, the fortunes of the undertaking will quickly recover. The price of the £10 Preferred shares is 7⅛, and the last dealings in the Ordinary shares were at 4⅝.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
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Insurance Notes.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT AND QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION.

THE most interesting feature in the statements submitted by the Guardian Assurance Company for 1914 relates to the quinquennial valuation of the life section at the close of that year.

New life policies were issued by the Company for £510,548, of which £31,000 was reassured, the net retention being £479,548, as compared with £624,112 in 1913. The diminution is not more than might have been expected considering the dislocation of business and the lessened demand for life assurance caused by the War. During the whole of the quinquennium ended December 31, 1914, the net new life business was greater by £360,092 than that of the preceding five years. Excluding the figures of the Westminster and General life office, which was absorbed by the Guardian in 1906, the total net life premium income in 1914 (increased by £794) amounted to £275,194, of which ordinary expenses of management, inclusive of commission, seem to have absorbed about 15.4%. The sum of £8,584 was received as consideration for new annuities purchased. Claims by death amounting to £227,114 are reported as having been below the expectation. Policies for £37,756 matured by survivance. In the Guardian life account the sum of £56,023 was written off for revaluation of securities, and the relative life fund at the close of the year amounted to £3,602,707, apart from investment reserve fund of £100,000. The interest yield for the year seems to have been about £4 2*s*. 5*d*. per cent., after deduction of income tax. For the whole of the last quinquennium the net interest yield is reported to have been £4 0*s*. 7*d*., as compared with £3 16*s*. 11*d*. per cent. per annum for the preceding five years. The Westminster life account for 1914 shows a premium income of £36,188 and a fund at the close of the year amounting to £707,427, apart from an investment reserve fund of £27,000.

The quinquennial valuation of the Guardian life section was made five years previously by the British Offices' O^{M} Table of Mortality, in combination with net premiums and 3% interest, special reserves being set aside for early payment of claims, expenses of limited and commuted premiums, unequal distribution of payment of premiums during the year, and for war risks. This basis is a strong one. It will be seen that the assumed rate of interest is £1 0*s*. 7*d*. per cent. per annum less than that actually earned during the quinquennial period. On the other hand, the margin of premiums reserved is greater by more than one-third than the expense ratio in 1914. On these lines the valuation discloses a surplus of £516,748. Of this £100,000 appertains to the investment reserve fund, whilst £80,000 is allotted to shareholders and £300,127 to participating policyholders, apart from £19,873 distributed as interim bonuses during the quinquennium, the total policyholders' profits for the period thus amounting to £320,000. The balance of £36,621 remaining in the surplus after this allocation is carried forward in the life assurance fund as unappropriated.

The system of division amongst the policyholders is described as based on an analysis of the sources whence the profits were derived, with the view of giving an equitable share to each policyholder in proportion to his contribution to the surplus. New reversionary additions were made of £450,743 in respect of the policyholders' share of the divided profits.

The resulting reversionary bonus additions per cent. per annum are as follows in some specimen cases.

Whole-of-Life Participating Policies.

Age at Entry	Duration of Policy 5 Years	10 Years	20 Years	30 Years	40 Years	50 Years
25	24/10	27/8	32/5	42/10	47/8	52/0
30	25/2	27/8	32/10	41/8	46/10	51/8
35	24/10	28/0	33/8	40/0	45/8	51/8
40	22/10	26/0	32/10	39/2	45/2	51/8
45	21/8	25/2	32/5	39/2	45/2	51/2
50	21/2	24/10	32/5	39/8	46/0	—
55	21/2	25/2	33/2	40/5	46/10	—
60	21/8	26/5	34/5	42/0	—	—

Endowment Assurances Payable at 60 or Previous Death.

Age at Entry	Duration of Policy 5 Years	10 Years	20 Years	30 Years	40 Years
20	29/2	32/0	37/8	43/8	50/0
25	26/0	29/2	36/0	42/10	—
30	24/0	27/8	35/2	43/8	—
35	23/2	27/8	36/10	—	—
40	26/2	31/8	42/10	—	—

These results are rather curious. The bonuses are of good average amount, but they wobbble in an unexpected manner, and the method of apportionment strikes an outsider as somewhat pedantic and old-fashioned. The public are becoming keenly interested in bonuses, and the majority seem to like a method of allotment that gives additions at a uniform rate for all durations of a policy, preferably on the compound principle. The system adopted by the Guardian seems rather to handicap its agents when trying to explain its effect, especially when the Guardian bonuses are compared with those on the popular system referred to, which has been adopted by so many of its contemporaries.

The Actuary points out that the two outstanding features of the quinquennium are the large profit from mortality and the depreciation in the value of the assets. The mortality profit is estimated as having been £158,301, which certainly proves that the lives have been carefully selected; and this has been more than sufficient to meet the loss from depreciation and the additions to the investment reserve, together amounting to £128,863. The bonuses to Guardian policyholders somewhat exceed those formerly declared on the average, and this is certainly a very satisfactory result, looking to the period of financial depression covered by the quinquennium.

Reference may now be made to the accounts for 1914 relating to the fire and accident business and to the shareholders' funds. The Company's fire insurance business was somewhat less profitable in that year than usual, in accordance with a widely general experience. The fire premiums, decreased by £20,365, amounted to £595,315. Net losses (£362,835)

absorbed about 61% of the premiums, and expenses and other charges (£219,468) about 37%. The reserve for unexpired risks was, however, diminished by £10,050 in consequence of the reduced premium income, and the fire trading profit seems to have amounted to £22,792, or to only about 3.8% of the premiums, which is less than half the corresponding percentage shown in 1913. Out of this surplus £15,935 was applied to writing off depreciation in securities, in addition to a net sum of £13,000 transferred from the investment reserve fund, and the balance of £6,857, together with net interest earnings of £31,648, was transferred to profit and loss account. Thereafter the fire fund at the close of the year amounted to £825,250, representing about 138% of the relative premium income, which is a strong departmental reserve.

The account relating to accident, burglary and general insurance indicates a higher proportionate profit. The relative premium income, increased by £3,521, amounted to £201,460, and the trading surplus seems to have been £32,734, or about 16.2% of the premiums. To this has to be added £9,852, representing the net interest earnings on the fund, producing together a total departmental profit of £42,586, which has been applied as follows: In writing off depreciation in securities, £9,531; added to general reserve fund, £3,500; transferred to profit and loss account, £29,555. The accident fund thereafter amounted to £207,394, or to about 103% of the premiums.

Premiums in the redemption assurance section amounted to £13,597. The quinquennial valuation of the relative fund showed a loss of £1,918, owing to depreciation in securities during the quinquennium, which has been met by a draft to that extent on the profit and loss account.

Interest earnings and fees in the profit and loss account, less tax, not credited to the departmental accounts produced £41,722, as against which there was a loss of £562 on investments realised. To the balance of £41,160 falls to be added £15,000 transferred from investment reserve fund, £38,505 transferred from the fire account, £29,555 transferred from the accident account, and £83,340 transferred from the life funds, as shareholders' quinquennial valuation profits (inclusive of £3,340 from the Westminster life account), less £1,918 transferred to redemption assurances account and £2,007 representing expenses not departmentally charged. The resulting balance of £203,635 is thus applied: In provision for a dividend at the same rate as in the former year, viz., 10% on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000 (the subscribed capital amounts to £2,000,000, so that £1,000,000 is uncalled), £100,000; to depreciation in securities written off, £45,286; in increasing balance of profit and loss account, after provision for dividend, by £58,349 to £89,777.

The Company's total assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £7,370,442, the directors certifying that in their belief these assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated in the balance sheet, less the investment reserve fund.

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD, LTD.

The twelve months to June 30, 1915, have proved distinctly prosperous for this well-known and successful produce Company, and the total net profit is £18,033 greater than in the previous year. It is, of course, well known that the Company is very closely connected with the rubber industry, and the improvement in profits is regarded as an indication of the rather better times that the plantation rubber industry has enjoyed during the past twelve months. The Company's business is that of importers, planters, and distributors of tea in the English, foreign and Colonial markets of the world, general merchants, dealers in foreign and Colonial produce, and agents in London and the East; but, as already pointed out, the business is probably the best known at the present time by including the development, general management, and organisation of rubber and produce estates in all parts of the Middle East. At the annual meeting of the Company in 1914 a resolution was passed authorising the creation of 200,000 5½% Cumulative Preference shares, thereby bringing up the nominal capital to £1,007,500. The sanction of the Treasury having been obtained to the issue of 100,000 of such shares, these were offered to the shareholders in June last at par. Thereby the issued capital was brought up at June 30 last to £894,398, which sum was made up as follows:—

		£
500,000	£1 5½% Cumulative Pref. shares (fully paid)	500,000
100,000	„ „ „ (10s. paid)	49,692
300,000	£1 Preferred Ordinary (fully paid)	300,000
150,000	1s. Management shares (fully paid)	7,500
		857,192
	Calls on Cumulative Preference shares paid in advance	37,206
	Total	894,398

It may be added that the Preferred Ordinary shares rank after the Cumulative Preferred shares, and have a fixed Cumulative Preferential dividend of 5%. After an amount equal to the 5% paid on the Preferred Ordinary shares has been paid to the holder of the Management shares, the balance of the profits is divided equally between Preferred Ordinary and the Management shares until the former have received a further 5%, the ultimate surplus being divisible among the holders of the Management shares. The Preferred Ordinary shares have received their full 10% each year since the formation of the Company.

The net profit for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, has amounted to £152,302, as compared with £134,269 for the previous year. The Preference dividend has called for £27,500, the Preferred Ordinary dividend for £30,000, and the dividend on the Management shares for £37,500. There then remains a balance of £57,302, of which £50,488 have been set aside for various purposes, while the surplus of £6,814 has been added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £42,344. The manner of distributing the profits is set out below:—

Profits of Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited.

Year to June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit ...	152,302	134,269	124,967	170,159	167,493	123,085	47,969
Cum. Pref. Div. (5½%) ...	27,500	27,500	27,500	25,896	14,432	8,250	7,203
Balance ...	124,802	106,769	97,467	144,263	153,061	114,835	40,766
Prefd. Ord. Div. (10%) ...	30,000	30,000	23,982	15,000	15,000	15,000	12,411
Balance ...	94,802	76,769	73,485	129,263	138,061	99,835	28,355
Div. on Management shares	37,500	30,000	45,000	67,500	60,000	45,000	12,411
Balance ...	57,302	46,769	28,485	61,763	78,061	54,835	15,944
Appropns. to reserve, &c.	50,488	35,118	27,857	54,417	71,026	52,025	9,874
Balance ...	6,814	11,651	628	7,346	7,025	2,810	6,070
Brought forward	35,530	23,879	23,251	15,905	8,880	6,070	—
Carried forward	42,344	35,530	23,879	23,251	15,905	8,880	6,070

As against the total issued capital on June 30 last of £894,398, the balance sheet showed reserves of £281,000. The total assets were valued at £2,084,637, of which property, &c., stood at £360,217, while sundry stocks were valued at £338,568. The largest item of the assets is that of investments, which total £618,399. Last year the depreciation on the investments amounted to £58,286. The greater prosperity enjoyed by rubber companies of late is reflected in the statement that during the year the depreciation on the investments of Harrisons and Crosfield has been largely reduced, and on June 30 it only amounted to £22,573. The figures of the balance sheet as at June 30 last are appended.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ..	834,398	Property, plant machinery, &c.	50,217
Reserves	281,000	Sundry stocks	358,568
Mortgages	105,500	Loans receivable	185,630
Sundry creditors	284,215	Bills receivable	70,323
Sundry depositors ...	155,911	Sundry debtors	234,186
Acceptances	255,673	Acceptances	255,673
Profit and loss	107,940	Investments	618,399
		Expenses of new issues ...	5,595
		Cash	15,746
	2,084,637		2,084,637

The Company is providing for the control and management of between 150,000 and 200,000 acres of cultivation in the Middle East, principally under tea and rubber. As regards tea, Mr. C. Heath Clark, J.P., the Chairman of the Company, pointed out that for the first part of the present season the average prices are from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per pound higher than those of the corresponding period last year. But the continuance of these high prices throughout the present year are considered improbable, inasmuch as the weather during the present season has been exceptionally favourable for increased production, and it is fairly certain that India, Ceylon and Java will be in a position to largely increase their exports, and will together provide a greater surplus than has been had for some years.

As regards rubber, Mr. Heath Clark drew attention to the importance of rubber as regards our exports to America, and its assistance in adjusting the exchange with that country at the present time. He pointed out that the amount of rubber exported from the United Kingdom to the United States of America last year was valued at nearly £8,000,000, and if that going direct from the Middle East is added the total ranges between £10,000,000 and £11,000,000. In the first case it represents about one-sixth, and in the latter one-fifth of the total exports from this country to the United States of America. Rubber is two and a-half times the value of any other item in the list of our exports to America, and occupies the fourth place for value among the imports of the United States of America from the whole world. Probably about 70 millions of British capital is invested in the rubber industry in the Middle East, and although at the present time not more than about half of this large capital outlay is productive, it will return for the present year produce of the value of from 18 to 20 millions sterling. Mr. Heath Clark went on to say: "The development of the plantation rubber industry and the investment of this capital in the Middle East have also enabled this country and our Allies to have at their disposal and under their control by far the largest part of the world's supply of one of the things essential for carrying on the present struggle. The past year has served to place the industry in a still stronger position. For some years past I have asked your attention to the great reduction being effected in production costs, and last year I mentioned that, taking 10 companies that had reached the producing stage from among those under our care, there had been an average reduction of 6*d.* per pound in the cost of production on those estates. This year there has been over the same properties an average reduction of 4*d.* in the costs, making a total of 10*d.* per pound in two years. This reduction in costs will, I believe, still continue, although of necessity not to the same extent, but undoubtedly to the essential point to which we have always looked forward—that of making the plantations of the Middle East by far the cheapest, as well as the best, sources from which the world can draw its rubber supplies. This result is continuing to work itself out, and can be seen in the increase of the supplies from the Middle East, this year amounting to about 33%; and, on the other hand, the decrease in the supplies from all other sources this year probably amount to about 20%. The increased demand has continued to absorb the increasing supplies throughout the year, and at prices which for the first eight months are fully equal to the average price obtained for the whole of last year; while the larger output and reduced costs are giving a satisfactory increase in the profits of most producing companies. Prospects at the present time appear to indicate the continuance of an entirely satisfactory demand, capable of taking the increased production, at prices which will prove quite satisfactory to producing companies. I think, as a matter of fact, there is no reasonable doubt that the average price realised for the complete year 1915 will show a material advance on that for the complete previous year. We have a very strong market at the present time, with prices that are well ahead, probably amounting to at least 4*d.* a pound more than those ruling a year ago. So it looks as if the balance of this year should give a materially increased average price for the whole year. Therefore the producing companies will be in the fortunate position of improving their earnings both on the actual price of the produce and also from the very material reduction which has been [illegible] costs of production."

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Approx. Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
500,000	5½% Cum. Pref.	1	19/-	5½	5 17 8
50,000	5½ Cum. Pref. (£1)	10	-	5½	-
300,000	Preferred Ordinary Shares ...	1	27/6	10	7 10 11

STAVELEY COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

Though the profits made by this Company for the past two years are not equal to those for the exceptionally good period experienced to June 1913, yet they represent a very considerable advance on those shown for some years previous to the abnormal time of 1913, and it is certainly satisfactory that the profits for the year to June 1915 are only some £18,000 less than for the previous year. The Company owns ironworks at Staveley and collieries in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire. On the whole it has had quite a prosperous career, and the shareholders have received some substantial dividends. A somewhat wider interest has been taken in the Company's concerns during the past six years, inasmuch as in 1907 a reorganisation of the Company's capital took place. At that time the capital arrangements were somewhat complicated, and inasmuch as the directors had decided upon a policy of extensions, partly in the way of taking an interest in other companies and partly by means of the acquisition of additional land in order to maintain the output of the Company threatened by exhaustion of the older collieries, it was decided to reorganise and increase the capital. At June 30, 1907, out of an authorised share capital of £1,326,000, there had been issued £807,000. This was made up of 6,000 "A" shares of £100 each, of which £60 was paid up; 3,100 "B" shares of £100 each, of which £10 each was paid up; 6,000 "C" shares of £60 each, fully paid; 3,100 "D" shares of £10 each, fully paid; and 1,250 Five per Cent. Preference shares of £20 each; and as an indication of the confusing effect of so many classes of shares, it may be pointed out that for the year to June 30, 1907, the dividend was at the rate of £7 10*s.* per share on the "A" shares, £1 5*s.* per share on the "B" shares, £7 10*s.* on the "C" shares, and £1 5*s.* per share on the "D" shares. In order to place the Company in a better position to raise additional capital, it was decided to simplify the arrangements, and in place of the various classes of Ordinary shares to have merely Preference and Ordinary shares, though the Ordinary are of two classes, one of which is fully paid, while the other is only partly paid, and at the present time the capital consists of the following:—

		£
1,250	5% Preference shares of £20 each	25,000
782,000	Ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid	782,000
391,000	Ordinary shares of £1 each, 15*s.* paid...	293,250
	Making a total of	1,100,250

In addition to which there are outstanding Debenture bonds to the amount of £198,300. The Debentures were only issued as lately as 1911.

For the twelve months to June 1913, the profits were, as stated, exceptionally large and reached a total of £349,995, as compared with £117,240 for the previous year. The consequence was that the dividend on the Ordinary shares rose from 10% to 25%. For the twelve months to June 1914 the profits fell to £278,854, which were more than double those for the year ending June 1912. The dividend was fixed at 12½%, and a sum of £75,000 was carried to reserve. Further, a sum of £94,198 was carried to suspense account in consequence of payments on account of trade with South America, India, Sweden, and elsewhere abroad being held up through the impossibility of getting the amounts transferred to England. For the twelve months to June last the profits have amounted to £260,835, the Ordinary dividend is maintained at 12½%, while a sum of £153,416 is set aside in connection with a decision to capitalise undivided profits. There then remains a balance of £12,329 to be carried forward. In the following statement we show the profits of the past six years and the manner of their distribution:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Profit	260,835	278,854	349,995	117,240	128,376	122,685
Deb. int.	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	—	—
	254,085	272,103	343,245	110,490	128,376	122,685
Pref. div.	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
	252,835	270,853	341,995	109,240	127,126	121,435
Ord. div....	134,406 (12½%)	134,406 (12½%)	268,812 (25%)	107,525 (10%)	107,525 (10%)	107,525 (10%)
	118,429	136,447	73,183	1,715	19,601	13,910
Reserve fund, &c. ...	153,416	169,198	70,000	—	—	—
	—34,987	—32,751	3,183	1,715	19,601	13,910
Brought forward ...	47,316	80,067	76,884	75,169	55,568	41,658
Carried forward ...	12,329	47,316	80,067	76,884	75,169	55,568

It is interesting to note the manner in which extensions have been made during recent years. In 1905 it was announced that, in conjunction with another company a subsidiary company with a nominal capital of £300,000 had been formed, to which each company contributed equally. It was formed for the purpose of developing and working the Barnsley bed of coal at Brodsworth, in the County of York, the area of coal being nearly 6,000 acres, and a sum of £20,000 was set aside from profits against the expenditure. Twelve months later it was announced that sinking operations had been commenced at Brodsworth and were preceeding satisfactorily. In the meantime it had been decided to erect new blast furnaces and by-product coke ovens plant at the Devonshire Colliery works. By September 1907 it was stated that 50 of the new coke ovens had been started in May and the remaining 50 in July, and that the whole of the ovens, together with by-product plant, were in active operation. The first of the three furnaces was blown in in July and the whole of the plant was working with satisfactory results. Sinking operations had been continued throughout the year at the Brodsworth Main Colliery, and it was hoped that the Barnsley bed would be reached before the end of the year. Moreover, in view of the rapid manner in which all the well-known and practically proved coalfields were being acquired, the directors entered into negotiations which resulted in the acquisition by the Company of a number of leases covering in all between 5,000 and 6,000 acres of the Barnsley bed of coal lying south-west of Doncaster, known as the Edlington Colliery. The name was subsequently changed to the Yorkshire Main Colliery. Coal was finally reached at Brodsworth in October 1907. In 1908 the second new furnace which it was decided to erect on the Devonshire site was blown in, and as the iron required could be manufactured much cheaper at the new furnaces, the old furnaces at Broad Oaks were shut down and dismantled. Owing to the financial requirements in connection with the Brodsworth Main Colliery development on the Yorkshire Main Colliery was not pushed at first, but during the early part of 1909 a more active policy was carried out with regard to this colliery. And to assist in meeting the expenditure on this work, it was decided to set aside £40,000 from the profits of the year to June 30, 1909. During the remainder of that year, and during the early part of 1910, sinking operations were pushed forward vigorously at the Yorkshire Main Colliery, and the Barnsley seam was reached at a deptth of about 905 yards in July 1911.

It was then announced that the directors had made agreements which not only increased the area of the coal which will be worked to the Yorkshire Main shafts, "but by exchanges of minerals very much improve and consolidate the coalfields as a whole from a mining point of view." It was also stated that the 100 patent coke ovens erected at the Devonshire works did not produce sufficient coke for the furnaces, and, consequently, it was decided to erect a further 50 ovens. The whole of the capital expenditure required in connection with the Yorkshire Main Colliery, Devonshire works, new coke ovens, &c., had been temporarily provided out of revenue, but it was then stated that arrangements would have to be made for a further Debenture issue to meet the expenditure, and accordingly, in November 1911 an issue of £150,000 of Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures was made, which was principally taken up by the Company's shareholders. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	1,100,250	Properties, &c.	1,257,650
Deb. Bonds	198,973	Stocks	208,392
Sundry creditors	119,996	Sundry debtors	438,880
Reserves	245,828	Insurance fund invested in wagons	27,940
Suspense account	14,197	Cash in hand	89,372
Railway tolls, &c. ...	96,601		
Profit and loss	246,389		
	2,022,234		2,022,234

It is interesting to note that of the £94,198 carried to suspense account last year against foreign debts a sum of £80,000 is found to be in excess of what is now considered to be necessary to provide against the balance outstanding, and this amount has accordingly been transferred to reserve, bringing it up to £205,000. Attention is further drawn to the fact that the large growth of the Company's operations during recent years render it necessary to retain in the business the greater part of the undivided profits and capitalise them. It has, therefore, been decided to issue new shares to the Ordinary shareholders in the proportion of one new share for each three fully-paid shares, and one new share for each four shares on which 15*s.* has been paid. This will absorb 358,416 shares, and the shares so issued will be fully paid up, the amount required being provided by appropriating the reserve fund of £205,000 and £153,416 of the undivided profits. The issued Ordinary capital will accordingly be brought up to £1,140,416. At the same time it has been decided to increase the nominal capital to £2,500,000 by the creation of a further 1,302,000 new Ordinary shares. The £20 Preference share is quoted at 22½, giving a yield of about 4⅜%. The £1 Ordinary share fully paid is quoted at 2⅜, and on the basis of 12½% distribution the yield afforded is 5⅞%. The £1 share on which 15*s.* has been paid up stands at 34*s.* 6*d.*, and in this case the yield is about 6⅛%. Altogether in view of the considerable capital expenditure during recent years, there is reason to assume that the future will be of a satisfactory character, though the recent increase in working costs will probably make it a matter of some difficulty to maintain profits at the high level recently touched. We set out the present capital, prices, dividend, and yields afforded herewith:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Approx. Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
150,000	4½% Debentures	10		4½	
25,000	5% Preference Shares	20	22½	5	4 8 10
782,000	Ord. Shares £1 (fully paid) ...	1	2⅜	12½*	5 18 5
293,250	Ord. Shares £1 (15/- paid) ...	15/-	34/6	12½*	6 2 0

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Perfected Sickness and Accident Policies.

CHAS. WINDETT, Actuary and Secretary.

COMMERCIAL UNION
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - CORNHILL, LONDON.

Total Assets (including Life Funds)—£26,774,505.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Total Funds - £20,409,644

FIRE, LOSS OF PROFITS, MOTOR CAR, MARINE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, FIDELITY, BURGLARY, LIVE STOCK, ENGINEERING.

HEAD OFFICES { 1 North John St., LIVERPOOL
24-28 Lombard Street, LONDON

Commercial.

THE WHEAT POSITION.

Sound English wheat is now worth 50*s*. per quarter, while red winter wheat of the new American crop is about half a crown dearer, the mean quality being about the same. Of the 8*s*. per quarter or thereabouts which freight with sea and war insurance are now costing, the American producer seemingly pays 5*s*. 6*d*. to secure the English outlet for his surplus, while the English consumer pays 2*s*. 6*d*. as a species of fine for neglecting his home agriculture. The price of 60*s*. paid for some old Canadian by millers who want a little of it for mixing purposes has been trumpeted in certain quarters; but these mild miscalculations will always, while human nature is liable to err, be recurrent. Their effect is never important and the normal values soon return. Canadian wheat for November delivery is quoted at 50*s*., and as its intrinsic value is quite 3*s*. above average English the coming crisis is really in the direction of maintaining the home product at a price encouraging the farmers to extend its culture. At the time of writing the actual sowings are going on with a good deal of briskness, and Lord Selborne's appeal to the patriotism of the agriculturist will not, we believe, be thrown away on the class.

The purely commercial side of things is also encouraging if we take a fairly long view. A period of comparative cheapness in December and January may quite conceivably follow on certain events of which we shall speak, but the fact that there are buyers of Californian new crop for prompt shipment at 55*s*. per quarter is significant. Owing to the profit being dependent on the cheap freight of sailing ships this wheat will not be here before February, and the price paid therefore carries us far more into the future than the New York sales for December delivery of red winter wheat, which, as the buyer will not be compelled to take the grain, are rightly treated as speculative.

There has been for the past month a ding-dong battle between "bulls" and "bears" on the New York Wheat Exchange, prices ranging 16 cents per bushel, which is 5*s*. 4*d*. on our Government quarter of 480 lb. The British markets have been singularly little concerned. For one thing, affairs of grave moment occupy the public mind, and for another, there are those events which seem ahead of us in the trade itself, and of which we have spoken as likely to entail important consequences.

The United States operators may vary between themselves as to whether they will let Great Britain have wheat at 45*s*. or stand out for 50*s*. for December delivery. New York or Chicago may cable, and without exaggeration, remarkable scenes when a "bear" or a "bull" loses confidence, and by cutting short his losses causes a market price change of a shilling per quarter in a single day on an exchange which meets daily. But in the meanwhile Canada has succeeded in harvesting in excellent weather and with scarcely any losses by frost a wheat crop which out of six export grades is grading seldom lower than No. 2. Now the surplus available for exportation is put at the remarkable total of 23 millions milling and one million poultry wheat, and Canada is accustomed to look first and last to the U.K. as the buyer of its breadstuffs. Shipping is scarce, most of it is British, and it is not impossible that contracts for Canadian wheat exports in November, December and January may be so large as to relegate the winter wheat of the United States to a subsidiary position. The French and Italian wheat buyers might prefer the American product, but that would not particularly concern our markets, which are aware that 10 million quarters are required for the Latin countries and make all their calculations on the hypothesis that the grain will reach the French and Italian buyers in due course.

The other event is the magnificent wheat promise in that most variable of wheat producers, Australia. Spurred by patriotism and, as we hear, some really eloquent speeches of local statesmen, the Australian farmer largely increased his wheat sowings as the right thing to do in war time. On the grain so sown Nature has smiled from the first, and now, within a few weeks of commencing harvest in the North, of course the warmest region under the Equator, the likelihood of a record crop is overwhelming. The area would suffice for that with an average yield per acre, and the more conservative estimates reckon that fully two bushels per acre over an average will be secured. Now Australia is as purely non-speculative as Great Britain itself. We speak of wheat growers. The crop harvested in November and December will begin to be shipped freely quite early in January, and exports will be in full flow in February. This is the uniform experience of good years. Wheat so shipped will come largely by steamers, and therefore will not linger, as does the Californian fleet. By April Australia will be saying words of weight at Mark Lane.

It is clear that the wheat position is in no way discouraging to the consumer. On the other hand, there is, happily, little reason to doubt that the British grower will be able to sell every sack of 1915 produce at a remunerative price. If he is content to watch

his market, to abstain from the exchanges in crowded weeks when big cargoes are freshly in from abroad, and to deliver in the intervals of short oversea supply, he should not need to take a penny less than Lord Milner's "45*s.* per 480 lb." for his average samples, and he should get quite 50*s.* per 504 lb. for anything attaining that natural weight.

Reckoning a saleable surplus of 8½ million quarters and the price at 45*s.*, we have a figure well on the right side of 19 millions sterling, whereas in the bad years of a recent past the home producer has had to put up with sales of 6 million quarters and only get 9 millions sterling (30*s.* per quarter average) for them. Reckoning that the wheat grower must make 10 millions to pay his way in peace, and that the War has put things up 25%, notably labour and machinery, we still have the position restored to one of healthy, though by no means abnormal, profit on the skilled labour and capital incurred.

The following tables will serve briefly to show the home and oversea equations of wheat supply and demand respectively:—

I.—*The Home Position.*

		Quarters.
Estimated needs:	Seed	500,000
,, ,,	Mills	33,000,000
,, ,,	Taihnes	500,000
,, ,,	Total	34,000,000
Home yield		9,500,000
Import needs		24,500,000

II.—*The Oversea Position: Exporters.*

		Quarters.
Canada,	Milling wheat	23,000,000
	Poultry ,,	1,000,000
U.S.A.	Milling wheat	40,000,000
	Poultry ,,	2,000,000
Australia,	Milling wheat	10,000,000
Argentina	,, ,,	5,000,000
India	,, ,, (Unsold surplus of April crops)	3,500,000
North Africa, Persia, Chile, &c.		1,000,000
Exportable surplus		84,500,000

Of this total of 84½ millions it is probable that 3 millions will go to the relief of the trade in feeding-stuffs, as high prices are now bid (40*s.* per 448 lb.) for poultry wheat. America, too, has more than usual of inferior corn. The milling surplus therefore stands at 81,500,000 quarters.

III.—*The Oversea Position: Importers.*

	Quarters.
France (official statement of need)	7,000,000
Italy	3,000,000
Holland and Belgium	8,000,000
Scandinavia	3,000,000
Switzerland	2,000,000
China, &c.	5,000,000
Tropical America and Brazil	3,000,000
South Africa	500,000
Import needs	29,500,000

This leaves an unsold surplus of 52,000,000 quarters, out of which the United Kingdom will presumably need 24,500,000 quarters. That out of a world production of 500,000,000 qrs., 27,500,000 qrs. should be in hand is no more than a safety margin. At the same time, it appears to assure to British buyers a command of the markets sufficient to prevent any "corners," "rings" or speculative manipulations having any serious chance of even a brief success.

The *London Grain, Seed and Oil Reporter* gave a preliminary estimate of the world's wheat crop of 1915, the detail of which we published in THE STATIST of August 14. This authority now slightly revises its estimate, and the new aggregates are as set out below:—

The Wheat Crop of the World.

(In Quarters of 480 lb., 000's omitted.)

Total for Europe ...	265,150	242,600	281,900	251,450	237,150	253,300
Total out of Europe	252,600	209,700	212,700	211,100	198,600	190,000
Grand total... ...	517,750	452,300	494,650	462,550	435,750	443,300

Those of our readers who desire to refer to the detail of the different countries will find it at page 263 of THE STATIST of August 14 last. The *Reporter* has considered its figures anew with the knowledge of the now harvested spring wheat crops of the United States and Canada, but the latest aggregate estimate agrees "very closely with the preliminary one, although there are a fair number of changes in the individual totals for the different countries. In Russia, for instance, owing to the unfavourable weather experienced for the completion of the harvest, a certain amount of damage was done, and we have reduced the estimated yield by 5 million quarters. In America, where the yield is officially put at 125 million quarters, including 43 million quarters of spring wheat, the weather was so bad for harvesting winter wheat that much of this description was rendered unfit for human food, and a reduction of 10 million quarters from the official figure is allowed for. In Canada the season has been so favourable that the official estimate is for a yield of 38½ million quarters. In all probability this is too optimistic a figure, as a fair amount of damage was done by frosts to the late portion of the crops, and we have allowed for a reduction of 3½ million quarters. In Australia there was a very large increase in the acreage sown, and, in addition, the season has been an exceptionally favourable one up to the present time; the principal danger now to be feared is great heat at harvest time accompanied by hot winds. In Argentina up to a few weeks ago certain important districts were badly in want of moisture; but good rains have since fallen everywhere, and latest cables advise the crop outlook, on an increased area, as quite satisfactory. Agricultural prospects in India are also reported to be favourable almost everywhere, thanks to good rains, and the acreage, in all probability, will be equal to last year's."

COAL AND STEEL.

IN the Scottish coal trade there is an improved tone, due to seasonal requirements. At the same time the demand is by no means up to expectation, and though the increased call for supplies has brightened up the rather depressed export market a little, business cannot be called brisk. Tonnage is still scarce, owing to the requirements for war purposes, and, in consequence, freights continue to increase. The Serbian campaign is likely to reduce the tonnage still further—a fact which will naturally tend to raise freights still higher and add to the present difficulties of export. A few licences have been granted for export to Sweden, but as they are of a special character they cannot be regarded as indicative of a relaxation of the prohibition of export to that country.

It is regarded as probable that the comparatively small export of steel which has gone out of Scotland at intervals during the past year will shortly cease altogether owing to the peremptory demands of the Government. Deliveries have been running behind, and it is an open secret that further delay will not be tolerated. It is pointed out that exports are of great importance in the provision of financial support for the nation, but makers have been informed that the provision of steel for military purposes is of still greater importance. This rejoinder is taken to indicate the determination of the authorities not to tolerate further delay in deliveries by reason of ordinary business.

Meanwhile, as has already been pointed out, there are mills in the West of Scotland lying idle for want of workers. Fortunately the United States is also unable to cultivate its export business in view of the Governmental orders with which that country is fully occupied. Deliveries of United States billets and sheet bars for this country are greatly delayed, and it is therefore inconceivable that orders which have had to be refused by Scottish makers can be dealt with in the United States.

***For observations as to the cotton position see page 129.

VATADERIA RUBBER AND TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 5 , less tax.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

EXTRACTS FROM EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

NEW YORK, September 9, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad Company:

The Board of Directors submit the following report of the operations and affairs of the Union Pacific Railroad Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, *including* the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company, *whose entire capital stock is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company*, and the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, *whose entire capital stock is owned by the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company*. For convenience, the three Companies are designated by the term "UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM."

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS.

The transportation operations this year compared with those of last year, were as follows:

	1915	*1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Average miles of road operated	7,784.29	7,597.12	187.17	—	2.5
OPERATING REVENUES.					
Freight revenue	$59,136,841 47	$62,407,762 44	—	$3,270,920 97	5.2
Passenger revenue	18,748,558 82	20,540,076 56	—	1,791,517 74	8.7
Mail revenue	3,766,274 86	3,030,065 07	$736,209 79	—	24.3
Express revenue	1,997,973 96	2,120,657 54	—	122,683 58	5.8
Other passenger-train revenue	1,210,582 81	1,325,792 10	—	115,209 29	8.7
Other train revenue	125,930 55	237,839 50	—	111,908 95	47.1
Switching revenue	451,663 86	534,842 02	—	83,178 96	15.6
Water line revenue	187,681 74	218,732 15	—	31,050 41	14.2
Other revenue	1,332,787 15	1,429,536 84	—	96,749 69	6.8
Total operating revenues	$86,958,295 22	$91,845,305 02	—	$4,887,009 80	5.3
OPERATING EXPENSES.					
Maintenance of way and structures	$10,900,925 31	$10,872,882 23	$28,043 08	—	.3
Maintenance of equipment	12,101,211 66	12,517,154 42	—	$415,942 76	3.3
Total maintenance	$23,002,136 97	$23,390,036 65	—	$387,899 68	1.7
Traffic expenses	2,061,971 28	2,123,140 35	—	61,169 07	2.9
Transportation expenses—rail line	22,962,551 83	25,351,999 12	—	2,389,447 29	9.4
Transportation expenses—water line	145,589 44	174,805 28	—	29,215 84	16.7
Miscellaneous operations expenses	1,313,188 94	1,484,607 05	—	171,418 11	11.5
General expenses	2,811,418 51	2,885,662 95	—	74,244 44	2.6
Transportation for investment—Credit	*160,142 06*	*270,027 55*	$109,885 49		40.7
Total operating expenses	$52,136,714 91	$55,140 223 85	—	$3,003,508 94	5.4
Revenues over expenses	$34,821,580 31	$36,705,081 17	—	$1.883 500 86	5·1
Taxes	4,641,474 25	5,078,866 99	—	437,392 74	8.6
Net operating income	$30,180,106 06	$31,626,214 18	—	$1,446,108 12	4.6
FREIGHT TRAFFIC (COMMERCIAL FREIGHT ONLY).					
Tons of revenue freight carried	16,791,412	17,155,390	—	363 978	2.1
Ton miles, revenue freight	6,001,739,197	6,168,799,317	—	167,060,120	2.7
Average revenue per ton mile (cents)	.968	.978	—	.010	1.0
Average distance hauled per ton (miles)	357.43	359.58	—	2.15	.6
Average revenue tons per revenue freight-train mile	441.73	430.12	11 61	—	2.7
Average revenue per revenue freight-train mile	$4 21	$4 19	$0 02	—	.5
PASSENGER TRAFFIC (EXCLUDING MOTOR CAR).					
Revenue passengers carried	8,075,960	8,555,615	—	479,655	5.6
Revenue passengers carried one mile	834,627,962	888,370,579	—	53,742,617	6.0
Average revenue per passenger mile (cents)	2.209	2.282	—	.073	3.2
Average distance hauled per passenger (miles)	103.35	103.83	—	.48	.5
Average passengers per passenger-train mile	57.91	58.78	—	·87	1.5
Average revenue per passenger-train mile, passengers only	$1 28	$1 34	—	$0 06	4.5
Average total passenger-train revenue per passenger-train mile	$1 66	$1 66	—	—	—

* Wherever necessary for comparative purposes, last year's figures have been restated to conform with revised classifications of the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

For convenience, Operating Expenses are stated in the following condensed form:

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent
Average miles of track operated—first and additional main tracks	8,881.00	8,623.20	257.80	—	3.0
Superintendence	$685,429 58	$788,788 67	—	$103,359 09	13.1
Roadway and track—Ordinary	4,230,772 29	4,286,213 33	—	55,441 04	1.3
Extraordinary repairs of roadway and track	337,505 32	250,854 66	$86,650 66	—	34.5
Tunnels, bridges and elevated structures	777,763 07	652,107 63	125,655 44	—	19.3
Ties	1,726,605 07	1,739,885 12	—	13,280 05	.8
Rails	560,766 41	338,732 66	222,033 75	—	65.6
Other track material	498,889 10	485,013 89	13,875 21	—	2.9
Ballast	112,032 45	65,870 80	46,161 65	—	70.1
Fences, crossings and signs	251,229 12	235,611 12	15,618 00	—	6.6
Buildings and other structures	1,056,525 95	1,113,217 62	—	56,691 67	5.1
Signals and telegraph lines	311,172 53	354,044 70	—	42,872 17	12.1
Removing snow, ice and sand	192,813 86	209,564 80	—	16,750 94	8.0
Paving and assessments for public improvements	8,013 59	101,979 98	—	93,966 39	92 1
Roadway tools and supplies	229,499 11	264 017 65	—	34.518 54	13.1
Miscellaneous	149,377 23	151,861 57	—	2,484 34	1.6
Maintaining joint facilities	*227,469 37	*164,881 97	—	62,587 40	—
Total	$10,900,925 31	$10,872,882 23	$28,043 08	—	.3
Cost per mile—all main tracks operated	$1,227 44	$1,260 89	—	$33 45	2.7

* Credit.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent
Superintendence	$482,549 40	$493,932 06	—	$ 11,382 66	2.3
Shop and power plant machinery	303,312 75	303,125 21	$187 54	—	.1
Steam locomotives—repairs	4,655,928 98	5,042,139 72	—	386,210 74	7.7
Freight-train cars—repairs	2,542,543 00	2,871,756 46	—	329,213 46	11.5
Passenger-train cars—repairs	887,600 70	935,058 63	—	47,457 93	5.1
Motor equipment of cars—repairs	86,183 54	84,433 90	1,749 64	—	2.1
Floating equipment—repairs	19,761 35	17,189 71	2,571 64	—	15.0
Work equipment—repairs	136,639 10	125,816 27	10,822 83	—	8 6
Miscellaneous equipment—repairs	168 44		168 44	—	—
Miscellaneous	255,468 34	262,419 05	—	6,950 71	2 6
Maintaining joint equipment at terminals	8,520 16	1,922 92	6,597 24	—	—
Total, excluding depreciation and retirements	$9,378.675 76	$10,137,793 93	—	$759,118 17	7.5
Depreciation	2,553,342 20	2,290,167 04	$263,175 16	—	11.5
Retirements	169,193 70	89,193 45	80,000 25	—	89.7
Total	$12,101,211 66	$12,517,154 42	—	$415,942 76	3.3

TRAFFIC EXPENSES.

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Superintendence	$452,077 84	$436,089 70	$15,988 14	—	3.7
Outside agencies	883,829 10	945,975 79	—	$62,146 69	6.6
Advertising, industrial and immigration bureaus	511,212 07	532,632 21	—	21,420 14	4.0
Miscellaneous	214,852 27	208,442 65	6,409 62	—	3.1
Total	$2,061,971 28	$2,123,140 35	—	$61,169 07	2.9

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES.

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Superintendence and despatching	$892,844 38	$952,001 23	—	$59,156 85	6.2
Station expenses	3,004,983 73	3,274,140 74	—	269,157 01	8.2
Yard labour	1,576,694 39	1,801,313 02	—	224,618 63	12.5
Fuel for yard locomotives	561,531 34	656,064 77	—	94,533 43	14.4
Yard supplies and expenses	93 349 71	110,788 91	—	17,439 20	15.7
Enginehouse expenses—yard	228,650 31	259,494 58	—	30 844 27	11.9
Train enginemen and motormen	2,986,695 72	3,225,930 90	—	239,235 18	7.4
Fuel for train locomotives and motor cars	5,911,170 03	6,857,082 36	—	945 912 33	13.8
Supplies for train locomotives	522,559 96	697,956 57	—	85 396 61	14.0
Enginehouse expenses—train	967,638 58	1,081,053 03	—	113,414 45	10.5
Trainmen	2,933,987 52	3,165,608 13	—	226,620 61	7.2
Train supplies and expenses	1,290,513 02	1,342,880 18	—	52,367 16	3.9
Miscellaneous	721,293 72	802,795 74	—	81,502 02	10.2
Loss, damage and casualties	1,174,272 59	1,385,086 72	—	210,814 13	15.2
Operating joint facilities	91,366 83	*170,197 76	$261,564 59	—	—
Water lines	145,589 44	174,805 28	—	29,215 84	16.7
Total	$23,108,141 27	$25,526,804 40	—	$2,418,663 13	9.6

* Credit.

MISCELLANEOUS OPERATIONS EXPENSES.

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Dining cars and hotels	$1,308,727 97	$1,484,607 05	—	$175,879 08	11.8
Other miscellaneous operations	4,460 97	—	$4,460 97	—	—
Total	$1,313,188 94	$1,484 607 05	—	$171,418 11	11.5

GENERAL EXPENSES.

	1915	1914	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Salaries and expenses of officers, clerks and attendants	$1,762,520 39	$1,867,341 04	—	$104,820 65	5.6
General office supplies and expenses	158,280 86	191,837 33	—	33,556 47	17.5
Law expenses	349,109 69	338,799 56	10,310 13	—	3.0
Miscellaneous	525,032 04	471,848 94	53,183 10	—	11.3
General joint facilities	16,475 53	15,836 08	639 45	—	4.0
Total	$2,811,418 51	$2,885,662 95	—	$74,244 44	2.6

INCOME ACCOUNT.

The income account for this year, compared with last year, after excluding all offsetting accounts between the Union Pacific Railroad Co.; Oregon Short Line Railroad Co., and Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Co., is as follows:—

	1915	1914*	Inc. or Dec.
OPERATING INCOME.			
Operating revenues	$86,958,295 22	$91,845,505 02	—$4,887,009 80
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation and retirements)	$49,414,179 01	$52,760,863 36	—$3,346,684 35
Depreciation and retirements	2,722,535 90	2,379,360 49	+ 343,175 41
Total Operating Expenses	$52,136,714 91	$55,140,223 85	—$3,003,508 94
Revenues over expenses	$34,821,580 31	$36,705,081 17	— $1,883,500 86
Taxes	4,641,474 25	5,078,866 99	— 437,392 74
Operating Income	$30,180,106 06	$31,626,214 18	— $1,446,108 12
OTHER INCOME.			
Dividends on stocks owned	$4,540,094 50	$9,258,793 75	—$4,718,699 25
Interest on bonds and notes owned	6,434,507 84	3,858,172 14	+ 2,576,335 70
Interest on loans and open accounts—balance	988,977 82	3,234,958 13	— 2,245,980 31
Hire of equipment—balance	105,661 05	†	+ 105,661 05
Rents from use of road	71,331 86	72,949 68	— 1,617 82
Rents from use of joint tracks, yards, and terminal facilities	959,779 75	792,004 64	+ 167,775 11
Miscellaneous rents	51,923 99	101,224 81	— 49,300 82
Miscellaneous income	152,884 35	117,616 13	+ 35,268 22
Total Other Income	$13,303,161 16	$17,435,719 28	—$4,132,558 12
TOTAL INCOME	$43,483,267 22	$49,061,933 46	—$5,578,666 24
FIXED AND OTHER CHARGES.			
Interest on funded debt	$13,803,926 08	$14,062,107 82	— $258,181 74
Hire of equipment—balance	†	771,886 17	— 771,886 17
Rents for use of joint tracks, yards, and terminal facilities	1,150,177 13	982,864 51	+ 167,312 62
Miscellaneous rents	4,212 06	121,890 60	— 117,678 54
Miscellaneous charges	120,592 70	17,267 31	+ 103,325 39
Total Fixed and Other Charges	$15,078,907 97	$15,956,016 41	— $877,108 44
NET INCOME	$28,404,359 25	$33,105,917 05	—$4,701,557 80
DISPOSITION OF NET INCOME.			
SINKING FUND REQUIREMENTS	$11,800 00	$11,973 33	— $173 33
DIVIDENDS ON STOCK OF UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CO.:			
Preferred stock at 4 per cent.	3,981,740 00	3,981,740 00	—
Common stock at 8 per cent. this year, and 10 per cent. per annum for six months and 8 per cent. per annum for six months last year, making an average for last year of 9 per cent.	17,783,328 00	19,780,777 74	— 1,997,449 74
APPROPRIATED TO COVER THE COST OF CERTAIN ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS MADE DURING THE YEAR	1,083,458 89	—	+ 1,083,458 89
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF INCOME	$22,860,326 89	$23,774,491 07	— $914,164 18
SURPLUS, TRANSFERRED TO PROFIT AND LOSS	$5,544,032 36	$9,331,425 98	—$3,787,393 62

* Wherever necessary for comparative purposes, last year's figures have been restated to conform with revised classification of the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914.

† "Hire of equipment—balance" was a debit last year and is reported under "Fixed and Other Charges," whereas this year it is a credit and is reported under "Other Income."

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

(Excluding all Offsetting Accounts between the Union Pacific Railroad Co., Oregon Short Line Railroad Co., and Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Co.

CREDIT.		DEBIT.	
Balance, June 30, 1914	$90,586,423 73	Expense in connection with issue of funded debt	$18,078 19
Balance from Income Account	$5,544,032 36	Difference between amount of property retired and not replaced and net value of salvage received	121,189 96
Interest on advances to affiliated companies, accrued during previous years, settled this year; credit was deferred pending actual settlement	$222,221 48	Cost of surveys and construction expenditures incurred in former years on lines subsequently abandoned, now written off	4,[illegible] 46
Profit from sale of securities of affiliated companies, principally for Sinking Fund purposes	368,350 00	Advances to the Oregon & Washington Railroad Company (whose affairs are confined to real estate holdings) for expenses and taxes in excess of revenue from December 1910 to April 30, 1915	300,700 00
Balance of amount charged to Profit and Loss, as explained on page 33 of the annual report for the year ended June 30, 1911, which was set up as a reserve for estimated unrecorded liabilities of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, now credited back to Profit and Loss, no necessity existing for the continuance of such reserve	463,624 31	Book cost of Union Pacific Land Co. Capital Stock, written off	100,000 00
Difference between proceeds from sale of property and book cost	135,886 37	Uncollectable accounts written off	44,395 39
Liabilities written off, being unclaimed	34,491 87	Adjustments in accounts	154,130 56
Repayment on account of advances to Portland and Asiatic Steamship Co., charged to Profit and Loss prior to June 30, 1911	8,086 75	Miscellaneous debits	18,300 94
Profit from liquidation of the Union Depot and Railway Co. of Denver, whose property was sold to reorganised company, effective March 2, 1914	848,681 90	Total	1,291,554 24
Miscellaneous credits	14,887 57	Net credit from miscellaneous transactions	831,786 01
	$2,096,140 25	Increase in Profit and Loss	6,375,818 37
		Balance, Credit, June 30, 1915	$96,962,242 10

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.

(Excluding all Offsetting Securities and Accounts between the Union Pacific Railroad Co., Oregon Short Line Railroad Co., and Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Co.)

ASSETS.	June 30, 1915	†June 30, 1914	Inc. or Dec.
INVESTMENTS—			
701. Investment in road and equipment	$603,443,340 95	$580,673,727 13	+ $22,769,613 82
Less—			
Receipts from improvement and equipment fund	$22,151,091 13	$21,471,091 13	+ $680,000 00
Appropriations from income and surplus prior to July 1, 1907, credited to this account	13,310,236 52	13,310,236 52	—
Total	$35,461,327 65	$34,781,327 65	+ $680,000 00
Total	**$567,982,013 30**	**$545,892,399 48**	**+ $22,089,613 82**
702. Improvements on leased railway property	$504 88	—	+ $504 88
704. Deposits in lieu of mortgaged property sold	56,658 80	$53,340 58	+ 3,318 22
705. Miscellaneous physical property	965,079 40	566,544 49	+ 398,534 91
Total	$1,022,243 08	$619,885 07	+ $402,358 01
706. INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES—			
Stocks	$11,968,583 42	$14,201,906 94	— $2,233,323 52
Bonds and notes	35,765,132 00	31,952,035 70	+ 3,813,096 30
Advances	14,800,383 25	34,197,376 02	— 19,396,992 77
Total	$62,534,098 67	$80,351,318 66	— $17,817,219 99
707. INVESTMENTS IN OTHER COMPANIES—			
Stocks	$89,095,498 25	$89,095,498 25	—
Bonds and notes	104,420,281 63	82,686,662 74	+ $21,733,618 89
Total	$193,515,779 88	$171,782,160 99	+ $21,733,618 89
703. Sinking funds	$339,838 44	$338,681 73	+ $1,156 71
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**$825,393,973 37**	**$798,984,445 93**	**+ $26,409,527 44**
CURRENT ASSETS—			
708. Cash	$9,691,221 02	$10,861,733 24	— $1,170,512 22
709. Demand loans and deposits	—	3,036,807 74	— 3,036,807 74
710. Time drafts and deposits	350,000 00	3,000,000 00	— 2,650,000 00
711. Special deposits	263,172 29	502,232 65	— 239,060 36
712. Loans and bills receivable	6,023,863 14	11,164,569 32	— 5,140,706 18
713. Traffic and car-service balances receivable	1,287,130 10	1,747,034 62	— 459,904 52
714. Net balance receivable from agents and conductors	649,057 51	690,222 49	— 41,164 98
715. Miscellaneous accounts receivable	2,439,230 53	4,953,800 28	— 2,514,569 75
716. Material and supplies	8,983,247 14	10,245,911 29	— 1,262,664 15
717. Interest and dividends receivable	2,745,629 93	2,545,243 51	+ 200,386 42
718. Rents receivable	—	25,665 93	— 25,665 93
719. Other Current Assets:			
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. capital stock applicable to payment of extra dividend	*1,648,454 20	—	+ 1,648,454 20
Miscellaneous items	82,360 73	129,792 88	— 47,432 15
Total Current Assets	$34,163,366 59	$48,903,013 95	+ $14,739,647 36
DEFERRED ASSETS—			
720. Working fund advances	$35,932 59	$53,835 28	— $17,902 69
722. Other Deferred Assets—			
Land contracts, as *per contra*	964,942 71	1,211,757 70	— 246,814 99
Miscellaneous items	663,849 97	615,141 75	+ 48,708 22
Total Deferred Assets	$1,664,725 27	$1,880,734 73	— $216,009 46
UNADJUSTED DEBITS—			
723. Rents and insurance premiums paid in advance	—	$2,083 33	— $2,083 33
727. Other unadjusted debits	$873,743 69	749,364 92	+ 124,378 77
Total Unadjusted Debits	$873,743 69	$751,448 25	+ $122,295 44
Total	**$862,095,808 92**	**$850,519,642 86**	**+ $11,576,166 06**
Assets reserved for payment of extra dividend on common stock, declared January 8, 1914, payable to stockholders of record March 2, 1914, as *per contra*	—	74,020,372 20	— 74,020,372 20
Grand Total	$862,095,808 92	$924,540,015 06	— $62,444,206 14

* On June 30, 1915, there remained unpaid on account of the extra dividend $1,793,479.58 of which $1,648,454.20 was represented by $669,108 par value preferred and $1,209,965 par value common stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. The cash portion of the dividend unpaid amounted to $145,025.38 and is included in account 708, "Cash."

† Wherever necessary for comparative purposes, last year's figures have been restated to conform with revised classification of the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET—*Continued.*

LIABILITIES	June 30, 1915	*June 30, 1914	Inc. or Dec.
751. CAPITAL STOCK:			
Common stock	$222,293,100 00	$222,293,100 00	
Preferred stock	99,543,500 00	99,543,500 00	
	$321,836,600 00	$321,836,600 00	
755. FUNDED DEBT	334,022,265 00	334,045,665 00	— $23,400 00
Total	$655,858,865 00	$655,882,265 00	— $23,400 00
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
759. Traffic and car-service balances payable	$582,492 96	$1,249,965 84	— $667,472 88
760. Audited accounts and wages payable	5,112,848 93	5,521,340 10	— 408,491 17
761. Miscellaneous accounts payable:			
Due to Affiliated Companies	5,040,970 40	4,433,151 18	— 607,819 22
Other accounts payable	73,215 51	445,220 71	— 372,005 20
762. Interest Matured Unpaid:			
Coupons matured but not collected	207,810 00	210,261 10	— 2,451 10
Coupons and interest matured unpaid	3,776,940 00	3,777,550 00	— 610 00
763. Dividends Matured Unpaid:			
Dividends declared but not collected	104,355 00	74,711 59	+ 29,644 59
Extra dividend on Common stock declared January 8, 1914, payable to stockholders of record March 2, 1914, unpaid June 30, 1915	1,793,479 58		+ 1,793,479 58
Dividend on Common stock payable July 1	4,445,852 00	1,445,852 00	
764. Funded debt matured unpaid	3,000 00	3,000 00	
765. Unmatured Dividends Declared:			
Dividends on Preferred and Common Stock payable October 1	6,436,702 00	6,436,702 00	
766. Unmatured interest accrued	1,481,149 04	1,484,337 75	— 3,188 71
768. Other current liabilities	132,391 73	207,033 95	— 74,642 22
Total Current Liabilities	$29,191,194 24	$28,289,092 13	+ $902,102 11
DEFERRED LIABILITIES			
770. Other Deferred Liabilities:			
Principal of deferred payments on land contracts, as *per contra*	$964,942 71	$1,211,757 70	— $246,814 99
Contracts for purchase of real estate	1,660,000 00		+ 1,660,000 00
Miscellaneous items	196,651 26	404,380 21	— 207,728 95
771. Tax liability	2,792,160 66	2,518,638 47	+ 273,522 19
Total Deferred Liabilities	$5,613,754 63	$4,134,776 38	+ $1,478,978 25
UNADJUSTED CREDITS			
773. Insurance Reserve:			
Reserve for fire insurance	$665,701 51	$550,836 87	+ $114,866 64
775. Accrued depreciation	18,920,817 07	17,125,684 63	+ 1,795,132 44
778. Other Unadjusted Credits:			
Profit from sale of Southern Pacific Co. Capital stock	16,130,150 10	16,175,559 10	— 45,409 00
Contingent interest	663,258 82	883,895 39	— 220,564 57
Miscellaneous items	1,170,805 50	1,083,846 14	+ 86,959 36
Total Unadjusted Credits	$37,550,713 00	$35,819,730 13	+ $1,730,984 87
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$728,214,528 87**	**$724,125,863 64**	**+ $4,088,665 23**
CORPORATE SURPLUS			
779. Additions to property through income and surplus	$1,083,458 89		+ $1,083,458 89
780. Funded debt retired through income and surplus	64,286 53	$37,143 34	+ 27,143 19
781. Sinking fund reserves	353,240 53	352,160 15	+ 1,080 38
783. Appropriated surplus not specifically invested:	$1,500,985 95	$389,303 49	+ $1,111,862 46
Reserve for extra dividend on Common Stock declared January 8, 1914, payable to stockholders of record March 2, 1914, as *per contra*		74,020,372 20	— $74,020,372 20
Reserve for depreciation of securities	35,418,052 00	35,418,052 00	
Total Appropriated Surplus	$36,919,037 95	$109,827,727 69	— $72,908,689 74
784. PROFIT AND LOSS BALANCE	**96,962,242 10**	**90,586,423 73**	**+ 6,375,818 37**
Total Corporate Surplus	$133,881,280 05	$200,414,151 42	— $66,532,871 37
Grand Total	$862,095,808 92	$924,540,015 06	— $62,444,206 14

* Wherever necessary for comparative purposes, last year's figures have been restated to conform with revised classification of the Interstate Commerce commission, effective July 1, 1914.

The increase in "Investment in Road and Equipment," as reported in General Balance Sheet, is made up as follows:		
Extensions and Branches		$2,847,914 73
Additions and Betterments, existing Equipment		3,460,198 45
Equipment		17,991,815 48
Total		$24,299,928 66
Less		
Property retired from service and not to be replaced (the cost of which, less salvage, has been charged to Profit and Loss, in conformity with regulations of Interstate Commerce Commission):		
Sidings and spur tracks	$55,203 69	
Buildings and structures	81,029 41	
Shop machinery and tools	15,706 94	
Total	$151,940 04	
Equipment retired from service:		
7 Locomotive	$65,564 90	
27 Passenger-train cars	148,442 48	
1,562 Freight-train cars	787,402 07	
725 Work equipment	206,208 60	
Total	1,207,578 05	
Expenditures in connection with projected lines, the construction of which was abandoned and the amount, less salvage written off by charging "Profit and Loss"	431,123 70	
Amount received from the Trustee of the Union Pacific Railroad Co., First Railroad and Land Grant Four Per Cent. Mortgage in payment for expenditures for additions, betterments, and equipment	680,000 00	
Cost of property sold to Southern Pacific Company being one-half interest in Willamette River bridge, Portland, Oregon, together with electric machinery and approaches thereto	1,042,637 43	
Cost of real estate sold	28,664 96	
Total		3,541,914 18
Increase in "Investment in Road and Equipment" during year		$20,757,984 48
Adjustments necessary to conform with revised classification of Interstate Commerce Commission effective July 1, 1914:		
Add		
Purchase price of real estate at Portland and Albina, Oregon, held under contract for purchase since June, 1890, not heretofore taken into account, and cost of improvements thereon, now taken into account to conform with revised classification of the Interstate Commerce Commission. No payment has been made on account of the purchase price, which is reported in General Balance Sheet, as a Deferred Liability	$1,999,564 90	
Deduct		
Cost of real estate heretofore included in "Investment in Road and Equipment" now transferred to "Miscellaneous Physical Property" in accordance with revised classification of Interstate Commerce Commission effective July 1, 1914	$315,724 06	
Expenditures for surveys and projected lines heretofore included in "Investment in Road and Equipment" now transferred to "Other Unadjusted Debits" in accordance with revised classification of Interstate Commerce Commission effective July 1, 1914	350,185 25	
Miscellaneous adjustments	2,026 25	
Total	$667,935 56	
Net additions in adjustments		1,331,629 34
Net increase in "Investment in Road and Equipment"		$22,089,613 82

INCOME ACCOUNT.

The decrease in Operating Revenues of $4,887,609, equal to 5·3 per cent., is due to the general business depression which prevailed throughout the year. This loss in revenue, however, is substantially offset by reducing Operating Expenses $3,003,508, equal to 5·4 per cent., which was effected principally in Transportation Expenses, in which there was a decrease of $2,418,663, equal to 9.6 per cent. At the outset of the business depression it was resolved to continue, without any modification, the policy of maintaining the property fully up to its high standard, and, consequently, the expenditures for Maintenance of Way and Structures were substantially the same this year as last year, there being an increase of $28,043, or ·3 per cent., while expenditures for Maintenance of Equipment decreased only $415,942, or 3·3 per cent.

The decrease of $4,718,699 in Dividends on Stocks Owned is due principally to a decrease of $3,287,992 in dividends on Baltimore & Ohio stock, which resulted from distributing $26,674,008 par value Preferred and $50,013,765 par value Common stock of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company in part payment of extra dividend declared by the Union Pacific Railroad Company January 8, 1914, payable to stockholders of record March 2, 1914, and to a decrease of $979,307, being the amount of dividend accrued on the stock of Southern Pacific Company between July 1 and September 2, 1913, when it was sold.

The increase of $2,576,335 in Interest on Bonds and Notes Owned offsets the decrease of $2,245,980 in Interest on Loans and Open Accounts, and results from additional investments in bonds and notes made during the year.

The decrease in Fixed and Other Charges is due principally to a decrease of $258,181 in Interest on Funded Debt, resulting from the conversion, at the time of the extra dividend, of $9,009,975 face value of Union Pacific Railroad Company Twenty-Year Four per Cent. Convertible Bonds, and to a decrease of $771,886 in debit balance to Hire of Equipment.

APPROPRIATION OF INCOME FOR ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS.

Of the expenditures made during the year for Additions and Betterments, amounting (exclusive of equipment) to $3,460,198·45, and $34,566·84 for improvements to existing Equipment, there were items aggregating $1,083,458·89 which it was believed, in view of the condition of the Company, should be charged against the current income.

Each improvement was carefully considered in determining whether the cost should be paid for out of current income, or be capitalised, and its character and special circumstances, rather than any general rule, governed the decision.

Under the existing accounting regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission, all of these expenditures had to be charged to Investment in Road and Equipment account, rather than to Operating Expenses, or direct to Income. Hence it was necessary, while deducting the amount from Income, to set it up as Appropriated Corporate Surplus, as shown in General Balance Sheet.

Pending the entry of a Decree terminating the court proceeding in which the Southern Pacific stock was disposed of, and the consequent ascertainment of the remaining cost and expenses, the credit balance on account of this transaction, which on June 30, 1915, amounted to $16,130,150.10, is reported in General Balance Sheet under the head of "Unadjusted Credits."

By Order of the Board of Directors,

ROBERT S. LOVETT,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday.

OUR market continues very feverish and active, with exceptionally wide fluctuations and changes of tone, but during the fortnight prices have advanced about 36 points for American and 20 for Egyptian, to-night's closing rates being January-February delivery American 7.10*d*., and January delivery Egyptian 10.21*d*.

The Washington Bureau report up to the end of September was issued early last week, and fully bore out the pessimistic private advices which had been cabled previously to this side. The average condition was given as 60.8, which was several points lower than anticipated. The official estimate of the yield is 10,900,000 bales. Since the Bureau report was issued further unfavourable crop reports are to hand, and some very sensational predictions as to the size of the crop have been received. In consequence, "bullish" views have become fashionable, and a "bull" campaign is in full swing in America. In this market the speculative interest as distinguished from more legitimate trade operations is very moderate in extent. Shorts are mostly covered, and people are not sanguine enough to commence buying at the present high level.

Some very exggerated estimates of consumption have been put forward, and it goes without saying that if we accept the views of some authorities that fully 15,000,000 bales will be consumed, and that the crop is under 11,000,000 bales, even the large carry-over from last season would leave us bare of supplies next autumn. But we see no justification for supposing that 15,000,000 bales, or anything like this amount, of American cotton will be used. The War will prevent cotton from being spun in the North of France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Poland, and the mills in these districts being idle represents a diminution in consumption of from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 bales. The recent extension of hostilities in the Balkans cuts off a large market for cotton goods. Against all this we have to offset a large increase in the American consumption, which in the current season is likely to exceed 6,000,000 bales. Altogether we figure the world's probable consumption of American cotton to be—

	Bales.
United States	6,500,000
Great Britain	3,000,000
Continent and elsewhere ...	2,500,000
	12,000,000

This year's crop at 11,000,000 bales with last season's carry-over of about 4,000,000 (visible and invisible) would leave us with a surplus of about 3,000,000 bales at the end of the season.

We have not included in the above estimate for consumption any use of cotton for munitions. Our information is that no appreciable quantity of cotton is being used for this purpose. Up to the present ample supplies of what is made into gun-cotton are available in the shape of linters and waste, and while these can be obtained—and these are quite, if not more, suitable for the purpose than cotton—there is no reason why anyone should buy the dearer article. If the supply of linters and waste in Germany were to fail, she would no doubt be driven to use cotton; but she cannot now import cotton—in fact, her supplies are so reduced that it has been announced that her mills have had to shut down for want of the raw material.

On the spot a fair business has been transacted, though the volume has contracted a little. There is a marked stiffening in the selling basis of the better qualities with staple. Merchants find they cannot replace their sales by purchases in America; in many cases the "c.i.f." prices in America are over the warehouse prices here. The disappearance of the holding premium in futures is adding to the perplexities of the importer, who can only do business by paying an extremely stiff price in America, and if he is unable to sell promptly on arrival here he will find himself incurring a very heavy holding charge, which may soon more than absorb any profit in the transaction.

Sons of Gwalia.—Issued capital, £325,000. in £1 shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Crushed	Revenue £	Revenue Per Ton	Total Mine* Expenses £	Total Mine* Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912 ...	155,603	263,929	33 11	205,658	26/5	58,271	7 6	1⅛xd
1913 ...	162,101	270,550	33 4	211,363	26 1	59,187	7/3	22,0xd
1914 ...	160,963	261,113	31 2	201,670	25 1	49,443	6 1	—
1915.								
Mar qr.	40,064	62,177	31 0	43,435	21 8	18,742	9 4	19 6xd
June qr.	41,139	63 109	30 8	45,486	22/1	17,626	8 7	16/6
July	13,8 9	21,733	31 0	15,659	22 8	5,075	7 4	15 9
Aug. ..	13,7 2	21,639	30/1	15 533	22 8	5,106	7 5	16/9
Sept.	13,52)	19,935	29/11	14,624	21 11	5,341	8/0	16 6

* The yearly figures include expenditure on capital account. Monthly expenses include development.

Dividends—1912, 4/3; 1913, 4/0; 1914, 2/6; 1915, Feb., 6*d*.; June, 6*d*.; Aug., 6*d*.

THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

Kansas City, Mo., September 15, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Kansas City Southern Railway Co.:

The fifteenth annual report of the affairs of your Company, being for the year ended June 30, 1915, is herewith presented.

MILES OF RAILROAD.

The Track Mileage of your Company at the end of the fiscal year was as below stated :—

Main Line	777.13 miles
Branches	45.86 ,,
Yard, Terminal and Side Tracks	424.20 ,,
Second Track	17.77 ,,
Total owned or controlled	1,264.96 miles
Operated under Trackage Rights	23.76 ,,
Operated under Lease	4.92 ,,
Total Miles in System	1,293.64 miles

In addition to its railroad property, rights of way, real estate, buildings, equipment, appurtenances, &c., the Company controls, by virtue of its ownership of securities, all the property of the following corporations, viz. :—

The Arkansas Western Ry Co.—A standard-gauge line from Heavener, Oklahoma, to Waldron, Arkansas, 32.33 miles, together with rights of way, buildings, appurtenances, &c., controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock and bonds.

The Poteau Valley RR. Co.—A standard-gauge line from Shady Point, Oklahoma, to Calhoun, Oklahoma, 6.59 miles, together with rights of way, buildings, appurtenances, &c., controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock.

The Kansas City, Shreveport and Gulf Terminal Co.—Union depôt property at Shreveport, Louisiana, including its real estate, buildings, and 1.16 miles of yard and terminal track, controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock.

Port Arthur Canal and Dock Co.—Lands, slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, one grain elevator (capacity 500,000 bushels), &c., all at Port Arthur, Texas; controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock and bonds.

The K. C. S. Elevator Co.—One first-class elevator, of capacity 650,000 bushels, situated at Kansas City, Missouri; controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock.

The Mena Land and Improvement Co.—A Company formed for taking title to real estate at Mena, Arkansas, vacated by employees in consequence of the establishment of new division terminals at Heavener, Oklahoma, and DeQueen, Arkansas; controlled by your Company through ownership of all the capital stock.

Glenn-Pool Tank Line Co.—A Company owning and operating 165 tank cars; controlled jointly by your Company as the owner of 75 per cent. of the capital stock, and the Midland Valley RR. Company as owner of the remaining 25 per cent. of the stock.

That portion of the System lying within the State of Texas, the mileage of which is included in the operated mileage of your Company, is operated separately by its owner, the Texarkana and Fort Smith Ry. Company, which Company has its own general offices and books of account at Texarkana, Texas, in accordance with the Texas law.

For the sake of completeness, however, the reports of that Company are included in those of the Kansas City Southern Ry. Company, in so far as is necessary to show the results of the operation of the whole line from Kansas City to the Gulf.

RESULTS OF OPERATION.

	Year to June 30 1915	1914	+ or −
Operated Mileage			
Miles of Main Line	793.45	788.14	+ 5.31
Miles of Branches	43.06	39.03	+ 4.03
Miles of Sidings and Spurs	429.28	426.46	+ 2.82
Miles of Second Main Track	22.88	14.02	+ 8.86
Revenues from Operation.	$	$	$
Freight Revenue	7,731,118 32	8,257,449 37	−526,331 05
Passenger Revenue	1,410,617 95	1,675,168 43	−264,550 48
Excess Baggage Revenue	14,039 86	17,370 66	− 3,330 80
Mail Revenue	141,555 27	128,595 52	+ 12,959 75
Express Revenue	172,012 22	243,624 58	− 71,612 36
Other Passenger-Train Rev.	1,951 79	1,762 53	+ 189 26
Switching Revenue	499,636 36	577,634 27	− 77,997 91
Special Service Train Rev.	4,176 50	4,838 71	− 662 21
Other Freight-Train Revenue	695 66	3,114 33	− 2,420 67
Revenue from Operations other than Transportation	60,134 14	60,844 42	− 710 28
Gross Revenues	10,035,896 07	10,970,402 82	−934,506 75
Operating Expenses.			
Maintenance of Way and Structures	1,152,078 43	1,143,805 55	− 11,727 12
Maintenance of Equipment	1,185,015 81	1,351,591 34	−166,575 53
Traffic Expenses	336,195 76	324,708 49	+ 11,487 27
Transportation Expenses	5,597,006 64	5,671,223 04	−274,216 40
General Expenses	189,008 66	118,992 48	+ 70,016 18
Transportation for Investment—Cr.	Cr. 60,484 23		Cr. + 60,484 23
Total	6,478,821 07	6,910,320 90	−431,499 83
Net revenue	3,557,075 00	4,060,081 92	−503,006 92
Taxes	574,315 98	567,857 33	− 6,458 67
Operating Income	2,982,759 02	3,492,224 59	−509,465 55
Ratio of Operating Expenses to Gross Revenues	64·56%	62·99%	+ 1·57%
Ratio of Operating Expenses and Taxes to Gross Revenues	70·28%	68·17%	+ 2·11%

Note.—Previous year's figures re-classified for comparison.

There follows a comparison in detail of Gross Revenues for the late annual period with those of the previous year :—

	$
Decreases in Gross Revenues—	
Due to general business depression and to disturbed conditions in the South, resulting from the European War	1,376,220 49
In Express Revenue, caused principally by extension of the Parcels Post	71,612 36
	1,447,832 85
Less Increases, viz. :	
From grain traffic, due to abundant crops and to conditions favouring export trade	$422,518 94
From the movement of asphalt from Southern refineries for use in paving and roofing in the North	54,619 03
From shipments of black strap molasses for use in the manufacture of mixed stock feed	23,248 38
In Mail Revenue, based on the re-weighing of mails between February 18 and June 2, 1914, effective July 1, 1914	12,939 75
	513,326 10
Net Decrease in Gross Revenues	$934,506 75

It has been the custom heretofore to assess nothing in the nature of a revenue charge against Company traffic. That practice was continued during the present year, so far as concerns operation. As required by a modification of the system of accounts prescribed by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, in effect July 1, 1914, when men or materials employed in construction are conveyed in revenue trains an amount equal to the cost of transportation is credited to Operating Expenses and concurrently charged to an investment account.

The net decrease of $431,499.83 in Operating Expenses was brought about by the causes below enumerated :—

		$
Decreases in Operating Expenses—		
Maintenance of Way and Structures—		
Due to gradual improvement in the condition of property		$61,410 08
Maintenance of Equipment		
Consequent upon the improvement of condition		166,575 53
Transportation Expenses		
Resulting from curtailment in :		
Locomotive and train expenses	$191,985 76	
Yard service	45,733 49	
Station service	17,908 05	
Casualties and miscellaneous	18,591 10	
		274,216 40
Transportation for Investment—Cr.—		
Cost of transportation in revenue trains of men engaged in and material for construction, in accordance with revised regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission		60,484 23
		$562,686 24
Less Increases, viz. :		
Maintenance of Way and Structures—		
Additional charges in amortization of abandoned property, made by order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission :		
Present Year		$85,015 10
Previous year		35,332 14
		$49,682 96
Traffic Expenses		
Commissions paid to private carlines and steamship companies, formerly deducted from revenue, now charged to this account in conformity to the revised accounting method of the Inter-State Commerce Commission		11,487 27
General Expenses		
Caused by enlargement in :		
Valuation Expenses		$63,323 92
Rent of General Office Building		4,201 86
Charges on account of abandoned property		1,912 94
Miscellaneous (net)		577 46
		70,016 18
		131,186 41
Net Decrease in Operating Expenses		$431,499 83

The normal decrease in Operating Expenses may be stated thus :—

			$
Net decrease, as stated			$431,499 83
Add items beyond the control of your management, viz :			
Increase in distributive charges on account of abandoned property :			
Maintenance of Way and Structures	$49,682 96		
General Expenses	1,912 94		
		$51,595 90	
Valuation Expenses		63,323 92	
			114,919 82
Normal Net Decrease in Operating Expenses			$546,419 65

The Revenue Tonnage movement for the year, as compared with that of the year preceding, was as follows :—

For the year ended June 30, 1915 :—

Revenue Tons One Mile—North	628,776,561	
Revenue Tons One Mile—South	499,954,093	
		1,128,730,654

For the year ended June 30, 1914 :—

Revenue Tons One Mile—North	621,429,476	
Revenue Tons One Mile—South	441,326,787	
		1,062,756,263
Increase in Revenue Tons One Mile		65,974,391

It will be observed from the foregoing that, although there was a decrease in Freight Revenue of $526,331.05, there was an increase of 65,974,391 in the number of revenue tons moved one mile. This was caused by a decline in high-class traffic and an enlargement in the volume of commodities carrying lower rates. Accordingly, the average freight revenue per ton mile fell off from 7.77 mills in 1914 to 6.85 mills this year.

The reduction of $274,216.40 in Transportation Expenses, notwithstanding this substantial increase in revenue ton mileage, affords evidence of enhanced efficiency, due to improvements made in recent years, and is a source of satisfaction to your management.

REFUNDING AND IMPROVEMENT MORTGAGE BONDS.

To provide funds for ballasting and other additions to and betterments of the property there were sold, under an agreement made during the previous year, $250,000.00 par value of the Refunding and Improvement Mortgage Bonds authorised by the Stockholders on June 29, 1909.

The situation at June 30, 1915, with respect to such bonds was as follows :—

Total authorized issue		$21,000,000
Issued and sold : July 1, 1909, $10,000,000 ; Feb. 15, 1911, $5,000,000 ; Nov. 1, 1912, $500,000 ; June 2, 1912, $500,000 ; April 2, 1913, $500,000 ; May 5, 1914, $250,000 ; Oct. 7, 1914, $44,000 ; April 1, 1915, $206,000 ; total		17,000,000
Unissued June 30, 1915		$4,000,000

The status as regards the Refunding and Improvement Mortgage Bonds issued and outstanding on that date is set forth in the subjoined exhibit :—

Total issued and outstanding		$17,000,000 00
Expended as shown by the Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 1912 ...	$15,000,000 00	
Expended as indicated by the Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 1913 ...	974,150 77	
Expended during the year ended June 30, 1914, as per the Annual Report for that year ...	53,349 23	
Expended during the year ended June 30, 1915 : Discount $12,500 00		
Net expenditures for Additions and Betterments ... 524,964 55		
	537,464 55	
		16,564,964 55
Balance unexpended June 30, 1915. .		$435,035 45

EQUIPMENT TRUSTS.

The total face amount of Equipment Trust Obligations outstanding June 30, 1914, was : Series "D," dated December 15, 1912, $1,302,000; paid during the year, $124,000; outstanding June 30, 1915, $1,178,000.

ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS.

Net expenditures were made during the year for Additions and Betterments to Road and Equipment in the amounts following : From proceeds of Refunding and Improvement Mortgage Bonds, $524,964.55; from current funds, $472,817.05.

These expenditures include the cost of a number of new sidings to serve industries not heretofore reached by your tracks, and to accommodate new industries in process of establishment.

The following is a list of such industry tracks, some of which have been completed and others are in course of construction :—

New Tracks to Serve New Industries.

Completed

Miller Horse Serum Co., Kansas City, Mo.; North Bros., Kansas City, Mo.; E. Wigglesworth and C. Rhea, Kansas City, Mo.; J. H. Riggs, Kingston, La.; Carnes-Cherokee Coal Co., Mulberry, Mo.; Lake Front Oil Co., Oil City, La.; Lapel Bottle Co., Lotsee, Okla.; Wood & Hall, Gurdon, Ark.; Beer Storage Warehouse, Mulberry, Mo.; Caddo Parish, Mooringsport, La.; P. E. Hammons (Lumber), Lucas, La.; Rothschild Iron and Metal Co., Joplin, Mo.; Lechtman Printing Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Frank Purcell, Kansas City, Kan.; West India Sugar Co., Port Arthur, Tex.

Uncompleted

L. F. Dawson (Lumber and Wood), Dorsey, Ark.; Bay State Land Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Standard Ice Co., Kansas City, Mo.

New Tracks to Serve Existing Industries.

Completed

Badger Lumber Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Louisiana Compress Co., Shreveport, La.; Southwest Gas and Electric Co., Bodcau, La.; The Texas Co., Port Arthur, Tex.

Uncompleted—

Neosho Milling Co., Neosho, Mo.; Josey-Miller Grain Co., Beaumont, Tex.

During the year 28,293 miles of your main line between Neosho, Missouri, and Mansfield, Louisiana, which had been formerly laid with 60, 75, and 80 lb. rail, were relaid with new 85-lb. material, making the total mileage of main line laid with steel rail of that weight to June 30, 1915, as follows :—

Between Kansas City, Mo., and Louisiana, La. ...	669.4 miles	
Less tracks through yards laid with 56, 60 and 70-lb. rail	5.0 ,,	
		664.4 miles
Between DeQuincey, La., and Port Arthur, Tex. ...		67.1 ,,
Total		731.5 miles

The bridges and culverts of your road have been further improved by reducing the total length of trestles from 63,082 feet to 62,263 feet; increasing the total length of steel bridges from 21,810 feet to 22,015 feet; increasing the number of stone and concrete culverts from 638 to 667; increasing the number of cast-iron pipe culverts from 563 to 570, and the number of concrete pipe culverts from 77 to 98.

ABANDONED PROPERTY.

The estimated cost of property abandoned in the course of improvements amounts to $1,079,517.86, which sum has been segregated from Capital Account. Of that total, $20,682.46 has been disposed of in compliance with instructions of the Inter-State Commerce Commission by charge to Profit and Loss, and $123,699.94 by charges to Operating Expenses, leaving for future amortisation a balance of $935,135.46, as shown by the Balance Sheet. Under existing requirements this remainder is chargeable to Operating Expenses at the rate of approximately $90,000.00 per annum.

UNION STATIONS.

The new Passenger Station at Kansas City, Missouri, property of the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company, in which your Company owns an undivided one-twelfth interest, is opened for operation on November 1, 1914, since which date it has been used by all main-line passenger trains entering and leaving that terminal.

In order to comply with the demand of the Railroad Commission of the State of Texas for improved passenger-station facilities at Texarkana, contracts were entered into with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company, the St. Louis South-western Railway Company, and the Texas and Pacific Railway Company, under the terms of which your Company began June 27, 1914, to operate its passenger trains into and out of the Union Passenger Station at Texarkana, owned by the three companies mentioned.

FEDERAL VALUATION.

The field forces of the Inter-State Commerce Commission completed their surveys and inventories of the physical property of your Company in April 1915, and your forces similarly engaged finished their work at about the same time. In order, however, to complete the valuation it will be necessary to adjust differences between the two inventories and to establish unit prices for the resulting physical quantities. This work is now in progress, but the amount involved and the date of its completion cannot be stated with certainty.

On July 9, 1914, the accountants of the Commission began an examination of the accounts and records of your Company, with a view to obtaining such information as may be necessary to an appraisal. That work remains uncompleted.

All orders of the Commission have been fully complied with by your Company, and special efforts have been made to co-operate with the valuation forces of the Government.

The appended statement shows the cost to your Company of Federal valuation to date :—

	To June 30, 1914	For the Year ended June 30, 1915.	Total.
	$	$	$
Field Work ...	18,247 86	50,476 86	68,824 72
Valuation Orders, Inter-State Commerce Commission.	—	15,599 63	15,599 63
Contributions for Physical Property abandoned	557 99	149 24	807 23
Appraisal of real estate	—	2,848 50	2,848 50
General and miscellaneous	1,141 55	23,773 92	24,915 47
Totals	19,947 40	93,848 15	113,795 55

The total cost of Federal and State valuation during the year was :—

Expended for Federal valuation	$93,848 15
Expended in connection with State rate litigation ...	2,851 40
Total	$96,699 55

J. A. EDSON. *President.*

CUBA RAILROAD COMPANY.

ABRIDGED REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

August 25, 1915.

To the Shareholders:

Your directors beg leave to submit the following report of operations for the year ended June 30, 1915, and a general balance sheet at that date.

The gross earnings of the railway for the year were $5,206,714.15, as compared with $5,164,670.84 for the year before; an increase of $42,043.31, or 0.8 per cent.

The net earnings were $2,727,539.85, as compared with $2,470,921.75; an increase of $256,618.10 or 10.4 per cent.

The proportion of working expenses to gross earnings was 47.61 per cent., as compared with 52.16 per cent. the year before.

The railway and its equipment and appurtenances have been well maintained and are in excellent condition.

Fourteen sugar centrals were in operation on your lines at the end of the last crop, and seven more are in process of construction for the coming crop. These will require large additions to your rolling stock, for which provision has been made.

Your Company having been granted a concession for the construction under subsidy of a railroad from Placetas del Sur to Casilda, active construction was at once commenced, and on August 1, 1915, the line between Placetas and Fomento, a distance of 27 kilometers, was completed and put into public service. The remainder of the line will be completed well within the contract requirements.

Two half-yearly dividends of 3 per cent. have been declared on the Common Stock of the Company, one of which was paid on May 1 last, and the other is payable on November 1 next.

The thanks of the directors are due to the operating officers of the Company, whose zeal and efficiency have contributed so largely to the favourable results of the year.

For the directors,

W. C. VAN HORNE,

President.

STATEMENT OF OPERATION—BY PERIODS—FOR FIVE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Gross Earnings:					
Passenger	$ 1,673,633 79	$ 1,722,452 38	$ 1,660,223 69	$ 1,394,323 79	$ 1,205,230 61
Mail	123,330 75	106,768 07	109,567 93	119,480 58	107,113 83
Express	174,551 25	166,466 60	160,828 69	143,015 77	107,307 01
Baggage	9,098 92	10,425 94	8,438 19	8,275 62	7,618 10
Freight	2,583,321 21	2,610,781 86	2,156,842 76	1,738,242 85	1,319,303 56
Car Kilometrage—passenger	19,955 80	18,856 82	17,073 34	14,393 68	13,491 92
Car Kilometrage—freight	51,185 23	48,456 38	51,418 31	37,988 89	32,102 47
Hire of equipment	295,631 38	204,201 80	202,795 66	157,804 19	125,880 99
Tugs and lighters	—	—	—	—	2,364 45
Miscellaneous	93,084 78	66,231 87	111,005 82	112,813 70	73,997 13
Antilla Terminals	183,921 04	210 029 12	153,845 44	92,914 13	65,239 81
Total	5,206,714 15	5,164,670 84	4,632,039 83	3,819,253 20	3,059,649 88
Operating Expenses:					
Maintenance of way and structures	548,217 65	741,369 85	644,915 10	478,225 12	387,512 09
Maintenance of equipment	355,170 29	351,943 29	324,353 66	283,388 64	249,722 01
Conducting transportation	1,218,958 09	1,234,009 21	1,139,607 82	972,275 23	824,233 30
General expenses	210,961 00	220,922 90	186,861 14	162,901 78	154,891 47
Antilla Terminals	145,867 27	145,503 84	120,800 02	103,602 72	69,219 93
Total	2,479,174 30	2,693,749 09	2,416,537 74	2,000,393 49	1,685,578 80
Ratio of operating expenses to gross earnings	47·61 %	52·16 %	52 17 %	52·37 %	55·06%
Net Earnings	2,727,539 85	2,470,921 75	2,215,502 09	1,818,859 71	1,374,071 08
Other Income	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Income	2,727,539 85	2,470,921 75	2,215,502 09	1,818,859 71	1,374,071 08
Deduction from Income—Interest on Funded Debt and Notes	853,855 57	954,416 66	801,222 22	758,998 09	576,754 79
Net Income	1,873,684 28	1,516,505 09	1,414,279 87	1,059,861 62	797,316 29

Dividends paid on $10,000,000 6 % Preferred stock: For the year to June 30, 1911, 4½ %; 1912, 5½ %; 1913, 6 %; 1914, 6 %; 1915, 6 %.

Dividends paid on $10,000,000 Common stock: 1913, 4 %; 1914, 6%; 1915, 6%, paid in two instalments of 3 % each on May 1 and November 1.

Copies of the full Report can be had at the Office of Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., 8 Crosby Square, London, E.C.

THE CUBA COMPANY.

ABRIDGED REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

August 26, 1915.

To the Shareholders:

An Income Account for the year ended June 30, 1915, and a General Balance Sheet at that date are submitted herewith.

The Surplus Income of the Cuba Railroad Company for the year ended June 30, after providing for its fixed charges and dividends on its Preferred Stock applicable to the year, was $1,273,684.28, an amount equal to 12.73 per cent. on its Common Stock, all of which ($10,000,000) is in your treasury. From this surplus dividends amounting to 6 per cent. for the year were declared on its Common Stock, of which 3 per cent. was paid May 1 and 3 per cent. is payable November 1.

Your profits for the year from the Jatibonico Sugar Mill and Plantations were $1,445,030.25; from the Jobabo Mill and Plantations $1,550,772.71; from the Land Department (chiefly from town sites) $57,187.97; a total of $3,120,032.01, including an additional profit of $67,041.08 from the crop production of 1913-14. Adding the dividends of $600,060.00 from the Cuba Railroad Company and deducting interest and general expenses and dividends on Preferred Stock, the surplus income for the year, applicable to the Ordinary Stock, was $3,214,621.93.

The better prices which have prevailed for the past year have had much to do with these favourable results, on the other hand the production of sugar was nearly 12 per cent. less than the year before owing to frequent interruptions by unseasonable rains and to a serious weakening of juices from the same cause.

Practically all of the sugar and molasses remaining on hand at June 30 have now been sold for the full value shown in the balance sheet.

Your directors have felt warranted in paying on July 1 from the year's results an interim dividend of 10 per cent. on your Ordinary Stock and in declaring an additional dividend of the same amount payable October 1, and another of the same amount payable November 1.

The payment of these dividends will leave in the treasury about $1,500,000.00, which should be ample for any needs or contingencies.

Your directors are very largely indebted to the industry and efficiency of the officers of the Company in Cuba for the satisfactory results obtained.

For the directors,
W. C. VAN HORNE,
President.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

NET EARNINGS—MILLS AND PLANTATIONS			$2,995,802 96
ADDITIONAL PROFIT PRODUCTION, 1913-14			67,041 08
LAND DEPARTMENT—			
Earnings:			
From sale of town lots	$70,046 60		
From sale of timber	3,073 97		
Interest	5,075 92		
Rents	9,822 00		
Miscellaneous	661 57		
		$88,680 06	
Expenses		31,492 09	
			57,187 97
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS			$3,120,032 01
GENERAL ACCOUNT—			
Dividends on Cuba Railroad Company Stock			600,060 00
TOTAL INCOME			$3,720,092 01
LESS—			
Interest on debenture bonds		$240,000 00	
General Interest		13,139 27	
General Expenses		77,330 81	
			330,470 08
NET INCOME			$3,389,621 93
DEDUCT			
Dividend Preferred Stock, paid February 1915		$87,500 00	
Dividend Preferred Stock, due August 1, 1915		87,500 00	
Dividend Ordinary Stock, due July 1, 1915		800,000 00	
			975,000 00
NET SURPLUS			$2,414,621 93
SURPLUS JUNE 30, 1914			3,450,804 76
SURPLUS JUNE 30, 1915			$5,865,426 69

Copies of the full Report can be had at the Office of Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., 8 Crosby Square London, E.C.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Address of President Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy to the Shareholders at the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting, held in Montreal, October 7, 1915.

THE annual statement of your affairs now before you for consideration and approval is, in some respects, the most unsatisfactory that has been submitted for a number of years past. The shrinkage in the gross earnings of your railway system, compared with the previous year, of $31,000,000, is very marked. Indeed, it is in excess of your entire gross earnings in the year 1901. But the fact that, notwithstanding this great falling off in revenue, your regular dividend was earned, is unquestionable evidence of your foresight and wisdom in having made such expenditures during the past ten or twelve years as to enable you to make a saving in your working expenses representing such a substantial offset to the loss of gross revenue.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY.

The physical condition of your property has never been better than it is at this time, the reduction in the cost of maintenance of way for the year being due very largely to a favourable winter, and to the fact that works of betterment, chargeable in considerable part to working expenses, were completed before unfavourable business conditions appeared; and the additional facilities for the conduct of your business, provided by your expenditures, made it possible for you to handle your traffic more expeditiously and economically. As an illustration—the number of tons of freight traffic hauled one mile, in the year covered by the report, was 82% greater than in 1905, but it required only 17% additional train miles to perform the service. Improved gradients, double tracks, better terminal facilities, large locomotives and cars enabled you to earn $3.17 per freight train mile in the last year, as against $1.93 in 1905, an improvement of 64%, although there had been a substantial reduction of freight rates in the meantime. Taking everything into account, I feel that we may accept the outcome of the year as evidence of the strongly increased position of the Company, and may look forward to the future with buoyant confidence.

A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

In these days, when so many nations are engaged in a bloody and expensive war, when the financial machinery of the world is out of gear, and general business conditions are disturbed, it is not wise to make predictions; but everything points to marked improvement in your revenue during the current fiscal year. The country has been blessed with a most bountiful harvest, and, while the price of wheat is lower than it was a year ago, it is still above the average, and conditions prevailing abroad should cause a continued demand for this and many of our other products. Conservatively estimated, the field crops harvested this autumn in the four provinces west of Lake Superior will yield, *per capita*, to the rural population in these provinces, more than twice as much money as the rural population of the eight States directly south of them received, *per capita*, for their field crops in 1914. With agriculture as the most important pedestal of our prosperity, any substantial addition to the income, and, therefore, to the buying power of the agricultural community, is reflected in every line of trade; so that we have reason to anticipate a decided betterment of the westbound merchandise traffic.

IMPROVEMENT IN LAND SALES.

A substantial improvement in your land sales—77,000 acres in the last three months, as compared with 41,000 acres in the same months last year; increased activity in the mining and smelting industries of southern British Columbia; larger shipments of lumber from the western mills to the interior; are all encouraging signs, indicating, as they do, a partial restoration of confidence, and a step in the direction of normal times. It is to be hoped that, in anticipation of the close of the War, and the new conditions that will come with it, an organisation will be perfected for unity of action by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the important business interests of the country, looking not only to the largest possible immigration of agriculturists, but to the development, on a more comprehensive scale than ever before, of the vast natural resources of the country, so that the position of Canada may be strengthened to meet the financial obligations of the country resulting from the War and from other causes with which everybody is familiar.

Until the market improves no special effort will be made to dispose of any portion of the 4% Consolidated Debenture stock, amounting to about $40,000,000, representing advances made from your Treasury for the construction of additional railway mileage, as there is in hand at present sufficient money to meet all your requirements for a considerable period.

THE COMPANY LOSES TWO VALUED DIRECTORS.

The Company has suffered severe loss by the death of two of its most valued and esteemed directors. Sir Sandford Fleming, who died on July 22, was associated with the Canadian Pacific before the organisation of the present Company as chief engineer of the Dominion Government, and he became a member of the Board of Directors of the Company in 1885. He attended the meetings of the Board with great regularity, and took keen interest in the Company's affairs until he was seized with the illness that finally proved fatal. Sir William Van Horne, who passed away on September 11, joined the Company as General Manager at the end of the year 1881, and from that time until he retired from the Presidency in 1899, he devoted himself to the administration of the Company's affairs with a whole heart and with unbounded confidence. During the period that the through line of railway was under construction, and when its early completion was a matter of vital importance, his energy, ability, and indomitable courage were of a value that could not be over estimated. He lived to see the enterprise attain proportions quite beyond the most ambitious anticipations of the earlier days. The shareholders, as well as his associates on the Board of Directors, will, I am sure, always cherish his memory.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors subsequently held, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., was re-elected President, and Mr. George Bury Vice-President, of the Company; and the Executive Committee was appointed as follows: Mr. Richard B. Angus, Mr. George Bury, Sir Herbert S. Holt, Sir Edmund B. Osler, and Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD, LIMITED.

THE seventh ordinary general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, was held on October 12 in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38 Eastcheap, London, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. C. Heath Clark, J.P., the Chairman of the Company.

The Secretary (Mr. R. S. Field) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Gentlemen, I expect it will be your pleasure that we follow the usual custom and take the report and balance sheet as read, and I think you will probably feel with us that, having received and read them, they represent a satisfactory year's trading on account of our Company. The amount of the Company's net earnings is £18,000 more than last year, when they were £9,000 above those of the year before. On the occasion of our last meeting we had only been at war for a little more than two months, and although the general position in the commercial world had somewhat cleared, as compared with the first two or three weeks after the outbreak of hostilities, there yet remained a great feeling of uncertainty as to what the effect would prove to be upon commercial undertakings throughout the Empire. I ventured then to express the opinion that while undoubtedly we, in common with others, should certainly find the difficulties connected with the carrying on of our business greatly increased by the vast struggle in which our own country and most of the other European Powers were involved, the commercial result would prove more satisfactory than many then anticipated. During the year under review we certainly have had far more than the ordinary crop of difficulties to contend with, and have also sustained in some directions losses as the direct outcome of the War, but those losses have been more than compensated for by increased earnings in other directions. The foundation of what I feel sure you will regard as the very satisfactory increase in the profits earned by our Company I believe to lie in the fact that the products we are mainly interested in have proved as necessary to the life of the community in time of war as in time of peace—possibly even more so. The amalgamation of the Company's interests in Australia and the United States with those of Messrs. Fraser, Ramsay and Messrs. A. P. Irwin and Company respectively, reported to you a year ago, has proved entirely satisfactory and beneficial to the Company's business.

The Accounts Reviewed.

The balance sheet continues to show increasing strength as well as extending business, the total this year amounting to over £2,000,000, against £1,500,000 last year. On the liability side, our nominal capital has been increased by £200,000 in consequence of the resolution passed by you at our meeting a year ago. Having obtained the sanction of the Treasury, we issued last June 100,000 5½% Cumulative Preference shares at par; these at the date of our balance sheet were 10*s.* paid, and had then increased the amount of our paid-up capital by £50,000. We had also received on the same account £37,000 for calls paid in advance Our reserve funds, which a year ago amounted to £235,882, stand in the present balance sheet at £281,000, including the amount of £17,500 transferred out of this year's profits to the Preference reserve fund. The amount of the mortgages on our freehold properties is again slightly reduced, and the deposits held by the Company are increased from £29,000 a year ago to £155,000. Bills payable show a reduction from £182,000 to £161,000 this year. We have a new item appearing in our balance sheet, amounting to £255,000, for acceptances on behalf of clients. This came into existence as one of the results of the financial changes brought about by the War, when, in order to assist the position then created, we undertook to accept on behalf of a number of the companies for whom we are agents drafts drawn by them in the East for their estate requirements. Sundry creditors amount to £106,000, against £68,000 a year ago. On the other side, freehold and leasehold property has increased by about £10,000, while the accounts for plant, machinery, furniture, and fittings have been somewhat reduced. Sundry stocks at £338,567 are £111,737 more than a year ago, which arises partly from the increased value of produce, but mainly, perhaps, from the Company's increased turnover. Loans receivable by the Company amount to £185,000, as against £132,000 last year, and the bills receivable amounted to £70,000, as against £9,343 a year ago, the item of sundry debtors remaining very much the same.

Value of the Investments.

Our investments, taken at cost or under, amount to £515,898, and the depreciation on this amount at June 30 was £22,573. A year ago investments stood in our balance sheet at £474,577, and showed a depreciation at that date of £58,286. This recovery in value justifies the opinion expressed last year that any depreciation on our investments would prove to be only of a passing and temporary character, consisting as they very largely do of interests in tea and rubber properties which have not yet reached the producing stage; it appears to us to be only a question of time; and any paper depreciation shown from time to time will eventually disappear altogether. It has been necessary to provide, approximately, £5,000 to maintain the Preference reserve fund investments at the full value shown in our balance sheet, and, in view of the financial position created by the War, it appears probable that further provision will need to be made from time to time until money ceases to rise in value. The cost of the new issue of capital we propose writing off out of the year's profits, in order that our balance sheet may continue to show as assets only such as are represented by cash values.

Allocation of the Profits.

From the profit and loss account you will see that, after making the usual full provision for depreciation, and, in addition, writing off certain special losses directly resulting from the War, also after having paid dividends on the Cumulative Preference shares and interim dividends on the Preferred Ordinary and Management shares, amounting together to £57,500, providing for the depreciation on the investments of the Preference reserve fund and the addition thereto of £17,500, we have, including £35,530 brought in from last year, an amount of profit available of £107,939 19*s.* 10*d.* This we propose dealing with by transferring to income tax reserve £22,500; writing off expenses of the new issue, amounting to £5,595 3*s.* 1*d.*; the payment of the final dividend on the Preferred Ordinary shares of 5%, absorbing £15,000, and making 10% for the whole year; and the payment of 3*s.* per share on the management shares, amounting to £22,500, leaving to be carried forward £42,344 16*s.* 9*d.*, as against £35,530, the amount brought in from last year. The Company has since the commencement of the War contributed £1,700 to various relief funds. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that this is a year when our thanks are especially due to the members of our staff, both in London and in charge of our branches abroad, for the efficient manner in which their duties have been performed, often under especially trying conditions, and throughout the year under circumstances of greatly increased strain. (Applause.) As mentioned in the report, 65 members of the London staff have joined His Majesty's Forces since the outbreak of War, two of whom, Captain Cunningham and Private Wallington, have lost their lives in the service of the country. We are continuing to pay half-salary to all members of our staff who have enlisted—a course which, I am sure, you will heartily approve of. (Applause.) Those remaining in the Company's service are also, we believe, effectively serving the national interests by enabling our work of production and distribution to go forward unchecked. We have, in addition to the ordinary business of the Company, through our branches in Medan and Batavia, undertaken to act in the interests of large numbers of shippers in this country and our Colonies, as well as the allied nations, to secure the release of the cargoes in which they are interested from enemy ships taking refuge in the Dutch Indies. The Company is providing for the control and management of between 150,000 and 200,000 acres of cultivation in the Middle East, principally under tea and rubber. These productions are a big factor in the well-being and resources of those parts of the Empire from which they come, and also form a valuable contribution to the economic and material strength of this country.

The Rubber Industry.

It is, perhaps, not generally recognised what an important factor rubber is in our exports to America and in assisting to adjust the exchange with that country at the present time. The amount of rubber exported from the United Kingdom to the United States of America last year amounted to nearly eight millions sterling, and if that going direct from the Middle East is added, the total reaches between 10 and 11 millions. In the first case it represents about one-sixth, and in the latter one-fifth, of the total exports from this country to the United States of America. Rubber is two-and-a-half times the value of any other item in the list of our exports to America, and occupies the fourth place for value among the imports of the United States of America from the whole world. Probably about 70 millions of British capital is invested in the rubber industry in the Middle East, and although at the present time not more than about half of this large capital outlay is productive, it will return for the present year produce of the value of from 18 to 20 millions sterling. (Applause.)

The development of the plantation rubber industry and the investment of this capital in the Middle East have also enabled this country and our Allies to have at their disposal and under their control by far the largest part of the world's supply of one of the things essential for carrying on the present struggle. The past year has served to place the industry in a still stronger position. For some years past I have asked your attention to the great reduction being effected in production costs, and last year I mentioned that taking 10 companies that had reached the producing stage from among those under our care, there had been an average reduction of 6d. per lb. in the cost of production on those estates. This year there has been over the same properties an average reduction of 4*d*. in the costs, making a total of 10*d*. per lb. in two years. (Applause.) This reduction in costs will, I believe, still continue, although of necessity not to the same extent, but undoubtedly to the essential point to which we have always looked forward—that of making the plantations of the Middle East by far the cheapest, as well as the best, sources from which the world can draw its rubber supplies. This result is continuing to work itself out, and can be seen in the increase of the supplies from the Middle East—this year amounting to about 33%—and on the other hand the decrease in the supplies from all other sources—this year probably amounting to about 20%. The increased demand has continued to absorb the increasing supplies throughout the year, and at prices which for the first eight months are fully equal to the average price obtained for the whole of last year, while the larger output and reduced costs are giving a satisfactory increase in the profits of most producing companies. Prospects at the present time appear to indicate the continuance of an entirely satisfactory demand, capable of taking the increased production, at prices which will prove quite satisfactory to producing companies. (Applause.) I think, as a matter of fact, there is no reasonable doubt that the average price realised for the complete year 1915 will show a material advance on that for the complete previous year. We have a very strong market at the present time with prices that are well ahead, probably amounting to at least 4*d*. a pound more than those ruling a year ago. So it looks as if the balance of this year should give a materially increased average price for the whole year. Therefore the producing companies will be in the fortunate position of improving their earnings both from the actual price of the produce, and also from the very material reduction which has been made in the costs of production. (Hear, hear.)

Outlook for Tea.

Tea, from the producer's point of view, has had an exceedingly prosperous year, and recently prices have reached a higher level than they have touched for a great number of years past. I have pointed out at previous meetings of our Company that the increasing consumption of tea was not being sufficiently provided for by any new acreage coming into bearing, and could only be met as the result of higher cultivation, and this has yielded a very large increase over the existing area under tea, but not to an extent to meet the increased consumption, which would appear to have been further advanced as the result of the war. Imports into the United Kingdom for the year ended June 30 last amounted to 395,000,000 lb., against 361,000,000 lb., or an increase of 34,000,000 lb. on the previous year, and the stock remaining showed an increase of only 2,000,000 lb., so that practically the whole of the increase had been absorbed, and that at prices which showed from ¼*d*. to ½*d*. advance on the average for the year. This advance became so marked subsequently that for the first part of the present season the average prices are from 2*d*. to 3*d*. per lb. higher than those of the corresponding period last year. There are two considerations which make the continuance of these extremely high prices throughout the present year improbable. The weather during the present season has been exceptionally favourable for increased production, and it is fairly certain that India, Ceylon, and Java will be in a position to largely increase their exports, and will together provide a greater surplus than we have had for some years, and the continued strength of the market must largely depend upon how far the foreign and Colonial markets will prove to be in need of largely increased supplies.

Tea Duties and Alcohol.

It is to be feared that the home trade must feel the effect somewhat severely of the increased duty. A 5*d*. duty which since the war has advanced to 1*s*., and represents a tax of 100% or more on the value of the articles concerned, must have an effect in diminishing consumption, and certainly must press heavily upon the distributing trade in this country, who, having the extra money to advance for duty payments, are also likely to find the profits curtailed by the enhanced prices. The producing companies, on the other hand, appear pretty certain on the whole to continue doing well, for which purpose it is not necessary that prices should be maintained at the extreme rates recently ruling. It appears regrettable, from the national standpoint, that it should have been necessary to add another 4*d*. per lb. to the tea duty at the present time, when the great majority of people recognise the vital necessity of increasing the national efficiency by reducing the consumption of alcohol, for which tea is undoubtedly the greatest and most popular substitute, as well as being the drink of the poorest classes in the community. This, as well as other taxation imposed, will affect us to some extent, but that is not the point of my objection. I think that we, in common with the rest of the business community, feel that when the lives of our young men are being sacrificed by thousands in the cause of human liberty and the defence of the Empire, we are glad to be in a position to make financial sacrifices necessary to meet a crisis in our history which calls for sacrifices from everyone. (Applause.) All that we, as business men, should ask is that the incidence of the necessary taxation should be as just and as equitable as it can be made, and leave the earning power of our industrial and commercial undertakings as free as possible to continue adding to the available resources of the nation.

Retirement of Mr. Charles Harrison.

We record, with regret, the retirement from the board of Mr. Charles Harrison, necessitated by his advanced age and declining health. Mr. Harrison was associated with this business for a good many more years than any of those of us now responsible for its management have lived, and one result from his long connection with the business has been the making of many friends and not a single enemy—(applause)—and every one of us who knows Mr. Harrison will, I am sure, most sincerely join in wishing him every happiness in that retirement which has been so well earned by his long service in connection with the old firm of Harrisons and Crosfield, and subsequently with this Company. (Applause.) I have now, gentlemen, much pleasure in proposing "That the balance sheet and report of the directors and auditors be adopted." I will ask Mr. Lampard to be kind enough to second the motion, and then if there are any questions I shall be glad to do my best to answer them.

Mr. C. Arthur Lampard: Gentlemen, I feel sure that, after having heard the careful, exhaustive, and very interesting account which has been given to you by the Chairman, it is quite unnecessary for me to detain you beyond saying that he has indicated to you, I think, very clearly that the prospects before the business, and particularly the two main things in which we are interested, continue to be satisfactory, and hold before us almost the certainty of continued prosperity. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. (Hear, hear.)

Extra Capital and War Profits.

Mr. J. J. B. Saffery said he presumed that half of the £18,000 of extra profit would go to the Government as war profit.

The Chairman replied that he thought it was quite certain that they would not have to give half of the extra profit to the Government, because there would be an allowance for the increased capital. It was quite impossible for him to say then exactly what, if anything, their contribution would be, but he was sure it would be the pleasure of the shareholders to give to the Government anything that they were justly entitled to. On the other hand, he expected that shareholders would regard him in the light of their trustee whose duty it was to see that they did not pay anything that ought not to be paid. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel Stewart said he supposed that the £18,000 of extra profit arose to a considerable extent from the £450,000 of extra capital embarked in the enterprise—£300,000 of Preference shares and the premium of 50%—and used in the working of the Company throughout the whole year. On this sum the extra profit represented barely 4%. The accounts were so compressed that it was not easy to read as one ran. At the meeting last year he suggested that, in the statement of accounts, the corresponding items of the previous year should be shown, and he understood the Chairman then to say that he would attend to it, but nothing of the kind was done in the accounts now presented. He thought it ought to be done, and in fact it was done by other well-known companies.

The Chairman said Colonel Stewart's statement as to the additional capital was not quite correct. The only additional capital they had had in use during the year was the first instalment of the new Preference share capital issued just before the conclusion of the financial year. The previous year's results were obtained with practically the same capital as that employed during the year under review.

The Fructification of Capital.

It might interest the shareholders to know that a very large part of the Company's capital was invested in such a form that it did not bring in returns immediately they received the capital. On the contrary, they had to wait for years before they obtained a return from a very large proportion of their capital. Fortunately, they had been in the position of being able to utilise the productive capital to such good purpose that they were able to pay dividends upon the whole, although they did not receive interest from some considerable portion of it for many years after it was invested. (Hear, hear.) With regard to Colonel Stewart's other point, his suggestions had not been forgotten. They were brought before the board and very carefully considered, and their conclusion was that the disadvantages arising from the course suggested would be greater than

the advantages. They had therefore adhered to the form of accounts adopted in previous years.

Colonel Stewart said he was reminded of a remark of a young officer in his regiment. Referring to a new drill-book, he said : "Colonel, this drill-book is full of omissions." (Laughter.) In the same way, the directors' report was full of omissions.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and adopted.

The Chairman moved : "That a final dividend of 5% on the Preferred Ordinary shares (making 10% for the year), and a final dividend of 3*s.* per share on the management shares, be paid forthwith."

Mr. John M. Schmidl seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Mr. George Croll proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr. C. Heath Clark and Mr. C. Arthur Lampard. He said these gentlemen had been so long and so closely connected with the Company, and were so well known to the shareholders, that it was unnecessary to say anything in support of the resolution.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. H. Eric Miller, was unanimously adopted, and the Chairman returned thanks.

Mr. Theodore Crosfield moved the reappointment of the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. He added : As I am on my feet perhaps I may be allowed to associate myself very heartily with the expressions that you made use of just now respecting Mr. Charles Harrison. I was associated with him here, as you know, for many years longer than you were, and I am sure that all of us who came into contact with him feel a great affection for him and greatly desire that your good wishes may be fulfilled.

Mr. H. J. Cox, who seconded the motion, said : Mr. Crosfield was serving as a partner with Mr. Charles Harrison for a great many years. I had the privilege of serving as a servant with Mr. Charles Harrison for a great many years, and I should like to associate myself with everything that has been said with respect to him. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. E. Crosfield : May I, before we disperse, propose that our very best thanks be given to the Chairman for the way in which he has occupied the chair, and for the very lucid and full statement that he has put before us to-day. I think it is no less than is due to him. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was duly seconded and passed unanimously, and, the Chairman having returned thanks, the proceedings terminated.

KYSHTIM CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE sixth annual general meeting of the Kyshtim Corporation, Limited, was held yesterday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. F. H. Leslie (the Chairman) presiding.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. G. K. Wicks, A.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said : Gentlemen,—Since we last met this country and the Empire of Russia have been plunged into a state of war, and it falls to me to-day to explain to you how this grave crisis has affected the prosperity of the Kyshtim Mining Works, the Russian Company in which this Corporation holds the whole share capital.

The Russian Company's Accounts.

If you will turn to the profit and loss account of the Kyshtim Mining Works I will summarise the changes which have taken place as compared with the preceding year as briefly as possible. The profit from copper shows a decrease of £67,000, from iron a decrease of £32,000, from forests a decrease of £3,500, and from barren pyrites a decrease of £2,500—a total decrease of £105,000. The expenses show an increase for the following items :—Interest, £2,000; land and Government taxes, £6,000; exploration expenses, £9,000; administration expenses at Kyshtim, £6,000; insurance, £2,000; and war charities, £2,000—a total increase in expenses of £27,000. These increased expenses are rather more than balanced by savings in expenditure, as follows :—We have placed less to reserve fund, £5,000; there is less reserve necessary for profit tax in Russia by £20,000; and we have escaped the cost of issuing new share capital in Russia, £6,000—making a total saving of £31,000. The net result of the Kyshtim Mining Works for the year, therefore, after writing off £100,000 to depreciation and £18,372 for reserve, is £101,000 less favourable than the previous year. The net amount available for the dividend of the Russian Company is, in actual figures, £210,526 6*s.* 4*d.*, compared with £311,578 19*s.* in the previous year.

Increased Stocks of Metals and Materials.

So far as the balance sheet of the Russian Company is concerned, I need only, I think, call your attention to one item, and that is the item under the heading of "Stocks of metals and materials at cost, £458,000," a figure nearly £114,000 higher than in the previous balance sheet. This increase reflects the requirement of a far larger working capital in war time than in peace time, and we have, I fear, to look for a further increase as the War goes on in this requirement of additional working capital. Before leaving the Kyshtim Mining Works figures I draw your attention to the fact that, although for the convenience of shareholders the rouble figures of the Russian Company are translated into sterling figures, the exchange for this purpose has been taken, as in all previous translations, at 95 roubles to the £10, whereas the actual rate of exchange between Russia and this country is to-day about 140 roubles to the £10.

The English Company's Revenue and Expenses.

To turn now to the accounts of the Kyshtim Corporation, we have, apart from the dividend to be received from the Russian Company, increased receipts and savings as follows :—Interest and commission, £7,000; a saving in Debenture interest of £16,000; a saving in directors' fees of £10,000; and a saving in mine exploration of £3,000; making a total saving of £36,000; against which there are, unfortunately, the following increased charges :—Losses in exchange, £36,500; and increased income tax, £22,500; making a total of £59,000, and showing a net decrease in income of £23,000. The net income of the Corporation, therefore, for the year under review is approximately £124,000 less than last year—equivalent to a falling-off in earnings of 2*s.* per share. In other words, our earnings for the year under review are approximately 3*s.* per share, as compared with 5*s.* per share, the earnings of the previous year.

Dividend Position Explained.

I next come to the paragraph in the report which deals with the dividend recommendation of 1*s.* per share. I feel sure that there are many present here who would wish to hear our reasons for this recommendation in greater detail than has been given in the report. Up to a quite recent date the profits being earned in Russia and due to this Company were being remitted to this side in the form of gold and silver residues, the product of the electrolytic refinery in Russia. These residues, when they arrived in London, were refined and converted into sterling, and in this way the Russian Company paid to this Corporation the dividend it had declared on the Russian shares. This method of remittance had great advantages for us in that it enabled our profits to come over here, even after the deduction of transport and insurance charges, at the exchange approximately of 100 roubles for £10. Early in August, however, the export of gold-bearing residues was prohibited by the Russian Government, and this asset, which I think we rightly regarded as our most liquid asset, is not at the present time capable of realisation into sterling, seeing that there is no plant in Russia capable of separating the gold and silver—the only way by which the product can be turned into cash without a large loss to the Company. The directors of the Russian Company are at the present time negotiating with the Ministry of Finance in Petrograd as to these residues, and I am hopeful that an early solution of this difficulty will be found. Until this asset, which up to the end of October I estimate at £120,000, is liquidated, it is impossible to recommend any further distribution by way of dividend, and the only course open to us is to carry forward the very large sum of £145,000 until such time as the Russian Company can realise these gold and silver residues and remit the dividend to this country. At such a time as this through which we are passing we must expect these temporary difficulties, and this is only one out of many with which we have had to contend, and perhaps this Company may consider itself fortunate in being able since the commencement of the War to distribute to shareholders by way of dividends, without prejudice, as I believe, to the financial stability of the Russian Company, so large a sum of money as £250,000. (Hear, hear.)

Capital Expenditure.

The capital expenditure of the Russian Company for the year 1914 amounted to about £130,000, and was applied approximately as follows :—At the various mines in shaft sinking, £9,000; at the Upper Kyshtim works, £11,000; at the electrolytic refinery, £10,000; at the Kasli foundry, £2,000; at the Niaspetrovsk iron works, £3,000; at the Karabash smelting works, mainly in the completion of the reverberatory furnace, £80,000; on the railway, £2,000; on the coal mines, £6,000; and mechanic shops, £7,000; making a total of £130,000.

Ore Reserves Increased.

I will now call your attention to the copper mines and their ore reserves, which constitute the principal asset of the Russian Company. You will see from Mr. Gilman Brown's report on page 10 that during the twelve months ended April 1915, we extracted from the mines 352,000 tons of ore; and that during the same period we opened up by development and drilling work 558,000 tons of ore, so that we are in the position of having increased our ore reserves during that period by 206,000 tons, the total tonnage of our ore reserves as at April 1915 being estimated at 2,667,000 tons. Since the date of this report we have, however, received news, which was published in the usual way, that a new borehole at the Smirnoff mine has struck the reef at a vertical depth of 1,100 feet, or 500 feet deeper than the previous depth proved at this mine. This borehole

has intersected both the east and west veins. The east vein, as proved by this borehole, shows a 6 feet width of massive pyrite, and incidentally proved the ore-body to extend at least 100 feet further to the north than on the third level. On the west vein the width as proved by this borehole is 41 feet, containing nearly 3% of copper and about 10*s.* per ton in precious metals. It is estimated that this borehole has added some 623.000 tons of ore to the reserves, or, at the present rate of working, another two years of life to the mine, so that we have at the present time, and at the present rate of working, something like ten years of ore reserves in sight—a position which I feel sure you will regard with satisfaction. (Hear, hear.)

Cost of Production.

The cost of producing refined copper for the year under review increased by about £6 per ton, and the causes of this increase have been dealt with by Mr. Gilman Brown in his report. I believe these causes to be of a temporary nature and to be due to the abnormal conditions caused by the War. Among these conditions was the total cessation of the coal deliveries for which we had contracted and on which the work of the power house and the reverberatory furnace at Karabash were dependent; there was also the mobilisation by the Government of more than one-third of our regular employees and the shortage of railway and other transport, on which we were largely dependent, both for receiving our stores and dispatching our copper. Under these difficult circumstances I regard these figures as being satisfactory and as reflecting the greatest credit on the staff at Kyshtim. (Hear, hear.)

A New Coal Supply.

I may here mention that the coal supplies on which we were dependent came from a colliery situated about 55 miles from Kyshtim, and that at the outbreak of war the output of this colliery was commandeered by the Government. Under these circumstances we exercised an option on a coal-field in the same neighbourhood, which we had been investigating and proving for some months previous to the outbreak of war and have since been developing. This colliery is situated about 2½ miles from the main line, and our geological department inform us that we have probably several million tons of coal above the 200-foot level. (Applause.) The necessary connections with the main line are in course of construction, and we have reason to believe that within a few weeks this colliery will be able to supply us with all the coal we require. (Applause.)

Larger Copper Output and Higher Price Obtained.

During the year 1914 the price realised for refined copper was somewhat lower than for the previous year, and the production of copper, which was 7.588 tons, fell off by 383 tons. To state the position of the copper output up to date, I may inform you that the production of blister copper up to October 2 in the current year was 5.981 tons, as compared with 5.558 tons in the corresponding period of the year under review. The price obtained for refined copper up to July 13, 1915, was about £102 10*s.* per ton, or £10 per ton in excess of the average price for the whole of 1914; the price obtained for the month of July was £115 10*s.* 3*d.* per ton, and for August—the last month for which we have information—£133 per ton, which showed an increase of £40 per ton on the price realised during the year 1914. With regard to the immediate future of our copper production, I regret I cannot hazard any forecast. As Mr. Gilman Brown has told you in his report, there are many factors beyond our control which will regulate production, and no definite estimate of any value can be made. I have, however, no reason to suppose that there will be any considerable falling-off in production, except perhaps of a temporary nature, and it is satisfactory to know that, under normal conditions, our mines and plant are now capable of producing 10,000 tons of copper a year. (Applause.) As regards our iron works and our timber business, which are so greatly dependent on the supply of labour, I have little to tell you. I am hopeful that the Kasli works will show improved results, and that the profit to be received from these sources of revenue will not show any decrease during the current year. In the circumstances under which I am addressing you I have to be very vague and guarded. We cannot see very far forward, and the conditions under which we work vary from day to day. At the same time, we have no reason but to be hopeful and confident both as to the immediate prospects of the Company and as to its future. (Applause.)

Work for the Russian Government.

This War has created certain new situations which will affect our Company, and I will briefly mention one or two of them. We are, at the request of the Russian Government, erecting works for the annual production of about 8.000 tons of sulphuric acid. The cost of erecting this plant will be advanced by the Russian Government, and the first two years' output of these works has been purchased by the Russian Government at a price which should be satisfactory to the Company. (Applause.) We have also received large orders for sulphur pyrites from the Russian Government, and we may expect satisfactory results from these sales. In consequence of the pressing demand for this mineral we have increased our output, and are at the present time producing about 1,000 tons a week. We also have other negotiations in progress with the Russian Government with a view to assisting them in every way possible in the munitioning of their vast armies—(Applause)—and it is our aim and object, and indeed our privilege, to place the whole of our resources at their disposal. (Hear, hear.)

The Supply of Labour.

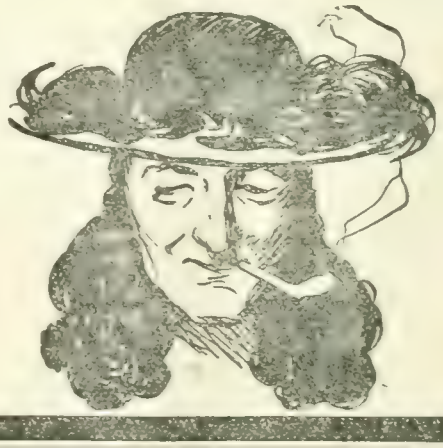
The calling up for military service of our regular workmen has made great gaps in the ranks of labour employed on the estates. These gaps have been partly filled by the re-arrangement of operations on the estates and partly by labour obtained from other sources. We are also shortly expecting an increased supply of labour from workmen who, owing to the season of the year, will soon be free from agricultural employment, but I need hardly remind you how impossible it is, under these conditions, to formulate in figures the results we hope to obtain. From these remarks you will gather that we have much work in hand for the Russian Government quite apart from our established industries, and we feel confident that the Government will give us all the assistance that is possible to enable us to obtain an adequate supply both of labour and transport—two vital necessities for the effective conduct of our business. In conclusion, I wish to send the acknowledgments of the board, and, I think, too, of the shareholders, to those who have been left to carry on the work of the Russian Company at Kyshtim and Petrograd—(Hear, hear)—and also our best wishes to those who have joined the Colours and are fighting for the Empire of Russia in this great struggle of nations. (Applause.) I now beg to move that the directors' report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the period ended January 13, 1915, now before you be received and adopted.

Mr. Leslie Urquhart (Managing Director) seconded the motion.

Shareholders' Inquiries.

Mr. Maude asked whether the disturbances among the local population near Niazepetrovsk were of a serious nature and whether they were likely to affect the future working of the Company. Referring to a circular which had been issued by a firm of brokers, he inquired why the Company had not benefited by the increased price of copper and whether the large production of the metal in other countries would adversely affect the Company.

Sir John Jardine wished to know whether any payment had been or was likely to be made by the Russian Govern-



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ment in respect of lands taken from the Company for the use of farmers or for the setting up of new villages.

Mr. George Moore suggested the advisability of printing in future annual reports the figures of the previous year. The change, he thought, would be appreciated by the shareholders.

The Chairman's Reply.

The Chairman, in reply, stated that the disturbance at Niazepetrovsk arose out of the introduction of an Insurance Act in Russia under which, as in this country, the men had to contribute a certain amount periodically, which was deducted from their wages. Niazepetrovsk, where the Company's ironworks were situated, was some 60 miles from Kyshtim and about 35 miles from any railway station. The remoteness of the place meant that the men did not easily find out what other workmen were doing, and they took this Act as a great grievance. It was essential, however, in the opinion of the Russian Government, that it should be enforced, and by their orders certain men were arrested. In the circumstances, the men refused to work. In the ordinary way they would no doubt have seen reason and have gone to work again, as the men in other Ural works did; but it so happened that there was a new railway being built through the property, and they were able, with their families, to work on the earthworks of that railway without infringing the principle over which they had quarrelled. In other words, they could contract to do so much work for the railway company, and in that way they did not come under the Insurance Act. It had been impossible to restart the works during the War. In a sense this had not been a great misfortune to the Company, because many of the men who were called up from the Karabash smelter and the copper works had been replaced by men previously employed at Niazepetrovsk. He was loth to enter into further details, because this was a question of Russian politics, and he hesitated very much to criticise the political situation of another nation. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the circular referred to, of which he had not heard before, he had already given the fullest explanation he could as to the reason fo rthe falling-off in profits. Considering that something approaching between one-third and one-half of their men had been called up, and having regard to the great difficulties of communication which had been experienced, he personally was not at all dissatisfied with the results achieved. (Hear, hear.) At home they knew quite well that there was not a single trade carried on even at approximately the same cost as before the War. His own experience was that everything had risen enormously, and he did not think they could regard the costs at Kyshtim as having risen excessively. They had not the advantage which this country possessed of free sea communication and good railway facilities, but were practically dependent on one line of railway, and the way in which these difficulties had been surmounted reflected the greatest possible credit on their staff at Petrograd and Kyshtim. (Hear, hear.)

The Land Question.

He was sorry he could give no information with regard to the land question. Before the War broke out the negotiations were proceeding at a very slow pace. They had, it was true, sold certain outlying portions of land at quite considerable figures, but when they came to talk about the whole land question as affecting the estate and also to look at the question of the peasants' rights, and so on, they found the matter a very difficult one to deal with. He had recently been looking at the figures given in the statement which accompanied the original prospectus of this Company, and he was not at all sure that to-day he could put the matter any more definitely than was done at that time He had no reason to believe that any of those figures were inaccurate. On the other hand, these big political questions, especially in Russia, moved very slowly, and they could only wait, at the same time hoping that the solution of this question would come more quickly than they could anticipate at present. The directors would give careful consideration to the suggestion regarding the printing of the comparative figures in the annual report. It was impossible for him to state the exact number of men at Kyshtim who had joined the Colours, but it was a number which, he regretted to say, was continually increasing. At the present time the number might be approximately 2,500 men.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The next business is the declaration of a dividend. The balance of the appropriation account is £208,498 13*s.* 3*d.* For the reasons which I have already given, the directors recommend that of this amount £145,786 13*s.* 3*d.* should be carried forward. I therefore move that a dividend in respect of the period ended January 13, 1915, of 1*s.* per share, free of income tax, be paid on November 1, 1915, to shareholders registered in the books of the Corporation on October 14, 1915, and to holders of share warrants to bearer.

Mr. D. J. Morgan seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman next moved the re-election of Mr. A. J. Hugh Smith, Mr. Saveli Polak, and Mr. T. Blair Reynolds, the retiring directors. He mentioned that Mr. Hugh Smith had been given a commission in the Coldstream Guards and was now serving his country at the Front.

Mr. F. Stobart seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr. Francis Moore, seconded by Mr. Reginald Scott, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company were reappointed auditors.

Appreciation of Directors' Services.

Mr. Francis Moore proposed a vote of thanks to the directors, remarking that they had gone through a most arduous and anxious period and were entitled to the greatest sympathy of the shareholders. The shareholders had, he was pleased to say, some compensation for the difficulties which had been experienced, for they were deriving the advantage of the increased price of copper and of the work which the Company was doing for the Russian Government. He desired, of course, to include in the vote the directors who were rendering the Company such valuable service in Russia and who, he was glad to feel, were their staunch friends and had been for many years. (Applause.)

The vote, in which the staff were included, was seconded by Mr. Reginald Scott and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said he was sure the best wishes of everybody in that room were with the directors of the Russian Company, who, perhaps, had had even more troubles and trials to bear than had been experienced by the directors on this side.

The proceedings then terminated.

COLTNESS IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE annual general meeting of the shareholders in the Coltness Iron Company, Limited, was held on October 8 at Glasgow, Sir William H. Houldsworth, Bart, LL.D. (the Chairman), presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will all have copies of our report and balance sheet for the year and that you have taken an opportunity of looking through the figures and forming your own opinions as to the results.

Increased Gross Profit.

Taking the gross profit first, you will see that it is £160,341 2*s.* 11*d.*, and I compare that figure with £95,117 4*s.* 8*d.* in 1914 and £157,101 17*s.* 7*d.* in 1913. This year we have put £5,000 to reserve for furnace repairs. In previous years we only put £3,000, but it was thought desirable, owing to the special circumstances connected with the works, that it would be better to be on the safe side on this occasion. We have also increased our redemption and depreciation this year, and have taken off £48,994 17*s.* 11*d.* instead of £38,146 1*s.* 8*d.* last year and £45,834 9*s.* 10*d.* in 1913. That gives us a net profit this year of £106,346 5*s.*, as against £108,267 7*s.* 9*d.* in the good year of 1913 and £53,971 3*s.* in the rather worse year of 1914. The balance from last year is about the same as the balances we have carried forward in previous years, £17,254 6*s.* 5*d.* That gives us a divisible profit of £123,600 11*s.* 5*d.*, as against £125,283 3*s.* 5*d.* in 1913 and £71,004 6*s.* 5*d.* in 1914. We come now to the way in which we deal with this £123,600 11*s.* 5*d.*, and compare it with what we did in the two years I have named.

Large Allocation to Reserve Fund.

In the first place, we put to the reserve fund £45,000 this year, as against £30,000 in 1913, while last year we were not able to put anything to reserve at all. After the ordinary deductions have been made, namely, interim dividends on the First and Second Preference shares and Ordinary shares, we come to deal with a balance of £51,725 11*s.* 5*d.* From that balance, after having made full provision for the reserve and for any emergencies in the future we can contemplate, we propose a further dividend of 4% and a bonus of 2%, which will take up £21,000, thus making a division all over of 10%. We have endeavoured not to be over-sanguine by dividing too much, and we have sought to look carefully forward to the future, as I am sure you would wish us to do. At the same time we thought it right to give a fair amount to the shareholders, particularly as we had made a profit to justify it. Some people appear to think that this year industries are going to have great war profits, as they call it. I can only say that although we have had a good year I cannot see any indications in our works of exceptional profits. Our results do not show any great advantage in war profits. No doubt the price of iron is higher, but when you go into the accounts, as we have to do, there is a great deal to be set off against that higher price, especially in our other departments, where we are suffering from the war. I don't know how far the profit we show this year comes directly from the war. I doubt if very much comes to us from that source, because, as I have pointed out, we had also a good year in 1913, when there was no war. We have less production in every one of our departments owing to the scarcity of labour, and that of course means increased cost.

Scarcity of Labour.

In all our departments we have felt the scarcity of labour very keenly, and the shortage of men is, as you know, still

continuing. Then, too, the shortage of waggons has been a difficulty that we have had to meet. In regard to our Warwickshire coalfield, which is in the process of development, the progress made has been quite satisfactory. We have experienced some difficulty with water in sinking the pit, but this has been most successfully and ingeniously overcome. With these remarks I beg to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mr. Henry E. Gordon, of Aikenhead, seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The retiring directors, Captain James Hamilton Houldsworth and Major Henry Hamilton Houldsworth, were re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. Kerr, Andersons and Macleod, C.A., reappointed.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting was held on October 13 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman said it would be seen from the report that the Company had had a year of ups and downs, but that, on the whole, they had come through very well, considering the various circumstances prevailing. There had been a falling off in the coaching traffic, while the goods traffic had maintained its figures owing to increased receipts from coal. A marked decline had taken place in the receipts from the carriage of building materials, no new building work at present being done. In the railway, besides the falling off of receipts, they had had to face an increased expenditure under the heading of maintenance of way and works and locomotive expenses. With regard to the collieries, it would be seen that there had been a large expansion in the coal output, from which it would be gathered that they had to an extent overcome some of the difficulties of which he spoke at the last meeting. Costs of production, he was glad to say, were getting lower, and that was a point to which they paid very great attention. The sales, while they showed an increase on those of previous years, were not up to the increase in production, the obvious reason being that a Company which had to arrange its sales programme some time beforehand could not take any immediate advantage of an improvement in output, and, therefore, the greater part of the increase merely went to stock. To sum up the Company's position generally, the result was not quite so good as in the previous year. However, all companies must have their fluctuations. The result of the year was a profit of £102,401, against £104,011 in the previous year, or a reduction, in round figures, of £1,600. They had paid all their interest charges and Preference dividend, and also an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the "B" shares in March last. They now proposed to pay a final dividend of 2 per cent. on the "B" shares, making 5 per cent. in all, and to carry forward £2,960. The reduction in the "B" dividend was, they considered, only of a temporary nature, due, broadly speaking, to outside causes known to everyone. In conclusion, he said he felt fairly confident that they would resume their ordinary and steady business, and, indeed, continue it, war or no war.

Mr. Walter Butler, M.I.C.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

LINGGI PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on October 12 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering the following resolutions :—(1) "That the capital of the Company be increased to £200,000 by the creation of 750,000 additional Ordinary shares of 2*s.* each." (2) "That the agreement intended to be made between the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates, Limited, and the liquidator thereof of the one part, and this Company of the other part (which agreement has been produced to and explained at this meeting), be and the same is hereby approved, and that the directors be and they are hereby authorised and directed to enter into such agreement, and to carry the same into effect, with or without such modifications as they may approve, whether before or after the execution thereof." Sir William Hood Treacher, K.C.M.G. (the Chairman), presided.

The Chairman said : This meeting is called for considering and, if thought fit, passing two resolutions which are set out clearly in the notice which was issued under date of October 4. The first resolution is for the increase of the Company's capital from £125,000 to £200,000. In regard to the issued capital, however, the increase will be strictly limited to the amount that is necessary to provide the consideration for the purchase of the two estates. The consideration in each case will be satisfied by the allotment of shares. The amount required for this purchase will be approximately £20,000, in 200,000 shares of 2*s.* each. The issued capital will thus be increased to £140,000. The capital position will then stand as follows :—

Authorised capital	£200,000
Issued capital	£140,000
Unissued capital	£60,000

Your directors deemed it wise to take this occasion to recommend an increase in the authorised capital to such an extent as would provide an ample margin of unissued capital, so that in the event of further sums being required at some future date for the development or extension of our business an issue of Ordinary shares could be made without again going through the formality of increasing our authorised capital. The second resolution before you is for the approval of an agreement which the directors have entered into for the purchase of the Port Dickson Company's estate and assets on the basis of one Linggi share for ten Port Dicksons. The board of this Company have gone very carefully and fully into the proposal and have been guided by the views and opinions of the visiting agent, Mr. Macfadyen.

The Planted Acreage.

When addressing you at the last annual general meeting I told you that the capital cost of the planted area of 7,400 acres worked out at the low figure of £16 4*s.* per acre. Including the extensions in progress, the proposals now before you, if adopted, would reduce this to £11 14*s.* per acre, a reduction of approximately 25 per cent. The low capital cost of its planted area has always been a feature of strength to this Company. You will appreciate, therefore, the significance of this further substantial reduction. Our output, as you will observe, will by the year 1920 be very nearly trebled. Moreover, we feel that we are in the advantageous position of being in possession of ample funds to undertake all necessary and desirable works to bring the new estates into a higher state of cultivation, reduce the costs, and increase the revenue-earning capacity of the properties under consideration. I might at this stage remind you that it has been the policy for some years past for the Linggi Company to add to its planted acreage by purchase. We have been able to do this because of our favourable financial position, and, looking back on the history of the Company, I think we might fairly claim it has proved to be a successful policy indeed.

Directors' Position Explained.

Coming back to the more immediate question of the proposed acquisition of Port Dickson, as you are aware, three of your directors are also directors of the Port Dickson Company and shareholders in the Port Dickson Company. Their registered holdings are as follows :—Mr. C. Malcolm Cumming, 34,144 shares; Mr. Robert Frederick McNair Scott, 5,538 shares; and myself, 8,410 shares. To this I may add that Sir John Anderson is also a shareholder to the extent of 18,041 shares. We are anxious in our procedure to avoid being open to a suggestion from any source that your interests would thereby be prejudiced. When the proposal to acquire Port Dickson was first submitted to your board we immediately appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. Trotter and Traill, neither of whom is in any way connected with the Port Dickson Company, except that Mr. Traill has a nominal interest of £40 in that Company. The final recommendations of that committee were accepted by the board without amendment and are embodied in the agreement which you are now asked to approve. The committee and the board, I need hardly add, were greatly assisted and guided by the advice of Mr. Macfadyen. We are confident that this acquisition will prove of benefit to this Company. It will enlarge your planted acreage considerably without involving a very considerable addition to your issued capital.

Mr. Noel Trotter seconded the resolutions, which were carried by the requisite majority.

The proceedings then terminated.

INCH KENNETH RUBBER ESTATES.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Inch Kenneth Rubber Estates, Limited, was held at Edinburgh on October 11, Mr. William Greenhill, the Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : A disturbance with labour in the East on the outbreak of war had a detrimental effect upon the output for a short period. Another matter to which I desire to call your attention is the action of the German cruiser *Emden*, which was responsible for sinking the s.s. *Troilus*, on which vessel the Company had a consignment of 11,730 lb. As this rubber was not insured against war risks a total loss was sustained.

During the year no further land has been acquired and no new developments of the Company's estate have been undertaken. This Company was one of the pioneers of this industry, and, along with other earlier companies, suffered by lack of experience. As shareholders know, the estates were very thickly planted at the inception—in fact too thickly planted—and operations have now been going on for some time in thinning out.

The crop for the year has amounted to 255,402 lb., including the *Troilus* consignment, which was very considerably under the estimate expected by the managers, but exceeds the previous year's crop by 1,837 lb. No doubt the thinning out on a large scale and cutting out mature trees, together with the very conservative system of tapping, accounts for the managers being unable to obtain their estimate. For the current year their estimate is 320,000 lb.,

upwards of 60,000 lb. more than was ingathered last year. They speak very confidently of obtaining their estimate. During the year they will have the benefit of tapping 305 acres which were planted in 1910.

The cost of production for the past year f.o.b. has amounted to the satisfactory figure of 10.60*d.*, as against 15.50*d.* the previous year, showing a decrease of 4.90*d.* per lb., and as stated in the report the all-in cost has been 14.46*d.* Last year the crop realised a gross average price of 2*s.* 4.27*d.*, this year a gross average price of 2*s.* 2.26*d.*, being a decrease of 2*d.* per lb. Owing to the satisfactory financial position of the Company the directors were enabled during the year to repay at par £5,000 of the Company's Debentures.

The report was adopted.

CULLODEN CONSOLIDATED COMPANY, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of the shareholders of the Culloden Consolidated Company, Limited, was held on October 8, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. A. A. Baumann presiding.

The Chairman said: Since the date of the formation of the Company in April, the capital value of your assets has increased very much; that value has increased something like 60%. The estimated value of your investments to-day is £293,000, as compared with the book value of £209,000 odd. We have reduced your liabilities by £20,000, and the gross revenue of the Company during the five months we have been in existence has been £15,000. That, I think, is a very good showing, although in these days one ought to be very careful how one admits having made any money at all. Personally I do not apprehend that this Company can come within the scope of the excess profits tax, for two reasons, either of which would be sufficient to exclude us from the sweep of the Chancellor's net. The first is that we are a new Company, and, therefore, have no three years to go back upon; nobody can charge us with having made excess profits. The second reason is that we are a share-holding Company. We do not trade; we are a trust Company holding shares in other concerns, and if we were to come within the excess profits tax it must be obvious, I think, to you all that we should be taxed twice over. Our holdings in the other companies may have to pay the excess profits tax, but to my mind it is inconceivable that a shareholding trust should also be subject to excess profits tax. How far this excess profits tax will affect our revenue in the future it is impossible for me to say. The younger and progressive companies, of course, it is admitted, are those which will bear the brunt of the new taxation. We are, however, fortunate enough to have some very big holdings in the larger and older companies, whose profits have shown a falling off since the boom year. Therefore, I do not think that this new tax will affect our revenue so very seriously unless the tax is going to be continued for a long time, which I hope is not going to be the case. But if the tax lasts only for a year or two years, I do not think that it will very materially reduce your prospects of revenue. There is only one other point about which I should like to say a few words. You are not allowed to deal in your shares on the Stock Exchange owing to the unaccountable, unreasonable, and apparently capricious conduct of the Treasury Committee appointed to regulate fresh issues. Twice we have made application to the Treasury Committee, and twice our request has been refused without any explanation. Twice I have written to the Chairman, Lord St. Aldwyn, giving him a full and detailed account of our application, showing him that no money was wanted, and I have not received even the courtesy of an official acknowledgment—a want of courtesy which, I am happy to say, is rare in the public life of this country.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aerated Bread Co.—Dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share, less tax, makes 17½% for the year.

Alliance Investment Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 4% per annum on Deferred stock.

American Mortgage Co. of Scotland.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 8% per annum, less tax.

Anglo-American Debenture Corporation.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Benger's Food.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at the rate of 1*s.* per annum, tax free.

Borax Consolidated.—Dividend at the rate of 6% per annum, less tax, on Preferred Ordinary.

British Empire Trust Co.—Dividend on the 5% Cumulative Perpetual Preference at rate of 5% per annum.

British North Borneo Co.—Dividend of 2½% for year.

Dominion Steel Corporation, Ltd.—Dividend of 1½% on Preference shares.

Eastman Kodak Company of New Jersey.—Extra dividend of 10% upon the Common stock.

Eastern Produce and Estates Co.—Interim dividend 6%, less tax.

Furness, Withy and Co.—Quarterly dividend of 6*d.* per share.

Glenshiel Rubber Estates Co.—Interim dividend of 10% (actual), less tax.

Highland Distilleries Co.—Dividend of 5%, tax free.

Hope Brothers.—Final dividend at rate of 4% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary, making 4% for year.

Imperial Bank of Canada.—Dividend for the quarter at rate of 12% per annum upon the paid-up capital stock.

Indo-European Telegraph Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, tax free.

Industrial and General Trust.—Interim dividend on Ordinary stock at rate of 8% per annum, less tax.

Investment Trust Corporation.—Interim dividend on Deferred stock at rate of 11% per annum, less tax.

Kali Glagah (Java) Rubber and Produce Co.—Dividend of 5%.

Las Cabezas Estancia Co.—Dividend of 4½%, less tax, for half-year, making 8½% for year.

London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co.—Interim dividend of 14*s.* per share, less tax.

London Trust Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 4% per annum on Deferred stock.

Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries.—Interim dividend of 2% on capital stock.

Murray (D. and W.).—Dividend of 6% on Ordinary, making 10% for the year.

Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Co.—Dividend of £3 per share on Preference on account of arrears.

Nordanal (Johore) Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend of 5% (actual), less tax.

North of England Trustee Debenture and Assets Corporation.—Interim dividend of 4*s.* per share, less tax.

Northern Assurance Co.—Interim dividend of 3*s.* per share, less tax.

Oriental Telephone and Electric Co.—Interim dividend of 4% on Ordinary shares, free of tax.

Pears (A. and F.).—Dividend for half-year on Ordinary shares at rate of 20% per annum.

Riverside (Selangor) Rubber Co.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax.

Rosario Drainage Co.—Dividend on Ordinary at rate of 3%, less tax.

Second Scottish Northern Investment Trust.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary stock.

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References:—
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

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ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, GENERAL MANAGER. GEORGE B. HART, SECRETARY.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION,

36 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

London Manager - - - - - JOHN K. MOIR.

HEAD OFFICE—60 WALL STREET, NEW YORK.

CAPITAL, fully paid - - - -	**($3,250,000)**	**£650,000**
RESERVE FUND - - - -	**($3,250,000)**	**£650,000**
UNDIVIDED PROFITS - - -	**($ 960,548)**	**£192,110**

H. T. S. GREEN - - - *President and General Manager.*
JOHN HUBBARD - - - *Vice-President and Treasurer.*

DIRECTORS.

CHARLES B. ALEXANDER. JULES S. BACHE. GUY CARY. HALEY FISKE. FRANK P. FRAZIER.
H. T. S. GREEN. LIONEL HAGENAERS. JOHN R. HEGEMAN. WILLIAM G. HENSHAW. ERSKINE HEWITT.
WILLIAM T. HINCKS. COLGATE HOYT. JOHN HUBBARD. MINOR C. KEITH. HENRY P. MCINTOSH.
GEORGE H. MACY. PIERRE MALI. WM. BARCLAY PARSONS. WILLIAM SALOMON.
WILLIAM SHILLABER. HERMANN SIELCKEN. VALENTINE P. SNYDER. JAMES GILBERT WHITE.

BRANCHES:—BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, CANTON, CEBU, COLON, HANKOW, HONGKONG, KOBE, MANILA, PANAMA, PEKING, SAN FRANCISCO, SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, YOKOHAMA, AND AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Twenty-Sixth Semi-Annual Statement at Close of Business June 30, 1915.

(Exchange $5=£1.)

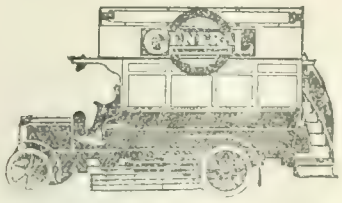
ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS, including Bank Premises and other Real Estate, of which Securities aggregating £499,260 have been lodged as cover for Acceptances, Deposits, &c.	925,899	15	4
TIME LOANS AND BILLS DISCOUNTED ...	1,115,238	5	4
DEMAND LOANS AND ADVANCES ...	1,210,758	6	6
BILLS, REMITTANCES AND OTHER FUNDS, including items lodged as cover against Acceptances by London Bankers for £406,140 *per contra*	1,745,792	3	4
BULLION AND FOREIGN MONEY ON HAND	325,367	1	8
SUNDRY ACCOUNTS DUE FROM AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS	158,279	7	0
CASH ON HAND AND IN LOCAL DEPOSITORIES	1,619,682	15	6
COMMERCIAL CREDITS *per contra*	416,991	11	4
	£7,518,009	6	0

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL	650,000	0	0
RESERVE FUND	650,000	0	0
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	192,109	15	9
DIVIDEND AT 6 % P.A. PAYABLE 1st Nov., 1915	19,500	0	0
DEPOSITS—TIME	1,948,494	11	8
DEPOSITS—DEMAND	2,475,480	18	5
ACCEPTANCES, BILLS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, including Loans from and Acceptances by London Bankers against Security *per contra*	1,072,249	8	10
NOTES IN CIRCULATION IN CHINA ...	93,183	0	0
COMMERCIAL CREDIT ACCEPTANCES ...	416,991	11	4
	£7,518,009	6	0

Contingent Liability on Bills of Exchange rediscounted, £1,165,553 5*s.* 8*d.*, of which, up to 7th October, 1915, £1,016,043 5*s.* 0*d.* have run off.

We have examined the books and accounts of the International Banking Corporation at its Head Office, New York, London and San Francisco Branches, as at June 30, 1915, and have inspected the certified returns from all other branches. We have satisfied ourselves that proper provision has been made for doubtful debts and for all ascertainable liabilities, and certify that in our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show the true financial position of the Corporation at June 30, 1915.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE and CO., Chartered Accountants.



D A 17

THE SIGHTS OF LONDON

It has been said that the best way to see London is from the top of an omnibus.

The London General Omnibus Company has prepared a booklet giving in tabulated form the story of London's main thoroughfares. It is replete with interesting notes on the streets and their buildings as they exist to-day, and also of their history and associations in the past.

A TOUR THROUGH THE CENTRE OF LONDON BY MOTOR-BUS

is the title of the booklet, which should prove a veritable guide, philosopher and friend to the visitor, while Londoners themselves will glean from its pages a multitude of little-known facts concerning the great city in which they dwell.

Copies of this booklet may be obtained free of charge on application to the Station-masters on the Underground, or to

The Advertising Manager,
The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

NEW ZEALAND.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

NEW ZEALAND is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD and SILVER.

Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of Interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,
13 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised - $25,000,000
Capital Paid up - - $11,560,000
Reserve Funds - - $13,000,000
Aggregate Assets - $180,000,000
Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, E. L. PEASE,
President. *Vice-President and General Manager.*
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES, ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS — Bridgetown; DOMINICA — Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
JAMES MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., President.
JOHN AIRD, General Manager.
H. V. F. JONES, Assistant General Manager.
Paid-up Capital £3,082,192
Reserve Fund £2,773,972
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal.
This Bank having its own Branch at SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., is able to offer special facilities to visitors to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Branches at Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, and other points on the Pacific Coast.
Drafts, Money Orders and Travellers' Letters of Credit issued, payable at any of these places.
London Office: 2 LOMBARD STREET.
H. V. F. JONES, Manager.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.
CAPITAL AUTHORISED $10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP $7,000,000
RESERVE FUND $7,000,000
Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.
SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.
Agents: ENGLAND—LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 17 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.
Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.
DRAFTS issued upon and remittances cabled to any point in **CANADA** by the Agents of the Bank in England and Scotland, through whom inquiries regarding Canadian securities and business generally can be made and will be promptly attended to.

CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1840.
PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £820,000.
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.
COURT OF DIRECTORS:

E. R. S. Balfour.	E. Geoffrey Hoare.
J. H. Brodie.	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mayne Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whatman.

Special Facilities for Collection of Bills, &c.
Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.
ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.

ESTABLISHED 1810.
CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000
THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.
Authorised Capital **£1,500,000**
Called up **£600,000**
Reserve Fund **£55,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders **£900,000**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. ÉMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking and Agency business in connection with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
P. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.		
Paid up Capital £2,000,000	together £3,960,000	
Reserve Fund £1,960,000		
Reserve Liability of Proprietors		4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve		£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE: 71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.
TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.
BILLS are purchased or sent for collection.
DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.
Paid-up Capital £250,000 0 0
(25,000 Shares of £10 each)
Reserve Fund £680,000 0 0
Reserved Profits ... £21,878 0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.
Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,
The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.
Capital, Reserve and Profits } $8,808,891.79
Assets - - $39,077,630.77
$5 equals approx. £1.
41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID $3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ... $3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ... $6,880,000
President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—B. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address— "FOURBANK." | London Agents— SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
London Offices—Circus Place, London Wall, E.C., and 117 Cannon Street, E.C.
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ... £2,782,420
With power to increase to ... 4,000,000
Reserve Fund 525,000
Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
Deposits received. Current Accounts opened and all descriptions of Banking business connected with South Africa and the Belgian Congo transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.

Established 1834. Incorporated in New South Wales

Capital Paid up ...	... £2,000,000	0 0
Reserve Fund	... 1,825,960	0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	2,000,000	0 0
	£5,825,960	0 0

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit on Australasia are issued by the London Branch. Bills on Australasia negotiated or collected. Remittances cabled.
London Offices -
18 Birchin Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.
F. A. SCRIVENER, Manager.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices, 51 Cannon Street, in the City of London, England.—*October* 16, 1915

The Statist,

A Journal of Practical Finance and Trade.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

VOL. LXXXVI.—No. 1,965.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915. [PRICE 1s., POST FREE 1s. 0½d. U.K.

SALES BY AUCTION.

JOHN HOARE AND CO. will Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on Saturday, 30th October, Tuesday, 9th November, Wednesday, 17th November,
5,750 Bales AUSTRALASIAN WOOL
5,500 ,, PUNTA ARENAS WOOL
750 ,, ENGLISH WOOL, Specially Classed.
Catalogues in due course of JOHN HOARE and CO., 73 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

JACOMB, SON and CO. will OFFER by AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on Thursday, 28th October, Thursday, 4th, Saturday, 13th, and Thursday, 18th November,
WOOL—10,500 BALES COLONIAL.
Catalogues and further particulars of the Brokers, Moorgate House, 61 Moorgate Street, E.C.

BANCO DE CHILE.
London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.
The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

CREDITO ITALIANO.
Capital fully paid and Reserve ... £3,460,000
Head Office: MILAN.
The Bank has Branches at Genoa, Rome, Turin, Naples, Florence, Catania, Bari, and numerous other important towns in Italy.
LONDON BRANCH:
22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.
Managers { I. GEORGE MANZI-FE. / DAVID A. HORNER.
Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having Correspondents in all European Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.
Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.
Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cable, London."
Telephones: 7802, 7803 City.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capita	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£240,000

Head Office ... AMSTERDAM.
London Agency... 2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
London Manager J. COST BUDDE.
All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 19,600,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.
CAPITAL PAID UP £3,703,704
RESERVE FUND £1,033,410
Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24 28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.
Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.
Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.
Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.
Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.
Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.
SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.
London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.
Horace Peel, Esq.
William Smart, Esq.
Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
Rt. Hon. Lord Welby, P.C., G.C.B.
HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.
HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Coste, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zaccoli.
Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for: BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMERIQUE DU SUD, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED
71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.300,000

BRANCHES IN:

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS.		
STERLING RESERVE, held in London at Exchange of 2s. per $ = £1,500,000 Sterling, invested in Consols and other Sterling Securities	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG.
LONDON COMMITTEE.
Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Chairman.
Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bt
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C

WITH SPECIAL FOREIGN BANKING SECTION.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(Registered in the Transvaal.)

(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an interim Dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (6*s.* per Share) has been declared for the six months ended 30th September, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered on the 30th October, 1915.

Dividend Warrants will be posted on the 25th November.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from 1st to 6th November, both dates inclusive.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are further informed that on presentation of Coupon 34 at the Office of the Bank in London the same will be paid on and after 26th November at the rate of 6*s.* per Share, less Income Tax, between the hours of 11 and 2 (Saturday excepted).

Forms can be obtained on application, and Coupons, which must be lodged three clear days for examination, will also be payable at the following places:—

At the Offices of:

Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging, Amsterdam;
Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 & 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris;

and at

The Head Office of the Bank, Pretoria, Transvaal.

By Order,
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

London Office:
Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.,
October 21st, 1915.

TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING ESTATES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DIVIDEND No. 19.

Holders of Share Warrants are informed that on or after Friday, 5th November, 1915, they will receive payment of Dividend No. 19 (10%, *i.e.*, 2*s.* per Share), after surrender of Coupon No. 19, at the London Office of the Company, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

Coupons belonging to holders resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to deduction of English Income Tax at the rate of 3*s.* 7½*d.* in the pound.

Coupons must be left four clear days for examination, and may be lodged any day (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of 11 and 2.

Listing Forms may be had on application.

By Order,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office:
No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
18th October, 1915

THE NUNDYDROOG COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £283,000 in 566,000 SHARES OF 10*s.* EACH.

6 Queen Street Place,
London, E.C., 20th October, 1915.

At a Meeting of the Directors held this day, It was Resolved—

"That an Interim Dividend on One Shilling "and Twopence per Share (less Income Tax "at 3*s.* in the £) on account of Profits for "the year ending 31st December, 1915, be and "the same is hereby declared, payable on the "16th day of November, 1915, to the Shareholders on the books of the Company on "the 22nd day of October, 1915, and that the "Transfer Books be Closed during the said "22nd day of October, 1915."

By Order of the Board,
W. L. BAYLEY, Secretary.

N.B.—This Dividend, with the previous Interim Dividend of the 21st July last, makes 2*s.* 2*d.* per Rs. Share (less Income Tax) in respect of the current year.

CITY OF OSAKA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £3,084,940.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 1st November, 1915, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
18th October, 1915.

GOUVERNEMENT IMPERIAL DU JAPON BONS DU TRESOR 5% DE 1913.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 1st November, 1915, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
18th October, 1915.

THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY.

New York, October 5, 1915.

The Board of Directors has declared a Dividend (being Dividend No. 42) on the Common Stock of this Company of One Dollar and Fifty Cents ($1.50) per Share, payable December 1, 1915, out of surplus net income, to Holders of said Common Stock registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on November 5, 1915.

Dividend cheques will be mailed to Holders of Common Stock who file suitable orders therefor at this office.

C. K. COOPER, Assistant Treasurer.
5 Nassau Street, New York City.

THE TOMBOY GOLD MINES COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Ordinary General Meeting of The Tomboy Gold Mines Company, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 28th day of October, 1915, at 2.30 P.M. precisely:

1. To receive and consider the Report of the Directors, with audited Statement of Account and Balance Sheet of the Company to the 30th June, 1915, with the Auditors' Report thereon, to be then presented.
2. To elect a Director in the place of the one retiring by rotation.
3. To appoint Auditors and fix their remuneration, and to transact any other ordinary general business required to be dealt with at such Meeting.

By Order of the Board,
T. DUNDAS PILLANS, Secretary.

24 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
19th October, 1915.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

LOST SCRIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following CERTIFICATES are alleged to have been LOST or DESTROYED, viz.:

Certificate No. 9912, dated 10th June, 1896, for 5 Shares, Nos. 156321 to 156325, and Certificate No. 9932, dated 17th June, 1896, for 30 Shares, Nos. 95247 to 95276, in the name of Maurice Charles Lambert Benoit Champy, of 46 Avenue de Villiers, Paris, France. Application has been made to the Company for a duplicate certificate, which will be issued unless valid objection be lodged with the Company within 30 days from date hereof.

By Order,
T. FREDK THORNE, Secretary.

63/64 Winchester House,
Old Broad Street, London, E.C.,
20th October, 1915.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated 29th July, 1861.

(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)

LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0	0
Paid-up Capital	539,437	10	0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10	0
Reserve Fund	400,000	0	0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.

PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S

Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale.

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	3,600,000
Total Assets over	80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—		
Subscribed	£4,500,000	
Unissued	500,000	
		£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up ...		£2,250,000
Reserve Fund		1,400,000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders ...		2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors ...		£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places of South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. The Purchase and Sale of Funds, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

7 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000 Shares of £20 each		£2,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL		1,250,000
RESERVE FUND		1,400,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre. River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent or collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Ordinary Shares of the Company will be closed on the 21st instant until the 1th November next, both days inclusive, for payment of the Half-yearly dividend.

By Order,
ROBERT CARMICHAEL, Secretary.

61 Threadneedle Street,
11th October, 1915.

NATIONAL BENEFIT

LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE Co. Ltd.,

All classes of INSURANCE, including LIFE, FIRE, ACCIDENT, MARINE, WAR RISKS, &c., at very favourable rates.
PROSPECTUS ON APPLICATION.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED £650,000.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: J. FRANCIS, J.P., F.S.S.
Head Offices: **NATIONAL HOUSE, NEWGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.**
Agents required in all districts. Special Terms offered.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT Society (A.M.P.)

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire. Est. 1849.
FUNDS—£32,000,000. ANNUAL INCOME—£4,000,000
MODERATE PREMIUMS. LIBERAL CONDITIONS WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.
EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR.
Whole-Life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.
Endowment Assurance Results also unsurpassed.
37 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE CENTURY
AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT POLICY
Offers LARGE BENEFITS at a LOW PREMIUM and affords a sense of personal protection that is most valuable to the BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL MAN.

Send postcard for particulars to:
CENTURY
INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.,
27 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C., or
18 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.
Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11 000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

Payable in Advance.

Inland.

ONE YEAR, £1 10 0 | HALF-YEAR, £0 15 0
(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 | HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8
(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Nothing left to Chance.

The Twenty Years' Guaranteed 5-Option Policy.

GUARANTEED SURRENDER VALUES.
GUARANTEED LOAN VALUES.
GUARANTEED BONUSES.
GUARANTEED OPTIONS.
Write for Leaflet "D.15"

The STANDARD LIFE Assurance Co. Estd. 1825.

Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.
London: 83 King William Street, E.C.,
and 3 Pall Mall East, S.W. Dublin: 59 Dawson Street.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, October 22, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

DATES FIXED.	BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.	DEPOSIT RATES.—BANKS. NOTICE.	DEPOSIT RATES.—DISCOUNT HOUSES— CALL.	DEPOSIT RATES.—DISCOUNT HOUSES— NOTICE.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 17*s.* 3¾*d.*	£97 15*s.* 1½*d.*	£96 12*s.* 5½*d.*	£95 10*s.*
Discount Rate	4½ %	4½ %	4½ %	4½ %

Discount Rates:—

	30 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4⅝-¾	4⅞	4⅞	5
Trade Bills	—	5¼-½	5½	5½-6

MONEY.

WHAT NEXT?

ONE thing has become clear in the course of a rather puzzling week in the Money market, and that is that the state of affairs is one that cannot possibly continue. The Treasury or the Bank of England, or whatever the power now is that rules in Lombard Street, has been trying to do two quite incompatible things, with the result that neither of them has been successfully accomplished. The ambition of the monetary Dictator apparently was to keep the rate

for loans at 4½%, and yet enable Treasury bills to be sold, likewise at 4½%. It might have seemed to be rather obvious that Treasury bills would not be very freely saleable at 4½%, unless those who bought them were enabled, by getting money to carry them with a little cheaper, to make a living. This was a practical consideration which was not allowed to weigh; 4½% was to be the rate both for short money and for Treasuries.

This policy might perhaps have been successfully carried through if an attempt had been made by getting at the genuine investor to tap a supply of real money for placing Treasury bills instead of relying on dealers in credit, who want to carry them with borrowed funds. If Treasury bills of a lower denomination than £1,000 had been offered over the counter, it is possible that a large and increasing business might have been done with investors who are saving for the next War Loan, and would have been glad of small Treasuries to put their money into in the meantime. But this was not done. Something had to happen, and what did happen was that the ring lately formed, within which short money was not to be cheaper than 4½%, was broken.

In the circumstances perhaps it was the best thing that could have happened. If it is desired to attract money to London it is no use to enact, by arbitrary ukase, that money is not to be lent below 4½%, unless at the same time it is possible to ensure that money can be lent at 4½%. If money is to be left here it must be able to be employed. But this cannot be brought about in a market flooded with artifically created credit by merely pretending that inflation does not exist and saying that 4½% is to be the rate. The only result of that policy was that the market froze into stagnation, with borrowers and lenders alike frostbitten and unable to move. Such a market is not a place where anyone with any choice in the matter would be very anxious to try to place funds. But when the agreement was broken, apparently by the secession of some of the colonial banks, then it seems to have been intimated that the Bank of England would borrow at 4½% any surplus that the clearing banks had over. Then at once the market began to prick its ears up. Money became mysteriously scarce. How much the Bank of England borrowed before it began to lend is a mystery that no one can guess; but it is generally believed that it has both borrowed and lent to a small extent, so increasing still further the intricacy of an extremely confused and unsatisfactory position.

It is generally expected that the rate for Treasury bills will be raised on Tuesday next, when the final instalment will be paid on the War Loan; and a rise in Bank rate in the near future is also looked upon as one of the possibilities in a position in which all things are possible. At first sight it would seem to be incredible that there should be any hint of a likelihood of a rise in Bank rate at a time when the low level of the Exchequer balances shows that borrowing by the Government, in one form or another, is inevitable in the very near future. Whether it be Treasury bills or Exchequer bonds, or a new War Loan that is going to be offered, a rise in Bank rate will be an equally inauspicious herald of the newcomer's approach. But the believers in a rise in Bank rate say that it will be caused by its expected effect on the New York Exchange. The limitations which at present modify the power of Bank rate to affect the New York exchange have frequently been pointed out by us. It may do something, especially if it is loyally backed up by the market: but it is rather like trying to put out a fire with a toy squirt. The only thing that will really cure the malady from which the New York exchange is suffering is a reduction of the imports from America or an increase in our exports to America, or both. These things can only happen through a drastic reduction in our consumption, and it seems that this can only be brought about by really vigorous taxation or a forced loan. In the meantime it is satisfactory to note a further big reduction in the Bank of England's holdings of securities, though it is, of course, impossible to know how far this movement has been caused by the Bank's borrowing.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The figures shown in Thursday's return are interesting in many respects. Partly owing to a reduction of 50 millions of Treasury bills, the public deposits have fallen £24,731,000, making a reduction of 70 millions in three weeks. This large release of money out of public deposits enabled the market to reduce its debt to the Bank of England on Government and other securities to the extent of £23,000,000. The Government securities, at considerably under £19,000,000, are the lowest since January last, whilst the other securities at £98,618,000 are lower than at any time since the end of August of last year. Besides paying off these large amounts to the Bank, the market also lost a million through a decrease in the reserve, making the seventh consecutive weekly diminution. The loss of reserve was due to an export of £1,346,000 in gold, off-set by a return of £276,113 in sovereigns from the country, whilst the note circulation is practically unaltered. In consequence of the large reduction of the deposit liabilities the ratio is more than 3¾% higher, at within a fraction of 31%, which is the highest ratio since February last.

The following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—		Rate Oct. 21	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London ...	sight	$4 67	4 86¼ dollars for £1	4 0
„ ...	cables	$4 67⅛		
„ ...	60 days	$4 64⅛		
Amsterdam ...	sight	41c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 1·8
Berlin ...	sight	82½c.	95 cents for 4 marks	13·4
Paris ...	sight	5 8⅝fr.	5.18 francs for $1	13·5
Mexico ...	Mex. silver $	37½c. U.S.	50c. U.S. for 1 Mex. $	25·0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Oct. 21, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3–3½%	Call money ... 2%
Oct. 22, 1914 ...	„ „ ...	6–6½%	„ „ ... 6–6½ %

POSITION IN INDIA.

The reduction of 10 lacs in the amount of Council bills offered on Wednesday last was accompanied by a reduction of nearly 100 lacs in the tenders. The allotment was made at the same rates as a week ago, but applicants at these rates got rather a bigger percentage on allotment. The last return of the Currency Department shows a further reduction in the note circulation; the total is 17 lacs down at 6,278 lacs. This contraction in the note issue was offset by a reduction of 17 lacs in the silver reserve, which has fallen to 3,672 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 5 per cent. (June 2, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, October 20, are:—

	Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers.			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.			Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%		s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	3,25,000	73,000	23		1 4	1,50,00,000*	35,70,000	23
—	—	—	—		1 4⅛	19,00,000	3,57,000	23
—	—	—	—		1 4	35,00,000	—	—
Total ...	3,25,000	73,000	—		Total ...	2,04,00,000	39,27,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered.	Tendered.	Accepted.
Grand Total ...	Rs. 40,00,000	... Rs. 2,07,25,000	... Rs. 40,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.			
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.		Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	52,000	1/4	1/4	Def.	20,04,000	1/4	1/4
Bombay ...	15,000	1/4	1/4	Def.	9,50,000	1/4	1/4
				Def.	6,6,000	1/4	1/4
Madras ...	6,000	1/4	1/4	Imm.	3,57,000	1/4	1/4⅛

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Calcutta	40,000	1/4 3/8
Bills on Madras	14,970	1/4 3/8

From **April 1** to **October 19** inclusive the Council granted remittances for **Rs. 6,37,95,297**, realising **£4,252,332**. Up to **October 20** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs. 5,80,71,861** realising **£3,874,591**. The total sales for the week ended **October 19** amounted to **Rs.5,00,000**, realising **£333,573**. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be **40** lacs.

SILVER.

BAR silver, which has been steadily appreciating of late, largely in consequence of Mint orders, has this week fallen back to 23 13/16*d.*, which shows a net reduction of 3/16*d.* per ounce. The set-back is attributed to the fact that supplies are rather more plentiful in consequence of reduced buying of the United States Government. India has given no support and China has been a seller for choice. The chief support of the market has, therefore, been the British Mint orders, and these have not been sufficient to prevent the slight set-back referred to.

	Oct. 15	16	18	19	20	21	22
London ...	24	23 7/8	23 13/16	23 13/16	23 13/16	23 7/8	23 13/16
India ...Rs.	61 1/16	61 1/4	61 1/2	61 3/8	61 5/16	Hol.	61 5/16
Exchange	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

Stock Exchange.

PRICES in the General Stock markets show more instances of improvement than declines, and there have been special inquiries for some descriptions of foreign securities, both Governmental and miscellaneous. A great amount of attention has been given to Mexican and also Brazilian securities, and previously Argentine issues had experienced a recovery. In some descriptions of securities of companies operating in Mexico and Brazil it is believed that buying orders have been on Canadian account, various utility undertakings of those countries being controlled from the Toronto centre.

A considerable number of transactions have been put through in War Loan, and in part the activity is due to the drawing near of the end of the period wherein conversion rights can be exercised, and partly to the recognition that in market movements of late no allowance would appear to have been made for accruing dividend.

In Shipping shares the feature has been a declaration of an interim dividend at the rate of 4% by the Royal Mail Steamship Company, comparing with 5% for 1913, while last year no dividend distribution was made.

A good tone has continued in rubber shares, while the recent demand for tea shares has subsided, and here and there reactions have occurred.

The American department has continued strong, and although a good deal of stock has been sold from this side, it has been absorbed, and more has been asked for. The predilection of Americans for their own securities is well known, and, in the circumstances, that there should be a continued demand for all descriptions of Home securities by the American public is not to be wondered at, considering the remarkable crops of the country, the trade progress, and the fact that the railways will have as much work as they can cope with in the near future. There is the feature of record crops and a high level of prices pointing to very big profits to farmers, &c. Industrial shares in the United States are seldom touched by investors on this side, but in some of them there have been phenomenal movements, in especial Bethlehem Steels, which one day this week rose sensationally to a record price. Thursday's closing price was 583.

	Int. or Div.	Price, July 27, 1914	1915 High.	1915 Low.	A Week Ago	Current Price	+or− Week
Consols 2½	2½*	72⅛	68⅛	65	65	65	...
War Loan (1925-28) ...	3½	...	95⅛	91⅞	92⅛	92⅞	+ ⅛
" " (1925-45)... ...	4½	...	93 3/16	97⅛	97 3/16	98 3/16	+1/16
" " " x rights	4½	...	93⅛	97⅛	97 7/16	98⅛	+⅛
Arg. 6% Treas. Bds. (1920)	6	...	100	98	99⅛	100	+ ⅛
Austrian Gold 1876	4	82⅛	64⅛	51⅛	59⅛	59 3/16	− 1/16
Brazil New Funding... ...	5	...	80	68	69	70⅛	+1⅛
French 3% Rentes	3	77⅛	63⅛	62⅛	63⅛	63⅛	...
German 3%	3	74	53⅛	47⅛	54⅛	54	− ⅛
Hungarian Rentes	4	74⅛	48⅛	48⅛	48⅛	48⅛	...
Italian 3½%	3½	94	79⅛	68⅛	69⅛	69⅛	...
Japan 4½% 1st Ser.	4½	93	91⅛	83	90⅛	91	+ ⅛
Russian 4½% 1909	4½	94	90⅛	73	74⅛	74⅛	+ ⅛
Caledonian Deferred ...	½	13⅛	12⅛	7 3/16	7 3/16	8	+5/16
Gt. Northern Deferred ...	2½	43⅛	46⅛	37⅛	33	37⅛	− ⅛
Gt. Western	5½	113⅛	111⅛	91	93	92⅛	− ⅛
L. & N. Western	6	125⅛	122⅛	99⅛	100⅛	100⅛	− ⅛
L., Brighton & S.C. Def. ..	3½	76⅛	70⅛	50⅛	53 3/16	53	−3/16
Midland Deferred	4	68⅛	67⅛	56⅛	57 3/16	56⅛	−1/16
N. Eastern	6½	120⅛	119⅛	99⅛	99 3/16	100	+1/16
S. Eastern Deferred	1	37⅛	34⅛	22	22⅛	22⅛	− ⅛
Underground Incomes ...	6	88	84	68⅛	71	70	−1
Canadian Pacific	10	179	179⅛	145⅛	175⅛	179⅛	+4⅛
Canadian Northern 5% Conv.	nil	80⅛	70⅛	45	50⅛	50 1/16	+1/16
Grand Trunk 4% Guar. ...	3½	80	75⅛	47⅛	81⅛	82	+ ⅛
Atchison	6	97	114⅛	95⅛	112 3/16	113	+ 3/16
Baltimore & Ohio	5	79	98	69	97⅛	98	+
Erie	nil	24	37⅛	21	35⅛	37⅛	+1⅛
Pennsylvania $50	6	55⅛	62⅛	53⅛	61	61	...
Southern Pacific	6	94⅛	104⅛	83⅛	102⅛	104⅛	+1⅛
Union Pacific	8	156⅛	143⅜	118⅛	143	143⅛	+ ⅛
U.S. Steel	nil	59⅛	91⅛	46⅛	87⅞	91⅛	+3⅛
Buenos Ayres Gt. Southern...	4	105	80⅛	72⅛	80⅛	80⅛	− ⅛
Armstrong Ord. £1	12½	2	45/9	34/0	35.0	34.6	−/6
Canadian Car Common ...	nil	47⅛	121⅛	20	114⅛	114	− ⅛
Hudson's Bay £1	nil	7⅛	7 3/16	4 1/16	6 1/16	6	−1/16
Shell Transport Ord. £1 ...	35	4 7/16	4 3/16	3⅛	4 1/16	4 7/16	...
Vickers Ord. £1	12½	1 3/32	39/10½	31/3	32/10½	32/9	−1½

* Minimum price 65.

ALCOY AND GANDIA RAILWAY & HARBOUR.

THIS Company suffered last year from a variety of causes, and a dividend of 1% only was paid on the First Mortgage Debentures, as against 1¾% a year ago. In the first half of the year abnormally bad weather spoilt a large part of the unpicked oranges and greatly delayed the tomato crop, the result being that exports in these two articles alone suffered a decrease of over 23,000 tons. Then again there were labour troubles in the Spanish merchant service which for some weeks interrupted the coasting trade and caused a falling off in the Company's receipts; and just as matters began to improve the European War broke out, with the inevitable dislocation of trade, and consequent heavy loss to the Company both in railway and harbour receipts. In the following table is set out the main results of working for the last five years:—

Alcoy and Gandia Railway and Harbour.

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	24,971	28,495	26,586	31,689	30,749
Expenses	18,553	18,623	18,465	19,243	19,200
Ratio ...	(74.29)	(65.34)	(70.00)	(60.70)	(62.53)
Net earnings ...	6,418	9,872	7,921	12,447	11,549
Misc. income	548	175	178	152	652
Total income ...	6,966	10,047	8,099	12,599	12,201
Charges, &c. ...	2,104	2,202	1,640	1,415	1,073
Profit	4,862	7,845	6,459	11,184	11,128
Div. on 4% 1st Mort. Deb's.	4,000	7,000	6,000	10,000	8,000
Rate per cent. ...	(1%)	(1¾%)	(1½%)	(2½%)	(2%)
Surplus ...	862	845	459	1,184	3,128
Renewals, &c. ...	500	500	500	1,941	3,000
Balance ...	362	345	Dr. 41	Dr. 757	Cr. 128
Brought forward ...	435	90	131	888	760
Carried forward ...	797	435	90	131	888

Until the War is over, or, at any rate, until more normal shipping facilities are available, it is impossible to see how any real revival of prosperity can be experienced; nevertheless the directors are confident that satisfactory results will be obtained when the exterior causes disappear which have brought about the present set-back.

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Mining Topics.

Except for the boomlet in Mexican mining shares, there have been no decided movements to record in the mining market. Rand shares have been hard. Super-added to the progress of the mines, the improved dividend outlook in several directions, the growth of labour supply, and the ability to effect economies, there has this week been the favourable influence of the Cape Election results, which give an accession of strength to the Government exceeding expectations. The South African and Unionist parties, together with the Independents who run with them, show a very much larger majority over the Nationalist and Labour parties than had been anticipated. At the time of writing the country returns have not come in, but already the returns from the great populous centres indicate that Government will have a considerable accession of support. Less attention has this week been given to the Far Eastern section than previously, but prices have been well maintained and the pause is not an unwelcome one. The last day or two Modderfontein B shares have again hardened, but Modderfontein shares remain at about the level of near to £15. In small priced shares there has been a renewal of the demand for Knight Centrals, but what exactly is the position upon which the demand is based is not clear. Private advices from Johannesburg report developments as being of a very satisfactory nature, but why have official results not been made known to shareholders? Nothing so far has been officially announced upon which an opinion can be based as to where the developments are so satisfactory as is alleged to be the case.

We briefly called attention last week to the changed condition of the market for Mexican mining shares, and this week in subsequent columns we devote some space to a consideration of the positions of the more important mining undertakings. Heretofore Goerz shares have experienced a recovery on the outlook for some of the Rand companies in which it is interested, but this week a further sharp rise has occurred, due to the hope that its Mexican La Fé mine will be able to resume operations if the political situation, as is hoped, distinctly improves. It is understood that the La Fé mine is in no wise damaged.

Last month it was announced that owing to labour troubles operations at the Arizona Copper mine were suspended; as to the reason of this no information was vouchsafed, but the *Engineering and Mining Journal* of New York, just to hand, throws light on a dark subject. Apparently a general strike has been declared in the Clifton-Morenci district affecting numerous American companies as well as the Arizona. The chief reasons for the strike seem to be the employment of non-union men and a demand for higher wages. Violence has been resorted to, and the managers of the important mines have had to leave for another district, where, by some process of American law, they were arrested as fugitives from justice. Seemingly attempts have been made to dynamite the Arizona's mill, though no damage is reported. In view of the turbulence of the situation a statement by the directors of the Arizona Copper Company would be welcome.

* * * Owing to exigencies of space we give an article on Oroville Dredging mine at page 390.

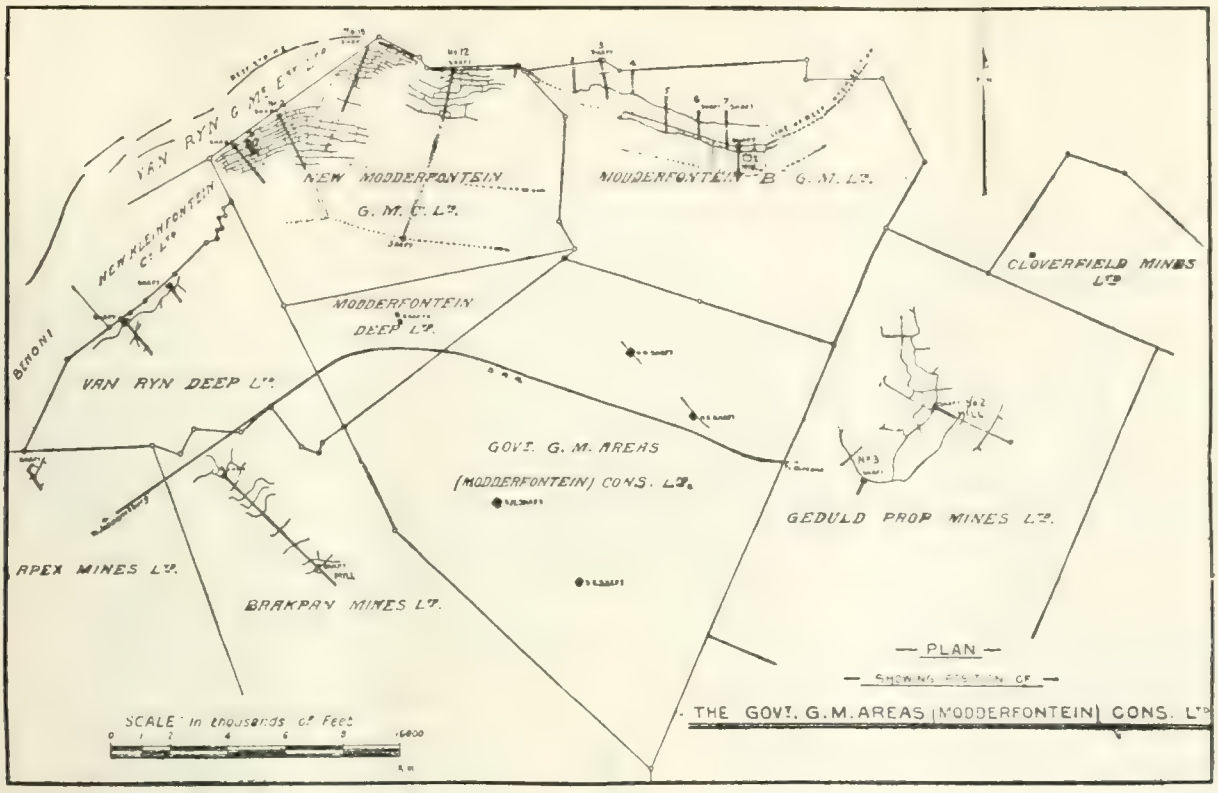
VAN RYN DEEP.

In recent numbers of The Statist we have dealt with the Far Eastern Rand in general and individually in more or less detail, *inter alia*, with New Modderfontein, Modderfontein B, Geduld, and Modderfontein Deep. We will now recapitulate our latest views as to the position and prospects of the Van Ryn Deep.

This Company, in its present form, is the outcome of a consolidation and reorganisation of capital of two adjoining deep-level undertakings, formed in 1902, which owned area immediately south of the New Kleinfontein and south-east of the Benoni. Areas to the south of the Van Ryn Deep's are those of the Apex and the Brakpan, while those of the Modderfontein and Modderfontein Deep lie to the east. The position of the area will be clear from the accompanying map.

The reorganisation of 1908 was based on a nominal capital of £1,750,000, and of this nominal amount 1,496,114 £1 shares were issued to the shareholders of two old companies or for the provision of further working capital resources. The initial vendor consideration had been a very heavy one and initial working capital resources quite inadequate. Then there came the recognition of necessity to rectify such position when, with a heavy capitalisation, there was a long-maintained indisposition on the part of the public to subscribe further working-capital resources necessary. Eventually, at the close of 1911, it was resolved to scale down the capital. This was done by giving two new shares for each five formerly held, thus reducing the issued capital to 40% of the previous amount. This reduced the cost of property, plus amount spent, to £598,446. Then to secure necessary cash for development and equipment 598,446 new £1 shares were issued at the price of 21*s.* per share, the issue being guaranteed for a commission of 1*s.* per share, and the outcome was an issued capital of £1,196,892, at which amount it has since remained.

With the capital thus provided in 1911 shaft sinking and development of the property was actively proceeded with. Previously the property had only been played with, but, while in the early days of the Company there had been inertia and indecision, this cannot be said to have been the case since 1911. So rapidly was development and shaft sinking pushed forward that by the end of 1912 over a million tons of pay ore had been brought into sight, and there was the gratifying feature that from start of active work developments almost uninterruptedly from quarter to quarter showed improvement. By the time the up-to-date mill erected by the Company was ready for work—that is



about the middle of 1913—upwards of 1,400,000 tons of ore reserves were reported in sight. The rapidity of construction of the mill of 80 stamps and eight tube mills, having regard to the size of the plant, was a record. Crushing was commenced in the middle of July 1913. What result was shown for the remaining part of the year is valueless for purposes of comparison, but by the beginning of 1914 the plant had thoroughly got into its stride, and for the whole of that year 483,090 tons were dealt with, while, as a result of improvements made, its yearly capacity is now approximately 530,000 tons. Having thus briefly surveyed the history of the Company up to the stage of milling, we may refer to features of the mine itself.

The mine has been opened up by two shafts very close to its northern boundary, and as the reef has a flat dip in this region both these shafts are inclined. The approximate position of the shafts is as under:—

West Boundary		West Shaft.		East Shaft.		East Boundary
	3,500 feet	■	2,000 feet	■	5,500 feet	

At June 30, according to the quarterly report, the western inclined shaft had reached a depth on the incline of 3,884 feet and the Eastern 3,724 feet, and as a result of such depth being attained the position of the main haulage drive has been decided upon at the seventh level.

So far as developments have been reported, those to the west of the West shaft have been in low-grade ore, but the bulk of the work has been concentrated upon the opening up of the central and eastern sections of the property. There are indications that in depth the grade of the ore at west is improving; for, according to the statement at the last annual meeting, a winze 1,000 feet west from the West shaft at the fifth level showed "a remarkable improvement in value." It was also stated that "the values exposed in the central and eastern sections of the mine are all that could be desired." In the quarterly report for March last it was mentioned that a winze from the seventh level east of the West shaft for the first 59 feet indicated an average width of 61 inches and an assay value of 97*s*. 9*d*.—exceptionally high width and assay. The fifth level, driven to east of the East shaft, had reached within 1,000 feet of the eastern boundary, and had, for the distance driven, shown "steady improvement" in width and value. What was shown at the sixth level cannot be stated, for that level is being driven in a straight line under the reef, in order to avoid the undulating course of the ore body. The Company, since the commencement of milling, has ceased to give quarterly development results, but we give them so far as reported—that is to the end of 1913—as indication of the true ore thickness as exposed in the driving:—

	Total Footage Sampled	Stoped	Payable Width Feet	Payable Width In.	Assay	Total Width Feet	Total Width In.	Assay
1912.								
Dec. qr. ...	5,266	2,562	1,657	18·7	127,6	1,241	154	17,8
1913.								
Mar. qr. ...	5,269	3,092	2,571	25·0	163·4	521	[illegible]	9 9
June qr. ...	4,674	2,555	2,085	24·0	94·4	270	22·4	17 5
Sept. qr.	—	1,482	1,697	18·0	119 5	285	15·0	22 6
Dec. qr. ...	—	1,350	1,350	20·0	100·5	—	—	—

The ore-reserve position is not set out in the report for 1914 so clearly as it might be. Initially the Company gave a calculation of its ore reserves based on mine tons. Then this procedure was modified and the basis of mill tons was taken, such mill tons representing the net quantity after elimination from the mine tons of 15% for sorting. At December 31, 1913, the basis of 55 inches stoping width was mentioned and the *assay* value of the gold contents given. At December 1914 the *recovery* value was substituted for assay value. The assay value of 1913 was 42*s*. 11*d*. while the recovery value of 1914 was 36*s*. The basis of stoping width of 1914 was not stated. Now all this is bewildering, especially bearing in mind that in the past the Consulting Engineer put forward an estimate of what would be the recovery based on 84% extraction of the assay value. Eighteen months to two years ago we dealt with this matter very fully, calling attention to what we considered was the extremely low rate (84%) of percentage recovery estimated, and pointed out what it would be with a 94% extraction; and that we were right in our surmise of the 84% basis being an extremely low one is shown by the fact that the actual percentage of extraction for the year 1914 is given as 96.3%. Of course, this latter rate is on the actual rate of extraction of the ore dealt with in 1914, and not on the ore reserves.

Bearing in mind that in 1914 some 483,000 tons were milled, it is satisfactory to notice the reference to reserves in the Chairman's speech in May last as under:—

> "The ore reserves at the end of the year amounted to 1,692,319 [illegible] tons, [illegible] estimated recovery value of 36*s*. per ton, against 1,660,767 tons, estimated at 35*s*. recovery value at the end of 1913.

The Consulting Engineer in his report said:—

> "At the end of the year development had reached a stage where only a comparatively small amount of driving will be required to enable further large additions being made to the reserves."

We may now record the progress shown in production since the beginning of production in July 1913, for the table we give will be useful for reference in connection with subsequent figures.

	Tons Stps.	Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Per ton	Profit* Amt.	Per ton	Price end of Period
1913.				£		£		£		
July 14 to Aug. 31	60	44,800	16	57,513	25/8	45,738	20/6	11,775	5/2	1½
Nov. qr.	70	100,150	14	165,799	27/9	96,506	19/6	69,293	8/3	1⅝
Dec.	80	37,050	—	62,016	33/6	34,933	19/2	27,083	14/4	1⅝
1914	77½	483,090	11¼	806,372	33/5	397,613	16/6	406,759	16/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	136,530	13¼	234,938	37/2	103,193	16/3	131,745	20/11	2 5/16
June qr.	80	126,100	13½	234,676	37/2	104,695	16/7	129,981	20/7	2 5/16
July	80	44,250	12	80,206	36/3	35,699	16/5	44,507	19/10	2⅛
Aug.	80	42,250	12¼	79,148	37/6	35,518	17/2	43,630	20/4	2 1/16
Sept.	—	42,020	-	78,664	37/5	35,545	17/3	43,119	20/2	2¼

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

* Sundry revenue included.

The results and appropriations for 1914 and estimates for 1915 are set out below:—

1914—Year to December 31.

	£	Per Ton
Gross receipts (483,090 tons)	806,372	33/5
Expenses	399,613	16/6
Mine profit	406,759	16/9
Sundry net revenue	6,983	
	413,742	
Donations	£1,305	
Phthisis account	4,522	
Taxes	38,269	
Dividends (25%)	299,223	
	343,317	
Less development suspense	15,525	
	327,792	
Surplus	85,950	
Balance brought forward	46,986	
Balance carried forward	132,936	

1915—Estimate (on about 520,000 tons):—

		£
Mine profit, 9 months		389,000
3 months at £42,666 per month		128,000
Equal to 19*s.* 11*d.* per ton.		517,000
Sundry revenue		5,000
		522,000
Appropriations—		
Phthisis, &c.	£5,500	
Government and war tax	56,500	
		62,000
		460,000
Say for capital outlays		20,000
Applicable to dividends, &c.		440,000
Balance brought forward (unappropriated)		132,936
		572,936
Assume carried forward		152,936
		420,000
*35% dividend on capital, £1,196,892, would require		418,912

* A distribution of 15% for the June half-year has been made.

We will now turn to the important point of the question of life. In the Far East Rand region the dip of the reef into the ground is very flat. In the Van Ryn Deep area the shaft quite at the north of the property encountered reef at a depth of 1,700 feet. Approximately 6,400 feet to the south of the Van Ryn Deep shaft is the shaft of the Brakpan, where reef was encountered at a depth of 3,098 feet. This means that the average dip between the Van Ryn Deep and the Brakpan shafts is about 12 degrees. Each foot thickness of reef with a dip of 12 degrees represents some 5,470 tons per claim. It will be observed that in calculating the ore reserves a stoping width of 55 inches was officially assumed as a basis in 1913; this exceeds 4½ feet. Applying 4½ feet thickness, the gross ore contents per claim work out at 24,615 tons. After deducting 15 per cent. for sorting there would remain 20,924 mill tons per claim.

The Company's area comprises 764½ claims, but it would be unwise to assume that the area contains uninterrupted ore body. Some figure has to be assumed as a deduction for faults and unpayable zones of ore. If for such we deduct 20 per cent. of the 764½ claims, this leaves, say, 610 net claims assumed to be reef bearing, and to contain, say, 20,900 mill tons per claim. The showing of this would be:—

Recapitulation:—12° dip = 5,470 tons for 1 foot of reef width per claim.

5,470 tons × 54 inches = per claim	24,615	tons
Less 15% sorting	3,691	,,
Net mill tons per claim	20,924	

764½ claims less about 20 per cent. faults, say, 610 net claims.

	Tons.
610 net claims at 20,900 mill tons per claim =	12,749,000
Less used to December 31, 1914	768,000
Remaining January 1, 1915	11,981,000

With full plant in operation, using about 520,000 tons net quantity per annum, a little less than 12 million tons would last the mine about 23 years.

It seems reasonably assured, on conservative lines, that an average of 35 per cent. dividends may be assumed for a life of 24 years. If such be the case, the present value of the share, to give the investor 10 per cent. income and return of his capital by investing surplus dividend at 5 per cent. works out as below:—

Dividends per cent.	35 %
,, = per share	7 0
Present value of share (say)	2½

The present price of the shares is about 2½.

WOLHUTER.

Some small fluctuations have recently occurred in the shares of this Company, and it is represented that these have been due to nervousness as to whether the dividend would be maintained at the rate paid for the year to October 31, 1914—that is, 12½%. This uneasiness was last week dissipated by the declaration of a second half-yearly dividend of 6¼%, making 12½% for 1914-15, the same as for the previous twelve months. An explanation of the doubt may be that the profit per ton for the past twelve months was slightly under what it had been in the previous year.

Year to October 31,	1914	Per Ton		1913	Per Ton
	£			£	
Gross receipts	478,995	25/0	(340,950 tons)	450,399	26/5
Expenses	325,137	17/0		311,000	18/3
Mine profit	153,858	8/0		139,399	8/2
Sundry net revenue	2,262			3,143	
	156,120			142,542	
Appropriations					
Taxes	£10,659		£14,329		
Directors' extra remuneration, &c.	1,315		1,315		
Phthisis account	7,815		5,719		
Capital expenditure	27,506		37,300		
Dividends (12½%)	107,500		10% 86,000		
	154,795			144,663	
Surplus	1,325			Deficit 2,121	
Balance brought forward	38,211			40,332	
Balance carried forward	39,536			38,211	

(Estimate based on about 435,000 tons.)

Year to October 31, 1915—	£		
Mine profit, 11 months actual	139,089		
1 month estimated	14,000		
	153,089	say 7/7 per ton	
Sundry net revenue, say	2,500		
	155,589		
Appropriations			
Taxes, say	£17,000		
Directors	1,315		
Phthisis, &c.	8,000		
Capital expenditure	15,000		
Dividends (12½%)	107,500		
	148,815		
Surplus	6,774		
Balance brought forward	39,356		
Say balance carried forward	46,130		

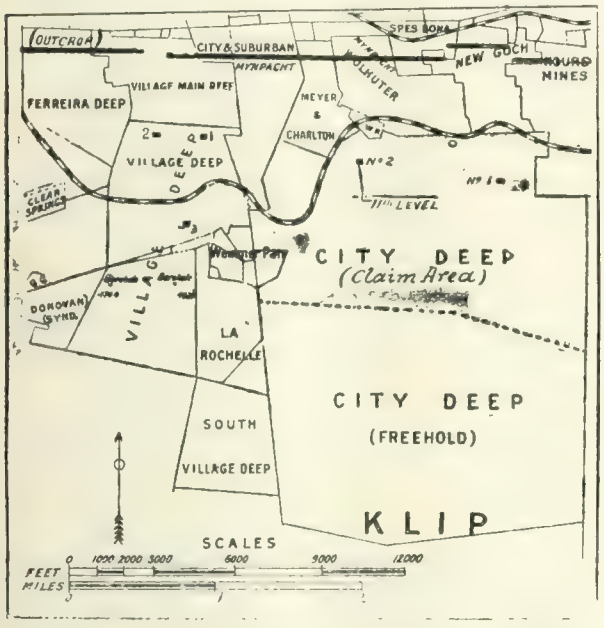
The present price of the £1 shares is about 12*s.*

Burma Corporation.—The internal shaft at a depth of 441 feet from the 171 foot-level, or 612 feet from surface, is reported by cable to be in very high-grade ore again. Down the north end of the shaft for 72 inches width the ore assays 23 oz. silver, 30% lead, and 29% zinc. In the south end of the shaft, evidently in the wall of the ore body, for 72 inches width the assays are 5½ oz., 6% lead, and 14% zinc. The importance of the existence of very high grade at this, the lowest point in the mine, is obvious.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

ESTIMATE OF 1915.

Although in recent months there has been a shrinkage in the price of the shares of this Company, the £4 shares being at present quoted about 2⅛, we cannot accept the somewhat prevalent idea that they are fully valued. In July last an official statement was put forward estimating the remaining ore contents of the mine as enough to last for "quite seven years." This was without making any allowance for an extra 2.7 claims which, in the opinion of the directors, are certain to be acquired. For the 15 additional claims it acquired from the City Deep it paid at the rate of £6,750 per claim, so that approximately £19,000 should purchase the 2.7 claims. The £101,250 paid for the 15 claims was provided out of profits.



The actual results of 1914 and an estimate for 1915 show that, apart from settings aside out of profits for capital expenditure, the clean profit would more than suffice to meet the 15% dividends that would call for £204,000 a year on the issued capital of £1,360,000. For convenience we set out the figures, and may here say that the estimate of 1915 is based on nine months' actual results and an estimate at the recent monthly rate for the remaining three months, the taxes, &c., also, of course, being estimated:—

Year to December 31.-	Estimate, 1915	Actual 1914
	£	£
Mine profit (341,000 tons)	249,000	(324,211 tons) 248,551
Sundry revenue	2,000	2,253
	251,000	250,804
Phthisis £6,500		£6,261
Taxes 25,000		23,326
	31,500	29,587
	219,500	221,217
15% dividends on capital, £1,360,000	£204,000	(15%) £204,000

Even if we make no allowance for the profit derived from the 2.7 additional claims acquired, and if we, further, only estimate an average annual dividend of 12½% for seven years, the present value of the £4 share, now quoted at, say, 2, works out at 2¼. The purchaser would enjoy an income of 10% and be able to set aside excess dividend and invest it for sinking fund purposes at 5% to redeem the price he paid for the share. The probability is that for the major part of the seven years there will be continuance of ability to show 15% dividends on the capital, but as the mine becomes worked out and there are less stoping faces the tonnage will probably have to be reduced, and dividends also. Hence a conservative course is to base value on the 12½% dividend average.

MEXICAN MINES.—I.

The expectation that the United States and the South American Republics will recognise General Carranza's Administration has raised hopes that the long drawn out "revolution" of Mexico will not last much longer. In consequence the securities of Anglo-Mexican undertakings, including mining shares, have this week received a considerable amount of attention. There are seven chief mining and kindred concerns whose shares are dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, all of which have paid dividends before and during the early part of the revolution which may be said to have commenced in earnest in the year 1912. The chaotic condition of the country since, leading to repeated interruption of communications with the mines, has greatly interfered with operations and intermittently all the mines have been shut down. However, from all reports it would appear that the mines themselves and their surface plants have not been damaged, and consequently, if the hopes of an early termination of the revolution are confirmed, mining operations will soon be in full swing again. The names and capitals of the principal undertakings and a contrast of their share prices now, before the European war, and in 1911, showing the tremendous depreciation that has occurred will be found in the following table:—

Market Prices.

	Issued Capital	Pre-Revolution High't Price 1911	Present Price Dec. 27, 1914	Sept. 25, 1915	Present
	£				
Buena Tierra (£1)	350,000		17/6	10/3	12/6
Camp Bird (£1 Ord.)	1,100,051	38/0	8/0	5/0	7/9
,, (£1 Pref.)	600,000		9/6		11/0
El Oro (£1) ...	1,147,500	28/6	14/0	7/9	10/6
Exploration Co. (£1)	750,000	17/6	8/9	7/3	8/6
Esperanza (£1) ...	155,000	42/6	15/9	9/3	10/9
Mexico El Oro (£1)	210,000	8/3	1/3	3/4	1/3
Santa Gertrudis (£1)	1,500,000	18/0	11/3	7/6	10/0

We have only sufficient space to deal individually with some of the concerns this week, and so reserve consideration of the remainder for a succeeding issue.

BUENA TIERRA.

This is the newest of the undertakings, and as 1912 was its first complete year of operation, it has from commencement been influenced by the revolutionary condition of the country. Nevertheless it has managed to earn profits in each of the past three years, and has paid two dividends of 5% each. The results obtained are shown below:—

Year to Dec. 31	Ore Hoisted Tons	Mining Revenue Per Ton	Total Working Costs* Per Ton	Working Profit £	Per Ton	Ore Reserves Tons
					Per Ton	
1912...	30,743	30/7	14/1	25,346	16/6	301,150
1913...	25,810	33/3	18/2	19,426	15/1	356,000
1914...	16,545	25/10	17/8	6,688	8/2	300,000

*Exclusive of office and general expenses and depreciation.

Years ended December 31.

	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£
Working profit	6,688	19,426	25,346
Sundry revenue ...	1,916	1,391	969
Brought forward	20,754	5,359	—
	29,338	26,176	26,315
Office, General, &c., expenses...	3,693	4,893	4,524
Depreciation	500	513	132
Dividend paid	16,500	nil	16,500
	(5%)		(5%)
Carry-forward ...	8,645	20,754	5,359
	29,338	26,176	26,315
Surplus liquid assets	30,213	15,944	29,224

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CANADA'S GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

As shown above, the financial condition of the Company at the end of 1914 was sound, and the ore reserves in sight represented nearly 10 years for the rate of output attained in 1912. The value of the ore reserves is not given, but the General Manager stated that the tonnage of ore exposed "will show a higher assay value than that of the shipments made during the past year." The average content of the ore shipped in 1914 was 8.96 oz. silver and 11.7% wet lead, so that the mine is mainly a silver-lead and not a gold producer. With return to normal conditions the Company should be able to ship to the smelters more than 30,000 tons of ore per annum, and earn a working profit sufficient to pay 10% on its issued capital of £330,000.

EL ORO.

The El Oro Mining and Railway Company is an old established concern with a large property and the somewhat heavy capital of £1,147,500. In pre-revolution times its earnings were sufficient to pay regular dividends at the rate of 15% per annum, as will be seen from the following analysis of the last six annual reports and accounts to June 30, 1913:—

Years ended June 30.

	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mining profit* ...	128,385	150,354	199,622	185,407	179,046	167,596
Railway profit ...	23,492	23,669	20,191	24,820	19,813	17,512
Sundry receipts ...	8,498	7,926	5,617	16,965†	24,240†	†20,353
Net profit	160,376	182,149	216,430	227,192	214,699	205,211
Brought forward ...	79,739	84,759	90,046	87,365	82,530	76,651
Total available ...	240,115	266,908	306,476	314,557	297,229	281,862
Allocations:—						
Dividend	114,750	143,448	172,125	172,125	172,125	167,063
	(10%)	(12½%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)
Depreciation ...	28,648	31,075	38,060	25,000	29,380	24,091
Income tax	9,338	12,656	11,532	9,752	8,369	8,178
Carry-forward ...	87,379	79,739	84,759	90,046	87,365	82,530
	240,115	266,903	306,476	314,557	297,229	281,862
Issued capital ...	1,147,500	1,147,500	1,147,500	1,147,500	1,147,500	1,147,500
Tons milled ...	433,708(b)	387,157(a)	360,290	316,138	215,181	267,387
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Bullion value ...	5.04	5.75	6.63	8.10	8.56	8.43
Working costs ...	3.59	3.79	3.90	5.17	5.42	5.27
Working profit ...	1.45	1.96	2.73	2.93	3.14	3.16
Ore reserves (tons)	448,053	301,934	484,139	441,639	383,269	433,964
Gold value per ton	$9.9	$9.26	$9.10	$9.50	$11.10	$10.53
Price of shares end of year	15s.	16s. 3d.	23s. 6d.	27s.	27s.	26s. 3d.

* After deduction of office and sundry expenses.
† Includes profit from sales of investments.
(a) Includes 84,459 tons of accumulated tailings retreated.
(b) Includes 180,274 tons of accumulated tailings retreated.

At June 30, 1913, surplus liquid assets, excluding investments, amounted to £74,000. It will be noted that the ore reserve position in relation to the milling capacity is not strong, but a large portion of the properties, including the recently acquired Offir block, remains to be developed, and the indications reported in the 1913 report were good. At 50% discount the shares would be cheap if normal conditions were re-established in the country.

ESPERANZA.

In recent years the Esperanza has had a chequered career. For a number of years prior to 1911 very high profits and dividends were paid, but in 1911 a very heavy decline in the grade of the ore treated, and reduction in the value of the ore developed brought about a serious diminution in profits and dividends. Since then some good discoveries have been reported, but until lately nothing of sufficient importance to warrant enthusiasm has occurred. In the report recently issued, however, development indications on what is termed the Descubridora vein are disclosed which hold out some hope that the life of the mine may yet be longer than expected, but at present there is not a large tonnage of ore in sight.

MEXICO MINES OF EL ORO.

This mine, from the point of view of high percentage dividends paid, has in recent years been the show mine of the El Oro group. Its capital is small, having only lately been increased to £210,000 in £1 shares by the acquisition, for 30,000 shares, of the Oro Nolan adjoining claims protecting the strike of the ore veins in depth. The following table contrasts the results obtained since the commencement of production to the date of the last issued annual report, and shows how the profits earned have been allocated:—

Year to June 30.

	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total revenue ...	346,790	321,265	314,107	294,365	280,815	237,097
Total expenses ...	145,213	132,690	130,522	140,174	125,649	94,200
Profit	201,577	188,575	183,585	154,191	155,166	132,897
Brought forward	30,033	28,444	63,498	60,201	[illegible]	41,900
Total available ...	231,610	217,020	247,083	214,392	206,000	174,797
Allocations—						
Development* ...	—	—	—	—	—	50,963*
Depreciation ...	2,191	14,986	64,639	[illegible]	25,000	20,000
Income tax ...	7,500	10,000	[illegible]	9,000	8,300	8,000
Dividends ...	162,000	162,000	144,000	126,000	112,500	45,000
	(90%)	(90%)	(80%)	[illegible]	(62½%)	(25%)
Carried forward	59,919	30,033	28,444	63,498	60,200	50,834
	231,610	217,020	247,083	[illegible]	206,000	174,797
Tons milled ...	158,395	142,514	136,408	136,372	101,205	62,394†
	Per Ton	Per Ton	Per Ton	Per Ton	Per Ton	Per Ton
Bullion Value ...	$[illegible]	$10.89	$11.20	$10.21	$12.44	$12.95
Working costs ...	$4.12	$4.37	$4.64	$4.75	$6.07	$6.33
Profit	$6.42	$6.52	$6.56	$5.46	$6.77	$6.62

* Accumulated development expenditure written off.
† Nine months' operations.

The Company paid dividends aggregating 18s. per share, or 90%, on the £210,000 issued capital, for the year to June 30, 1914, but no report or balance sheet was submitted for the year owing to the disturbed condition of the country. At June 30, 1913, however, the Company had £179,500 of surplus liquid assets, the balance sheet showing that plant, buildings, and machinery, which cost £143,995, had been written down to nothing.

The mining position of the Company, according to the last issued report and accounts to June 30, 1913, was strong, the ore reserves at that date amounting to 403,000 tons, valued $9.5 gold and $5.3 oz. silver. The mine workings were down to the 11th level at a vertical depth of 1,640 feet, there being a barren capping of about 300 feet of andesite between the top of the ore bodies and the surface. The 7th level and the levels above were practically fully developed, and had yielded about 575,500 tons of ore for the mill, or nearly 80% of the tonnage treated. In addition, at June 30, 1913, there still remained included in the ore reserves some 192,000 tons between the 1st and 7th levels. The contributions of the different levels to the ore reserves each year since 1909 will be seen below:—

Statement of Ore Reserves.

	June 30, 1913		June 30, 1912		June 30, 1911		June 30, 1910	June 30, 1909
Levels	Tons	Gold Value $	Tons	Gold Value $	Tons	Gold Value $	Tons	Tons
1 to 4 ...	22,500	—	30,500	—	31,705	—	36,215	41,247
5th ...	60,700	7.9	74,200	7.5	76,455	8.7	81,945	84,409
6th ...	51,100	7.1	65,200	6.5	62,605	8.69	79,395	65,999
7th (Main & Footwall Veins) ...	42,900	5.9	47,800	6.9	51,725	6.19	30,080	—
(Sulphide Vein) ...	6,700	16.3	6,700	16.3	8,795	20.0	10,000	—
8th (Main & Footwall Veins) ...	43,100	6.3	54,900	7.1	52,305	8.08	—	—
(Sulphide Vein) ...	22,800	17.0	24,100	17.2	22,990	19.10	20,000	—
9th (Main & Footwall Veins) ...	55,100	7.7	54,500	8.6	—	—	—	—
(Sulphide Vein) ...	35,100	19.6	26,000	21.2	12,340	18.0	—	—
West branch 10th Sulphide Vein ...	42,700	10.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14,400	14.5	11,200	15.8	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	403,100	9.5	395,100	9.14	318,720	9.5	283,735*	191,655

* Includes 2,500 tons of dump ore.

The development disclosures reported in the

Mexico mine for the six years to June 30, 1913, are contrasted below:—

Development Disclosures.

Year to June 30	Total* Footage	Footage in Ore	Proportion to Total %	Gold Value $	Silver Contents Oz.	Price of Shares end of Period
1908 ...	4,360	1,700	39	11.0	9·0	4
1909 ...	2,751	1,033	38	12.6	9·7	6⅞
1910 ...	8,598	2,921	34	24.94	18·9	9⅜
1911 ...	11,208	4,626	41	14.54	10·6	7⅛
1912 ...	8,638	3,111	36	13.18	5·4	7
1913 ...	8,140	3,148	39	11.8	10·1	5½xd

* Excluding shaft sinking.

Both from the point of view of mining position and financial condition the Mexico Mines of El Oro may be said to be the strongest of the Mexican concerns, and this factor, together with the smallness of the capital, explains why the £1 shares even now command a high premium of 300%. The present quotation of £4¼, however, is about half that ruling in pre-revolution days. The shares are very largely held on the Continent.

EXPLORATION COMPANY.

This Company is a purely parent concern. It holds considerable interests in the Buena Tierra and El Oro mines, but it has also very large funds invested in the shares of copper companies and other mining undertakings outside Mexico. At December 31, 1914, the balance sheet showed the following position:—

Exploration Company, Position at December 31, 1914.

	£
Cash	112,617
Investments at book cost	652,575
Loans to subsidiary companies	39,676
Sundry debtors	6,426
Total	811,294
Deduct sundry creditors	4,872
Excess assets	806,422
Issued capital of £750,000 at market price of 7s. 6d. per share ...	281,250
Surplus	525,172

It will be noted that the Company's excess assets far exceed the market valuation of the issued capital, and this would still hold good even if one allowed depreciation on investments to the extent of 50%. The cash in hand alone represented 40% of the market valuation of the Company's capital, and in addition to this the Company holds 10,000 Inspiration Copper Company's shares having a market value of £80,000, and £87,000 in convertible bonds of the Chile Copper Company, which controls the huge Chuquicamata mine, an undertaking expected soon to become one of the largest copper-producers of the world. It is evident, therefore, that at 60% discount the shares are under-valued.

RAND DEVELOPMENTS.

Brakpan.—Developments as under:—

	Total Footage Sampled	Payable Footage on Reef	Payable Showings: Per centage of Total	Payable Showings: Average Width Inches	Payable Showings: Average Value s. d.
1912	12,619	7,895	63	39·5	50 2
1913	15,793	6,951	44	36·8	47 7
1914	17,515	6,945	40	41·5	55 8
1915.					
March qr.... ...	4,269	2,135	50	38	76 0
June qr.	4,685	2,690	57	34·2	102 5
Sept. qr.	4,125	2,115	47	27·11	95 2

The promptitude and plentitude of the information given by the Brakpan and its fellow-concern the Springs is very commendable.

Springs Mines.—Developments as under:—

	Total Footage	Footage on Reef	Footage Payable Sampled	Footage Payable Footage	%	Width Average In.	Value	Shilling Inches
1913... ...	5,749	634	2,700	—	—	32·71*	36·1*	1,177*
1914... ...	13,111	7,454	8,356	4,428	53	23·4	123,3	2,880
1915								
Mar. qr. ...	2,424	1,867	1,875	1,406	75	29	110/6	3,204
June qr. ...	2,533	1,843	1,750	1,015	58	28½	91,2	2,619
Sept. qr. ...	3,792	2,755	3,135	1,191	38	22½	112·7	2,503
Total to late**	27,609	14,554	17,816	9,062	51	26·9	99·9	2,869

* Footage sampled. ** Official total.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

THE Rand's production of gold according to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines is contrasted below:—

	Tons Milled and Yield per Ton: Tons	Yield	Value £
1912	25,486,361	29/0	37,182,746
1913	25,628,432	27 9	35,812,605
1914.			
First half	12,308,282	26·11	16,609,705
Second half	12,793,672	26/3	17,514,729
Year 1914	25,701,954	26/7	34,124,434
1915.			
January	2,237,748	26/2	2,930,156
February	2,077,792	26/6	2,774,673
March	2,366,392	26/11	3,088,810
April	2,289,002	26/7	3,046,579
May	2,406,966	25/11	3,133,772
June	2,346,493	26 3	3,092,024
6 months	13,734,293	26/3	18,066,014
July	2,395,397	26/4	3,153,980
August	—	—	3,183,981
September	—	—	3,182,548

The returns of natives recently employed in gold mining are as follows:—

1915							
Sept.	Aug.	July	June	May	April	Mar.	Feb.
204,833	196,866	190,026	184,155	183,961	186,941	185,239	180,422

(*Continued on page* 173.)

PLYMOUTH CONSOLIDATED.—Capital, £240,000, in £1 shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Value £	Value Per Ton	Costs* £	Costs* Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 (5 mos.) ...	44,773	40,625	18 2	30,406	13/7	10,219	4/7	—
1915.								
Mar. qr. ...	31,100	32,001	20 7	19,163	12/4	12,838	8 3	1½
June qr. ...	33,150	35,078	21 2	20,567	12 5	14,511	8/9	1½
July	11,000	11,317	20 6	6,915	12/6	4,402	8 0	1½
Aug.	10,800	10,954	20/3	6,525	12 1	4,429	8 2	1½
Sept.	10,800	10,921	20 2	6,444	11 11	4,477	8/3	1½

* Including development, July, £806; Aug., £392; Sept., £84.

Dividends—1915, June, 1/0; Sept., 1 0.

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TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, October 20, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£77,183,270	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	58,733,270
	£77,183,270		£77,183,270

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,781
Rest	3,181,384	Other Securities	98,618,398
Public Deposits	46,128,445	Notes	44,609,825
Other Deposits	98,380,914	Gold and Silver Coin	152,300
Seven-day and other Bills	29,659		
	£162,276,402		£162,276,402

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Sept. 15	31.5	63.7	121.5	90.1	34.4	145.0	50.6	23·93	6	4½
— 22	31.6	62.9	108.7	89.6	31.3	135.7	49.7	25·00	—	4⅜
— 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	78.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24·75	—	4½
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	81.4	98.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·06	—	4⅛
— 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	—	4⅛
— 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	98.6	44.7	30·97	—	4⅛

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 8%; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Sept. 22 ...	177,901,932	107,544,360	70,327,572	28,500,000	40.5
Week to „ 29 ...	5,427,770	3,733,017	72,022,325	28,500,000	39.5
„ Oct. 6 ...	5,982,646	2,768,094	75,236,887	28,500,000	37·9
„ „ 13 ...	5,089,861	3,883,235	76,443,513	28,500,000	37·3
„ „ 20 ...	6,141,796	3,270,035	79,315,274	28,500,000	35·9

II.—Balance Sheet, October 20, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	55,481,750	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	19,533,524	Other Bankers	194,000
Certificates outstanding...	4,300,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	255,000
Investments Reserve A/c	445,852	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	29,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England...	21,191,563
Total	79,761,126	Total	79,761,126

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Oct. 14, Thursday ...	Nil.	408,000 sovs. U.S. 225,000 sovs. Spain.
„ 15, Friday ...	11,000 bars.	593,000 sovs. U.S.
„ 16, Saturday ...	Nil.	100,000 Egypt.* 50,000 Switzerland.*
„ 18, Monday ...	Nil.	577,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 Egypt.
„ 19, Tuesday ...	122,000 bars.	Nil.
„ 20, Wednesday	724,000 bars.	150,000 Egypt.*
Total for week ...	857,000	2,203,000
Net aggregate ...	[1,346,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Oct. 21, Thursday ...	Nil.	600,000 sovs. Spain. 70,000 Argentina. 20,000 Uruguay.
„ 22, Friday ...	Nil.	1,245,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 Japan.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£28,9	£28,5	£28,7	£34,8	£32,6
Public Deposits	9,5	11,4	5,9	15,7	46,1
Other Deposits	40,6	44,1	41,3	143,0	98,4
Government Securities	16,7	13,0	13,5	24,1	18,9
Other Securities	29,6	32,7	24,9	108,7	98,6
Reserve	21,7	27,5	26,6	43,7	44,7
Ratio to Liabilities	43½%	49·53%	56·25%	27·52%	30·97%
Bullion (both Departments)	32,2	37,6	36,8	60,1	58,9
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	3½%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4%	4⅛%	4⅛%	3%	4⅞%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 16	25 23½	25 29	25 15	27 53½
Hamburg 8 days	20 45½	20 51½	20 48	nom.	—
New York 60 days	4 82¾	4 81·85	4 81·10	nom.	4 64½
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 1/16	1/4 1/16	1/4 1/16	1/3 3/8	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88 1/16	73¼	72 7/8	68½	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 30	89 87	87 42	77 50	66.50
Silver, London spot oz.	-/28¾	-/29 9/16	-/27 7/8	-/22 11/16	-/23 3/8
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	26/11	32/2	30 11	36/7	45/9
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/5·40	-/6·13	-/7·84	-/5·05	-/7·28
Iron, Scotch pig ton	57/6	72/3	57/6	54/4½	72/1½

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Sept. 22, 1915 Pesos	234,164,220
Sept. 15, 1915	234,163,420
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,197	£786	£9,693	£47
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6,255	3,808	2,912	11,293	647
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	879
Sept. 30 1914 ...	3,832	165	3,997	7,350	1,348	11,742	93
Sept. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,227	4,944	965	8,121	67

FRANCE.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Oct. 7, 1915...	£184,054	£14,545	£198,599	£10,698	546,563	£2,771	£105,031
Oct. 14, 1915...	185,895	14,531	200,426	10,968	550,086	2,377	104,471
Oct. 21, 1915...	187,707	14,532	202,238	10,733	553,280	3,304	102,961
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	287,327	15,302	37,930
Oct. 23, 1913...	138,700	25,471	164,171	59,433	226,807	13,321	21,328

GERMANY.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23,'14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,198
Oct. 7,'15...	121,149	777	122,926	45,236	219,516	293,877	80,771
Oct. 15,'15...	121,318	1,809	123,127	42,583	220,208	288,863	83,881
Oct. 15,'14...	80,086	1,152	91,238	42,910	150,330	203,059	78,577
Oct. 15,'13...	59,786	13,142	72,838	4,160	58,469	103,266	32,826

HOLLAND.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Oct. 8, 1915 ...	32,554	153	32,707	6,103	6,929	45,339	1,171
Oct. 16, 1915 ...	32,779	185	32,964	6,383	7,183	45,642	1,558
Oct. 17, 1914 ...	13,176	314	13,499	15,831	11,195	38,587	1,929
Oct. 18, 1913 ...	12,364	627	12,991	7,382	8,973	26,598	280

ITALY.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,458		£25,017	£69,204	£8,887
Sept. 10, '15 ...	£45,971	£4,483	50,434	5,058	31,049	111,587	28,969
Sept. 20, '15 ...	45,977	4,429	50,406	4,750	29,770	111,579	29,869
Sept 20, '14 ...	—	—	49,458		39,314	84,034	16,356
Sept. 20, '13 ...	—	—	48,846		21,413	66,982	8,082

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Sept. 11, '15...	20,891	577	6,013	29,898	20,938	5,941
Sept. 18, '15 .	20,847	608	6,070	29,903	21,346	6,139
Sept. 19, '14...	21,472	2,734	7,906	30,593	13,312	3,238
Sept. 20, '13...	21,584	3,556	9,171	32,590	18,137	849

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve.—Own Vaults.	Reserve.—In Depositories	Reserve.—Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1,'14†...	—	—	£39,888	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1 720
Oct. 9, '15 ...	£100,280	£36,320	136 600	560,976	596,910	7,320	37,520
Oct. 16, '15 ...	102,634	36,710	139,344	574,342	614,053	7,128	37,842
Oct. 17, '14 ...	—	—	86,914	434,302	386,290	29,243	Def. 186
Oct. 18, 13 ...	—	—	81,134	383,396	350,409	8,958	1,928

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Sept. 30, 1915...	3,465	3,705	781	4,045	8,220	1,254
Oct. 7, 1915...	3,555	3,657	781	4,142	8,322	1,301
Oct. 7, 1914...	2,380	1,493	503	6,710	7,370	1,091
Oct. 7, 1913...	2,503	1,768	504	4,186	8,033	457

RUSSIA.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21,'14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£8,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Sept. 29,'15...	162,928	2,251	165,179	7,325	386,005	462,175	137,271
Oct. 6,'15...	163,024	1,963	164,987	5,316	398,811	476,684	134,548
Oct. 8,'14...	183,215	4,583	187,798	8,235	137,590	264,285	92,143
Oct. 8,'13...	165,232	6,036	171,268	4,247	102,381	188,253	107,93 6

SPAIN.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1,'14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Oct. 9,'15...	30,414	29,316	59,730	41,928	13,777	82,622	25 276
Oct. 16,'15...	30,944	29,348	60,292	41,592	13,777	82,918	25,417
Oct. 17,'14...	22,014	27,537	49,551	49,723	13,778	79,773	23,989
Oct. 18,'13...	18,786	29,373	48,159	41,324	13,778	77,115	16,363

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,803
Oct. 2, '15 ...	6,300	6,614	3,066	5,248	17,340	3,367
Oct. 9, '15 ...	6,300	6,750	3,043	5,040	16,357	4,342
Oct. 10, '14 ...	5,760	2,814	1,201	9,333	15,510	3,270
Oct. 11, '13 ...	5,699	4,503	1,267	7,374	12,198	2,795

SWITZERLAND.	Cash.—Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Cash.—Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Oct. 7, 1915...	9,719	2,472	12,191	7,023	17,109	3,112
Oct. 14, 1915...	9,717	2,470	12,187	6,685	16,883	3,197
Oct. 15, 1914...	9,139	569	9,708	10,649	16,854	3,320
Oct. 15, 1913...	6 899	1,170	8,069	5,009	10,163	2,263

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash.—Gold and Certs.	Cash.—Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Sept. 24, 1915...	£58,045	£62,629	£8,886	£65,988	£3,070	£83,540	82·2%
Oct. 1, 1915...	56,729	60,028	8,980	64,949	2,859	82,288	82·7%
Oct. 8, 1915...	58,966	61,227	9,073	65,357	3,045	82,876	81·5%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates		A Year Ago	
	%	Date Fixed	%	Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	6	Aug. 20, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne...	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	5	Sept. 1, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-3½	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts: Total Revenue	Receipts: Total including Loans	Expenditures: Supply Services	Expenditures: Int. on Debt, Advances, &c.	Expenditures: Total	Treasury Balance: Amt.	Treasury Balance: + or — for Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
12 days to Sept. 30	6,713	37,473	54,514	14 588	39,926	64,187	— 2,453	253,612
9 „ Oct. 9	6,167	12,179	31,242	22,534	53,776	22,590	—41,597	235,490
7 „ Oct. 16	5,331	46,655	35,313	15,913	51,226	18,019	— 4,571	229,025
199 days to Oct. 16, 1915	114,365	959,132	718,533	306,031	1,024,564	18,019	—65,432*	+151,875*
200 days to Oct. 17, 1914	85,516	180,395	145,775	40,135	185,910	4,920	—5,515*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Oct. 22, '15	Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15	Oct. 1, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 60	11 64	11 70	11 75
—	Cable	11 38	11 44	11 47	11 55
Italy	3 mos.	30 35	30 40	30 00	29 80
—	Cable	29 95	30 00	29 60	29 40
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	35½	35½	35	35½
New York	do.	4 66½	4 63½	4 70½	4 72
—	Cheques	4 67	4 69	4 71	4 72¾
Paris	3 mos.	27 95	27 84	27 72	27 65
—	Cable	27 55	27 44	27 32	27 25
Petrograd	do.	140½	139½	139	138½
Scandinavia	do.	17 95	17 90	18 00	18 12
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46⅝	46⅛	46½	46½
—	Cable	24 85	24 77½	24 75	24 75
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 35	25 40	25 40	25 35
—	Cable	24 95	25 00	24 97½	24 95

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Oct. 21, '15	Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15	Oct. 1, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97⅜pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 43½c.	11fl. 44c.	11fl. 49c.	11fl. 55c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 3 31/32d.	1s. 4 1.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49⅛d.	49⅜d.	48 15/16d.	48¾d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 9 1/16d.	1s. 9 1/16d.	1s. 9⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 90c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 60c.	29lr. 45c.
Lisbon	Sight	35½	35½	35½	35½
Madrid	Sight	24p. 85	24p. 80	24p. 75	24p. 75
Montevideo	90 days	53⅜d.	53d.	52 7/16d.	52 7/16d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 68½	$4 69½	$4 71	$4 73
New York	Sight	$4 67	$4 68⅜	$4 69⅝	$4 72⅜
—	60 days	$4 64½	$4 65½	$4 66⅝	$4 69
—	Cables	$4 67½	$4 68⅜	$4 70⅜	$4 72⅞
— on Paris	Sight	5.88f.	5.86f.	5.81f.	5.76f.
— on Berlin	Sight	82½c.	82⅛c.	82⅞c.	84¼c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight	41c.	40 15/16c.	40 15/16c.	40 15/16c.
— on Mexico	Silver $	37½c. U.S.	38¼c. U.S.	38¾c. U.S.	38¼c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 57c.	27f. 42½c.	27f 30c.	27f. 27½c.
Petrograd	Sight	139½	139½	138½	138
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 90	17kr. 90	18kr. 07½	18kr. 07½
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4 5/16d.	2s. 4 5/16d.	2s. 4 3/8d.	2s. 4d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 95c.	24f 95c.	24f. 95c.	24f. 95c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 3/16d.	9 3/16d.	9 1/16 d.	9 1/16d.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Agg.	Inc. or Dec.*	%
	1915.	£	£	£	£	
Birmingham	Oct. 16	1,839.233 +	746.609	70.232.594	+ 7.732 558	+ 12·3
Bristol	„ 16	835 000 +	167.000	31.875.000	+ 2.045.000	+ 6·8
Dublin	„ 16	4.063.900 +	369 000	154.326 300	+16,266.200	+ 10·9
Leeds	„ 16	587.131 +	136.244	28.154.313	+ 5.446 185	+ 26·3
Leicester	„ 16	488.297 +	197.894	16.475.579	+ 4,094.204	+ 32·3
Liverpool	„ 16	5.999.829 +	2.453.163	227.659.201	+41.500.855	+ 22·3
Manchester	„ 16	7.084.183 +	1.986.538	278 706.977	+ 8.976.506	+ 3·3
Newcastle	„ 16	1.552.100 +	737.600	60 858 400	+12.991.200	+ 27·2
Nottingham	„ 16	363.289 +	45.130	14.852.736	— 322.818	— 2·1
Sheffield	„ 16	472.934 +	128.788	24.859.772	+ 4,059.021	+ 19·5
LONDON—	1915.	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
Town	Oct. 20	219.630 +	13.635	8.745.429	— 1,883.265	— 17·7
Metropolitan	„ 20	17.693 +	1.450	750.805 +	53.386 +	7·6
Country	„ 20	33,629 +	6.863	1.266.934 +	151.480	+13·7
Total	„ 20	270.952 +	21.993	10.753.168	— 1,678.419	—13·5

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month.		
1915	£	+ or —*	1915	£	+ or —*	1915	£	+ or —*
Sept. 15	45.083	—	Aug. 5	52.168	—	Aug. 4	56,063	— 4,722
Sept. 29	48.853	—	Sept. 1	54.180	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15,393
Oct. 14	45.291	—	Oct. 1	52.016	—	Oct. 4	47,176	+ 6,718
1915 agg.	793.532	—		486.124	—		459.119	— 83,653

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

Homewards.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	30/0	8/0	9/6
Australia to U.K.	86/3	—	32/0
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	10/7½
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	52/6	d.w. 20/9	d.w. 16/0
Burmah o.c.	—	32/6	25.0
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	75/0	d.w. 26/3	d.w. 22/6
Danube to A.R.	—	—	10/9
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	9/3
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	70/0	24/0	12/9
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	43/0	37/6

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	12/3	2/9	2/0
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O. to U.K. Cont. (grain)	—	16/6	15/0

Outwards.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	49/0	47/6	40/0	32/6
1914...	10/3	—	9/3	11/9	7 6
1913...	12/0	12/3	9/0	19/0	8 9

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

OCT. 23.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ...ton	72/1½	55/4½	57/
— Middlesbro' warrants ...ton	66/1	49/4	51/3
— Hematite warrants ...ton	100/0	68/0	66/6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£9	£9
— Common bars ...ton	£11 12/6	£7 10	£7 7/6
— Stock, Middlesbro'...tons	133.535	106.087	167.581
Steel Rails ...ton	£9 2/6	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ...ton	£73 2 6	nom	£74 10
— Stock, Europe&afft., Sept. 30 tons	34.106	34.594	28.819
Tin—English ingots...ton	£152	£133—£134	£187 10-£188 10
— Straits ...ton	£152 10	£134 10	£184 15
Antimony—Regulus ...ton	nom.	£56	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21/0—22/0	19/6—20/3
— — (best) Newcastle ...ton	19/0	13/3	15/0
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/4½—14/7½	11/3	11/3
Soda—Crystals ex ship ...ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb.	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ...ton	£25 5	£21 15—£22 10	£30 12/6—£31
Gambier—Good marks ...cwt.	35 6	23 0	18/6
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/6—15/0	14/0—15/0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ...ton	£29 15	£21	£22 10
Linseed—Calcutta, spot... 410lb.	60 0	44/0	44/6
Olive Oil—Spanish...ton	£51	£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ...ton	£32	£31 15—£32	£35 10
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/9½	-/7½—8½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£39—£40	£34 15	£32
Soya Oil ...ton	£25 15	£25 10	£28 5
Tallow—Aust. mixed ...cwt.	38/6	27/6—30/6	33/0—34/9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit...cwt.	39 9	32 4½	31/0
Rape Seed—Toria ...416lb.	55/0	51 0	49/0
Rubber—Para, spot...lb.	2/5½	2 8	3/1½
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe)lb.	2/5—2 5½	2/3½—2/4	2/11
—World's Vis.sup(allkinds)Ax.ton	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ..cwt.	68 6	55 0—56 0	91/0—92/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland ...lb.	-/7·28	-/5·05	-/7·84
— Egyptian good fair ...lb.	-/9 85	-/6·95	-/10·15
— Pernambuco, fair...lb.	-/7·72n.	-/5 50	-/7·98
— Mid. Upl. New York ...lb.	12 40c.	nom.	14 50c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Oct. 15 bales	931.550	789.410	482.050
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol...ton	£70	£36	£35
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£34	£23	£30 10
— Manila, Fair strips ...ton	£40	£24	£30 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ...ton	£28 10	£33	£31 15
— Red SOC...ton	£23 10	£29	£32 10
Silk—Blue Elephant...lb.	10/0	11/3—11/6	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	-/11½—1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs ...lb	1/5½	1/1½	1/0½—1/0¾
Hides—Eng. Ox., best, 65lb.up. lb.	-/10½	-8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ...lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Oct. 18 bus.	22.736.000	61.283.000	59.355.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	125½c.	123½c.	96½c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	45 9	36 7	30/11
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	47 0	33 6	30/0
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	42 3	28/8	28 8
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr.	27/1	22 4	17 9
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	84½c.	78½c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	9/3	7 5½	4/9
— La Plata ...480lb. qr.	34 6	22 0—27 0	23/0
Potatoes—Kents ...ton	85 0	90/0	65/0	60/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	35 239	22.783	10.411
— Deliveries do. ...tons	24.804	21.284	12.305
— Stock ...tons	17.410	6.194	5.471
— Price, Bassein ...cwt.	17/6	18/0—18/6	7/10½—8/3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ..cwt.	17/8—21/0	15/0—21/0	15/0—20/0
Hay—Best...2,016lb. load	120/0—130/0	85/0—90/0	77/6—78/6
Hops—English ...cwt.	£5—£7	£3 5—£5 5	£9 10—£11
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 81b	5/6—5/9	3/10—4/2	3/4—3/11
— Scotch sides ...81b	6/0—6/2	4/8—5/0	4/4—4/8
— English ...81b	5 4—5 8	4 2—4 7	3 9—4 2
Mutton—Scotch ...81b	6 4—6 8	5 4—5 8	5 0—5 8
— English wethers ...81b	6 4—6 8	4 8—5 0	4 0—5 0
— New Zealand frozen ...81b	4/8—5/0	3/9—4/1	2/11—3/2
Pork—English ...81b.	6 4—7 4	4 2—4 8	4 4—5 2
Bacon—Irish ...cwt.	100/0—105/0	70/0—78/0	70/0—78/0
— Danish ...cwt.	100/0—107/0	62/0—71/0	68/0—75/0
Hams—Amer. long cut ...cwt.	84/0—90/0	66/0—72/0	84/0—78/0
— — short cut ...cwt.	80/0—83/0	69/0—70/0	67/0—69/0
Lard—Amer. pails ...cwt.	59/0—59/9	56/0—57/6	56/6—57/0
Butter—Danish ...cwt.	—	136/0—142/0	133/0—138/0
— Siberian...cwt.	108/0—142/0	114/0—122/0	88/0—110/0
— French ...cwt.	112/0—153/0	104/0—120/0	90/0—124/0
— New Zealand ...cwt.	—	—	—
— Australian ...cwt.	—	116/0—130/0	104/0—124/0
Cheese—Canadian ...cwt.	80/0—88/0	76/0—77/0	83/0—85/0
— New Zealand (white) ...cwt.	78/0—78/0	—	—
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	522.684	557.203	695.640
— Deliveries do. ...tons	699.116	636 437	674.869
— Stock ...tons	47.074	31.431	76.643
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ...cwt.	20/6	21/0	10 10½
— — Mauritius, crystals...cwt.	nom	28/6—30 0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1...cwt.	29 0	33 6	18/9
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	58.654	41.613	33.207
— Home consumption do. ...tons	15.883	12.388	12.296
— Exports do...tons	19.638	20.209	17.967
— Stock ...tons	34.144	19.494	11.326
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	70/0—81/0	73/0—85/0	84/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt.	39 0	38 0	50 6
Tea—Imports...(for 9 months) lb.	300.370.933	235.485.576	230.757.590
— Home consumption do...lb.	245.405.967	238.551.367	235.251.371
— Exports do. ...lb.	42.878.719	41.280.172	41.592.675
— Stock, Sept. 30 ...lb.	119.629.000	83.093.000	99.717.000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb.	10	8½	8½
— — Ceylon, Pek., Soug. Ord....lb.	-/9½	-/8½	-/8½
— — Common Congou...lb.	-/7½	-/8½	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	81/0—83/0	57/0—59/0	87/0—88/8

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or-*	Gross.	+or-*	Wks	Total.	+or-*
Bel. & C.Down	Oct. 15	80	—	£3.085 —	282	41	153.803 +	11.194
CorkBan.&S.C.	Oct. 15	103	—	2.338 +	388	41	86.392 +	4.298
Dublin & S.E.	Oct. 15	160	—	6.838 +	369	41	231.523 +	2.128
Gt. Northern	Oct. 15	561	—	23.285 —	365	41	960.965 +	30.415
Gt.S.&Western	Oct. 15	1,130	—	36.368 —	1.295	41	1,367.365 +	100.355
Mid. Gt. West.	Oct. 15	538	—	15.143 +	405	41	528.869 +	14.655

. *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or-*	Gross. Rupees.	+or-* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or-* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Sept. 18	862	+11	1.32.000 +	2.586	25	31.38.541 +	54 604
Bassi Light	Sept. 30	118	—	24.000 +	11.400	26	5.46.200 —	26.600
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 11	2.041	+13	2.79.550 —	79.510	24	82.51.810 —	13.33.152
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 18	153	—	24.124 —	9.518	25	6.36.618 —	61.463
Beng. Nagpur	Sept. 18	2.685	+ 7	6.93.000 —	17.000	25	1,83.89.000 —	18.000
Bomb. Baroda	Oct. 16	2.859	+32	11.04.000 +	1.20.000	3	26.45.000 +	3.96.000
Burma	Sept. 18	1.342	—	3.29.163 +	46.909	25	89.71.109 —	12.21.490
East Indian	Oct. 16	2.716	— 2	20.35.000 —	13.000	3	47.76.000 +	2.54.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Oct. 16	2.981½	+15½	15.11.600 +	1.27.300	3	33.37.500 +	3.88.100
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 18	3.131½	−1½	7.75.000 +	1.48.545	25	2,18.12.639 +	13.72.072
Nizam's Guar.	Sept. 25	797	—	2.73.212 +	52.943	26	48.41.562 —	3.57.348
Rob.&Kumaon	Sept. 11	545	+ 1	53.451 +	6.818	24	17.10.200 +	9.176
South Indian	Sept. 18	1.763	+10	5.41.209 +	85 449	25	1,36.80.541 —	81.951
South Punjab	M.of June	923	—	8.92.073 +	1,10.130	3†	20.25.274 +	38.370

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or-*	Gross.	+or-*	Wks	Total.	+or-*
Can. Northern	Oct. 14	7.280	—	$767.800 +	113.900	2	1.615.300 +	243.000
Can. Pacific	Oct. 14	12.921	+694	2.988.000 +	762.000	15	32.595.000 —	3.058.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Oct. 14	816	—	£47.206 +	26.703	15	267.946 —	23.280
Grand Trunk	Oct. 14	4.008	—	172.991 +	4.841	41	6.381.034 —	528 459
Grd. Trunk W.	Oct. 14	338	—	34.171 +	5.609	41	1.191.288 +	31.262
Det. Grd. Ha.	Oct. 14	189	—	12.253 +	952	41	431.360 +	28.215
Mashonaland	M.of Aug.	751	—	49.470 —	1.930	11†	448.681 —	240.672
Mid. W. Aust.	M.of Aug.	277	—	5.800 —	3.082	2†	11.068 —	7.361
New CapeCent.	Sept. 25	205	—	2.073 +	595	39	69.167 +	732
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.of Aug.	1.397	—	77.976 —	11.294	11†	714.687 —	240.310

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/-*	Gross.	+or-*	Wks	Total.	+or-*
Alcoy&Gandia	Oct. 16	33	—	Ps. 9.000 +	3.000	42	502.200 —	28.750
Antofagasta	Oct. 17	819	—	£ 22.925 +	2.435	42	987.795 —	344.115
Arauco	M.of July	84½	—	£ 6.750 +	225	7†	44.625 —	10.649
Arg. N. East	Oct. 16	752	+ 85	£ 7.358 +	3.056	16	105.394 +	31.424
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290 —	10	12	2.370 —	1.210
Bolivar	M.of Sept.	110	—	£ 7.750 +	3.202	3†	22.000 +	5.081
Brazil	M.of May	3.362	—	M 3.282.000 —	17.244	5†	15.963.000 —	804.584
Paulista	M.of May	721	—	M 1.500.000 —	238.338	5†	8.850.000 +	101.324
Mogyana	M.of May	1.131	+ 57	M 1.263.000 —	256.423	5†	7.833.000 +	261.381
B.A. & Pacific	Oct. 16	3.535	+ 17	£ 78.000 +	20.000	16	1.239.000 +	259.000
B.A. Gt. So.	Oct. 17	3.792	+ 63	£ 97.000 +	29.000	16	1.293.908 +	224.967
B.A. Western	Oct. 17	1.887	+ 75	£ 49.000 +	12.000	16	675 000 +	111.600
Cent.Argentine	Oct. 16	3.307	+ 45	£ 116.000 +	9.500	16	1.748.300 +	214.100
Cent. Uruguay	Oct. 16	271	—	£ 11.539 +	2.474	16	165.845 +	32.524
„ (E. Ext.)	Oct. 16	311	—	£ 3.760 +	1.181	16	53.315 +	15.057
„ (N. Ext.)	Oct. 16	185	—	£ 1.986 +	775	16	27.359 +	6 160
„ (W. Ext.	Oct. 16	211	—	£ 1.797 +	321	16	24.178 +	5.585
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	88	—	£ 9.612 —	2.928	5†	47.412 —	1.155
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Sept.	65½	—	£ 22.209 +	3.809	3†	65.035 —	6.465
Cord. Central	Oct. 16	1,186	—	£ 26.150 —	14.085	16	513.950 —	82.660
Cuban Central	Oct. 16	354	+ 9	£ 7.438 +	652	16	118.717 +	16.008
Dorada Ext.	M.of Sept.	71	—	£ 8.400 +	1.400	9†	71.300 —	5.300
EgyptianDelta	Sept. 30	819	— 4	£ 5.368 +	1.664	26	75.165 —	20 954
Entre Rios	Oct. 16	730	—	£ 11.200 +	4.200	16	142.200 +	23.300
Gt. S. of Spain	Oct. 2	104	—	Ps. 72.792 +	11.458	40	2.364.145 —	284.317
Gt. W. Brazil	Oct. 16	1.010	—	£ 9.000 —	600	42	388.900 —	102.100
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Sept.	23	—	£ 6.250 +	250	9†	61.000 —	22.250
Leopoldina	Oct. 16	1.808	+ 33	£ 35.689 +	8.147	42	1.208.898 —	16.485
Manila North	Oct. 16	315	+ 2	£ 3.789 —	834	42	215.066 —	39.887
„ South	Oct. 16	266	+ 91	£ 3.462 +	160	42	155.590 +	16.688
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Sept.	319	—	£ 9.468 +	2.241	3†	32.234 +	7.851
Nitrate(2wks.)	Oct. 15	366	—	£ 20.194 +	9.452	41	261.284 —	227.175
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Sept.	113	—	$ 22.060 +	7.416	4†	68.500 +	16.357
ParaguayCent.	Oct. 16	255	—	c 508.000 +	273.000	16	6.914.000 +	3.033.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Sept.	1.059	—	d 755.280 +	154.784	3†	2.299.157 +	56.218
Puerto Cabello	M.of Aug.	24	—	£ 3.266 +	649	8†	29.424 —	943
Salvador	Oct. 16	100	—	$ 19.500 +	7.100	16	308.750 +	33.194
San Paulo	Oct. 10	153½	—	£ 37.134 +	5.782	15	549.616 +	156.234
Taltal	M.of Sept.	184	—	£ 21.375 +	10.245	3†	47.753 —	4.890
U. of Havana	Oct. 16	681	—	£ 24.948 +	5.374	16	372 416 +	76.740
Urug.Northern	M.of Sept.	73	—	£ 1.543 +	572	3†	5.075 +	1.260
W. of Havana	Oct. 16	147	—	£ 4.080 —	627	16	75.689 —	6.718
Zafra & Hlva.	M.of Sept.	112	—	£ 10.156 +	2.614	9†	72.973 —	43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or—	Gross.	+or-*	Wks.	Total.	+or-*
Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 14	369½	+21½	£ 53.405 +	1.052	41	2.087.312 —	137.428
Auckland(4wks)	Sept. 24	25½	—	£ 20.266 —	727	12	62.295 —	3.055
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Aug.	—	—	M. 6.576.000 +	409.900	8†	60.963.110 +	1.889.962
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Sept.	30	—	£ 30.360 +	2.329	9†	275.074 +	15.216
Bristol	Oct. 15	31	—	£ 9.282 +	1.252	41	394.179 +	35.991
BritishColumbia	M.of Aug.	242	+ 5½	$ 507.126 —	167.686	2†	1.017.849 +	346.988
Calcutta	Oct. 16	35½	—	R 70.697 +	16.181	42	27,23.479 —	63.600
Cape Electric	M.of Sept.	42·3	—	£ 16.237 +	1.269	3†	51.199 +	5.275
Carth. & Herr.	M.of Sept.	9	—	£ 1.252 —	923	9†	15.580 —	5.585
Cork Electric	Oct. 14	9½	—	£ 1.248 +	51	42	45.071 —	174
Dublin United	Oct. 15	54½	—	£ 6.241 +	543	41	252.980 +	9.720
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765 —	1.184	39	1.984.501 —	90.930
Isle of Thanet	Oct. 16	12½	— 6	£ 330 —	75	2	786 —	347
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20½	—	£ 3.185 +	123	8†	22.119 +	1.003
Lanarkshire	Oct. 14	28½	—	£ 2.152 +	370	41	81.005 +	3.302
London C. C.	Sept. 22	141½	— 1	£ 46.960 +	4.984	25	1.095.822 —	4.285
Madras Electric	Sept. 30	—	—	R 28.304 +	3.750	39	528.061 +	10.812
Manila Electric	M.of Aug.	—	—	$ 126.650 —	1.860	8†	978.343 —	121.253
Provincial	Oct. 16	21½	—	£ 2.246 +	239	2	5.214 +	500
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Sept.	25	—	£ 4.445 +	326	9†	43.329 —	2.728
U.of Montevideo	M.of Sept.	90	—	£ 25.070 —	156	11†	303.417 —	31.548
Yorks.W.Riding	Oct. 17	24 11/16	—	£ 1.579 +	208	42	66.870 +	5.614

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 243.042 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‡) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or —*	Net.	+ or —*
423 Cos. (000's omitted)	July	(e) $282,948	+ $2.324	$87.685	+ $9.851
12 *mos.*	*to* June	(f) *2,937,516*	— *154,681*	*564,364*	+ *22,616*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Aug.	398.000	— 68.000	128.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*800,000*	— *79,000*	*252,000*	+ *40,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ... a	Sept.	136.000	— 2.000	26.000	+ 9.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*388,000*	— *22,000*	*65,000*	+ *18,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Sept.	292.000	+ 1.000	66.000	+ 35.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*879,000*	— *63,000*	*208,000*	+ *76,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Sept.	139.000	+ 11.000	30.000	+ 18.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*379,000*	— *21,000*	*57,000*	+ *12,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Aug.	10.904.000	+ 738.000	3.601.000	+ 208.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*21,326,000*	+ *1,651,000*	*6,950,000*	+ *684,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Aug.	2.017.000	— 197.000	89.000	— 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,194,000*	— *558,000*	*324,000*	— *94,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Sept.	9.618.000	+ 835.000	3.194.000	+ 560.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*27,618,000*	+ *2,007,000*	*9,666,000*	+ *1,992,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug	1.192.800	— 174.900	238.800	— 5.900
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,399,000*	— *563,000*	*523,900*	— *151,300*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Aug.	8.801.000	— 1.117.000	3.442.000	+ 79.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*16,697,000*	— *3,703,000*	*6,243,000*	— *899,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... a	Aug.	3.974.000	+ 455 000	709.000	+ 315.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,617,000*	+ *833,000*	*1,202,000*	+ *652,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Aug.	7.937.000	— 441.000	2.391.000	— 265.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,127,000*	— *613,000*	*4,010,000*	— *662,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...a	Aug.	8.147.000	— 595.000	2.675.000	— 506.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,521,000*	— *1,082,000*	*4,635,000*	— *965,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Aug.	1.221.000	— 88.000	331.000	— 91.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,350,000*	— *42,000*	*573,000*	— *63,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 96.000	2.510.000	+ 352.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,504,000*	+ *490,000*	*5,322,000*	+ *780,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	— 283.000	1.273.000	— 335.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,051,000*	— *652,000*	*1,931,000*	— *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.499.000	— 209.000	371.000	— 165.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,912,000*	— *367,000*	*737,000*	— *251,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 186.000	1.095.000	+ 279.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*23,770,000*	+ *671,000*	*4,655,000*	+ *2,665,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1.258.000	+ 67.000	326.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,366,000*	+ *62,000*	*542,000*	+ *48,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Aug.	417.000	+ 74.000	197.000	+ 86.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*837,000*	+ *111,000*	*407,000*	+ *114,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Aug.	2.130.000	+ 27.000	827.000	— 31.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*14,957,000*	+ *108,000*	*4,900,000*	+ *558,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Aug.	2.243.000	+ 153.000	744.000	+ 244.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,245,000*	+ *152,000*	*1,273,000*	+ *336,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Aug.	5.946.000	+ 457.000	2.269.000	+ 789.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*41,234,000*	+ *1,882,000*	*10,560,000*	+ *2,027,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶a	Aug.	£804.200	— £53.000	£263.000	+ £23.700
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,644,850*	— *478,000*	*1,514,250*	+ *50,900*
Grand Trunk Western a	Aug.	138.100	— 2.000	39.700	+ 14.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*983,100*	+ *3,550*	*84,300*	+ *63,050*
Great Northern ..... a	Aug.	$6,162,000	— $754,000	$2.623.000	— $600.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,020,000*	— *1,736,000*	*4,959,000*	— *1,130,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Aug.	650.000	— 61.000	313.000	+ 28.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,193,000*	+ *31,000*	*538,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Aug.	5.529.000	— 315.000	1.123.000	— 137.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*10,408,000*	— *832,000*	*1,655,000*	— *312,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Sept.	871.000	+ 12.000	318.000	+ 67.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,509,000*	— *180,000*	*927,000*	+ *76,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Aug.	3.780.000	+ 9.000	1.090.000	— 52.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,514,000*	+ *161,000*	*2,119,000*	+ *68,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Aug.	4.628.000	— 77.000	1.332.000	+ 341.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,114,000*	— *396,000*	*2,512,000*	+ *445,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Aug.	3.244.000	+ 222.000	1.019.000	+ 134.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*22,851,000*	+ *729,000*	*5,228,000*	+ *1,018,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,926,000*	— *18,000*	*1,582,000*	+ *211,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Aug.	2.653.000	— 46.000	791.000	— 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,170,000*	— *245,000*	*1,262,000*	— *173,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	July	4.763.000	— 480.000	947.000	— 462.000
12 *mos.*	*to* June	*68,209,000*	— *1,776,000*	*13,054,000*	— *1,031,000*
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14.458.000	+ 683.000	4.776.000	+ 897.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*103,873,000*	+ *3,817,000*	*27,483,000*	+ *8,873,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	6.263.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,511,000*	— *999,000*	*4,309,000*	+ *1,115,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Aug.	912.000	— 89.000	347.000	— 14.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,874,000*	— *120,000*	*729,000*	+ *6,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4.729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 489.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,196,000*	+ *1,451,000*	*2,855,000*	+ *1,043,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	8.076.000	—	2.408.000	+ 638.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*11,426,000*	— *442,000*	*3,826,000*	+ *408,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*159,031,000*	— *2,470,000*	*34,056,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 463.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*73,715,000*	— *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,925,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Aug.	3.747.000	+ 162.000	1 084.000	+ 128.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*25,576,000*	— *651,000*	*4,966 000*	+ *175,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Aug.	4.230.000	+ 101.000	1.330.000	+ 94.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*8,313,000*	+ *362,000*	*2,766,000*	+ *403,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	— 503.000	134.000	+ 106.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,791,000*	— *509,000*	*205,000*	+ *87,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.780.000	— 64.000	1.137.000	+ 4.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,330,000*	— *330,000*	*2,124,000*	— *16,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1.576.000	— 114.000	339.000	— 24.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,203,000*	— *320,000*	*716,000*	— *82,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Aug.	13.208.000	+ 1.536.000	4.597.000	+ 1.242.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*26,171,000*	+ *2,866,000*	*9,190,000*	+ *2,553,000*
Southern ..... a	Aug.	5.312.000	— 376.000	1.390.000	+ 285.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*10,524,000*	— *869,000*	*2,707,000*	+ *433,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Aug.	8.446.000	— 22.000	3.402.000	— 53.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,293,000*	— *266,000*	*6,251,000*	+ *120,000*
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 82.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,235,000*	— *206,000*	*1,247,000*	+ *173,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Aug.	722.000	+ 169.000	256.000	+ 181.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,424,000*	+ *310,000*	*506,000*	+ *317,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or-*	Wk	Total.	(+ or —)*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Sept. 30	$126.000 —	$13.000	13	$1.178.000	— $ 76.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 14	835.000 +	42.000	15	13.001.000	+ 1,303.000
Chicago Great Western	Oct. 14	342.000 —	15.000	15	4.230.000	— 158.000
Colorado & Southern	Sept. 30	418.000 +	21.000	13	3.559.000	+ 86.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Oct. 14	578.000 +	79.000	15	7.805.000	+ 456.000
Great Northern	M.of Aug.	6.182.000 —	754.000	2†	12.020.000	— 1,736.000
Illinois Central	M.of Sept.	5.570.000 +	41.000	3†	15.529.000	— 792.000
Louisville & Nashville	Oct. 14	1.152.000 +	136.000	15	16.144.000	— 33.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Sept. 30	986.000 +	26.000	13	7.962.000	+ 64.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Oct. 14	654.000 —	36.000	15	8.961.000	— 513.000
Missouri Pacific	Oct. 14	1.281.000 +	73.000	15	17.755.000	— 723.000
Southern Railway	Oct. 14	1,331,000 +	51.000	15	18.677.000	— 801.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915.

TAXING CAPITAL.

THERE is a certain type of mind to which capital seems to be a thing that invites taxation. A capital tax is at all times a subject on which many amateur economists like to air their views, and in these days of war and huge expenditure, when everybody is looking for new sources of taxation and longing to suggest to the Chancellor some means by which he may tax somebody else, we find this old friend continually revived in one form or another. Not long ago there was correspondence in the *Times* about a tax on works of art and family plate, and last week Mr. Snowden, in the course of one of the interesting discourses with which he sets forth the Socialistic view of taxation, produced an elaborate plan for raising a tax of 500 millions on the capital wealth of the country which he very modestly estimated to be worth some 10,000 millions. His suggestion was, of course, for a graded impost, all capital values below £1,000 being exempt altogether, then beginning at 1% and grading as the super-tax is graded. He calculated that a tax of that kind, rising to 10% on amounts of a million, would bring in 500 millions, and he added: "There would not be much difficulty in doing that. I know the objections that will be raised to this suggestion. I know the objection in regard to capital that is invested in business; but that difficulty could be met by permitting the taxpayer to have two or three years in which to pay the tax."

Now, in the first place, there seem to be strong objections to a tax which is going to take two or three years in being paid; as a War measure in a War such as this, which eats up millions a day and continually clamours for more, the suggestion would seem almost futile if it had been put forward by a less clear-headed thinker. But the real difficulty about a tax of this kind has not yet been mentioned at all. This is the difficulty of valuation. Nobody can know what the price of anything is until he tries to sell it. There are some things which are being sold every day, and when we can be quite sure that they are exactly the same in value we can tell the value of all from the price at which those which are being sold are fetching. But there are very few things indeed of which we can be sure that one specimen is just as good as another. In the case of Stock Exchange securities we can be quite sure. One Chartered share is obviously of exactly the same value as another, and one £100 Consols cannot possess any advantage over another in the eyes of the most particular investor. But in ordinary commodities it seldom happens that this unity of value can be expected. Even a row of houses built an exactly the same pattern may not be all equally desirable. Some difference of aspect or light may make one more easy to let than another. And when we come to pictures and plate and furniture, and motor-cars and horses, the diversity of value is such that it would take an army of highly skilled experts to guess at an approximation of a fair value to place on them for purposes of taxation, and even then there would be a very wide margin of error. Moreover, skilful valuers are very scarce. We have heard of a case in which a deceased estate was being valued for death duty—or the local equivalent—in an Australian estate, and the legatees expected to be faced with a high valuation because the owner of it had collected, during occasional visits to England, a large number of water-colours by Turner, David Cox, and other well-known artists. To their great relief, however, the official valuer announced that, having looked carefully at the dates of the pictures, he had seen that they were all second-hand, and therefore had valued them all at 5*s.* apiece. This is only an extreme example of blunders in valuation, which would inevitably be common if all the capital wealth of the country had to be taxed in a hurry.

Of all the forms of wealth, then, in which capital is invested, the only one about which one can, in normal times, be at all sure of the real value, is Stock Exchange securities, or those of them in which there is a free market. But a very important section of them is at present subject to official regulations in the matter of price, which make their value also very largely problematical. It thus appears that any attempt to tax capital would be attended by so much expense and difficulty that it seems to be hardly a practical suggestion, even if it were desirable. But is it desirable? Do we want to penalise the man who acquires wealth if he happens to be a person of whose services the nation is now especially, but always greatly, in need? The only way (with an important exception, on which more anon) in which a man can acquire wealth is by rendering services to the community which it needs and pays for, and then by keeping part of the payment, and spending it, not on his pleasures and comforts, but on providing industry with the tools—in the widest sense of the word—that it needs for its existence. It is true that there are cases in which fortunes have been acquired by speculation, or market rigging, or worse, but that is the fault of the community, which only makes such things possible by its greed and gullibility; it is true also that some of the services for which the community pays highly are sometimes of a character which would not be so encouraged if we were more civilised and better educated. Such are bad newspapers and quack medicines. Here again it is the community that is to blame for paying a high price for rubbish. When all is said, it remains broadly true that wealth is got by making or dealing in something that other people want and is kept and husbanded by being placed at the service of industry instead of being spent in ostentation and self-indulgence. One of the difficulties with which industry has had to contend for the last twenty years has been the rising demand of capital, because there have not been enough people with sufficient self-restraint to make them save, and consequently capital has not been accumulated as fast as industry has wanted it, and there has been an almost uninterrupted rise in the rate of interest on first-class securities since 1896. This same difficulty

is also one that is now causing the Government a great deal of difficulty and expense. The Government has to borrow enormous amounts, and because people are not saving as fast as the Government wants to borrow, the rate that the Government has to pay is very much above the level that used to be regarded as normal. We want to encourage the man who saves, because only by saving can capital—which is essential both for industry and for war—be produced; but we are not likely to do so if by turning all the capital that has hitherto been saved we show what is in store in future for any capital that anyone may now be thinking of saving.

There is, of course, the one exception of urban land values, in the case of which the reward of saving has been made, by entirely fortuitous circumstances, out of all proportion to the service rendered. Just because a large number of people crowd in to live on a certain piece of ground, the owner of it becomes, instead of a hard-working market gardener, the landlord of a fashionable or business neighbourhood, and the community pays him thousands a year for the privilege of improving his property by building houses on it. This kind of capital investment is evidently fair game for the tax-gatherer and something is being done to bring it within his grip. In the meantime, shareholders in companies which have done well during the war, and consequently will have to pay Excess Profits tax, cannot see why landlords should be exempted who are putting up rents because people are crowding into certain towns to work on munition jobs.

With this exception—capital invested in land—it seems to be neither possible nor desirable to tax capital; nor indeed, is it necessary, since the taxation of income, assisted by periodical payment of death duties, secures the object desired much more easily and equitably. When a man is receiving money, then it is always possible and fair to take some from him for the benefit of the State, which provides him with police and security, and, in effect, allows him to enjoy his property in peace. Even here, if it were possible—since what we want to do is to stimulate production—it might be better and sounder to tax expenditure rather than income, and so encourage the saving which is essential to the life of any civilised society. But this idea would require so elaborate a machinery of excise, that it is far from being possible, though a beginning might be made with the taxation of expenditure on ser-

THE WAR.

For the moment all eyes are fixed upon the Balkans, and everyone is asking What will Greece and Roumania do? or will it be possible for Turkey, in spite of the siege of Constantinople, to lend Bulgaria material assistance? For the moment we have no means of answering those questions. We do not even know what forces our own and the French Government have despatched, or how many more they are in a position to send forward. Neither have we any definite information regarding the intentions of Italy. Lastly, we are not properly posted as to whether the several Russian armies have been so materially reinforced and rested that they are now in a position to take the offensive with success. Even we do not know whether they are properly supplied by our own country, Japan, and the United States with war munitions. We are kept so completely in the dark relating to all these points that it would be mere waste of time to attempt to answer any of the questions put forward. We must, therefore, wait upon events. Turning to other fields of operations, we can, however, say, that events are moving decidedly in our favour. The militarists and the pessimists will, of course, deny this, and allege that, upon the contrary, the enemy is showing even greater audacity and greater strength than his greatest admirers expected. It would be waste of brains to argue with those people, some of whom are maintaining their thesis, not because they believe in it, but because they wish to bring over the public to their own policies; and the others are governed by agitated nerves. We shall, therefore, address ourselves to readers who keep control of their nerves and are able to measure forces. In France, for example, the British and French have for some months now been successfully carrying on offensive operations. They have not effected anything very striking to the imagination; but they have shown that they are superior in artillery, in the spirit of the men, and in generalship. It is quite true that the Germans still occupy a very large part of France, and that, though we have driven them from some commanding positions and taken possession of their first lines of trenches in many quarters, yet we have not compelled them to retreat materially from the ground they occupied twelve months ago. So much has to be admitted. But the well-informed reader, whose reasoning powers are not disturbed by weak nerves, will see that an enemy inferior in numbers, in material resources, and in generalship is losing ground decisively when he not only is not advancing an inch, but is losing ground steadily, even if slowly. The whole plan of campaign of the Germans was based on the assumption that the British Army was negligible, and that Paris could be seized in three weeks. The British Army has proved itself to be the very reverse of negligible, and Paris has never been reached. So far as France is concerned, the aims of the Germans have been defeated, and the longer they remain in possession the more serious will be their ultimate disasters.

Turning next to the Eastern field of operations, the evidence is equally clear that all the calculations of the Germans have been based upon false assumptions, and that they are now in a position so dangerous that they are grasping at straws like drowning men. It is perfectly true that they have succeeded in compelling the Russians to retreat from Russian Poland. But they have not broken a single Russian army. They have not compelled a single Russian army to engage in a decisive battle. They have not won one single great victory. The Russians have fought rearguard actions innumerable to cover their retreat, but they have always retreated in good order, and at a certain point they have stopped the advance of the enemy. The War in Poland so far has been almost exactly the counterpart of the War in Manchuria. Everywhere the Russians have failed to win, but everywhere the enemy has also failed to attain any material victory. Poland has been cleared of the Russians. But Poland is as hostile to the Germans as before. The winter has set in. The country is being turned into a kind of swamp. And when next month the really cold weather begins the position of the Germans will be dangerous indeed. In Russia, then, just as in France, the Germans have based their plans upon false assumptions; and now, as if they were not far enough from their bases, they have bribed Bulgaria to join with them in the hope that they may be able to relieve Constantinople and thus open the road to the Persian Gulf. It is a grandiose conception, worthy of the madman who sits upon the German throne. But it is not strategy, and much less is it practical business. It is quite possible that Serbia may be over-run. We have no ambition to play the part of prophets. We leave to those who care for such a *rôle* to predict as they like. We base our statement upon the experience of all history, and upon the fact that Germany has not found one single great leader; that she and her allies together have much smaller populations than her enemies; and that her resources are rapidly being exhausted. Germany may fight for some months more. She may even win some victories. But winter has her in its grip in Russia, and she will, indeed, be fortunate if her armies in Russia ever

return. We do not for a moment doubt that the *Entente* Allies are in a difficulty because, partly, of the want of munitions on the part of Russia and, partly, because of the action of Bulgaria. But blundering does not always mean defeat. We committed plenty of blunders during the South African war, the Crimean war, and the great war against the greatest of modern generals, and we won in all three. We have blundered in the usual way in our present War, and yet we shall win, for we have absolute control of the sea, and we and our Allies combined can put two men in the field for every one the enemy can put. Those two circumstances are decisive.

THE BALKAN OUTLOOK.

WHAT seemed to all careful students of Balkan politics impossible has happened. Bulgaria, which was freed from Turkish tyranny by Russia in 1877, is now actually at war with her deliverer, not because Russia has done her wrong in any sense, or has ever ceased to watch mother-like over her interests; but because an ambitious and ignorant German princelet is upon the Bulgarian throne, and fancies he will forward his own fortunes better by turning upon the saviour and heretofore protectress of his kingdom, than by proving loyal to the protectress. Experience will tell whether his calculations are right or wrong. But it seems incredible that he can succeed. It is quite true, of course, that for the moment Serbia is hemmed in by enemies of overwhelming strength who are able to put in the field against her armies twice as numerous. She has, of course, the support of the Entente Powers. But can they come to her assistance in time? They can come to her assistance ultimately. That is beyond question. They can overwhelm the Bulgarian and Austro-German armies. That also is certain. But can they arrive strong enough and soon enough to save the gallant little kingdom from the brutality of a German conquest? Serbia has been the special quarry marked out by Austria-Hungary for many years, for the bulk of the Slav subjects of the Dual Monarchy who are most hostile to that monarchy are either Serbs or very nearly akin to the Serbs. If Serbia, therefore, were trampled underfoot it has long been the belief of Buda-Pesth and Vienna that the Hapsburg monarchy could thenceforward live in peace. Therefore, we may be very sure that if Serbia is overrun by her enemies her people will be treated at least as mercilessly as were those of Belgium. For the moment there is no question that the Serbians are outmatched. It is true that French and British troops have been landed at Salonika, and have been welcomed by the Greek population. But the two Allies cannot have been able to land very many troops yet, and whatever haste they may make, it is to be feared that Serbia cannot wait for their arrival. Russia is stirred to the very depths by the ingratitude of Bulgaria, and by her revolt from the Slav cause. Russia, therefore, we may be very sure, will hurry up troops as quickly as possible. But, unfortunately, as our readers know, Russia is very lacking in munitions; and therefore it may be doubted whether she can send a sufficient force to protect the Serbs, especially remembering how she has been compelled to withdraw from Poland and is now being fiercely attacked in the neighbourhood of Riga. It is probable, and very generally believed, that the Grand Duke Nicholas is exerting his utmost efforts to get together an army in the Caucasus sufficient to sweep aside the Turkish army in that province and to march upon Constantinople. But all that will take time, and meanwhile the Serbian Army of possibly 300,000 or 350,000 men will be opposed to German, Austrian, and Bulgarian forces of perhaps double that number. She will be able, as already said, to reckon upon the British and French. But we are completely in the dark as to what numbers of these have already arrived, and, still more, as to how many the two Governments are prepared to send to the Balkans. The fear, therefore, is very general that the Anglo-French assistance will come too late for saving the gallant little kingdom. That it will be able ultimately to sweep the enemy back across the Danube and the Save is not open to question. But, meantime, Serbia will be trampled underfoot.

If Greece and Roumania could be induced to act promptly the whole face of things would be changed, and in all reasonable probability not only would the Bulgarians be punished, as they deserve, but the Austro-German Armies would likewise be thrown back. The conduct of Greece is so inconsistent that it is extremely difficult to understand it. We all know that for the second time M. Venezelos has been forced out of office by the King, and his policy thrown to the winds. There is no question, of course, regarding M. Venezelos' judgment, statesmanship, or sympathies. But what is the policy of the King and the Ministers who are willing to serve him is puzzling all observers. Greece loudly declares that she is neutral, and means to remain so. But she has given permission to the British and French troops to land at Salonika for the acknowledged purpose of protecting Serbia against attack. Consequently she is doing what Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey may, according to all international principles, regard as an act of war. Therefore she is not winning the good will of the Entente Powers and she is risking the enmity of the other side. It is hardly credible that she can long continue such a course. It is possible that Germany and Austria-Hungary are willing to overlook Greek action in allowing the Franco-British Armies to land because they may reckon that after all Serbia will be crushed before French and British assistance can arrive, whereas by acting as she is doing at present Greece is keeping out of the fray and, therefore, leaving Serbia to her fate. But to outsiders, who cannot know all the tricks of the game, it seems to be an extremely dangerous policy Greece is following. For the moment the two Central European Empires may be silent, satisfied that the Greek Army is not opposing them. But can Greece count on the same favourable treatment if Serbia is crushed and the Austro-German Armies enter her territory? Clearly, if Greece permits French and British troops to enter her territory she cannot expect to remain at peace with the other side if she refuses them entry into her territory. Consequently she is running the risk at the least of seeing her territory being made the battle-ground between British and French on the one side and Germans, Austrians, and Bulgarians on the other, even if the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians do not treat her as an open enemy. There are rumours, stated to be on good authority, that the British Government has made very valuable offers to Greece to be executed without delay if the Greek Army immediately takes the field. It will be strange if those offers are refused. It will seem, in fact, that the Greek Government is struck with madness.

There is more excuse for Roumania remaining inactive than for Greece. In the first place, Greece is exposed to the British and French Navies, and even the most bloodthirsty German must admit that that is a very great extenuation of what appears to him an act of hostility towards Germany. Greece is so placed that she is immediately at the mercy of the Entente Powers, and, for the present, at all

events, is out of reach of the Central European Empires. Roumania, on the other hand, is out of reach of the British and French Navies; has no reason to fear that a great Anglo-French Army will be sent to coerce her; while she runs side by side with Hungary. Roumania, then, is as much at the mercy of the Central European Powers as Greece is at the mercy of the Entente Powers; while the want of munitions on the part of Russia, and the consequent losses the Russian armies have suffered, make it extremely unlikely that the Russian Army will soon be in a position to protect either Roumania or Serbia. And our Government and the French must make wonderful haste if they are able to protect not only Greece and Serbia, but Roumania as well. Of course, we are not leaving out of account the very excellent and efficient armies that both Greece and Roumania can bring into the field. On the contrary, the fact that they have such armies makes their conduct less intelligible than it otherwise would be. For they must know that if England and France send armies to fight in the Balkans they will not content themselves with sending small subsidiary contingents. They will take care that the assistance will be real. We have said nothing so far regarding Italy. The Italians are engaged in difficult work in the Alps when the climate there is becoming exceedingly trying. Yet it is clear that Italy, having entered into the War after full and careful consideration and long preparation, must know that if she fails she will suffer severely. Therefore, it is clearly as much to the interest of Italy as to that of any of the Entente Powers that the War should be brought to an end as speedily as possible, and that the two Central European Empires should be deprived of the ability to punish her as they unquestionably desire to do. There is a very general belief that Italy will assist Serbia. Indeed, it will be recollected that last week the French Prime Minister expressed the opinion that it was not at all unlikely that she would do so. If she does, it is to be recollected that Italy is near at hand; that she has a very powerful Navy; and, consequently, that she could transport a very respectable army to the assistance of Serbia without great loss of time. Furthermore, as our readers know, Russia is now being supplied on a very large scale with munitions not only from this country, but from Japan and the United States as well. Consequently, there is and there can be, no reasonable doubt that the attack upon the Balkans will fail. The real danger is not pre-eminent success for the two Central European Empires, but the practical destruction of the prosperity of Serbia by the cruel treatment she will be subjected to if her Army is decisively defeated. The real anxiety all her friends, then, is that not a moment's avoidable delay should be permitted; but that, as quickly as is possible, all her great Allies should hurry to her assistance. Of all her Allies the one best placed for protecting her is Russia. Russia, if the crisis had come earlier, would have been in a position to give the help; or if the crisis had been postponed for some further time, when Russia would be in possession of the full quantity of munitions desired, and would have reorganised her Army, then Russia alone would be quite capable of dealing with the emergency. But, as things stand, the immediate help will have to be given by Great Britain, France, and Italy, unless, indeed, Greece and Roumania can be induced to recognise their real interests and throw their swords into the scale on the right side.

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Financial Notes.

In his speech at the half-yearly meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank on Wednesday, the Chairman stated that the export of wheat from Argentina during the past year had been two and a half million tons, as compared with 900,000 tons in the previous year, and there is available for export five million tons of maize, of which only three million tons up till now have been shipped; whereas in the previous year the total shipments were only 1,800,000 tons. Naturally, the Republic has benefited, not only by the quantity, but also by the price, which was considerably higher. Wool has been shipped in about the equal quantity of last year, but here again the value has been favourably affected. The value of the exportation of meat shipped exceeds that of the previous year, although the quantity shipped is somewhat less.

"The prospects of the coming crops," the Chairman continued, "are probably not equal to what they were last year, as at the critical time of sowing, rains were badly wanted; and although this has been partly modified quite recently, the rainfall is still under the average. We have a telegram from our Buenos Ayres manager, received to-day, which states: 'Wheat in general excellent; oats very good owing to further rains; linseed average; maize too early to report but expect some damage from locusts; local financial position steadily improving.'" The wine production of Mendoza was not good for the two previous years. But this has to a certain extent improved, partly by certain effective local measures taken by the Government of the Province, and partly by the ability of the producers to raise the selling price of the wine to a point which shows a moderate profit.

We must bear in mind that the month of October in Argentina corresponds to the month of April here at home; that therefore we are still a long way from harvest time; and that much may happen in the interval. Most sincerely do we trust that nothing adverse will happen. But to illustrate the various dangers we may mention that one authority—and an exceedingly careful and well-informed authority, moreover—reports that there are fears that locusts may do damage. No doubt there are locusts on a small scale, always. It is to be hoped that they will be on a small scale this year if they appear at all. In any case, it is well to recollect that the season is too early to speak with any confidence.

It is with great pleasure we learn that the Indian monsoon has continued well into the present month, and now promises to be an exceedingly good one. There were serious fears entertained at one time respecting certain districts where the monsoon began late, or where it was suspended very early for a considerable time. But the late rains have proved to be very abundant, more particularly in districts which had been badly served earlier in the season. The belief now is that the monsoon will be one of the best,

and that it ensures another prosperous year. Most sincerely do we hope that the expectation will be realised.

India is almost exclusively an agricultural country. There are industries, of course, in a few districts—for example, cotton in Bombay, and jute in Bengal. In the whole of India there are only 30 towns with 100,000 inhabitants and over. Therefore the prosperity of the country depends entirely upon agriculture. And the heat is so great that unless copious rains fall in the summer time, vegetation is rendered impossible. The soil, in fact, is baked too hard for almost anything to grow. The importance to India, then, of an abundant monsoon can hardly be exaggerated. The Government has done much in the way of irrigation, and as soon as this dreadful war is over, we hope irrigation works on a still greater scale will be taken in hand. But for the present we have to depend mainly upon the monsoon, and the good monsoon this year means that there will be abundant crops next year. The prospects are excellent, and no doubt every peasant is actively at work preparing for the new season.

It is the duty of every Government to promote the interests of its subjects in every way possible. And Governments are judged not merely according to what they do, but by the efforts they make to inform themselves how they can best turn to good account what lies before them. In particular, India deserves from its Government the most assiduous and unremitting service. The new issue setting forth all the offers of services that have been made by the ruling Princes of India, by the great proprietors, and by local bodies shows the high spirit of patriotism that prevails, and the pride the Indian people take in their own participation in an Empire upon which the Sun never sets, and which is able to control the seas. It is a very great asset—the loyalty and public spirit of a great people. Most earnestly is it to be hoped that we shall show our recognition of the greatness of the asset not by mere empty talk, but by redoubled efforts to increase the welfare of the people and to open up to them new avenues to prosperity and wealth in every direction. The Governments everywhere can do much, but nowhere can a Government do more than in India.

Naturally, as the monsoon has continued late, and as prospects have brightened, trade is fairly active. It is not as active, of course, as in a time of profound peace. But there is a fair business doing, and even the India Council is selling its drafts fairly well. The Council sold on Wednesday 40 lacs at 1*s.* 4*d.* for bills and 1*s.* 4 1/32*d.* for transfers, and it is offering 40 lacs again next Wednesday. Trade would, perhaps, be even more active were it not for the War. Last year the pranks of the *Emden* caused a good deal of apprehension in India, and interfered with trade considerably. This year there is nothing to be apprehended from German commerce destroyers. But for all that, the world's trade has shrunk.

For one thing, the two great markets of Germany and Austria-Hungary are closed to the world. For another, we have raised such immense multitudes of men for the Army and Navy that our productive industry is thrown considerably out of gear. Therefore, we are not buying on as large a scale as usual. Naturally, the closing of two great markets, the occupation by hostile forces of so large a part of France, the immense expenditure for war purposes of England, the closing of the Dardanelles, and the intervention of Italy in the War, all tend to limit trade of every kind. Considering all the circumstances, then, we must admit that the situation in India is one to be thankful for.

RAILWAY WAGES.

After considerable discussion the question of railwaymen's wages, it is hoped, has been finally settled for the termination of the War, or, at any rate, for such period as the railways are operated under Government control. Prior to the War there was expectation that demands would be put forward towards the end of 1914 for increased rates of pay, but upon the outbreak of hostilities it was decided at a conference between the representatives of the railways and of the men that old agreements should remain in force until such time as either of the parties gave notice to determine otherwise. In view of the great rise in the cost of living, no long delay occurred before the men applied for a War bonus of 5*s.* a week. A compromise was, however, arrived at between the parties, and an agreement was drawn up in February whereby employees of 18 years of age and upwards whose standard weekly wage was under 30*s.* received a War bonus of 3*s.*, while those with a standard rate of wage of 30*s.* or more received a bonus of 2*s.* a week. This arrangement was to remain in force during the period the lines were operated under Government control, subject to review at the end of three months. At the expiration of this period the parties to the agreement again met, and, although application for a further bonus was made, it was ultimately agreed in June that, apart from granting a bonus of 1*s.* 6*d.* a week to employees under 18 years of age who had not previously participated, the February agreement should continue, and that no further application for an advance in wages would be made. Within a short time, however, another application was made for an all-round rise of 5*s.* a week in comparison with wages paid prior to the War. A compromise has again been made, and, although the full 5*s.* increase has been granted, it must be recognised that it is stated to be a bonus, and must not, therefore, be regarded as a permanent increment in wages. In the case of boys the War bonus has been raised to 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, and although the new agreement, as did the old, applies only to employees "engaged in the manipulation of traffic," the bonus will doubtless be extended to other grades.

Whereas the cost of the concession in wages granted early in the year was estimated at about £4,000,000, that now granted will call for about twice this amount. It will be remembered that the Government has been paying three-fourths and the companies one-fourth of the previous War bonus; but how the additional expenditure now to be incurred is to be defrayed has not yet been officially announced, and until particulars are forthcoming it is useless to consider the effect of the new bonus upon railway profits.

Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Co.—Interim dividend at 5 . less tax.

Wilsons and Clyde Coal Co.—Dividend of 3*s.* 6*d.* per share on Ordinary, less tax.

Yorkshire Insurance Co.—Second half of the dividend declared in May, being at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share on the £5 shares (10*s.* paid) and 5*s.* on the fully paid £1 shares.

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THE WORLD'S GREAT BANKS.

In the past generation the growth of banking has been one of the most remarkable of the many phenomena of the period; indeed, in a large measure the expansion of banking and the extension of the credit system have rendered possible the really wonderful development that has taken place. At the end of last year the deposits of many banks were swollen by war conditions; nevertheless, a comparison of the deposits of the world's great banks assists one to realise how it has been possible for the great nations to raise so much money for war purposes.

Deposits of the World's Great Banks, end 1914.

	Deposits and Current Accounts. 1914.	1880.
	£	£
1. Bank of England	155,012,000	33,809,000
2. London City and Midland Bank	125,733,000	—
3. Bank of France	124,043,000	25,011,000
4. Lloyds Bank	117,658,000	5,785,000
5. Imperial Bank of Russia	107,050,000	37,971,000
6. Deutsche Bank	102,105,000	3,215,000
7. London County and Westminster Bank	101,428,000	—
8. Imperial Bank of Germany (Reichsbank)	87,967,000	8,663,000
9. National Provincial Bank of England	74,916,000	29,138,000
10. Crédit Lyonnais	71,904,000	16,484,000
11. Barclay and Co.	67,425,000	—
12. National City Bank, New York	61,158,000	3,249,000
13. Bank of Spain	60,566,000	23,751,000
14. Banco de la Nacion Argentina	52,853,000	—
15. Parr's Bank	52,630,000	3,137,000
16. Banque Russo-Asiatique	47,681,000	—
17. Dresdner Bank	47,426,000	4,752,000
18. Volga-Kama Commercial Bank (Russia)	46,972,000	5,085,000
19. Union of London and Smiths Bank	46,814,000	13,358,000
20. Guaranty Trust Co. of New York	45,156,000	—
21. Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt für Handel und Gewerbe	43,981,000	6,920,000
22. Société Générale (Paris)	43,262,000	13,353,000
23. Russian Bank for Foreign Trade	41,949,000	2,055,000
24. Bank of Montreal	41,944,000	—
25. Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris	41,647,000	—
26. Capital and Counties Bank	40,886,000	3,465,000
27. London Joint Stock Bank	40,653,000	12,645,000
28. Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft	40,244,000	3,228,000
29. Continental and Commercial National Bank, Chicago	39,517,000	—
30. Allgemeine Oesterreichische Boden Credit Anstalt	36,729,000	15,393,000
31. Bank of New South Wales	36,333,000	9,039,000
32. Canadian Bank of Commerce	35,858,000	2,318,000
33. Banca d'Italia	34,067,000	—
34. National Bank of Commerce, New York	31,111,000	3,446,000
35. Banca Commerciale Italiana	30,355,000	—
36. Banque Internationale de Commerce de Petrograd	29,797,000	1,601,000
37. Darmstädter Bank	29,608,000	1,457,000
38. Bankers' Trust Company, New York	28,851,000	—
39. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	28,832,000	4,726,000
40. Bank of Liverpool	28,025,000	3,462,000
41. Chase National Bank, New York	27,750,000	—
42. Manchester and Liverpool District Bank	27,413,000	10,825,000
43. Royal Bank of Canada	27,385,000	—
44. Central Trust Company, New York (June 30)	26,765,000	1,054,000
45. Hanover National Bank, New York	26,623,000	1,620,000
46. Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank	25,736,000	—
47. First National Bank, New York	25,342,000	3,272,000
48. First National Bank, Chicago	25,209,000	2,654,000
49. Anglo-Austrian Bank	25,071,000	1,049,000
50. Oesterreichische Länderbank	24,993,000	1,522,000
51. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., New York	24,118,000	2,091,000
52. London and South Western Bank	23,560,000	1,787,000
53. Union Bank of Australia, Ltd. (Aug. 31)	22,913,000	6,767,000
54. National Park Bank, New York	22,626,000	—
55. Commercial Banking Company of Sydney	22,228,000	5,467,000
56. Oesterreichische Ungarische Bank (Austro.-Hungarian Bank), Dec. 1913	21,869,000	9,506,000
57. Standard Bank of South Africa	21,822,000	6,082,000
58. London and Provincial Bank	21,731,000	2,491,000
59. Bank of Scotland (Feb. 27, 1915)	21,670,000	12,508,000
60. National Bank of South Africa	20,833,000	—
61. Mechanics & Metals National Bank	20,677,000	—
62. National Shawmut Bank, Boston	20,383,000	—
63. Illinois Trust and Savings Bank	20,239,000	147,000
64. Yorkshire Penny Bank	20,158,000	—
65. London and River Plate Bank	20,000,000	2,849,000

BRITISH BANKS WORKING ABROAD.

In the introduction to the Banking Section we have endeavoured to give a comprehensive view of the effect of the War on banking. To supplement the information there given we set out below various statements showing the effect of the War on banking in Canada and Australasia, and how it has affected British banks with branches in India, in the Far East, in South Africa, and in South America.

22 *Chartered Banks of Canada: Liabilities and Assets, August* 1915 *and June* 1914.

	Aug. 31, 1915	June 30, 1914	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES.	$	$	$
Capital	113,385,000	114,812,000	— 827,000
Reserve	113,661,000	113,369,000	— 308,000
Total	227,046,000	228,181,000	— 1,135,000
Notes	99,611,000	99,138,000	+ 473,000
Bills payable	6,192,000	20,096,000	—13,904,000
Acceptances	10,930,000	11,505,000	— 575,000
Deposits—			
Dominion and Provincial Governments	40,074,000	44,454,000	— 4,380,000
Private in Canada	1,034,418,000	1,026,525,000	+ 7,893,000
,, elsewhere	128,110,000	103,062,000	+25,048,000
Due to Banks abroad	10,851,000	8,934,000	+ 1,917,000
,, ,, in U.K.	7,331,000	15,623,000	— 8,292,000
Total Deposits	1,220,784,000	1,198,598,000	+22,186,000
Miscellaneous	2,585,000	1,152,000	+ 1,433,000
Profit balance	18,190,000	16,638,000	+ 1,552,000
Total	1,585,338,000	1,575,308,000	+10,030,000
ASSETS.	$	$	$
Cash in hand, &c.—			
Gold and other coin	61,555,000	46,109,000	+15,446,000
Dominion Notes	129,716,000	92,114,000	+37,602,000
Other Cash resources	140,888,000	133,455,000	+ 7,433,000
Total Cash	332,159,000	271,678,000	+60,481,000
Money at Call, &c.	192,463,000	204,521,000	—12,058,000
Total in Hand and at Call	524,622,000	476,199,000	+48,423,000
Investments	125,210,000	102,344,000	+22,866,000
Loans and Advances	865,955,000	931,104,000	—65,149,000
Acceptances	10,930,000	11,505,000	— 575,000
Miscellaneous	5,007,000	3,735,000	+ 1,272,000
Bank Premises	53,614,000	50,421,000	+ 3,193,000
Total	1,585,338,000	1,575,308,000	+10,030,000

18 *Australasian Banks.*

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES	£	£	£
Capital paid up	21,764,000	21,637,000	+ 127,000
Reserve funds	14,440,000	13,314,000	+1,126,000
Total	36,204,000	34,951,000	+1,253,000
Notes in circulation	3,188,000	2,040,000	+1,148,000
Acceptances	2,618,000	2,831,000	— 213,000
Deposits, &c.	218,565,000	212,048,000	+6,517,000
Balances due to other banks	425,000	1,130,000	— 705,000
Profit balance	1,948,000	1,956,000	— 8,000
Total	262,948,000	254,956,000	+7,992,000
ASSETS			
Cash in hand, Australian Notes, &c.	63,685,000	49,625,000	+14,060,000
Money at call and remittances *in transitu*	24,368,000	33,547,000	— 9,179,000
Investments	16,167,000	12,928,000	+ 3,239,000
Bills discounted (a)	1,764,000	2,089,000	— 325,000
Bills, loans, advances, &c.	148,438,000	148,197,000	+ 241,000
Customers' liability for acceptances	2,618,000	2,831,000	— 213,000
Balances due by other banks	393,000	377,000	+ 16,000
Bank premises, &c.	5,515,000	5,362,000	+ 153,000
Total	262,948,000	254,956,000	+ 7,992,000

(a) Where shown separately.

Five Anglo-Indian Banks: Liabilities and Assets: Last Two Years.

	1914–15	1913–14	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£
Capital	3,699,000	3,500,000	+ 199,000
Reserve	3,554,000	3,301,000	+ 253,000
Total	7,253,000	6,801,000	+ 452,000
Notes	1,044,000	913,000	+ 131,000
Acceptances	2,832,000	3,134,000	— 302,000
Deposits	42,893,000	41,494,000	+1,399,000
Miscellaneous	5,330,000	7,523,000	—2,193,000
Profit balance	751,000	704,000	+ 47,000
Total	60,103,000	60,569,000	— 466,000
ASSETS.	£	£	£
Cash in hand, &c.	13,395,000	10,059,000	+3,336,000
Investments	6,616,000	4,418,000	+2,198,000
Bills discounted (a)	15,371,000	15,226,000	+ 145,000
Advances	19,970,000	26,085,000	—6,115,000
Total Bills and Advances	35,341,000	41,311,000	—5,970,000
Acceptances	2,832,000	3,134,000	— 302,000
Bank premises, &c.	1,919,000	1,647,000	+ 272,000
Total	60,103,000	60,569,000	— 466,000

(a) Where shown separately.

Three Far Eastern Banks: Liabilities and Assets, December 1914 *and* 1913.

	1914	1913	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£
Capital	4,551,000	3,545,000	+1,006,000
Reserve	5,311,000	5,228,000	+ 83,000
Total	9,862,000	9,773,000	+ 89,000
Notes	3,353,000	3,297,000	+ 56,000
Acceptances and bills payable...	28,884,000	30,661,000	−1,777,000
Deposits, &c.	51,641,000	48,876,000	+2,765,000
Profit balances	947,000	885,000	+ 62,000
Total	94,687,000	93,492,000	+1,195,000
ASSETS.	£	£	£
Cash, money at call, &c. ...	14,780,000	10,738,000	+4,042,000
Investments	5,420,000	5,342,000	+ 78,000
Bills discounted (*a*)	33,332,000	39,161,000	−5,829,000
Advances	26,105,000	25,784,000	+ 321,000
Total discounts and advances	59,437,000	64,945,000	−5,508,000
Acceptances	13,905,000	11,391,000	+2,514,000
Bank premises	1,145,000	1,076,000	+ 69,000
Total	94,687,000	93,492,000	+1,195,000

(*a*) Where shown separately.

Six African Banks, Liabilities and Assets.

	1914 15	1913 14	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES	£	£	£
Capital	5,697,000	5,564,000	+ 133,000
Reserve	3,013,000	3,371,000	− 358,000
Total	8,710,000	8,935,000	− 225,000
Notes	2,619,000	2,248,000	+ 371,000
Acceptances	5,526,000	6,676,000	−1,150,000
Deposits, &c.	55,806,000	52,962,000	+2,844,000
Profit balance	206,000	438,000	− 232,000
Total	72,867,000	71,259,000	+1,608,000
ASSETS			
Cash in hand	935,000	10,970,000	+2,065,000
Money at call, &c. (*a*) ...	7,994,000	4,725,000	+2,271,000
Total	18,929,000	15,693,000	+4,336,000
Investments	5,902,000	5,171,000	+ 731,000
Bills discounted (*a*)	7,226,000	10,191,000	−2,965,000
Advances	31,720,000	31,480,000	+ 240,000
Total Bills and Advances	38,946,000	41,671,000	−2,725,000
Acceptances	5,526,000	6,676,000	−1,150,000
Bank premises, &c.	2,464,000	2,048,000	+ 416,000
Total	72,867,000	71,259,000	+1,608,000

(*a*) Where shown separately.

Two South American Banks, Liabilities and Assets, at June 30 *Last Two Years.*

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
LIABILITIES	£	£	£
Capital and reserve	16,528,000	16,454,000	+ 74,000
Acceptances	1,461,000	2,792,000	−1,331,000
Bills payable	3,502,000	5,169,000	−1,667,000
Deposits, &c.	27,221,000	32,942,000	−5,721,000
Profit balance	418,000	678,000	− 260,000
Total	49,131,000	58,036,000	−8,905,000
ASSETS			
Cash, &c.	9,485,000	11,974,000	−1,589,000
Investments	1,844,000	1,637,000	+ 207,000
Bills discounted (*a*)	13,976,000	18,876,000	−4,900,000
Advances	20,913,000	22,217,000	−1,304,000
Total Bills and Advances ...	34,889,000	41,093,000	−6,204,000
Acceptances	1,462,000	2,792,000	−1,330,000
Bank premises, &c.	1,451,000	1,440,000	+ 11,000
	49,131,000	58,036,000	−8,905,000

(*a*) Where shown separately.

ANTOFAGASTA RAILWAY.

THE announcement is made of an interim dividend of 2½% in respect of the current year on the Deferred stock of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company. This is the same as a year ago, despite a heavy falling-off in traffic receipts; and, judged by the improvement now being shown, the Company should have no difficulty in maintaining the final dividend at 5½%, making 8% for the year. The diminution in earnings for the six months was over £390,000. The decreases continued right up to the middle of August, when a recovery set in, and for the 42 weeks to October 17 the decline is £344,000. Since August 15 the gain has been nearly £75,000, and if this rate of improvement continues much of the loss shown to date will be made good. The demand for nitrate for explosive as well as for agricultural purposes is steadily improving; and, with the price exceptionally high, considerable profits are being made, which sooner or later must have a favourable influence on Chilean trade and prosperity. For the year 1914 the Company earned a profit of £550,000, or sufficient to pay the Preference dividends in full and leave a balance equal to 17½% on the Deferred. The price of the stock is 122½.



National Shawmut Bank

of Boston, Mass.

First Charter 1837

Largest Bank in New England

Total assets over $110,000,000

American Topics.

THE ATCHISON'S PROGRES

THE results of the Atchison Railway in the year to June last were exceptional from two points of view. Not only were the volume of traffic handled and the earnings greater than ever, but the improved earnings were secured in a period when the railway transportation industry in the United States was suffering from a setback in trade and when the gross receipts of the companies generally showed a large decline.

Practically the whole of last year's improvement in earnings arose from the enormous crops, more especially winter wheat, gathered in the territory served in 1914, which more than made good the shrinkage in earnings in 1913-14 that resulted from the poor crops of 1913. The wheat crop of Kansas doubled last year, having amounted to no fewer than 176,300,000 bushels, as against 86,515,000 bushels in 1913; while the maize crop of the State was more than quadrupled, the crop in 1914 having exceeded 108,000,000 bushels, compared with only 23,500,000 bushels in the previous year. The larger traffic thus accruing to the Atchison was mainly exported via Galveston, thereby affording to the road a very long haul and great earnings. Hence the gross eearnings were increased $6,650,000 to $117,666,000, which compares with the previous highest total of $116,896,000 earned two years before. Operating expenses increased $2,622,000 to $76,092,000, so that there was the substantial gain of $3,934,000, or over 10% in net earnings, raising them to the unprecedented figure of $41,574,000. Miscellaneous income increased almost $800,000, and was larger than ever before. On the other hand, interest and other charges increased about $800,000 on account of heavier payments for hire of equipment. Hence the net profit last year increased nearly $4,000,000 to $18,422,000, a sum equal to 9.34% upon the stock, as against 7.43% in 1913-14. The surplus last year in excess of the dividend amounted to $6,581,000.

The distribution of profits by the Atchison has always been on a conservative basis, and this policy is largely responsible for the great strength of the undertaking. Since 1896 nearly $350,000,000 of capital and profits have been expended upon road and equipment, only about two-thirds of which has been provided by new capital, the balance having come from surplus profits. The wisdom of this policy of putting large amounts of profits back into the road is fully borne out by the events in recent years, for although from the point of view of traffic and of earnings the Atchison has had nothing to complain of,

Income Statement of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Fixed Charges.	Net Profit.	Div. on 5% Pref.	Balance.	Div. on Common. Earned.	Div. on Common. Paid.	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1915	11,115	117,666,000	76,092,000	64·67	41,574,000	2,972,000	44,546,000	5,497,000	14,918,000	24,131,000	5,709,000	18,422,000	9·34	6	11,841,000	6,581,000
1914	10,909	111,109,000	73,469,000	66·12	37,640,000	2,174,000	39,814,000	5,525,000	14,105,000	20,184,000	5,709,000	14,475,000	7·43	6	11,692,000	2,783,000
1913	10,750	116,896,000	77,642,000	66·42	39,254,000	2,516,000	41,770,000	4,662,000	14,954,000	22,154,000	5,769,000	16,445,000	9·49	6	10,399,000	5,709,000
1912	10,628	105,752,000	71,273,000	66·24	36,479,000	2,570,000	39,049,000	4,206,000	15,183,000	19,660,000	5,709,000	13,951,000	8·23	6	10,168,000	3,783,000
1911	10,350	107,565,000	70,768,000	65·78	36,797,000	2,207,000	39,004,000	3,475,000	14,158,000	21,371,000	5,709,000	15,662,000	9·46	6	9,932,000	5,730,000
1910	9,916	104,993,000	69,762,000	66·44	35,231,000	2,550,000	37,781,000	4,006,000	13,349,000	20,426,000	5,709,000	14,717,000	9·15	6	9,648,000	5,069,000
1909	9,795	94,265,000	57,495,000	60·99	36,770,000	1,158,000	37,928,000	3,015,000	14,495,000	20,418,000	5,709,000	14,709,000	14·27	5	5,155,000	9,556,000
1908	9,415	90,618,000	60,630,000	66·91	29,988,000	672,000	30,660,000	3,245,000	13,736,000	13,679,000	5,709,000	7,970,000	7·74	5½	5,663,000	2,307,000
1907	9,273	94,343,000	58,771,000	62·29	35,572,000	757,000	36,329,000	2,503,000	12,657,000	21,169,000	5,709,000	15,460,000	15·04	5½	5,655,000	9,805,000
1906	9,153	80,801,000	50,008,000	61·89	30,793,000	982,000	31,775,000	2,119,000	11,388,000	18,268,000	5,709,000	12,559,000	12·32	4	4,078,000	8,481,000
1905	8,305	68,376,000	45,517,000	66·57	22,859,000	814,000	23,673,000	1,927,000	10,004,000	11,742,000	5,709,000	6,033,000	5·32	4	4,078,000	1,955,060
1896	6,445	28,999,000	22,071,000	76·11	6,928,000	122,000	7,050,000	1,450,000	5,449,000	151,000	Nil	151,000	—	Nil	—	151,000

from the standpoint of operating expenses and taxes the position has been far from pleasant. The net result of these additions to the cost of operation has been to reduce the return on the money expended upon the property, and were it not for the fact that the capital account has been kept down by the application of a great aggregate of surplus profits to capital purposes, and that the officers of the road have put forth every effort to operate the traffic with the utmost economy, and thus to combat the rising expenditures, the rate of dividend earned on the Common stock would be much less favourable than is now the case. To show the growth of earnings and of income we present the Income Statement herewith. From this it will be evident that the undertaking is in a very sound condition, and that, come what may, its interest charges will be amply cared for. On the basis of last year's results interest charges represent less than 13% of the gross earnings and no more than 38% of the net income.

Both in prosperous times and in periods of depression the property is kept at a high standard by liberal maintenance outlays, and in a year when gross earnings have expanded 5½% it has not been essential to add appreciably to the expenditures upon the upkeep of the road and equipment. In the past twelve months 30.84% of the gross revenue was devoted to maintenance of way and equipment, and over the past decade the outlays for these purposes have averaged 31.59%. It will thus be evident that the officers are by no means niggardly in respect of maintenance expenses, and that the growth of net income has resulted from sheer hard work in preventing an undue rise in the cost of conducting transportation. Despite the increase in train staffs, the higher rates of pay and the mass of other additions to the cost of handling the traffic, the officers have succeeded in keeping conducting transportation expenses well in hand, with the result that last year the ratio to gross earnings declined to 31.73%, which is the lowest point touched since 1909, although no compensatory benefit in the form of increased rates and fares has accompanied the new burdens of expenditure. The course of expenditures in recent years is shown below:—

Operating Expenses of the Atchison Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	General Expenses.	Operating Expenses
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915	117,666,000	16,514,468	19,764,536	37,335,955	2,476,595	76,091,554
1914	111,109,770	15,425,730	19,213,343	36,420,882	2,409,379	73,469,334
1913	116,896,262	18,054,413	19,415,225	37,591,434	2,581,463	77,642 535
1912	107,752,360	16,076,834	16,521,231	36,150,414	2,524,724	71,273,203
1911	107,565,115	16,059,787	16,686,145	35,433,419	2,588,900	70,768,251
1910	104,993,000	17,807,136	15,360,047	33,936,086	2,458,551	69,761,820
1909	94,266,000	12,884,407	13,903,897	28,579,686	2,127,205	57,495,195
1908	90,618,000	14,120,828	14,246,621	30,191,854	2,070,612	60,629,915
1907	94,343,000	15,971,733	12,398,159	28,634,630	1,766,182	58,770,704
1906	80,801,000	12,949,812	10,932,033	24,089,628	2,037,012	50,008,485
1905	68,376,000	11,385,418	10,914,864	21,362,860	1,854,242	45,517,384
1896	28,999,000	5,595,837	3,202,085	12,221,072	1,052,282	22,071,276

Ratio of Oper. Expenses to Gross Earnings of Atchison Ry.

	%	%	%	%	%
1915	14·04	16·80	31·73	2·10	64·67
1914	13·88	17·29	32·78	2·17	66·12
1913	15·44	16·61	32·16	2·21	66·42
1912	14·92	15·33	33·55	2·35	66·15
1911	14·93	15·51	32·94	2·40	65·78
1910	16·96	14·82	32·32	2·34	66·44
1909	13·67	14·75	30·31	2·26	60·99
1908	15·58	15·72	33·32	2·29	66·91
1907	16·93	13·14	30·35	1·87	62·29
1906	16·03	13·53	29·81	2·52	61·89
1905	16·65	15·96	31·25	2·71	66·57
1896	19·30	11·04	42·14	3·63	76·11

That the cost of conducting transportation has been kept down in this manner would of course not have been possible but for the great improvements to road and rolling-stock. Six years ago there was no 90-101-lb. rails on the track, but in June 1914 no less than 2,400 miles had been laid with them and further quantities have been laid in the past year. Hence it has been possible not merely to load the freight cars more fully, but to add to the number of cars per train, and thereby increase the average train load. In the past year the average load has been raised from 344¾ tons to 364½ tons. The really great progress now made in dealing with the traffic economically, notwithstanding all the difficulties that have had to be contended with, will be evident from the following statement:—

Condition of Atchison Railway, 1914-15 *and* 1896-97.

	1914–15.	1896–97.	Inc. or Dec. 18 Years.	%
Miles of road owned	11,628	6,479	+ 5,149	+ 79·4
Miles of track owned	12,575	6,479	+ 6,096	+ 94·1
Cost of road & equipment	$683,855,000	$387,957,000	+ $295,898,000	+ 76·3
Units of traffic:				
Revenue ton miles	8,257,132,000	2,062,483,000	+6,194,649,000	+300·4
Passenger miles	1,341,675,000	243,053,000	+1,098,622,000	+451·7
Total units	9,598,807,000	2,305,536,000	+7,293,271,000	+316·3
Train mileage:				
Freight (revenue travel)	22,654,000	16,081,000	+ 6,573,000	+ 40·9
Passenger	25,570,000	9,082,000	+ 16,488,000	+181·5
Train loads:				
Revenue freight (tons)	364·44	128·25	+ 236·19	+184·2
Passenger (No.)	52·67	26·76	+ 25·91	+ 96·9
Average freight rate (cent)	·974	1·070	— ·096	— 9·0
Average passenger fare (cent)	2·074	2·293	— ·219	— 9·5
Average miles operated	11,115	6,444	+ 4,671	+ 72·5
Average density:				
Ton miles	743,000	318,000	+ 425,000	+133·6
Passenger miles	121,000	38,000	+ 83,000	+218·4
Total	864,000	356,000	+ 508,000	+142·7
Net income	$36,928,000	$6,070,000	+ $30,858,000	+508·3
% of do. to capital expended	5·40%	1·57%	+ 3·83%	+244·0

The opening of the Panama Canal has been felt by the Atchison in the past year, and a certain amount of traffic has been diverted to the water-route that was formerly conveyed by railroad. So far as can be ascertained the loss of the Atchison's traffic in the past year arising from the opening of the Canal has been upwards of $1,000,000, but naturally it is as yet too early to measure accurately the effect of the Panama Canal upon the traffic of Transcontinental railroad systems. Certainly, in the current year, with the passage of shipping through the canal so seriously blocked by slides, not much effect will be experienced, but this, of course, is merely a temporary difficulty for the Canal, and one that may eventually be expected to be overcome. It has, however, to be borne in mind that past experience indicates that improved methods of communication invariably tend to expand rather than to diminish business as soon as the disturbing effects of a new route have been surmounted, and, as far as one can foresee, the quantity of existing traffic that will be diverted through the Canal will be small in comparison with the great advantages anticipated to accrue to the Atchison from the more rapid development of the Pacific States.

Appreciable as was the expansion in traffic earnings and profits in the past year, the expectation is for still better results in the current year. Prices of agricultural produce of all kinds, though not as high as in the past year, are still greatly in excess of normal, and by reason of the prosperity they are

now enjoying farmers may largely augment their purchases of all kinds. Further, the effect of the present boom in industrial activity in the United States is anticipated to have an important bearing upon the traffic of the great railroad systems. Last year's crops were exceedingly abundant and brought great traffic to the Atchison, but this year's traffic may be still greater, in consequence of the abundance of the maize crop. Although this year's yield of wheat in the States served by the line is below that of 1914, it is still considerably above that of 1913, while the maize crop is much greater than in either of the two years. The abundance of this year's crops will be evident from the following:—

Maize and Wheat Crops in States served by Atchison Railway, last Three Years.

State	Co's Mileage	Maize 1915	Maize 1914	Maize 1913	Winter Wheat 1915	Winter Wheat 1914	Winter Wheat 1913
		Bush.	Bush.	Thous. Bush.	Thous. Bush.	Thous. Bush.	Thous. Bush.
Kansas ...	2,816	165,200	[illegible]	25,424	118,600	[illegible]	86,515
Texas	[illegible]	175,900	124,800	163,200	21,100	14,066	13,650
Oklahoma ...	1,075	125,900	[illegible]	52,250	[illegible]	47,975	17,500
Missouri ...	313	[illegible]	158,400	129,062	34,100	43,333	[illegible]
Illinois... ...	[illegible]	372,400	300,034	282,150	56,100	46,250	41,888
Total for the 5 States ...		1,056,700	741,459	650,086	268,700	327,924	199,139

For the two months to August an expansion of $1,551,000 in gross earnings was accompanied by an increase of $867,000 in expenses and taxes, and there was a gain of $684,000 in net earnings.

The amounts and prices of the Company's securities and yields afforded are shown below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Atchison Railway.

Description.	Outstanding June 1915	Interest Payable	Rate	Last Price	Yield £ s. d.
	$		%	£	
Gen. Mort. 4% Gold ...	150,634,500	Oct. 1995	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adjust. Mt. bonds (unstpd.)	16,923,000	July 1995	4	Nov. 1 92† *n*4	16 5
Do. do. (stamped)	34,423,000	July 1995	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
E. Oklahoma Div. 4% bonds	9,603,000	Mar. 1928	4	M. & S. 93½*	4 14 2
Transcont. Sh. L. 1st M. ...	17,000,000	July 1958	4	J. & J. 84¾*	4 14 0
10-year 5% Bonds ...	8,747,000	June 1917	5	J. & D. 109½†	4 5 8
4% Convertible bonds (*a*)...	15,284,000	June 1955	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Do. Issue of 1910 (*b*) ...	25,146,000	June 1960	4	J. & D. 113† *n*3	15 6
Cal. Ariz. 1st & Ref. "A"...	9,394,000	Mar. 1962	4½	M. & S. 100†	4 16 5
Do. do. "B"...	£1,830,000	Mar. 1962	4½	M. & S. £95½‡	4 15 4
San F. & S. Jo. V. 5% Mt. ...	6,000,000	Oct. 1940	5	A. & O. 106*	4 11 10
S. Fe Pres. & Ph. 5% 1st Mt.	4,940,000	Sept. 1942	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atch. 5% N.-Cum. Pref. stk.	114,17[illegible]	—	5	F. & A. [illegible]	[illegible]
Do. Common stock ...	200,489,500	—	6	M.J.S.D. 113†	5 14 5

(*a*) New York price, [illegible] into Common stock at par to June 1, 1918. (*b*) Convertible into Common stock at par to June 1, 1921. [illegible] (*c*) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

ARGENTINE RAILWAY RESULTS.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN.

FULL justification for the transfer by the Buenos Ayres Western Railway Company of £160,000 from reserve in order to maintain the dividend at 5% is to be found in the report issued this week. The gross earnings for the year show a decrease of £6,496, or 0.2%, but despite every effort to economise the working expenses have increased £17,532, or 1.2%, and the ratio of expenses to receipts has been raised from 58.82% to 59.67%. As a matter of fact, the stringent measures adopted to ensure economy have been entirely successful, but unfortunately the damage caused by floods involved an expenditure of £122,825, so that but for this unexpected outlay the total cost of working would have been reduced by about £105,000, and the ratio to gross receipts lowered to 54%. The transfer of £160,000 from reserve, therefore, merely means that the exceptional cost of flood repairs has been met out of accumulated profits—really the object of building up a reserve fund at all. In other respects the Company has been fortunate, having regard to the unfavourable international situation, the continued financial and commercial depression throughout Argentina, and the short crops as a result of the bad weather. Practically the only crop to show improvement is wheat, which, although considerably smaller than it should have been, was fortunately late in maturing and so escaped damage from frosts early in November. On the other hand, maize tonnage was reduced by 16.26%, oats by 25.11%, and linseed by 29.35%. General goods traffic, which reflects the pecuniary standing of the camp people, was naturally affected by the economic situation, and shows a decrease in tonnage of over 12% and in revenue of 7.3%. The live stock business was particularly brisk in view of the large demand and favourable prices. There was a decrease in sheep owing to a smaller number received from other railways, principally on account of the floods, but otherwise substantial increases are shown under all heads.

The most noteworthy reductions in working expenses were in maintenance of way, which cost £50,000 less, and in locomotive running and traffic expenses, which together absorbed nearly £47,000, or 5.7% less than in 1913-14. The saving in train mileage was equal to 4.6%, and to this the lower cost of conducting transportation is mainly attributable. The net result of the year's operations is a falling off in profit of £104,000, but if we eliminate the special cost of flood repairs charged to expenses there is a profit gain for the year of over £18,000, which means that the dividend of 5% is within £30,000 of being earned. The income statement of the Company for the last four years is appended:—

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	2,522,682	2,529,178	2,906,008	2,425,682
Expenses	1,505,284	1,487,752	1,659,515	1,339,517
Ratio	[illegible]	(58.82)	(57.11)	(55.22)
Net earnings	1,017,398	1,041,426	1,246,493	1,086,165
Miscellaneous income ...	209,464	194,530	227,285	182,937
Total net income	1,226,862	1,235,956	1,473,778	1,269,102
First charges, bonds, Debentures, &c.	[illegible]	369,376	347,498	345,550
Net profit for Preference	[illegible]	866,580	1,126,280	923,552
Div. on 5% Preference ...	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Balance	[illegible]	851,580	1,111,280	908,552
Div. on 4½% Preference ...	114,855	114,855	114,855	114,855
Balance	652,409	736,725	996,425	793,697
Div. on 4% Exten. shares	144,000	144,000	224,000	175,597
Net profit for Ordinary ...	488,409	592,725	772,425	618,100
Dividend on Ordinary ...	641,558	670,771	794,925	659,592
Per cent.	[illegible]	[illegible]	(7%)	[illegible]
Balance	Dr.153,149	Dr. 78,046	Dr. 22,500	Dr. 41,492
Brought forward ...	47,060	125,105	147,605	189,097
Balance	Dr. 106,089	Dr. 47,059	Dr. 125,105	Dr. 147,605
From reserve fund ...	160,000	—	—	—
Carried forward	[illegible]	47,[illegible]	125,105	147,605

The future of the Company is undoubtedly full of possibilities. The setback of the past two years, unfortunate though it is, must be regarded as purely temporary. Argentina is a young country, and having regard to the fact that its products embrace all the requisites of human subsistence, which at the present time are in great demand at high prices, the wealth and prosperity of the nation are growing at a rate never hitherto experienced, and the economic position of the country is rapidly improving. This will be further enhanced by the bumper crops which are likely to be gathered in the coming season. At one time moisture was badly needed, but latest advices report that favourable rains have fallen in all divisions and that the crop prospects are excellent. The maize harvest now being moved is reckoned to be a medium crop, and whilst this is helping the railway companies and swelling their traffic receipts, as compared with a year ago, the improvement in earnings later on should be much more pronounced if nothing untoward happens to upset present crop calculations. Since the beginning of July the earnings of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway have increased £111,000, which rather more than makes good the losses sustained by the Company in the corresponding period a year ago. The price of the Ordinary stock is 83, and on a 5% dividend basis the yield afforded is £6 per cent.

The capital of the undertaking is as follows:—

Name	Amount	Dividend	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ s. d.
Western Ry. of Buenos Ayres 5% Mort. bonds, redeemable 1925	1,000,000	5	101	5 1 4½
4% Debenture stock	7,872,203	4	79	5 2 11
5% Terminable Debs. [illegible] ...	[illegible]	5	100½	5 1 3
5% Preference (£10)	500,000	5	[illegible]	5 1 8
4½% Preference (£10)	2,552,340	4½	[illegible]	5 13 11
4% Extension shares, 1915 (£10)(a)	3,600,000	4	£5 5s. 0d.	(a)
Ordinary stock	13,747,660	5	85	6 5 0
	30,072,203			

(a) These shares are entitled to dividends of 4% until June 30, 1915, after which they will rank for dividend and in every way *pari passu* with the Ordinary stock.

(b) Allowing for redemption at par in 1925.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY.

Of the three latest railway companies whose reports have so far been issued the Central Argentine is certainly the most satisfactory. Thanks to the good maize crop and the consequent recovery in earnings in the latter months of the year, the total gross receipts for the twelve months were reduced by only £303,000, or 5%. The decreases occurred almost entirely in passenger traffic and general merchandise. Passenger receipts were down £252,000, and general goods declined £163,000, or 17.1%. These two items reflect the trend towards economy which the untoward events of the past year have rendered imperative among the Argentine people. The crops generally were good and in great demand, with the result that wheat and maize carryings represent additional receipts of about a quarter of a million sterling, whilst the sugar harvest—which was most successful—appreciably exceeded that of the preceding year.

Perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the report is the large saving in expenses. The decrease shown is £183,700, or 5.2%, the rate of working being 58.43%, against 58.54%. But it must be borne in mind that included in the expenses of the year is a sum of no less than £440,000 by way of contributions to reserve funds, which is some £70,600 larger than in 1913-14. Eliminating these contributions the decrease in working expenses is as much as £254,000, and the ratio to gross receipts is only 50.79%, as compared with 52.45%. This is undoubtedly a satisfactory achievement taking all the circumstances into account, and reflects great credit on the management, whose efforts to economise have met with such marked success. The net revenue balance, including miscellaneous receipts, shows a decline of £112,000 only, but as interest charges are £95,000 heavier, the profit for dividend is reduced by £207,000 to £1,456,000. However, this is more than sufficient to pay the dividend of 5% on both the Consolidated Ordinary and Deferred stocks, and after allocating £100,000 to the contingencies fund, which has been overspent owing to the abnormal floods, the balance carried forward is only £94,000 down at £346,000. The excellence of the year's results will be seen from the statement appended:—

Central Argentine Railway.

Year to June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	[illegible]	6,058,000	6,489,000	5,224,000
Expenses	[illegible]	3,547,000	3,719,000	2,930,000
Ratio	(58·43)	(58·54)	(57·31)	(56·09)
Net earnings	[illegible]	2,511,000	2,770,000	2,294,000
Miscellaneous income ...	185,000	178,000	174,000	128,000
Net income	2,577,000	2,689,000	2,944,000	2,422,000
Interest on Deb. stocks	541,000	491,000	438,000	436,000
Western Section Annuity	91,000	91,000	91,000	91,000
6% Notes	50,000	—	—	
Miscellaneous interest ...	[illegible]	8,000	16,000	12,000
Total charges	685,000	590,000	545,000	539,000
Profit for Preferences ...	1,892,000	2,099,000	2,399,000	1,883,000
4½% Preference stock ...	436,000	436,000	403,000	302,000
Profit for Ordinary ...	1,456,000	1,663,000	1,996,000	1,581,000
Div. on Ordinary stock	1,409,000	1,409,000	1,616,000	1,511,000
Rate per cent. ...	(5%)	(5%)	(6%)	(6%)
Surplus	[illegible]	254,000	380,000	70,000
Deferred stock ...	41,000	41,000	49,000	49,000
Rate per cent. ...	(5%)	(5%)	(6%)	(6%)
Surplus	6,000	[illegible]	331,000	21,000
Brought forward ...	440,000	227,000	190,000	169,000
Total surplus	[illegible]	440,000	521,000	190,000
To renewals fund ...	[illegible]	—	294,000	
Carried forward ...	[illegible]	440,000	227,000	190,000

Until, of course, the War is ended, and the general world situation is restored to equilibrium, a return to pre-War conditions in Argentina cannot be expected. At the same time the present condition of affairs is helping matters materially, in that it has created a big demand for Argentine products of all descriptions, which, at the greatly enhanced prices now being obtained, is bound to have a marked effect on the general well-being of the Republic. At the moment the railway companies have to depend more or less entirely on the size of the crops, and in this respect the immediate future is exceedingly promising, so that the improvement in earnings now being shown should continue throughout the year if nothing happens in the next two months to injure the crops. The price of the stock is 83, and the yield from the dividend of 5% is slightly over £6¼ per cent. The Deferred stock is quoted at 71, and as this includes a full year's dividend, the yield afforded is as much as £7 11*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

CORDOBA CENTRAL.

The past year has been a particularly disastrous one for the Cordoba Central Railway. The gross earnings at £1,691,000 show a decrease of £277,000, or 14.1%. Strenuous efforts have been made to effect economies, with the result that the working expenses have been curtailed by £145,000, or nearly 11%, and although the ratio is higher at 71.08%, the difficulties encountered must not be overlooked. With a decline of £132,000 in net earnings, the total income for the year amounts to only £491,600, which is about £60,000 short of the sum needed to provide interest charges in full. Considering that last year the Company was able to pay 5% dividends on both the First and Second Preference stocks with a small credit balance, the set-back which has occurred is certainly severe. With regard to prospects, the General Manager in his report refrains from any prediction, the factors governing the financial and commercial situation, he states, being too uncertain. Everything at one time pointed to another bumper sugar crop this year; but unfortunately the cane suffered severely from exceptionally hard frosts followed by hot weather, and there is now no doubt that the yield of sugar will be less than last year. "Everything possible," he affirms, "is being done to stimulate traffic and to still further reduce working expenditure, and although the situation is not momentarily bright, there is no reason for pessimism as to the future.

The latest cable advices received from the Argentine are to the effect that there are still considerable quantities of grain and sugar awaiting transport over the Company's lines, and that in the greater part of the cereal districts the coming harvests promise good yields. To meet the new conditions that have arisen it is announced that the greater part of the Company's rates have been raised by 10% as from October 1. This will have an important effect on the Company's earnings and profits in the current year, and although more will be heard of the altered conditions which are responsible for the higher charges, and protests are already being made against them by traders, there appears to be justification for the advance, having regard to the drop in earnings and the new levies which are constantly being imposed on the companies in every direction.

SAN PAULO RAILWAY.

THE outstanding feature in the report of the San Paulo Railway for the six months to June last is the satisfactory reduction shown in working expenses. In some measure, of course, this is due to the lower exchange, but an analysis of the accounts clearly indicates that a marked degree of economy has been exercised in all the spending departments, without ex-

ception, which, coming as it does on top of considerable retrenchments in the corresponding half of last year, reflects great credit upon the management, who, at a time of stress like the present, must be congratulated on being able to show such excellent net results. The falling off in gross earnings amounted to Rs. 1,53,740, or 12.7%, but as this was accompanied by a reduction of Rs. 14,23,769, or 14.3%, in working expenses the net earnings show an improvement of Rs. 12,70,028, or 59.4%. The proportionate cost of working has thus been lowered from 82.30% to 71.41%. The half-year's results in currency are set out beneath:—

Half-Year to June 30.

	1915 Rs.	1914 Rs.	Inc. or Dec. Rs.	Inc. or Dec. %
Gross earnings ...	1,19,21,493	1,20,75,234	− 1,53,741	−12·7
Expenses... ...	85,14,296	99,38,065	− 14,23,769	−14·3
Ratio	(71·41)	(82·30)	− (10·89)	—
Net earnings ...	34,07,197	21,37,169	+12,70,028	+59·4

The loss of revenue was general in all departments. The number of passengers carried declined 270,150, and coaching receipts, including parcels, &c., were reduced by Rs. 5,84,634, or nearly 20%. The quantity of goods handled shows a diminuton of 179,582 tons, and the revenue therefrom declined Rs. 4,87,070, or 5.5%. Livestock traffic was also smaller, and miscellaneous receipts are down about 16% compared with a year ago. The principal economies in working expenses were Rs. 9,44,000, or 42.7%, in maintenance of way; Rs. 15,000, or .5%, in tractive power; Rs. 1,71,000, or 14.2%, in carriage and waggon repairs, and Rs. 1,46,000, or 6%, in traffic expenses. General charges in currency were slightly higher, but miscellaneous outlays, including taxes, were reduced by nearly 40%.

Owing to a drop of nearly 20% in the value of the milreis (the average rate of exchange being only 12.83*d.*, as against 15.99*d.*), the net results in sterling are less satisfactory. Nevertheless, the net revenue balance at £188,291 shows an increase of £30,759, or 19.5%, which gives a profit for the Ordinary of £116,416, as against £85,657. Such a profit is short by £33,584 of the sum needed to pay the 10% dividend; but, thanks to the relatively large balance of £281,763 brought forward from 1914, the Company is able to maintain this rate of distribution, and at the same time to write down its investments by £76,903 and leave a balance of £171,276 to be carried forward to the current half-year. Twelve months ago the Company set aside £60,000 to income-tax account, in addition to paying the 10% dividend, and the balance carried forward was £210,758. In the table appended we set out the main results of working for the half-year in sterling in contrast with those for the corresponding half of 1914: —

San Paulo Railway. Half-Year to June 30.

	1915	1914	Inc or Dec.	Inc or Dec. %
Exchange	12·83*d.*	15·988*d.*	− 3·153*d.*	−19·7
	£	£	£	
Gross receipts	637,625	804,515	−166,890	−20·7
Expenses	475,060	683,573	−208,513	−30·5
Ratio	(75.50)	(84.96)	− (10.46)	—
Net receipts	162,565	120,942	+ 41,623	+34·4
Miscellaneous receipts	25,726	36,590	− 10,864	−29·7
Net revenue	188,291	157,532	+ 30,759	+19·5
Debenture interest	46,875	46,875	—	—
Net profit	141,416	110,657	+ 30,759	+27·8
5% Preference stock	25,000	25,000	—	—
Profit for Ordinary	116,416	85,657	+ 30,759	+35·8
Ordinary dividend	150,000	150,000	—	—
Rate per cent.	(10%)	(10%)	—	—
Balance	Dr. 33,584	Dr. 64,343	+ 30,759	—
Depreciation in value of investments	76,903	—	+ 76,903	—
Income tax	—	60,000	− 60,000	—
Balance	Dr.110,487	Dr. 124,343	+ 13,856	—
Brought forward	281,763	335,101	− 53,338	—
Carried forward	171,276	210,758	− 39,482	—

Since the close of June the Company has done much better, and although comparison is being made with the exceptionally poor takings of a year ago, when the effects of the War were keenly felt in Brazil, signs are not wanting of a general recovery of prosperity having set in throughout the country. The coffee crop this year is estimated at 12,000,000 bags, or 720,000 tons, as against 8,000,000 bags, or 540,000 tons, a year ago. The price, too, is steadily rising, and although low as compared with what it was prior to the outbreak of war, the trend is in the right direction, and if it can be maintained a recovery in the financial situation and in the exchange value of the milreis is likely to be brought about. Until, however, the War is over and normal conditions again prevail any pronounced revival of prosperity is not to be looked for. At the same time, it is pretty certain that the San Paulo Railway Company will experience no difficulty in maintaining 10% distributions on its stock. Apart from any increase in profits in the current half-year, the balance at the disposal of the board six months hence will be more than sufficient to pay the 10% dividend. For the whole of 1914, it will be recollected, the Company earned a profit of £357,000, and if to this we add the increase of nearly £31,000 secured in the first half of the current year, the available balance for 1915 would be £389,000, a sum equal to nearly 13% on the Ordinary capital. With an increase in traffic receipts of over £160,000 since the end of June some gain in profit for the half-year should be secured, and the margin behind the 10% dividend six months hence may be further augmented. To show the position of the Company at the present time, ignoring the problematical outcome of the current six months, we give herewith the annual income statement of the Company for several years:

San Paulo Railway.

Year.	1915*	1914	1913	1912	1911
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings ...	1,141,000	1,608,000	2,355,000	2,221,000	2,008,000
Expenses	966,000	1,175,000	1,589,000	1,444,000	1,269,000
Ratio	(67.04)	(73.07)	(67.47)	(65.01)	(63.45)
Net earnings	475,000	433,000	766.000	777,000	739,000
Miscellaneous ...	57,000	67,000	48,000	49,000	44,000
Total income	532,000	500,000	814,000	826,000	783,000
Int. on Deb. stocks ...	93,000	93,000	104,000	94,000	94,000
Net profit	439,000	407,000	710,000	732,000	689,000
Div. on 5% Pref. stock	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Profit for Ordinary ...	389,000	357,000	660,000	682,000	609,000
Div. on Ordinary ...	300,000	300,000	420,000	420,000	390,000
Rate per cent. ...	(10%)	(10%)	(14%)	(14%)	(13%)
Surplus	89,000	57,000	240,000	262,000	249,000
Reserve fund, income tax, &c.	77,000	110,000	186,000	289,000	214,000
Balance	Cr.12,000	Dr.53,000	Cr.54,000	Dr.27,000	Cr.35,000
Brought forward ...	282,000	335,000	281,000	308,000	273,000
Carried forward ...	294,000	282,000	335,000	281,000	308,000

* Based on the results secured for the first six months only.

The price of the Ordinary stock has recovered to 171, and, as the dividend is paid free of tax, the yield is now about £6½%. The 5% Non-Cumulative Preference stock at 87½, giving a yield of £5 17*s.* 8*d.* per cent., is an attractive purchase, the margin behind the dividend at the present time being as much as £390,000, or sufficient to cover the charge nearly eight times over. For the investor desiring quite safe securities, giving a good return, the Debenture stocks of the Company may be commended. At current prices they afford yields of from £5⅛ to about £5⅜%. The total Debenture interest represents less than 18% of the net income available, so that under almost any conceivable circumstances the Company's interest charges are likely to be met.

The capital of the Company is as follows:

Security	Amount	Int.	Price	Yield £ *s.* *d.*
	£	%		
4% Debenture stock	1,000,000	4	79¾	5 2 3
5% Debenture stock	250,000	5	96	5 13 [illegible]
Perm. 5⅛% Debenture stock ...	750,000	5⅛	100¼	5 1[illegible] 4
5% Non-Cum. Pref. stock ...	1,000,000	5	87½	5 17 8
Ordinary stock	3,000,000	10*	171	6 [illegible] 6
Total	6,000,000			

* Paid free of tax.

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The Company was itself established in 1861, but through its absorptions of the Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life Insurance Society in 1905 and the Union Assurance Society in 1907 it can claim a much more ancient history for some portions of its business. Indeed, the Hand-in-Hand, founded in 1696, was the oldest insurance company in the country, and the Union was its junior by only 18 years.

The Company's premium income showed considerable expansion in 1914, as indicated in the following comparative statement:—

	Premium Income 1914	Premium Income 1913
Fire	£3,537,279	£3,360,335
Marine	474,007	341,576
Ordinary Accident	443,755	445,123
Employers' Liability (within the United Kingdom)	718,651	711,931
General	1,764,580	1,719,994
Leasehold	34,188	31,990
Life (including acquired business)	1,098,042	1,059,953
Annuity	107,557	86,540
Total	£8,178,059	£7,757,442

In the fire department the trading profit in 1914 seems to have amounted to £171,790, this sum representing the excess of premiums over claims, expenses, and increased reserves in respect of unexpired risks. It is only about two-fifths of the trading profit shown in the 1913 account, but in 1914 fire insurance experience, especially in the foreign fields, was not generally favourable. Out of this profit £160,000 is transferred to profit and loss account, whereafter the fire insurance fund at the close of the year amounted to £3,578,275, or to about 101% of the premium income.

The Company's marine insurance business has always produced a high ratio of profit. Its marine premium income last year showed an increase of £132,431. What the actual trading profits were cannot be ascertained in the approximate method employed for the fire section, for reserves for unexpired risks in marine business are not computed in accordance with a fixed percentage of the premiums. But they may reasonably be assumed to have exceeded the amount of £65,000 which was transferred to profit and loss account, since the marine insurance fund was increased by £117,297 to £1,001,094. This fund represents about 211% of the premiums, which shows an exceedingly strong departmental position.

The premium income in the three sections of the accident department amounted to £2,926,986. The amount transferred to profit and loss account is £190,000, and it would seem as if the actual profits on the working had been considerably more, because the accident funds, after deduction of outstanding liabilities, show higher proportionate reserves than in 1913. They amounted on December 31, 1914, to £1,650,522, representing about 56% of the premium income, the corresponding proportion at the close of 1913 having been 49%.

The profits actually taken into account in 1914, apart from those employed in increasing departmental reserves, were as follows:—

Transferred from departmental funds		
Fire department		£160,000
Marine department		65,000
Accident department		190,000
Proportion of life profits applicable to the year		54,454
Interest earnings and fees not departmentally credited	£311,956	
Less income tax on profits	46,800	
		265,156
		£734,610
Less		
Alterations, repairs, &c. at Head offices and branches	£15,971	
Cost of businesses acquired	21,676	
Amount written off freehold and leasehold premises	20,000	
		£57,647
		£676,963

The Company's subscribed capital amounts to £2,950,000, or which £295,000 is paid up in shares of £10 with £1 paid on each. There were also Terminable Debenture issues at 4% interest, amounting on December 31, 1913, to £1,942,598, and on December 31, 1914, to £1,929,379.

The sum of £676,963 above mentioned has been apportioned as follows:—

(1) In provision for a dividend of 20*s.* per share (less income tax) as in the former year	£272,260
(2) In interest on Debenture stocks	71,328
(3) In transfer to investment reserve and contingency fund	316,185
(4) In transfer to guarantee and pension fund	10,000
(5) In increasing balance to credit of profit and loss account (after provision for full year's dividend, that balance amounting to £160,115 by	7,190
	£676,963

Thus little more than half of the profits brought into account have been applied to payment of dividends and to interest on Debentures.

The Company's new life business in 1914 amounted to £2,601,141, of which £167,193 was

reassured, the net retention at its own risk being £2,433,948. This exceeds the Company's record of 1913 by £84,560, which is rather remarkable, when the adverse influence of the War during the last five months of 1914 is taken into consideration, especially as business obtained within the United Kingdom represented about 97% of the total reported for last year. In the life account relating to Commercial Union policies (as distinguished from those of acquired companies) the premium income, amounting to £657,887, shows the large increase of £46,695. After making a suitable allowance for the cost of the annuity business, the expense ratio in this section was less than 12%, an under-average proportion. Death claims amounted to £329,546, and although this was more than twice what was paid in this way in 1913, it is stated to have been within the amount expected. Policies for £52,582 matured by survivance. Through the operations of the year the Commercial Union life assurance fund was increased by £453,685 to £6,048,630, and the net interest yield, after deduction of income tax, was about £4 6*s*. 3*d*. per cent., as compared with the rate of 3% assumed at the quinquennial valuation on December 31, 1912. The Company's bonuses have hitherto been declared at a high standard. In reversionary form they ranged at the last distribution from 29*s*. per £100 assured per annum to much higher amounts, being increased in other cases according to age at entry and duration of policies. The premium income and life funds in the acquired business were as follows in 1914:—

Office	Premium Income £	Life Funds at close of 1914
West of England	13,350	£508,908
Hand in Hand	178,965	3,563,011
Union	229,657	3,941,964
Liverpool Victoria	21,183	127,981

The leasehold redemption account for 1914 shows premiums of £34,188, and a relative fund at the close of the year amounting to £302,873.

The total assets in the Company's balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amount to £26,774,505. It is stated in a note thereto to the auditors, that the book values of the securities comprised in the various life accounts will be reviewed at the next quinquennial valuation in accordance with the usual practice. The remaining assets are included at book values, and a comparison of such values of the Stock Exchange securities with the market values on December 31, 1913 (investments made since that date being inserted at or below cost price), shows the assets on that basis to be in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less the Investment Reserve and Contingency Fund, which amounted to £550,000.

THE CUBA COMPANY.

TWELVE months ago we drew the attention of our readers to the favourable outlook for this Company and the probability of an increased dividend. The Company owns the whole of the Common stock of the Cuba Railroad Company, and consequently it is directly interested in that concern. In addition, the Cuba Company owns about 300,000 acres of land in Cuba, various town sites, including the terminal city of Antilla, and sugar mills and plantations in the Province of Camaguey and Oriente. It has an authorised capital of $16,000,000, in moieties of 7% Cumulative Preferred stock and Common stock. Of these there has been issued $2,500,000 of the Preferred stock and the whole of the Common stock.

Thus the income of the Cuba Company is derived from various sources. There is first of all the net earnings of the mills and plantations; secondly, the income from land operations; and, thirdly, that derivable from the holding of the Common stock of the Cuba Railroad Company.

The surplus income of the Cuba Railroad Company for the year to June 30, 1915, was $1,273,684, an amount equal to 12.73% on its Common stock, as compared with 10½% twelve months ago. The actual distribution, however, was restricted to 6%. This brought into the Cuba Company a sum of $600,060. The profits for the year from the Jatibonico sugar mill and plantations were $1,445,030, as compared with $580,460; from the Jobabo mill and plantations a profit of $1,550,773 was secured, as compared with $578,621. From the Land Department—chiefly from town sites— a sum of $57,188 was secured, as against $35,026. Thus in practically every direction the past year was more profitable than the previous twelve months. The total income from operations amounts to $3,120,032, as compared with $1,194,108. Adding the dividend from the Railroad Company, there is a total income of $3,720,092. Deducting general expenses, interest, and Preference dividends, there is a balance of $3,214,622, as compared with $1,299,178. The dividend on the Ordinary stock has been increased from 7% to 10%, which has called for a sum of $800,000. There is consequently a surplus on the year's results of $2,414,622, which is added to the general undivided surplus, bringing it up to $5,865,427.

This may be seen from the following:—

Statement of Income and Profit and Loss, June 30, 1915.

			$
Net earnings sugar estates			3,062,844
Land Department:			
Earnings:	$	$	
From sale of town lots	70,047		
From sale of timber	3,074		
Interest	5,076		
Rents	9,822		
Miscellaneous	664		
		88,680	
Expenses		31,492	
			57,188
Income from operations			3,120,032
General Account:			
Dividends on Cuba Railroad:			
Company Stock			600,060
Total Income			3,720,092
Less:			
Interest on Debenture bonds and notes		240,000	
General interest		13,139	
General expenses		77,331	
			330,470
Net Income			3,389,622
Preferred Stock dividend			175,000
			3,214,622
Ordinary Stock dividend			800,000
Net surplus			2,414,622
Brought forward			3,450,805
Surplus			5,865,427

The very considerable improvement that has occurred is thus evident, and naturally the better prices which have prevailed for the past year have been mostly responsible for the increased profits. On the other hand, the production of sugar was nearly 12% less than the year before, owing to frequent interruptions by unseasonable rains and to a serious weakening of juices from the same cause. It is announced that practically all of the sugar and molasses remaining on hand at June 30 have now been sold for the full value shown in the balance sheet of $2,772,427. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1915.

LIABILITIES.	$	ASSETS.	$
Capital stock Ord.	8,000,000	Investments	15,800,802
,, ,, Preferred	2,500,000	Land, materials, &c.	1,048,238
Deb. bonds	4,000,000	Current assets	4,724,632
Current liabilities	345,183	Advance payments	113,438
Divs. on stock	887,500		
Reserves	80,000		
Profit and loss	5,874,427		
	21,687,110		21,687,110

The Company thus occupies a strong position, and there is every reason to believe that it will continue to do well. A very wise policy is being followed in restricting dividends to a much lower figure than the profits for the year would warrant, and keeping in

hand substantial sums to meet a time when exceptionally favourable conditions will not be so much in evidence and poorer results will be shown. The total surplus accumulated is almost equal to the combined Debenture Bond and Preferred stock in issue.

LAMBERT BROTHERS, LIMITED.

As an example of the manner in which some companies have greatly benefited by war conditions that of Lambert Brothers, Limited, may be taken. This Company was formed in 1902 and conducts the business of coal exporters, merchants, shipowners, and ship and insurance brokers. The Company has an authorised capital of £550,000, the whole of which has been issued. It consists of 50,000 5½% Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each, and 300,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The reserve fund amounts to £160,000, while there is also shown a surplus resulting from sale of steamers and shares in steamship companies of £38,350. The total assets are valued at £1,031,304, of which property stands at £386,238. There are shown investments on account of reserve after deducting provision for depreciation of £79,745, while there are also British Treasury bills, foreign and Colonial Treasury bills, &c., totalling £148,500. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	550,000	Land, buildings	386,238
Sundry creditors, &c. ...	234,496	Sundry debtors, &c. ..	91,775
Reserve	160,000	Stocks of coal	50,939
Profit and loss	86,808	Investments	228,245
		Cash.	274,107
	1,031,304		1,031,304

During recent years profits have been secured on a steadily ascending scale. For 1910 they were £39,000, for the following year they rose to £40,811, for the twelve months to June 1912 they were £60,245, which was succeeded twelve months later by an amount of £106,476. For the twelve months to June 1914 they receded to £84,557, while for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, the profit rose to the record figure of £142,548. After providing for the Preference dividend there was a balance of £121,048, which was sufficient to provide for a distribution of 40% on the Ordinary share capital. The actual dividend was fixed at 20%, however, calling for a sum of £60,000, and a similar sum was added to the reserve fund, while the carry-forward was increased to £20,648. Herewith we set out the manner of distributing the profits for each of the past six years:—

Year ended June 30	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Profit	142,548	84,557	106,476	60,245	40,811	39,000
Directors' fees	7,750	7,750	7,750	4,600	4,600	4,600
Preference dividend ...	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750
	121,048	63,057	84,976	41,895	22,461	20,650
Ordinary dividend .	60,000 (20%)	30,000 (10%)	45,000 (15%)	30,000 (10%)	18,000 (6%)	18,000 (6%)
	61,048	33,057	39,976	11,895	4,461	2,650
Reserve	60,000	20,000	40,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
	1,048	13,057	24	1,895	−539	−2,350
Brought forward	19,600	6,543	6,567	4,672	5,211	7,561
Carried forward ...	20,648	19,600	6,543	6,567	4,672	5,211

At the meeting of the Company the Chairman pointed out that a considerable amount would have to be found from somewhere for what was known as the war-tax, but that he was sure that all would have but one feeling with regard to that—that was, they were only too glad to be able to put it up. Evidently the Company will be able to meet any demand on this account from its reserve fund. The present price of the £5 Preference share is 96*s.* 3*d.*, at which figure the yield afforded is over 5⅞%. The amount required for the Preference dividend is only £13,750, and it may therefore be regarded as well secured. The £1 Ordinary share is quoted at 30*s.*, and if the Company is able to maintain the 20% dividend of last year a purchase at this price would give a yield of about 15⅔%. This may be seen from the following statement of the capital, prices, dividends, and yields afforded:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	*s. d.*	%	£ *s. d.*
350,000	5½% Cum. Preference ...	5	96 3	5½	5 17 11
200,000	Ordinary	1	30/0	20	1 6 7 19

COLTNESS IRON COMPANY.

With but two exceptions the twelve months to July 31, 1915, have proved the most prosperous in the whole of the history of this well-known iron Company. The profits secured have amounted to £160,341, as compared with £95,117 for the previous year. The two occasions when the Company was able to report larger profits were for the year ended July 31, 1906, and the following year, when the amounts were £180,322 and £239,318 respectively.

The Company dates back, in its present form, to 1899, when it acquired a business previously carried on by a private company of the same name. It took over *inter alia* nine blast furnaces and steel, iron and ingot-mould foundries in Lanarkshire, together with 20 pits and mines thoroughly equipped and three brickworks. The collieries were estimated to contain over 47,500,000 tons of coal and nearly 2,000,000 tons of ironstone. Since its formation considerable expansion has occurred, and additional interests have been acquired. Together with another company, a Spanish iron ore business has been acquired, the Coltness Company acquiring a two-thirds interest, the Company being the Alquife Mines and Railway Company, Limited. Further, an extensive coalfield in Warwickshire has been taken over and developed. The shares in the Alquife Company stand in the books at £300,000; the interest in the Warwickshire Coal Company consists of 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, on which 1*s.* 3*d.* per share has been paid up. In order to cope with the expanding business the capital of the Coltness Company has been largely increased since its formation, and at the present time, out of an authorised capital of £1,000,000 there has been issued and paid up £850,000. It may be added that in addition to its ordinary business the Company has entered into the manufacture of Portland cement. During the 16 years that the Company has been in existence in its present form the shareholders have received an average return of about 14% per annum, the distributions ranging between a maximum of 30% and a minimum of 8%. In addition to this, however, substantial sums have been set aside from profits for various betterment purposes aggregating over £1,000,000. It will thus be gathered that considerable prosperity has attended the operations and a satisfactory career has been had. In order to show how profits and dividends have varied we give the following:—

	Net Trading Profit	Ordinary Dividend
	£	%
Year ended July 31, 1915 ...	160,341	10
.. .. 1914 ...	95,117	8
.. .. 1913 ...	157,102	15
.. .. 1912 ...	114,721	10
.. .. 1911 ...	126,721	10
.. .. 1910 ...	124,653	14
.. .. 1909 ...	94,643	10
.. .. 1908 ...	144,671	15
.. .. 1907 ...	239,318	30
.. .. 1906 ...	180,322	20
.. .. 1905 ...	127,340	10
.. .. 1904 ...	126,646	10
.. .. 1903 .	147,577	15
.. .. 1902 ...	98,393	8
.. .. 1901 ...	139,118	15
.. .. 1900 ...	188,852	20

From the profits of the past year a sum of £48,995 has been written off for redemption and depreciation, as compared with £38,146 twelve months ago, and a sum of £5,000 has been set aside to meet the expenses of relining, &c., of blast furnaces and extraordinary repairs to ammonia works. Hitherto during late years the allowance has been £3,000 per annum. The First Preference dividend requires £17,500 and the Second Preference dividend £8,250. There then remains a balance for the Ordinary shares of £80,596, as compared with £28,221 twelve months ago. This amount is sufficient to provide for a dividend of 23% on the Ordinary capital. The actual

distribution, however, is 10%, as against 8% twelve months ago, and after carrying £45,000 to the Ordinary reserve fund there is a sum of £17,851 carried forward.

In the following table we compare the manner of distributing the profits for the past six years:—

Year ended July 31—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net trading profit ...	160,341	95,117	157,102	114,721	126,721	124,653
Deprec. and red.	48,995	38,146	45,834	37,314	37,147	36,352
Repairs and renewals ...	5,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	106,346	53,971	108,268	74,407	86,574	85,301
1st Pref. div. (5%) ...	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500	17,500
2nd Pref. div. (5½%) ...	8,250	8,250	8,250	8,250	8,250	8,250
Balance for Ord. ...	80,596	28,221	82,518	48,657	60,824	59,551
Ordinary div.	35,000 (10%)	28,000 (8%)	52,500 (15%)	35,000 (10%)	35,000 (10%)	49,000 (14%)
	45,596	221	30,018	13,657	25,824	10,551
Ordinary reserve	45,000	—	30,000	15,000	25,000	10,000
	596	221	18	−1,343	824	551
Brought forward	17,255	17,034	17,016	18,359	17,535	16,984
Carried forward	17,851	17,255	17,034	17,016	18,359	17,535

We have already referred to the fact that in addition to the large dividends that have been distributed, substantial sums have been allocated for reserve, depreciation, &c. The amount written off for depreciation is £598,342, while the sum set aside for repairs is £71,303, and the allocations to the ordinary reserve fund have reached a total of £425,000. In addition to this ordinary reserve fund there has been set aside a special reserve amounting to £50,000 for the purpose of securing the dividends on the 5% Preference shares. This special reserve fund, which must be maintained at £50,000, is invested in Railway Debenture and Preference stocks valued at £50,507. The special appropriations from profits since 1900 are as follows:—

To July 31	Ordinary Reserve	Depreciation	Repairs	Total
	£	£	£	£
1915	45,000	48,995	5,000	98,995
1914...	—	38,146	3,000	41,146
1913...	30,000	45,834	3,000	78,834
1912...	15,000	37,315	3,000	55,315
1911...	25,000	37,147	3,000	65,147
1910...	10,000	36,252	3,000	49,252
1909...	-	31,877	3,000	34,877
1908...	25,000	32,845	3,000	60,845
1907...	60,000	41,564	5,000	106,564
1906...	40,000	42,629	5,000	87,629
1905...	25,000	34,509	5,000	64,509
1904...	25,000	32,975	5,000	62,975
1903...	35,000	32,281	5,000	72,281
1902...	10,000	29,890	5,000	44,890
1901...	20,000	45,409	5,000	70,409
1900...	60,000	30,674	10,303	100,977
Total ...	425,000	598,342	71,303	1,094,645

From what has already been pointed out it will be gathered that the Company's position is a sound one, and on July 31, 1915, as compared with 1914, its liabilities and assets in abstract form were as follows:—

Liabilities.	1915	1914	*Assets.*	1915	1914
	£	£		£	£
Capital	850,000	850,000	Property	596,443	604,018
Sundry creditors ...	109,791	100,301	Stocks	244,696	299,349
Reserve funds, &c.	483,784	581,327	Alquife Mines and Railway Company	300,000	300,000
Profit & loss account	96,725	44,129	Sundry debtors ...	130,401	115,900
			Special reserve investment	50,507	50,507
			Cash and investments	218,253	205,983
	1,540,300	1,575,757		1,540,300	1,575,757

Speaking at the annual meeting on October 8, Sir William H. Houldsworth, Bart., the Chairman of the Company, said that some people appear to think that this year's industries are going to have great war profits, but that he could not see any indication in the Coltness works of exceptional profits. Of course the price of iron is higher, but there are various things to be set off against this. The Company has had less production in every department owing to scarcity of labour, and that, of course, means increased cost. Altogether, therefore, the Company will do well if it is able to maintain its dividend at 10%. On this basis, at the price of £2 for the £1 share, the yield afforded is a little over 5⅛%. The two classes of Preference shares yield 5⅜ and 5⅝% respectively.

We recapitulate below the prices, dividends and yields afforded on the Company's securities:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Dividend	Approx. Yield
£		£		%	£ s. d.
350,000	5% Cumulative Preference shares ..	1	19/0	5	5 8 1
150,000	5½% Cumulative Second Preference shares	1	22/0	5½	5 12 10
350,000	Ordinary shares	1	40/0	10	5 3 1

Correspondence.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—For several years past I have endeavoured to induce the directors of the Manchester Ship Canal Company to render their annual statement of accounts in such a form as to disclose clearly to the shareholders all their capital and revenue expenditure. Hitherto my efforts have failed. It has become necessary, therefore, to appeal to the shareholders.

Last January, having prepared a circular with that intention, I personally asked the Chairman to allow 250 stamped envelopes containing this circular to be directed to large shareholders by the Company's staff. The Chairman refused this. Later on I found out by accident that all incorporated companies are obliged by Act of Parliament to print in December of every year a correct list of shareholders, with addresses, and to supply a copy to any shareholder upon payment of 5*s*. I thereupon applied for a copy of the Canal Company's register, and then discovered that the Company have neglected for sixteen years to have the list printed, and the office copy, which the Secretary lent me, was on very many pages so indistinct, through changes of ownership, as to be unreadable. The Directors promised, however, to prepare and print a revised list.

I am now in receipt of the new address book, and I find it has been produced in an unnecessarily expensive form, affording confirmation of my previously expressed opinion that, by expert investigation of the Company's methods of work and the appointment of an active Managing Director, our working expenditure might be considerably reduced. A reduction of 15% would mean a saving of over £100,000 per annum. But on examining the new address book I find that, although the Act of Parliament requires that an asterisk (*) should be placed against the names of all proprietors holding a director's qualification (200 shares), many names of shareholders whom I personally know to have over 200 shares have no asterisk attached to them. On going carefully through the book, with my previous knowledge of large holders, I should say at least half the asterisks are omitted.

So that our Shareholders' Association, already heavily handicapped by the neglect of the Directors to print the address book, is further hindered by the issue of a new book not properly marked up. When asked to convene an extraordinary meeting of shareholders for the purpose of appointing an expert to investigate the present extravagant methods of working, the Directors refused to do so unless we could obtain the signatures of shareholders holding 10% of the Company's capital. To do this it is essential that we should know who are the larger proprietors. The omission of the asterisks is, therefore, a grave defect, and a serious obstacle in the way of the movement for reform.

The Secretary informs me that the omissions were accidental, and that the necessary alterations will be made before the book is finally printed, but the copy I received was certainly the "finished article," but, even if this statement is correct, this would mean further delay, and it is rather singular that among the names to whom no asterisk is appended, are many prominent members of the Shareholders' Association.

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St. Annes-on-the-Sea, Lancs.

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EMPIRE METAL CONTROL.

Whatever the irresolution shown by the British authorities in tackling the metals question, it is something to be devoutly thankful for that Australia is free from the indifference with which the Mother Country is seemingly afflicted. Australia has already made up her mind that the days have ended for outside control or treatment of Australian copper, lead and spelter. It has been announced officially in Australia that arrangements had been made whereby the entire copper output of the Commonwealth, suitable for treatment by the electrolytic process, will be handled in Australia; also that a British group had secured the Imperial Government's approval of their purpose to distil in Great Britain the whole Australian output of zinc concentrates. As regards copper, it may be pointed out for the benefit of the uninitiated, that the metal resulting from the smelting of ores contains impurities which have to be removed before the copper is suitable for commercial use. There are two ways of refining this rough copper, one being by passing the metal through the furnace again, and the other by treating it by an electrical process which dissolves the rough copper and redeposits it in a pure form, the impurities sinking to the bottom of the tank. By the first process any gold or silver contained in the rough copper is lost, but by the second process it is recovered, hence, copper refiners have more and more favoured the electrolytic process to the disadvantage of the furnace treatment. Now British refineries are mostly of the furnace type, treating rough copper and converting it into Best Selected. On the other hand, the American refineries are mainly of the electrolytic variety and produce the well-known electrolytic copper. Each of these coppers has its special spheres of utility, "Best Selected" being mainly used in the brass trades, while "electrolytic" is used largely for the manufacture of electric wire, &c.

It has been a grievance with the British copper refiners that the Government did not patronise their product more extensively. They allege that years ago leading Government departments buying copper were unduly influenced to favour American electrolytic at the expense of British Best Selected, and that they, moreover, were induced to fix so high a specification for Best Selected copper that it became most difficult to conform to it, the result being that the supply was much less than need have been the case, while the Government bought more American electrolytic copper than it need have done. Even within the last few months we have seen large quantities of rough copper shipped from here to America under special permit for refining by the electrolytic process, the resulting copper being brought back to this country, and the British makers of Best Selected copper have got restive because they want the rough copper themselves. There is no doubt that as a commercial transaction the purchase of rough copper here at the very cheap prices that were paid for it, and its conversion into electrolytic copper in America was thoroughly justified, but the British refiners feel that they are being unfairly treated by this cutting off of the supplies upon which they rely for carrying on their operations, and they think, too, that the mere process of transferring copper from here to America in this way tends still further to increase the power over the market which American copper producers wield. They are, therefore, making protests in official quarters with a view to some alteration in this respect. It should be remembered that the copper which has been shipped to America in this way has not been shipped by producers, but by people who have bought it in the open market, and who have been able to make a handsome profit on the transaction. The British refiners, however, suggest that a much more satisfactory state of affairs can be brought about if the Government require all Empire-produced copper to be refined in Empire-owned refineries.

As will be seen from what is stated above, Australia has already resolved that her copper shall be refined locally, and thus within the Empire, and an extension of this principle to cover all Empire-produced copper would have a large influence upon the world's copper trade. For years past a considerable portion of Australia's production of rough copper, for instance, has been sent to America to be refined, and naturally every extra ton of copper which is placed under the control of American producers tends to strengthen their already powerful position. During recent years America has been stretching her tentacles further and further, until she has practically controlled the copper refining industry of the world, and any step which our colonies can take to put an end to this supremacy is worthy of whole-hearted support. America, of course, has been able to pay more for rough copper, too, than British refiners, because by the electrolytic process the bullion values have all been recovered.

Apparently it has been nobody's business to ensure that British copper was reserved for British use, and it has required a world-wide war to force home economic and commercial lessons. If we in England are still asleep it is a matter for national thankfulness that the colonies are awake, but the British refiners should bestir themselves and get their houses in order for the new state of things which will come when the War is over.

As regards the smelting in Great Britain of the whole output of Australian zinc concentrates, it has not been possible to obtain any confirmation here of the official statements made in Australia, and the matter on the face of it seems hardly to have been susceptible of such rapid decision. At all events, it would take a long time and involve an enormous amount of capital to put up a plant here or anywhere capable of handling the raw material supplies which are available. No doubt something will be done, though exactly what this will be remains to be seen.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING LONDON SALES.

The seventh series of London sales will commence next Tuesday. There is no diminution whatever in interest, due to a new season opening in Australia and at the Cape, and also to the present existing state of trade both at home and on the Continent. The War Office is to be commended for the sensible action it took last week in deciding to grant licences for the export of cross-bred tops, and we are glad to think that the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Com-

merce has been overruled. It has been patent for some considerable time to those who knew what was actually going on that that body has not represented the general feeling of the trade, and both for business and economic reasons, export of a commodity of which reasonable stocks exist should be encouraged, when they can be disposed of to safe destinations. Stimulus has been imparted to the whole textile trade, and the foundation laid for another wave of prosperity. It has certainly been cause for regret that while fine cross-bred wool has maintained a fairly steady level, cross-bred tops have sensibly declined, although for months the export of cross-bred yarns, in which leading members of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce are interested in producing, has been allowed. We certainly do not favour any return to the very high values which prevailed for tops in June, but on the general grounds of fairness, the export of cross-bred wool and tops to safe destinations can be allowed in reasonable quantities. With a prospect of doing a larger trade with our Allies a much better feeling obtains, and we believe that Italy will not betray the confidence imposed in her by our own Government.

Apart from the South American wools there are 138,500 bales of Colonial wools available, the bulk of which will be merinos. New Zealand will be represented by about 44,000 bales, mostly consisting of slipes, and we are looking forward to these meeting a very good reception. During the interval America has been a persistent buyer, and has done a good deal of seeking up in Bradford, all of which is interpreted to mean that considerable orders are still on the market. In all probability there will be further important buying on Italian account, particularly for scoured cross-breds, and possibly some slipes. From all accounts Italian manufacturers are unable to wait the length of time required for getting greasy wool scoured and press-packed, consequently orders for buying cross-breds will in all probability be forthcoming from outside sources, sufficient in volume to fully maintain and possibly improve last sales closing prices. The lifting of the embargo and the announcement that export of cross-bred tops is going to be allowed has had a beneficial effect upon top values, prices being raised 1*d*. to 1½*d*. per lb. for the bulk of qualities below 56's. Those favoured by our Allies figure around 46's to 50's, the very qualities that have suffered the greatest decline during the past two months.

Glancing down the wools which are available for sale, it is very patent that Sydney and Queensland will be very well represented, and if the wools show any length of staple we fully anticipate that they will receive the same hearty reception which they met with last series. South Australia, too, will have a look in, although the quantity from that State and West Australia is somewhat limited. We fully expect a nice offering of new clip, the following being the approximate quantities to be offered: —

	New Arrivals Gross Bales	Forwarding Direct Bales	Old Stock Bales	Total Available for Sale Bales
Sydney	90,600	60,500	8,400	38,500
Queensland	35,700	13,500	3,900	25,700
Port Phillip...	20,400	13,000	3,400	10,800
Adelaide	8,500	5,000	100	3,400
Swan River	4,900	—	800	5,700
Tasmania	400	—	100	500
New Zealand	16,800	1,500	28,700	43,800
Cape	41,000	32,500	1,600	10,100
	217,500	126,000	47,000	138,500

About 6,000 bales Punta Arenas and 800 bales River Plate will be offered this series.

Regarding prospects for prices, we anticipate that very little change will be seen in merinos. No doubt home trade topmakers and spinners will show the greatest preference for wools that are well grown, shafty, and fairly free of burr, while the faulty carbonising wools will sell somewhere about last sales values. Commission carbonising establishments are very busy and doing their utmost to cope with supplies, but the wools available far outweigh their capabilities, and we anticipate that these will be mostly bought by home trade woollen manufacturers who possess their own carbonising machinery. The most interest seems to centre around the course of cross-breds. We shall be greatly surprised if these do not move up a full 5%, possibly more for very good parcels. America wants them, so does the home trade, as well as Italy, consequently some persons are anticipating an advance of nearly 10%, but the improvement will depend entirely upon the demand there is on outside account. Slipes have been advanced during the interval 1*d*. to 1½*d*. per lb. by owners, and we think their attitude is fully justified. America in all probability will be a supporter of good three-quarter-bred lambs, and we fully expect these to move better than at the close of last series. The unfortunate part is that notwithstanding blanket manufacturers are exceedingly busy, they do not want low clothing slipes, because the blankets on orders are mostly brown, and require material very different from New Zealand slipes. However, we fully expect the call for these will be on the whole good, and that they will meet with a better reception than at the close of last series.

LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

THERE are further signs of some improvement in the conditions prevailing in the cotton industry of Lancashire. Demand in certain quarters is broadening, and although business of importance is not general, some sections are obtaining relief. Values are decidedly dearer than a few months ago, but prices in the raw material seem to be steadying on the higher basis, and our customers are showing more confidence in the level of prices which now rules in yarn and cloth. It is not possible to record any particular development in connection with probable supplies or consumption in raw cotton.

During the last fortnight a rather increasing demand has been experienced in piece goods for India. The buying has been chiefly in light fabrics such as dhooties, mulls, and jaconettes for Calcutta, but in grey shirtings limits are gradually being raised and buyers and sellers are nearer together than a little time ago. Certain Blackburn manufacturers have obtained slight relief, but their position still leaves much to be desired. The inactivity of shippers to China is very marked, especially in staple goods, and the unsettled political situation on the other side is very adversely affecting trade. Recent developments in the Near East have checked trade with that part of the world, and the export of goods on order is being stopped for the time being. More favourable advices continue to be received from South America, and a fair miscellaneous business is being done. Healthy reports are coming through from the home trade, and clearances are on an encouraging scale. The shortage of dyes continues to hamper many cloth merchants, and there are complaints of poor work being turned out by certain dyers.

Spinners of American yarns tend to improve their position. In certain counts and qualities the margin of profit is healthier than a few weeks ago. In coarse numbers rather fewer orders are now being met with, but producers have extensive engagements. A larger turnover has recently taken place in medium and fine numbers, and more satisfactory prices are being obtained than for a long time back. The lessened output as a result of the labour shortage prevents stocks accumulating in first hands. A feature is a fair amount of re-selling of yarn. Producers of twofolds are in a strong position, and in the lower counts doublers are engaged for several months ahead. A rather irregular business is passing in Egyptian yarns, and certain counts and qualities are still doing badly. In shipping

descriptions orders are placed rather unevenly. More has recently been done in dyed descriptions for India, and the demand for Holland in cops keeps up well.

It is reported that owing to the scarcity of operatives in the spinning branch of the industry a suggestion has been made by the Masters' Federation that the workpeople available should be distributed in such a way that the best use of the labour at hand may be made. It is proposed that some mills should be entirely stopped, and others run at full stretch, rather than part machinery be left standing in practically all the factories. It is believed, however, that great difficulty will be experienced in formulating a scheme which will be acceptable to all concerned.

Owing to the further refusal of the employers in the weaving section of the trade to grant a 5% War bonus to the operatives, the Trade Union officials are threatening to take more drastic action. It is understood that individual firms which are known to be doing fairly well are to be approached with regard to giving the bonus. This policy may result in notices to stop work being handed in at certain concerns with a possibility of strikes. It remains to be seen what will happen during the next few weeks, but the federated employers will be forced to support any member who is attacked in this way. Some of the masters are coming round to the opinion that, although certain branches of manufacture are depressed, the demand of the operatives is moderate, and it might be good policy to reverse their former decision, especially in view of the extraordinary crisis through which we are passing and the admitted big increase in the cost of living.

TROPICAL OILCAKE.

An opening for British and Colonial investment which has not yet received the attention which it appears to merit consists in the development for the British agricultural market of the tropical plants, trees, and roots which yield oil by expression and oilcake by further treatment, mainly compression. There seem to be two distinct types of investment mooted. That which in the end should pay most steadily is probably the cultivation of oil-bearing trees, such as the palm nut and the coco nut. There is, however, need in these cases for a long period of waiting, and the main encouragement to such patience as is undoubtedly required is in the agricultural situation. This has not as yet been fully envisaged by purely commercial interests, and may therefore be briefly stated.

For the last 20 years Smithfield and other fat-stock shows have been undergoing a progressive change, which has been almost theological in its resemblances. We have first the Victorian Era, when the big, fat beast was everything, and slowly matured animals occupied the arena. Any exhibit at all young or on the slim side had no chance. Then came the Edwardian era, the brief age of tolerance. How to promote early maturity and the rapid putting on of flesh was studied side by side with the old policy, now on its trial, of building up a massive animal yielding large and fine joints. To-day the Georgian era is fully established. Those who pleaded for an Edwardian tolerance are now become the persecutors, and animals over three years old are beginning to be excluded from the shows. Advanced progressives, the zealots of the new cult, are even advocating an age-limit of two years.

Now, what has this to do with tropical oilcake? It has very much to do with it. This rapid formation of fat and flesh in due proportion, this early maturity now so valued, is the product of oilcake, and of the oilcakes producing it those from the tropics are materially the cheapest. Hull, with all the wonderful machinery of its oil mills and crushing appliances, cannot give us linseed cake under 11*s.* per cwt., but both London and Hull can produce coconut cake for 8*s.* The demand for oilcake not only admits of an almost indefinite extension, but with increased reliance on our own flocks and herds, such as the War will almost certainly leave as one of its results, the farmer will rely less and less on grass and corn, more and more on the speedier method of feeding. He will be enabled to pay an adequate price for the cake because of the saving in the labour bill, which every year becomes more and more the farmer's bugbear. Agricultural wages since 1901 have risen in a greater percentage than commercial and industrial. The quicker turnover seems destined to become more and more the breeder's and feeder's chance. It may, therefore, be affirmed with confidence that the plantation of such tropical trees as will serve the oilcake trade is justified by the outlook. By the time the trees are in full bearing the demand for the product is likely to be excellent and constant, also steadily on the increase.

There remains a minor but not wholly unimportant culture—namely, that of the earthnut arachis. This does well both in India and West Africa, and probably would succeed in other regions within the tropics. It has the advantage of a prompt return. A low-growing plant, a branchless, earth-trailing bean, it has acquired the valuable habit of pushing its pods or nuts into the sandy loam that it loves, and there they fill out and develop. Their content of oil is surprisingly large for their fight against a tropical sun. There seems to be no near prospective limit to the sale of these oilnuts at about 14*s.* per cwt., and the advantage of their cultivation is that they should pay a dividend within the year of the plant being established.

While the British Empire may hope to see an important development of these agricultural and commercial industries in the near future, the French possession of Morocco, within an easy reach of the Channel ports, is expected to result in an extended growth of the ground nut and a wide plantation of oil trees. The soil of Morocco is adapted to both cultures, and the shortness of the voyage to the great purchasing centres is entitled to rank as a permanent asset.



RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

(*Continued from page* 151.)

Aurora West United.—There are in issue 212,705 10*s.* shares, and a favourable opportunity will be taken for a further issue to deal with floating debt, the total authorised capital being £300,000, in 600,000 10*s.* shares. Net floating indebtedness at December 31 about £105,000. Plant—80 stamps and a tube mill; capacity increased to 15,000 tons monthly.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	80	164,791	16½	202,317	24/7	163,198	19/10	39,119	4/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	42,160	13½	52,472	24/11	40,952	19/5	11,520	5/6	⅜
June qr.	80	43,190	14	53,123	24/7	40,974	19/0	12,149	5/7	⅜
July ...	80	15,000	14½	18,443	24 6	14,281	19.0	4,162	5/6	⅜
Aug. ...	80	15,230	15½	17,893	23/7	13,819	18.0	4,074	5/5	7/3
Sept. ...	80	15,066	—	17,832	23.8	13,793	18/4	4,039	5.4	8.0

Bantjes Consolidated.—Capital issued £502,306, in £1 shares. Three tube mills. Capacity of plant 30,000 tons per month.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	279,190	—	320,650	22/11	289,911	20/9	30,739	2 2	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	47,750	9½	51,523	21/7	61,648	25/9	*10,125* •	*4.2* •	1/7
June qr.	100	61,000	8½	77,225	25/3	62,644	20/6	14,581	4.9	⅝
July ...	100	20,500	8¾	22,441	21/11	21,137	20/8	1,304	1/3	⅝
Aug. ...	100	21,300	—	23,298	21/11	20,597	19/4	2,701	2/7	¾
Sept. ...	—	20,500	—	22,330	21/9	21,218	20 8	1,112	1/1	½

* Loss due to central shaft breakdown.

Dividends—1914, June, 2½; Dec., 2½ per cent.
1915, June, nil.

Brakpan.—Capital issued, 750,000 £1 shares; 160 stamps. Nine tube mills now working. Present rate of output about 760,000 tons a year.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	140	621,573	13¼	859,116	27/7	575,660	18/6	283,456	9/1	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	150	167,910	10¾	232,802	27/8	155,539	18/6	77,263	9/2	2⅛
June qr.	150	181,010	10	246,856	27/3	160,002	17/8	86,854	9/7	2¼
July ...	150	64,300	10¾	89,923	27/11	57,742	17/11	32,181	10/0	3
Aug. ...	—	64,200	—	88,417	27.6	55,605	17/4	32,812	10 2	2¾
Sept. ...	—	61,800	—	87,283	28/3	56,261	18/2	31,022	10/1	3½

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

City and Suburban.—£1,360,000, in £4 shares. Two tube mills. Yearly profit is exclusive of accumulated slimes revenue.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913 ...	151av.	306,663	9¾	583,141	38/0	335,622	21/10	247,519	16/2	2⅞
1914 ...	154av.	324,117	9¾	587,199	36/3	338,648	20/11	248,551	15/4	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	151av.	84,309	10½	153,498	36/5	88,832	21/1	64,666	15/4	2⅞
Junegr.	154½av.	82,620	10½	150,201	36/4	88,444	21/4	61,757	15/0	2⅝
July...	155	28,750	12	51,108	35/6	30,483	21.2	20,625	14/4	2½xd
Aug....	152	29,300	12¾	50,389	34/4	30,051	20/6	20,338	13/10	2½
Sept....	150	28,500	—	50,959	35/9	29,776	20/11	21,183	14/10	2⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 7½; Dec., 7½ per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—£950,000, in £1 shares. £195,000 5½% Debentures. 100 new stamps and 10 tubes. About £300 monthly sundry revenue included below.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt. £	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	92½	578,100	2½	739,704	25 7	423,799	14 8	315,905	10/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	155,900	3	201,042	25/9	109,405	14/0	91,637	11/9	1⅜
June qr.	100	154,100	5	202,867	26/4	108,353	14/1	94,514	12/3	1⅞
July ...	100	51,600	5	68,414	26/6	36,737	14/6	31,677	12/0	1⅞
Aug. ...	100	54,000	—	70,060	2 /11	38 529	14/5	31.531	11/6	1⅝
Sept....	—	54,700	—	70,091	25/7	41,067	15 3	29,024	10 4	1⅛

* Includes slimes profit and sundry revenue.

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 12½ per cent.

Crown Mines.—Capital £1,000,000, in 2,000,000 shares of 10*s.* each; issued, 1,880,212. £867,950 Five per Cent. Debentures. Milling capacity about 232,000 tons per month. 1913 figures and since include accumulated slimes.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	660	2,286,875	10½	2,976,989	26/1	1,783,477	15/7	1,193,512	10/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	660	592,000	10½	750,121	25/1	475,527	15/11	•274,594	9/2	4½
June qr.	660	638,000	10½	825,459	25/10	490,959	25/10	334,500	10/6	4⅝
July ...	660	206,000	10	269,752	26/2	168,221	16/4	101,531	9/10	4½
Aug. —	—	207,000	—	266,276	25/8	169,158	16/4	97,118	9/4	3⅞
Sept. ...	—	207,000	—	262,116	25/3	166,601	16/1	95,515	9/2	3⅞

• Poor results due entirely to disappointing yield, which continues considerably below what is indicated by ore reserves values. "The cause of this difference is being carefully investigated."

Dividends—1914, June, 55; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 35 per cent.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—£440,000, in £1 shares Three tube mills. Crushing capacity, about 25,000 tons a month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton.	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	298,390	13	407,495	27/4	349,534	23/5	57,961	3/11	—
1915.										
Mar.qr.	100	78,160	12½	100,898	25/9	95,951	24 6	4,947	1/3	—
June qr.	100	80,750	13	110,457	27/4	92,972	23/0	17,485	4/4	⅞
July ...	100	28,000	10½	37,407	26/8	31,578	22/6	5,829	4/2	1⅛
Aug. ...	—	27,520	—	37,165	27 0	30,953	22/6	6,212	4.6	¼
Sept....	—	26,600	—	36,200	27/2	30,350	22/10	5,850	4/4	⅞

Dividends—1914, June, 3½. Dec., 3¾ per cent.
1915, June, 3¾ per cent.

East Rand Proprietary Mines.—Capital issued, £2,445,897, in £1 shares; £1,192,170 Convertible Five per Cent. Debentures in issue. Twenty-five tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	820	1,831,950	8¾	2,579,172	28/0	1,785,208	19/6	793,964	8/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	820	418,200	10	586,089	28/0	424,453	20/3	161,636	7.9	1⅜
June qr.	820	484,100	10	635,818	26 3	461,928	19/1	173,890	7/2	1⅛
July ...	820	164,000	9	215,565	26 3	160,017	19/6	55,548	6/9	1⅛
Aug. ...	820	175,000	8½	222,616	25/2	166,567	19.0	56,049	6 2	1⅛
Sept....	820	180,000	—	222,359	24/8	167,348	18/7	55,011	6/1	1⅜

Accumulated slimes profits included throughout.

Dividends—1914, June, 7½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 6½ per cent.

Ferreira Deep.—£980,000, in £1 shares. Mills, 280 stamps and 7 tubes.

Year ends Sept. 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	251av.	668,530	11	1,236,633	36/11	584,475	17/5	652,158	19/6	—
1914-15.										
Dec. qr.	280	158,390	8	269,505	34/0	152,584	19/3	116,921•	14/9	—
Mar.qr.	280	171,470	10	304,006	35/5	156,089	18 2	147,917	17/3	2½
Junegr.†	280	129,460	9½	226,824	35.1	143,289	22.2	83,555	12 11	2⅞
July ...	280	52,320	8½	83,271	31/10	51,781	19/9	31,490	12/1	2⅞
Aug. ...	—	56,850	—	94,181	33/1	51,699	18/2	42,482	14/11	2⅞
Sept ...	—	56,410	—	101,399	35 11	50,512	17/11	50,887	18 0	2⅞
12 mos.	—	624,900	—	1,079,186	34/5	605,934	19 4	473,252	15 1	2⅞

* Grade for month of December was low, as hoisting was necessarily confined to ore from poorer section of the mine.
† Shaft repairs, due to fall of ground, interfered with operations.
Profits from accumulated slimes treated are included in profits.

Dividends—1914, March, 25; Sept., 25, Dec. (bonus), 25
1915, March, 25; Sept., 17½ per cent.

Geduld Proprietary.—The capital authorised is £1,000,000; issued, £970,000, in £1 shares. Plant has been enlarged to 60 stamps and five tubes, having a capacity of 26,000 tons a month. Increase of plant to 40,000 tons a month was decided on on October 1, 1915. Such increase is expected to become operative late in 1916.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	53½av.	244,585	10½	395,457	32 4	298,489	24 5	96,968	7.11	—

[Profit irrespective of £10,647 miscellaneous revenue in 1914.]

1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	71,330	9½	113,683	31/10	78,412	21 11	35,271	9/11	24/0
June qr.	60	74,760	9½	113,713	30/5	78,525	21 0	35,188	9/5	28/9
July ...	60	26,050	2½	38,251	29/4	25,606	19 8	12,645	9 8	29/3
Aug. ...	—	26,200	—	39,304	30/0	26,536	20/4	12,768	9/8	32/3
Sept. ...	—	25,700	—	39,623	3 9	26,844	20/10	12,779	9/11	32/6

Gold reserve 4,431 oz. July, Aug..
Monthly and quarterly profits include sundry revenue.

The sorting in this mine is both on surface and underground; very slight on surface.

Dividends—1914, Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Geldenhuis Deep. — Capital, £600,000; issued 585,753 £1 shares. 300 stamps, 7 tube mills. Capacity, 720,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	300	570,600	10¼	781,568	27/5	652,471	22/10	130,019	4/7	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	150,700	12	192,958	25/7	164,608	21/10	28,250	3/9	1⅛
June qr.	300	151,900	12½	96,548	25 10	167,317	22 0	29,231	3 10	1 1/16
July ...	300	51,000	11¾	67,933	26/7	57,550	22/6	10,353	4/1	1 1/16
Aug. ...	—	54,200	—	70,785	26/1	59,209	21/10	11,576	4/3	1
Sept....	—	55,000	—	69,347	25/3	57,863	21 0	11,484	4/2	1

1913 returns and since include yield from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 8¾; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Ginsberg.—210,000 £1 shares issued. One tube mill.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	77½	179,089	26	204,522	22/9	159,961	17/10	44,561	4/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	45,100	18¾	49,044	21/9	39,697	17/7	9,347	4 2	3/16
June qr.	75	46,444	15½	51,099	22/0	39,675	17/1	11,424	4/11	5/16
July ...	75	15,800	10¼	18,013	22/10	13,943	17/9	4,070	5 1	5/16
Aug. ...	—	15,785	—	17,693	22/5	13,500	17/3	4,193	5/2	9/0xd
Sept. ...	—	15,375	—	17,792	23/2	13,623	17/11	4,169	5/3	9/0

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 7½ per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—£170,000, in £1 shares. The Company has one tube mill, started May 1910.

Year to July 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
913-14 ...	20	45,938	100,626	43 9	46,780	20 4	53,846	23 5	5/16
1914-15 ...	20	47,809	83,271	34/10	47,520	19/10	35,751	15/0	11/32
1915-16.									
Aug. ...	20	4,095	7,267	35 5	4,282	20/11	2,985	14/6	5/16
Sept. ...	20	4,026	6,096	30/3	4,172	20 9	1,924	9/6	¼

Dividends—1914, Jan., 10; July, 10 per cent.
1915, Jan., 10; July, 10 per cent.

Goch.—£550,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; four tube mills. Sundry revenue, about £2,000 a year, included.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	360,000	10	381,143	21/2	258,983	14/5	122,160	6/9	—
1915.									
Mar. qr.	90,500	10⅜	84,959	18/9	62,431	13 10	22,528	4/11	13/0
June qr.	91,450	12¾	83,175	19/3	63,249	13/10	24,926	5/5	15/9
July ...	30,500	14¼	29,481	19/4	21,420	14/0	8,061	5/4	15/3
Aug. ...	30,500	14	29,404	19/3	20,961	13/9	8,440	5/6	15/6x
Sept. ...	29,700	—	29,017	19/11	20,982	14/5	8,035	5/6	15/0

Dividends—1911, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Government Areas.—Capital £1,400,000, in £1 shares. At December 31, 1914, floating debt about £240,000. 100 stamps, 10 tube mills. Plant ordered to be doubled, or total raised to rate of near 1,100,000 tons a year. The returns include sundry revenue.

Year ends Dec. 31 1914. Oct. 16 to	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
Dec. 31 ...	90	97,700	13½	80,965	16/6	105,433	21/6	23,468•	5/0•	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	93⅓	140,400	14¼	145,132	20/8	122,691	17/6	22,441	3/2	21/6
June qr.	100	142,000	13	171,255	24/0	132,415	18/7	38,850	5/5	1 3/32
July ...	100	45,000	11¾	64,676	28/9	47,109	21/1	17,567	7/8	1 3/32
Aug. ...	—	48,000	—	65,407	27/3	47,527	20/0	17,880	7/3	23/0
Sept. ...	—	49,100	—	66,735	27 2	51,519	21/2	15,216	6/0	26/9

• Loss.

Heriot.—Issued capital £115,000, in £1 shares One tube mill.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	70	154,228	16	281,765	36/6	138,197	20/11	120,324	15/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	33,700	18¾	69,646	37/10	41,188	22/5	28,458	15/5	3 1/16
June qr.	60	38,300	19	69,677	36/4	42,810	22/7	26,867	13/9	3 3/16
July ...	60	13,400	16½	23,349	34/10	14,343	21/5	9,006	13/5	2 3/16
Aug. ...	60	13,200	18¼	23,068	34/11	14 308	21/8	8,760	13/3	2¾
Sept. ...	60	13,100	—	23,227	35/3	14,412	22/0	8,815	13.5	2¾

Dividends—1914, May, 30; Nov., 35 per cent.
1915, May, 40 per cent.

Kleinfontein. — Capital issued, £1,151,540, in £1 shares; £175,000 6% Debentures. 220 stamps. Four tubes. Capacity of plant in use is at present over 650,000 tons a year.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses• Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	200	601,000	19	791,722	26/4	528,452	17/7	263,270	8/9	
1915.										
Mar. qr.	200	155,050	17	200,137	25/9	132,458	17/1	67,679	8/8	24/
June qr.	200	156,800	16	203,380	25/11	135,932	17/4	67,448	8/7	22/9
July ...	200	54,350	16¼	70,481	25/11	46,258	17/4	24,223	8/7	23/0
Aug. ...	200	55,000	16½	69,774	25/4	46,747	17/0	23,027	8/4	22/3xd
Sept. ...	200	53,800	—	68,579	25/6	46,240	17/2	22,339	8/4	23/6

• Not including considerable expenditures in connection with the Apex and Benoni sections.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Knight Central. — £900,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps. Three tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	103¾av.	284,960	3	316,076	22/2	273,325	19/2	42,751	3 0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	113	76,400	—	82,339	21/6	71,029	18/7	11,310	2/11	6/6
June qr.	115	79,260	—	84,111	21/2	73,195	18/5	10,916	2/9	6/6
July ...	110	25,500	—	26,329	20/8	23,733	18/7	2,596	2/1	7/0
Aug....	—	25,600	—	28,725	22/5	25,377	19/9	3,348	2/8	6/9
Sept....	—	26,030	—	30 945	22/1	26,883	19 2	4,062	2 11	11/6

Dividends—1910, Dec., 5 per cent. Nil since.

Knights Deep.—Capital, 743,526 £1 shares issued; £70,600 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures still to be redeemed. 400 stamps, 11 tubes, capacity 120,000 tons a month.

Year ends July 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
[Profits given below include water, &c., revenue.]										
1913-14	400	1,118,900	Nil	815,708	14/7	659,003	11/9	156,705	2/10	1½
1914-15	400	1,172,920	Nil	878,685	15 0	705,065	12 1	173,620	2 11	1⅝
1915-16.										
Aug. ...	400	108,400	Nil	77,237	14/3	64,450	11/11	12,787	2/4	1½
Sept. ...	—	106,800	—	79,858	14/11	64,626	12/1	15,232	2/10	1½

Gold reserve: Sept., 766 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Langlaagte Estate.—Capital £950,000; issued, 886,500 £1 shares. 200 stamps; five tubes.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	589,619	710,257	24 0	530,843	18 0	185,854	6 4	—
[Profits include estate, &c., revenue for 1914, £6,481.]								
1915.								
Mar. qr. ...	147,168	173,460	23/7	129,425	17/7	44,035	6/0	18/0
6 months ...	299,366	356,581	23/10	271,272	18/1	85,308	5/9	18/9
July ...	52,649	59,576	22/7	46,773	17/9	12,803	4/10	18/9
Aug. ...	53,480	60,852	22/9	47,571	17/10	13,281	4/11	17/6
Sept. ...	51,236	59,580	23/3	45,954	17/11	13,626	5/4	18/0

• For April and since ounces produced are given. The value has been calculated on the basis of £4¼ per fine ounce being secured.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Main Reef West.—Capital, £491,188, in £1 shares; £256,223 Six per Cent. Debentures. 120 stamps, three tube mills; capacity, 25,000 tons monthly.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15 —		269,520	10	318,713	23/8	267,838	19/11	50,875	3/9	7/0
1915-16.										
July ...	110	24,790	10¼	29,318	23/8	24,984	20/2	4,334	3/6	6/6
Aug. ..	110	25,290	10¼	27,919	22/0	24,222	19/1	3,697	2/11	6/6
Sept....	—	25,020	—	28,060	22/4	24,389	19/6	3,671	2/10	7/0

Dividends—1912, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent.; nil since.

Meyer and Charlton.—Capital £200,000, in £1 shares. Two tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	75	177,156	3¾	408,479	46/1	153,170	17/3	255,309*	28 10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	43,482	2	98,603	45/4	39,825	18/4	58,778	27/0	5
June qr.	75	43,954	3¼	100,575	45/10	39,195	17/11	61,380	27/11	5 7/16
July ...	75	14,996	4½	33,543	44/9	13,506	18/0	20,037	26/9	5 7/16
Aug. ...	75	16,000	4½	33,979	45/3	13,490	18 0	20,489	27 3	5 1/16x
Sept. ...	75	14,544	—	34,103	46 10	13,336	18/4	20,767	28/6	5 9/32

• In addition there was £7,648, result of clean up in January.

Dividends—1914, June, 35; Dec., 35 per cent.
1915, June, 40 per cent.

"The Statist."

FOREIGN BANKING SECTION.

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THE

LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

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Joint General Managers: J. M. MADDERS, S. B. MURRAY, F. HYDE, E. W. WOOLLEY.

Secretary: E. J. MORRIS.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - -	£22,947,804
PAID-UP CAPITAL - -	4,780,792
RESERVE FUND - - -	4,000,000

Balance Sheet for Half-year ended 30th June, 1915, shows:—

DEPOSIT and CURRENT ACCOUNTS	£142,388,314
CASH IN HAND and at BANK OF ENGLAND	36,356,672
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WORLD BANKING AND THE WAR.

THE COST.

Writing in May of last year we said: "At no time in history has the economic condition of the world improved as rapidly or as much as in the past hundred years, and at no time has the mental uplift of the average man been greater. Nor has progress been confined to one or two nations, as it was apt to be in former times; it has extended round the world from East to West and from North to South. The wealth of the United Kingdom in 1814 was computed at about £2,500,000,000, while a conservative estimate would place it now at about £17,000,000,000, a sixfold increase, while population has grown less than two-and-a-half-fold, or 130 per cent. The income of the British people in this period has increased about eightfold, from £300,000,000 to £2,400,000,000. The wealth of France has expanded fivefold, from under £2,000,000,000 to nearly £10,000,000,000, while her income has raisen from £250,000,000 to about £1,200,000,000, with only a one-third-fold (33 per cent.) increase in population. The progress of Germany has been equally remarkable. A century ago there was no Germany—only a number of German States by no means over-burdened with income or with riches. Their aggregate wealth and income were probably less than France's. Now United Germany is estimated to possess an income of nearly £2,000,000,000 and accumulated wealth of about £16,000,000,000. During the century Germany's population has grown from 24 millions to over 67 millions, or 180 per cent.

"But if the economic welfare of the older countries has improved in this remarkable manner, what of the younger States, which have attracted vast numbers of persons from the densely populated districts of Europe? The progress of the new countries is still more noteworthy, and the advance in the well-being of their citizens still more marked. For the most part the persons who migrated to them were inconceivably poor and destitute, and these have attained incomes and wealth much greater, on the average, than persons who elected to remain in the older countries. During the last hundred years the wealth of the United States has increased from about £350,000,000 to something like £30,000,000,000,* or nearly ninety-fold; and the income has risen from less than £100,000,000 to about £7,000,000,000 a year, while population has grown from 8 millions to 98 millions, a twelvefold expansion. The progress of the other young countries has been small in comparison with the growth of wealth in the United States; nevertheless, when one remembers the meagreness of the populations of Canada, of Australia, of the Cape, and of South America, and the smallness of their incomes in the early part of last century, the really wonderful advance in their economic well-being becomes apparent."

"In the four countries referred to the combined annual savings are now in the neighbourhood of £2,300,000,000 a year, whereas their total income a century ago was no more than £1,100,000,000, out of which they saved less than £200,000,000. The combined income of these countries has now risen to about £12,600,000,000 per annum, mainly in consequence of the great sums now saved from year to year, and by means of the credit system rendered available for expanding not only their own but the world's productive power."

And in conclusion we expressed our conviction that "If no great wars come to destroy wealth, to render the worlds' new savings relatively unproductive, and to create distrust, the uplift in the economic welfare of the whole race will be much greater in the current generation than ever before, while the progress which will be made during the present century may be beyond imagination. Indeed, no limit can be placed upon mental progress and economic well-being as long as men continue to be animated in ever greater measure by the spirit of trust and of confidence which has brought to everyone so great a measure of welfare in the past century."

The Great War that has so often threatened to break out has at length arrived, and nations which formerly brought great benefits each to the other and to the rest of the world by their mutual confidence and friendship, and which grew in well-being in consequence of the universal prosperity they helped to create, are now at enmity with each other, and in place of creating wealth and adding to their own and the world's welfare, they are destroying wealth and creating distress, both immediate and prospective, in a measure and in a manner beyond description.

And when one recollects that the nation directly responsible for this war had gained untold advantage from the maintenance of peace, that the wealth of Germany was growing as never before, and that the average well-being of her expanding population was rising fast from decade to decade, one is at a loss to account for her crime against humanity—for when every allowance is made it is a crime—that has plunged the race into a disaster of such unparelleled and appalling proportions.

In the great struggle in which the greater part of the world is now engaged all the forces which during the past century have so powerfully contributed to the work of construction and of upbuilding have been diverted from their normal action, and directed to the unprofitable work of demolition and destruction. Indeed, were it not for the machinery of modern life so great and so costly a war could not be waged. The whole world is being laid under contribution to supply the needs of the combatants, and the fight is being waged on land and sea, in the air, and under the sea, with every device that vast wealth can pay for, latter-day skill can invent, and modern appliances render practicable.

And just as the world's banking system was one of the principal agents that rendered possible the unprecedented expansion of production and of wealth in the past century, so in the existing struggle it is by far the most important part of the machinery for enabling these fighting forces of limitless power to be brought into and maintained in action.

In brief, the great inventions and the highly developed machinery of production and of distribution, which have made such generous contributions in modern times to the general well-being, are now being devoted not to increasing the productivity of the world, but to diminishing it, and both life and treasure are being destroyed on a scale so vast that the mind is almost incapable of comprehending the extent of the destruction or all that it involves.

And the highly developed machinery of banking is contributing its full quota to the work of carrying on the War in all the belligerent countries; indeed, without its contribution the War could not be continued for more than a few days, for it is through the banks that most of the money is collected from the public for carrying on the War. Indeed, no small part of the vast sums of money expended on the War is banking money, as distinct from investment money, and it is the money lent by bankers, both directly to the Governments at war and indirectly by loans to investors, that is providing the greater part of the funds expended upon the War.

* Since the above was written a new census of wealth in the United States has revealed a total of about £3[illegible],000,000,000.

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The Statist.

LONDON: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915.

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Before one endeavours to form some idea of the contributions which bankers are making to the funds for carrying on this great War, and of the total sums expended, it is essential to realise certain fundamentals if one is to avoid false conclusions and erroneous deductions. The importance of forming a correct view of the financial effect of the War will, of course, be obvious, especially in discussing the effect of the War upon the position of banks both in belligerent and in non-belligerent countries.

The first thing to recollect is that the War does not mean any appreciable destruction of the world's capital as it existed prior to the war. Where property (houses, ships, machinery, &c.) is injured by gunfire, by bombs, or in any other way, or houses, buildings, machinery and other property are allowed to deteriorate, or stocks of goods accumulated before the War are consumed and are not replaced, there is destruction of pre-War capital; but even during the War the construction of houses, factories, ships, &c., is continuing in most countries, and, as far as it is possible to come to a conclusion, the wastage of old wealth through the War is made good, or nearly made good, by the creation of new wealth of a permanent character. Whether or not this condition of things will continue throughout the War cannot be foretold. As the War becomes more and more costly it is possible that no new buildings or houses will be erected in the belligerent countries, and that the maintenance outlays will be inadequate; but unless the War is a very long one it may be doubted if there will be any substantial reduction in the pre-War wealth of the belligerent countries due to these causes, while the wealth of the neutral countries as a whole should show appreciable increase. The increase in the latter will not be nearly as great as it would have been but for the War; still, it should be appreciable.

The wealth destroyed by the War will consist, first, of the savings that would have been available for new construction in the countries engaged in the War, or which may be lent to them by other countries, who but for the War would have employed their savings in adding to their own productive power; and, secondly, of capital withdrawn by a belligerent nation from other nations and consumed by it, a process which involves the payment of the capital withdrawn by the nation which loses it out of its savings, and a consequent reduction of the amount of its savings available for reproductive purposes.

In brief, the existing great war expenditures do not involve a diminution in the aggregate wealth of the world as it existed prior to the War, but it does mean a very small addition to that wealth during the War, and that the addition to the wealth of non-belligerent countries will be in some measure neutralised by the diminished wealth of belligerent countries which suffer either from the destruction of property, or from need to borrow abroad or to sell their foreign investments in order to meet their war expenses.

Having regard to the military tactics hitherto pursued of trench fighting, and of not defending populous towns, it is evident that the destruction of buildings, houses, and other fixed property by the War will not be great. The damage to property caused by Zeppelin raids is, of course, negligible, and the destruction of shipping by submarines is quite unimportant. Moreover, so far the sales of securities to and the raising of loans in other countries are not a serious matter. Great Britain has, it is true, called home a good deal of the floating capital she employed abroad before the War, has sold a moderate amount of her American investments, and recently has contracted in the United States, in co-operation with France, an Allies' loan of £100,000,000, but against the capital thus brought home she has lent large sums to her Allies and Colonies and foreign clients. Moreover,

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a good deal of new capital has been invested in houses, factories, ships, and machinery at home since the War began, and it is evident that on balance the reduction in the wealth of Great Britain since the War began, in spite of her great war expenditures, has been insignificant. Whether this condition of things will continue is, of course, unknown. It depends upon the extent of our war expenses and how far they are met by economies in our domestic expenditures.

The nation's expenses for government and war purposes, including loans to Allies and Colonies, are now at the rate of nearly £5,000,000 per day, and to meet this great expenditure substantial amounts of capital must be called in or borrowed from abroad, and the sum so called in will appreciably exceed the amounts lent to Allies and Colonies if the domestic expenditures of the nation are maintained at their present high level. Should, however, the domestic expenditures be substantially reduced, as they can and may be reduced, then on balance the capital called in or borrowed from other countries will be neutralised, or nearly neutralised, by the money lent to Allies and Colonies, and the reduction in the aggregate of Great Britain's pre-War wealth will be inconsiderable.

The situation of France is very similar to that of this country. The amount of money that France is calling in from or borrowing abroad is not large, and is in part set off by loans to Rusia. The actual physical destruction of pre-War wealth by the enemies' shells has to be reckoned with; but when everything is taken into account it is evident that the pre-War wealth of France has not been substantially reduced, in spite of the fact that her income has been temporarily curtailed by the occupation of territory by the enemy and by the absence of tourists.

Again, the destruction of property in Russia is not a great matter, having regard to the peaceful evacuation of important towns and their escape from bombardment, and although Russia may need to borrow substantial sums abroad to pay for goods imported in consequence of the impediment to exports caused by the closing of both the Dardanelles and the Baltic, these borrowings will be in some measure offset by new capital expenditures within the country upon permanent works, houses, &c.

Much the same situation prevails in Germany, Austria and Turkey, which, being unable to export any appreciable amount of goods, are under the necessity of borrowing abroad to pay for imports. Austria and Turkey are borrowing moderate sums in Germany, and the latter is selling securities and borrowing in the United States. But against the sums thus borrowed must be placed the capital expended upon new works and houses, and on balance the consumption of these nations' pre-War capital is not a great matter.

It is obvious that the pre-War wealth of the neutral countries is not reduced by the War, but is increased by the purchase of securities from the belligerent nations.

In brief, the expenditure of great sums by the belligerent nations upon war is preventing the usual growth of their wealth, but is causing only a very small diminution in the wealth they possessed prior to war. Hence for all practical purposes the wealth of the various nations is substantially unchanged at the amounts we gave last year, less, of course, the shrinkage in the market value of property and securities arising from the rise in the rate of interest. The latter factor should, however, be in large measure disregarded, as when the War is over and capital again accumulates rapidly the rate of interest and the value of property will probably return to levels not far removed from those prevailing prior to the War, especially if the world adopts measures for the prevention of great wars. Even if values do not fully recover to their pre-War level, capital will be as effective as, and perhaps more effective than, it was before the War in wealth production, owing to the desire or necessity of everyone to work harder and more efficiently. Hence the income derived from pre-War capital may be as great as, or greater than, it was before peace was broken. It will be realised that the true measure of the wealth of nations is the annual real income derived from its use, not the number of years' purchase of that income, which is liable to wide fluctuation.

But with no appreciable reduction in the store of capital accumulated by the world prior to the outbreak of the present War the loss of wealth will still reach a gigantic figure. Roughly speaking, the war will prevent any substantial addition to the world's wealth as long as it lasts. When one recollects that normally the wealth of Great Britain grows at the rate of about £400,000,000 a year, of Germany some £300,000,000 a year, of France over £200,000,000 a year, and of the other belligerent nations in the aggregate at the rate of some £600,000,000 a year, and that during the War the whole of the wealth that would otherwise be accumulated, amounting in the aggregate to some £1,500,000,000 a year, will be destroyed, one obtains some idea of its enormous cost and of its economic consequences. Moreover, the loss to the world arising from the absence of wealth accumulation in the belligerent countries is not the total loss. All the countries engaged in war are borrowing abroad, realising securities, or calling in capital, and although the amount of money that can be obtained in this manner is governed by the ability of what normally are the borrowing nations to supply it, the amount so obtained is very substantial, and it is evident that the greater part of the savings of the entire world are being used to meet the war expenditures. As far as it is possible to obtain the data, the belligerent nations are not only using their own normal savings of about £1,500,000,000 a year for war purposes, but are withdrawing capital from the rest of the world, or borrowing money from the neutral nations, at the rate of about £700,000,000 a year. Hence the total loss of wealth to the whole world, in comparison with the accumulation that would take place but for the War, is in the neighbourhood of £2,200,000,000 a year. The ultimate effect of this great destruction of wealth upon the world's welfare cannot be other than serious. It means that for the time being practically all the important works of construction in every land have had to be suspended, and that little provision is being made for the world's increasing needs in future years. Luckily these conditions have come at a propitious moment; otherwise their results would be much more serious than they will now be. In the last 10 or 11 years the world has expended an unparalleled amount of money upon works of construction designed to provide for a vast increase in production. The works that have been constructed in all the young countries, especially in the United States, in Canada, in Argentina and in other South American countries, are practically completed, and with a relatively small further expenditure of capital it will be possible to increase the world's productive power in a very great measure. The savings that are now being destroyed would, for the most part, have been devoted to the construction of houses, and to the improvement of the cities and towns of Europe, and generally to raising the standard of life for the whole of the populations of Europe, and in some measure for the dense populations of Asia. It is this work that has had to be suspended, and will now have to be postponed until a long period of peace and of efficient work provide the wealth to permit it to be undertaken. Thus the action of Germany in making the war upon mankind will reduce the standard of comfort that has hitherto been enjoyed by the European nations, and will specially injure the German people, who were securing so great a share of the increasing

wealth and so much advantage from the growth of world prosperity.

How much the economic condition of the world will suffer in proportion to its population in consequence of the War will be governed by its duration and the aggregate loss of men and of treasure. If the War were brought to an end in the early future, the world would probably recover from the injury in a relatively short time; but if it were to last for two, three, or more years, then the injury will progressively increase, and a very much longer period will be needed for recovery. Fortunately the War will not absorb the whole of the world's new savings, and it is evident that the high prices of food and raw material will encourage farmers, mine owners, and others, to extend production. The injury caused by the destruction of savings will thus be minimised in some measure. But when all these considerations are taken into account, it is obvious that the immense growth in the world's wealth—by which we mean productive power—which has gone on from decade to decade since the Napoleonic wars has received a serious check, and that while the War lasts the growth will be very small. When peace is restored, however, the increased efficiency of the belligerent nations should cause production to increase with greater rapidity than in the past, and the adverse economic effect of the War be gradually ameliorated. Thus we have come to the conclusion that the wealth accumulated by the world prior to the War has not been, and is not being, reduced appreciably, but that while the War lasts the greater part of the new savings of the whole world will be destroyed. Calculations have been made that the destruction of wealth through the War is equal to the sums expended upon the War. If this were the true situation, the injury caused by the War would be great indeed, for in the fourteen months of war the money expended by the belligerent nations has amounted to the great sum of about £4,275,000,000. The approximate amounts spent by the various countries upon war in the first fourteen months are as follows:—

War Expenditures, July 31, 1914, to September 30, 1915.

	£
Great Britain	1,072,000,000
France	823,000,000
Russia	750,000,000
Italy	130,000,000
Total Allies	2,775,000,000
Germany	900,000,000
Austria	550,000,000
Turkey	50,000,000
Total Central Powers	1,500,000,000
Grand Total	4,275,000,000

In the first few months of war the expenditures were comparatively small; but it is obvious that the belligerent nations are now spending an aggregate sum of about £4,400,000,000 a year upon the War. This is about twice the aggregate amount of their normal annual savings, plus the sums they are borrowing from other nations, and the amounts of their own capital they are bringing home from abroad.

In calculating the amount of wealth destroyed by the War it is essential to recollect that the great armies now engaged in fighting, numbering some 17 millions of men, would in any case have to be maintained out of ordinary income, and that the War expenditures have been attended by a great reduction in domestic expenditure. A large part of the money expended for war is, indeed, maintaining not only the armies, but vast numbers of people engaged in production and distribution. Probably one-half of the people of Great Britain are being maintained out of

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the War expenditures, and the domestic expenditures of the nation are, more or less, correspondingly reduced. And a similar situation must exist in other belligerent countries. Hence it is erroneous to assume that the wealth of the belligerent countries is being reduced to the full extent of the war expenditures or of the war loans that are being created. As far as it is possible to obtain the data the net cost of the War to the belligerents is about one-half of its total cost. And of the net cost about two-thirds are being provided out of the normal savings of the belligerent nations, and about one-third out of the savings of neutral countries. Altogether it is probable that about three-fourths of the savings of the entire world are being employed to meet the cost of this world-wide conflict. In May of last year, when the last number of this Banking Section was issued, the world's wealth was growing at the rate of upwards of three thousand million pounds sterling a year. In the past twelve months, in consequence of the War and of the financial and economic disturbances caused by the War, the increase has been not more than a thousand millions sterling, and in the current twelve months of maximum war expenditures the addition to the world's wealth on balance may be not more than a few hundred millions of pounds sterling. As soon as the War comes to an end, however, and wealth is no longer being destroyed as it is now, the accumulation of wealth by the whole world should again be at the rate of over three thousand millions a year. If the belligerent nations become increasingly efficient and hardworking in consequence of the discipline of war, the expansion in the world's productive power and in its accumulated capital after the War is over may indeed be so great that the vast amount of wealth now being destroyed will be rapidly recovered, and it may be that the economic effects of the War will disappear sooner than anyone now ventures to hope for or dares to calculate.

THE INFLUENCE OF BANKING.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the part played by banking in providing all the money needed to carry on the War. The assistance which bankers in this and in other countries have been able to give to their respective Governments has been rendered all the greater by the practice of various Governments in paying their accounts in cash, and thus reducing the usual demand for banking accommodation of merchants and traders. This has been particularly noteworthy in Great Britain, where, since the War began, business has been in great measure transacted upon a cash basis in consequence of the Government's cash payments. A very large part of the nation's banking funds have thus been set free to finance the Government. It is computed that the supply of bills in the London market has been reduced by 60%. The result of this situation is that British bankers have received both from British merchants and from merchants in foreign countries large sums of money in payment of bills and advances. Moreover, one of the consequences of the payment of these foreign accounts has been to bring to Great Britain large quantities of produce in redemption of debt for which no return payment had to be made. Continental nations which did not possess this large fund of floating capital in other countries have met the situation by the issue of bank-notes. In Great Britain the expansion in the note circulation has been relatively insignificant, and the notes that have been issued have been merely for the purpose of mobilising the substantial sum of gold coin in circulation. British bankers have thus been able to place at the service of the Government some £300,000,000 of banking money in consequence of the maturity of their bills and the repayment of their advances plus their new deposits. Of the total sum of about £1,232,000,000 which Great Britain has now raised for war purposes, including the last instalment on the 4½% War Loan, British bankers have supplied some £214,000,000 by the discount of Treasury bills, they have taken some £33,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, and they have subscribed and paid for something like £350,000,000 of war loans. Altogether the money directly provided by British bankers for the War is not far short of £600,000,000, or, roughly, about one-half of the total sum raised by the creation of debt. The war loans of Great Britain are as follows:—

Great Britain's War Loans.

	£
November 1914. 3½% War Loan	350,000,000
March 1915. 3% Exchequer Bonds, net ..	33,600,000
July 1915. 4½% War Loan	585,000,000
October 1915. 5% American Loan ..	50,000,000
Treasury Bills	214,000,000
Total War Debt	1,232,600,000

In considering the war expenses of Great Britain it is essential to recollect that the British people are finding a substantial sum of money for their Allies and Colonies, and that, out of the loans from the public of nearly £1,232,000,000 so far raised they have probably lent to other countries a sum of £350,000,000, so that their own war expenditures have involved borrowings of rather less than £900,000,000. The sums lent are a capital investment, and must be placed against the capital withdrawn from or borrowed from abroad. The note circulation of the Bank of England has increased only £3,000,000 since the War began, but £76,000,000 of Currency notes have been placed in circulation, so that the total increase in the note circulation has been rather less than £80,000,000. Against this increased note circulation £48,000,000 of gold has been accumulated in the Bank of England, and probably an additional amount in the joint-stock banks. The additional notes have, indeed, merely taken the place of the gold coin in general circulation prior to the War and provided bankers with somewhat larger cash balances than usual.

In Continental countries, which possess a much smaller quantity of floating capital abroad than Great Britain, the Governments have been largely assisted both by the investment of banking funds and by a great increase in the circulation of bank-notes. Exactly how many bank-notes Germany and Austria have issued is unknown, as no statement has been published by the Austro-Hungarian Bank since the War began. Prior to that, however, the note circulation of the Bank fluctuated in a manner very similar to the note circulation of the Bank of Germany. The note circulation of the latter Bank since the War began has increased from £94,000,000 to as much as £288,000,000, and it is probable that the expansion in the note circulation of the Bank of Austria has been equally great and that the note circulation of Germany and Austria combined has risen from £183,000,000 to £568,000,000, and that as much as £385,000,000 of the joint war expenses of the two countries has been provided for by the issue of bank-notes. The gold circulating in Germany and Austria has, of course, been mobilised, but there is no information as to the condition of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. The stock of gold in the Bank of Germany has risen from £62,000,000 to £121,000,000. Much doubt exists as to how this great increase in the stock of gold in Germany has been brought about, especially having regard to the heavy shipments of gold from Germany to Holland to pay for produce imported, and it is surmised that the addition to the stock of gold in the Bank of Germany represents all the gold mobilised from circulation in both Germany and Austria-Hungary. Certainly, as far as information is available, the amount of gold that came out of circulation in Germany was not nearly sufficient to account for the increase in the stock of its gold, nor is it to be accounted for by the addition of the 10 millions of gold previously held in the war chest at Spandau. Thus, having regard to the non-publica-

tion of the return of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, it is probable that the gold accumulated in the Bank of Germany includes all the gold withdrawn from circulation in both countries. Very great assistance has been rendered to the German and Austrian Governments by the State banks in expanding their note circulation, and also by the joint-stock banks, who have themselves subscribed, or induced their clients to subscribe, for almost the whole of the loans issued. The amount of the German loans so far raised is as follows:

Germany's War Debt.

	Marks.
September 1914, 5% War Stock	3,492,000,000
,, 5% Treasury Bonds ..	1,000,000,000
February 1915, 5% War Stock	9,103,000,000
September 1915, 5% War Loan	12,101,000,000
Treasury Bills (approximate)	4,304,000,000
Total War Credit obtained	30,000,000,000
=	1,500,000,000

Of this total it would appear that a very large proportion has been provided by German bankers. They have been able to do so partly because of the addition to their deposits brought about by the huge war payments and by the great expansion in the note circulation, and partly because the cash payments of the German Government have reduced the quantity of bills presented for discount by private traders. At the end of last December, in fact, the bills held by the six leading banks of Germany were nearly 50% less than the amount discounted at the end of the previous year, setting free in the case of these banks some 70 millions sterling. The assistance rendered to Austria-Hungary by the banks of that country has also been invaluable. Beyond a great expansion in the note circulation of the State Bank, the joint-stock banks have invested very large sums of money in the war loans, and at the same time have been willing to make advances to their customers up to a high percentage of the Government debt purchased by them.

New 5½% Austro-Hungarian war loans are now being placed. Excluding the third Austro-Hungarian loans, the amount of publicly issued loans is 337 millions sterling. Beyond the Government has created a substantial floating debt, and it is probable that the total amount of debt created by the Dual Monarchy is about 550 million pounds, plus the new debt which is now in course of issue.

War Debt of Austria and Hungary.

	Kronen	£
November 1914. 1st Austrian 5½% War Loan	2,300,000,000	95,833,000
	Marks	
Valuta Loan from Germany ..	300,000,000	15,000,000
	Kronen	
November 1914, Hungarian 6% War Loan	1,170,000,000	48,750,000
May 1915. 2nd Austrian War Loan	2,780,000,000	115,833,000
June 1915. 2nd Hungarian War Loan	1,124,000,000	46,833,000
	Marks	
June 1915. 2nd Loan from German bankers	305,000,000	15,250,000
Total Publicly Issued Debt		337,499,000
Estimated floating debt.. ..		213,000,000
Estimated Total to September 30		550,000,000

The French banks have done all within their power to provide the French Government with the great sums of money it needed at a time when the task of providing money was specially difficult in consequence of the invasion of France by the enemy, and the danger to which Paris was for a short time exposed. In this time of difficulty the Bank of France rendered invaluable service to the nation, and it was able to do so because of the very high place it held in the estimation of the French people, who freely accepted its notes. Since the War began the Bank of France has lent to the Government a sum of no less than £280,000,000. The expansion in the

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note circulation of the Bank of France during the War has been £314,000,000. Beyond the money borrowed from the Bank of France, the public generally, and the joint-stock bankers, have subscribed nearly £500,000,000, and including the loans raised in England and in America the total sum borrowed is slightly over £800,000,000. The War debt of France is as follows:—

War Debt of France.

	Fr.
Advances from the Bank of France	7,000,000,000
French Treasury Bonds to be held by the Bank of France in order to make advances to foreign Governments	550,000,000
3½% Loan of July 1914	500,000,000
Bon de la Defense Nationale	7,871,000,000
Obligation de la Defense Nationale	2,241,000,000
Loan from England	1,250,000,000
Loan from America	1,250,000,000
Total sum borrowed by France for the War	20,580,000,000

The Bank of Russia has also rendered yeoman service to the Russian Government and to the Russian people, having made loans to the State since the War began amounting to some £255,000,000 by increasing its note circulation. The total amount of money borrowed by Russia up to the present time is about £817,000,000, and of this great sum Russian bankers have supplied a substantial portion. The War debt of Russia is set out below:—

War Debt of Russia.

	Roubles
5% Short Term Treasury Bonds placed with State Bank... ...	2,555,000,000
5% Long Term loans	2,000,000,000
Short Term Bonds placed in England	500,000,000
Short Term Bonds placed in France	625,000,000
Treasury Bills, &c.	1,320,000,000
Total	7,000,000,000
Say	£750,000,000

The adhesion of Italy to the Allies is of comparatively recent date, and her War expenditures have so far been small in comparison with the great expenditures of the Allied Powers. Altogether the Italian Government has borrowed about £130,000,000, and of this sum about £50,000,000 has been supplied by the Bank of Italy. The War debt so far incurred by Italy is as follows:—

War Debt of Italy to October 1915.

	Lire
December 1914. 4½ per Cent. Loan	1,000,000,000
July 1915. 5 per Cent. Loan	1,000,000,000
Loan from Bank of Italy	1,216,350,000
Total War Debt	3,216,350,000
	£130,000,000

The effect of the War upon banking in neutral countries has also been noteworthy. By creating a great demand for the goods of all nations, and by bringing about an average advance in prices of commodities amounting to about 33%, the trade balance of all the neutral countries has been benefited. Prior to the War most of the countries outside the war area were importing capital from abroad, and consequently their imports were large while their exports were small. The stoppage of the influx of foreign capital into these countries has appreciably curtailed their imports on the one hand, while the War has stimulated and assisted the exports of their goods. Hence their favourable trade balances enable them to import gold, whereas prior to the War they were exporting it. The change in this situation of the United States is especially dramatic. Before the War gold was being exported from America in large sums, in consequence of the greatness of the imports and the smallness of the exports, as well as of the return of a substantial amount of American securities from the Continent. At first the outbreak of war disturbed the situation in the United States and accentuated the movement of gold outwards, the foreign demand for American produce being reduced just at the moment that large sums of money to provide for tourist and other expenditures had to be remitted abroad. Since then, however, the demand for American produce and American goods has become so great that the value of the country's exports is far greater than it has ever been before, and its favourable trade balance is permitting it to import gold in large amounts and

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at the same time to lend substantial sums of money to European countries. Hence, in face of the continued efflux of gold in the later months of 1914, there has been an addition of some £51,000,000 to the stock of gold in the United States since the War began. Holland has also derived much benefit from the War, and its favourable trade balance has enabled the Bank of the Netherlands to increase its stock of gold since the War began from £13,000,000 to £32,000,000. The financial situation of Spain has also been wonderfully improved by the War, and whereas early in 1914 a gold premium existed, the large purchases of Spanish goods have more than rectified the trade balance of that country, and instead of the peseta being depreciated, it has appreciated, while the stock of gold in the Bank of Spain has risen from under £22,000,000 to £30,000,000. Although Japan is one of the belligerent nations, and incurred a great deal of expenditure in its successful effort to deprive Germany of Kiau-Chau, it is now deriving substantial advantage from the War, as its exports of goods have very largely increased. Since the War began the note circulation of the Bank of Japan has declined nearly £10,000,000, while the stock of gold is less than a million down, while recently the balance of trade has become so favourable to Japan that the Government has been able to pay off in London a substantial amount of Japanese Treasury bills. Indeed, it is possible that during the War Japan may be able to redeem a substantial amount of her foreign debt by means of her exports. To show the effect of the War on the banking situation in the various countries of the world we set out below comparisons, first of the notes in circulation, and, secondly, of the amount of gold held.

Notes in Circulation of the World's Great Banks, &c.

Bank of	Latest Return £	Return Prior to War £		Change £
Denmark	12,248,000	8,693,000	+	3,555,000
England	32,561,000	29,317,000	+	3,244,000
Currency Notes	76,444,000	—	+	76,444,000
Total England	109,005,000	29,317,000	+	79,688,000
France	550,086,000	236,476,000	+	313,610,000
Germany	288,863,000	94,545,000	+	194,318,000
Austria-Hungary	280,000,000*	88,740,000	+	191,260,000
Total Germany & A.-H.	568,863,000	183,285,000	+	385,578,000
Holland	45,339,000	25,870,000	+	19,469,000
Italy	111,579,000	66,445,000	+	45,134,000
Japan	21,632,000	31,254,000	—	9,622,000
Norway	8,322,000	6,658,000	+	1,664,000
Russia	476,684,000	163,411,000	+	313,273,000
Spain	82,622,000	76,760,000	+	5,862,000
Sweden	16,357,000	11,456,000	+	4,901,000
Switzerland	17,109,000	10,716,000	+	6,393,000
U.S. of America	577,427,000	500,985,000	+	76,442,000
Total	2,597,373,000	1,351,326,000		+1,245,947,000

* Estimated.

Gold Holding of the World's Great Banks, &c.

Bank of	Latest Return £	Return Prior to War £		Change £
Denmark	5,928,000	4,100,000	+	1,828,000
England	59,955,000	40,164,000	+	19,791,000
Currency Notes	28,500,000	—	+	28,500,000
Total England	88,455,000	40,164,000	+	48,291,000
France	185,895,000	164,176,000	+	21,719,000
Germany	121,318,000	62,660,000	+	58,658,000
Austria-Hungary	51,579,000*	51,579,000		
Total Germany & A.-H.	172,897,000	114,239,000	+	58,658,000
Holland	32,554,000	13,509,000	+	19,045,000
Italy	45,977,000	44,000,000	+	1,977,000
Japan	20,881,000	21,872,000	—	991,000
Norway	3,555,000	2,892,000	—	663,000
Russia	163,024,000	174,509,000	—	11,485,000
Spain	30,414,000	21,739,000	+	8,675,000
Sweden	6,300,000	5,878,000	+	422,000
Switzerland	9,719,000	7,202,000	+	2,517,000
U.S. of America	428,356,000	377,454,000	+	50,902,000
Total	£1,193,955,000	£991,734,000		+202,221,000

* Prior to War.

From the above statement it will be seen that the great banks of the world have accumulated a very large stock of gold during the War, the amount having risen from £991,000,000 to £1,194,000,000, an expansion of no less than £202,000,000. Since the War began the world's production of gold has been about £115,000,000. A good deal of this has, of course, been absorbed by the arts. When allowance is made for the new gold that has been paid into the great banks, it is obvious large sums of coin have been withdrawn from circulation to be replaced by notes. Of course, the enormous amount of notes circulating in the belligerent countries, other than in England, at the present time will rapidly return from circulation as soon as the War is over and their accumulation in the great banks will enable the various Governments to fund them. The advantage which has been gained by the ability of the Continental nations to expand their note circulations in the way they have done for the purpose of meeting a substantial part of their war expenses, bears striking testimony to the confidence reposed by the peoples of the various countries in the stability and strength of their great banking institutions. While the War lasts it will be natural for everyone to desire to keep in his possession a substantial amount of notes against contingencies, but it is equally evident that when the War is over and peace is restored, the public will prefer to own interest-bearing securities instead of bank-notes.

To give as clear a view as possible of the effect of the War upon the position of the banks in the various countries we have made a series of tabulated statements. The situation in individual countries is commented upon in the articles dealing with individual banks contained in this Supplement, and we therefore present the summary tables without further comment. The effect of the War upon British banks as shown by a comparison of their position at the end of June last and at the end of June of the previous year is as follows:—

29 *Banks of United Kingdom, Liabilities and Assets.**

	[illegible]	1914	Year
Liabilities	£	£	£
Capital	[illegible]	[illegible]	— [illegible]
Reserves	[illegible]	[illegible]	— [illegible]
Total	81,881,000	82,630,000	— 749,000
Notes in circulation	9,401,000	5,229,000	+ 4,172,000
Acceptances	33,057,000	37,046,000	— 3,989,000
Deposits and current accounts	1,021,920,000	844,297,000	+177,623,000
Profit balance	4,226,000	4,007,000	— 219,000
Total Liabilities	1,150,485,000	973,209,000	+177,276,000
Assets			
Cash in hand, &c.	[illegible]	130,065,000	+ 95,463,000
Call money, &c.	108,858,000	106,152,000	— 2,706,000
Total	334,385,000	236,217,000	+ 98,168,000
Investments	207,165,000	148,324,000	+ 58,841,000
Bills discounted and advances:			
Bills discounted	109,693,000	90,665,000	+ 19,028,000
Advances	445,266,000	440,508,000	— 4,758,000
Total	554,959,000	531,173,000	+ 23,786,000
Liability for acceptances	33,057,000	37,046,000	— 3,989,000
Bank premises	20,919,000	20,449,000	— 470,000
Total Assets	1,150,485,000	973,209,000	+177,276,000

* Exclusive of [illegible] of Ireland, which show separately.

Our summary of the situation of the great banks of France is only made up to the end of last year. Nevertheless, it gives a very clear indication of the manner in which the banks of France are helping to finance the French nation.

A similar statement relating to the six leading banks of Germany up to the end of 1914 shows that the German banks are also subscribing very freely for war loans, and are generally assisting their government to raise the great sums of money now being expended.

Owing to the action of the Austro-Hungarian Bank in discontinuing to issue its statements, we are unable to present a comprehensive statement of the situation in Austria, but to show what is going on we give a comparison of the position of the three leading banks of Austria:—

*Aggregate Liabilities of Three Leading Austrian Banks.**

(000's omitted.)

	—1914.— Dec. 31. Kronen.	% of Total.	—1913.— Dec. 31. Kronen.	% of Total.	Inc. or Dec.
Capital	334,000		334,000		
Reserve	249,666		237,581		
Total	583,666	17·6	571,581	19·6	+ 12,085
Acceptances	103,577	3·1	90,599	3·1	+ 12,978
Deposits, current accounts, &c.	2,601,336	78·3	2,207,525	75·5	+393,811
Profit balance	33,318	1·0	52,997	1·8	— [illegible]
Total	3,321,897		[illegible]		+399,195

*Aggregate Assets of Three Leading Austrian Banks.**

(000's omitted.)

	1914. Dec. 31. Kronen.	% of Total.	1913. Dec. 31. Kronen.	% of Total.	Inc. or Dec.
Cash in hand	147,180	4·4	59,284	2·0	+ 87,896
Investments	247,318	7·5	178,419	6·1	+ 68,899
Bills	510,043	15·3	489,921	16·6	+ 20,122
Advances	2,288,947	68·9	2,087,719	71·4	+201,228
Acceptances	103,577	3·1	90,599	3·1	+ 12,978
Bank premises, &c. ...	24,832	·8	22,760	·8	+ 2,072
Total	3,321,897		2,922,702		+399,195

* Allgemeine Oesterreichische Boden Credit-Anstalt, Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt fur Handel und Gewerbe, Oesterreichische Landerbank.

The effect of the War upon the position of the National Banks of the United States in conjunction with the new law setting up Federal Reserve Banks, and reducing the amount of reserve that the National Banks are now required to hold against their deposits, is shown by the following statement:—

U.S. National Banks.

	1915, June 23. $	1914, June 30, $	Inc. or Dec. $
LIABILITIES.			
Capital	1,068,519,000	1,058,192,000	+ 10,327,000
Surplus	722,089,000	723,338,000	— 1,249,000
Undivided profits	314,755,000	268,184,000	+ 46,571,000
Total	2,105,363,000	2,049,714,000	+ 55,649,000
Notes	722,704,000	722,582,000	+ 122,000
Bills	98,120,000	91,212,000	+ 6,908,000
Deposits, &c.	8,821,241,000	8,563,752,000	+257,489,000
Bonds, &c., borrowed	41,872,000	43,487,000	— 1,615,000
Miscellaneous	6,385,000	11,444,000	— 5,059,000
Total	11,795,685,000	11,482,191,000	+313,494,000

	1915, June 23 $	1914. June 30 $	Inc. or Dec. $
ASSETS.			
Specie, Legal Tender, &c. ...	796,199,000	972,904,000	—176,705,000
Banks and Exchanges ...	1,900,822,000	1,798,715,000	+102,107,000
Redemption Fund and due from U.S. Treasury	43,373,000	43,043,000	+ 330,000
U.S. Bonds	783,454,000	783,303,000	+ 151,000
Other Bonds and Stocks ...	1,284,915,000	1,131,586,000	+153,329,000
Loans, Advances, &c.	6,665,146,000	6,445,555,000	+219,591,000
Bank Premises, &c.	321,776,000	307,085,000	+ 14,691,000
Total	11,795,685,000	11,482,191,000	+313,494,000
	$	$	$
Reserve required	1,061,609,000	1,504,991,000	—443,382,000
„ held	1,840,339,000	1,746,574,000	+ 93,765,000
Surplus Reserve	778,730,000	241,583,000	+536,147,000

*Aggregate Liabilities of the Four Leading Banks of France.**

(000's omitted).

Year to Dec. 31	Capital. Francs.	Reserve. Francs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Francs.	% of Total. %	Circulation. Francs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Francs.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accts. Francs.	% of Total. %	Undivided Profits. Francs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Francs.
1914 ...	882,500	389,367	1,271,867	6·8	10,042,900	54·1	47,808	·3	7,142,456	38·4	72,268	·4	18,577,299
1913 ...	882,500	374,641	1,257,141	9·0	5,713,551	40·6	317,513	2·3	6,652,062	47·3	119,906	·8	14,060,173
1912 ...	882,500	367,840	1,250,340	9·2	5,584,338	41·3	352,427	2·6	6,227,645	46·1	98,340	·8	13,513,090
1910 ...	832,500	292,235	1,124,735	9·1	5,183,559	42·2	328,739	2·7	5,560,311	45·3	84,633	·7	12,281,977
1905 ...	707,500	204,718	912,218	8·8	4,515,058	43·8	304,682	3·0	4,519,978	43·9	57,489	·5	10,309,425
1900 ...	662,500	177,491	839,991	10·0	4,146,462	49·2	232,985	2·8	3,148,772	37·4	53,872	·6	8,422,082
1895 ...	511,431	108,555	619,987	9·0	3,484,935	50·7	220,903	3·2	2,514,504	36·6	33,633	·5	6,873,962
1890 ...	382,500	108,615	491,115	8·5	3,051,752	53·1	211,202	3·7	1,963,212	34·1	34,211	·6	5,751,492

*Aggregate Assets of the Four Leading Banks of France.**

(000's omitted).

Year to Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and in Other Banks. Francs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Francs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Francs.	% of Total. %	Advances and Current Accounts. Francs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Francs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Francs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Francs.
1914 ...	5,739,793	30·9	4,614,641	24·8	5,154,485	27·7	2,871,329	15·5	47,808	·3	149,243	·8	18,577,299
1913 ...	4,670,721	33·2	557,946	4·0	5,114,325	36·4	3,254,027	23·1	317,513	2·3	145,641	1·0	14,060,173
1912 ...	4,412,481	32·6	558,899	4·1	5,102,292	37·8	2,945,849	21·9	352,427	2·6	141,142	1·0	13,513,090
1910 ...	4,500,812	36·9	540,038	4·3	4,072,098	33·1	2,706,474	22·0	328,740	2·6	133,815	1·1	12,281,977
1905 ...	4,350,657	42·2	539,805	5·2	2,956,669	28·7	2,060,787	20·0	304,682	3·0	96,825	·9	10,309,425
1900 ...	3,728,058	44·2	551,030	6·6	2,199,542	26·1	1,643,743	19·5	232,985	2·8	66,724	·8	8,422,082
1895 ...	3,393,472	49·4	519,763	7·6	1,542,145	22·4	1,117,936	16·3	220,903	3·2	79,743	1·1	6,873,962
1890 ...	2,495,632	43·4	488,483	8·5	1,615,408	28·1	810,989	14·1	211,202	3·7	129,778	2·2	5,751,492

* Banque de France, Credit Lyonnais, Comptoir Nationale d'Escompte de Paris, Societe Générale (Paris).

*Aggregate Liabilities of the Six Leading Banks of Germany.**

(000's omitted).

Dec. 31	Capital. Marks.	Reserve Fund. Marks.	Capital and Reserve Fund. Marks.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Marks.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Marks.	% of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts. Marks.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities Marks.
1914 ...	1,200,000	559,360	1,759,360	12·4	5,046,146	35·6	737,433	5·2	6,480,848	45·7	157,330	1·1	14,181,117
1913 ...	1,050,000	414,428	1,464,428	14·3	2,593,616	25·4	1,077,698	10·6	4,914,291	48·3	149,577	1·4	10,199,610
1912 ...	1,050,000	406,941	1,456,941	14·9	2,519,499	25·7	1,023,118	10·5	4,649,726	47·5	138,781	1·4	9,788,065
1910 ...	1,000,000	366,979	1,366,979	15·2	2,072,766	23·1	881,002	9·8	4,527,300	50·5	124,333	1·4	8,972,380
1905 ...	924,000	303,695	1,227,695	18·4	1,656,682	24·8	661,751	9·9	3,023,070	45·3	107,091	1·6	6,676,289
1900 ...	695,000	199,017	894,017	19·7	1,409,945	31·0	432,451	9·5	1,722,844	37·8	91,239	2·0	4,550,496
1895 ...	532,159	143,689	675,848	19·1	1,320,089	37·4	314,831	8·9	1,164,224	33·0	57,023	1·6	3,532,015
1890 ...	440,000	117,391	557,391	20·1	1,102,588	39·9	198,543	7·2	858,059	30·9	54,415	1·9	2,770,996
1880 ...	330,176	55,669	385,845	24·1	735,013	45·9	85,104	5·3	369,909	23·0	28,254	1·7	1,604,127

*Aggregate Assets of the Six Leading Banks of Germany.**

(000's omitted).

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Marks.	% of Total. %	Investments. &c. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bills. Marks.	% of Total. %	Advances. Marks.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Marks.
1914 ...	3,752,098	26·5	4,896,871	34·5	1,657,233	11·7	2,884,222	20·3	737,433	5·2	253,260	1·8	14,181,115
1913 ...	2,010,177	19·7	1,191,583	11·7	3,056,654	30·0	2,628,534	25·7	1,077,698	10·6	234,964	2·3	10,199,610
1912 ...	1,522,338	15·5	845,987	8·7	3,399,644	34·7	2,783,890	28·4	1,023,118	10·5	213,088	2·2	9,788,065
1910 ...	1,423,078	15·9	813,059	9·1	2,701,407	30·1	2,926,351	32·6	881,002	9·8	227,483	2·5	8,972,380
1905 ...	1,150,710	17·2	840,541	12·6	2,165,364	32·4	1,694,197	25·4	661,751	9·9	163,726	2·5	6,676,289
1900 ...	906,869	19·9	495,240	10·9	1,700,152	37·4	913,695	20·1	432,451	9·5	102,089	2·2	4,550,496
1895 ...	965,287	27·3	285,140	8·1	1,074,115	30·4	800,972	22·7	314,831	8·9	91,670	2·6	3,532,015
1890 ...	855,083	30·9	191,176	6·9	876,566	31·6	573,431	20·7	198,543	7·2	76,197	2·7	2,770,996
1880 ...	529,192	33·1	110,589	6·9	505,477	31·5	330,596	20·5	85,104	5·3	43,167	2·7	1,604,125

* Imperial Bank of Germany (Reichsbank), Allgemeine Deutsche Credit-Anstalt, Darmstädter Bank, Deutsche Bank, Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft Dresdner Bank.

INDIVIDUAL BANKS.

BRITISH BANKS WORKING ABROAD, &c.

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 63 London Wall, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 200,000 Shares, £10 each	...	£2,000,000
Subscribed, 120,000 Shares, £10 each	...	1,200,000
Paid up, £5 per Share		600,000

Price of Share, £4⅛. *Dividend*, 6/. *Yield*, £6 11*s.* 10*d.*%

INASMUCH as the African Banking Corporation was formed in June 1890 it has now completed 25 years of existence. The authorised capital is £2,000,000, in £10 shares, of which there have been subscribed 120,000 shares, on which £5 per share has been called up, thus making the issued capital £600,000. The head office of the Bank is in London, and there are 43 offices open in South Africa. In 1895, while the paid-up capital was £297,645, there was no reserve fund; but since that date substantial sums have been set aside each year, and at September 30, 1914, the reserve amounted to £210,000. The Bank has an authorised note issue limited to the amount of the paid-up capital, and the actual circulation at the date of the last balance sheet amounted to £212,622, as compared with £240,300 at September 30, 1913. At this date the acceptances were exceptionally large, totalling £325,697, but by September 30, 1914, they had fallen to £103,450. Deposits amounted to £4,995,330, as compared with £5,399,604. On the other side of the accounts, the cash totalled £1,265,181, as compared with £1,220,423, the proportion to the total assets rising from 18.4 per cent to 20.5 per cent. The Bank makes a practice of keeping a fairly large proportion of its assets in coin, notes, cash in hand, at call, and at short notice. It has usually been its plan to use its money fully in South Africa, and, consequently, the state of the London Money market does not affect it so much as it does a purely London bank; but the contraction of business in South Africa and the shortage of bills, and especially the diamond trade bills, have caused the cash to mount up in London. The various measures taken by the Imperial Government to deal with the financial crisis in London have opened up a field for the employment to some extent of the unemployed funds of the Bank, and, although the rate of return is not what is usually looked for in a South African bank, nevertheless it is all to the good to be able to employ funds which otherwise might have to lie idle. The directors have, therefore, supported the issues of Treasury bills and also the War Loan. The bills purchased have fallen from £1,286,580 to £1,183,781; bills discounted and advances also have fallen from £2,921,469 to £2,718,402. We set out below a summary of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1895.

The accounts of the African Banking Corporation, Limited, for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, reflected to some extent the effects of the labour crisis in South Africa, which for the time being paralysed trade and affected profits. The action of the Union Government in dealing with the crisis led to the hope that local troubles were over, and there were indications in every direction that the business of the Bank could be further extended, and so in February 1914 it was decided to make a further issue of 40,000 shares of £10 each, ranking *pari passu* with the existing shares, bringing the paid-up capital up to £600,000. Naturally it takes time to make full use of new capital, and there was not the necessary time to employ the new capital satisfactorily before the European war broke out, and that severely affected operations for the last two months of the financial year. The profits for the year were adversely affected in yet another direction, and the Bank felt most severely of all the depreciation that occurred in its securities, which had been written down the previous year to what were considered bed-rock prices. In consequence of the War, however, prices fell still further, and in making up the balance sheet a further heavy depreciation had to be faced. Thus, in spite of the fact that the Bank had the use of £200,000 of new capital for a considerable part of the year, it is not surprising to find that the profits for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, showed a reduction as compared with those of the previous year; they amount to £197,179, as compared with £211,385. The expenses, on the other hand, rose from £147,024 to £150,751, an increase of £3,727, mainly caused by increases in salaries, which have been made in the usual way. The result is that the net profits fell from £64,361 to £46,428, a fairly heavy shrinkage. The directors decided upon a cautious

Liabilities of The African Banking Corporation, Limited.

pt. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914	600,000	210,000	810,000	13·1	212,622	3·4	103,450	1·7	4,995,330	81·1	39,477	·7	6,160,879
1913	400,000	210,000	610,000	9·2	240,300	3·6	325,697	4·9	5,399,604	81·7	37,194	·6	6,612,795
1912	400,000	185,000	585,000	8·7	285,318	4·2	286,554	4·3	5,532,701	82·3	33,761	·5	6,723,334
1911	400,000	160,000	560,000	8·3	281,966	4·2	91,011	1·3	5,784,363	85·8	26,642	·4	6,743,982
1910	400,000	140,000	540,000	8·5	266,073	4·2	39,180	·6	5,470,800	86·2	30,452	·5	6,346,505
1905	400,000	140,000	540,000	8·9	254,351	4·2	40,450	·7	5,225,119	85·9	18,380	·3	6,078,300
1900	400,000	70,000	470,000	12·9	109,956	2·9	20,064	·6	3,034,194	81·1	16,783	·5	3,650,997
1895	297,645	—	297,645	7·8	33,870	·9	12,693	·3	3,486,751	90·7	12,188	·3	3,843,147

Assets of The African Banking Corporation, Limited.

Sept. 30	Coin and Bullion and Notes and Cash at Bankers and at Call and Short Notice. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Purchased. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Loans and Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914	1,265,181	20·5	700,665	11·4	1,183,781	19·2	2,718,402	44·1	103,450	1·7	189,400	3·1	6,160,879
1913	1,220,423	18·4	696,487	10·5	1,286,580	19·5	2,921,469	44·2	325,697	4·9	162,139	2·5	6,618,795
1912	1,356,480	20·2	778,652	11·6	1,214,033	18·0	2,931,149	43·6	286,554	4·3	156,466	2·3	6,723,334
1911	1,569,821	23·3	835,665	12·4	1,301,607	19·3	2,796,961	41·5	91,011	1·3	148,917	2·2	6,743,982
1910	1,543,381	24·3	850,624	13·4	1,345,919	21·2	2,419,135	38·1	39,180	·6	148,266	2·3	6,346,505
1905	1,276,072	20·9	418,465	6·9	1,431,425	23·6	2,761,700	45·5	40,450	·6	150,188	2·5	6,078,300
1900	1,125,888	30·8	328,794	9·0	687,082	18·8	1,354,378	37·1	20,065	·6	134,790	3·7	3,650,997
1895	1,382,037	35·9	149,180	3·9	1,127,381	29·4	1,084,923	28·2	12,694	·3	86,932	2·3	3,843,147

policy in dealing with the net profits, inasmuch as it was impossible to foretell what the effects of the War will be upon the current year's profits, and therefore it was decided to reduce the dividend from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent., the lower rate requiring an additional £4,000 owing to the increase in capital. The carry-forward was increased from £21,194 to £27,477. We set out herewith the profits made by the Corporation for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the African Banking Corporation, Limited.

Year ended Sept. 30	Gross Profits.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£		£	£
1914 ...	197,179	150,751	46,428	36,000	6*	4,145	27,477
1913 ...	211,385	147,024	64,361	32,000	8*	28,928	21,194
1912 ...	200,306	139,999	60,307	28,000	7*	29,188	17,761
1911 ...	172,732	130,663	42,069	24,000	6*	23,880	14,641
1910 ...	152,408	120,895	31,513	20,000	5	4,819	20,453
1909 ...	147,663	118,993	28,670	20,000	5	4,611	13,759
1908 ...	157,566	131,660	25,906	22,000	5½	4,091	9,700
1907 ...	167,768	135,643	32,125	24,000	6	6,106	9,795
1906 ...	167,153	137,783	29,370	24,000	6	3,974	7,776
1905 ...	169,560	139,958	29,602	24,000	6	3,867	6,379
1904 ...	189,565	147,041	42,524	24,000	6	23,323	4,644

* Includes income tax.

The proportion that the net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 7.7 per cent., as compared with 15.1 per cent. twelve months previously, to the capital and reserve combined the proportion is 5.7 per cent., and to the total working resources .7 per cent.

At the annual general meeting of the Corporation in January last, the Earl of Selborne said that it was impossible to make any useful forecast as to the future. "So far as the financial position is concerned, the able and prompt steps taken by the Home Government and the Union Government as regards South Africa are a guarantee that there will be no breakdown in that respect, but while the War lasts trade will be very much affected. The fact that large bodies of men are taken from the productive industries of the countries involved must have a great effect upon the economical situation. The fact that vast military supplies are required is not a compensation, but only a temporary alleviation." Since the meeting was held, of course, the occupation of German colonies in South Africa has taken place, and it may be anticipated with confidence that the occupation of these large tracts of territory will ultimately result in an extension of trade and business generally, in which the South African Banking Corporation, Limited, will doubtless fully share.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Head Office: Cairo.

London Office: 57½ Old Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised:	Debentures		£6,570,000
	Shares		£3,740,000
All issued, as follows:—			

Amount. £	Description.	Par. £	Price. £	Div. %	Yield. £ s. d.
2,350,000	3½% Bonds, 1st Series ...	—	75	3½	4 15 3
4,220,000	3½% Bonds	—	73	3½	4 16 7
1,250,000	4% Cum. Preferred Shares ...	10	6½	4	6 5 0
2,480,000	Ordinary Shares	5	2¼	2	3 12 9
10,000	Deferred Shares	5	—	50	—

NOTE.—*Except where specified the "£" is the £ sterling. £E.975 are equal to £1,000 sterling.*

THE Agricultural Bank of Egypt was founded under Khedivial Decree of May 17, 1902, with the object of lending to small cultivators on the security of their land and of enabling them to obtain credit on reasonable terms. The duration of the Company was fixed at 50 years, to run from June 1, 1902, and the statutes provided, *inter alia*, that "the Company's sole object shall be to make advances to small farmers on the following conditions: (1) Advances not exceeding the sum of £E.300, and repayable within 10½ years. These advances shall be secured by a first mortgage upon land, the value of which must be at least double the amount of the advance; (2) advances not exceeding the sum of £E.20, and repayable in fifteen months, or less." It was further provided that the rate of interest to be charged must not exceed 9 per cent. per annum, and in no case the maximum rate of interest established by law. Subsequently the maximum of the (1) or "B" loans was raised to £E.500 and the maximum period of repayment to 20½ years, while the maximum rate of interest chargeable was reduced to 8 per cent. By a subvention of the Egyptian Government a net profit of 3 per cent. annually is assured for the capital employed in such loans during the 50 years of the Bank's existence. The Bank has proved a great success, and by its results has shown that it has filled a badly felt want; but at the beginning of 1913 a new law came into force providing that no owner of five feddans or less could have his land seized for debt contracted, and, consequently, he cannot borrow on the security of his land; and as over 75 per cent. of the Bank's clients come within the category named, it will be seen that its operations would be seriously

Liabilities of The Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

Jan. 31	Capital. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Debentures. Amount.	Debentures. % of Total.	Sundry Creditors. Amount.	Sundry Creditors. % of Total.	Interest on Loans Accrued as per contra. Amount.	Interest on Loans Accrued as per contra. % of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amt.	Miscellaneous. % of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	Profit Balance. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.
1915 ...	[illegible]	1,587,777	5,234,277	43·8	[illegible]	53·5	[illegible]	·9	104,853	·9	85,510	·7	32,256	·2	11,973,332
1914 ...	3,646,500	1,282,582	4,929,082	41·8	6,405,750	54·2	120,219	1·0	118,388	1·0	28,620	·2	208,934	1·8	11,810,993
1913 ...	3,646,500	1,139,014	4,785,514	41·2	6,405,750	55·2	119,447	1·0	134,792	1·2	31,004	·3	150,610	1·1	11,607,777
1912 ...	3,646,500	941,877	4,588,377	40·0	6,405,750	55·7	113,217	1·0	139,503	1·2	22,719	·2	226,021	1·9	11,501,587
1911 ...	3,646,500	856,437	4,502,937	39·5	6,405,750	56·3	122,727	1·1	154,452	1·3	14,651	·1	189,278	1·7	11,389,795
1910 ...	3,646,500	701,515	4,348,015	38·9	6,405,750	57·3	107,473	1·0	165,655	1·5	13,338	·1	132,769	1·2	11,173,000
1908†...	3,646,500	502,895	4,149,395	38·0	6,405,750	58·7	98,264	·9	116,790	1·1	9,709	·1	134,766	1·2	10,914,674
1907†...	3,646,500	277,492	3,923,992	42·1	4,943,250	53·0	92,425	1·0	114,059	1·2	8,209	·1	242,153	2·6	9,324,088
1906†...	3,646,500	162,380	3,808,880	44·7	3,968,250	46·5	297,625	3·5	124,195	1·4	12,985	·2	315,769	3·7	8,527,704
1905†...	3,646,500	143,964	3,790,464	54·1	2,437,500	34·8	556,722	8·0	87,587	1·2	7,951	·1	122,181	1·8	6,999,205
1904†...	1,827,926	49,740	1,877,666	43·9	1,828,125	42·7	421,459	9·8	68,850	1·6	2,573	—	84,701	2·0	4,283,354
1903†...	1,699,530	14,503	1,714,033	75·1	—	—	462,212	20·0	36,833	1·6	6,850	·3	64,489	2·8	2,284,397

Assets of The Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

Jan. 31	Cash. Amount.	Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Loans &c. Amount.	Loans &c. % of Total.	Discount, &c. Amount.	Discount, &c. % of Total.	Instalments Overdue, &c. Amount.	Instalments Overdue, &c. % of Total.	Interest on Loans Accrued. Amount.	Interest on Loans Accrued. % of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	Bank Premises. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.	%	£E.
1915 ...	418,823	3·5	2,423,908	20·2	6,809,787	56·8	588,631	4·9	1,531,465	12·9	104,853	·9	94,865	·8	11,973,332
1914 ...	795,477	6·7	2,210,093	18·7	7,185,679	60·8	598,946	5·1	804,783	6·8	118,387	1·0	97,628	·9	11,810,993
1913 ...	1,392,986	12·0	1,730,386	14·9	6,909,101	59·5	607,947	5·2	731,626	6·3	134,792	1·1	100,939	1·0	11,607,777
1912 ...	1,658,508	14·4	1,370,050	12·0	7,030,904	61·1	616,643	5·4	581,098	5·0	139,503	1·2	104,881	·9	11,501,587
1911 ...	1,746,620	15·3	511,561	4·5	7,675,242	67·4	637,045	5·6	546,935	4·8	154,452	1·4	118,000	1·0	11,389,795
1910 ...	1,425,302	12·8	209,781	1·9	8,155,417	72·9	650,443	5·9	442,402	3·9	165,655	1·5	124,000	1·1	11,173,000
1908† ...	1,260,101	11·5	151,476	1·4	8,330,041	76·3	659,070	6·0	299,196	2·8	116,790	1·1	98,000	·9	10,914,674
1907† ...	482,095	5·2	100,357	1·1	7,991,835	85·7	426,584	4·6	125,678	1·3	114,039	1·2	83,500	·9	9,324,088
1906† ...	68,556	·8	46,711	·5	7,894,247	92·6	305,442	3·6	21,173	·2	124,195	1·5	67,380	·8	8,527,704
1905† ...	776,001	11·1	20,387	·3	5,765,672	82·4	266,480	3·8	28,908	·4	87,387	1·2	54,370	·8	6,999,205
1904† ...	35,999	·9	7,536	·2	3,936,242	91·7	194,216	4·6	7,561	·2	68,830	1·6	32,970	·8	4,283,354
1903† ...	15,384	·7	—	—	2,195,842	96·1	17,131	·8	1,472	—	36,833	1·6	17,735	·8	2,284,397

† December 31.

The Bank of Taiwan,

(Registered in Japan, 1899.) LTD.

Head Office: TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

TOKYO OFFICE - - - No. 1 Gofukucho, Nihonbashiku, Tokyo.
LONDON OFFICE - - - No. 58 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Abstract from Half-yearly Statement of June 30th, 1915.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital Subscribed	Y.20,000,000—	Cash in Hand and at Bankers	Y.13,473,542—
Reserve Funds	3,970,000—	Bullion and Foreign Money ...	2,953,007—
Note Circulation	14,378,177—	Loans to Government	4,949,967—
Deposits, etc.	79,083,173—	Bills, Loans, Advances ...	101,742,310—
Bills, Acceptances, etc. ...	26,863,905—	Investment in Public Securities	10,023,335—
Profit Brought Forward ...	246,487—	Capital Uncalled	10,000,000—
Net Profit for Past Half-Year	688,522—	Premises, Properties, etc ...	2,088,103—
	Y.145,230,264—		Y.145,230,264—

BRANCHES & AGENCIES:

Amoy	Iloilo	Moji	Soerabaya
Batavia	Jolo	Nagasaki	Swatow
Bombay	Kagi	Newchwang	Taichu
Calcutta	Keelung	New York	Tainan
Canton	Kiukiang	Osaka	Takow
Cheribon	Kobe	Samarang	Tamsui
Dairen	London	San Francisco	Tokyo
Foochow	Macassar	Shanghai	Yokohama
Hankow	Manila	Singapore	Zamboanga
Hong-Kong	Etc.		

London Bankers:

CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.
LONDON & SOUTH WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.
PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

The Bank is incorporated by special charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, and is authorised to issue its own notes in Formosa, being under the special supervision of the Government.

The Bank transacts General Banking and Foreign Exchange Business, undertakes Trust Business and acts as Business agents for other Banks.

Special facilities are available for Exchange Business on Japan, Formosa, China, the Straits Settlements, and Java.

affected. As a result of negotiations which took place the Government made certain concessions, which, it is hoped, will prove of material assistance. It appears probable that to carry out and complete the policy initiated by the Five Feddans Law it will be necessary to create new systems of agricultural credit to take the place of that which the Government has decided to restrict; and if the services of a financial establishment are required for this purpose the special claims of the Agricultural Bank will be recognised. Further, the Government agreed to give an extended scope to the operations of the Bank by increasing, subject to certain conditions, the limits of the advances which may be given under the Government guarantee, so that the maximum of "A" loans will be increased from £E.20 to £E.200, and the "B" loans from £E.500 to £E.1,000. Beyond this the Government agreed to modifications whereby the Bank would be able to invest its surplus funds in loans on the first mortgage of land in Egypt. As a result of this the Agricultural Bank purchased 194,621 Ordinary shares of the Mortgage Company of Egypt. This Company has a capital of £1,750,000 Debentures, £1,000,000 fully-paid Preferred shares, and 200,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each, on which £1 5*s.* was paid up. Of late, however, the full development of its business had been hampered by the difficulty of obtaining money on satisfactory terms. And as the Agricultural Bank was faced with the difficulty of obtaining a satisfactory outlet for its surplus funds, it was evident that the acquisition of the business of the Mortgage Company by the Agricultural Bank would be of benefit to both institutions.

Owing to the very low Nile flood of 1913, which failed to overflow much of the land which is usually cultivated, large areas of land remained unsown after the subsidence of the flood water, and many of the Bank's clients were unable to pay their taxes or the Bank's instalments. It is the practice of the Egyptian Government in such circumstances to remit taxes where desirable, and, similarly, large arrears in the Bank's collections were to be expected in those districts where annual cultivation had largely failed. The increase in arrears, however, in the annual collections throughout the country is exceptionally large, and is chiefly caused by the War. The cotton crop was deficient in quantity as compared to expectation, the prices were very low owing to the absence of the usual demand for export, and the fellaheen were more than ever indisposed to pay their debts from what sums they had available, owing to the disturbing influence of the War and the general restriction of credit. The result is that it has been necessary to draw on the general reserve and from the Egyptian Government to a total of £E.484,352 in order to comply with the statutes of the Bank, which rigidly fixes the method by which the annual profits are to be calculated. The following accounts show how the amount is arrived at:—

	£E.		£E.
General expenses and loans and instalments in arrears	675,471	Interest on loans and arrears of loans encashed ...	387,908
3% net profit on the capital engaged in guaranteed loans	196,789	Balance due from general reserve and Egyptian Government	484,352
	872,260		872,260

The net result is that the amount available for dividend on the Ordinary shares is only £E.53,601, as compared with £E.166,425 for the previous year; and, consequently, it is only possible to pay a dividend of 2 per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. for the twelve months ended January 31, 1914. Similarly the Deferred dividend has dropped from 400 per cent. to 50 per cent.

In the following statement we set out the profits made by the Bank since its inception:—

Profits of The Agricultural Bank of Egypt since Inception.

Year ended Jan. 31	Gross Profit.	Loans and Instalments in Arrears.	General Expenses, &c.	Commission to National Bank.	Debenture Interest.	Net Profit.	Preferred Dividend 4 %.	Ordinary Dividend. Amount.	Ordinary Dividend. %	Deferred Dividend. Amount.	Deferred Dividend. %	Reserves.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.		£E.		£E.
1915	1,011,708 (*a*)	550,730	71,270	4,102	233,877	151,729	48,750	48,360	2	4,875	50	70,722
1914 ...	897,011	238,509	80,276	10,357	233,562	334,307	48,750	145,080	6	39,000	400	76,622
1913 ...	768,694	215,663	82,829	9,440	233,258	227,504	48,750	132,990	5½	4,875	50	48,144
1912 ...	860,678	155,813	121,092	13,411	232,963	337,399	48,750	169,260	7	52,650	540	62,628
1911 ...	851,448	203,640	106,928	11,401	232,679	296,800	48,750	151,125	6¼	33,150	340	60,078
1910* ...	804,225	191,894	103,849	8,925	249,116	250,441	52,813	130,979	5	487	5	66,342
1908† ...	701,360	165,073	98,517	8,967	205,082	223,721	48,750	126,945	5¼	6,337	65	41,065
1907† ...	705,283	71,205	124,771	14,090	162,250	331,967	48,750	181,349	7¼	59,962	615	43,180
1906† ...	703,468	—	124,044	19,143	120,953	439,328	48,750	217,620	9	97,012	49	75,600
1905† ...	441,559	—	80,140	8,797	93,797	258,825	44,975	90,675	7½	30,713	315	91,834
1904† ...	246,980	—	72,378	5,720	27,101	141,781	23,981	72,540	6	11,993	123	33,283
1903† ...	150,718	—	67,305	3,519	—	79,894	2,375	64,305	4	—	—	13,031

* 13 months to Jan. 31. † Year ended Dec. 31. (*a*) Includes £E.472,700 transferred from general reserve fund and £E.11,652 received from Egyptian Government under guarantee.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up share capital is 4.1 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined 2.9 per cent.; and to the total working resources, 1.3 per cent.

The figures of the balance sheet at January 31, 1915, did not show much change as compared with those of the previous year, with the exception of the large increase that has taken place in the instalments overdue, these amounting at January 31 last to £E.1,531,465, as compared with £E.804,783. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets since the formation of the Bank.

ALLAHABAD BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: Allahabad.

Capital—

Authorised ... ... Rs. 40,00,000

Paid up, 15,000 Ord. Shares of Rs. 100 each / 15,000 Pref. Shares of Rs. 100 each } 30,00,000

Price of Pref. Share, Rs. 110½. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, £5 10*s.* 1*d.*
Price of Ord. Share, Rs. 300. *Dividend*, 18%. *Yield*, £6 1*s.* 10*d.*

At the end of 1913 India was passing through a severe banking crisis, accompanied by the failure of many banks and mercantile firms. The result was that people had their confidence shaken, and the trade of the country was adversely affected by the restriction of credit and general uneasiness. By the time war broke out conditions had become almost normal again, and trade generally had resumed its ordinary course. The War came unexpectedly, however, and affected the whole country, dislocating trade and finance, and disturbing the minds of many investors, more particularly Indian depositors. So abnormal was the state of affairs that withdrawal of deposits took place even from the Post Office Savings Bank, and much money that might have been profitably used in the trade of the country has been hoarded, the hoarding being especially prevalent in Allahabad. Nevertheless, the business of the Allahabad Bank, Limited, did not suffer much, and for 1914 its profits were very little less than those for 1913, the net profits amounting to Rs. 5,25,034, as compared with Rs. 5,72,795. Up to the end of 1913

the Bank showed its gross profit, the amount of interest paid to customers, and the expenses, but for 1914 the accounts were drawn up under the provisions of the new Indian Companies Act, and details as to the gross profit and expenses are no longer published. Though the capital has been increased, the Bank is able to maintain the same rate of dividend that has prevailed since 1908, and an addition of Rs. 2,00,000 has been made to the reserve fund, bringing it up to Rs. 45,00,000. Herewith we set out details of the profits for each year since 1907:—

Profits of the Allahabad Bank, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Rs.	Interest Paid to Customers. Rs.	Expenses. Rs.	Net Profits. Rs.	Dividends. Pref. Rs.	%	Ord. Rs.	%	Reserve Depreciation, &c Rs.
1914...	—	—	—	5,25,034	90,000	6	2,10,000	18	2,30,000
1913...	41,94,095	28,37,843	7,83,457	5,72,795	85,000	6	1,80,000	18	2,50,000
1912...	39,13,546	27,02,598	6,83,791	5,27,157	60,000	6	1,80,000	18	2,50,000
1911...	39,06,548	28,24,283	5,98,276	4,83,989	60,000	6	1,80,000	18	2,40,000
1910...	31,17,829	21,14,065	5,61,810	4,41,954	60,000	6	1,80,000	18	2,20,000
1909...	28,21,544	18,47,675	5,16,519	4,57,350	60,000	6	1,80,000	18	2,00,000
1908...	28,27,767	17,30,344	4,60,805	6,36,618	60,000	6	1,80,000	18	3,40,000
1907...	26,86,613	17,74,868	4,07,247	5,04,498	60,000	6	1,57,500	17½	2,40,000

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 17.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.0 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

The Allahabad Bank was started in the year 1865 with a paid-up capital of Rs. 1,90,830, which was increased to Rs. 3,00,000 by 1870. In 1890 it rose to Rs. 4,00,000; by 1900 to Rs. 5,00,000; in 1901 to Rs. 10,00,000; in 1904 to Rs. 15,00,000; and in 1907 to Rs. 20,00,000, at which figure it remained until the end of 1912. An issue of Rs. 5,00,000 in Preference shares was made in February 1913, bringing the capital to Rs. 25,00,000.

A further issue of Rs. 5,00,000 of new Ordinary capital was made in September 1914, thus raising the paid-up capital to Rs. 30,00,000. The issue was largely over-subscribed, although offered at a premium of 100 per cent., and the premium of Rs. 5,00,000 on the issue has been added to the reserve fund, which is invested in Government paper. Thus, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 30,00,000, the reserve fund, amounting to Rs. 45,00,000, is 50 per cent. larger. The result is that the proportion of the capital and reserve to the total liabilities has risen from 8.4 per cent. at the end of 1913 to 12.4 per cent. at the end of 1914. On the other hand, the deposit and current accounts have fallen from Rs. 6,76,57,075 to Rs. 5,21,63,789, the proportion to the total liabilities falling from 90.7 per cent. to 86.4 per cent. On the other side, cash, loans and discounts show shrinkages, the cash falling from Rs. 1,24,64,835 to Rs. 82,46,408, the proportion to the total assets dropping from 16.7 per cent. to 13.7 per cent.; the loans falling from Rs. 2,46,91,648 to Rs. 1,81,47,085, and the discounts from Rs. 1,35,77,121 to Rs. 88,17,244, the proportion in the case of the loans falling from 33.1 per cent. to 30.1 per cent., and in the discounts from 18.2 per cent. to 14.6 per cent. On the other hand, the investments rose from Rs. 50,71,951 to Rs. 60,24,317, the proportion to the total assets rising from 6.8 per cent. to 9.9 per cent. The Bank does not accept unwieldy deposits, and it was pointed out that at the beginning of 1915 it had no deposit from any single depositor exceeding Rs. 3,00,000. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since formation. Though the Bank was started in 1865, it was not until 1888 that its first branch was opened, this being at Cawnpore. At the present time it has, in addition to the head office, 12 branches and six sub-agencies.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 27 Clement's Lane, Lombard St., E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,500,000
Subscribed, 100,000 Shares of £15 each	1,500,000
Paid up, £5 per Share	500,000

Price of Share, £9⅛. *Dividend*, 15%. *Yield*, £8 2*s.* 5*d.*

THE Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, celebrated its jubilee at the end of last year, and in the circumstances it is certainly satisfactory to find that the directors were able to maintain the dividend of 15 per cent. that has now prevailed each year since 1906. Speaking at the meeting in November last, the Chairman pointed out that there had been several crises in Egypt during the past few years, but, except in frightening away foreign capital, they had not greatly affected the intrinsic wealth of the country nor its revenues. Dependent as Egypt was on the sale of its cotton crop, both for revenue and for the welfare of its people, it had now been badly hit, the cotton industry suffering at

Liabilities of The Allahabad Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Fund. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve Fund. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Deposit and Current Accounts. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1914	30,00,000	45,00,000	75,00,000	12·4	5,21,63,789	86·4	3,96,202	·7	2,83,985	·5	6,03,43,976
1913	25,00,000	38,00,000	63,00,000	8·4	6,76,57,075	90·7	3,71,306	·5	2,78,950	·4	7,46,07,331
1912	20,00,000	36,00,000	56,00,000	7·5	6,85,68,198	91·7	3,53,094	·5	2,43,383	·3	7,47,64,675
1911	20,00,000	34,00,000	54,00,000	7·5	6,55,95,688	91·1	8,13,010	1·1	2,06,228	·3	7,20,14,926
1910	20,00,000	32,00,000	52,00,000	8·5	5,52,85,443	90·0	7,07,845	1·2	2,02,238	·3	6,13,95,526
1905	15,00,000	15,00,000	30,00,000	7·3	3,76,18,002	91·5	3,46,264	·9	1,32,921	·3	4,10,97,187
1900	5,00,000	10,00,000	15,00,000	5·6	2,48,93,363	92·9	3,02,713	1·1	98,673	·4	2,67,94,749
1895	4,00,000	5,26,730	9,26,730	5·4	1,59,42,589	93·3	1,23,848	·7	93,979	·6	1,70,87,146
1890	4,00,000	3,46,346	7,46,346	9·5	70,03,979	89·7	15,000	·2	46,293	·6	78,11,618
1880	3,00,000	96,246	3,96,246	16·6	19,60,189	82·3	—	—	27,137	1·1	23,83,572
1870	3,00,000	13,052	3,13,052	38·5	4,78,251	58·9	—	—	21,015	2·6	8,12,318
1865	1,90,830	—	1,90,830	71·6	73,283	27·5	—	—	2,283	·9	2,66,396

Assets of The Allahabad Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1914 ...	82,46,408	13·7	60,24,317	9·9	1,81,47,085	30·1	88,17,244	14·6	1,72,37,222	28·6	18,71,700	3·1	6,03,43,976
1913 ...	1,24,64,835	16·7	50,71,951	6·8	2,46,91,648	33·1	1,35,77,121	18·2	1,70,51,173	22·9	17,50,600	2·3	7,46,07,331
1912 ...	1,06,59,533	14·2	75,44,421	10·1	2,45,68,177	32·8	1,28,17,203	17·2	1,79,50,280	24·0	12,25,061	1·7	7,47,64,675
1911 ...	1,06,68,474	14·9	73,26,794	10·2	1,91,06,870	26·5	1,80,33,231	25·0	1,58,39,204	22·0	10,40,353	1·4	7,20,14,926
1910 ...	85,95,959	14·0	51,32,234	8·4	1,69,44,926	27·6	1,41,66,989	23·2	1,56,37,998	25·4	9,17,420	1·4	6,13,95,526
1905 ...	42,03,618	10·2	42,57,213	10·4	1,15,47,732	28·1	61,25,497	14·9	1,46,75,862	35·7	2,87,265	·7	4,10,97,187
1900 ...	34,11,255	12·7	23,39,569	8·7	76,33,939	28·5	42,40,729	15·8	89,39,615	33·4	2,29,642	·9	2,67,94,749
1895 ...	25,14,238	14·7	16,44,765	9·6	26,18,326	15·4	39,30,998	23·0	62,13,637	36·4	1,65,882	·9	1,70,87,146
1890 ...	18,04,500	23·1	6,26,322	8·0	9,41,146	12·0	8,01,789	10·3	35,46,508	45·5	91,353	1·1	78,11,618
1880 ...	6,13,231	25·8	91,227	3·8	2,54,035	10·6	1,89,987	8·0	12,01,959	50·4	33,133	1·4	23,83,572
1870 ...	1,67,714	20·7	12,094	1·5	1,41,657	17·4	72,292	8·9	4,07,299	50·1	11,262	1·4	8,12,318
1865 ...	1,30,208	48·9	—	—	38,066	14·3	33,765	12·6	64,357	24·2	—	—	2,66,396

Liabilities of The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.

Aug. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	500,000	680,000	1,180,000	21·6	168,676	3·1	3,277,121	60·0	706,569	12·9	129,391	2·4	5,461,757
1913 ...	500,000	680,000	1,180,000	21·6	225,170	4·1	3,047,763	55·7	904,917	16·6	110,027	2·0	5,467,877
1912 ...	500,000	660,000	1,160,000	19·4	441,113	7·4	3,101,501	52·0	1,156,179	19·4	104,482	1·8	5,963,275
1911 ...	500,000	640,000	1,140,000	14·6	1,321,022	16·9	3,449,013	44·2	1,790,674	22·9	107,350	1·4	7,808,059
1910 ...	500,000	620,000	1,120,000	19·7	607,447	10·7	2,760,654	48·5	1,090,795	19·2	110,254	1·9	5,689,150
1905 ...	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	11·7	2,845,260	33·2	3,274,364	38·2	1,345,590	15·7	105,108	1·2	8,570,322
1900 ...	400,000	215,000	615,000	12·8	1,537,971	31·9	1,670,360	34·6	969,630	20·1	30,394	·6	4,823,955
1895 ...	400,000	—	400,000	13·2	1,053,452	34·8	796,850	26·4	672,835	22·2	102,611	3·4	3,025,748
1890* ...	400,000	—	400,000	15·6	519,499	20·2	934,132	36·3	694,256	27·0	25,256	·9	2,573,135
1880 ...	1,600,000	100,000	1,700,000	71·5	126,565	5·3	312,387	13·1	—	—	238,866	10·1	2,377,818
1870 ...	800,000	—	800,000	60·7	187,835	14·3	287,923	21·8	—	—	41,987	3·2	1,317,745
1865 ...	499,700	—	499,700	25·0	465,532	23·4	959,966	48·2	—	—	67,344	3·4	1,992,342

* Capital reorganised, 1887.

Assets of The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.

Aug. 31	Cash in London, in Transit, and at Call. Amount £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount £	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount £	% of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount £
1914	818,827	14·9	330,658	6·1	976,543	17·9	2,541,264	46·7	706,369	12·9	83,426	1·5	5,461,757
1913	545,707	10·0	396,652	7·2	902,404	16·5	2,654,552	48·6	904,917	16·6	63,665	1·1	5,467,877
1912	908,128	15·2	404,307	6·8	1,012,591	17·0	2,432,070	40·8	1,156,179	19·4	50,000	·8	5,963,275
1911	1,031,951	13·2	392,582	5·0	1,644,080	21·1	2,902,994	37·2	1,790,674	22·9	45,778	·6	7,808,059
1910	738,925	13·0	497,566	8·8	1,283,853	22·7	2,043,011	35·9	1,090,795	19·2	25,000	·4	5,689,150
1905	711,413	8·3	352,423	4·1	1,422,532	16·6	4,713,364	55·0	1,345,590	15·7	25,000	·3	8,570,322
1900	453,057	9·4	211,673	4·4	596,948	12·4	2,557,239	53·0	969,630	20·1	35,408	·7	4,823,955
1895	121,159	4·0	147,087	4·9	306,975	10·1	1,742,284	57·6	672,835	22·2	35,408	1·2	3,025,748
1890	198,371	7·6	129,064	5·0	147,996	5·8	1,353,072	52·6	694,236	27·0	50,396	2·0	2,573,135
1880	344,533	14·5	1,126,639	47·4	70,099	2·9	834,177	35·1	—	—	2,370	·1	2,377,818
1870	85,949	6·3	—	—	*591,698	44·9	642,698	48·8	—	—	300	—	1,317,745
1865	134,745	6·8	—	—	1,179,862	59·2	550,939	27·7	—	—	†126,796	6·3	1,992,342

* Including investments. † Including preliminary expenses, £110,703.

the beginning of the War more than any other. As the Bank's financial year ends on August 31, it will be seen that the last accounts only embrace a period of one month under war conditions, and the gross profit at £189,619 is very little different from that reported for the previous year, which amounted to £188,453; but as the expenses rose from £80,426 to £87,028 the net profit fell from £108,027 to £102,591. The dividend of 15 per cent. calls for a sum of £75,000, and after setting aside £2,591 to the staff benevolent fund the balance forward was increased from £52,000 to £77,000. No advantage was taken of the moratorium in Egypt, neither was there any moratorium in Gibraltar, but in Malta large demands for Admiralty requirements soon drained the cash on the spot. A consignment of £80,000 which was on the way was held up, and could not proceed beyond Gibraltar, so that it was necessary to take advantage of the moratorium; but by the time of the meeting the moratorium had been removed and business was going on as usual. Herewith we set out the profits made by the Bank for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.

Year ended Aug. 31	Gross Profit. £	Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend Amount. £	Dividend Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914 ...	189,619	87,028	102,591	75,000	15	2,591	77,000
1913 ...	188,453	80,426	108,027	75,000	15	33,026	52,000
1912 ...	187,005	79,101	107,904	75,000	15	30,904	52,000
1911 ...	190,649	75,744	114,905	75,000	15	37,905	50,000
1910 ...	177,977	73,724	104,253	75,000	15	27,253	48,000
1909 ...	174,725	69,564	105,161	75,000	15	27,161	46,000
1908 ...	178,437	73,225	105,212	75,000	15	22,212	43,000
1907 ...	207,260	74,158	133,102	75,000	15	52,102	35,000
1906 ...	194,022	64,129	129,893	75,000	15	61,893	29,000
1905 ...	168,576	53,468	115,108	62,500	12½	31,608	36,000
1904 ...	146,330	46,899	99,431	50,000	12½	51,431	15,000

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 20.5 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined 8.7 per cent.; and to the total working resources, amounting to £5,461,757, 1.9 per cent.

The Anglo-Egyptian Banking Company, Limited, was formed in July 1864, and began operations on September 1 of that year. The first accounts were provisionally made up to February 28, 1865. The Bank was formed with a capital of £2,000,000, of which £500,000 was paid up; but in the following year the paid-up amount was increased to £800,000. Business continued to progress on the whole, and in 1871 it was announced that, in consequence of the vast and rapid increase of the commerce of Egypt and the extension of agriculture in that country, new sources for the profitable employment of capital had been opened up, so that the board had arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to increase the capital. It was therefore decided to double it by the issue of 40,000 shares of £20 each at £5 premium per share. Only half the number of shares were immediately issued, and it was not until the end of 1872 that the balance was placed; thereby the paid-up amount was increased to £1,600,000.

An interesting little paragraph occurs in the report for the half-year ending August 31, 1880, where it states "the Bank's shares in the great Syndicate of Paris has been closed by the sale of the Suez Canal shares, which realised £224,000; and by taking over the Unified stock which formed the remainder of the security at market price of the day there resulted a profit of £92,758 6*s.* 7*d.*" The Bank had claims on the Egyptian Government amounting to about £300,000. These were settled in 1880 by the payment of 30 per cent. in cash and the balance in bonds and Five per Cent. Preference stock at par; and it was added: "Henceforward Egypt will no doubt experience the advantage of the recent honourable adjustment of her pecuniary liabilities in the contentment of her population and in the increase of her commercial prosperity."

The next change in the affairs of the Bank occurred in 1887, when it was reconstructed under its present title on a basis to admit of a return of capital. A sum of £10 per share was returned to the shareholders, thereby reducing the paid-up capital to £800,000; while in 1889 it was decided to return a further £400,000, or £5 per share, the report stating that the desirability of the operation must be evident from the accounts, "which show nearly £500,000 sterling lying in London at unremunerative rates," a position which it appeared to the board must constantly recur so long as the paid-up capital remained at the old figure. Accordingly, the accounts for 1890 showed that the paid-up capital had been reduced to £400,000, the subscribed amount being £1,200,000. The capital remained at this figure until 1904, when 20,000 additional shares were created, bringing the authorised amount to £1,500,000 and the paid-up sum to

£500,000, since when no further alteration has occurred.

In 1895 there was no reserve fund, but since that time substantial allocations have been made, and by 1905 the reserve was equal to the paid-up capital. By August 1913 it reached a total of £680,000, and though it was possible to increase the fund at August 31 last, as already pointed out, it was preferred to increase the carry-forward, and, consequently, the reserve fund still stands at £680,000, or £180,000 in excess of the paid-up capital. From the table herewith the growth of the institution as evidenced in the liabilities and assets for various years since formation may be seen.

In addition to the head office in London the Bank has branches at Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Khartoum, Zagazig, Malta, Gibraltar, and Paris.

The low price of cotton which resulted from the outbreak of war adversely affected the country for a time, but large expenditures in connecton with the large number of British troops in the country and the great recovery in the price of cotton have brought renewed prosperity. On December 18, 1914, a British protectorate over Egypt was declared, and the country will now gain all the advantages which accrue to nations within the British Empire.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 62½ Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£5,000,000
Subscribed, 450,000 Shares of £10 each ...	4,500,000
Paid up, £5 per Share	2,250,000

Price of Shares, 5⅛. *Dividend*, 8 %. *Yield*, £7 2*s.* 7*d.*%

THIS Bank forms a very good example of a transformation little short of remarkable of a purely local institution into one of international importance. It is of comparatively recent origin, dating back only to 1888, when it was formed as the Bank of Tarapacá and London as a direct outcome of the great attention then being devoted to the nitrate industry, and the purpose of its founders was the establishment of a bank which should act for that industry. Such were the auspices under which the new Bank was started, and for some time it was purely as a nitrate Bank that it was carried on. Three branches were originally opened: one at Valparaiso, one at Iquique, and the third at Pisagua. The capital was fixed at £1,000,000, of which £500,000 was paid up. During the earlier part of its career, in consequence of its limitations, the business was confined in somewhat narrow channels, and the Bank suffered also by reason of internal political troubles in Chile. In 1895 steps were taken to enlarge its territory beyond the immediate boundaries of the nitrate fields, and branches were opened at Santiago and Punta Arenas, which were followed later on by offices at Antofagasta, Concepcion, and Puerto Gallegos. Though the territory was somewhat enlarged, the business was still confined to Chile, and it was not until 1900 that the first step in the transformation of the Bank was taken. It was decided in that year to absorb the Anglo-Argentine Bank, the consolidated institution taking the title of the Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina. The Argentine Bank had offices at Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, and in order to carry out the amalgamation an enlarged capital was necessary. Consequently, the authorised amount was increased to £1,500,000 and the paid-up amount to £750,000. In the same year five new branches were opened up. In 1907 the title of the Bank was changed to its present form, namely, the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, and it was at the same time decided to further increase the capital to an authorised amount of £2,500,000, of which £1,250,000 was paid up. At this time a total of 16 branches had been opened in South America, while, in addition, an agency was opened in New York and a branch was also started at Hamburg. In 1912 another very important step forward was taken when it was decided to acquire the business of the London Bank of Mexico and South America, Limited, this giving the institution a footing in Central America and the northern countries of the west coast of South America. The London Bank of Mexico and South America was largely a holding institution, having an interest in local banks, including Banco del Peru y Londres, Banco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Banco de la Nacion Boliviana, Banco Agricola y Comercial, and the Banco de Londres y Mexico. The result of this last step is that, in addition to the head office in London, an agency in New York, and branches in Paris and Hamburg, the Bank has 10 branches in Chile, seven branches in Argentina and Uruguay, and an agency in Bolivia, while it also has agencies in Mexico, Peru, Havana, Salvador, and in the principal towns in Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador,

Liabilities of The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	2,250,000	1,583,827	3,833,827	22·5	3,501,842	20·6	7,973,527	47·0	1,461,756	8·6	222,888	1·3	16,993,840
1914 ...	2,250,000	1,583,827	3,833,827	19·3	5,169,486	26·1	7,830,631	39·5	2,791,670	14·1	204,227	1·0	19,829,841
1913 ...	2,070,000	1,623,827	3,693,827	19·4	5,446,956	28·7	7,227,521	38·0	2,381,609	12·5	265,582	1·4	19,017,495
1912 ...	1,250,000	982,746	2,232,746	15·4	4,630,077	31·8	6,436,267	44·3	996,360	6·9	231,503	1·6	14,526,953
1911 ...	1,250,000	911,665	2,161,665	15·4	4,261,362	30·4	6,634,291	47·4	739,315	5·3	196,351	1·5	13,992,984
1910 ...	1,250,000	860,690	2,110,690	17·6	3,958,293	33·0	5,418,873	45·2	341,413	2·8	164,008	1·4	11,993,277
1905 ...	750,000	250,000	1,000,000	13·9	2,544,753	35·2	3,576,677	49·5	—	—	99,108	1·4	7,220,538
1900 ...	500,000	40,000	540,000	20·4	834,250	31·5	1,205,777	45·7	—	—	62,216	2·4	2,642,243
1895 ...	500,000	30,000	530,000	24·7	903,232	42·1	684,394	31·9	—	—	26,771	1·3	2,144,397
1890 ...	498,065	3,850	501,915	41·6	549,949	45·6	132,596	11·0	—	—	21,405	1·8	1,205,865
1889 ...	200,000	—	200,000	36·0	306,579	55·1	49,780	8·9	—	—	—	—	556,359

Assets of The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited.

June 30	Cash in Hand, at Bankers and at Call and Short Notice. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	% of Total.	Advances, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	2,291,943	13·5	1,843,972	10·9	3,956,009	23·3	7,131,276	41·9	1,461,756	8·6	308,884	1·8	16,993,840
1914 ...	1,736,001	8·8	1,636,671	8·2	5,551,758	28·0	7,803,366	39·3	2,791,670	14·1	310,375	1·6	19,829,841
1913 ...	1,765,598	9·2	1,744,772	9·2	5,446,800	28·7	7,361,814	38·7	2,381,609	12·5	319,902	1·7	19,017,495
1912 ...	1,646,993	11·4	865,229	5·9	5,097,839	35·1	5,676,090	39·0	996,360	6·9	244,442	1·7	14,526,953
1911 ...	1,790,055	12·8	903,876	6·5	4,759,825	34·0	5,557,334	39·7	739,315	5·3	242,579	1·7	13,992,984
1910 ...	1,732,341	14·4	587,248	4·9	4,132,463	34·5	4,933,202	41·1	341,413	2·8	266,610	2·3	11,993,277
1905 ...	890,506	12·3	444,532	6·2	2,709,155	37·5	3,087,869	42·8	—	—	88,476	1·2	7,220,538
1900 ...	544,083	20·6	94,681	3·6	—	—	1,972,554†	74·7	—	—	30,925	1·1	2,642,243
1895 ...	580,277	27·0	31,792	1·5	—	—	1,526,012†	71·2	—	—	6,316	·3	2,144,397
1890 ...	202,790	16·8	80,360	6·6	—	—	916,107†	76·0	—	—	6,608*	·6	1,205,865
1889 ...	79,556	14·3	137,336	24·7	—	—	333,855†	60·0	—	—	5,612*	1·0	556,359

* Preliminary expenses, 1890, 1889, £4,372.

† Including bills receivable and cash and securities lodged with the Chilian Government for due payment of drafts issued for duties.

Guatemala, Guiana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of Colombia, Venezuela, and the West Indies. In order to carry out the amalgamation it was necessary to increase the capital again, and accordingly it was decided that the authorised capital should consist of 500,000 shares of £10 each. Of these, 450,000 shares have been issued, and £5 per share has been called up, making a total issued capital of £2,250,000. With practically only one exception the business has shown uninterrupted progress from the start. Up to 1907 a very steady growth occurred, but for the year to June 30, 1908, a slight set-back was experienced, due to a severe political and financial crisis in Chile, which resulted in a considerable shrinkage in business. Since then, however, progress has been uninterrupted year by year, and by June 30, 1912, the total assets of the Bank were once more in excess of those at June 30, 1907, which had hitherto been the high-water mark as regards the extent of the business. The figures at June 30, 1913, are not comparable with those of the previous year, inasmuch as they are swollen by the figures of the London Bank of Mexico and South America.

The general disturbance to business caused by the War is reflected in the figures of the accounts to June 30 last. The capital and reserve funds are unchanged, but bills payable have been reduced from £5,169,486 to £3,501,842, while acceptances have dropped from £2,791,670 to £1,461,756. On the other hand, the deposits have risen from £7,830,631 to £7,973,527. On the other side of the accounts, the cash has risen from £1,736,001 to £2,291,943, the proportion to the total assets rising from 8.8 per cent. to 13.5 per cent. Investments also are higher, amounting to £1,843,972, as compared with £1,636,671. Bills receivable, however, have dropped from £5,551,758 to £3,956,009. Advances amount to £7,131,276, as compared with £7,803,366. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1889.

Naturally, the dislocation of trade is reflected in the profits, but it is satisfactory to find that the fall that has occurred is comparatively small. The gross profit has fallen from £546,314 to £526,028, but this has been offset by a fall in expenses from £251,352 to £228,451. Income tax, however, has risen from £15,907 to £28,291, and the net profit, therefore, works out at £269,286, as compared with £279,055. The dividend has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 8 per cent., and a sum of £75,000 has been set aside to writing down the investments, while the Bank carries forward £133,887, as compared with £110,164 brought in. Herewith we set out the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit.*	Expenses.	Income Tax.	Net Profit.	Dividend Amt.	Dividend Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn.,&c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1915 ...	526,028	228,451	28,291	269,286	161,063	8	84,500	133,887
1914 ...	546,314	251,352	15,907	279,055	208,392	10	9,500	110,164
1913 ...	558,981	241,838	11,889	305,254	209,050	12	88,000	49,001
1912 ...	444,466	180,983	10,471	253,012	141,250	12	120,081	40,797
1911 ...	385,669	167,392	11,550	206,727	117,708	10	88,381	49,116
1910 ...	357,205	167,117	11,526	178,562	117,708	10	56,675	48,478
1909 ...	360,845	167,665	11,622	181,558	115,364	9½	65,400	44,299
1908 ...	325,383	153,296	5,942	166,145	105,833	9	55,000	43,505
1907 ...	424,804	139,641	4,877	280,286	67,500	9	202,558	38,193
1906 ...	274,979	105,088	4,434	165,457	52,500	7	103,600	27,965
1905 ...	210,492	95,060	4,155	111,277	45,000	6	58,000	18,608
1904 ...	186,153	90,831	3,545	91,777	45,000	6	53,000	10,331

* Less rebate of interest on bills, &c., not due. † Free of income tax.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 11.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.0 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.6 per cent.

AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LIMITED.

Head Office: George and King Streets, Sydney.
London Office: 2 King William Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 2,000,000 Shares, £1 each...	...	...	£2,000,000
Subscribed, 1,198,534 „ „	...	...	1,198,534
Paid up	...	...	1,195,447

Price of Share, 10s. 6d. *Div.*, 3 %. *Yield*, £5 14s. 3d.%.
„ 4% *Inscribed Deposits*, 14s.

For 1914 the Australian Bank of Commerce showed a profit of £119,988, as compared with £124,416 for 1913. After deduction of interest on Inscribed Deposits the net profit reached £54,239, as compared with £57,120. The dividend was maintained at 3 per cent., and a sum of £20,000 was carried to the reserve fund. Particulars of the profits for each year from 1904 are appended:—

Liabilities of The Australian Bank of Commerce, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amt.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Inscribed Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks. Amt.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914 ...	1,195,592	55,000	1,250,592	20·3	1,210	—	171,776	2·8	3,046,939	49·4	1,654,044	26·5	40,112	·7	21,180	·3	6,165,853
1913 ...	1,195,447	35,000	1,230,447	20·0	1,955	—	123,612	2·0	3,056,663	49·7	1,672,738	27·2	40,449	·7	22,807	·4	6,148,671
1912 ...	1,195,275	15,000	1,210,275	21·0	3,856	·1	132,570	2·3	2,663,185	46·2	1,711,448	29·7	24,246	·4	21,548	·3	5,767,128
1911 ...	1,193,048	—	1,193,048	20·7	13,197	·2	90,649	1·6	2,681,490	46·5	1,730,198	29·9	48,474	·8	16,222	·3	5,773,278
1910 ...	1,145,933	—	1,145,933	19·8	109,712	1·9	63,812	1·1	2,667,277	46·2	1,732,067	30·0	35,027	·6	22,146	·4	5,775,974
1909* ...	154,570	10,000	164,570	2·8	81,525	1·4	65,194	1·1	1,676,729	29·0	3,750,068	64·6	16,037	·2	50,036	·9	5,804,159
1908 ...	154,570	10,000	164,570	2·8	95,866	1·7	64,452	1·1	1,731,176	29·5	3,750,972	64·0	20,149	·3	35,751	·6	5,862,936
1907 ...	154,570	10,000	164,570	2·8	87,645	1·5	63,244	1·1	1,726,535	29·5	3,767,271	64·4	26,976	·5	11,594	·2	5,847,635
1906 ...	154,570	10,000	164,570	2·8	78,428	1·3	66,008	1·1	1,555,654	26·2	4,070,898	68·4	11,521	·2	2,934	·0	5,950,013
1905 ...	154,529	5,000	159,529	2·8	66,687	1·2	49,409	·8	1,348,526	23·5	4,082,793	71·2	24,923	·4	3,988	·1	5,735,856

Assets of The Australian Bank of Commerce, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin and Bullion, Aust. Notes, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Cash at London Bankers and at Short Call in London. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted, Loans and Advances. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable in London and Remittances in Transit. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due by other Banks. Amt.	% of Total.	Bank Premises and other Assets. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Asset Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914 ...	956,615	15·5	104,745	1·7	175,913	2·8	4,088,361	66·3	171,776	2·8	237,702	3·8	75,305	1·2	360,975	5·9	6,165,853
1913 ...	939,863	15·3	75,500	1·2	376,049	6·1	3,929,038	63·9	123,612	2·0	237,073	3·9	106,830	1·7	360,706	5·9	6,148,671
1912 ...	745,227	12·9	75,500	1·3	170,799	2·9	3,930,748	68·2	132,571	2·3	178,251	3·1	158,640	2·8	375,192	6·5	5,767,128
1911 ...	832,504	14·4	78,500	1·3	45,780	·8	4,109,223	71·2	90,649	1·6	136,667	2·4	110,172	1·9	369,783	6·4	5,773,278
1910 ...	887,949	15·4	114,200	2·0	156,079	2·7	3,877,625	67·1	63,812	1·1	138,773	2·4	169,769	2·9	367,767	6·4	5,775,974
1909* ...	604,457	10·4	124,900	2·1	91,988	1·6	4,385,243	75·6	65,194	1·1	86,410	1·5	78,274	1·3	366,693	6·4	5,804,159
1908 ...	608,522	10·4	228,600	3·9	31,843	·5	4,357,318	74·3	64,452	1·1	135,231	2·3	68,815	1·2	368,155	6·3	5,862,936
1907 ...	606,565	10·4	265,100	4·5	22,007	·4	4,272,568	73·1	63,244	1·1	172,030	2·9	77,976	1·3	368,155	6·3	5,847,635
1906 ...	646,351	10·9	195,700	3·3	542,808	9·1	3,954,151	66·5	66,008	1·1	131,633	2·2	47,573	·8	365,789	6·1	5,950,013
1905 ...	593,471	10·3	195,700	3·4	303,389	5·3	4,073,107	71·0	49,409	·9	111,618	1·9	43,373	·8	365,789	6·4	5,735,856

* June 30.

Profits of the Australian Bank of Commerce, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Profit. £	Interest on Inscribed Deposits. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, Invest., Depn.,&c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914	119,988	65,749	54,239	35,868	3	20,000	3,246
1913	124,416	67,296	57,120	35,864	3	20,000	4,875
1912	118,945	68,833	50,112	32,865	2¾	15,000	3,619
1911	—	—	27,226	29,400	2½	—	1,372
1910†	—	—	30,091	26,544	3½	—	3,547
1909*	—	—	14,285	—	—	—	50,036
1908	—	—	24,008	—	—	—	35,750
1907	138,434	129,774	18,660	—	—	—	11,593
1906	140,170	136,226	3,944	—	—	5,000	2,932
1905	141,075	137,510	3,565	—	—	5,000	3,988
1904	148,895	143,472	5,423	—	—	—	5,423

* Six months to June 30.

† Previous to 1910 the profits of the Australian Joint Stock Bank are given, this Bank having been reconstructed in 1909 and name changed to Australian Bank of Commerce, Ltd.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 4.6 per cent., to capital and reserve 4.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 0.9 per cent.

This Bank was incorporated under the New South Wales Companies Act in September 1909, and is the successor of the old Australian Joint Stock Bank, Limited, which dates back to 1853. The Australian Joint Stock Bank, Limited, was formed with a capital of £250,000, and the first balance sheet, dated June 30, 1853, showed that the paid-up capital amounted to £125,000, the deposits being £159,048. By 1874 the paid-up capital was £484,656, and it was then increased to £500,000, at which figure it remained until 1888. The Bank suspended payment in 1893, and was then reorganised. But as stated a subsequent reorganisation occurred, and on January 1, 1910, the Bank started business as the Australian Bank of Commerce, Limited. The amount of capital paid up at the end of 1910 was £1,145,933. At the present time the authorised capital is £2,000,000, in £1 shares. There have been issued 1,198,534 shares.

In consequence of the passing of the Federal Notes Act and the subsequent issue of Commonwealth notes, the circulation of the Australian joint-stock banks has been withdrawn, inasmuch as a prohibitive tax is now placed on their issue.

The reserve fund now amounts to £55,000, which has been accumulated in the last three years. The changes in the balance sheet at the end of 1914, as compared with the previous year, are of quite a minor character. The cash in London has fallen from £376,049 to £173,913, while bills discounted and advances have risen from £3,929,038 to £4,088,361. Investments have also risen from £75,500 to £104,745. The totals of the balance sheet amount to £6,165,853, as compared with £6,148,671. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the old Australian Joint Stock Bank, Limited, from 1905 to 1909, and the corresponding figures of the Australian Bank of Commerce from 1910 to 1914.

In the first months of war the position in Australia was adversely affected by the greatly reduced quantity of wool exported. Up to the end of December 1914 only about 125,000 bales of the new clip had been sold in the Sydney market, whereas in the same period in the previous year about 525,000 bales were sold; and the price realised showed heavy decline, the price of Port Philip average grease in the London market having fallen from 13½*d.* at the end of July to 10½*d.* at the end of December 1914. In the current year, however, this situation has been completely rectified. The exports of wool from Australia have been greater than ever before, and the prices realised have steadily risen, until at the present time the quotation of Port Philip average grease is as high as 14¼*d.*; that is to say, it has more than recovered the fall that took place in the early months of the War. The value of wool imported into Great Britain from Australia in the first nine months of the current year has been £16,820,000, against £8,773,000 in the corresponding nine months of last year, and it is evident that the year 1915 will be a favourable year for business in Australia. Indeed, money has accumulated there so quickly that the Commonwealth Government in August succeeded in issuing at home its first loan of £5,000,000 for war purposes, part of a total loan of £20,000,000 to be issued in instalments. The interest on the loan was 4½ per cent. and the price of issue was par. The applications amounted to upwards of £13,000,000.

The balance-sheet figures for June 30, 1915, show comparatively little change as compared with the previous year, the main item being an increase of £42,205 in the deposits, which amount to £3,331,321, as compared with £3,289,116 at June 30, 1914; while, on the other hand, the inscribed deposits fell from £1,653,399 to £1,614,689. On the other side of the accounts the cash in hand has risen from £867,025 to £1,068,331, while call money has dropped from £470,942 to £316,796; bills discounted, loans and advances have also fallen, amounting to £3,995,588, as compared with £4,105,774.

BANK OF ADELAIDE.

Head Office: Adelaide, South Australia.
London Office: 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 125,000 Shares of £5 each	£625,000
Subscribed	625,000
Paid up, £4 per Share	500,000

Price of Share, £6½. *Dividend*, 8 %. *Yield*, £5 4*s.* 6*d.* %

During the twelve months to March 1915 the Bank of Adelaide has suffered from two circumstances, war and drought. The Chairman of the Bank of Adelaide, in referring to the drought, stated that it "has deprived us of some millions of pounds worth of one of our principal staples of export—viz., wheat—and war has closed the outlet avenue for our metal productions in regard to our chief customer—Germany—both bringing about a serious dislocation of exchange, which is one of our chief sources of profit. In the earlier days of the War this effect was very marked, and the exchange operations of our customers were only carried on at a considerable loss to the Bank. Fortunately we were able to find cover for our transactions, though not at a profit. The situation has been considerably relieved by the unexpected demand which arose for another of our staples—wool—which has found a market at satisfactory prices; also by shipment of metals, which have been taken by countries other than our enemies. Considerable alleviation has also been experienced in aid from the Mother Country by her loans to our Federal Government, thus providing cover in cash previously supplied by our exports of merchandise. It must be borne in mind, however, that this latter assistance is merely borrowed, and must be repaid when hostilities cease. Our country, fortunately, possesses such wonderful recuperative powers that such a burden does not weigh heavily on us." In the circumstances it is not surprising that the net profit for the twelve months to March 1914 shows a considerable shrinkage as compared with the previous year; and, indeed, a marked shrinkage has occurred in business, brought about chiefly by the state of financial matters in London, which rendered it unprofitable to continue the large transactions which the Bank entered into with various Australian Governments. Though the Bank has not encouraged advances for speculative purposes, it has been able to afford all necessary assistance to its customers, and has made ample provision to carry farmers, whose business is of great value, through the coming reason. The net profit amounted to £52,485, as compared with £76,227. After providing for land and income tax there is a balance of £48,023, as compared with £71,946. For the five years up to 1914 the Bank was able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum. In consequence of the reduction in profit it was considered prudent to reduce the dividend from 10 per cent. to

Liabilities of The Bank of Adelaide.

March 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amount. £	Bills in Circulation. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	500,000	510,000	1,010,000	20·9	11,003	·2	208,240	4·3	3,548,223	73·5	53,191	1·1	4,830,657
1914 ...	500,000	490,000	990,000	15·9	12,822	·2	265,711	4·3	4,889,340	78·5	70,168	1·1	6,228,041
1913 ...	500,000	460,000	960,000	17·5	16,801	·3	275,358	5·0	4,155,320	75·8	78,222	1·4	5,485,701
1912 ...	500,000	[illegible]	930,000	16·0	28,849	·5	192,890	3·3	4,591,124	78·9	77,084	1·3	5,819,747
1911 ...	500,000	400,000	900,000	14·0	228,477	3·6	477,439	7·5	4,730,203	73·7	76,486	1·2	6,413,605
1910 ...	400,000	325,000	725,000	12·2	225,893	4·0	773,422	13·0	4,149,594	69·7	61,838	1·1	5,935,647
1905 ...	400,000	235,000	635,000	18·5	129,968	3·8	246,474	7·1	2,379,163	69·2	49,953	1·4	3,440,558
1900 ...	[illegible]	165,000	565,000	18·3	127,222	4·1	158,035	5·1	2,203,322	71·2	39,401	1·3	3,093,980
1895 ...	400,000	146,000	546,000	21·6	92,844	3·7	179,694	7·1	1,674,792	66·3	32,289	1·3	2,525,619
1891 ...	400,000	132,000	532,000	29·8	69,654	3·9	47,749	2·7	1,093,430	61·6	34,985	2·0	1,777,218
1881 ...	400,000	140,000	540,000	44·3	47,162	3·9	48,411	4·0	563,913	46·2	19,328	1·6	1,218,814
1875*...	400,000	90,000	490,000	42·0	73,131	6·3	6,859	·6	561,119	48·0	36,500	3·1	1,167,499
1870*...	200,000	15,380	215,380	48·4	26,935	6·0	461	·1	187,485	42·4	13,892	3·1	444,153
1867†...	148,487	—	148,487	44·9	19,231	5·9	34,956	10·6	121,274	36·7	6,531	1·9	330,479

Assets of The Bank of Adelaide.

March 31	Specie, Bullion and Cash Balances, and Notes and Remittances in transitu. Amount. £	Specie, Bullion and Cash Balances, and Notes and Remittances in transitu. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Money at Call. Amount. £	Money at Call. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable Advances &c. Amount. £	Bills Receivable Advances &c. % of Total. %	Balances Due from other Banks. Amount. £	Balances Due from other Banks. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises Accounts. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915	[illegible]	19·5	[illegible]	9·8	[illegible]	11·9	[illegible]	53·6	130,952	2·9	115,209	2·3	4,830,657
1914	[illegible]	14·0	[illegible]	7·7	670,000	10·8	4,015,067	64·4	[illegible]	1·3	111,322	1·8	6,228,041
1913	[illegible]	16·8	[illegible]	8·8	838,000	15·3	2,986,570	54·5	147,235	2·7	105,626	1·9	5,485,701
1912	1,032,791	17·8	[illegible]	7·9	525,000	9·0	3,536,153	60·8	182,120	3·1	[illegible]	1·4	5,819,747
1911	[illegible]	14·3	[illegible]	7·8	1,037,000	16·1	3,712,290	57·9	160,791	2·5	88,205	1·4	6,413,605
1910	1,221,171	20·6	[illegible]	8·8	1,140,000	19·2	2,817,429	47·5	149,459	2·5	85,341	1·4	5,935,647
1905	487,719	14·2	432,768	12·6	655,000	19·0	1,700,916	49·4	[illegible]	2·7	71,483	2·1	3,440,558
1900	[illegible]	17·5	307,279	9·9	567,500	18·3	1,401,690	45·3	219,678	7·1	57,274	1·9	3,093,980
1895	[illegible]	16·7	[illegible]	11·8	341,972	13·5	1,347,786	53·4	53,059	2·1	[illegible]	2·5	2,525,619
1891	[illegible]	14·6	31,491	1·7	—	—	1,136,930	64·0	[illegible]	16·0	[illegible]	3·7	1,777,218
1881	[illegible]	13·1	-	—	-	—	756,806	62·1	251,067	20·6	51,565	4·2	1,218,814
1875*	106,502	9·1	-	—	-	—	1,028,055	88·0	14,636	1·3	18,306	1·6	1,167,499
1870*	47,553	10·7	—	—	-	-	390,749	88·0	1,117	·3	4,734	1·0	444,153
1867†	[illegible]	18·4	—	—	—	—	256,893	77·8	7,774	2·3	4,875	1·5	339,479

* December. † January 7.

8 per cent., the lower rate calling for a sum of £40,000. No allocation was made to reserve, but the carry-forward was increased from £25,168 to £33,191.

The following is the profit record since 1905:—

Profits of the Bank of Adelaide.

Year ended Mar.	Net Profit. £	Land and Income Tax. £	Balance. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	52,485	4,462	48,023	40,000	8	-	33,191
1914 ...	76,227	4,281	71,946	50,000	10	[illegible]	25,168
1913 ...	86,388	5,250	81,138	50,000	10	30,000	23,222
1912 ...	90,659	10,061	80,598	50,000	10	30,000	22,084
1911 ...	87,208	7,560	79,648	45,000	10	30,000	21,486
1910 ...	82,430	7,300	75,130	40,000	10	34,000	16,838
1909 ...	78,522	5,829	72,693	38,000	9½	40,000	15,707
1908 ...	59,951	3,441	56,510	36,000	9	20,000	21,014
1907 ...	59,252	2,987	56,265	34,000	8½	20,000	20,504
1906 ...	48,810	2,524	46,286	32,000	8	15,000	18,239
1905 ...	50,441	3,565	47,876	32,000	8	15,000	18,953

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 10.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 5.2 per cent., and to total working resources 1.1 per cent.

The authorised capital of the Bank of Adelaide, an institution which was incorporated in 1865, is £625,000, in 125,000 shares of £5 each. The Bank, however, has power to increase the capital to £1,000,000. The paid-up capital is £500,000, the £5 shares being £4 paid. There is also £6 per share uncalled liability. For many years the capital remained unchanged, but in July 1910 a further issue of capital was made. It consisted of 25,000 new shares, which were taken up by the shareholders at £6 per share. The premium of £2 per share, making £50,000, was added to reserve, bringing it up to £400,000.

Since that date further additions have been made from profits to reserve fund, and with £20,000 from the profits of the year ended March 31, 1914, the reserve was brought up to £510,000, or £10,000 in excess of the paid-up capital. At the end of 1911 the notes in circulation amounted to £228,477, but in consequence of new legislation establishing a Federal note issue, and the consequent prohibitive tax placed on other note issues, this item has practically disappeared from the accounts. Bills in circulation fell from £265,711 in 1914 to £208,240 in 1915. Similarly, the deposits dropped during the year from £4,889,340 to £3,548,223. On the other hand, the cash rose from £872,062 to £946,605, the proportion to the total assets rising from 14 per cent. to 19.5 per cent. Bills receivable and advances have dropped from £4,015,067 to £2,589,386, the proportion to the total assets falling from 64.4 per cent. to 53.6 per cent. The 1914 figures were exceptionally large, an increase of £264,000 occurring in the advances, due chiefly to the cost of moving the crops. But as this year there were no crops to move, save that required for home consumption, the shrinkage is explained.

We set out herewith the liabilities and assets for various years since 1867.

It may be recalled that the Bank of Adelaide are bankers in London to the South Australian Government, and it should be noted that it came unscathed through the financial troubles of 1893.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

Head Office: 4 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, Subscribed and Paid up, 50,000 Shares of £40 each, fully paid £2,000,000

Price of £40 Share, £110xd. *Div.,* 17%. *Yield,* £6 3s. 10d.%

For the twelve months to October 1914 the Bank of Australasia made a gross profit of £836,550, as compared with £788,605 for the preceding year. In view of the fact that three months of the period were affected by war conditions it will be seen that the results are extremely satisfactory. The increased gross profit was accompanied by a rise in expenses, salaries, &c., working expenses rising from £299,818 to £307,622, and rates and taxes from £61,167 to £74,521. The net profits thus amounted to £454,407, as compared with £427,620. The dividend was maintained at 17 per cent., but, in consequence of an increase of capital in 1913, the amount required for the dividend is now £340,000, as compared with £306,000 for the previous year; a sum of £20,000 has been transferred to the reserve fund, and £10,000

Liabilities of The Bank of Australasia.

Oct.	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Circulation. Amount. £	Circulation. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. £	Bills Payable. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	2,000,000	2,710,000	4,710,000	17·3	202,995	·7	19,108,795	70·2	2,908,041	10·7	284,575	1·1	27,214,506
1913...	2,000,000	2,690,000	4,690,250	18·1	168,818	·6	18,088,955	69·8	2,768,818	10·7	200,169	·8	25,916,790
1912...	1,600,000	2,010,000	3,610,000	14·6	184,056	·7	17,906,493	72·9	2,722,182	11·0	164,548	·8	24,587,279
1911...	1,600,000	1,910,000	3,510,000	14·6	227,860	·9	17,414,474	72·4	2,753,640	11·5	152,074	·6	24,058,048
1910...	1,600,000	1,810,000	3,410,000	14·3	564,886	2·3	16,896,476	70·9	2,823,365	11·9	143,725	·6	23,838,452
1905...	1,600,000	1,250,000	2,850,000	13·0	450,854	2·0	16,329,565	74·0	2,319,698	10·5	113,555	·5	22,063,672
1900...	1,600,000	925,000	2,525,000	12·9	482,985	2·5	13,650,832	70·1	2,718,365	14·0	94,041	·5	19,471,223
1890...	1,600,000	800,000	2,400,000	12·5	435,350	2·2	13,657,509	70·9	2,631,252	13·7	127,098	·7	19,251,209
1880...	1,200,000	295,710	1,495,710	16·6	324,701	3·6	5,803,895	64·6	1,221,169	13·6	145,379	1·6	8,990,854
1870...	1,200,000	210,248	1,410,248	25·3	295,435	5·3	2,953,179	52·9	819,494	14·7	101,702	1·8	5,580,058
1861...	900,000	200,000	1,100,000	24·3	423,507	9·3	2,185,899	48·2	653,022	14·4	171,825	3·8	4,534,253

Assets of The Bank of Australasia.

Oct.	Specie, Bullion and Cash Balances. Amount. £	Specie, Bullion and Cash Balances. % of Total. %	British Govt. Securities. Amount. £	British Govt. Securities. % of Total. %	Indian and Colonial Govt. Securities and other Investments. Amount. £	Indian and Colonial Govt. Securities and other Investments. % of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. £	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable, Advances on Securities and other Assets. Amount. £	Bills Receivable, Advances on Securities and other Assets. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises Accounts. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	5,424,703	19·9	805,030	3·0	916,850	3·4	—	—	20,041,792	73·7	114,588	—	27,214,506
1913 ...	5,552,259	21·4	834,469	3·2	734,386	2·8	1,232,000	4·8	17,565,435	67·8	2,241	—	25,916,790
1912 ...	4,358,502	17·7	861,700	3·5	589,072	2·4	1,512,000	6·1	17,225,793	70·1	40,212	·2	24,587,279
1911 ...	5,178,150	21·5	1,068,400	4·4	761,127	3·2	1,072,000	4·5	15,892,891	66·0	85,480	·4	24,058,048
1910 ...	4,830,846	20·2	1,079,736	4·5	682,089	2·9	2,360,000	10·0	14,755,338	61·9	130,443	·5	23,838,452
1905 ...	3,981,667	18·0	967,141	4·4	175,980	·8	2,359,000	10·7	14,294,304	64·8	285,580	1·3	22,063,672
1900 ...	3,144,842	16·2	977,196	5·0	409,825	2·1	1,202,500	6·2	13,325,667	68·4	411,193	2·1	19,471,223
1890 ...	2,634,406	13·7	768,702	4·0	768,702	4·0	955,000	4·9	14,469,791	75·2	423,310	2·2	19,251,209
1880 ...	1,055,442	11·8	—	—	—	—	1,333,524*	14·8	6,359,340	70·7	242,548	2·7	8,990,854
1870 ...	695,880	12·5	123,282	2·2	123,282	2·2	—	—	4,580,456	82·1	180,440	3·2	5,580,058
1861 ...	750,033	16·6	—	—	—	—	454,764*	10·0	3,170,244	69·9	159,212	3·5	4,534,253

* Investments included.

applied in reduction of the cost of bank premises, while the carry-forward has risen from £30,168 to £114,575.

The following is the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of Australasia.

Year ended October	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Rates and Taxes. £	Net Profits. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forw'd. £
1914	836,550	307,622	74,521	454,407	340,000	17	30,000	114,575
1913	788,605	299,818	61,167	427,620	306,000	17	120,000	30,168
1912	775,422	288,259	62,688	424,475	272,000	17	140,000	28,549
1911	761,742	290,033	67,360	404,349	264,000	16½	140,000	16,074
1910	736,069	285,210	58,605	392,254	256,000	16	138,000	15,720
1909	681,505	276,612	53,217	351,676	224,000	14	127,000	17,471
1908	720,997	275,211	46,065	399,721	224,000	14	175,000	16,795
1907	754,142	278,896	42,033	433,213	224,000	14	210,000	15,076
1906	611,166	263,731	39,128	308,307	208,000	13	101,000	16,862
1905	579,083	263,228	42,251	273,604	192,000	12	81,000	17,555
1904	591,906	257,756	43,150	291,000	192,000	12	99,000	16,954

The proportion of the shown net profit for the twelve months to October 1914 to the paid-up capital is 22.7 per cent., to capital and reserve fund combined 9.7 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.7 per cent.

The Bank of Australasia is incorporated by Royal Charter, and it was in 1832 that the first steps were taken to obtain the charter from the Treasury. The promoters intended to cover a much larger field than the Bank has actually occupied, and the title suggested was that of the Royal Bank of Australia and South Africa. But consent was only given to the charter covering the continent of Australasia, and the title was accordingly modified, the prospectus showing the final title to be the Bank of Australasia. The capital was £200,000, and the prospectus pointed out that the Company was formed for the purpose of establishing banks of issue and deposit in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and other settlements of Australasia. By the charter the responsibility of the shareholders was limited to double the amount of their shares. The charter required that one-half of the Company's capital should be paid up before the commencement of business, and that the entire capital should be paid up within two years. As a matter of fact it was not until April 1835 that the Royal Charter was actually secured, and, as already pointed out, its powers were limited to Australasia. The first office in Australasia was opened at Sydney in December 1835. In 1839 the capital was increased to £400,000, in 1841 to £600,000, and in 1843 to £900,000, at which amount it remained until 1863, when it rose to £975,000. By 1865 it had risen to £1,200,000, at which figure it remained until 1882, when it rose to £1,600,000, no further alteration occurring until 1913. The original idea was to employ British capital in the development of commerce in Australia, and, consequently, the deposits during the earlier years were comparatively small in proportion to the capital. It is, of course, from the time of the gold discoveries that the business has shown rapid expansion. In 1851 the deposits were only £707,000, but at the end of 1852 they increased to £2,200,000, and twelve months later to £4,000,000. From that date until 1876, however, they remained comparatively stationary, and in 1880 were still only £5,800,000. During the eighties Australasia made great progress, and in 1890 they reached a total of £13,657,000. During the financial and drought troubles which visited Australia in the nineties no progress was made, and in 1900 the deposits were still £13,650,000. Since then the country and the Bank have resumed their progress, and in October 1914 the deposits reached a total of £19,108,792. In 1851 the notes in circulation were only £149,000, but two years after they had risen to £1,128,000. The circulation gradually fell, until in 1870 it was barely £300,000. Subsequently it rose again until in October 1910 it amounted to £564,886. In consequence, however, of the prohibitive tax that the Commonwealth Government have put upon the note issues of all private banks the Bank of Australasia has abandoned its note issue, and with it the portion of the coin reserve specially held against it has naturally disappeared. In October 1911 the circulation was £227,860; by October 1913 it fell to £168,818, recovering to £202,995 by October 1914. It may be added that the note issue continues in New Zealand.

We stated above that the paid-up capital remained unchanged at £1,600,000 from 1882 to 1913, but it was then agreed to increase the capital by £400,000 by the issue of 10,000 new shares of £40 each. As these are now fully paid the capital is £2,000,000. At October 12, 1914, the reserve fund amounted to £2,710,000, or no less than £710,000 in excess of the paid-up capital.

Naturally the crisis of 1893 affected the Bank, but on the whole it passed through the bad times with little untoward effect. True it is the profits fell off, though, indeed, not to a very large extent, and it was necessary to reduce the dividend; but the ground then lost has since been more than recovered, and for the past three

years the dividends have been larger than at any period of the Bank's history except for a period of five years during the later fifties. After the crisis, and the consequent depression, a few non-paying branches of the Bank were closed, but apart from these the number has steadily increased, and in October last the total number opened was 204. These now stand in the books at the low valuation of £14,288.

At the meeting in March the Chairman pointed out that the commerce of Australia and New Zealand naturally felt the effect of the War to a great extent. "For instance, for the eleven months ending November 30 last the imports had dropped from £71,640,000 to £68,751,000, and the exports from £67,908,000 to £59,840,000. The falling-off in the export of wool alone amounted to £5,927,000. This was largely owing to the Continental buyers being out of the market. Since then the wool-growers have been getting enhanced prices for their commodity, and reports of latest sales show further increase. There has been no grain exported since the beginning of the War. The shipment of meat has been taken in hand by the Government of the Commonwealth, but there is no reason to suppose that the prices paid to the growers have been otherwise than satisfactory. The production of gold has been falling-off for some time past. The Commonwealth Government called on the Australian banks for a large deposit of gold—£10,000,000 in all—against notes, which are, of course, legal tender. It seems to have been quickly realised by the business world in Australia that a Commonwealth note was something more than a 'scrap of paper,' and it is needless to say that the banks had no hesitation in falling in with the requirements of the Government."

The balance-sheet figures as at April 12, 1915, show substantial progress as compared with those twelve months previously. The capital has remained unchanged, but the reserve fund shows an increase of £60,000 at £2,750,000. The note circulation has risen from £195,887 to £258,793, while the deposits have gone up from £19,259,977 to £20,699,953. Bills payable also have risen from £3,045,714 to £3,159,819. On the other side of the accounts the cash shows a very large increase of £2,300,799, amounting to £7,137,665, as compared with £4,836,866, but call money had dropped from £2,390,600 to £620,000. British Government securities at £1,065,470 show an increase of £242,722. Bills receivable and advances have risen from £18,527,117 to £19,427,303.

We show herewith the progress made by the Bank as indicated by its accounts for various years since 1861.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Head Office: Calcutta.

Capital—

Authorised ... ... Rs. 2,00,00,000
Issued, 40,000 Shares of Rs 500 each ... 2,00,00,000
Price of Shares, Rs.1,675. *Dividend*, 16%. *Yield*, £4 15*s.* 5*d.*%

The Bank of Bengal, one of the three Presidency Banks, was originally established in 1809 with a capital of Rs. 50,00,000, of which Rs. 10,00,000 was contributed by the East India Company, though steps had been taken three years previously to bring about the formation of the institution. During this earlier period of its existence the Bank was entirely under Government control, a state of affairs which continued until 1862, when many of the restrictions which had hitherto prevailed as to the conduct of business were removed and the Bank took over the Government Treasury, while the privilege of a note issue which it had previously enjoyed was withdrawn. Though the Bank was not entirely under Government control, nevertheless it was not until 1876 that it became entirely free from Government participation in the management. In 1876 the Presidency Banks Act was passed, and while under the Act the Government may call for any information in regard to the affairs of the Bank which it may desire, all direct active control or interference has now ceased.

In addition to the head office there are three branches in Calcutta and 21 offices elsewhere, at Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad, Simla, Chandpore, Serajgunge, together with an agency in Bombay.

Liabilities of The Bank of Bengal.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Deposits & Bank Post Bills, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	% of Total %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1915	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	4,00,00,000	13·0	26,53,26,164	86·0	25,26,765	·8	6,86,318	·2	30,85,39,247
1914	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	4,00,00,000	14·5	23,14,40,314	84·4	23,25,435	·9	5,58,089	·2	27,43,24,438
1913	2,00,00,000	1,88,00,000	3,88,00,000	15·9	20,26,05,739	82·0	22,68,781	·9	5,19,650	·2	24,41,94,170
1912	2,00,00,000	1,83,00,000	3,83,00,000	16·8	18,69,44,719	82·0	22,95,527	1·0	5,48,443	·2	22,80,88,689
1911	2,00,00,000	1,79,00,000	3,79,00,000	17·3	17,82,84,428	81·5	20,01,863	·9	5,74,371	·3	21,87,60,662
1910	2,00,00,000	1,73,00,000	3,73,00,000	15·8	19,59,93,530	83·1	21,20,307	·9	5,68,738	·2	23,59,82,575
1909	2,00,00,000	1,68,00,000	3,68,00,000	15·8	19,36,55,397	83·1	20,67,321	·9	5,72,538	·2	23,30,95,256
1908	2,00,00,000	1,62,50,000	3,62,50,000	15·7	19,11,02,718	83·1	21,36,667	·9	5,56,501	·3	23,00,45,886
1907	2,00,00,000	1,55,00,000	3,55,00,000	17·1	16,91,75,897	81·3	29,54,372	1·4	5,06,948	·2	20,81,37,217
1906	2,00,00,000	1,45,00,000	3,45,00,000	18·3	15,14,63,606	80·2	23,01,673	1·2	4,85,577	·3	18,87,50,856
1905	2,00,00,000	1,36,00,000	3,36,00,000	19·5	13,53,74,819	78·6	26,70,100	1·5	5,55,934	·	17,22,00,853
1900	2,00,00,000	1,01,00,000	3,01,00,000	25·7	8,43,49,530	72·0	21,14,593	1·8	5,27,849	·5	11,70,91,974

Assets of The Bank of Bengal.

June 30	Cash, Bullion and Currency Notes at Head Office and Branches. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Government Securities. Amount. Rs.	Other Investments. Amount. Rs.	Total Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Loans, Accounts and Balances with Other Banks. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Dead Stock. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1915 ...	14,68,25,073	47·5	4,93,99,665	1,02,11,880	5,96,11,545	19·2	2,04,26,481	6·6	7,73,17,169	25·5	15,72,105	·4	27,86,874	·8	30,85,39,247
1914 ...	13,51,10,181	49·3	2,00,64,445	76,38,803	2,77,03,248	10·1	2,44,64,818	8·9	8,38,30,233	30·6	7,10,912	·2	25,05,046	·9	27,43,24,438
1913 ...	10,38,97,279	42·5	1,52,07,500	88,57,788	2,40,65,288	9·9	3,31,60,567	13·6	7,99,36,162	32·7	6,83,013	·3	24,51,861	1·0	24,41,94,170
1912 ...	8,29,22,062	36·4	2,49,86,110	52,19,012	3,02,05,122	13·2	2,88,97,772	12·7	8,25,98,830	36·2	9,44,434	·4	25,20,469	1·1	22,80,88,689
1911 ...	8,11,63,256	37·1	2,11,51,395	62,89,814	2,74,41,209	12·5	2,60,10,311	11·9	8,12,79,260	37·2	6,74,424	·3	21,92,202	1·0	21,87,60,662
1910 ...	9,65,40,174	41·0	2,36,64,670	88,76,456	3,25,41,126	13·5	2,58,43,174	11·1	7,81,32,491	33·1	7,41,288	·4	21,84,322	·9	23,59,82,575
1909 ...	8,70,74,100	37·4	2,87,63,350	49,76,084	3,37,39,434	14·5	2,36,18,809	10·0	8,57,74,432	36·8	9,08,173	·4	19,80,309	·9	23,30,95,256
1908 ...	7,94,17,399	34·5	2,90,95,963	29,27,590	3,20,23,553	13·9	2,58,62,100	11·2	9,01,18,601	39·2	8,24,779	·4	17,99,454	·8	23,00,45,886
1907 ...	6,87,00,982	33·0	1,99,19,626	37,01,793	2,36,21,419	11·4	2,99,08,581	14·4	8,24,43,951	39·6	17,70,657	·8	16,91,627	·8	20,81,37,217
1906 ...	6,86,33,905	36·3	1,79,24,435	50,85,683	2,30,09,518	12·2	2,89,96,847	15·4	6,49,84,225	34·4	12,97,015	·7	18,29,346	1·0	18,87,50,856
1905 ...	5,82,82,393	33·9	1,25,40,101	68,50,305	1,93,90,406	11·3	3,40,60,440	19·8	5,66,95,005	32·9	18,09,435	1·0	19,63,174	1·1	17,22,00,853
1900 ...	4,71,61,311	40·3	51,23,389	88,53,481	1,39,76,870	11·9	1,06,65,188	9·1	4,27,17,188	36·5	12,41,579	1·1	13,29,838	1·1	11,70,91,974

While the directors have power to open branches anywhere within the Presidency of Bengal, no office or agency can be established outside the limits of the Presidency without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council. Moreover, the agency in Bombay, and any other agency that may at any future time be established in Madras, is prohibited from undertaking any business except purely as an agent of the Bank or of its branches. The Bank carries on all Government business, with the exception of that in connection with the note issue, for which the Government is entirely responsible, and the Savings Bank; it receives the revenue, including the receipts from guaranteed railways, and makes all disbursements, and undertakes the entire business connected with Government loans. Under the Act the Bank is prohibited from investing its funds, except in securities of the Government of India or of the United Kingdom, or in railway or municipal or other securities the interest on which is guaranteed by the Government of India, and from advancing money to customers, except on similar classes of securities or on bullion or other goods assigned to the Bank as security for such advances, or, with the express sanction of the local Government concerned, upon the security of estates managed by the Court of Wards. The borrowing powers of the Bank are confined to India, while the period for which any advance can be made is limited to six months.

The Indian note issue is controlled by a Government department, and the notes are secured on gold, silver, and Government debt.

The capital of the Bank of Bengal remained unchanged until 1856, when it was raised to Rs. 75,00,000; in 1862 it was further raised to Rs. 1,10,00,000, and in 1864 to Rs. 2,20,00,000; but under the provisions of the Bank Act of 1876, on the sale of the 2,200 shares held by the Government the capital was reduced to its present figure of Rs. 2,00,00,000. While no increase has occurred in the capital since 1876, steady additions have been made to the reserve, which now equals the paid-up capital at Rs. 2,00,00,000.

A consistently steady growth has occurred in the deposits. At June 30, 1900, they amounted to Rs. 8,43,49,530, by 1905 they had risen to Rs. 13,53,74,819, and year by year since that time growth has been witnessed. At June 30 last they had risen to Rs. 26,53,26,164. The cash at June 30 last amounted to Rs. 14,68,25,073, as compared with Rs. 13,51,10,181. A substantial increase has taken place in the total investments, which have risen from Rs. 2,77,03,248 to Rs. 5,96,11,545. The Bank reports a general feeling of nervousness and want of confidence, while with trade restricted and supplies of money ample difficulty has been experienced in finding profitable employment for its resources, and this presumably accounts, partially at any rate, for the large increase in the investments. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1900.

The net profits for the twelve months to June 30 last have amounted to Rs. 34,27,629, as compared with Rs. 36,39,040. With the reserve brought up to an amount equal to that of the paid-up capital, the large allocations to this fund which have been made in the past are not now required, and accordingly, in spite of the decline in net profit, the dividend has been increased. For a number of years up to 1904 the dividend was maintained at the steady rate of 10 per cent. per annum. This was followed by payments of 12 per cent. per annum, the rate being increased to 14 per cent. in 1909, and maintained at this figure until last year, when the distribution was raised to 15 per cent. For the twelve months to June 30 last the distribution is 16 per cent. Details of the profits since 1906 are appended:—

Profits of the Bank of Bengal since 1906.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. Rs.	Salaries and other Expenses. Rs.	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amount. Rs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Depr'n., &c. Rs.	Carried Forward. Rs.
1915 ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	34,27,629	32,00,000	16	1,00,000	6,86,318
1914 ...	58,22,796	21,83,756	[illegible]	[illegible]	15	6,00,000	5,58,689
1913 ...	54,44,998	20,73,792	33,71,206	28,00,000	14	6,00,000	5,19,649
1912 ...	52,53,928	19,[illegible]	32,74,073	28,00,000	14	5,00,000	5,48,443
1911 ...	54,57,640	19,52,008	35,05,632	28,00,000	14	7,00,000	5,74,370
1910 ...	53,45,987	19,49,787	33,96,200	28,00,000	14	6,00,000	5,68,738
1909 ...	54,22,475	18,56,438	35,66,037	28,00,000	14	7,50,000	5,72,538
1908 ...	55,16,859	18,17,306	36,99,553	24,00,000	12	12,50,000	5,56,501
1907 ...	56,35,479	17,61,108	38,71,371	24,00,000	12	14,50,000	5,06,948
1906 ...	52,78,125	16,98,482	35,79,643	24,00,000	12	12,50,000	4,85,577

The proportion of the shown net profits for 1915 to the paid-up capital is 17.1 per cent., to the capital and reserve combined 8.5 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

Head Office: Bombay.

Capital—

Authorised ... ... Rs. 1,00,00,000
Paid up, 20,000 Shares of Rs. 500 each... 1,00,00,000
Price of Share, Rs. 1,585. *Dividend,* 15 %.* *Yield,* £5 6*s.* 7*d.*

* Free of tax.

During July 1914 the trade demand for money in Bombay was extremely slack. Early in August, on the declaration of war against Germany, the Money market became demoralised, widespread distrust prevailed, and urgent demands for accommodation were experienced, forcing the Bank rate to 6 per cent. Excitement gradually abated, but general credit had not been restored at the end of the year. The average Bank rate for the six months was 5.28 per cent. During the six months from January to June 1915 trade was very dull, and the demand for accommodation was only moderate. In brief, the effect of the War upon India up to recently has been to cause depression; but matters are now improving, and with a good monsoon the outlook is favourable, especially with raw cotton at a high price again. The average Bank rate was 5.84 per cent. The gross profit of the Bank for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, amounted to Rs. 27,09,490, as compared with Rs. 25,16,132. The working expenses, however, also rose and reached a total of Rs. 10,04,905, as compared with Rs. 8,31,120. Consequently, the net profit amounted to Rs. 17,04,585, as compared with Rs. 16,85,012. It was thus possible to increase the dividend by 1 per cent., bringing the distribution up to 15 per cent. Herewith we set out the profit statement for each year since 1905:—

Profits of the Bank of Bombay.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. Rs.	Salaries and Other Expenses. Rs.	Net Profit. Rs.	Dividend. Amount. Rs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve Invest., Deprn., &c. Rs.	Carried Forward. Rs.
1915 ...	27,09,490	10,04,905	17,04,585	15,00,000	15	75,000	5,56,835
1914 ...	25,16,132	8,31,120	16,85,012	14,00,000	14	4,65,000	4,27,250
1913 ...	25,37,102	8,12,683	17,24,419	14,00,000	14	75,000	6,07,238
1912 ...	21,03,849	7,80,666	13,23,183	14,00,000	14	90,000	3,57,819
1911 ...	24,82,421	7,71,006	17,11,415	14,00,000	14	2,25,000	5,24,636
1910 ...	24,37,495	7,68,910	16,68,585	13,50,000	13½	3,25,000	4,38,221
1909 ...	23,90,469	7,41,080	16,49,389	13,00,000	13	3,15,000	4,44,636
1908 ...	26,90,738	7,06,793	19,83,945	13,00,000	13	5,90,000	4,10,246
1907 ...	25,77,374	6,46,666	19,30,708	13,00,000	13	6,10,000	3,16,301
1906 ...	25,05,807	5,72,656	19,33,151	12,00,000	12	7,40,000	2,95,593
1905 ...	23,75,699	5,53,408	18,22,291	12,00,000	12	6,40,000	3,02,442

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 17.0 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 8.5 per cent.; and to the total working resources the proportion is 1.1 per cent.

The Bank of Bombay was formed under special charter, in 1840, with a capital of Rs. 52,25,000, of which Rs. 3,00,000 was subscribed by the Government. By 1864 the capital was raised to Rs. 2,09,00,000, but in 1867 the Bank was reconstructed and registered as a joint-stock company, with a capital of Rs. 1,00,00,000, under the title of the New Bank of Bombay, Limited. Under the Presidency Banks Act of 1876 the Bank was re-formed

Liabilities of The Bank of Bombay.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Bank Post Bills, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount Rs.
1915 ...	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	12·6	13,65,96,539	86·0	23,06,547	1·4	15,89,03,086
1914 ...	1,00,00,000	1,06,00,000	2,06,00,000	14·5	11,89,92,476	83·6	27,64,679	1·9	14,23,57,155
1913 ...	1,00,00,000	1,06,00,000	2,06,00,000	14·4	11,89,46,479	83·5	29,53,924	2·1	14,25,00,403
1912 ...	1,00,00,000	1,06,00,000	2,06,00,000	14·8	11,59,49,390	83·4	25,62,663	1·8	13,91,12,053
1911 ...	1,00,00,000	1,05,00,000	2,05,00,000	13·6	12,75,89,961	84·4	29,89,797	2·0	15,10,79,758
1910 ...	1,00,00,000	1,03,00,000	2,03,00,000	14·0	12,21,00,764	84·0	30,23,843	2·0	14,54,24,607
1909 ...	1,00,00,000	1,01,00,000	2,01,00,000	15·1	11,01,41,873	82·8	27,83,414	2·1	13,30,25,287
1908 ...	1,00,00,000	97,00,000	1,97,00,000	17·4	9,02,67,853	80·0	29,37,903	2·6	11,29,05,756
1907 ...	1,00,00,000	94,00,000	1,94,00,000	16·4	9,63,30,388	81·3	27,08,039	2·3	11,84,38,427
1906 ...	1,00,00,000	89,00,000	1,89,00,000	18·2	8,21,35,028	79·4	25,67,231	2·4	10,36,02,259
1905 ...	1,00,00,000	84,00,000	1,84,00,000	19·5	7,34,36,065	77·9	24,21,153	2·6	9,42,57,218
1904 ...	1,00,00,000	84,00,000	1,84,00,000	19·8	7,23,02,591	77·8	22,02,025	2·4	9,29,04,616
1903 ...	1,00,00,000	79,00,000	1,79,00,000	23·0	5,74,23,139	73·9	23,74,973	3·1	7,76,98,112
1902 ...	1,00,00,000	75,00,000	1,75,00,000	23·6	5,49,16,649	74·4	13,98,723	2·0	7,38,15,372

Assets of The Bank of Bombay.

June 30	Cash, Bullion and Currency Notes at Head Office and Branches. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Government Securities. Amount. Rs.	Other Investments. Amount. Rs.	Total Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Loans, Accounts, and Balances with other Banks. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Dead Stock. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1915 ...	7,61,46,801	47·9	1,47,88,486	43,81,758	1,91,70,244	12·1	98,16,508	6·2	5,21,99,152	32·8	5,83,349	·4	9,87,032	·6	15,82,03,086
1914 ...	5,58,79,990	39·3	1,42,00,974	2,07,189	1,44,08,163	10·1	1,59,17,925	11·2	5,49,45,499	38·6	5,88,053	·4	5,17,725	·4	14,23,57,155
1913 ...	4,25,22,730	29·2	1,85,05,925	4,18,705	1,89,24,630	13·2	2,16,29,646	15·2	5,86,02,611	41·1	5,62,079	·4	2,58,707	·2	14,25,00,403
1912 ...	5,32,88,100	38·3	2,04,11,137	68,860	2,04,79,997	14·7	1,84,47,785	13·2	4,59,51,463	33·1	7,10,352	·5	2,34,356	·2	13,91,12,053
1911 ...	5,42,00,509	35·8	1,62,89,229	2,79,232	1,65,68,461	11·0	1,08,75,207	7·2	6,85,66,173	45·4	5,88,005	·4	2,81,403	·2	15,10,79,758
1910 ...	4,64,65,449	32·0	1,64,81,170	9,44,855	1,74,26,025	12·0	1,56,37,933	10·7	6,50,81,027	44·7	5,10,947	·4	3,03,226	·2	14,54,24,607
1909 ...	4,11,28,669	30·9	1,63,15,502	9,89,766	1,73,05,268	13·0	1,53,97,715	11·6	5,83,67,119	43·9	5,00,081	·4	3,26,435	·2	13,30,25,287
1908 ...	3,19,33,717	28·3	1,15,04,895	13,61,702	1,28,66,597	11·5	1,49,15,234	13·2	5,22,55,684	46·2	5,99,390	·5	3,35,134	·3	11,29,05,756
1907 ...	4,06,39,951	34·3	1,47,25,838	25,55,770	1,72,81,608	14·6	1,83,23,897	15·5	4,12,37,031	34·8	6,00,004	·5	3,55,936	·3	11,84,38,427
1906 ...	2,75,51,488	25·6	1,41,07,378	30,37,261	1,71,44,639	16·5	2,27,31,657	22·0	3,53,42,690	34·1	4,91,305	·5	3,40,480	·3	10,36,02,259
1905 ...	2,59,06,539	27·5	1,04,99,511	31,76,811	1,36,76,322	14·5	2,77,66,479	29·5	2,62,92,485	27·9	3,05,324	·3	3,10,069	·3	9,42,57,218
1904 ...	2,98,00,688	32·1	1,17,13,875	11,88,301	1,29,02,176	13·9	3,04,33,679	32·8	1,89,00,737	20·3	5,07,960	·5	3,59,376	·4	9,29,04,616
1903 ...	2,08,90,432	26·9	94,89,313	3,93,519	98,82,832	12·7	2,45,55,651	31·6	2,13,99,530	27·6	5,64,334	·7	4,05,333	·5	7,76,98,112
1902 ...	1,62,90,289	20·8	1,05,23,073	7,06,635	1,12,29,708	15·2	2,36,90,700	32·0	2,22,03,372	31·4	—	—	4,01,303	·6	7,38,15,372

with the same capital under its present title, and no further alteration in the capital has taken place. The head office of the Bank is at Bombay, and it has branches at Ahmedabad, Akola, Amraoti, Broach, Hyderabad (Sind), Indore, Jalgaon, Karachi, Poona, Rajkot, Sholapur, Sukkur, and Surat. Branches may be opened at any place within the Presidency, but no branch or agency can be established outside the limits of the Presidency without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council. Moreover, any agency of the Bank that may at any time be established in Calcutta or Madras is prohibited from undertaking any business except purely as agent of the Bank or of its branches. In 1874 there were 14 branches in operation but subsequently the number fell to 6, but since 1910 the number has been 13. When the paid-up capital first amounted to Rs. 1,00,00,000 the reserve fund was only Rs. 16,40,865, but while the capital has remained unchanged a steady increase has occurred year by year in the reserve fund, until in 1909 it was increased to a sum in excess of the paid-up capital, while at the present time it amounts to Rs. 1,00,00,000. As is the case with the other two chartered banks in India, since 1876 any active control of the Government in the business has definitely ceased, though owing to the large amount of its business entrusted to the Bank the Government has the right to call for any information in regard to the affairs of the Bank which it may deem desirable. The weekly average of the Government balance in 1912 amounted to Rs. 1,38,82,594. The weekly average of the other deposits, &c., was Rs. 10,65,89,113. In 1911 the weekly average was somewhat higher, amounting to Rs. 11,01,73,917. In order to show the great growth of the institution we give herewith the figures of the balance sheet as at June 30 of each year from 1902.

It may be noted that the deposits of the Bank, after showing great fluctuations and no very great expansion between 1868 and 1898, have in the last 14 years displayed immense growth, and that since 1904 the addition has been remarkable.

In 1870 the other deposits were Rs. 2,28,35,000, £2,283,500 at 2*s.* per rupee, and in 1898 they were no more than Rs. 2,85,40,800, or £1,902,000 at 1*s.* 4*d.* per rupee. By 1903 they had risen to Rs. 5,74,60,000, or £3,831,000, and in 1912 they were Rs. 10,65,89,000, or £7,106,000. In 1915 they were Rs. 13,65,96,539, or £9,106,435. The cash, which at June 30, 1914, amounted to Rs. 5,58,79,990, had increased by June 30, 1915, to Rs. 7,61,46,801, the proportion to the total assets rising from 39.3 per cent. to 47.9 per cent. Bills discounted, on the other hand, fell from Rs. 1,59,17,925 to Rs. 98,16,508, the proportion to the total assets falling from 11.2 per cent. to 6.2 per cent. The loans also dropped from Rs. 5,49,45,499 to Rs. 5,21,99,152, the proportion dropping from 38.6 per cent. to 32.8 per cent. Investments, however, rose from Rs. 1,44,08,163 to Rs. 1,91,70,244.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Head Office: 5 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised, Subscribed and Paid up, 20,000 Shares, £50 each, fully paid £1,000,000
Price of £50 *Share*, £60½xd. *Dividend*, 8%. *Yield*, £6 12*s.* 3*d.*%.

For a year or more before the outbreak of war Canadian banks had followed a policy of restraint, for a reaction following on a long period of exceptional expansion had been felt. The banks did not in any way curtail the reasonable requirements of their customers, but they endeavoured to control transactions of a speculative character and others which appeared to involve too large an expenditure. The result was that when war broke out the position of the banks generally was sound and strong, and the financial measures adopted by the Dominion Government gave confidence to the community at large and averted possibility of panic. On November 30 last the Bank of British North America held in cash, legal tender, and bank balances 64 per cent. of their immediate liabilities. Naturally the cautious policy steadily carried out by the board was not consistent with large earnings, and for four months out of the last financial year the management had day by day seen large balances unproductive, and had set aside opportunities of adding to profits because it was felt that the first duty was to maintain the safety and credit of the Bank. The result was that the profit for the year only amounted to £110,255, as compared with £141,728 for the previous year. Though the fall was a substantial

Liabilities of The Bank of British North America.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve. Amount. £	Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	Bills Payable, &c. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	Deposits. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	1,000,000	620,000	1,620,000	13·0	909,745	7·3	343,005	2·7	436,542	3·5	9,068,444	72·9	77,345	·6	12,453,081
1913...	1,000,000	620,000	1,620,000	12·6	1,001,982	7·7	368,489	2·9	1,544,488	12·0	8,273,896	64·0	63,383	·5	12,872,238
1912...	1,000,000	600,000	1,600,000	11·8	979,684	7·2	1,624,819	12·0	1,222,361	8·9	8,132,485	59·7	59,201	·4	13,618,550
1911‡	1,000,000	570,000	1,570,000	12·3	906,493	7·1	—	—	2,817,559	22·0	7,435,638	58·1	69,319	·5	12,799,008
1910‡	1,000,000	545,000	1,545,000	14·1	770,651	7·0	—	—	1,975,652	18·0	6,616,821	60·4	57,201	·5	10,965,325
1905‡	1,000,000	440,000	1,440,000	15·0	692,174	7·1	—	—	3,316,173	34·3	4,172,236	43·2	37,252	·4	9,657,835
1900‡	1,000,000	350,000	1,350,000	19·3	493,272	7·0	—	—	1,985,780	28·3	3,141,843	44·8	38,913	·6	7,009,808
1890‡	1,000,000	265,000	1,265,000	24·5	262,958	5·1	—	—	1,600,828	30·9	1,995,747	38·6	43,818	·9	5,168,351
1880‡	1,000,000	25,000*	1,025,000	24·9	207,991	5·0	—	—	1,478,370	35·8	1,260,270	30·6	151,207	3·7	4,122,838
1870‡	1,000,000	30,000*	1,030,000	23·2	405,748	9·2	—	—	1,719,224	38·9	1,114,160	25·2	155,008	3·5	4,424,140
1860‡	1,000,000	92,445†	1,092,445	45·2	275,683	11·4	—	—	393,715	16·3	529,413	22·0	125,766	5·1	2,417,022

Assets of The Bank of British North America.

Nov. 30	Cash and Specie in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. £	Cash and Specie in Hand and at Bankers. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Money at Call and Short Notice. Amount. £	Money at Call and Short Notice. % of Total. %	Bills, Loans, &c. Amount. £	Bills, Loans, &c. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Balance Due by Other Banks in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount. £	Balance Due by Other Banks in Canada and Elsewhere. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	2,616,443	21·0	640,956	5·1	955,202	7·7	6,842,516	55·0	343,005	2·7	609,105	4·9	448,796	3·6	12,453,081
1913...	1,674,851	13·0	623,251	4·8	1,915,715	14·9	7,647,244	59·4	368,489	2·9	294,454	2·3	348,234	2·7	12,872,238
1912...	1,407,561	10·3	580,316	4·2	2,341,799	17·2	7,377,480	54·2	1,624,819	12·0	—	—	286,575	2·1	13,618,550
1911‡	1,515,383	11·9	583,206	4·6	2,068,650	16·1	8,360,286	65·3	—	—	—	—	271,483	2·1	12,799,008
1910‡	1,232,818	11·3	515,040	4·7	1,866,748	17·0	7,124,654	65·0	—	—	—	—	226,065	2·0	10,965,325
1905‡	809,102	8·3	534,758	5·6	2,240,873	23·2	5,900,152	61·1	—	—	—	—	172,950	1·8	9,657,835
1900‡	804,390	11·4	284,245	4·0	1,005,724	14·3	4,797,800	68·4	—	—	—	—	117,649	1·9	7,009,808
1890‡	553,603	10·8	140,123	2·7	200,331	4·0	4,185,722	81·0	—	—	—	—	88,572	1·5	5,168,351
1880‡	609,316	14·8	56,569	1·4	—	—	3,385,453	82·1	—	—	—	—	71,500	1·7	4,122,838
1870‡	493,117	11·1	—	—	—	—	3,875,023	87·6	—	—	—	—	56,000	1·3	4,424,140
1860‡	301,107	12·5	—	—	—	—	2,065,915	85·4	—	—	—	—	50,000	2·1	2,417,022

* Dividend reserve. † Includes £30,000 dividend reserve ‡ Accounts made up to Dec. 31.

one, the profit was sufficient to maintain the dividend at 8 per cent., and, after adding to staff pension fund, &c., to increase the carry-forward from £22,281 to £34,332. Herewith we set out the profits for each year since 1904 :—

Profits of the Bank of British North America.

Year ended November	Profit. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. %	Balance. £	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914...	110,255	80,000	8	30,255	18,264	34,332
1913...	141,728	80,000	8	61,728	58,648	22,281
1912†	132,419	80,000	8	52,419	52,536	19,202
1911‡	129,887	80,000*	8	49,887	47,769	19,319
1910...	114,029	70,000	7	44,029	47,373	17,201
1909...	101,652	70,000	7	31,652	26,366	20,545
1908...	85,822	70,000	7	15,822	24,577	15,259
1907...	122,617	70,000	7	52,617	48,214	24,014
1906...	129,017	70,000	7	59,017	46,658	19,611
1905...	93,091	60,000	6	33,091	32,429	7,254
1904...	91,960	60,000	6	31,960	32,126	6,590

* Includes income tax. † Eleven months to Nov. 30. ‡ Year ended Dec. 31.

The proportion that the shown profits bear to the paid-up capital is 11.0 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.0 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

The Bank of British North America is one of the few remaining chartered banks. It was established in 1836 and incorporated by Royal charter in 1840, a charter which expired on July 1 last but has been extended to July 1, 1921. It may be added that the first annual meeting of the Bank in London occurred at the time of the proclamation of the accession of Queen Victoria. One of the grounds upon which the Bank was founded was that the institution "would tend in no small degree to cement the connection between these valuable colonies and the Mother Country."

The Bank has an authorised note issue limited to 75 per cent. of the paid-up capital, though an excess may be issued on the deposit of security of an amount equal to such excess, the total at any time in issue not to exceed the paid-up capital except between October and January, when the issue may be increased up to an amount not exceeding 10 per cent. of the combined unimpaired paid-up capital and reserve. The paid-up capital at present is as shown above—£1,000,000—while the reserve fund at November 29, 1914, amounted to £620,000.

The paid-up capital has been stationary, at any rate so far back as our records go, and the growth of the institution is marked in other ways, as may be seen from the accompanying statement, which deals with the recent progress of the institution.

As the name indicates the business of the Bank is conducted in Canada, and of the 98 offices at present open for business 9 are in Quebec, 22 in Ontario, 1 in Nova Scotia, 5 in New Brunswick, 21 in British Columbia, 9 in Manitoba, 24 in Saskatchewan, 5 in Alberta and 1 in Yukon territory. In addition to the head office in London there are two agencies in the United States of America.

Very substantial growth is shown in the deposits, which as recently as 1905 were only £4,172,236. By November 1913 they had doubled in amount, reaching a total of £8,273,896. At November 30, 1914, they further advanced to £9,068,444, the proportion to the total liabilities thus rising from 64 per cent. to 72.9 per cent. Bills payable, however, fell from £1,544,488 to £436,542, the proportion falling from 12 per cent. to 3.5 per cent. On the other side of the accounts, the chief change is in the amount of cash held. At November 30, 1913, this amounted to £1,674,851, or 13 per cent. of the total assets, and at November 30 last the amount increased to £2,616,443, the proportion to the total assets being as much as 21 per cent. Money at call and short notice, however, fell from £1,915,715, or 14.9 per cent., to £955,202, or 7.7 per cent. On August 4, 1914, the acceptances amounted to £1,044,000. In accordance with the understanding existing between all the banks, acceptances falling due during the first month of the moratorium were re-accepted, and when that period came to an end re-acceptances and maturing acceptances were met together, with the result that between August 4 and November 30 £621,000 of the Bank's acceptances were paid off, leaving the figure standing at £343,005. In the statement herewith we indicate the growth of the Bank by an analysis of the liabilities and assets for various years from 1860.

As regards the future, the Chairman pointed out at the meeting in March last that the Bank is not discouraged by unnecessary fears, but, on the other hand, it is not unduly optimistic, knowing the difficulties lying ahead. In looking back, however, it was a relief to him to feel how much worse the position might have been. If they realised what it meant, after borrowing £40,000,000 sterling year by year, to find those supplies in one moment absolutely cut off, and to be compelled to stand alone, with no outside assistance

to lean upon, they would come to the conclusion, as he had done, that Canada had stood up bravely under circumstances of extraordinary difficulty. It was, of course, to the coming harvest that they must look first of all for relief, and every province of the Dominion was doing its utmost to increase its area of cultivation, and thereby provide for the needs of the Empire.

Fortunately, the harvest of the current year is a very large one, and as it is realising profitable prices the position in Canada is rapidly improving. The large orders for war material placed in Canada by the British Government are also assisting the country.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LTD.

Head Office: 17 and 18 Leadenhall St., London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £2,000,000
Subscribed, 100,000 Shares of £10 each ... 1,000,000
Paid up, £4 per Share 400,000
Price of Share, £5¼. *Dividend*, 6½ %. *Yield*, £5 0*s.* 5*d.*%.

During two-thirds of the financial year which ended March 31, 1915, the trading of West Africa was most severely affected by the War, and the operations of the Bank have, in consequence, been considerably impeded. The business, however, has been well maintained, and while no great improvement can be looked for until peace is restored the prospects are considered encouraging. One definite result of the War is noted in the report, which points out that the Hamburg office of the Bank is now in the hands of controllers appointed by the German Government, and as no return can be obtained the figures of that branch cannot be brought into the accounts. Adequate provision, however, has been made for possible losses in this connection. Naturally a reduction has occurred in the profit, which has amounted to £138,902, as compared with £148,049. On the other hand, the working expenses were heavier, rising from £87,249 to £91,360. Consequently, the net profit was only £47,542, as compared with £60,800. By reason of the fall the directors decided to reduce the dividend from 9½ per cent. to 6½ per cent. A sum of £13,000 was carried to the reserve fund, raising it to £200,000, but in consequence of the further fall in the value of investments, and in order to provide for other contingencies arising out of the War, a sum of £50,000 has been withdrawn from the reserve fund, leaving it standing at £150,000. Herewith we set out the profit record since 1905:—

Profits of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited.

Year ended Mar. 31	Gross Profit.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.		Reserve, Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1915 ...	138,902	91,360	47,542	26,000	6½	21,000	10,141
1914 ...	148,049	87,249	60,800	39,000	9½	24,250	9,599
1913 ...	122,590	78,635	43,955	26,280	9	17,000	6,729
1912 ...	87,880	58,231	29,649	20,000	9	8,680	6,053
1911 ...	78,490	48,390	30,100	18,000	9	10,000	5,085
1910 ...	61,590	41,022	20,568	11,712	9	8,000	2,985
1909 ...	48,669	37,818	10,851	9,000	9	2,000	2,129
1908 ...	47,875	31,873	16,002	8,400	10	7,500	2,278
1907 ...	40,653	27,251	13,402	4,800	8	8,000	2,176
1906 ...	35,097	25,979	9,118	4,800	8	4,000	1,574
1905 ...	34,092	26,198	7,894	4,800	8	2,880	1,256

The proportion that the shown net profit bore to the paid-up capital at March 31, 1915, was 11.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.6 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.5 per cent.

The Bank was established in the year 1894, the head office being in Liverpool, and there was one branch on the coast of Lagos, Southern Nigeria.

At March 31 last the acceptances amounted to £162,589, as compared with £309,338, while the deposits, on the other hand, rose from £2,222,805 to £2,496,520. On the other side of the accounts, the chief change has occurred in the cash, which has risen from £830,596, or 26.4 per cent. of the total assets, to £1,161,397, or 35.9 per cent. of the assets. The investments also have risen from £419,159, or 13.3 per cent., to £527,520, or 16.3 per cent. Advances also have risen from £566,321, or 18 per cent., to £706,741, or 21.9 per cent. On the other hand, bills discounted have fallen from £965,626, or 30.6 per cent., to £607,089, or 18.7 per cent. The growth of the business since 1900 may be seen from the statement herewith.

In order to cope with the increasing business it was considered desirable in 1910 to remove the head office from Liverpool to London, a special reason being the necessity of being in the best position to deal with the considerable shipments of specie that have to be made to the West Coast to meet the requirements of shippers of African produce, amounting roughly to about £1,000,000 in gold and silver coinage per annum. Owing to the absorption of the business of the Bank of Nigeria, the Bank's position has been greatly strengthened in both Northern and Southern Nigeria, and at the present time, in addition to the London and Liverpool offices, the Bank has one office in Hamburg, one in Morocco, one in the Canary Islands, one in Gambia, two in Sierra Leone, one in Liberia, one on the French Ivory Coast, eight in the Gold Coast

Liabilities of The Bank of British West Africa, Limited.

March 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Fund. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915... ...	400,000	150,000	550,000	17·0	162,589	5·0	2,496,520	77·1	26,141	·9	3,235,250
1914... ...	400,000	187,000	587,000	18.6	309,338	9·8	2,222,805	70·6	31,599	1·0	3,150,842
1913... ...	292,000	116,000	408,000	15·3	237,782	8·9	1,993,121	75·0	21,329	·8	2,660,232
1912... ...	240,000	100,000	340,000	16·0	196,487	9·3	1,561,916	73·8	18,053	·9	2,116,456
1911... ...	200,000	85,000	285,000	15·7	124,490	6·9	1,389,409	76·6	15,085	·8	1,813,984
1910... ...	200,000	80,000	280,000	17·2	149,145	9·2	1,180,555	72·9	10,698	·7	1,626,198
1905... ...	60,000	28,000	88,000	11·2	63,855	8·1	629,704	80·1	4,255	·6	785,814
1900... ...	33,560	10,000	43,560	15·0	—	—	244,931	84·2	2,433	·8	290,924

Assets of The Bank of British West Africa, Limited.

March 31	Cash in Hand, at Bankers and Agencies, and Specie in Transit. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans, Advances, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises Account. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915	1,161,397	35·9	527,520	16·3	607,089	18·7	706,741	21·9	162,589	5·0	69,914	2·2	3,235,250
1914	830,596	26·4	419,159	13·3	965,626	30·6	566,321	18·0	309,338	9·8	59,802	1·9	3,150,842
1913	672,083	25·3	349,117	13·1	754,525	28·4	592,683	22·3	237,782	8·9	54,042	2·0	2,660,232
1912	509,158	24·0	345,114	16·3	515,258	24·3	506,988	24·0	196,487	9·3	43,151	2·1	2,116,456
1911	676,329	37·3	336,696	18·6	414,702	22·8	219,529	12·1	124,490	6·9	42,238	2·3	1,813,984
1910	302,449	18·6	276,448	17·0	563,547	34·6	297,375	18·3	149,145	9·2	37,234	2·3	1,626,198
1905	256,694	32·7	121,813	15·5	213,487	27·2	113,204	14·4	63,855	8·1	16,761	2·1	785,814
1900	106,605	36·6	22,765	7·8	102,294	35·2	57,748	19·9	—	—	1,512	·5	290,924

and Ashanti, and twelve in Nigeria. In addition to these, there are various agencies at different spots in West Africa, and one in New York.

As a result of the findings of a Special Committee, a Currency Board was appointed by the Secretary of State, and under the direction of the board new West African coins were introduced into West Africa in June 1913. The new silver West African coins are of the nominal value of 2*s.*, 1*s.*, 6*d.*, and 3*d.*, their weight and fineness being the same as those of the corresponding coins used in the United Kingdom.

At the meeting on June 23 Lord Milner pointed out that the diminution of profit was not due to any reduction in their resources. On the contrary, there was an increase in the current accounts and fixed deposits from £2,025,000 to £2,267,000, a very gratifying feature, especially as the increased deposits were largely in West Africa. But while the money entrusted to them had increased in amount, they had had fewer opportunities of making use of it. Their cash in hand, which was £830,000 in their last balance sheet, now stood at the enormous figure of £1,161,000, or 46 per cent. of their total liabilities to the public. This was, of course, a magnificent position from the point of view of security, but it was not equally exhilarating from the point of view of profits. The reason, of course, was that, owing to the diminution in trade due to the War, there was less demand for the commodity which they as bankers had to sell—namely, money. The Bank had sold to its clients in West Africa £1,500,000 less than in the previous year, 1913-14. There had been reductions in the local value of the exports of all classes of native produce, and the paralysis of trade, particularly in the early months of the War, also led to a large reduction of imports, causing an appreciable shrinkage in their outward bill-discounting business, and resulting, he feared, in a considerable falling-off in the revenues of the Colonial Governments. Then, again, shipping had been greatly interfered with as a direct result of the War, and, notwithstanding the strenuous endeavours of their friends, Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, the West African trade was now suffering from shortage of steamers.

BANK OF HAMILTON.

Head Office: Hamilton, Ontario.

Capital—
Authorised, Subscribed and Paid up $3,000,000
Price of $100 *Share,* $201. *Dividend,* 12%. *Yield,* £5 19*s.* 5*d.*%.

During 1914 business conditions in the Prairie Provinces of Canada were not satisfactory. The wave of prosperity raised by the expenditure for railway construction had receded. Real estate speculation had been driven beyond all reason. The farmers, generally speaking, had poor crops for two years, largely due to drought, but this encouraged them to give more attention to mixed farming, and more attention was paid to the proper cultivation of the land and the elimination of weeds. In British Columbia matters were worse, affairs being aggravated by world conditions. Excessive speculation in real estate and building had their inevitable result. Lumbering was depressed owing to the falling off of the demand from abroad and from the Prairie Provinces. In Ontario crops were very fair, but there was much speculation in real estate in the cities, and trade generally was dull. Naturally, the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing were accentuated by the outbreak of war. The financial situation, however, was met in a resourceful manner by the Minister of Finance and apprehension was allayed by making bank-notes legal tender, and by making it possible to get funds in any emergency through the deposit of securities with the Government. There was no moratorium and no panic, and in the West as well as the East people settled down to adjust themselves to the altered conditions. The Bank of Hamilton had adopted early a cautious policy and attempted to maintain larger reserves than usual, but keeping so much cash not earning interest, together with the lessened volume of business, could only result in lean profits. The falling off, however, is of a comparatively small amount, the profit for the twelve months to November 30, 1914, amounting to $485,625, as compared with $498,273 for the previous year. The result is, while the directors are able to maintain the dividend of 12 per cent., a sum of $75,000 has been set aside as provision for depreciation in securities and for contingencies, and $44,310 has been set aside for pension

Liabilities of The Bank of Hamilton.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Rest. Amount. $	Capital and Reserve. Amount. $	Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Total Deposits. Amount. $	Total Deposits. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S., and elsewhere. Amount. $	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S., and elsewhere. % of Total. %	Undivided Profits. Amt. $	Undivided Profits. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1914	3,000,000	3,600,000	6,600,000	14·8	3,022,100	6·8	34,523,828	77·3	87,802	·2	213,225	·4	247,328	·5	44,694,283
1913	3,000,000	3,600,000	6,600,000	14·3	3,259,820	7·0	35,908,171	77·5	98,332	·2	219,679	·5	241,486	·5	46,327,488
1912	3,000,000	3,500,000	6,500,000	13·3	3,587,215	7·3	38,188,216	78·1	—	—	298,831	·6	333,621	·7	48,907,883
1911	2,869,400	3,300,000	6,169,400	13·9	3,028,160	6·7	34,839,155	77·9	—	—	429,624	·9	265,799	·6	44,732,138
1910	2,680,570	3,000,000	5,680,570	13·8	2,813,645	6·8	32,410,872	78·5	—	—	149,794	·3	259,488	·6	41,314,369
1905	2,440,740	2,440,740	4,881,480	16·9	2,279,755	7·9	21,529,201	74·5	—	—	50,262	·2	145,351	·5	28,886,049
1900*	1,703,212	1,234,120	2,937,332	19·8	1,393,695	9·4	10,059,581	67·8	—	—	360,450	2·4	76,300	·6	14,827,358
1895*	1,250,000	675,000	1,925,000	22·3	822,253	9·5	5,507,492	63·6	—	—	334,216	3·9	61,174	·7	8,650,135
1890*	1,000,000	450,000	1,450,000	24·1	892,637	14·8	3,471,950	57·7	—	—	155,659	2·6	50,831	·8	6,021,077
1880*	745,100	80,000	825,100	36·5	430,772	19·0	966,759	42·7	—	—	5,887	·2	34,699	1·6	2,263,217
1873*	393,980	—	393,980	49·5	143,297	18·0	235,148	29·5	—	—	—	—	23,952	3·0	796,377

Assets of The Bank of Hamilton.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount. $	Total Cash. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. $	Investments. % of Total. %	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount. $	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. % of Total. %	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount. $	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total. %	Current Loans and Discounts, &c. Amount. $	Current Loans and Discounts, &c. % of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. $	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. $	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1914	7,858,484	17·6	3,364,059	7·5	1,273,433	2·9	553,111	1·2	29,087,390	65·1	87,802	·2	2,470,004	5·5	44,694,283
1913	8,528,788	18·4	3,786,702	8·2	1,378,242	2·9	961,090	2·1	29,302,276	63·2	98,332	·2	2,272,058	5·0	46,327,488
1912	9,290,928	18·9	3,960,823	8·1	1,844,214	3·8	661,889	1·4	30,921,564	63·2	—	—	2,228,465	4·6	48,907,883
1911	7,892,956	17·6	3,848,473	8·6	2,637,267	6·0	558,962	1·2	27,612,733	61·7	—	—	2,181,745	4·9	44,732,138
1910	5,572,930	13·5	4,769,276	11·5	1,816,030	4·4	239,923	·6	27,042,574	65·5	—	—	1,873,636	4·5	41,314,369
1905	3,425,647	11·8	3,672,943	12·7	2,161,093	7·4	1,407,352	4·9	17,373,911	60·2	—	—	845,100	3·0	28,886,049
1900*	1,225,494	8·3	1,012,348	6·8	1,390,110	9·4	420,541	2·8	10,331,411	69·7	—	—	447,454	3·0	14,827,358
1895*	816,466	9·5	956,298	11·0	988,503	11·4	209,456	2·4	5,336,499	61·7	—	—	342,913	4·0	8,650,135
1890*	480,725	8·0	476,689	7·9	77,346	1·3	130,874	2·2	4,737,097	78·7	—	—	118,346	1·9	6,021,077
1880*	182,162	8·0	48,667	2·1	—	—	139,750	6·2	1,864,038	82·4	—	—	28,600	1·3	2,263,217
1873*	50,274	6·3	—	—	—	—	86,433	10·9	651,715	81·8	—	—	7,955	1·0	796,377

* May 31.

and relief funds &c. Herewith we set out the profit statement for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of Hamilton.

Year ended Nov. 30	Profit.	Dividends.—Amount.		Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn.,&c.	Carried Forward
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1914 ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	125,265	—	119,310	157,087
1913 ...	498,273	[illegible]	12	138,273	—	238,280	151,131
1912 ...	[illegible]	326,966	11	168,894	130,600	238,717	251,138
1911 ...	[illegible]	300,809	11	142,697	188,830	333,978	190,360
1910 ...	422,[illegible]	288,515	10	163,575	180,570	555.000	192,810*
1909 ...	[illegible]	249,764	10	132,568	27,140	57,140	403,665
1908 ...	360,308	247,161	10	113,147	2,500	32,500	301,097
1907 ...	[illegible]	247,028	10	137,680	270	30,270	217,950
1906 ...	371,251	[illegible]	10	124,859	29,350	69,350	110,270
1905 ...	[illegible]	231,720	10	125,553	205,421	345,740	25,410
1904*...	182,824	111,734	10	71,090	4,505	102,500	40,176
1904†...	335,514	219,038	10	116,476	195,483	315,000	67,081

* Six months to November 30. † Year to May 31.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 16.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.3 per cent., and to the total working resources of the Bank 1.1 per cent.

The Bank of Hamilton was incorporated in 1872, with a paid-up capital of $275,000. Steady progress was made, and while there is nothing especially outstanding to mark the growth of the institution, it has gradually built up a substantial business, and by opening a considerable number of branches in various parts of the Dominion the Bank has advanced with the growing prosperity of Canada. The first branch was opened in 1873, and by 1888 the total number of offices was eight. After the year 1889, and the accession of Mr. J. Turnbull to the general managership, steady progress took place up to 1900, since when the growth has been more rapid, the dividend being increased from 8 per cent. to 12 per cent. By 1900 the number of branches in operation was 29, and between that date and 1912 the number rose to 130. The present number is 125. Of these, 62 offices are in Ontario, 26 are in Manitoba, 21 in Saskatchewan, 7 in Alberta, and 9 in British Columbia. It will thus be seen that the Bank is largely interested in the development of the West. The first balance sheet showed that the deposits amounted to $235,000; and in the following 17 years they grew to $3,472,000 in 1890. They increased to $10,059,000 in 1900, and have now risen to the great sum of $34,523,828. Since 1905 the total deposits have practically doubled in amount.

In May 1880 the paid-up capital was $745,100, the reserve fund amounting to $80,000. By May 1890 the paid-up capital had risen to $1,000,000, while the reserve fund was $450,000. In the following 10 years the paid-up capital increased to $1,703,212, while the reserve fund rose to $1,234,120. In May 1910 the paid-up capital was $2,680,570, and for the first time the reserve fund was brought up to a figure in excess of the paid-up capital, amounting to $3,000,000. At November 29, 1913, the whole authorised capital of $3,000,000 was issued, while the reserve fund was brought up to $3,600,000

No change has occurred in either the capital or the reserve fund during 1914. The note circulation, however, has fallen from $3,259,820 to $3,022,100. On the other side of the accounts, the total cash at November 30 amounted to $7,858,484, as compared with $8,528,788. The investments fell from $3,786,702 to $3,364,059. The other main change is in the sums due by other banks, which have fallen from $961,090 to $553,111. Altogether, considerable growth is shown by the Bank, as may be seen from the statement herewith of the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

At the meeting in January last the Chairman pointed out that doubtless a further period of adjustment was in store, "but a larger acreage has been prepared for next year's crops, and, with the high prices which can be expected, our farmers should do well, and in turn all those businesses revive which are dependent upon the purchasing power of the farmer. Without trying to see too far ahead, let us all try to improve the present. Let many who have been living in town without working go back to the land; let the farmers work their farms more thoroughly; let others realise that manufacturing business tends to become more and more scientific, and the adequate utilisation of by-products may settle the question of the survival of an industry; let there be less extravagance both by individuals and municipalities, and I am sure, if we cultivate the old-fashioned virtues of courage, economy, and industry, we may face the future with calm cheerfulness."

The crops of this year have been quite as great as anticipated, and the wheat yield is calculated to be no less than 308 million bushels, against 161 million bushels last year; while the oat crop is no less than 488 million bushels, against 313 million bushels last year. With good prices these crops will yield a great income for Canada.

BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Bombay.

Capital—

Subscribed, 100,000 Shares of Rs. 100 each Rs. 1,00,00,000
Paid up. Rs. 50 per Share 50,00,000
Price of Share, Rs. 56. *Dividend*, 6%.* *Yield*, £6 0s. 6d.%.

* Free of tax.

CONSIDERING the unfavourable conditions of trade, accentuated by the European war and the low Bank rate which prevailed, it is not surprising to find that the profits of the Bank of India, Limited, for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, shows a reduction as compared with the previous year. They have amounted to Rs. 8,66,597, as compared with Rs. 9,72,457. Expenses have hardly varied, and the net profit for the year has amounted to Rs. 5,60,303, as compared with Rs. 6,65,599. For the twelve months to June 30, 1909, the dividend was placed on a 6 per cent. basis, as compared with 5 per cent. previously paid, and this rate has since been steadily maintained.

The profit record is as follows:—

Profits of the Bank of India, Limited, since Inception.

Yearly Figures.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend.—Amount.		Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%	Rs.	Rs.
1915...	8,66,597	3,06,294	5,60,303	3,00,000	6	50,000	1,30,339
1914...	9,72,457	3,06,858	6,65,599	3,00,000	6	3,00,000	1,20,226
1913...	10,00,580	2,83,246	7,17,334	3,00,00	6	2,00,000	2,08,355
1912...	8,49,401	2,69,765	5,79,636	3,00,000	6	—	2,61,295
1911...	8,96,065	2,64,082	6,31,983	3,00,000	6	1,25,000	2,23,469
1910...	9,02,813	2,42,490	6,60,323	3,00,000	6	—	2,72,218
1909...	9,18,609	2,15,959	7,02,650	3,00,000	6	1,25,000	1,70,069
1908...	7,56,243	2,04,390	5,51,853	2,50,000	5	50,000	1,37,030
1907*	2,95,347	86,326	2,09,021	1,25,000	5	—	84,021

* About six months.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 11.2 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 10.1 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.7 per cent.

The Bank of India, Limited, was formed in Bombay in the autumn of 1906, its promoters being Bombay citizens closely connected with the business and public life of the city, and the board of directors was constituted so as to be as widely as possible representative of every community in the Presidency.

The intention of the promoters was primarily to finance Bombay local trade, a business which had hitherto been largely in the hands of the Bank of Bombay—the Presidency Bank. It was not intended that the new Bank should compete with the exchange banks, and under its articles of association the directors were prohibited from entering into foreign exchange operations. The Bank's articles, which were modelled on the Presidency Banks Act, also prohibited the directors from lending against shares of joint-stock companies and the mortgage of landed property, thus confining the Bank's operations entirely to Indian business in which the Presidency banks were authorised to engage. The last two provisions proved to be a severe handicap. The Presidency banks receive large deposits bearing no interest from Government and the public. The new Bank

Liabilities of The Bank of India, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Fund. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts. Amount. Rs.	Deposits and Current Accounts. % of Total. %	Rebate and Miscellaneous. Amount. Rs.	Rebate and Miscellaneous. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1915 ...	50,00,000	5,50,000	55,50,000	17·7	2,54,40,273	81·1	88,578	·3	2,80,341	1·9	3,13,59,192
1914 ...	50,00,000	5,00,000	55,00,000	18·4	2,40,27,908	80·3	1,12,887	·4	2,70,225	·9	2,99,11,020
1913 ...	50,00,000	5,00,000	55,00,000	16·6	2,71,80,442	82·2	47,543	·1	3,58,355	1·1	3,30,86,340
1912 ...	50,00,000	3,00,000	53,00,000	16·8	2,59,04,775	81·8	31,501	·1	4,11,296	1·3	3,16,50,575
1911 ...	50,00,000	3,00,000	53,00,000	17·0	2,53,25,432	81·6	29,422	·1	3,83,469	1·3	3,10,38,323
1910 ...	50,00,000	1,75,000	51,75,000	17·3	2,42,30,008	81·2	36,464	·1	4,22,219	1·4	2,98,63,691
1909 ...	50,00,000	1,75,000	51,75,000	20·9	1,92,76,540	77·7	37,524	·1	3,20,069	1·3	2,48,09,133
1908 ...	50,00,000	50,000	50,50,000	28·3	1,24,37,878	70·0	38,884	·2	2,62,029	1·5	1,77,88,791
1907 ...	49,94,820	Nil	49,94,820	39·2	74,86,612	58·8	34,869	·3	2,19,020	1·7	1,27,35,321
1906† ...	47,98,635	Nil	47,98,635	71·8	18,08,507	27·1	46,876	·7	25,178	·4	66,79,196

Assets of The Bank of India, Limited.

June 30	Cash. Amount. Rs.	Cash. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rs.	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Rs.	Advances. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Rs.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total. Assets. Amount. Rs.
1915 ...	58,17,076	18·6	11,71,333	3·7	34,45,822	10·9	2,08,94,592	66·7	30,369	·1	3,13,59,192
1914 ...	52,01,371	17·4	16,37,434	5·5	38,86,189	13·0	1,91,54,923	64·0	31,103	·1	2,99,11,020
1913 ...	32,14,048	9·7	20,54,948	6·2	72,31,776	21·8	2,05,59,861	62·2	25,707	·1	3,30,86,340
1912 ...	28,04,206	8·9	23,92,216	7·6	53,96,270	17·0	2,10,35,251	66·4	22,632	·1	3,16,50,575
1911 ...	40,07,276	13·0	31,20,026	10·0	45,06,273	14·5	1,93,81,902	62·4	22,846	·1	3,10,38,323
1910 ...	30,01,593	10·0	24,99,748	8·4	56,71,424	19·0	1,86,67,764	62·5	23,162	·1	2,98,63,691
1909 ...	34,61,972	13·9	22,86,458	9·2	64,14,150	25·9	1,26,22,604	50·9	23,949	·1	2,48,09,133
1908 ...	23,72,707	13·4	14,82,304	8·3	50,51,227	28·4	88,60,168	49·8	22,385	·1	1,77,88,791
1907 ...	11,17,378	8·7	12,48,217	9·8	73,39,729	57·7	29,83,362	23·5	46,635*	·3	1,27,35,321
1906† ...	7,52,102	11·3	—	—	48,59,700	72·8	10,44,617	15·6	22,777*	·3	66,79,196

* Includes preliminary expenses. † December 31.

had no such advantage. It had to pay interest on all its deposits, and found that as long as it was restricted to loan business of the class allowed to the Presidency banks it could obtain no better rates for its advances than they did. Advances on shares and the mortgage of landed property give a better return than those on any other class of security usually taken by good banks in India, and in the stress of competition the new Bank turned to these. The articles of association were therefore revised in 1912, when the prohibitions to advance against shares and the mortgage of landed property were removed.

The Bank's capital was fixed at Rs. 1,00,00,000 (£666,666), in shares of Rs. 100 each, and within a few months after its formation half the amount, Rs. 50,00,000 (£333,333) was called up. No further call has since been made.

The Bank's policy has been to engage in a comprehensive local business. It has no branches, and since its articles were revised has, with the exception of exchange operations, engaged in every class of banking business which is undertaken by banks of good standing in the city. Its deposits come mainly from the Indian public, public bodies, and native chiefs and their States. It finances cotton mills (spinning and manufacturing), ginning factories, raw cotton, seeds and general Indian produce, silver bullion, Government paper, share transactions, and, to a small extent, landed property.

BANK OF MADRAS.

Head Office: Madras.

Capital—

Authorised ... ... Rs. 1,20,00,000
Issued, 15,000 Shares of Rs. 500, fully paid 75,00,000
Paid up 75,00,000

Price of Share, Rs. 1,340. *Dividend*, 12%.* *Yield*, £5 0s. 10*d*.%.

* Free of tax.

THE outbreak of war was the occasion of a brisk demand for accommodation—accommodation which, however, rapidly subsided, and during the closing months of 1914 the Bank of Madras found it difficult to employ its funds fully. The average Bank rate for the six months was 5.16 per cent., as compared with 5.54 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1913. During the first six months of 1915 the business continued to be adversely affected by war conditions, but not to the extent that might reasonably have been expected. Money was nevertheless in poor demand, the average Bank rate during the period being 5.87 per cent., as compared with 6.63 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1914. Naturally profits suffered somewhat, the gross profit for the twelve months to June 30, 1914, amounting to Rs. 23,44,316, as compared with Rs. 25,31,260. Moreover, working expenses rose from Rs. 11,96,740 to Rs. 12,25,320, so that the net profit fell from Rs. 13,34,520 to Rs. 11,18,996. It was possible, however, to maintain the dividend at 12 per cent., calling for Rs. 9,00,000, while the balance was added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to Rs. 4,35,319. The dividend paid by the Bank has shown fair variations, as may be gathered from the fact that while for 1888 the rate was 10 per cent., for 1889 it rose to 14 per cent., while for 1890 it dropped to 10½ per cent. and for 1891 to 8½ per cent. A steady rise then occurred, until for 1897 the rate was 13 per cent. It subsequently dropped to 8 per cent., eventually recovering to 10 per cent., and gradually rose until for the second half of 1913 it was raised to a 12 per cent. basis, which has since been maintained. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1905:—

Profits of the Bank of Madras since 1905.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. Rs.	Salaries and Other Expenses. Rs.	Net Profit. Rs.	Dividend. Amt. Rs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. Rs.	Carried Forward. Rs.
1915 ...	23,44,316	12,25,320	11,18,996	9,00,000	12	–	4,35,419
1914 ...	25,31,260	11,96,740	13,34,520	9,00,000	12	4,25,000	2,59,175
1913 ...	24,93,866	11,03,607	13,90,259	9,00,000	12	4,50,000	2,90,574
1912 ...	22,92,453	10,52,515	12,39,938	7,69,764*	11	4,25,000	2,88,121
1911 ...	21,13,839	9,95,821	11,18,018	7,20,000	11	4,25,000	2,42,947
1910 ...	21,50,799	9,32,816	12,17,983	7,20,000	11	5,00,000	2,69,929
1909 ...	20,56,129	8,87,779	11,68,350	6,60,000	11	5,00,000	2,71,946
1907 ...	17,90,575	7,18,487	10,72,088	6,00,000	10	4,50,000	2,86,100
1906 ...	15,23,729	7,02,813	8,20,916	6,00,000	10	2,00,000	2,64,012
1905 ...	14,67,493	6,90,931	7,76,562	5,40,000	9	2,50,000	2,43,095

* Including Rs. 49,764 interest on new capital.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 14.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.4 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

The Bank of Madras is one of the three Presidency banks, conducting the general banking business of the Government in the Madras Presidency. It was incorporated by charter in 1843, the original capital being Rs. 30,00,000, divided into 3,000 shares of Rs. 1,000 each, of which 300 shares were the property of the Governor and Council of Madras for the time being on behalf of the East India Company. In 1862 an increase of the capital to 6,000 shares of Rs. 1,000 each was authorised; and in 1863, 750 additional shares were issued, in the proportion of one-fourth of a share to every original share, at a premium of 50 per

Liabilities of The Bank of Madras.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Rs.	Deposits. % of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	Sundries. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1915	75,00,000	76,00,000	1,51,00,000	14·0	9,17,37,274	84·9	6,10,710	·6	5,68,043	·5	10,80,16,027
1914	75,00,000	74,00,000	1,49,00,000	13·0	9,62,90,322	84·3	22,20,085	2·0	7,52,349	·7	11,41,62,756
1913	75,00,000	71,00,000	1,46,00,000	13·7	9,10,10,967	85·1	3,95,146	·4	8,79,439	·8	10,68,85,552
1912	75,00,000	68,00,000	1,43,00,000	15·2	7,81,79,526	83·3	5,90,526	·6	8,33,442	·9	9,39,03,494
1911	60,00,000	49,50,000	1,09,50,000	13·2	7,10,01,111	85·7	1,97,243	·2	7,25,104	·9	8,28,73,458
1910	60,00,000	45,50,000	1,05,50,000	12·7	7,15,15,025	86·1	2,15,332	·3	7,82,805	·9	8,30,63,162
1905	60,00,000	29,50,000	89,50,000	18·0	3,97,45,256	80·0	5,05,557	1·0	5,37,013	1·0	4,97,37,826
1900	60,00,000	24,00,000	84,00,000	21·0	3,10,69,966	77·8	1,45,042	·3	3,39,244	·9	3,99,54,252
1890	50,00,000	13,50,000	63,50,000	20·2	2,39,92,788	76·9	3,95,807	1·2	5,27,991	1·7	3,12,66,586
1880	50,00,000	7,25,000	57,25,000	30·0	†1,30,02,239	68·4	69,599	·3	2,89,944	1·3	1,90,86,782
1870	56,25,000	5,62,500	61,87,500	18·0	*2,65,12,306	77·1	13,55,885	3·9	3,43,709	1·0	3,43,99,290
1860	30,00,000	40,150	30,40,150	39·4	20,14,167	26·2	25,24,950	32·8	1,27,466	1·6	77,06,733
1850	30,00,000	42,212	30,42,212	56·3	7,55,590	14·0	15,00,907	27·7	1,10,225	2·0	54,08,934
1844	30,00,000	—	30,00,000	39·5	16,74,991	22·0	28,16,774	37·1	1,07,883	1·4	75,99,648

* Government balances, Rs. 1,60,00,000. † Government balances, Rs. 49,00,000.

Assets of the Bank of Madras.

June 30	Cash, Bullion and Currency Notes at Head Office and Branches. Amount. Rs.	Cash, Bullion and Currency Notes at Head Office and Branches. % of Total. %	Government Securities. Amount. Rs.	Other Investments. Amount. Rs.	Total Investments. Amount. Rs.	Total Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Loans, Accounts and Balances with Other Banks. Amount. Rs.	Loans, Accounts and Balances with Other Banks. % of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Rs.	Sundries. % of Total. %	Dead Stock. Amount. Rs.	Dead Stock. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1915 ...	2,99,49,215	27·7	1,32,64,426	8,40,749	1,41,05,175	13·0	82,60,594	7·7	5,50,04,775	50·9	1,01,890	·1	5,94,578	·6	10,80,16,027
1914 ...	2,50,38,683	21·9	1,06,40,603	1,12,804	1,07,53,407	9·4	1,44,59,942	12·7	6,33,65,119	55·5	82,724	·1	4,62,881	·4	11,41,62,756
1913 ...	2,24,57,365	21·0	94,06,634	4,778	94,11,612	8·8	1,52,11,353	14·2	5,91,63,981	55·4	91,264	·1	5,49,377	·5	10,68,85,552
1912 ...	2,31,99,012	24·7	1,07,08,509	61,085	1,07,69,594	11·5	1,08,64,718	11·5	4,84,45,165	51·6	—	—	6,25,005	·7	9,39,03,494
1911 ...	2,30,93,635	27·9	76,74,105	8,87,450	85,61,555	10·3	87,35,308	10·5	4,16,44,573	50·3	3,07,244	·4	5,31,143	·6	8,28,73,458
1910 ...	2,59,64,951	31·3	84,11,005	6,24,298	90,35,303	10·9	86,84,158	10·4	3,84,22,240	46·2	3,96,368	·5	5,60,142	·7	8,30,63,162
1905 ...	1,67,11,098	33·6	66,82,160	3,38,634	70,20,794	14·1	70,55,427	14·2	1,79,51,371	36·1	1,28,325	·2	8,70,811	1·8	4,97,37,826
1900 ...	1,31,58,611	33·0	69,94,168	6,56,666	76,50,834	19·0	54,53,933	13·7	1,26,40,958	31·5	77,230	·3	9,72,686	2·5	3,99,54,252
1890 ...	83,75,807	26·9	36,70,071	—	36,70,071	11·8	82,84,624	26·5	1,06,18,491	33·9	12,496	—	3,05,097	·9	3,12,66,586
1880 ...	97,98,195	51·3	14,20,442	—	14,20,442	7·5	43,09,813	22·6	33,03,111	17·3	—	—	2,55,221	1·3	1,90,86,782
1870 ...	2,19,85,240	63·9	3,70,003	—	3,70,003	1·1	91,02,490	26·5	26,84,127	7·8	—	—	2,57,430	·7	3,43,99,290
1860 ...	29,23,366	37·9	2,06,800	—	2,06,800	2·7	3,32,364	4·3	41,81,668	54·3	—	—	62,535	·8	77,06,733
1850 ...	9,37,518	17·4	4,92,877	—	4,92,877	9·1	5,28,604	9·8	33,92,781	62·7	28,683	·5	28,471	·5	54,08,934
1844 ...	10,23,198	13·4	26,70,492	3,38,340	30,08,832	39·6	15,79,132	20·8	19,30,271	25·4	14,881	·2	43,334	·6	75,99,648

cent. In 1865 a further issue of 1,875 shares was made, and allotted in the proportion of one new share to every two shares held, the capital being placed at a premium of 10 per cent. The capital then remained unchanged until 1876. Up to this year the Government exercised a considerable amount of control over the affairs of the Bank; but with the passing of the Presidency Banks Act of 1876 a change in policy occurred, and any active interference of the Government in the routine of the Bank came to an end, and relations between the Government and the Bank became merely those of banker and customer, though the Government still retains the right to call upon the directors for any information in regard to the affairs of the Bank which they may deem desirable. Moreover, the capital of the Bank can only be increased or reduced with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, on a special resolution passed by a majority at a meeting at which not less than one-third of the entire body of shareholders are present, in person or by proxy, representing at least one-half the paid-up capital of the Company. Beyond this, while the directors have power to establish branches anywhere in the Madras Presidency considered desirable, no branch may be established outside the limits of the Presidency without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council. In 1876, as a result of the passing of the Bank Act, a rearrangement of capital took place. The Government decided to part with its shares, and the capital was reduced to Rs. 50,00,000 by the Bank taking over at a premium of 10 per cent. the 56½ shares held by the Government and by the purchase and cancellation of 62½ shares, thereby reducing the capital to 50 lacs, in shares of Rs. 500 each, with power to increase to Rs. 1,20,00,000. The capital has been increased since then, and at December 31 last the amount paid up was Rs. 75,00,000. Under its original charter the Bank had the right to issue its own notes to an amount not exceeding one crore at any time, but in 1861 the Government of India reserved the issue of currency notes as a State monopoly, and the privilege of issue was accordingly withdrawn from the Bank as from February 28, 1862. In lieu of the privilege the Government Treasury was transferred to the Bank, and it was for the first time authorised to open branches. The first branch, Cochin, was opened in May 1862. Others have since been opened, and at the present time there are 17—namely, Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam, Calicut, Cocanada, Cochin, Coimbatore, Colombo, Guntur, Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, and Tuticorin.

Negotiations are now going on for conducting Government work at Bellary, Cuddalore, and Trichinopoly, and if brought to a satisfactory conclusion branches of the Bank will be opened at these places. A site has also been purchased for the erection of premises in the Mount Road, Madras, where an office will be opened as soon as practicable. The growth of the Bank may be seen from the following statement of liabilities and assets for various years from 1844:—

BANK OF MAURITIUS, LIMITED.

Head Office: 10 George Yard, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 20,000 Shares of £10 each ...	£200,000
Subscribed, 12,555 Shares of £10 each ...	125,550
Paid up	125,550

Price of Share, £14. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, £7 5*s.* 6*d.* %.

It was generally anticipated at the beginning of 1914 that the year would prove favourable to Mauritius in general and to the Bank of Mauritius in particular. The hopes that were expressed that the crop of sugar would at least equal that of the preceding year were fully realised, and, indeed, it was 25,000 tons in excess of any previous year. With the working of so large a crop in prospect the demand for money towards the middle of the year was altogether exceptional, and an unusually large proportion of the Bank's funds was employed when war broke out. Fortunately, it has always been the practice to maintain a strong cash position, and although financial facilities in London were for the moment much restricted, exchange with the Colony never broke down, and the Bank was able to make all necessary arrange-

Liabilities of The Bank of Mauritius, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Fund. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Liabilities on Current Accounts. Amount. £	Liabilities on Current Accounts. % of Total. %	Deposits &c. Amount. £	Deposits &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	125,550	[illegible]	[illegible]	24·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	666,975	73·6	[illegible]	1·5	[illegible]
1913...	125,550	92,000	217,550	36·2	44,017	7·3	[illegible]	54·5	11,[illegible]22	2·0	599,297
1912...	125,550	90,000	215,550	37·2	23,000	4·0	[illegible]	56·9	11,323	1·9	578,982
1911...	125,550	87,500	213,050	39·0	—	—	323,097	59·9	10,437	1·9	546,584
1910...	125,550	85,000	210,550	37·2	72,614	12·8	271,251	47·9	12,293	2·1	566,648
1905...	125,550	55,000	180,550	37·0	62,616	12·9	234,113	48·0	10,[illegible]95	2·1	487,674
1900...	125,550	30,000	155,550	30·0	73,869	14·2	284,[illegible]03	54·7	5,581	1·1	519,302
1895...	125,550	—	125,550	34·8	23,558	6·6	197,129	54·7	14,165	3·9	360,402

Assets of The Bank of Mauritius, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and with Bankers. Amount. £	Cash in Hand and with Bankers. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted and Advances. Amt. £	Bills Discounted and Advances. % of Total. %	Liability of Customers for [illegible]s. Amt. £	Liability of Customers for [illegible]s. % of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amt. £	Bank Premises. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	[illegible]	64·4	121,000	13·3	191,978	21·2			[illegible]	1·1	[illegible]
1913...	106,305	17·7	46,[illegible]00	7·8	392,[illegible]76	65·6	44,[illegible]26	7·3	9,[illegible]00	1·6	599,297
1912...	183,713	31·7	47,600	8·2	315,[illegible]69	54·4	23,[illegible]09	4·0	9,[illegible]00	1·7	578,982
1911...	146,239	26·8	40,759	7·5	350,086	64·0	—	—	9,[illegible]00	1·7	546,[illegible]84
1910 ..	77,267	13·6	40,550	7·1	366,717	64·8	72,614	12·8	9,[illegible]00	1·7	566,648
1905...	76,416	15·7	45,[illegible]00	2·9	293,942	60.3	62,616	12·9	9,[illegible]00	1·9	487,674
1900...	223,322	43·8	49,687	9·6	163,924	31·6	73,869	14·2	9,[illegible]00	1·8	519,302
1895...	61,378	17·0	48,027	13·3	214,027	59·4	23,558	6·6	•13,412	3·7	360,402

• Includes £2,771 preliminary expenses.

ments for financing the crop to its completion; and, as the Chairman of the Bank pointed out at the meeting in March last, the effect of the War on the staple industry of Mauritius was immediate. Sugar which in July had been on offer in the colony at Rs. 8 per cwt. jumped at once on the outbreak of hostilities to Rs. 14, with every indication that this was but the beginning of the rise. Nor was the effect on the Sugar market in London less remarkable. For years this country has been practically dependent for its supplies on Continental beet sugars, no less than two-thirds of the consumption having been drawn from Germany and Austria alone. Naturally these sources of supply were automatically closed to us on the outbreak of war. Sugar rapidly doubled in price, and it became evident that unless immediate steps were taken the country would have to face a sugar famine. Government action, however, was immediately taken, and control obtained of the market. Among the sugars purchased were those of Mauritius, and the financing of a considerable portion of the necessary operations was placed with the Bank of Mauritius. Planters accepted the terms offered by the Government, and there is no doubt as to the fact that the planting community has very largely benefited by the combination of a large crop and good prices. Naturally, the cultivation of the largest crop ever produced in the Colony gave the Bank ample employment during 1914 for its funds at remunerative rates, and it is not surprising to find, therefore, that the gross profit is

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

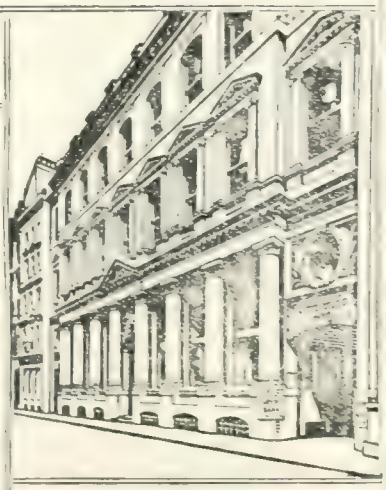
Subscribed Capital, £31,304,200.

Paid up Capital, £5,008,672. Reserve Fund, £3,600,000.

Chairman: RICHARD VASSAR VASSAR-SMITH.
Deputy-Chairman: J. W. BEAUMONT PEASE.

(June, 1915.)

Deposit and Current Accounts £134,524,366
Cash in Hand, at Call and at short notice - - - 38,475,209
Bills of Exchange - - - 18,478,619
Investments - - - - 23,321,715
Advances & other Securities 59,740,811



THIS BANK HAS OVER 880 OFFICES IN ENGLAND & WALES.

Colonial and Foreign Department: 17, Cornhill, E.C.

Head Office:
71, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

FRENCH AUXILIARY:—
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED, 26, Avenue de l'Opéra, PARIS,
with Branches at BORDEAUX, BIARRITZ and HAVRE.

a record one for the institution, amounting to as much as £38,658, as compared with £27,129 for 1913, the net profit amounting to £25,077, as compared with £15,127. The dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., and a sum of £10,000 has been carried to reserve. The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn. &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£		£	£
1914 ...	38,658	13,581	25,077	12,555	10	10,000	6,639
1913 ...	27,129	12,002	15,127	12,555	10	3,500	4,117
1912 ...	27,214	11,784	15,430	10,672	8½	4,500	5,045
1911 ...	23,720	11,345	12,375	10,044	8	3,500	4,787
1910 ...	29,181	10,363	18,818	10,044	8	6,500	5,976
1909 ...	26,316	10,172	16,144	8,788	7	6,000	3,682
1908 ...	24,255	9,969	14,286	7,533	6	10,000	2,326
1907 ...	18,187	9,950	8,237	7,533	6	—	5,573
1906 ...	25,562	9,788	15,774	7,533	6	10,000	4,869
1905 ...	26,899	9,764	17,135	7,533	6	5,000	6,628
1904 ...	24,733	9,297	15,436	7,533	6	10,000	2,026

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 19.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 11.1 per cent., and to the total working resources 2.8 per cent.

This Bank was formed in 1894 to provide for the banking needs of the sugar planters of the island of Mauritius, and it has an authorised capital of £200,000, in 20,000 shares of £10 each. Of these 12,555 shares have been issued and are fully paid, making the paid-up capital £125,550, no change having occurred since the formation. The Bank is able to show satisfactory growth throughout its career. It has steadily built up a reserve fund, which at the end of 1914 amounted to £100,000.

During 1914 the deposits rose from £326,708, or 54.5 per cent. of the liabilities, to £666,975, or 73.6 per cent. On the other side, bills discounted and advances fell from £392,776, or 65.6 per cent., to £191,978, or 21.2 per cent. But, on the other hand, cash rose from £106,305, or 17.7 per cent., to £583,592, or 64.4 per cent. These figures are abnormal, and cannot be looked for in ordinary years. They are chiefly attributable to the disposal of a crop of record size at exceptional prices within a much briefer period than usual. The reduction in the bills discounted and advances is accounted for by the closing of the usual channels for the purchase and shipment of the crop and to an almost complete lack of demand for accommodation. Investments have risen from £46,700 to £121,000. In the early months of the year, funds being available, the Bank increased its holding in Colonial Government securities, while in November last it took up a portion of the War Loan. Herewith we set out a comparison of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since formation.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

Head Office: Montreal, Canada.
London Offices: 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.; 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.

Capital—

Authorised $25,000,000
Subscribed, in 160,000 Shares of $100 ... 16,000,000
Paid up, $100 (Reserve liability, $100) ... 16,000,000
Price of Share, $230. *Dividend*, 12 %. *Yield*, £5 4*s.* 5*d.*%.

At the annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal in December last the President, Mr. H. V. Meredith, reviewed the general trade and financial situation in Great Britain, the United States, and Canada. He pointed out that in the Dominion a period of several years of remarkable growth and progress was accompanied by large capital expenditures by industrial, municipal, and other corporations, and an ambitious programme of railway construction, made possible by the ease with which money could be obtained. Then followed a period of unduly inflated and fictitious values, bringing about suspicion and distrust of the Dominion's economic position in the Money markets of the world. The ensuing check caused embarrassment in some instances, but had a salutary effect on the country in general, bringing it to realise the fact that unproductive expenditure must of necessity cease for a while, and the efforts of the country be directed towards the development of natural resources, accelerated by a large flow of immigration. It fortunately happened that for over a year previously manufacturers and merchants, preparing for such a contingency, had entered upon a period of curtailment and readjustment, and the economic position had been approaching a more normal condition. Consequently, the outbreak of war and the financial crisis that followed found the country fairly well prepared. The action of the Finance Minister in providing facilities for rediscount and in making bank-notes legal tender had a steadying effect throughout the country, and enabled the banks to meet the legitimate demands of business and to keep in hand ample resources against deposits. Naturally, however, the accounts of the Bank of Montreal reflect the current conditions, and

Liabilities of The Bank of Montreal.

Oct. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amt.	Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amt.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amt.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Total Deposits. Amt.	Total Deposits. % of Total.	Bills, &c., Payable. Amt.	Bills, &c., Payable. % of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. Amt.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. % of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	Undivided Profits. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	16,000,000	16,000,000	32,000,000	12·3	17,231,502	6·6	3,368,067	1·3	197,222,675	76·0	1,406,445	·6	6,460,190	2·5	1,792,784	·7	259,481,663
1913 ...	16,000,000	16,000,000	32,000,000	13·0	17,061,665	7·0	2,523,825	1·0	189,573,090	77·5	919,309	·4	1,102,938	·4	1,606,218	·7	244,787,045
1912 ...	16,000,000	16,000,000	32,000,000	13·5	16,131,862	6·8	—	—	187,310,469	79·1	—	—	122,374	—	1,362,815	·6	236,927,520
1911 ...	14,887,570	15,000,000	29,887,570	13·0	15,914,654	6·9	—	—	181,727,324	79·0	—	—	175,688	·1	2,215,185	1·0	229,920,421
1910 ...	14,400,000	12,000,000	26,400,000	11·0	14,502,588	6·0	—	—	197,545,708	82·3	—	—	122,236	·1	1 321,786	·6	239,892,332
1905 ...	14,400,000	10,000,000	24,400,000	15·5	12,996,181	8·1	—	—	119,163,914	75·3	—	—	150,459	·1	1,521,855	1·0	158,232,409
1900 ...	12,000,000	7,000,000	19,000,000	20·0	7,384,408	7·8	—	—	67,233,972	71·0	—	—	37,931	—	1,110,084	1·2	94,766,395
1895 ...	12,000,000	6,000,000	18,000,000	30·0	5,143,589	8·6	—	—	35,431,176	59·0	—	—	9,990	—	1,423,302	2·4	60,008,058
1890 ...	12,000,000	6,000,000	18,000,000	39·0	5,723,429	11·4	—	—	24,202,617	46·4	—	—	92,290	·2	1,466,693	3·0	49,485,029
1885 ...	12,000,000	6,000,000	18,000,000	39·8	6,098,887	13·4	—	—	19,832,145	44·2	—	—	323,877	·2	1,042,335	2·4	45,297,244

Assets of The Bank of Montreal.

Oct. 31	Total Cash. Amount.	Total Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Great Britain and U. States. Amount.	Call and Short Loans in Great Britain and U. States. % of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Gt. Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Gt. Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	Bank Premises. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	50,720,449	19·6	12,245,402	4·7	41,502,122	16·0	15,900,030	6·1	131,745,593	50·8	3,368,067	1·3	4,000,000	1·5	259,481,663
1913 ...	31,607,852	13·0	12,934,051	5·2	51,240,795	20·9	6,126,730	2·5	136,353,792	55·8	2,523,825	1·0	4,000,000	1·6	244,787,045
1912 ...	28,549,202	12·1	15,059,682	6·4	55,158,633	23·3	14,133,604	6·0	120,026,398	50·5	—	—	4,000,000	1·7	236,927,519
1911 ...	26,358,052	11·5	16,809,788	7·3	42,602,772	18·5	17,975,274	7·9	122,174,535	53·1	—	—	4,000,000	1·7	229,920,421
1910 ...	26,648,088	11·1	20,383,319	8·5	61,918,750	25·8	17,214,648	7·2	113,127,522	47·2	—	—	600,000	·2	239,892,330
1905 ...	15,843,632	10·0	8,281,451	5·3	37,961,908	23·9	6,039,037	3·8	89,506,378	56·6	—	—	600,000	·4	158,232,409
1900 ...	6,104,282	6·4	3,814,812	4·0	20,691,750	22·0	4,422,180	4·6	59,133,369	62·4	—	—	600,000	·6	94,766,395
1895 ...	6,815,670	11·4	2,189,293	3·6	—	—	16,540,763	27·6	33,862,330	56·4	—	—	600,000	1·0	60,008,058
1890 ...	5,080,291	10·3	1,328,000	2·7	—	—	10,788,810	21·8	31,687,926	64·0	—	—	600,000	1·2	49,485,029
1885 ...	5,937,042	13·0	2,304,079	5·1	—	—	9,332,748	20·6	27,282,373	60·3	—	—	440,000	1·0	45,297,244

the profits for the twelve months to October 31, 1914, fell from $2,648,403 to $2,496,452. Nevertheless the Bank was able to maintain a 12 per cent. dividend, and after writing off $290,000 for bank premises and carrying $100,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the carry-forward was increased from $1,046,218 to $1,232,670.

In the following statement we show the profits of the Bank and the manner in which they have been divided from 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of Montreal.

Oct. 31	Profits.	Dividends.		Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$
1914 ...	2,496,452	1,920,000	12	390,000	1,232,670
1913 ...	2,648,403	1,920,000	12	802,815	1,046,218
1912 ...	2,518,409	1,894,102	12	1,000,000	802,815
1911 ...	2,276,514	1,440,000	10	3,000,000	1,855,183
1910 ...	1,797,994	1,440,000	10	—	961,789
1909 ...	1,826,167	1,440,000	10	—	603,797
1908 ...	1,957,660	1,440,000	10	1,000,000	217,627
1907 ...	1,980,139	1,440,000	10	—	699,967
1906 ...	1,797,975	1,440,000	10	1,000,000	159,831
1905 ...	1,638,659	1,420,000	10	—	801,855
1904 ...	1,609,207	1,400,000	10	—	583,196

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 15.6 per cent., to capital and rest combined 7.8 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to $259,481,663, .9 per cent.

The Bank of Montreal occupies a special position amongst the banking institutions of the Dominion of Canada, inasmuch as it is the financial agent of the Government of Canada. It is also the oldest and the largest of the Canadian banks, and it is perhaps scarcely too much to say that the history of the Bank is the history of Canada. It was established in 1817, its formation being due to the retirement by the British Government of their Army bills issued to meet the expenses of the war of 1812 with the United States. The capital was limited to £250,000 currency, divided into 5,000 shares of £50 each. In Canadian or Halifax currency the pound was equal to $4, the currency being established for the province of Canada by an Ordinance of 1767. When the Bank started business the paid-up capital was $350,000. The growth was of a rapid character. In 1819 the capital was increased to $650,000, and in the following year to $750,000. In 1829 it rose to $850,000, in 1841 to $2,000,000, in 1845 to $3,000,000, in 1855 to $4,000,000, in 1860 to $6,000,000, in 1873 to $12,000,000, in 1903 to $14,400,000, and in 1911 it was increased to $16,000,000. The last increase consisted of $1,600,000, and was brought about mainly with a view of extending to that amount the right to increase the issue of notes in circulation. Early in its history the Bank opened a branch in Quebec, but it was not until after 1855 that the working of the Bank was reorganised according to the Scotch system; and since that time offices have been opened in various parts of the Dominion, and at the present time the number of offices opened amounts to 181. In the first full year of the Bank's operations—viz., 1819—a dividend was paid at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and since then, with the exception of the years 1827 and 1828, when the Bank did not pay any dividend, the annual distributions have ranged from 6 per cent. to 16 per cent., according to the earnings, but for many years to 1911 the distribution was steadily maintained at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. For the past three years the rate has been 12 per cent. per annum. After the distribution of 8 per cent. was made in 1819 a balance of $4,168 remained, which was carried to a reserve. Since that time the reserve, or rest, has steadily grown. In 1825 it was $30,780, and in 1840 it amounted to $89,480. Since then the growth has been uninterrupted, and at October 31, 1914, it amounted to no less than $16,000,000, or equal to the paid-up capital.

BANK OF MONTREAL

(Established 1817.)
Incorporated by Act of Parliament.

CAPITAL (all paid up) - - - $16,000,000.

Rest, $16,000,000. **Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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HEAD OFFICE - - - MONTREAL.

GENERAL MANAGER—SIR FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR, LL.D.
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER—A. D. BRAITHWAITE.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND; ALSO AT NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND SPOKANE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND AT MEXICO CITY.

London Offices—47 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C., and 9 WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, S.W.

London Committee:
Sir THOMAS SKINNER, Bart. A. MACNIDER, Esq.
GEORGE CYRIL CASSELS, *Manager.*

FINANCIAL AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland, and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

There is one special point to which attention should be directed. The Bank of Montreal has sometimes been criticised in the Dominion for keeping such large balances in other countries, and practically none at home, but it will be recognised that this cautious policy is a great safeguard against financial disturbances in Canada. It cannot, of course, be supposed that the Bank is ignoring the return receivable on placing $10,000,000 or $20,000,000 on loan in Canada with a 5 per cent. call rate, as compared with, say, 2 per cent. actually received; but it is the necessity of getting money back at three hours' notice on any date required that is the determining factor, and with so large a proportion of its funds placed in this position it is evident the Bank is carrying out a praiseworthy policy in regarding the strength of its position rather than the temporary advantage of receiving a larger return on this portion of its funds. This wise policy on the part of Canada's leading bank is, and has been for many years, the financial sheet-anchor of the Dominion, and has won for the institution the name of the Bank of England of Canada.

We set out herewith the liabilities and assets for various years from 1885.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, in his last annual address to the shareholders, pointed out that from a financial point of view the outstanding result of the War upon Canada has been the instantaneous stoppage of the supply of British capital, to which the country became so accustomed, that sight was frequently lost of its importance as a factor in the development of the Dominion. As a result, the country must limit its imports to the approximate volume it can pay for its exports, or it must borrow elsewhere, and he indicated that if the United States desired Canada to purchase anything approaching the volume of the past it must be prepared to provide loans to the principal public borrowers of the Dominion. Sir Frederick finally summed up the situation as follows: "In conclusion, the financial position of our country now is that, consequent upon the prompt measures adopted by our Minister of Finance, and owing to the elasticity and excellence of our banking system, Canada is standing the strain without collapse. We are adjusting ourselves to the heavy burden thrust upon us without warning while in the constructional stage, and though here and there weak spots will develop the general structure will surely stand the strain, and we hope and believe we, as a country, can safeguard the situation. It is obvious to everyone in the Dominion and to our friends abroad that we are cast upon our own resources, that we are on trial, and that our future development will depend in no small measure upon the condition in which we emerge from this trying ordeal. The longer the duration of the War the more will the Colonial props of the Empire, including Canada, suffer; but good will come out of evil, for our energies will be turned to the development of our great natural wealth, particularly our vast agricultural resources, and we can then look forward with confidence to eventually emerging from present conditions a wiser people, with our affairs on a healthier, more normal and sounder basis than that with which we were threatened."

The great wheat and oat crops of this year, with profitable prices, together with the extensive orders for goods of all kinds from the British Government, have given Canada a great income, and whereas in recent years imports into Canada were largely in excess of exports, exports now greatly exceed the imports. The War is indeed proving of great economic advantage to Canada, and its after-effects should also contribute to her well-being by stimulating emigration from the old countries. The Bank of Montreal should derive an important share of these advantages.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Head Office: Sydney, New South Wales.
London Office: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Capital—
Subscribed, 175,000 Shares of £20 each ... £3,500,000
Paid up £3,500,000
Price of Share, £35¾. *Dividend,* 10%. *Yield,* £5 13*s.* 6*d.* %

THE Bank of New South Wales came comparatively unscathed through the financial and banking crisis in 1893, and, though profits naturally fell away and it was necessary to reduce the dividends, it may be pointed out that the rate never fell below 9 per cent., a rate which was maintained from 1895 to 1900 inclusive. This was followed by a distribution of 10 per cent., a rate which has been maintained since that date.

The profit for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, amounted to £522,071, as compared with £537,598. The 10 per cent. dividend called for £350,000, and of the balance £150,000 was carried to reserve and the carry-forward increased from £68,658 to £90,729.

Profits of the Bank of New South Wales.

Year ended Sept. 30	Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. %	Balance.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£		£	£	£
1914... ...	522,071	350,000	10	172,071	150,000	90,729
1913... ...	537,598	328,779	10	208,819	225,000	68,658
1912... ...	429,138	300,000	10	129,138	125,000	84,839
1911... ...	426,416	296,337	10	130,099	106,720	80,701
1910... ...	385,585	265,668	10	119,917	108,280	57,342
1909... ...	368,788	250,000	10	118,788	110,000	45,704
1908... ...	324,669	249,399	10	75,270	70,000	36,916
1907... ...	284,548	210,635	10	73,913	70,000	31,646
1906... ...	259,500	200,000	10	59,500	50,000	27,733
1905... ...	259,773	200,000	10	59,773	60,000	18,232
1904... ...	240,017	200,000	10	40,017	40,000	18,459

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 14.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.8 per cent., and to total working resources 1.3 per cent.

The Bank of New South Wales is not only one of the earliest of our Colonial banks, but it is the oldest public company established in Australia, dating back to April 8, 1817. The formation of the Bank was due to a great confusion of coinage and note issues of an indiscriminate nature. In 1800 the Government of the Colony fixed definite values for a number of coins that were in circulation. The following shows the values attached:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
A guinea	1	2	0	A Spanish dollar... ...	0	5	0
A Johannes ...	4	0	0	A rupee	0	2	6
A half Johannes ...	2	0	0	A shilling	0	1	1
A ducat	0	9	6	A copper coin of 1 oz. ...	0	0	2
A gold mohur ...	1	17	6	" " ½ " ...	0	0	1
A pagoda	0	8	0	" " ¼ " ...	0	0	0½

In November 1816 resolutions were passed at two meetings to found a public colonial bank, with £20,000 capital in £100 shares. About £12,000 was subscribed immediately and 25 per cent. called up, the Bank starting business, as already stated, on April 8, 1817. The first balance sheet, to December 31, 1817, showed total liabilities of £11,401, of which £3,625 was capital, £5,636 notes, and the balance deposits, &c. In 1912 it was decided to increase the capital to £3,500,000, and this has now all been paid up. A steady increase has likewise occurred in the reserve fund. In 1870, £33,333 was taken from this fund for losses, reducing it to £300,000. Since then year by year, with only one or two exceptions, the reserve fund has steadily mounted upwards, and at March 31 last it was brought up to £2,550,000. At March 31, 1911, the note circulation amounted to £1,218,534. By September 30 the notes decreased to £442,798, a decrease of £840,000. The process of paying off the notes is still going on, and of the amount now left in the balance sheet of £370,918 about £165,000 represents the circulation in New Zealand; the reason for the reduction being the legislation of the Commonwealth Government taking away the power of note issues from the banks.

Liabilities of The Bank of New South Wales.

Sept. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amt. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amt. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amt. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	Deposits. % of Total. %	Bills Payable and Other Liabilities. Amount. £	Bills Payable and Other Liabilities. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11·7	287,655	·6	[illegible]	2·0	[illegible]	72·3	[illegible]	13·0	[illegible]	·4	[illegible]
1913...	3,500,000	2,250,000	[illegible]	12·2	264,437	·5	[illegible]	1·3	34,001,865	71·8	6,169,543	13·0	339,356	·7	47,368,216
1912...	3,000,000	2,085,000	5,085,000	10·8	289,595	·6	1,236,475	2·6	34,614,798	73·7	5,476,953	11·7	299,839	·6	47,002,660
1911...	3,000,000	1,971,545	4,971,545	10·9	442,798	1·0	758,913	1·7	34,324,402	75·3	4,805,148	10·5	284,156	·6	45,586,962
1910...	2,726,880	1,806,720	4,533,600	10·6	1,281,463	3·0	774,835	1·8	31,808,366	74·5	4,061,568	9·5	251,290	·6	42,711,127
1905...	2,000,000	1,400,000	3,400,000	11·0	960,477	3·1	556,254	1·8	23,320,148	75·3	2,564,816	8·3	152,197	·5	30,953,892
1900...	2,000,000	1,250,000	3,250,000	11·5	890,337	3·2	235,947	·8	20,987,103	74·0	2,857,549	10·1	133,929	·4	28,354,465
1890...	1,250,000	950,000	2,200,000	9·6	640,927	2·8	—	—	18,440,005	80·4	[illegible]	6·6	147,752	·6	22,942,228
1880...	1,000,000	490,000	1,490,000	11·4	648,332	4·9	—	—	9,039,196	69·0	1,801,830	13·8	110,761	·9	13,090,119
1870...	1,000,000	300,000	1,300,000	15·6	574,090	6·8	—	—	5,025,188	60·2	1,373,025	16·5	70,525	·9	8,342,828
1865...	1,000,000	333,333	1,333,333	18·0	636,098	8·6	—	—	3,671,623	49·7	[illegible]	21·7	148,087	2·0	7,397,242

Assets of The Bank of New South Wales.

Sept. 30	Coin, Bullion, and Cash Balances. Amount. £	Coin, Bullion, and Cash Balances. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Money at Call in London. Amount. £	Money at Call in London. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted and Loans and Advances. Amount. £	Bills Discounted and Loans and Advances. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable in London and Remittances in Transit. Amount. £	Bills Receivable in London and Remittances in Transit. % of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. £	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	Bank Premises Account. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	[illegible]	28·6	[illegible]	6·5	[illegible]	1·3	27,207,839	53·6	3,256,940	6·4	[illegible]	2·0	[illegible]	1·6	50,793,174
1913 ...	12,114,757	25·6	3,384,683	7·1	1,195,000	2·5	25,386,628	53·6	3,669,133	7·8	[illegible]	1·8	[illegible]	1·6	47,368,216
1912 ...	9,432,653	20·1	3,602,162	7·7	1,840,000	3·9	26,842,965	57·1	3,248,405	6·9	[illegible]	2·6	[illegible]	1·7	47,002,660
1911 ...	9,806,260	21·5	3,738,520	8·2	1,634,056	3·6	25,904,113	56·8	2,980,100	6·5	758,913	1·7	[illegible]	1·7	45,586,962
1910 ...	9,970,155	23·3	3,179,520	7·5	3,003,188	7·0	22,628,077	53·0	2,425,052	5·7	774,835	2·8	730,000	1·7	42,711,127
1905 ...	5,396,541	19·4	1,881,484	6·0	990,000	3·2	18,942,298	61·2	1,881,315	6·1	556,254	1·8	706,000	2·3	30,953,892
1900 ...	6,400,175	22·6	1,262,767	4·4	280,000	1·0	19,526,476	68·8	—	—	[illegible]	·8	650,000	2·4	28,354,465
1890 ...	3,317,755	14·4	519,370	2·3	—	—	18,560,735	80·9	—	—	—	—	544,368	2·4	22,942,228
1880 ...	3,667,166	28·0	541,094	4·1	—	—	8,558,912	65·4	—	—	—	—	[illegible]	2·5	13,090,119
1870 ...	2,251,014	27·0	8,857	·1	—	—	5,906,953	70·8	—	—	—	—	176,004	2·1	8,342,828
1865 ...	1,764,862	[illegible]	292,886	4·0	—	—	5,191,140	70·2	—	—	—	—	148,354	2·0	7,397,242

In 1854 the deposits amounted to £2,000,000; by 1862 to £5,000,000; by 1872 to £6,000,000; by 1881 to £10,000,000; and by 1892 to £20,000,000, the deposit figures up to this year including the amount of the acceptances. In 1894, as a result of the financial crisis, the deposits fell off; but the ease with which the Bank weathered the banking storm then experienced has since brought to it a greatly increased business. In 1900 its deposits were nearly £21,000,000, and in 1912 they were £34,614,798. This increase occurred in spite of a considerable decrease in the aggregate of the deposits held from the Commonwealth and the various State Governments. With the opening of the Commonwealth Bank in January 1913 the Commonwealth Government deposits with the various States were transferred to that institution, and the various State Governments kept smaller balances with the local banks than had been

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK
LTD.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL - £14,000,000,

In 700,000 Shares of £20 each.

Paid-up Capital ... ... £3,500,000.
Reserve ... ... £4,000,000.

Chairman—THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.

Deputy-Chairman—WALTER LEAF, ESQ.

Head Office - 41 LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom and has Correspondents throughout the World.

PARIS:
LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK (PARIS) LIMITED, 22 Place Vendôme.

Sums of £10 and upwards received on deposit, and interest allowed thereon.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

the case in the past. Consequently, the deposits from the general public showed an increase. At September 30 last the deposits totalled £36,722,127.

The Commonwealth Bank has kept its account with the Bank of New South Wales since it started, and as such funds are not considered by the Bank as available for use in the ordinary business a larger amount of cash than usual has been kept to meet the situation.

Herewith we set out the assets and liabilities for various years from 1865.

Comparing the liabilities of the Bank of New South Wales at March 31, 1915, with those for March 31, 1914, the main alteration is an increase of a little over £2,000,000 in the deposits, which amount to £38,778,055, which may be attributed to the natural desire to hold on to money pending developments. While a considerable proportion of the increase is government money, there is a large general increase well spread over all the bank's fields of operations. On the other hand the coin, cash balances, and other bank-notes are £472,000 less, money at short call is £1,730,000 less as operations with London have been heavy, but the Australian notes are £3,318,000 more, so that the total of cash and call money shows an increase of £1,116,000. The Bank of New South Wales is the largest receiver of cash among the trading banks in the Commonwealth. At its present dimensions the note issue is distinctly an emergency measure, and must be viewed in conjunction with other war measures. The Government securities are slightly over £1,000,000 higher, the Bank having taken an interest in the Imperial War Loan and also some additional local government securities of a temporary character. Bills receivable are about £512,000 down, due to there being no wheat bills this year. Advances are nearly £900,000 higher as a natural outcome of the situation. At the outset of the War it seemed as if the great export of the country, wool, might be indefinitely locked up in Australia, but ways and means were found, and most of the wool has been realised and at fair prices. Other products have been similarly dealt with. Unfortunately for Australia, coincident with the War extensively dry conditions prevailed practically throughout the Continent during last summer, costing the Company nearly the whole wheat crop and a valuable export, and there will be sheep and stock losses also. On the other hand the New Zealand business has been well maintained and free from such troubles.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Head Office: Wellington, New Zealand.
London Office: 1 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Capital—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Div. %	Approx. Yield £ s.	d.
528,989	4% Guaranteed Stock ...	100	86	4	4 15	3
500,000	"A" 5% Preference Shares	6⅔	—	10	—	
250,000	"B" Preference shares ...	6⅔	—	10	—	
500,000	Ordinary Shares, (£6⅔) ...	3⅓	9 11/16	15	5 5	5
475,710	Ordinary Shares (New) (£6⅔)	6⅔	15½	15	6 12	3

A CHANGE has taken place in the paid-up capital of the Bank of New Zealand during the twelve months to March 31, 1915. A portion of the guaranteed stock matured on July 19, 1914, and the amount outstanding at March 31, 1915, was £528,989, which compares with £1,000,000 at March 31, 1914. Similarly, 559 shares of a new Ordinary issue were offered for sale by tender, and brought in an average price of £15 10*s.* 6*d.* per share. Altogether the paid-up capital at March 31 last amounted to £2,254,699, as compared with £2,269,690 twelve months previously. Twelve months ago the reserve fund amounted to £1,375,000, but by the addition of the premium received on new shares at March 31 last it reached a total of £1,915,536. A further £84,464 was transferred from the profits of the year, bringing the reserve fund up to the round figures of £2,000,000, of which £1,000,000 is invested in British Government securities. The notes in circulation have risen from £989,882 to £1,676,051, the large increase being due to bank-notes having been legal tender since the commencement of the War. Gold has been gradually withdrawn from circulation, and notes have replaced it. The deposits have risen from £18,070,613 to £18,741,657. The Government balances are somewhat less, but the deposits from the public are substantially larger. The increase in the note circulation and deposits have made prudent the maintenance of large gold reserves, and the cash has risen from £3,377,185 to £4,827,522. Similarly call money has risen from £5,076,749 to £5,136,997.

In connection with the uncalled capital of £3 6*s.* 8*d.* on the existing shares it has been agreed that, subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance, this uncalled amount shall be called up "at some opportune time" during the next seven years—viz. by November 27, 1920, at latest. The Minister of Finance in 1914 "stated that he will offer no objection, though

Liabilities of The Bank of New Zealand.

Mar. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	2,254,699	1,915,536	4,170,235	15·7	1,676,051	6·3	18,741,657	70·7	1,670,103	6·3	270,395	1·0	26,528,441
1914 ...	2,269,690	1,375,000	3,644,690	14·9	989,882	4·1	18,070,613	74·0	1,403,457	5·8	291,608	1·2	24,400,250
1913 ...	2,000,000	1,200,000	3,200,000	14·4	994,680	4·5	16,414,640	73·7	1,367,081	6·1	283,118	1·3	22,259,519
1912 ...	2,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	14·0	1,030,966	4·8	15,833,867	73·5	1,367,483	6·3	305,588	1·4	21,537,904
1911 ...	2,000,000	800,000	2,800,000	12·0	977,246	4·2	17,886,746	76·4	1,439,421	6·1	299,405	1·3	23,402,818
1910 ...	2,000,000	650,000	2,650,000	13·5	919,329	4·7	14,687,680	74·6	1,146,918	5·8	270,384	1·4	19,674,311
1905 ...	1,952,370	43,897	1,996,267	12·2	784,171	4·8	12,190,647	74·6	1,117,389	6·8	253,930	1·6	16,342,404
1900 ...	2,919,519	23,474	2,942,993	22·3	722,770	5·5	8,587,860	65·1	884,751	6·7	50,000	·4	13,188,374
1890 ...	1,125,000	—	1,125,000	9·9	453,295	3·9	8,090,653	70·5	1,707,441	14·9	99,784	·8	11,476,173
1880 ...	1,000,000	555,000	1,555,000	14·0	497,361	4·5	7,629,811	68·6	1,337,451	12·0	97,185	·9	11,116,808
1870 ...	500,000	150,000	650,000	18·2	291,126	8·2	1,670,479	46·9	903,869	25·4	45,514	1·3	3,560,988
1862 ...	108,786	—	108,786	19·5	62,914	11·3	371,895	66·9	6,288	1·2	6,097	1·1	555,980

Assets of The Bank of New Zealand.

Mar. 31	Coin and Cash Balances at Bankers. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice, Govt. Securities and Other Securities in London. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Loans, Bills, Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises and Other Assets. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915 ...	4,827,522	18·2	961,587	3·6	5,136,997	19·4	1,186,459	4·5	13,964,009	52·8	451,867	1·7	26,528,441
1914 ...	3,377,185	13·9	972,171	4·0	5,076,749	20·8	1,280,027	5·2	13,244,541	54·3	449,577	1·8	24,400,250
1913 ...	3,148,930	14·1	957,268	4·3	4,081,038	18·3	1,253,254	5·7	12,351,202	55·5	467,827	2·1	22,259,519
1912 ...	3,104,513	14·4	1,265,248	5·9	3,316,160	15·4	1,221,075	5·7	12,210,370	56·7	420,538	1·9	21,537,904
1911 ...	3,370,102	14·4	1,338,010	5·7	6,710,239	28·7	1,111,636	4·8	10,449,091	44·6	423,740	1·8	23,402,818
1910 ...	3,258,074	16·6	1,144,745	5·8	3,891,644	19·8	1,034,458	5·3	9,985,600	50·7	359,790	1·8	19,674,311
1905 ...	2,124,147	13·0	872,785	5·3	3,161,770	19·3	2,005,480	12·3	7,778,129	47·6	400,093	2·5	16,342,404
1900 ...	1,407,526	10·7	2,385,285	18·1	2,667,637	20·2	1,791,337	13·6	3,961,689	30·0	974,900	7·4	13,188,374
1890 ...	1,572,308	13·7	—	—	—	—	8,092,757	70·5	1,437,667	12·5	373,441	3·3	11,476,173
1880 ...	2,234,216	20·1	—	—	1,157,988	10·4	6,454,979	58·1	1,081,433	9·7	188,192	1·7	11,116,808
1870 ...	746,797	21·0	—	—	186,804	5·3	2,519,188	70·7	—	—	108,199	3·0	3,560,988
1862 ...	261,512	47·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	284,506	51·2	9,962	1·8	555,980

he, of course, pointed out that he could not bind his successor in office."

Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1862.

The prospectus of the Bank of New Zealand, issued in 1861, pointed out that it was proposed to establish "on a broad and permanent basis a banking institution capable of doing the present banking business of New Zealand, and susceptible of expansion with a view to meeting the requirements of that prosperous future which it is believed will certainly and shortly be realised for New Zealand. It will be the object of the Bank to render all possible accommodation and facilities consistent with its proper functions to the merchant, settler, storekeeper, and farmer." The capital suggested was £500,000, in 50,000 shares of £10 each, half of which was to be called up. For the first period to March 31, 1862, a profit of £6,097 was made, and a dividend of 6 per cent. was paid, the paid-up capital being £108,786. The new Bank had got together deposits to the extent of £371,895. For the twelve months to March 31, 1863, the profits rose to £49,880 and the dividend to 10 per cent. The deposits had increased nearly threefold, amounting to £969,488. From that time up to 1887 the dividend was mostly at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, and on no occasion did it fall below 12½ per cent. During this period the paid-up capital was increased to £1,000,000, while the reserve fund rose to £625,000. A steady rise also occurred in the deposits, which gradually increased year by year, until at March 1887 they reached the large total of £11,271,254. Subsequently the Bank had very adverse conditions to face, and the misfortunes culminated in the loss of the whole of the capital and reserves and one-third of the reserve liability. The Government came to the Bank's assistance in 1894 and guaranteed for it a substantial amount of capital, thereby affording it an opportunity to nurse its unliquid assets until they could be realised advantageously. An Assets Realisation Board was formed and the Bank reconstituted by legislative authority upon a basis which afforded good prospects of its eventually working out of its difficulties, and, aided by the acquisition of the business of the Colonial Bank, it commenced slowly to retrieve its fortunes. And by 1906 it was found that surplus profits paid over by the Bank to the Assets Realisation Board aggregated £1,247,699, which, combined with the results of working and the proceeds of property realisations, effected equilibrium in that Board's position, and accordingly the Board was dissolved, the remaining properties, valued in the books at £461,047, were handed over to the Bank, and the Board's Debentures held by the Bank were surrendered and cancelled. In 1907 the deposits amounted to £12,909,160. By 1910 they had risen to £14,687,680. After a further increase to £17,886,746 in 1911, a falling-off to £15,833,867 occurred in 1912; but during the twelve months to March 31, 1913, a turn in the upward direction once more occurred and the deposits reached a total of £16,414,640.

As already pointed out, the deposits now reach a total of £18,741,657.

From 1902 to 1906 a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, but with the dissolution of the Assets Realisation Board it became possible to increase the rate of dividend, and accordingly for the twelve months to

THE CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£8,750,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,750,000
RESERVE FUND	£800,000
DEPOSITS	£47,885,909

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM GARFIT, Esq., Chairman.

CAPTAIN CHARLES BATHURST, M.P.
MAJOR ELIOT G. BROMLEY-MARTIN.
SIR LIONEL E. DARELL, Bart.
SIR RICHARD C. GARTON.
SIR JOHN T. GOLDNEY.
GEORGE A. HARVEY, Esq.
EDWIN HENTY, Esq.
HERBERT J. W. JERVIS, Esq.
SIR HENRY KIMBER, Bart.
GEORGE BUTLER LLOYD, Esq., M.P.
SAMUEL SAMUEL, Esq., M.P.
SIR GRIFFITH THOMAS.
ERNEST DENT VAISEY, Esq.

G. A. HARVEY and E. D. VAISEY, Joint General-Managers.

Head Office: 39 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

Telegraphic Address, "ELMFIELD STOCK, LONDON."

Current Accounts opened in London on terms usual among London Bankers.

Deposit Receipts issued and Deposit Accounts opened in London, interest being allowed thereon at rates as advertised from time to time.

At the Country Branches, Current and Deposit Accounts opened, Deposit Receipts and Drafts issued, and all other Banking Business transacted on the usual terms.

Dividends and Coupons collected. Investments in and Sales of Home and Foreign Securities effected. Moneys received and advised for customers free of charge between all the offices.

The Bank has Agents throughout the United Kingdom, to whom credits can be paid by or on behalf of its customers for transmission.

The Agency of Foreign, Colonial and Country Banks is undertaken.

The Bank is prepared to undertake the duties relating to Executorships, Trusteeships, &c.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.—The Bank issues Drafts, Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes payable in all parts of the World; effects Mail and Cable Transfers; collects Foreign Bills and Bonds; purchases approved Foreign Bills and Coupons payable abroad; receives Foreign Bonds and Scrips for registration; makes arrangements abroad for receiving moneys for its customers, and undertakes generally all Foreign Exchange Business.

March 31, 1907, 10 per cent. was paid on the Ordinary shares after 7½ per cent. had been paid on the Preference shares. These rates were repeated for the following year. Then ensued two payments of 8¾ per cent. on the Preference shares and 12½ per cent. on the Ordinary shares. For the jubilee year of the Bank—namely, the twelve months to March 31, 1911—the distribution was raised to 10 per cent. on the Preference shares and to 15 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, and these rates have been maintained for the past four years.

The gross profit for the twelve months to March 31, 1915, amounted to £755,240, as compared with £714,076 for the previous year. After providing for expenses the net profit has amounted to £396,167, which compares with £388,491 for the previous year. Herewith we set out the profit statement for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of New Zealand.

Year ended Mar. 31	Gross Profit.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividends. Guaranteed Stock. Amt.	Guaranteed Stock. %	Preference Shrs. %	Ord. Shrs. %	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£				£	£
1915	755,240	359,073	396,167	256,141	4	10	15	134,464	57,171
1914	714,076	325,585	388,491	165,000	4	10	15	215,000	51,609
1913	686,805	304,275	382,530	165,000	4	10	15	215,000	43,118
1912	681,035	284,852	396,183	165,000	4	10	15	225,000	40,588
1911	622,391	267,120	355,271	165,000	4	10	15	220,000	34,405
1910	560,617	246,232	314,385	146,250	4	8¾	12½	165,000	64,134
1909	603,296	235,145	368,151	146,250	4	8¾	12½	215,000	60,999
1908	600,010	230,087	369,923	147,500	4	7½	10	200,000	54,098
1907	563,688	212,807	350,881	127,500	4	7½	10	191,705	31,676
1906	529,017	198,687	330,330	90,000	4	5	5	66,001*	†174,329
1905	509,130	188,222	320,908	99,597	4	5	5	65,000*	†156,311
1904	474,652	181,849	292,803	101,281	4	—	5	62,500*	†129,022

* Includes £50,000 statutory payment to Assets Realisation Board.
† Surplus to be paid over to Realisation Board.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 17.5 per cent., to the capital and reserve combined 9.5 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.5 per cent.

As regards the outlook, Mr. H. Beauchamp, the Chairman of the Bank, spoke as follows at the meeting on June 18 last:—"I think we may look for a continuance of good trade. The end of the War may be followed by heavy taxation and unemployment in those countries now engaged in hostilities, but New Zealand is still bound to find an outlet at remunerative prices in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, and the United States of America for her wool, frozen meat, dairy produce, &c. It would, of course, be unreasonable to expect the abnormal rates at present ruling for the articles enumerated to be maintained, but there is little doubt that the demand which will then exist for our primary products will enable us to face the future with equanimity, and assist us in discharging the heavy liabilities we have directly undertaken in connection with the War. . . . Already the trade of Australia and New Zealand with the United States of America and Canada has taken a forward bound, largely encouraged by the opening up of the Panama Canal. Large shipments of wool and concentrates have been made from New Zealand and Australia to Boston and other American ports. Wellington will be a frequent port of call—for coaling and other purposes—on this new trade route. The trade with the United States is bound to develop, and it is the duty of our merchants to help in the development, at the same time taking care that the pernicious American system of combines and monopolies is not allowed to obtain a footing. Trade with Canada, too, is destined to grow, and it is not unlikely that closer political relations will be established with the sister Dominion after the close of the War. China and Russia are, commercially speaking, lands almost unknown to these islands, but it is fairly certain that they will not long remain so; and when we come to reflect upon their immense populations and their boundless resources, the trade possibilities opened up appear to be illimitable.

BANK OF NORTH QUEENSLAND, LTD.

Head Office: Queen Street, Brisbane.

London Office: 4 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 100,000 Shares of £7 each ...	£700,000
Subscribed, 50,000 Shares	350,000
Paid up, £3¼ per Share	162,500

Price of Share, 3¼. *Dividend*, 6½%. *Yield*, £6 10*s.* %

This Bank was established in 1888 under the Queensland Companies Acts with a capital of £500,000, in shares of £10 each, of which £5 per share was paid up. In May 1893, as a consequence of the crisis, the Bank suspended payment, but reconstructed without liquidation, business being resumed about the end of July in that year. Under the scheme of arrangement £1 per share was written off, while in 1899 a further £2 per share was similarly dealt with, reducing the subscribed capital to £350,000 in shares of £7 each, with £100,000 paid up, or £2 per share. The remaining £5 per share is reserve liability. Within two years of 1893 all deferred deposits were paid in full. The capital remained at £100,000 until 1912, but in consequence of the increase of business it was decided to make a call of 25*s.* per share, thereby increasing the paid up capital to £162,500.

At the end of 1914 the reserve fund was brought up to £35,000, at which figure it still stands. At June 30 last the deposits amounted to £1,134,157, as compared with £1,046,290 at June 30, 1914, the increase occurring in the fixed deposits. Cash balances amounted to £393,425, as compared with £378,598. The advances amounted to £815,190, as compared with £770,666. During the first half-year, owing to the increased export of meat, prices for cattle were high, while the Continental demand for wool having weakened, the prices declined. The long dry spell that extended throughout the Southern States was responsible for the failure of the wheat crop. Fortunately for Queensland, however, the sugar-cane harvest afforded a generous tonnage to the farmers. During the second six months, in spite of the continuance of the War and the drought generally, banking business continued fairly satisfactory. Herewith we set out details of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for each year since 1905.

A substantial increase in profits is shown by the Bank during the past nine years. For 1906 the gross profits amounted to £26,373 and the net profit to £4,940, the dividend being 2½%. By 1910 the gross profit rose to £44,413 and the net profit to £9,215, while for 1913 the gross profit amounted to £62,853, the net profit reaching £16,782, and a dividend of 7% was paid. For 1914, while the gross profits rose to £67,300 the expenses rose from £46,071 to £51,326, so that the net profit at £15,974 was slightly less The dividend was reduced to 6½%, while a sum of £5,000 was carried to reserve fund, bringing it up to £37,500. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1906:—

Profits of the Bank of North Queensland, Ltd., since 1906.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Salaries and Other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. %	Contingency Account.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£		£	£
1914 ...	67,300	51,326	15,974	10,562	6½	5,000	3,175
1913 ...	62,853	46,071	16,782	11,133	7	7,500	2,763
1912 ...	54,858	41,684	13,174	6,917	6	5,000	4,614
1911 ...	49,625	39,759	9,866	5,500	5½	4,000	366
1910 ...	44,413	35,198	9,215	5,000	5	5,000	2,990
1909 ...	40,774	32,142	8,632	5,000	5	—	3,776
1908 ...	34,404	26,937	7,467	4,500	4½	4,500	145
1907 ...	30,409	24,254	6,155	4,000	4	4,000	1,679
1906 ...	26,373	21,433	4,940	2,500	2½	—	3,524

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 9.8 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.1 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.2 per cent.

Liabilities of The Bank of North Queensland, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	Bills Payable, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	162,500	35,000	197,500	14·2	1,131,944	81·2	[illegible]	4·0	[illegible]	·6	1,393,560
1913...	162,500	32,500	195,000	14·8	1,039,708	78·9	74,084	5·6	8,451	·7	1,317,243
1912...	151,437	25,000	176,437	15·1	906,214	77·4	78,611	6·7	8,806	·8	1,170,068
1911...	100,000	20,000	120,000	11·0	912,967	83·7	51,564	4·7	6,554	·6	1,091,085
1910...	100,000	20,000	120,000	12·8	773,003	82·2	41,006	4·4	5,662	·6	939,671
1909...	100,000	20,000	120,000	14·3	674,036	80·3	38,693	4·6	6,442	·8	839,171
1908...	100,000	20,000	120,000	14·8	640,438	79·3	40,230	5·0	7,296	·9	807,964
1907...	100,000	20,000	120,000	16·8	583,096	81·3	10,344	1·4	3,800	·5	717,240
1906...	100,000	20,000	120,000	18·7	507,583	79·4	6,870	1·1	4,859	·7	639,312
1905...	100,000	20,000	120,000	22·5	397,668	74·5	14,043	2·6	2,410	·4	534,121

Assets of The Bank of North Queensland, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin, Bullion, Cash Balances, Aust. Notes, &c. Amount. £	Coin, Bullion, Cash Balances, Aust. Notes, &c. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Remittances in Transit. Amount. £	Remittances in Transit. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	Bank Premises Account. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	513,209	36·8	25,000	1·8	717,075	51·4	70,276	5·1	67,200	4·9	1,393,560
1913...	446,707	33·9	25,000	1·9	698,074	53·0	93,962	7·1	53,500	4·1	1,317,243
1912...	336,263	28·8	25,000	2·1	692,596	59·2	62,709	5·3	53,500	4·6	1,170,068
1911...	305,039	27·9	25,000	2·3	634,349	58·1	66,246	6·1	60,451	5·6	1,091,085
1910...	252,145	26·9	25,000	2·7	548,759	58·4	68,681	7·3	45,086	4·7	939,671
1909...	193,416	23·8	25,000	2·9	526,180	62·7	43,494	5·8	40,081	4·8	839,171
1908...	173,518	21·5	25,500	3·1	511,260	63·3	57,762	7·2	39,924	4·9	807,964
1907...	161,956	22·6	25,500	3·5	450,098	62·8	49,540	6·9	30,146	4·2	717,240
1906...	165,971	25·9	25,500	3·9	372,264	58·3	46,368	7·3	29,209	4·6	639,312
1905...	103,791	20·4	25,500	4·8	342,567	64·1	29,863	5·6	27,400	5·1	534,121

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Head Office: Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Capital—

Authorised $10,000,000

Paid up, 65,000 Shares of $100 each ... 6,500,000

Price of Share, $261. *Dividend,* 14%. *Yield,* £5 8*s.* 7*d.*

THE Bank of Nova Scotia, which was incorporated in 1832, has its head offices at Halifax, Nova Scotia, while the General Manager's office is at Toronto. The first report issued, in 1833, showed that the paid-up capital was $200,000, the note circulation amounting to $66,454. The Bank had received $75,775 on deposit, and the total assets were $343,473. At the end of last year the capital paid up was $6,500,000.

The most noteworthy feature of the Bank is the very rapid growth in the reserve fund, and at the end of 1912 it amounted to $8,728,146. In February 1913 the Bank of Nova Scotia took over the Bank of New Brunswick, which had a paid-up capital of $1,000,000 and a reserve fund of $1,790,000. This sum was carried to the reserve of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and with premiums from new stock issue and allocations from profits the reserve has now been brought up to a total of

THE
UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS BANK,
LIMITED.
(Established 1830.)

Authorised Capital . . . £25,000,000 **Paid-up Capital . . . £3,554,785 10s.**
Subscribed Capital . . . £22,934,100 **Reserve Fund . . . £1,150,000 0s.**
Number of Proprietors—upwards of 10,500.

DIRECTORS.

Sir FELIX SCHUSTER, Bart., Governor. LINDSAY ERIC SMITH, Esq., Deputy-Governor.

ERNEST W. BARNARD, Esq.
THEODORE BASSETT, Esq.
ALFRED F. BUXTON, Esq.
CHARLES C. CAVE, Esq.
JOHN ALAN CLUTTON-BROCK, Esq.
JOHN DENNISTOUN, Esq.
HORACE GEORGE DEVAS, Esq.
H. W. DRUMMOND, Esq.
A. B. LESLIE-MELVILLE, Esq.
JOHN MEWS, Esq.
ROBERT FENTON MILES, Esq.
HENRY W. PRESCOTT, Esq.
KENNETH L. C. PRESCOTT, Esq.
BERTRAM ABEL SMITH, Esq.
EUSTACE ABEL SMITH, Esq.
GERALD DUDLEY SMITH, Esq.
HERBERT FRANCIS SMITH, Esq.
Rt. Hon. C. B. STUART WORTLEY, K.C., M.P.
ARTHUR M. H. WALROND, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Sir ALGERNON WEST, G.C.B.
CHARLES H. R. WOLLASTON, Esq.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE—2 PRINCES STREET, E.C.

MANAGERS.

H. H. HART (Town and Foreign). L. E. THOMAS (Country).

F. W. ELLIS, Assistant Manager.
H. G. HOLDERNESS, Deputy Assistant Manager.

H. R. HOARE, Secretary. L. J. CORNISH, Assistant Secretary.

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT—2 Princes Street, E.C.
LOMBARD STREET OFFICE (SMITH, PAYNE AND SMITHS), 1 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
CORNHILL OFFICE (PRESCOTT'S BANK, LIMITED), 50 CORNHILL, E.C.

The Bank has numerous Branches in London and the Suburbs and Branches or Agents in all the principal Cities and Towns in the United Kingdom, and Correspondents throughout the World.

TERMS.—Current Accounts.—These are kept according to the usual custom of London and Country Bankers.
Deposit Accounts.—Deposits are received at Interest, subject to notice of withdrawal, or by special agreement in accordance with the usual custom.

GENERAL BUSINESS.—The Agency of Country and Foreign Banks, whether Joint Stock or Private. Circular Notes and Letters of Credit issued for all parts of the Continent of Europe and elsewhere. Purchases and Sales effected in all the British and Foreign Stocks and Securities. Dividends on Stocks and Shares, the half-pay of Officers, Pensions, Annuities, &c., received for customers without charge.
The Officers and Clerks connected with the Bank are required to sign a Declaration of Secrecy as to the transactions of any of its customers.

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS.—The Bank, having the necessary powers, is prepared to undertake the office of Executors, Trustees and Custodian Trustees, on terms particulars of which can be obtained from the Head Office or at any Branch of the Bank.

NOTE.—In pursuance of the Treasury Regulations it is hereby stated that no liability attaches to the Consolidated Fund of the British Government in respect of any act or omission of the Bank.

Liabilities of The Bank of Nova Scotia.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U.K., and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	6,500,000	12,000,000	18,500,000	19·3	7,148,813	7·5	68,955,351	72·0	547,413	·6	161,126	·2	420,967	·4	95,733,670
1913 ...	6,000,000	11,000,000	17,000,000	21·2	5,948,022	7·4	56,185,109	70·1	616,389	·8	145,641	·2	256,669	·3	80,151,830
1912 ...	4,734,390	8,728,146	13,462,536	18·9	4,256,739	6·0	52,449,407	73·6	896,058	1·2	—	—	214,559	·3	71,279,299
1911 ...	3,984,790	7,474,447	11,459,237	18·1	3,672,686	5·8	46,940,836	74·2	1,003,006	1·6	—	—	195,425	·3	63,271,190
1910 ...	3,000,000	5,650,000	8,650,000	16·2	2,745,454	5·1	40,865,307	76·3	1,114,052	2·1	—	—	132,167	·3	53,506,980
1900 ...	1,860,000	2,418,000	4,278,000	19·0	1,776,935	7·9	16,191,325	71·7	192,298	·9	—	—	114,440	·5	22,552,998
1890 ...	1,114,300	700,000	1,814,300	20·3	1,307,196	14·7	5,722,557	64·1	35,527	·4	—	—	46,277	·5	8,925,857
1880 ...	1,000,000	275,000	1,275,000	29·9	689,311	16·0	2,125,344	49·7	62,433	1·4	—	—	37,941	1·0	4,267,043
1870* ...	560,000	—	560,000	27·6	365,030	18·0	1,044,658	51·5	33,967	1·7	—	—	25,861	1·2	2,029,516
1860* ...	560,000	—	560,000	34·5	402,290	24·8	639,390	39·5	19,864	1·2	—	—	—	—	1,621,544
1850* ...	560,000	—	560,000	51·4	215,708	19·8	278,544	25·5	5,406	·5	—	—	30,290	2·8	1,089,948
1840* ...	400,000	—	400,000	33·2	336,592	28·0	423,285	35·1	44,504	3·7	—	—	—	—	1,204,381
1833† ...	200,000	—	200,000	58·2	66,454	19·3	75,775	22·1	—	—	—	—	1,244	·4	343,473

* January 31. † February 28.

Assets of The Bank of Nova Scotia.

Dec. 31	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and U. States. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Canada, Great Britain, and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914	19,106,398	19·9	7,359,831	7·7	16,642,862	17·4	4,625,322	4·8	45,451,976	47·4	161,126	·2	2,388,175	2·6	95,733,670
1913	14,319,707	17·9	5,409,481	6·7	14,837,315	18·5	4,006,605	5·0	39,872,931	49·8	145,641	·2	1,560,150	1·9	80,151,830
1912	13,625,764	19·1	4,947,246	6·9	11,092,501	15·6	3,344,163	4·7	36,878,625	51·7	—	—	1,393,000	2·0	71,279,299
1911	10,855,065	17·0	5,647,820	9·0	12,152,247	19·2	3,493,733	5·6	29,790,710	47·1	—	—	1,331,616	2·1	63,271,190
1910	8,565,200	16·0	6,041,908	11·3	11,376,152	21·3	2,471,475	4·6	23,799,187	44·5	—	—	1,252,058	2·3	53,506,980
1900	3,834,369	17·0	2,800,687	12·4	2,790,034	12·4	1,919,634	8·5	11,163,491	49·5	—	—	44,783	·2	22,552,998
1890	990,709	11·1	852,852	9·6	301,879	3·4	1,052,415	11·8	5,600,848	62·7	—	—	127,154	1·4	8,925,857
1880	477,016	11·2	192,758	4·5	93,726	2·2	1,050,593	24·6	2,357,549	55·3	—	—	95,401	2·2	4,267,043
1870*	504,056	24·8	—	—	—	—	351,433	17·3	1,151,336	56·7	—	—	22,691	1·2	2,029,516
1860*	211,983	13·1	—	—	—	—	11,666	·7	1,373,895	84·7	—	—	24,000	1·5	1,621,544
1850*	145,507	13·4	—	—	—	—	98,027	9·0	833,944	76·5	—	—	12,470	1·1	1,089,948
1840*	125,247	10·4	—	—	—	—	27,016	2·3	1,036,157	86·0	—	—	15,961	1·3	1,204,381
1833†	118,743	34·6	—	—	—	—	614	·2	224,116	65·2	—	—	—	—	343,473

* January 31. † February 28.

$12,000,000—a sum nearly twice as large as the paid-up capital.

The note circulation at the end of 1914 amounted to $7,148,813, as compared with $5,948,022 at the end of 1913. The deposits rose from $56,185,109 to $68,955,351. On the other side, the total cash rose from $14,319,707 to $19,106,398, and the short loan money from $14,837,315 to $16,642,862. The largest increase occurred in the loans, which rose from $39,872,931 to $45,451,976. Herewith we show the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since its formation.

During 1914 the business of the Metropolitan Bank was absorbed, thereby adding 39 additional branches in Ontario. In addition to its business in Canada the Bank has developed an interest in Cuba and Porto Rico. The 1914 Jamaican crops were fairly good, but the high prices for sugar ruling since the outbreak of war have not been to the island's advantage, because the product had been disposed of before the advance took place; while the banana interests were prejudicially affected by the lessened demand, with consequent lower prices in the United States and the almost total cessation of shipments to Europe. The outlook for 1915 is encouraging, as growers are in a position to benefit from the high prices continuing to rule for sugar, and while there is likely to be a reduction in the quantity of bananas purchased and a continuance of the restricted demand the enhanced value of sugar will offset any shrinkage in return from bananas. Similarly with regard to Cuba, the conditions connected with the growing and marketing of sugar are satisfactory and will largely compensate for unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in other industries. Naturally, in Canada as a whole, a time of severe depression has occurred, which has been partially met by wise measures adopted by the Government. The profits of the Bank of Nova Scotia for 1914 amounted to $1,196,117, as compared with $1,210,774 for 1913. The dividend was maintained at 14 per cent., while the carry-forward was increased from $41,124 to $201,058. The profit record for each year since 1904 is appended:—

Profits of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Year ended Dec. 30	Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Balance.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$
1914 ...	1,196,117	848,750	14	347,367	187,433	201,058
1913 ...	1,210,774	814,504	14	396,270	410,000	41,124
1912 ...	970,544	583,538	14	387,006	390,000	54,854
1911 ...	815,520	480,107	13½	335,413	319,732	57,849
1910 ...	662,302	360,000	12	302,302	305,000	42,167
1909 ...	654,123	360,000	12	294,123	305,000	44,865
1908 ...	559,578	360,000	12	199,578	215,000	55,742
1907 ...	681,710	360,000	12	321,710	305,000	71,164
1906 ...	653,516	308,388	11½	345,128	330,000	54,454
1905 ...	478,507	233,210	10½	245,297	245,910	39,326
1904 ...	401,561	200,000	10	201,561	203,260	39,939

The proportion that the shown net profits for the past year bear to the paid-up capital is 18.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.4 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.2 per cent.

BANK OF OTTAWA.

Head Office: Ottawa.

Capital—

Authorised	$5,000,000
Subscribed, 40,000 Shares of $100 each ...	4,000,000
Paid up	4,000,000

Price of Share, $201. *Dividend,* 12%. *Yield,* £6 1*s.* 3*d.*

At the meeting of the Bank of Ottawa on December 16 last, the General Manager pointed out that the unexpected outbreak of war found the Canadian banks in a better state of preparedness than if it had occurred, say, two years earlier, as, for some time past, they had been endeavouring to curb speculation and undue expansion. The general result of the War, however, would be that Canada would have to learn the very necessary lesson of living more within her means and carrying on her financial operations with much reduced help by way of outside capital. "With our great resources we can surely have enough confidence to believe that in the end this course will be productive of much good by settling values on a more

Liabilities of The Bank of Ottawa.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Agencies and Other Banks in Canada and U. Kingdom. Amt.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914... ...	4,000,000	4,750,000	8,750,000	16·3	1,651,740	7·6	40,182,093	75·1	1,[illegible]55	2	67,[illegible]	—	48,[illegible]	·7	[illegible]
1913... ...	4,000,000	4,750,000	8,750,000	16·0	4,468,075	8·2	40,903,246	74·9	13,[illegible]08	·2	96,414	·1	323,098	·6	54,674,231
1912... ...	3,825,480	4,325,480	8,150,960	16·0	3,960,040	7·8	38,276,978	75·2	137,579	·2	—	—	383,686	·8	50,909,243
1911... ...	3,500,000	4,000,000	7,500,000	16·2	3,743,395	8·0	34,967,296	75·3	52,765	—	—	—	215,082	·5	46,458,538
1910... ...	3,500,000	3,900,000	7,400,000	17·0	3,472,460	8·0	32,522,094	74·5	46,261	·1	—	—	214,124	·4	43,654,939
1905... ...	2,500,000	2,500,000	5,000,000	19·6	2,323,279	9·1	17,969,939	70·3	99	—	—	—	269,021	1·0	25,562,389
1900... ...	1,993,940	1,660,455	3,654,395	23·7	1,866,361	12·1	9,779,233	63·4	1,233	—	—	—	133,305	8·6	15,434,527

Assets of The Bank of Ottawa.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914	7,101,568	13·3	3,842,546	7·2	675,732	1·3	4,[illegible]78	8·5	35,[illegible]51	66·2	67,[illegible]	·1	1,854,986	3·4	[illegible]
1913	7,614,350	14·0	3,952,726	7·2	497,152	·9	3,089,407	5·6	37,714,812	68·9	90,414	·1	1,805,784	3·3	54,674,231
1912	5,304,880	10·0	4,311,352	8·5	1,404,319	2·7	3,160,547	6·2	35,227,145	69·6	—	—	1,501,000	3·0	50,909,243
1911	5,480,124	11·8	3,547,457	7·6	1,068,340	2·3	3,122,036	6·7	31,991,794	68·9	—	—	1,248,787	2·7	46,458,538
1910	4,990,231	11·4	3,763,261	8·6	2,058,454	4·7	2,940,446	6·7	29,056,103	66·6	—	—	846,454	2·0	43,654,939
1905	2,741,226	10·7	2,025,996	8·0	1,084,886	4·3	1,319,074	5·1	17,889,744	70·0	—	—	501,463	1·9	25,562,389
1900	1,389,835	9·0	1,547,531	10·0	748,108	4·9	546,009	3·5	11,073,044	71·7	—	—	30,000	·9	15,434,527

permanent and stable basis, putting a stop to the unwise and unnecessary expansion, making us more self-reliant, and thus in the end enable us to look forward confidently to a substantial and solid progress towards renewed prosperity." Naturally, during 1914 the country felt the falling-off of expenditure for railway construction, owing to the practical completion of the two transatlantic lines. Crops in a large portion of the north-west were only fair, although the excellent demand and good prices helped greatly to sustain the average financial return. In the West a severe fall occurred in the value of real estate, indicating that expansion had been largely overdone. In the Western Provinces and in Ottawa the lumber business was generally in a state of depression. The measures adopted by the Finance Minister on the outbreak of war, whereby provision was made for granting aid through banks by advances on securities in Dominion notes, and the devising of other financial means for preventing undue stringency, resulted in creating a feeling of confidence in the country and in the prevention of anxiety. The profits of the Bank of Ottawa for the twelve months to November 30, 1914, amounted to $620,691, as compared with $706,741 for the previous year. The dividend, however, was maintained at 12 per cent., the rate gradually rising

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - £3,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND - - - £1,350,000

DIRECTORS.

Hon. FREDERIC W. ANSON.
Sir JOHN H. BETHELL, Bart., M.P.
ARTHUR BILBROUGH, Esq.
Sir J. FORTESCUE FLANNERY, Bart., M.P.
H. H. HAMBLING, Esq.
Right Hon. LORD CLAUD HAMILTON, M.P.
H. TYLSTON HODGSON, Esq.
HENRY WETHERED, Esq.

Head Office: 170 FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.

Foreign Branch: 168 FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.

Stock Exchange Branch: 8 ANGEL COURT, E.C.

The Bank has over 200 Branches throughout the Suburbs and in the Country.

Every description of Banking Business is transacted. The numerous Branches of the Bank afford every facility for the transaction of business, and customers may pay in credits at any Branch, for transmission to any other Branch, free of charge. Arrangements have been made with other Banks to act as Agents in all important towns where this Bank has no Branch.

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

COX AND CO. (FRANCE), LIMITED.

PARIS, BOULOGNE, ROUEN.

Proprietors ... ... { Messrs. COX and CO., Bankers and Army Agents. LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Every description of Banking Business in France is transacted.
Special facilities for Remittances to members of H.M. Forces in France.

General Manager, H. H. HAMBLING.

from 9 per cent. for 1904 to 12 per cent. for 1913, as may be seen from the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of Ottawa.

Year ended Nov. 30	Profit.	Dividends. Amount.	Dividends. %	Balance.	Reserve,* Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$		$	$	$
1914 ...	620,691	480,000	12	140,691	115,151	228,299
1913 ...	706,741	471,250	12	235,491	476,250	202,759
1912 ...	640,220	419,433	11½	220,787	394,875	269,559
1911 ...	595,228	385,000	11	210,228	210,000	118,167
1910 ...	532,353	360,334	10½	172,019	712,450	117,939
1909 ...	421,065	303,786	10	117,279	67,351	455,919
1908 ...	429,880	300,000	10	129,880	51,721	405,991
1907 ...	443,288	300,000	10	143,288	51,968	327,833
1906 ...	425,238	294,871	10	130,367	37,875	236,513
1905 ...	360,188	237,500	9½	122,688	51,999	144,021
1904 ...	357,685	224,407	9	133,278	126,289	73,333

* Includes premium on new stock.

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 15.5 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 7.1 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to $53,529,921, 1.1 per cent.

The Bank of Ottawa is one of the younger Canadian banking institutions, having been founded in 1874. Its formation was largely due to the demands of the lumber industry in the Ottawa Valley. The first statement of accounts showed that the paid-up capital in 1875 was $343,875, while the deposits were $202,760. At this time it had only two offices, and the growth may be partially gauged by the rapid increase in the number of offices. For the two of 1875 have increased to 98 in 1914. Naturally, the great majority are in Ontario, in which province are to be found 65; in Quebec there are 12, in Manitoba 7, in Saskatchewan 11, in Alberta 1, and in British Columbia 2. A new issue of capital in 1913 brought the amount paid up at the end of the year to $4,000,000.

The note circulation in November 1914 amounted to $4,051,740, as compared with $4,468,075 twelve months previously. In 1900 the deposits of the Bank were $9,779,233, by 1905 they had increased to $17,969,999, and by 1910 to $32,522,084. Further expansion occurred year by year, and at November 30 last deposits amounted to $40,182,693.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: 7 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Paid up, 50,000 Shares of £6 each £300,000

Price of Share, 5. *Dividend*, 5%. *Yield*, £6 0*s.* 6*d.*%.

During the first half of 1914 normal conditions prevailed in Roumania. The Balkan war being over, it was thought that peace in that part of Europe had been secured, at any rate for some years, and with the prospect of a good harvest the outlook was considered very encouraging, and a spirit of enterprise was manifest everywhere. These optimistic hopes were shattered by the outbreak of the European war, accompanied, unfortunately, by adverse reports respecting the harvest. In some quarters there was a demand for a general moratorium, but it was not acceded to, and it was only towards the end of December that a partial step in that direction was taken by decreeing a moratorium for foreign liabilities. This was done on account of the difficulty of procuring exchange, owing, firstly, to the war, and, later on, to the closing of the Dardanelles, Roumania's principal route for the export of her produce. The receipts from the national railways for the year 1914-15 showed a decrease of £220,000, owing to the dislocation of trade, while the output of crude petroleum for 1914 amounted to 1,783,947 tons, a decrease of a little over 100,000 tons compared with the previous year. Owing to unfavourable weather the harvest did not come up to expectations. Altogether, however, it would appear that the Bank of Roumania, Limited, had made profits practically equal to those for 1913, but owing to the unprecedented level of exchange there was deducted from the profits shown, after making provision for all debts, a sum of Lei 370,400 (25 Lei equal £1) to meet losses in exchange on unmatured operations, and after writing off £6,661 from investments there is a net profit shown of £17,171, as compared with £28,070 for 1913. The dividend is at the rate of 5 per cent. as compared with 8⅓ per cent. previously paid for some years. The past 10 years' profit record is as follows:—

Profits of the Bank of Roumania, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividends. Amt.	Dividends. Rate.	Reserve, Deprn., &c.
	£	£	£	£	%	£
1914 ...	—	—	17,171	15,000	5	2,171
1913 ...	—	—	28,070	25,000	8⅓	3,070
1912 ...	—	—	27,905	25,000	8⅓	2,905
1911 ...	—	—	29,671	26,250	8⅓	3,421
1910† ...	—	—	19,878	17,500	8⅓	2,378
1910* ...	—	—	28,266	25,000	8⅓	3,266
1909* ...	—	—	27,924	25,000	8⅓	2,924
1908* ...	—	—	28,021	25,000	8⅓	3,021
1907* ...	—	—	28,109	25,000	8⅓	3,109
1906* ...	54,204	28,581	25,623	22,500	7½	3,123
1905* ...	43,967	21,611	22,356	20,000	6⅔	2,356

† Eight months. * April 30.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 5.7 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 3.6 per cent., and to the total working resources, .7 per cent.

Formerly known as the Bank of Roumania, this institution was established in 1866 under Roumanian laws. It was reconstituted in 1869, receiving a concession from the Government running for 35 years. The nominal capital was 25,000,000 francs, and previous to 1889 a sum of 200 francs per share had been called up. In that year a return of 50 francs per share was made to the shareholders, so that in 1903 the shares were of the denomination of 500 francs each with 150 francs paid up. The concession from the Roumanian Government expired on December 31, 1903, but owing to the impossibility of obtaining an extension of the concession under the same conditions it was decided to form a new Company under English laws with the title of the Bank of Roumania, Limited. The shares of the old Bank carried a liability of £14 per share, but on the reconstitution it was decided to make the shares fully paid of £6 each, and as no alteration has since occurred the present capital is £300,000, in £6 shares.

At the end of 1914 the deposits, &c., amounted to £1,937,150, as compared with £1,207,165 at the end of 1913. The increase in deposits is not a sterling liability, but a liability of the Bucharest branch in Roumanian lei. A large part of the increase represents the proceeds of bills, &c., collected in Roumania on foreign account. Owing partly to the high rates of exchange, and the difficulty of procuring remittances, much of this money is being left in Roumania for the time being by the owners. *Per contra*, the cash has risen from £197,213 to £797,428, while the loans, &c., have risen from £1,464,457 to £1,602,230. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since 1870.

Liabilities of The Bank of Roumania, Limited

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. £	Bills Payable. % of Total. %	Current Accounts, Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Current Accounts, Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914	300,000	177,834	477,834	19·8	—	—	1,937,150†	80·2	—	—	2,414,984
1913	300,000	175,662	475,662	28·3	—	—	1,207,165†	71·7	—	—	1,682,827
1912	300,000	172,593	472,593	28·3	—	—	1,200,101†	71·7	—	—	1,672,694
1911	300,000	169,688	469,688	33·1	—	—	951,366†	66·9	—	—	1,421,054
1910	300,000	166,267	466,267	33·2	—	—	934,956†	66·8	—	—	1,401,223
1900	300,000	144,962	444,962	58·8	158,591	21·0	137,620	18·2	16,428	2·0	757,601
1890	300,000	131 391	431,391	41·6	231,220	23·3	340 618	31·9	33,590	3·2	1,036,819
1880	400,000	112,597	512,597	52·1	170,287	17·3	245,109	24·8	57,635	5·9	985,628
1870	400,000	——	400,000	68·1	61,141	10·4	86,549	14·7	40,342	6·9	588,032

* April 30. † Including bills payable.

Assets of The Bank of Roumania, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. £	Cash in Hand. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Current Accounts, Advances, &c. Amount. £	Current Accounts, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914	797,428	33·0	15,326	·6	—	—	1,602.230	66·4	—	—	2,414,984
1913	197,213	11·7	21,157	1·3	—	—	1,464,457	87·0	—	—	1,682,827
1912	325,281	19·4	57,580	3·5	—	—	1,289,833‡	77·1	—	—	1,672,694
1911	97,108	6·8	51,319	3·6	—	—	1,272,627‡	89·6	—	—	1,421,054
1910	125,130	8·9	47,234	3·4	—	—	1,228,859‡	87·7	—	—	1,401,223
1900	80,007	10·6	—	—	326,102†	43·1	343,372	45·3	8,120	1·0	757,601
1890	112,091	10·8	—	—	485,198†	45·9	436,334	43·0	3,196	·3	1,036,819
1880	138,889	14·1	—	—	603,084†	63·8	234,250	21·7	4,405	·4	985,628
1870	51,941	8·8	—	—	350,038†	59·5	181,185	30·9	4,868	·8	588,032

* April 30. † Including securities. ‡ Including bills receivable.

BANK OF TORONTO.

Head Office: Toronto.

Capital—

Authorised $10 000,000
Subscribed, 50,000 shares of $100 each ... 5,000,000
Paid up... 5,000,000
Price of Share, $211. *Dividend*, 12 %. *Yield*, £5 15*s.* 5*d.*

In his speech to the shareholders of the Bank in January last, the President of the Bank of Toronto pointed out that it was fortunate for the business interests in Canada that the process of slowing down had been going on for more than a year before the outbreak of the War. There was a realisation that the time had come when money could no longer be obtained to the extent it had been available in former years, and that expenditure that had been so freely made in railway building, in the development of public utilities and municipal undertakings, must be largely reduced. The banks had all been pursuing a very conservative policy, and were steadily strengthening their resources and influencing their customers in the same direction. As a result of this conservative policy the country was in a better position to meet the shock which came when war was declared. Since the outbreak of war matters have been gradually adjusting themselves to the changed conditions, and

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BANK

LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
RESERVE FUND £2,000,000
DEPOSITS £24,630,539

DIRECTORS.

SIR FREDERICK GEORGE BANBURY, Bart., M.P.
JOHN WOODROW CROSS, Esq.
EDWIN HENRY GALSWORTHY, Esq.
ALFRED GILBEY, Esq.
The RT. HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart., F.R.S.
RICHARD COBDEN MICHELL, Esq.
SIR JOSEPH SAVORY, Bart.

General Manager—WILLIAM CARRUTHERS, Esq.
Assistant General Manager—WILLIAM JOHN STOKOE, Esq.
Secretary—REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, Esq.

Head Office—3 BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY, E.C.

Branches—228 Metropolitan and Provincial, and 129 Agencies.

DRAWING ACCOUNTS are opened upon the terms usually adopted by other Bankers.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.—Deposits are received from Customers and others, and interest allowed thereon at such rates and for such periods as may be agreed upon, reference being had to the state of the Money Market. Deposit Books are issued when required; these are specially convenient for small Deposits.

Copies of the last Report and Annual Balance Sheet of the Bank and List of Branches, also terms and particulars on which the Bank is prepared to act as Executor and Trustee, can be obtained at the Head Office and Branches.

Liabilities of The Bank of Toronto.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities, Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914	5,000,000	6,000,000	11,000,000	17·8	4,687,332	7·6	44,924,980	72·6	262,182	·4	464,206	·7	590,663	·9	61,929,363
1913	5,000,000	6,000,000	11,000,000	18·1	5,439,107	8·9	43,306,595	71·1	266,955	·4	417,735	·7	494,772	·8	60,925,164
1912	5,000,000	6,000,000	11,000,000	18·6	5,474,917	9·2	41,833,646	70·6	554,129	1·0	—	—	363,857	·6	59,226,549
1911	4,608,050	5,608,050	10,216,100	18·0	4,862,432	8·5	41,324,064	72·4	487,971	·8	—	—	177,097	·3	57,067,664
1910	4,000,000	4,750,000	8,750,000	17·4	4,018,580	8·0	37,172,629	74·0	78,411	—	—	—	294,777	·6	50,314,397
1900	2,000,000	1,900,000	3,900,000	21·2	1,479,417	8·0	12,471,826	67·9	480,913	2·7	—	—	42,722	·2	18,374,877
1890	2,000,000	1,500,000	3,500,000	30·7	1,261,539	11·0	6,601,531	57·8	38,007	·3	—	—	23,808	·2	11,424,886
1880	2,000,000	800,000	2,800,000	46·3	642,232	10·6	2,489,650	41·2	113,165	1·9	—	—	1,355	—	6,046,413
1870	800,000	415,000	1,215,000	27·4	1,048,938	23·7	2,125,255	48·0	37,791	·9	—	—	2,296	—	4,429,280
1860	759,680	50,000	809,680	47·2	482,314	29·1	370,023	21·9	12,115	·7	—	—	18,779	1·1	1,692,911
1857	415,815*	23,362	439,177	34·6	499,316	39·4	284,204	22·4	45,804	3·6	—	—	—	—	1,268,501

* Rate of exchange, $4.867.

Assets of The Bank of Toronto.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914... ...	10,544,699	17·0	901,487	1·5	2,171,419	3·5	1,628,040	2·6	43,106,127	69·6	464,206	·8	3,113,385	5·0	61,929,363
1913... ...	9,413,484	15·5	1,054,349	1·8	1,784,841	3·0	1,571,563	2·4	43,919,294	72·1	417,735	·7	2,763,899	4·5	60,925,164
1912... ...	7,733,673	13·0	1,153,192	2·0	1,905,842	3·2	1,168,511	2·0	45,294,978	76·5	—	—	1,970,353	3·3	59,226,549
1911... ...	8,217,485	14·4	1,604,607	2·8	3,711,278	6·5	1,787,494	3·1	40,482,137	71·0	—	—	1,264,663	2·2	57,067,664
1910... ...	7,615,027	15·1	1,688,833	3·4	3,738,063	7·4	1,021,339	2·0	35,351,135	70·3	—	—	900,000	1·8	50,314,397
1900... ...	2,605,050	14·2	2,741,531	14·9	—	—	572,472	3·1	12,255,824	66·7	—	—	200,000	1·1	18,374,877
1890... ...	1,088,052	9·5	82,688	·8	—	—	635,363	5·6	9,498,781	83·1	—	—	120,000	1·0	11,424,886
1880... ...	562,100	9·3	148,813	2·4	—	—	529,156	8·8	4,754,344	78·7	—	—	52,000	·8	6,046,413
1870... ...	635,755	14·4	147,156	3·3	—	—	219,853	4·9	3,390,516	76·5	—	—	36,000	·9	4,429,280
1860... ...	191,004	11·3	102,400	6·0	—	—	184,398	10·6	1,215,109	71·8	—	—	—	—	1,692,911
1857... ...	103,974	8·2	119,241	9·4	—	—	61,373	4·8	983,913	77·6	—	—	—	—	1,268,501

* Rate of exchange, $4.867.

the business interests of the country have been protected by the banks to an extent that seemed for a short time to be beyond their power to accomplish. There are still many difficulties, however, to face. Canada has been for years past a large borrower in outside markets, and it has been almost entirely dependent upon this outside capital for the prosecution of its large enterprises. The War found the country with uncompleted works, and with the source of supply for money to complete this suddenly cut off. It has, therefore, to a large extent been cast upon its own resources, and it has been necessary to meet the new conditions that have been created. Both collectively and individually all unnecessary expenditure has been cut off, and the country has had to make available such resources as will increase its capital.

For the twelve months to November 30, 1914, the Bank of Toronto reported a profit of $829,539, as compared with $850,694 for the previous year. The dividend was maintained at 12 per cent., a sum of $100,000 was set aside for depreciation in value of investments, and $34,000 transferred to pension fund, &c., while the carry forward was increased from $307,272 to $402,811.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Bank of Toronto.

Year ended Nov. 30	Profit.	Dividends. Amount.	%	Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn, &c.	Carried Forw'd.
	$	$		$	$	$	$
1914 ...	$829,539	600,000	12	229,539	—	134,000	402,811
1913 ...	850,694	600,000	12	250,694	200,000*	320,000	307,272
1912 ...	835,787	591,229	12	244,558	391,950	511,950	176,578
1911 ...	677,964	455,721	11	222,243	608,050	973,050	52,020
1910 ...	589,657	400,000	10	189,657	—	63,751	194,777
1909 ...	579,471	400,000	10	179,471	—	337,650	68,872
1908 ...	582,156	400,000	10	182,156	—	105,814	227,051
1907 ...	586,635	398,975	10	187,660	56,470	166,470	150,708
1906 ...	544,296	370,294	10	174,002	483,945	693,945	73,048
1905 ...	464,897	320,881	10	144,016	459,585	607,839	109,046
1904 ...	445,426	297,423	10	148,003	45,570	183,483	113,283

* Debts recovered, previously written off.

The proportion that the shown net profit bore to the paid-up capital at the end of the year was 16.6 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.6 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to $61,929,363, 1.4 per cent.

The Bank of Toronto was formed in 1855 and started business in July 1856. The Bank is one of the most successful of Canadian institutions. Its credit was severely and fully tested very early in its history, for in 1857 a financial crisis occurred in Toronto, following on excessive land speculation. The new Bank, however, emerged safely from the ordeal, and by so doing obtained a considerable amount of business from two banks which were less conservatively managed. The first statement of accounts, which was issued in 1857, showed that the paid-up capital was $415,800, while a reserve fund of $23,300 had been set aside. The total deposits amounted to $263,100. By 1870 the paid-up capital had increased to $800,000, while a reserve fund of $415,000 had been accumulated. At November 30, 1912, the paid-up capital was $5,000,000, and it still stands at this figure.

As far back as 1903 the reserve fund exceeded the paid-up capital, and by November 30, 1912, it was $1,000,000 in excess of the paid-up capital, amounting to $6,000,000, at which figure it still stands. The figures of the balance sheet of November 30, 1914, showed comparatively little change as compared with those of the previous year, the deposits then standing at $44,925,000. The steady and satisfactory growth of the Bank may be seen from the statement herewith setting out the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the institution.

BANK OF VICTORIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Collins Street, Melbourne.
London Office: 10 King William Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	84,000 Preference Shares, £10 each 240,000 Ordinary Shares, £10 each	£3,240,000
Subscribed	Preference, 41,676 Shares ... Ordinary, 240,000 Shares ...	416,760 2,400,000
		£2,816,760
Paid up	Preference, £10, fully paid ... Ordinary, £5 per £10 Share ...	416,760 1,061,250

Price of Share, Pref. £10¼. *Dividend,* 6%. *Yield,* £5 18*s.* 3*d.*%
„ Ord. £4¼. *Yield,* £7 2*s.* 10*d.*%

For 1914 the Bank of Victoria, Limited, showed a profit very closely approximating that for 1913, so that the net profits were £124,323, as compared with £125,952. It was considered desirable in consequence of the War and the drought to reduce the dividend, so that the distribution for the year on both the Preference shares and the Ordinary shares was 5½ per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. for the previous year. A sum of £20,000 was carried to the reserve fund, and the carry-forward was increased

Liabilities of The Bank of Victoria, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Fund. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amt.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amt.	% of Total.	Accept-ances. Amt.	% of Total.	Bills in Circu-lation. Amt.	% of Total.	Govt. Deposits. Amt.	Other Deposits. Amount.	Total De-posits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to other Banks. Amt.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Lia-bilities. Amt.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914...	1,478,010	365,000	1,843,010	20·5	8,602	·1	225,470	2·5	256,907	2·8	591,320	5,883,360	6,474,680	72·1	94,452	1·1	78,098	·9	8,981,219
1913...	1,478,010	325,000	1,803,010	19·9	9,611	·1	210,555	2·3	416,051	4·6	570,052	5,910,193	6,480,245	71·7	44,279	·5	84,455	·9	9,049,106
1912...	1,478,010	275,000	1,753,010	19·2	12,429	·1	225,495	2·5	419,587	4·6	568,790	6,053,418	6,562,208	72·1	37,354	·4	99,184	1·1	9,107,067
1911...	1,478,010	250,000	1,728,010	18·0	21,755	·2	230,246	2·4	650,437	6·8	625,298	6,190,684	6,815,982	70·9	75,134	·8	84,105	·9	9,605,669
1910...	1,478,010	240,000	1,718,010	18·8	134,086	1·5	213,530	2·3	707,023	7·7	556,074	5,677,764	6,215,838	68·2	60,630	·7	68,690	·8	9,113,807
1900...	1,478,010	100,000	1,578,010	21·6	132,675	1·8	209,002	2·9	541,078	7·5	555,295	4,117,806	4,651,011	63·7	120,759	1·7	39,783	·8	7,297,318
1890...	600,000	200,000	800,000	10·7	202,902	2·7	—	—	548,956	7·3	—	—	5,803,112	77·6	62,462	·9	61,565	·8	7,475,257
1880...	500,000	115,000	615,000	12·5	282,190	5·8	—	—	46,145	·9	—	—	3,852,965	78·6	72,176	1·5	31,827	·7	4,900,670
1870...	500,000	125,000	625,000	16·1	256,000	6·6	—	—	614,297	15·8	—	—	2,299,936	59·3	29,102	·8	56,635	1·4	3,881,069
1862...	500,000	107,500	607,500	19·4	298,285	9·5	—	—	588,650	18·8	—	—	1,582,550	50·5	14,017	·4	42,539	1·4	3,133,150

Assets of The Bank of Victoria, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin and Bullion, Aust. Notes and Cash at Bankers. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amt.	% of Total	Bills at Current Rates of Discount, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Advances. Amount.	% of Total.	Real Property. Amt.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amt.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914	1,318,674	14·7	242,740	2·7	542,987	6·0	6,271,131	69·8	32,497	·4	225,470	2·5	347,720	3·9	8,981,219
1913	1,422,647	15·7	238,340	2·6	696,095	7·7	6,083,542	67·2	44,140	·5	210,555	2·3	354,481	4·0	9,049,106
1912	1,118,062	12·3	247,340	2·7	608,684	6·7	6,495,469	71·3	47,200	·5	223,495	2·5	367,378	4·0	9,107,067
1911	966,263	10·1	224,690	2·4	1,033,415	10·8	6,750,829	69·6	72,682	·8	230,246	2·4	377,544	3·9	9,605,669
1910	1,019,813	11·2	187,090	2·0	1,056,446	11·6	6,186,361	67·9	62,787	·7	213,530	2·3	387,780	4·3	9,113,807
1900	825,136	11·4	220,890	3·0	628,144	8·6	4,950,574	78·6	54,549	·7	209,002	2·9	406,026	5·6	7,297,318
1890	742,935	9·9	153,550	2·1	400,817	5·4	5,877,214	78·6	65,530	·9	—	—	235,211	3·1	7,475,257
1880	999,191	20·4	—	—	242,989	5·0	3,380,919	69·0	75,862	1·5	—	—	201,709	4·1	4,900,670
1870	568,322	14·6	—	—	422,100	10·9	2,696,239	69·5	62,089	1·6	—	—	132,319	3·4	3,881,069
1862	578,012	18·5	52,819	1·7	451,240	14·4	1,729,180	55·2	201,976	6·4	—	—	119,923	3·8	3,133,150

from £18,115 to £41,148. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Bank of Victoria, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profits.	Dividends — Amt.	Pref. Shrs. %	Ord. Shrs. %	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£			£	£
1914 ...	233,089	108,766	124,323	81,290	5½	5½	20,000	41,148
1913 ...	233,407	107,455	125,952	88,680	6	6	37,000	18,115
1912 ...	245,478	114,720	130,758	88,680	6	6	37,000	17,842
1911 ...	225,315	109,220	116,095	88,680	6	6	27,000	12,764
1910 ...	201,232	97,123	104,109	88,680	6	6	12,000	12,349
1909 ...	192,426	91,623	100,803	73,900	5	5	30,000	8,921
1908 ...	188,182	87,724	100,458	73,900	5	5	20,000	12,019
1907 ...	179,723	86,062	93,661	73,900	5	5	20,000	5,461
1906 ...	161,265	81,141	80,124	71,247	5	4¾	10,000	5,700
1905 ...	148,096	79,314	68,782	63,288	5	4	10,000	6,823
1904 ...	147,547	78,409	69,138	57,982	5	3½	10,000	11,329

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 8.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.8 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to £8,981,219, 1.4 per cent.

The Bank of Victoria, Limited, dates back originally to 1852, when it was incorporated by Act of Colonial Council in October of that year with a capital of £1,000,000, in £50 shares having £25 each paid up. In May 1889 the Bank was registered as a limited Company under the Victoria Act of 1864, and each of the £50 shares was then exchanged for five new shares of £10 each with £5 paid up. In August of the same year the capital was doubled, making it

BARCLAY & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

CAPITAL - - £9,000,000.

Capital Issued and Subscribed, £9,000,000, in 450,000 "A" Shares of £4 each, fully paid, and 450,000 "B" Shares of £16 each, £4 paid.

Paid-up Capital - £3,600,000. Reserve - £1,600,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

FRANCIS AUGUSTUS BEVAN, Esq., Chairman. HUGH GURNEY BARCLAY, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

ROBERT LEATHAM BARCLAY, Esq.
COSMO BEVAN, Esq.
HENRY BIRKBECK, Esq.
THOMAS ROBINS BOLITHO, Esq.
WILLIAM EDWARD THOMAS BOLITHO, Esq.
SEYMOUR PLEYDELL BOUVERIE, Esq.
EDWARD GURNEY BUXTON, Esq.
GEOFFREY FOWELL BUXTON, Esq.
FREDERICK GEORGE HUGH CLAYTON, Esq.
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Sir SOMERVILLE ARTHUR GURNEY, K.C.V.O.
THE LORD KINNAIRD, K.T.
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FRANCIS BARRY WHITFELD, Esq.
CECIL MERCER WOODBRIDGE, Esq.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Esq., General Manager. EDWIN FISHER, Esq., Secretary.
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE, Esq., Assistant General Manager. WILLIAM NORMAN SEELEY, Esq., EVELYN COPE RUGGLES-BRISE, Esq., Assistant Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCHES.

137 Brompton Road, S.W.
30 Broadway, Cricklewood, N.W.
19 Fleet Street, E.C. (Goslings).
15 Great Portland Street, W.
3 Great Tower Street, E.C.
54 Lombard Street, E.C.
1 Pall Mall East, S.W.
117 Leadenhall Street, E.C.
43 Borough High Street, Southwark, S.E.
25 Old Broad Street, E.C.
4 Vere Street, Cavendish Square, W.
95 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.
120 Wood Street, E.C.
5 and 6 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

BARCLAY & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Drawing and Deposit Accounts opened at any of the Branches, according to the usual custom of Bankers.
Payments may be made through any Branch of the Bank to the credit of Customers' Accounts at any other Branch.
Orders for the purchase or sale of Stocks, Shares, &c., executed through London Brokers.
Dividends, Pensions and Annuities received for Customers of the Bank.
The Bank undertakes all classes of Foreign Business, including the collection of Foreign Bills and the remittance of moneys abroad.
Circular Notes, Circular Letters of Credit and Fixed Letters of Credit issued, payable in the principal Cities and Towns of the world.
The Bank undertakes the office of Executor and Trustee on terms, particulars of which may be obtained at Head Office and Branches.

£2,000,000, in £10 shares, and of these 120,000 shares were issued with £5 paid up, making the total paid-up capital £600,000. In consequence of the crisis of 1893 the Bank was reorganised with a subscribed capital of £2,816,560. Of this amount in December 1893 the sum paid up was £1,081,452. This was divided into £416,560 of Preference shares and £664,892 of Ordinary shares. The present capital authorised is £3,240,000, in 240,000 Ordinary and 84,000 Preference shares of £10 each. The amount paid up at December 31 last was £416,760 of Preference shares and £1,061,250 of Ordinary shares. The Preference shares are fully paid, while the Ordinary shares are £5 paid, thus leaving a further liability of £5 per share. The Preference shares are entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 5 per cent. and to rank equally with the Ordinary shares in any surplus after the latter have received 5 per cent.; they also carry priority as to capital, with further participation after repaying the Ordinary shares, "but if and so soon as the Company shall have paid to the holders of Preference shares 10 half-yearly dividends, each at the rate of at least 7 per cent. per annum, and also if and when the Ordinary shares shall be fully paid up," this priority for capital shall cease.

Since 1900 the paid-up capital has remained unchanged, but additions have been steadily made to the reserve fund, and on June 30 last it reached £365,000.

In the table herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years since 1862.

The changes in the balance sheet at June 30 last, as compared with June 30, 1914, are of a comparatively small amount, the Government deposits standing at £656,220 and the other deposits at £6,084,804. The acceptances fell from £400,221 to £195,967, and bills in circulation from £534,709 to £392,189.

BANQUE D'HOCHELAGA.

Head Office: Montreal.

Capital—

Authorised and Paid up, 40,000 Shares, $100 each $4,000,000

Price of Share, $149. *Dividend*, 9%. *Yield*, £6 2*s.* 3*d.*%.

In spite of the disturbed business conditions caused by the War the Banque D'Hochelaga was able to report a profit for the twelve months to November 30, 1914, of $566,614, as compared with $534,700 for the previous year, an increase of $31,900. The dividend was maintained at 9 per cent., but in consequence of an increase in capital becoming fully paid the amount required was $360,000, as compared with $270,000 for the previous year. A sum of $100,000 was carried to the reserve for depreciation of investments, and $75,000 was added to the reserve fund, while other allocations absorbed $16,000. The carry-forward was increased from $27,562 to $43,176. The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Banque D'Hochelaga.

Nov. 30	Profit.	Dividends. Amount.	Dividends. Rate.	Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1914 ...	566,614	360,000	9	206,614	—	191,000	43,176
1913 ...	534,700	270,000	9	264,700	500,000	765,862	27,562
1912 ...	481,616	256,117*	9	225,499	225,000	450,067	32,724
1911 ...	415,001	218,750	8¾	196,251	—	179,000	32,292
1910 ...	417,697	200,000	8	217,697	—	226,468	15,041
1909 ...	360,821	200,000	8	160,821	—	168,732	23,812
1908 ...	381,387	200,000	8	181,387	—	170,141	31,723
1907 ...	449,794	188,464	8	261,330	175,000	435,563	20,477
1906 ...	347,504	145,000	7¼	202,504	—	205,786	19,710
1905† ...	471,992	210,000	7	261,992	—	260,000	22,992
1904‡ ...	295,338	140,000	7	155,338	—	160,000	21,000

* Including interest on instalments of capital issued in 1912, $31,117.
† Eighteen months to Nov. 30.
‡ Year to May 31.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 14.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.7 per cent.

Last year the Banque D'Hochelaga celebrated 40 years of existence, inasmuch as it was formed in 1874. Its operations are confined almost entirely to Eastern Canada, though lately the Bank has shown a tendency to extend its field of operations further west, and in 1913, for example, two branches were opened in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan; but as the name implies, the Bank chiefly operates among the French Canadians in the Eastern Provinces, chiefly in Quebec. The City of Montreal is well covered with offices, every ward but one in the city having a branch. Altogether the Bank has 87 branches, and of these 35 are in Montreal. Its history has been an uneventful one, but steady growth has been witnessed since its formation. In 1901 the paid-up capital was $1,500,000, and the reserve amounted to $770,000. In the following year the capital was increased to $2,000,000, at which figure it remained until 1907, when it was brought up to $2,500,000. In 1912 it was increased to $3,000,000, and in 1913 to $4,000,000. At November 30, 1914, with a paid-up capital of $4,000,000, the reserve fund amounted to $3,700,000.

The notes in circulation amounted to $3,319,072, while the deposits rose to $21,293,483. Herewith we set out the progress of the Bank as shown in the accounts for various years since 1901.

Liabilities of The Banque D'Hochelaga.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	Total Deposits. % of Total.	Balance Due Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S. and Elsewhere. Amount.	Balance Due Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S. and Elsewhere. % of Total	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	Undivided Profits. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	4,000,000	3,700,000	7,700,000	23·1	3,319,072	10·0	21,293,483	63·9	797,990	2·4	76,959	·2	135,886	·4	33,323,390
1913 ...	4,000,000	3,625,000	7,625,090	23·9	3,213,616	10·1	20,291,047	63·6	737,486	2·3	—	—	27,561	·1	31,894,710
1912 ...	3,000,000	3,050,000	6,050,000	19·7	2,686,065	8·7	20,727,985	67·5	1,200,489	4·0	—	—	32,724	·1	30,697,263
1911 ...	2,500,000	2,650,000	5,150,000	19·1	2,156,324	8·1	19,529,890	72·5	61,907	·2	—	—	32,292	·1	26,930,413
1910 ...	2,500,000	2,500,000	5,000,000	21·0	2,123,957	9·0	16,579,754	69·8	49,342	·2	—	—	15,041	—	23,768,094
1905 ...	2,000,000	1,450,000	3,450,000	22·3	1,753,718	11·1	10,415,458	66·4	22,292	·1	—	-	22,992	·1	15,664,460
1901* ...	1,500,000	770,000	2,270,000	22·0	1,260,318	12·1	6,672,378	64·3	165,557	1·6	—	—	8,424	—	10,377,177

Assets of The Banque D'Hochelaga.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount.	Total Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. % of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. % of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	4,893,489	14·7	2,426,271	7·3	340,078	1·0	490,672	1·5	23,890,145	71·7	76,959	·2	1,199,476	3·6	33,323,390
1913 ...	4,696,797	14·7	2,639,639	8·3	595,273	1·9	1,070,095	3·4	21,919,522	68·7	—	—	973,384	3·0	31,894,710
1912 ...	4,082,004	13·3	2,736,423	8·9	1,597,538	5·2	606,073	2·0	20,812,443	67·8	—	—	862,782	2·8	30,697,263
1911 ...	3,950,265	15·6	2,160,820	8·0	600,645	2·2	1,676,633	6·2	18,015,480	66·1	—	—	526,570	1·9	26,930,413
1910 ...	3,263,840	13·8	2,132,255	8·9	620,545	2·7	857,049	3·7	16,476,518	68·9	—	—	417,887	2·0	23,768,094
1905 ...	1,917,583	12·8	1,251,895	7·8	712,184	4·5	858,690	5·4	10,617,553	67·7	—	—	306,555	1·8	15,664,460
1901* ...	1,537,743	14·8	1,013,499	9·7	627,654	6·1	378,813	3·6	6,686,187	64·5	—	—	133,281	1·3	10,377,177

* May 31.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.

Head Office: Quebec.

Capital—
Authorised $5,000,000
Paid up, 20,000 Shares of $100 each ... 2,000,000
Price of Share, $131. *Dividend*, 8%. *Yield*, £6 4s.

The disturbance to financial affairs in Canada shows very little reflection in the accounts of La Banque Nationale, which is able to report a profit of $313,207 for the twelve months to April 30, 1915, as compared with $319,903 for the previous year. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent., while a sum of $100,000 is carried to reserve fund, $50,000 is written off as depreciation on securities and for contingencies, $10,000 is carried to pension fund, and $7,500 to patriotic fund. The carry-forward amounts to $48,007. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of La Banque Nationale.

Year ended April 30	Profit.	Dividends. Amt.	Dividends. Rate.	Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	313,207	160,000	8	153,207	—	167,500	48,007
1914 ...	319,903	160,000	8	159,903	—	172,000	62,300
1913 ...	302,305	160,000	8	142,305	—	160,000	74,397
1912 ...	293,564	140,000	7	153,564	—	105,000	92,092
1911 ...	262,514	140,000	7	140,000	—	105,000	43,528
1910 ...	257,917	139,180	7	118,737	11,081	157,500	26,014
1909 ...	266,661	129,469	7	137,192	28,919	165,000	53,695
1908 ...	274,121	125,672	7	148,449	2,575	162,500	52,584
1907 ...	242,361	109,646	7	132,715	57,425	175,000	64,060
1906 ...	155,754	90,000	6½	65,754	—	100,000	48,920
1905 ...	140,684	90,000	6	50,684	—	50,000	83,166

The proportion that the shown profit bears to the paid-up capital is 15.6 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.2 per cent.

La Banque Nationale was established in 1860. It has a branch in Paris, while in addition to 69 offices in Canada there are 102 sub-agencies, and almost without exception both branches and sub-agencies are in the Province of Quebec. The Bank is thus very largely a French-Canadian institution.

With a paid-up capital of $2,000,000 the Bank had accumulated a reserve fund at April 30 last of $1,800,000. The deposits amounted to $19,433,064. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since 1895.

At the annual meeting in June last the President pointed out that "Our circulation at $3,140,000 exceeds the normal authorisation of the law by $1,140,000. This excess in the issue of our paper money, permitted by the law under certain conditions, would be profitable to us only if our capital was larger, as we are obliged, for each dollar of over-circulation, to deposit the equivalent in gold, or to pay 5 per cent. interest on each dollar of such excess of circulation, if we wish to take as a basis the 15 per cent. of the capital and of the reserve that the law allows us. A large paid-up capital would enable us to profit of the chief advantage that the law grants to banks. Our actual organisation justifies us to estimate a maximum circulation of $4,000,000. Although we have your authorisation to issue new stock we have thought it wiser to abstain from it and to wait for less troubled times."

Liabilities of La Banque Nationale.

April 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Deposits Not Bearing Interest. Amount.	Deposits Bearing Interest. Amount.	Total Deposits. Amount.	Total Deposits. % of Total.	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S., and elsewhere. Amount.	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S., and elsewhere. % of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	Undivided Profits. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	2,000,000	1,800,000	3,800,000	14·1	3,140,905	11·6	4,292,075	15,140,989	19,433,064	71·8	589,112	2·2	88,709	·3	27,051,790
1914 ...	2,000,000	1,700,000	3,700,000	14·3	2,670,550	10·3	4,625,238	14,094,746	18,719,984	72·0	789,394	3·0	103,311	·4	25,983,239
1913 ...	2,000,000	1,550,000	3,550,000	14·8	1,938,622	8·1	4,520,663	13,295,289	17,815,952	74·5	544,762	2·3	74,397	·3	23,923,733
1912 ...	2,000,000	1,400,000	3,400,000	15·7	1,905,527	8·8	4,333,829	11,572,433	15,906,262	73·3	393,851	1·8	92,092	·4	21,697,732
1911 ...	2,000,000	1,300,000	3,300,000	18·7	1,822,531	10·2	3,435,786	8,831,125	12,266,911	69·1	308,063	1·7	43,528	·3	17,741,033
1910 ...	2,000,000	1,200,000	3,200,000	19·6	1,884,226	11·6	3,092,485	7,756,486	10,848,971	66·6	293,634	1·8	61,560	·4	16,288,391
1905 ...	1,500,000	500 000	2,000,000	19·0	1,483,861	14·1	1,036,409	5,727,347	6,813,756	64·7	154,961	1·4	83,166	·8	10,535,744
1900 ...	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	21·0	1,181,067	17·7	819,796	3,156,041	3,975,837	59·6	45,655	·7	65,587	1·0	6,668,146
1895 ...	1,200,000	31,250	1,231,250	27·6	711,749	15·9	—	—	2,383,589	53·4	115,009	2·5	26,215	·6	4,467,812

Assets of La Banque Nationale.

April 30	Gold and Silver Coin. Amount.	Government Demand Notes. Amount.	Notes and Cheques of Other Banks. Amount.	Total Cash. Amount.	Total Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. % of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Current Loans and Discounts, &c. Amount.	Current Loans and Discounts, &c. % of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	208,835	1,283,216	944,856	2,436,907	9·0	2,189,047	8·1	3,019,727	11·1	537,173	1·9	17,925,701	66·3	943,235	3·6	27,051,790
1914 ...	179,401	1,290,122	1,045,581	2,515,404	9·7	2,035,053	7·8	3,154,543	12·1	356,307	1·4	17,140,200	66·0	781,752	3·0	25,983,239
1913 ...	161,791	870,826	1,550,399	2,583,016	10·8	1,612,278	6·7	3,016,829	12·6	339,431	1·4	15,677,085	65·5	695,094	3·0	23,923,733
1912 ...	210,079	1,232,624	1,465,547	2,908,250	13·4	1,385,222	6·4	2,667,562	12·2	622,128	2·9	13,443,029	62·0	671,541	3·1	21,697,732
1911 ...	184,974	822,231	881,566	1,888,771	10·6	914,425	5·1	1,366,789	7·7	736,962	4·2	12,190,541	68·7	643,545	3·7	17,741,033
1910 ...	151,454	681,467	795,274	1,628,195	10·0	733,223	4·5	879,804	5·4	328,820	2·0	12,152,505	74·6	565,844	3·5	16,288,391
1905 ...	119,204	530,726	463,476	1,113,406	10·6	—	—	289,232	2·7	177,607	1·7	8,693,452	82·5	262,047	2·5	10,535,744
1900 ...	48,211	314,609	251,331	614,151	9·2	35,000	·5	37,355	·5	114,375	1·7	5,676,375	85·1	190,890	3·0	6,668,146
1895 ...	64,435	169,798	—	234,233	5·2	87,000	1·9	255,666	5·7	445,725	10·1	3,302,627	74·0	136,561	3·1	4,467,812

THE LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE BANK, LTD.

Subscribed Capital, £1,725,320. Paid-up Capital, £862,660. Reserve Fund, £660,000.

Head Office—43 SPRING GARDENS, MANCHESTER.

THE BANK HAS OFFICES AT

Liverpool	Leeds	Huddersfield	Dewsbury
Halifax	Accrington	Blackburn	Burnley
Bury	Oldham	Rochdale	

and 118 Branches in the principal towns in the district.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

BRITISH BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE, LIMITED.

Head Office: 48 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,500,000
Subscribed, 240,000 Shares of £5 each ...	1,200,000
Issued ,, ,, ...	1,200,000

Price of Share, £4¼. *Dividend*, Nil.

THIS Bank is one of the youngest of banking institutions, having been formed under the title of the Anglo-Russian Bank, Limited, in January 1911, by a combination of English and Russian capitalists, with the primary object of acquiring an interest in the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank of St. Petersburg, with about 100 offices and agencies throughout Russia. The prospectus pointed out that "the Empire of Russia offers a splendid field for the investment of capital. The construction of new railroads, harbours and docks, the development of waterways, irrigation works, the introduction of improved systems of water supply and drainage, electric lighting and other public works, now under contemplation will justify the raising of a large amount of capital by issues of Government guaranteed, municipal, and other loans. These issues will afford opportunities for profitable transactions of the first importance, in which the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank and the Anglo-Russian Bank, Limited, may expect to participate." The capital of the Russian institution rose from £1,058,201 in 1900 to £1,587,302 in 1909, the profits rising during the same period from £39,830 to £205,206, and the dividend from 3.6 per cent. to 9 per cent. The first report, which covered the period from the incorporation of the Bank on January 19, 1911, to April 30, 1912, showed that with a paid-up capital of £1,200,000 deposits of £1,163,946 had been secured. On the other side of the accounts, the amount of the investment in shares of the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank amounted to £1,230,000 out of total assets valued at £2,442,368, while the loans and discounts reached a total of £794,891. The profits for the period amounted to £81,593, expenses being £10,171. A dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, and after writing down bank fittings account there was carried forward a sum of £10,825. This did not include a dividend on the Russian Commercial Bank shares for 1910 of £52,684, which was applied for the purpose of writing down the preliminary expenses, leaving them standing at April 30, 1912, at £8,678. In October 1912 it was decided to change the name from the Anglo-Russian Bank to the British Bank for Foreign Trade, Limited. The second report showed that while the paid-up capital remained unchanged at £1,200,000, current deposits and other accounts had risen to £2,471,763. On the other side, the interest in the Russian Commercial Bank remained unchanged at £1,230,000, but the investment in Russian Government guaranteed bonds and other securities at cost rose from £215,859 to £730,453, and the loans and discounts from £794,891 to £1,563,133, the total assets amounting to £4,191,731.

Naturally, the outbreak of war led to restriction of the business in 1914-15, and at April 30, 1915, the deposits were only £1,911,922, as compared with £2,318,079 at April 30, 1914; similarly bills payable fell from £220,985 to £128,157, and the acceptances from £490,203 to £99,293. On the other side, the cash was £206,020, as compared with £260,904, while the investments rose from £2,116,498 to £2,387,405, and the loans, &c., fell from £1,336,858 to £530,029. Herewith we set out a comparison of the liabilities and assets for each year since the start.

Naturally, the net profits have suffered during the past twelve months, and no dividend has been received upon the shares of the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank for the year ending January 13, 1915. The sum received in the previous year as dividend on these shares was £80,518; the net profit is £786, and naturally no dividend is possible. The net profit is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £10,667. Herewith we set out the manner of dividing the profits for each year since the establishment of the Bank:—

Year ended April 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Gross profit	110,238	110,075	119,068	81,592
Expenses, interest, &c ...	109,452	13,271	12,992	10,171
Net profit	786	96,804	106,076	71,421
Dividend	Nil	72,000	72,000	60,355
	—	(6%)	(6%)	(5%)
	786	24,804	34,076	11,066
Reserve, &c.	—	25,594	34,229	242
	786	—790	—153	10,824
Brought forward	9,881	10,671	10,824	—
Carried forward	10,667	9,881	10,671	10,824

At the meeting in June last the Chairman pointed out that "No less than 4,152,585 roubles was written off against protested bills and as provision for depreciation of securities. This sum was not to be taken, as far as he was at present advised, as a realised loss, but represented the reduced value at which certain assets were carried into the balance sheet at the beginning of the year. Many persons who should be competent to forecast the future predicted that Russia would, when fighting ended, recover very rapidly from the effects of the War, and that every department of Russian commerce and finance would boom. The Russian nation, like ourselves, was involved in a supreme struggle, which would cost, apart from the sacrifice of human life, untold treasure. But Russia's national resources were being organised so as to preserve the trade and institutions of the Empire, and he had every reason to think that the Russian Bank, in which they had so much capital embarked, would emerge triumphantly from the shadow which German aggression had cast over a part of Russia and over all Europe."

Liabilities of the British Bank for Foreign Trade, Limited.

April 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	Deposits, &c. % of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	Bills Payable. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	Profit Balance. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	1,200,000	25,000	1,225,000	36·3	1,911,922	56·7	128,157	3·8	99,293	2·9	10,667	·3	3,375,039
1914 ...	1,200,000	25,000	1,225,000	28·1	2,318,079	53·2	220,985	5·0	490,203	11·2	107,475	2·5	4,361,742
1913 ...	1,200,000	—	1,200,000	28·6	2,471,763	59·0	89,155	2·1	313,912	7·5	116,901	2·8	4,191,731
1912 ...	1,200,000	—	1,200,000	49·1	1,163,947	47·7	—	—	7,000	·2	71,421	3·0	2,442,368

Assets of the British Bank for Foreign Trade, Limited.

April 30	Cash in Hand and at Call, &c. Amount.	Cash in Hand and at Call, &c. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Loans, &c. Amount.	Loans, &c. % of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	Bills Discounted. % of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total.	Sundries. Amt.	Sundries. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	206,020	6·1	2,387,405	70·7	530,029	15·8	150,835	4·5	99,293	2·9	1,457	—	3,375,039
1914 ...	260,904	5·9	2,116,498	48·6	1,336,858	30·7	156,685	3·6	490,203	11·2	594	—	4,361,742
1913 ...	344,504	8·2	1,960,453	46·7	1,210,517	29·1	352,616	8·4	313,912	7·4	9,729	·2	4,191,731
1912 ...	184,998	7·6	1,445,859	59·2	794,891*	32·6	—	—	7,000	·2	9,620	·4	2,442,368

* Including Bills Discounted.

BRITISH BANK OF NORTHERN COMMERCE, LIMITED.

Head Office: 41, 43 and 47 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 200,000 Shares of £10 each ...	£2,000,000
Subscribed, 150,000 ,, ,, ...	1,500,000
Paid up, £2 10*s.* per Share...	375,000

Price of Shares, £5½. *Dividend*, 8%.* *Yield*, £4 9*s.* 7*d.*%.

* Free of tax.

The British Bank of Northern Commerce is one of the youngest of banking institutions, inasmuch as it only dates back to February 1912, the principal object being to facilitate commercial intercourse between the northern countries of Europe and Great Britain. The authorised capital was fixed at £2,000,000, and the first report, which was dated March 31, 1913, showed that the subscribed capital consisted of 110,007 shares of £10 each, making a total of £1,100,070. There had been paid up £2 10*s.* per share, making a total of £275,017. Moreover, a similar amount represented the reserve fund, secured by allotting the new shares at a premium. The Right Hon. Earl Grey, G.C.B., is Chairman. At the statutory meeting on March 26, 1912, Earl Grey expressed the hope that the establishment of the Bank might be a means of bringing additional business to the City of London by stimulating trade between England and the northern countries, to the mutual and reciprocal benefit of all concerned; and in referring to England he said that he made that an inclusive term which would embrace other parts of the British Empire, especially not forgetting Canada. Twelve months later Earl Grey successfully claimed that the hope to which he had given expression had been realised, "and it is with great pleasure that I am able to state that our Bank has been well received not only in the northern countries of Europe, but in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. There has been no attempt or desire on the part of this Bank to take away business from any of the existing institutions, and we are fortunate in the many practical evidences of goodwill and friendly feelings we have received from all sides." The first accounts covered the period from February 2, 1912, to March 31, 1913, for which period a gross profit of £66,836 was reported, the net profit amounting to £22,641, which enabled the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, absorbing £16,501, and leaving a balance to be carried forward of £6,140. The second accounts showed an increase in the gross profit to £93,220, the net amount reaching a total of £41,382. It was decided, therefore, to increase the dividend to 10 per cent., the carry-forward rising to £10,022.

For the twelve months to March 31, 1915, the gross profits amounted to £94,032, the interest paid rose from £25,317 to £31,141, while expenses rose from £24,198 to £29,934. Consequently the net profit fell from £41,382 to £32,957. The dividend was reduced from 10 per cent. to 8 per cent., and the surplus of £2,957 was added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £12,979. Herewith we set out the profits since formation:—

Profits of the British Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited, February 2, 1912, to March 31, 1915.

	1915	1914	1913
	£	£	£
Gross profit	94,032	93,220	66,836
Interest paid	31,141	25,317	14,175
Salaries and other expenses	29,934	24,198	28,290
Income tax	—	2,323	1,730
Net profit	32,957	41,382	22,641
Dividend	30,000 (8%)	37,500 (10%)	16,501 (6%)
	2,957	3,882	6,140
Carried forward	10,022	6,140	—
Brought forward	12,979	10,022	6,140

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

Subscribed Capital - - - £15,900,000.

CAPITAL—Paid	**£3,000,000**
Uncalled	**2,300,000**
Reserve Liability	**10,600,000**
	£15,900,000

Reserve Fund (invested in English Government Securities), **£2,000,000.**

DIRECTORS.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
MAURICE O. FITZGERALD, Esq.
W. H. N. GOSCHEN, Esq.
The Right Hon. LORD INCHCAPE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.
FRANCIS ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, Esq.
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F. C. LE MARCHANT, Esq.
The Right Hon. The EARL OF LICHFIELD.
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THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq.
ROBERT WIGRAM, Esq.

T. ESTALL, Esq.
D. J. H. CUNNICK, Esq. } **Joint General Managers.**
F. ELEY, Esq.

EDWARD HUGH NORRIS WILDE, Esq.
WALTER EDWARD MOORE, Esq. } **Solicitors.**

Head Office: 15 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having numerous Branches in England and Wales, as well as Agents and Correspondents at home and abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have money transmitted to the credit of their Accounts through any of the Branches free of charge.

At Head Office and Branches Deposits are received, Current Accounts opened, and all other Banking business conducted.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Bank, Lists of Branches, Agents and Correspondents may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Bank's Branches.

Liabilities of The British Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited.

March 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	Deposits, &c. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	Profit Balance. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	375,000	375,000	750,000	23·7	1,048,790	33·2	1,332,097	42·2	27,979	·9	3,158,866
1914 ...	375,000	375,000	750,000	15·8	1,243,996	26·2	2,716,386	57·3	32,523	·7	4,742,905
1913 ...	275,918	275,917	550,035	18·2	1,159,836	38·7	1,276,254	42·4	22,641	·7	3,008,766

Assets of The British Bank of Northern Commerce, Limited.

March 31	Cash in Hand, &c. Amount.	Cash in Hand, &c. % of Total.	Money at Call. Amount.	Money at Call. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Loans and Advances. Amount.	Loans and Advances. % of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	Bills Discounted. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	272,274	8·6	50,000	1·6	387,190	12·2	741,921	23·5	1,332,097	42·2	375,384	11·9	3,158,866
1914 ...	251,424	5·3	419,775	8·8	121,898	2·6	715,384	15·1	2,716,386	57·3	518,038	10·9	4,742,905
1913 ...	211,388	7·0	553,772	18·4	98,123	3·3	429,169	14·3	1,276,254	42·4	440,060	14·0	3,008,766

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 8.8 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 4.4 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

The paid-up capital now amounts to £375,000, and the reserve fund to the same figure. Naturally the business of the Bank has suffered from the War. Deposits have fallen from £1,243,996 to £1,048,790, while the acceptances have fallen from £2,716,386 to £1,332,097. On the other side of the accounts, the cash has risen from £251,424 to £272,274, while call money has dropped from £419,775 to £50,000. The investments have risen from £121,898 to £387,190. Herewith we append a summary of the balance sheet for each year since formation.

At the annual meeting in May last Earl Grey pointed out that, "As you are well aware, the original object of our Bank was to establish an institution which should promote close and direct financial relations between this country and Scandinavia and Russia. A large proportion of the business with those countries was formerly arranged through the medium of the German banks in London, and we believed that it would be preferable that the trade between this country and the Northern States of Europe should be transacted through an English bank, entirely owned and controlled by shareholders of Great Britain and the northern countries. The present position and prospects of our Bank confirm the opinion we then formed. It will be of interest to shareholders to know that the Company's register of members does not contain the name of one single enemy shareholder, either resident in this country or abroad, and that we have practically no commitments with the enemy countries. We look forward after the War to a considerable increase in business between this country and Russia and Scandinavia. Although our money-earning capacity was reduced, during the earlier period of the War, through dislocation of trade and exchange, the business we are now doing justifies the belief that a result of the War will be to bring our Bank a considerable increase of regular and legitimate business."

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £2,0 0,000
Subscribed, 100,000 Shares of £20 each ... 2,000,000
Paid up, £10 per Share 1,000,000
Price of Share, £16¼xd. *Dividend,* 12 %. *Yield,* £7 8s. %.

As the Bank of British South America was founded in 1863, its jubilee was celebrated in 1913. The original title of the Bank was the Brazilian and Portuguese Bank, Limited, and the first balance sheet showed that the paid-up capital was £250,000, while the deposits accumulated amounted to £104,605. There were also bills payable amounting to £66,833, the total of capital and liabilities amounting to £425,656. The assets consisted of £218,988 of cash and £206,668 of bills receivable, discounts, &c. In March 1866 it was decided to change the name to the English Bank of Rio de Janeiro, Limited, the actual change being made in December of that year. In 1891 the Bank sold the goodwill and assets of its business in Brazil for Rs. 45,00,000, or £875,000, to a local institution, the Banco de Credito Universal. At the same time the full right to carry on business in Brazil was repurchased from the same institution for £75,000. The net result of the transaction was a profit of £205,427, while it also decided to change the name to the more comprehensive title of the British Bank of South America, Limited. The Bank at the present time has branches in Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Monte Video, Rosario de Santa Fé and Buenos Ayres. The paid-up capital remained unaltered until 1907, during which period the deposits had risen to over £5,000,000. It was consequently then decided to increase the capital to provide for further possible extensions, and accordingly, in March 1907, the authorised capital was increased to £1,500,000, and by the end of the year the amount paid up was increased to £650,000. In March 1911 a further 10,000 shares were issued, making the paid-up capital at the end of the year £750,000. As the business further rapidly increased, in March 1912 it was decided to increase the authorised amount to £2,000,000, the amount paid up at the end of the year amounting to £1,000,000. By 1871 a reserve fund of £120,000 had been accumulated; steady additions were made to this fund year by year, and it gradually rose until at the end of 1909 it amounted to £650,000, the same figure as the paid-up capital. Since then substantial additions have been made to the fund, until at December 31, 1912, it was brought up to £1,100,000, or £100,000 in excess of the paid-up capital. In view of the condition of affairs in the countries where the Bank's interests chiefly lie and the wide-reaching effects of the War, the directors considered it prudent at the end of 1914 to make large provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, thereby causing a considerable decrease in profits; and for the same reasons they provided fully for depreciation in securities by transferring a sum of £100,000 from the reserve fund, thereby reducing it to £1,000,000, but still leaving it equal in amount to the paid-up capital. Naturally, the adverse conditions brought about a reduction in business, and the deposits, which at the end of 1913 amounted to £10,751,158, fell at the end of 1914 to £8,368,677. Similarly, bills payable and acceptances dropped from £6,312,516 to £3,696,482. On the other side of the accounts, bills receivable dropped from £7,449,964 to £4,964,849, and advances from £8,066,044 to £5,791,725. The total assets fell from £19,449,679 to £14,311,683. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since its formation, thus showing the substantial growth.

Further proof of growth is shown in advancing profits. Taking a 10 years' period, we find that the gross profit rose from £156,886 for 1903 to £466,051 for 1912. In other words, the profits for 1912 were three times those for 1903. The proportionate growth in net profits is even greater, inasmuch as they rose from £53,374 for 1903 to £268,348 for 1912. For 1913, owing to trade depression in Brazil, the gross

profits dropped back to £412,799. On the other hand, the expenses rose to £204,668 and the taxes to £22,916, so that the net profit fell to £185,215, as compared with £268,348. The dividend was maintained at 17 per cent., while £10,000 was carried to pension account, £4,500 written off investments, and £84,500 carried forward, as compared with £83,785 brought in.

We have already pointed out that owing to the necessity of making substantial provision for contingencies the profit for 1914 has been reduced. It has amounted to £343,724, as compared with £412,799. A reduction of only £4,000 took place in expenses, so that after providing for taxes the net profit was £120,197, as compared with £185,215. In the circumstances it is not surprising that no bonus is forthcoming, and the distribution consists, therefore, of the usual dividend of 12 per cent., which the net profit shown is just able to provide.

The profit record since 1904 shows the following substantial growth:—

Profits of the British Bank of South America, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Taxes.	Net Profit.	Dividends.* Amount.*	Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1914 ...	343,724	200,497	23,030	120,197	120,000	12	—	84,697
1913 ...	412,799	204,668	22,916	185,215	170,000	17	14,500	84,500
1912 ...	466,051	179,268	18,435	268,348	220,000	22	45,000	83,785
1911 ...	400,972	159,359	15,384	226,229	127,500	17	87,000	80,437
1910 ...	359,706	143,875	14,268	201,563	97,500	15	86,000	68,708
1909 ...	313,947	133,890	11,320	168,737	84,500	13	80,000	50,645
1908 ...	305,183	127,223	9,851	168,109	84,500	13	85,000	46,408
1907 ...	261,065	115,653	8,404	137,008	55,000	11	70,000	47,799
1906 ...	236,986	107,764	7,151	122,071	50,000	10	64,500	35,791
1905 ...	203,222	96,750	8,685	97,787	45,000	9	44,000	28,220
1904 ...	157,439	87,221	6,584	63,634	40,000	8	25,000	19,433

* Free of income tax.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 12.0 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.0 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

At the meeting in April last the Chairman spoke as follows in the course of his speech: "I was rash enough last year to express a hope that there were some indications of recovery from the depression that had for some time past weighed on business conditions in Brazil and Argentina. As regards Brazil, it was generally understood that arrangements were on the point of completion which would have placed the finances of the Government in a sounder position, and had these arrangements been carried out they would undoubtedly have had a beneficial effect. But, as you know, the outbreak of war convulsed trade and finance throughout the world, and neither in Brazil nor Argentina were conditions favourable for meeting the storm. The dislocation and practical suspension of credit that ensued had a paralysing effect, and the serious fall and violent fluctuations in the rate of exchange in Brazil, which may be taken as a trustworthy barometer of the financial conditions of that country, were indisputable indications of the state of anxiety and want of confidence that prevailed. As bearing out what I have said I will just give you one or two quotations. For some years the rate of exchange had remained practically steady at 16*d.* to 16½*d.* On August 1 last it fell to 14⅛*d.*, and continued to decline until October 2, when it reached 10½*d.*; it then rapidly recovered, touching 15½*d.* on October 20, since when it has fluctuated between 15½*d.* and 12½*d.*, yesterday's quotation being 13*d.* When you consider that a variation of 1*d.* in the rate of exchange represents about 7 to 8 per cent., taking the present rate as a basis, it is obvious that it introduces so much uncertainty into all business with outside countries that it upsets all calculations, of what would otherwise be sound and prudent transactions, and equally makes it difficult for banks, through whose intermediary they are financed, to meet the requirements of their customers without running risks that are incommensurate with the small turn of profit that they would legiti-

THE
UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LTD.
ESTABLISHED 1836.

NOMINAL CAPITAL - - - £2,500,000
Issued, £1,250,000, in 50,000 Shares of £25 each.
Paid up, £550,000.
RESERVE FUND - - - - £355,000

DIRECTORS.

GEO. C. HAWORTH, Esq., Chairman. Sir CHARLES BEHRENS, Deputy-Chairman.
J. R. OLIVER, Esq. MICHAEL CABABÉ, Esq.
ALLAN H. BRIGHT, Esq. (Liverpool). SIR JOSEPH VERDIN, Bart., D.L.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD ROCHDALE.

General Manager - - - P. FORRESTER.

Head Office: YORK STREET, MANCHESTER.
Liverpool Branch: 45 Castle Street, LIVERPOOL.

88 Branches in Manchester District and the adjoining Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

General Banking business conducted in Manchester and Liverpool and the districts tributary thereto.
Comprehensive arrangements exist for the transaction of Foreign Business. All kinds of Foreign Money Exchanged.

Liabilities of The British Bank of South America, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable and Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	14·0	8,568,677	58·5	3,696,482	25·8	91,827	·6	154,697	1·1	14,311,683
1913 ..	1,000,000	1,100,000	2,100,000	10·9	10,751,158	55·3	6,312,516	32·4	91,504	·4	194,501	1·0	19,449,679
1912 ...	1,000,000	1,100,000	2,100,000	10·5	11,322,224	56·5	6,259,515	31·2	79,808	·4	243,785	1·4	20,005,332
1911 ...	750,000	850,000	1,600,000	9·4	10,326,379	60·9	4,812,841	28·4	68,664	·4	162,937	·9	16,970,821
1910 ...	650,000	700,000	1,350,000	8·4	9,524,769	59·3	4,997,615	31·1	56,362	·3	133,708	·9	16,062,454
1905 ..	500,000	375,000	875,000	10·1	4,759,435	54·8	2,966,449	34·2	21,550	·2	58,220	·7	8,680,654
1900 ..	500,000	340,000	840,000	12·5	2,098,251	31·1	3,760,230	55·7	9,984	·1	38,880	·6	6,747,345
1890	500,000	225,000	725,000	6·7	2,452,565	22·9	7,492,540	70·0	—	—	44,781	·4	10,714,886
1881* ..	500,000	150,000	650,000	16·2	566,652	14·1	2,755,702	68·6	—	—	44,361	1·1	4,016,715
1871* ..	500,000	120,505	620,505	18·0	926,481	26·6	1,883,314	54·2	—	—	42,191	1·2	3,472,494
1864† ..	250,200	—	250,200	58·8	106,751	25·0	66,833	15·8	—	—	1,872	·4	425,656

* February 28. † March 31.

Assets of The British Bank of South America, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, at Bankers and at Call. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount £
1914 ...	3,349,080	23·4	4,964,849	34·7	5,791,725	40·5	206,029	1·4	14,311,683
1913 ..	3,738,073	19·2	7,449,964	38·3	8,066,044	41·5	195,598	1·0	19,449,679
1912 ..	3,621,009	18·1	7,961,226	39·8	8,244,425	41·2	178,672	·9	20,005,332
1911 ...	2,783,904	16·4	6,994,836	41·2	7,062,706	41·6	129,375	·8	16,970,821
1910 ...	2,697,663	16·8	7,307,960	45·5	5,907,456	36·8	149,375	·9	16,062,454
1905 ...	1,199,980	13·8	3,624,774	41·7	3,725,271	43·0	130,629	1·5	8,680,654
1900 ...	915,108	13·5	3,485,019	51·7	2,211,840	32·8	135,378	2·0	6,747,345
1890 ..	1,902,040	17·8	5,792,567	54·0	2,965,635	27·7	54,644	·5	10,714,886
1881* ...	325,047	8·1	2,299,684	57·3	1,371,984	34·1	20,000	·5	4,016,715
1871° ...	603,882	17·4	2,077,921	59·8	790,671	22·8	—	—	3,472,494
1864† ...	218,988	51·4	—	—	206,668‡	48·6	—	—	425,656

* February 28. † March 31. ‡ Including bills receivable.

mately derive from them. In Argentina, where there has also been a period of serious depression and financial stringency, the outbreak of war caused a further great contraction of credit and curtailment of business facilities, and it can hardly be said that there has, as yet, been any marked recovery in the value or saleability of properties or securities. At the same time, the staple products of the country are finding ready and remunerative markets, and, with a harvest now in progress which is certainly considerably better than that of last year, we think that the outlook is decidedly more encouraging."

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Head Office: Toronto, Canada.
London Office: 2 Lombard Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	$25,000,000
Subscribed, 150,000 Shares, $100 each	15,000,000
Paid up	15,000,000

Price of Share, $203. *Dividend*, 12 %. *Yield*, £5 19*s.* 5*d.* %

The original charter granted to the Canadian Bank of Commerce was obtained in 1858. An Act of incorporation for a Bank to be called the Bank of Canada was assented to by the Governor-General. In the first clause of the Act it is claimed that "it would be conducive to the general prosperity of the country thereabouts and greatly facilitate and promote the agricultural and commercial growth of the said locality," the proposal being to establish the Bank in the City of Toronto. The capital under the Act was to be $3,000,000, in shares of $50 each, and it was enacted that the Bank should start business as soon as the sum of $1,000,000 was subscribed. Apparently, however, it was not found possible to raise the sum required, and accordingly in 1866 the Act of incorporation was amended and the original charter was purchased by another Company, while the title was changed from the Bank of Canada to the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The authorised capital was altered to $1,000,000, divided into 20,000 shares of $50 each, and in place of the original sum of $1,000,000 required to be subscribed it was enacted that the Bank should begin its business as soon as $400,000 should have been subscribed and a sum of not less than $100,000 paid up. The Bank soon got to work, and in April 1867 a first general meeting of shareholders was held for the purpose of electing seven directors. In a month's time the first branches of the Bank were opened in London (Ont.), St. Catharines, and Barrie, while on May 15, 1867, the Bank was opened for business in Toronto. In November of the same year a declaration of a first dividend was made, which was payable on January 2, 1868, and was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for a period of 7½ months.

The first statement of affairs was dated June 30, 1868, and showed that the Bank had a paid-up capital of $916,359, the circulation was $702,388, and the deposits amounted to $1,305,681. Since then the capital has been increased from time to time as business has expanded or other banks have been judiciously acquired until the authorised amount now reaches the large total of $25,000,000, while the subscribed capital and the amount paid up is $15,000,000.

The rapid growth of the Bank may be seen from the increase in the deposits. In June 1868 the total deposits amounted to $1,305,681; by 1870 they rose to $3,489,677; in 10 years they expanded to $11,289,538. In the 10 years between 1880 and 1890 growth was very slow, but by 1900 the deposits reached a total of $29,682,038. In the following five years they rose to $74,373,920, while by the end of 1910 an increase to $126,836,733 occurred. At November 30, 1911, the deposits amounted to $145,967,756. An increase of nearly $52,000,000 occurred during 1912, partly as a result of expansion of the Bank's own business and partly owing to the acquisition of the Eastern Townships Bank, and at November 30, 1912, the deposits totalled $197,623,892. The Eastern Townships Bank was responsible for $19,000,000 of the increase, and of the balance there was a considerable accession of special amounts, which have since been withdrawn.

The result of the acquisition of these various businesses during recent years, whereby the field of operations of the institution has been greatly enlarged, is a substantial increase in the number of offices opened, the number having trebled in a period of 10 years. In 1903 the number of offices was 112; by 1907 it had increased to 184; by November 30, 1911, it further rose to 245; while at the present time it is 379, the greatest number being in Quebec and Ontario, each of which has 82 offices, while Saskatchewan comes third with 57. The distri-

Liabilities of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid-up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable. Amt.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amt.	% of Total.	Balances Due to other Banks in Canada, &c. Amt.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	15,000,000	13,500,000	28,500,000	11·6	14,942,558	6·1	181,511,541	74·0	3,924,151	1·6	2,740,000	1·1	12,997,569	4·9	1,641,763	·7	245,544,582
1913 ...	15,000,000	13,500,000	28,500,000	10·9	15,642,923	6·0	192,816,382	74·1	9,515,788	3·7	1,941,544	·8	10,704,554	4·1	909,530	·4	260,030,721
1912 ...	15,000,000	12,500,000	27,500,000	11·2	16,422,865	6·7	197,623,892	80·1	—	—	—	—	3,727,954	1·5	1,296,579	·5	246,571,290
1911 ...	11,697,275	9,757,820	21,455,095	11·8	12,004,650	6·6	145,967,756	80·0	—	—	—	—	2,470,148	1·4	492,335	·2	182,389,984
1910 ...	10,000,000	7,000,000	17,000,000	10·8	10,222,953	6·5	126,836,733	80·8	—	—	—	—	2,458,125	1·6	535,204	·3	157,053,015
1905 ...	10,000,000	4,500,000	14,500,000	14·7	8,738,671	9·0	74,373,920	75·6	—	—	—	—	354,310	·3	408,697	·4	98,375,598
1900*...	6,000,000	1,250,000	7,250,000	17·0	4,191,693	9·8	29,682,038	69·3	—	—	—	—	1,454,247	3·4	244,821	·5	42,822,799
1890*...	6,000,000	800,000	6,800,000	30·1	2,458,803	10·9	12,495,364	55·3	—	—	—	—	594,378	2·6	247,975	1·1	22,596,520
1880†...	6,000,000	1,400,000	7,400,000	34·5	2,100,210	9·8	11,289,538	52·7	—	—	—	—	177,415	·8	468,548	2·2	21,435,711
1870†...	2,036,765	250,000	2,286,765	28·9	1,974,244	25·1	3,489,677	44·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	93,995	1·1	7,844,681
1868†...	916,359	40,000	956,359	31·9	702,388	23·4	1,305,681	43·6	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,653	1·1	2,997,081

Assets of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and U. States. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by other Banks in Canada, Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	37,554,493	15·4	21,191,247	8·6	27,677,386	11·3	5,799,886	2·3	145,616,892	59·3	2,740,000	1·1	4,778,478	2·0	245,544,582
1913 ...	39,940,311	15·4	23,957,819	9·2	25,764,911	9·9	6,906,776	2·6	157,216,467	60·4	1,941,544	·8	4,302,893	1·7	260,030,721
1912 ...	37,547,326	15·2	14,362,117	5·8	17,783,050	7·2	6,829,536	2·8	165,560,768	67·1	—	—	4,488,493	1·9	246,571,290
1911 ...	33,355,938	18·3	11,541,092	6·4	15,025,319	8·2	6,939,230	3·8	112,253,004	61·5	—	—	3,225,401	1·8	182,389,984
1910 ...	24,964,958	16·0	8,924,267	5·6	19,042,228	2·1	8,754,507	5·6	92,973,772	59·0	—	—	2,393,283	1·7	157,053,015
1905 ...	11,765,634	11·9	5,711,103	5·8	11,252,326	11·4	3,557,458	3·6	64,926,771	66·0	—	—	1,162,306	1·3	98,375,598
1900* ...	4,472,245	10·4	6,310,286	14·7	3,286,197	7·7	1,257,114	3·0	26,544,679	62·0	—	—	952,278	2·2	42,822,799
1890* ...	1,691,305	7·5	1,145,994	5·1	868,102	3·8	1,267,910	5·6	16,979,632	75·1	—	—	643,577	2·9	22,596,520
1880† ...	2,152,901	10·0	752,214	3·5	—	—	4,247,979	19·8	13,883,915	65·4	—	—	398,702	1·3	21,435,711
1870† ...	1,405,611	18·0	242,854	3·1	—	—	918,524	11·7	5,132,380	65·4	—	—	145,312	1·8	7,844,681
1868† ...	924,084	30·8	92,700	3·1	-	-	45,781	1·5	1,894,294	63·2	—	—	40,422	1·4	2,997,081

* May. † June.

bution of branches at the close of last year was as follows:—

Alberta	52	Newfoundland	1
British Columbia	44	London, England	1
Manitoba	23	United States	4
New Brunswick	4	Mexico	1
Nova Scotia	13		—
Ontario	87		7
Prince Edward Island ...	5		
Quebec	82		
Saskatchewan	60		
Yukon	2		
Total in Canada	372	Total number of branches ...	379

At November 30 last the total deposits were $181,511,541, as against $192,816,382 at November 30, 1913. Similarly, on the other side of the accounts the loans and discounts fell from $157,216,467 to $145,616,892. There was an increase of nearly $2,000,000 in call and short loans, which rose from $25,764,911 to $27,677,386. The cash showed a falling-off of nearly the same amount, reaching the sum of $37,554,493, as against

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE (DE PARIS)

(SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME).

Subscribed Capital - - - Frs. 500,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - Frs. 250,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Frs. 126,000,000
Uncalled Capital - - - Frs. 250,000,000
Frs. 626,000,000

Head Office : 54 & 56 RUE DE PROVENCE, PARIS.
LONDON Office : 53 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.
West End Branch : 65 REGENT STREET, W.

London Manager : C. LAUDOUR. Sub-Managers : R. DUCHON-DORIS and A. J. BLAIKLEY.

OVER 1,100 BRANCHES IN FRANCE AND NORTH AFRICA.

SUBSIDIARY BANKS in Belgium, Greece, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Argentina and Brazil. Correspondents in all parts of the World.

This Bank transacts every description of English and Foreign Banking business, including the sale of Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Circular Letters of Credit and Notes payable in Allied or Neutral Countries. It also undertakes the purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares on the London and Continental Exchanges, the collection and cashing of Dividends, Coupons, Bills of Exchange, Drawn Bonds, arrangements for Documentary Credits, &c., &c.

The West End Branch has been specially fitted with Safe Deposits for the use of Customers. This Office buys and sells Foreign Exchange and Securities.

$39,940,311, while the investments amounted to $21,191,247, as against $23,957,819. Herewith we show the growth of the institution, giving the liabilities and assets for various years from the start.

A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was paid for the year from May 15, 1867, to June 30, 1868. This rate was maintained for a number of years, and subsequently was followed by distributions of 10 per cent.; but in 1876 the rate was reduced to 8 per cent., and in 1886, in consequence of a prolonged period of depression, it was decided to reduce the rate from 8 per cent. to 7 per cent. This rate was maintained until 1906, when the dividend was once more increased to 8 per cent. As a result of the satisfactory business during 1910 the dividend was further increased to 9 per cent. Naturally, sharing in the continued prosperity of the Dominion, a substantial increase in profits occurred during 1911, which permitted of the dividend being raised to 10 per cent. During 1912, with a continuance of the general state of prosperity, the dividend was placed on an 11 per cent. basis. In 1913 the rate was raised to 12 per cent.

The reduction in profits for the twelve months to November 30, 1914, was comparatively small in amount, the profit reaching $2,668,233, as compared with $2,992,951. It was, consequently, possible to maintain the dividend at 12 per cent., which called for $1,800,000, while the carry-forward was substantially increased from $384,530 to $1,117,763.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Year ended Nov. 30	Profit.	Dividends.— Amount.	% of Total.	Balance.	Reserve, Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$
1914 ...	2,668,233	1,800,000	12	868,233	135,000	1,117,763
1913 ...	2,992,951	1,800,000	12	1,192,951	1,580,000	384,530
1912 ...	2,811,806	1,568,622	11	1,243,184	3,317,180	771,579
1911 ...	2,305,409	1,057,219	10	1,249,190	3,212,820	203,395
1910 ...	1,838,065	900,000	9	938,065	1,350,000	310,204
1909 ...	1,510,696	800,000	8	710,696	449,802	722,139
1908 ...	1,627,333	800,000	8	827,333	1,342,000	161,245
1907 ...	1,752,350	800,000	8	952,350	380,000	675,912
1906 ...	1,741,125	800,000	8	941,125	896,435	103,562
1905 ...	1,376,168	666,784	7	709,384	1,244,234	58,872
1904 ...	1,124,974	609,000	7	515,974	652,806	28,728

To the paid-up capital at the end of the year the profits showed a proportion of 17.7 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 9.9 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

At the annual meeting in November the President, Sir Edmund Walker, detailed the arrangements proposed by the Minister of Finance, approved by the Government, for meeting the exceptional situation brought about by the outbreak of war. They were as follows:—

(1) For the first time in the history of Canada banks were empowered to pay their debts in their own notes. When these notes reached the Clearing-house however, they were redeemed by the Government legal tenders or in gold. The notes were not, as many people suppose, made a legal tender as between individuals, and the main object of this arrangement was to prevent people from securing actual gold coin in order to hoard it, a process which would have been ruinous to the nation as a whole, although comforting to the individual who secured the gold.

(2) The banks would have been able under the Bank Act to issue the emergency circulation for crop moving in September, and this date was set back to August.

(3) The Government raised somewhat the limit for that part of its legal-tender issues which is not entirely based on gold.

(4) The Government undertook to make loans to banks on approved security, in order to aid them in carrying on the business of the country.

Sir Edmund Walker added: "At that moment no machinery existed by which Canadian banks with call loans or actual cash, in either London or New York, could use such resources to pay debts in Canada. It seemed at first as if it would be necessary to declare several Bank Holidays in succession to afford time in which to work out remedial measures, but the latter were provided so promptly by the Government that no general cessation of business took place. The value of such measures is not to be judged by the use made of them. On the contrary, we are proud that they were used so little. Their real value consists in the assurance to the public and to the banks that steps have been taken, so far as lies in the power of the Government, to enable business to go on as usual. Since the passage of these measures the effect of the really wonderful provisions for financial relief set in force by the Imperial Government, the consequent ending of the British Moratorium, the recovery of the British and the partial recovery of other international Exchange markets, the removal of nearly all the enemies of the peace on the high seas, and the lowering, therefore, of the charge for the war risk in insurance, the partial resumption of operations by Stock and Merchandise exchanges, and many other remedial features—all these have helped largely to restore the broken machinery of the world by which before the War all international and much of our domestic business transactions were carried on."

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Head Office: 38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,200,000
Subscribed, 60,000 Shares, £20 per Share...	1,200,000
Paid up, £20 per Share	1,200,000

Price of Share, £52½. *Dividend*, 14%. *Yield*, £5 7*s.* 3*d.* %.

As the name implies, this Bank was founded by Royal charter, the date of incorporation being 1853. It is interesting to note that of the many chartered banks conducting business at the time of the formation of this institution there are now only four others remaining, the four being the Bank of Australasia, the Bank of British North America, the Colonial Bank, and the British Linen Bank. The charter has been renewed on various occasions, the last date being in 1909, when it was renewed for 30 years. The prospectus of the Bank pointed out that it was "established chiefly in order to extend the legitimate facilities of banking to the fast and rapidly expanding trade between the Australian colonies, British East India, China, and other parts of the Eastern archipelago—a field at present wholly unoccupied by any similar institution. The objects of the Company will, however, also embrace in connection therewith the extension of banking accommodation to the direct trade of British India, China, and Australia with this country, at present so inadequately provided for." In all respects but one these objects have been carried out, the one exception being that the Bank has not so far opened any office in Australia, though, indeed, the question has been mooted on more occasions than one. Not only have the objects laid down in the prospectus been carried out, but the Bank has extended its influence to a much greater extent, and offices have been opened in other parts of the world beyond those at first intended, and, in addition to India and China, business is carried on in the Straits Settlements, Siam, the Dutch East Indies, Japan, and the United States of America. The Bank did not actually start business until 1857, three offices being then open—viz., Bombay, Calcutta, and Shanghai. In 1858 business was started in Singapore and Hong Kong. Other important branches are those at Rangoon opened in 1862, Batavia in 1863, Manila in 1872, Penang in 1875, Yokohama in 1880, and Bangkok in 1893. At the present time, in addition to the head office in London, the business of the

Liabilities of The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills, Loans Payable, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11·2	[illegible]	3·4	[illegible]	4·9	[illegible]	71·5	[illegible]	7·5	[illegible]	1·5	[illegible]
1913...	1,200,000	1,700,000	2,900,000	10·7	812,791	3·0	1,607,746	5·9	17,[illegible]	64·5	3,951,316	14·5	375,254	1·4	27,243,396
1912...	1,200,000	1,650,000	2,850,000	10·4	745,293	2·7	1,351,003	4·9	18,477,016	67·3	3,701,595	13·5	352,570	1·2	27,477,477
1911...	1,200,000	1,625,000	2,825,000	11·3	625,916	2·5	1,351,445	5·5	16,757,367	66·9	3,185,075	12·7	283,452	1·1	25,028,255
1910...	1,200,000	1,600,000	2,800,000	12·1	647,996	3·0	955,775	4·1	15,[illegible]	69·4	2,360,351	10·2	276,364	1·2	23,000,476
1909...	1,200,000	1,575,000	2,775,000	14·0	515,554	2·5	810,038	4·0	13,990,792	68·9	1,931,741	9·5	239,169	1·1	20,262,294
1908...	1,200,000	1,525,000	2,725,000	14·0	483,076	2·5	758,675	4·0	13,134,983	67·4	2,083,565	10·6	299,178	1·5	19,484,477
1905...	800,000	875,000	1,675,000	8·7	588,752	3·0	953,477	4·9	12,126,954	63·4	3,550,953	18·6	277,112	1·4	19,122,248
1900...	800,000	525,000	1,325,000	9·1	734,684	5·0	489,642	3·3	9,219,406	63·4	2,676,491	18·4	111,533	·8	14,556,756
1890...	800,000	250,000	1,050,000	6·6	680,373	4·3	—	—	6,882,216	43·2	7,215,503	45·3	95,105	·6	15,923,197
1880...	800,000	190,000	990,000	10·4	389,924	4·1	—	—	3,938,186	41·3	4,176,928	43·7	47,667	·5	9,542,705
1860...	644,000	5,000	649,000	28·3	—	—	—	—	1,612,374	70·5	—	—	27,503	1·2	2,289,477

Assets of The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers, and Bullion. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Govt. and Other Securities. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills of Exchange. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Loans and Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	5,[illegible]	22·0	[illegible]	15·8	6,125,867	22·9	8,636,671	32·3	[illegible]	4·9	[illegible]	2·1	[illegible]
1913...	3,968,117	14·5	2,694,864	9·9	6,721,637	24·7	11,[illegible]	43·0	1,607,746	5·9	554,810	2·0	27,243,396
1912...	4,931,737	18·0	2,400,064	8·8	7,494,153	27·2	10,809,903	39·3	1,351,003	4·9	490,617	1·8	27,477,477
1911...	4,462,149	17·8	2,339,667	9·4	7,877,960	31·4	8,482,225	33·9	1,351,445	5·5	514,859	2·0	25,028,255
1910...	3,688,880	16·0	2,463,239	10·7	7,148,577	31·1	8,175,337	35·5	955,775	4·2	568,668	2·5	23,006,476
1909...	3,776,942	18·6	2,156,034	10·5	6,446,758	32·0	6,527,122	32·2	810,038	4·0	545,400	2·7	20,262,294
1908...	3,139,681	16·4	1,837,660	9·4	5,947,848	30·5	7,457,462	38·2	758,675	4·0	293,151	1·5	19,484,477
1905...	3,214,355	16·8	2,143,638	11·2	5,549,672	29·2	7,048,236	36·8	953,477	4·9	212,870	1·1	19,122,248
1900...	3,460,561	24·0	1,324,966	9·0	4,424,101	30·4	4,695,[illegible]	32·2	489,642	3·3	162,388	1·1	14,556,756
1890...	2,864,396	17·9	757,334	4·8	6,270,947	39·4	5,967,056	37·5	—	—	63,464	·4	15,923,197
1880...	2,220,520	23·2	223,829	2·3	5,425,304	56·8	1,593,779	16·7	—	—	79,273	·8	9,542,705
1860...	342,172	15·0	144,290	6·3	1,793,092	78·3	—	—	—	—	9,923	·4	2,289,477

Bank is carried on in the following places:—Amritsar, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Cebu, Colombo, Delhi, Foochow, Haiphong, Hankow, Hong Kong, Iloilo, Ipoh, Karachi, Klang, Kobe, Kuala Lumpur, Madras, Malacca, Manila, Medan, New York, Penang, Puket, Rangoon, Saigon, Seremban, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Taiping, Tientsin, and Yokohama.

For some years after its formation the Bank enjoyed a period of substantial prosperity, but during the later sixties there was experienced a time of severe depression, which naturally was reflected in the accounts of the banks, and, in so far as the Chartered Bank was concerned, by 1870, with a paid-up capital of £800,000, the whole of the reserve, amounting to £105,000, was swept away, and for a brief time the Bank was compelled to suspend the payment of dividends. In two years' time, however, it had sufficiently recovered from the depression to enable it to resume dividend payments, and from that time the growth of the institution

Union Bank of Canada

INCORPORATED 1865. HEAD OFFICE, WINNIPEG.

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General Manager: G. H. BALFOUR.
Assistant General Manager: H. B. SHAW.



The Head Office, Winnipeg.

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REST AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, $3,600,000.

TOTAL ASSETS, OVER $80,000,000.

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has been rapid. This may be gauged from the fact that by 1880—that is, within the short period of eight years from the time of resuming dividend payments—a reserve fund had once more been built up amounting to the substantial figure of £190,000. The deposits reached a total of £3,938,186. The paid-up capital, which had been raised to £800,000 in 1864, remained at this figure until 1907, when the steady and continued expansion called for an increase in capital. Accordingly, the paid-up amount was raised to £1,200,000, consisting of 60,000 shares of £20 each, fully paid.

At December 31 last the reserve fund reached a total of £1,800,000, or 50 per cent. more than the paid-up capital. Moreover, with one exception, the whole of this fund has been built up from profits. The increase of capital in 1907 was made at such a figure as to permit of a premium of £400,000 being secured, and this was added to the reserve fund. Further evidence of the great growth of the institution is to be found in the deposits. In 1860 they amounted to £1,600,000; by 1880 they touched nearly £4,000,000, and in a further 20 years they amounted to £9,200,000. It was in 1903 that they first exceeded £10,000,000. By 1910 an increase of 50 per cent. in this amount had occurred, while by December 31, 1912, they further rose to £18,477,016. A slight recession occurred in 1913, but at December 31 last they rose once more, reaching a total of no less than £19,146,663. On the other hand, the bills payable and loans last year fell from £3,951,316 to £2,007,515.

On the other side of the accounts, a very large increase took place in the cash, which rose from £3,968,117 to £5,903,942. Similarly, the investments rose from £2,694,864 to £4,242,806. Loans and bills discounted, however, fell from £11,696,222 to £8,636,671. The progress made by the Bank may be seen from the summary herewith of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1860.

The gross profits for 1914 amounted to £724,577, as compared with £690,349. This was accompanied by a rise in the expenses from £363,665 to £376,496, so that the net profit amounted to £348,081, as compared with £326,684, and it was deemed desirable not to repeat the bonus of 3 per cent. paid for 1913, the distribution thus being 14 per cent., as against 17 per cent. The directors decided that £150,000 should be set aside for special purposes, inasmuch as there are certain contingencies the result of which cannot be ascertained until the end of the War, these being eventualities arising from the negotiation of documents relating to Continental trade, &c.

Herewith we set out the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Chartered Bank of India.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividends. Amount.		Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1914...	724,577	376,496	348,081	168,000	14	175,000	125,334
1913...	690,349	363,665	326,684	204,000	17*	135,000	120,254
1912...	649,888	347,770	302,118	198,000	16½†	100,000	132,570
1911...	564,391	329,303	235,088	168,000	14	65,000	128,452
1910...	539,027	308,832	230,195	168,000	14	60,000	126,363
1909...	461,658	278,668	182,990	168,000	14	25,000	124,168
1908...	533,119	285,424	247,695	168,000	14	75,000	134,178
1907...	521,181	270,999	250,182	129,068	14	85,000	129,483
1906...	509,039	262,781	246,258	104,000	13	135,000	93,369
1905...	489,406	244,373	245,033	104,000	13	134,000	86,112
1904...	435,405	215,810	219,595	88,000	11	115,000	80,079

* Includes bonus of 3%. † Includes bonus of 2½%.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 29.0 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 11.6 per cent., and to the total working resources of the Bank 1.3 per cent.

Speaking at the meeting in April last Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, the Chairman, said: "As regards the future it would be folly on my part to prophesy what may happen in the next few months, or how the events of the future may affect the prosperity of this Bank. All I need say is this: that we know the rice crop in Burma is good, that the wheat crop in India is excellent, that the tea industry in India and Ceylon is most prosperous, that the jute mills in Bengal are likely to show good results in the present year, and that the rubber industry is in quite a healthy condition. So far all is to the good; but against this there is the set-back that we know of in the great scarcity of tonnage and the difficulty of the carriage of goods from the East to the West; this is common to all ports in the East and, I think we may say, to all ports in the West. When and to what extent this scarcity of tonnage will be removed it is impossible to foresee. No one can say what may happen until the War comes to an end."

CITY BANK OF SYDNEY.

Head Office: Pitt Street, Sydney.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,500,000
Subscribed, 50,000 Shares of £10 each ...	500,000
Paid up, £8 per Share	400,000

Price of Share, £6. *Dividend*, 5 %. *Yield*, £6 13*s.* 4*d.* %

The City Bank of Sydney was established in 1863, and incorporated by a special Act in 1864. The paid-up capital at June 30, 1864, was £196,457; by 1870 it had increased to £265,965, by 1895 it had risen to £400,000, at which figure it has since remained. By 1902 a reserve fund of £100,244 had been accumulated, but in 1903 the directors decided to transfer £109,000 from the reserve fund to the credit of contingency account, a step considered necessary in order to enable the board to make provision for the old accounts in liquidation. With the decks thus cleared a beginning was made with the formation of a new reserve fund, and this has been steadily increased year by year, until on June 30 last it amounted to £36,000. At one time the Bank had a considerable amount of notes in circulation, the amount in 1910, for example, being £102,346, but with the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank the notes have been called in, and at June 30 last the amount outstanding was only £6,244. Between 1895 and 1909 the deposits only rose from £1,075,000 to £1,270,000, but at June 30, 1910, they amounted to £1,390,146. Since then very rapid progress has been made. At June 30, 1911, the deposits were £1,637,602. Twelve months later they amounted to £1,890,899, and at June 30 last they reached a total of £2,140,434.

The cash in hand on June 30 last amounted to £678,288, as compared with £551,517 twelve months previously, the proportion to the total assets thus rising from 21.3 per cent. to 26.2 per cent. On the other hand, bills discounted, &c., fell from £1,685,452 to £1,630,650. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

From 1906 to 1914 a very steady growth in profits was shown by the Bank. During this period the dividends steadily rose from 2½ per cent. to 6 per cent. For the twelve months to June 30, 1915, a slight recession occurred, and the dividend was reduced to 5 per cent.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the City Bank of Sydney.

Year ended June 30	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Reserve, Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	%	£	£
1915	25,105	20,000	5	5,000	2,553
1914	30,745	24,000	6	7,000	2,448
1913	30,706	20,000	5	10,500	2,703
1912	24,161	19,000	4¾	5,000	2,497
1911	20,177	16,000	4	4,000	2,336
1910	16,151	13,000	3¼	3,000	2,159
1909	14,085	12,000	3	2,000	2,008
1908	14,303	12,000	3	2,000	1,923
1907	13,115	11,000	2¾	2,000	1,630
1906	12,134	10,000	2½	2,000	1,505
1905	12,218	10,000	2½	2,000	1,371
1904	18,097	16,000	4	2,000	1,153

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 6.3 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 5.8. per cent., and to the working resources the proportion is 0.9 per cent.

The City Bank of Sydney.

	Liabilities.										*Assets.*									
			Total Capital and Reserve.		Notes in Circulation.		Deposits and Other Liabilities.		Profit Balance.		Total Assets and Liabilities.	Coin, Bullion, Aust. Notes and Cash Balances.		Investments.		Bills Discounted and other Debts Due to the Bank.		Bank Premises, &c.	
June 30	Capital Paid up. Amt.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Amt.	% of Total.	Amt.	% of Total.	Amount.	% of Total.	Amt.	% of Total.	Amount.	Amt.	% of Total.	Amt.	% of Total.	Amount.	% of Total.	Amt.	% of Total.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
1915...	400,000	34,000	434,000	16·7	6,244	·3	2,140,434	82·5	12,553	·5	2,593,231	678,288	26·2	92,000	3·5	1,630,650	62·9	192,293	7·4
1914...	400,000	30,000	430,000	17·0	7,130	·3	2,067,531	82·0	17,448	·7	2,522,109	551,517	21·9	92,000	3·7	1,685,452	66·7	193,140	7·7
1913...	400,000	23,500	423,500	17·7	8,973	·4	1,934,587	81·1	18,203	·8	2,385,263	496,428	20·8	92,000	3·9	1,601,900	67·1	194,935	8·2
1912...	400,000	18,500	418,500	17·9	12,783	·5	1,890,899	80·9	15,497	·7	2,337,679	423,537	18·1	92,000	4·0	1,636,201	70·0	185,941	7·9
1911...	400,000	16,500	416,500	19·5	68,813	3·2	1,637,602	76·7	12,336	·6	2,135,251	526,399	24·6	92,000	4·3	1,343,013	63·0	173,839	8·1
1910...	400,000	14,500	414,500	21·6	102,346	5·3	1,390,146	72·5	11,159	·6	1,918,151	453,830	23·7	92,000	4·8	1,199,277	62·5	173,044	9·0
1905...	400,000	4,500	404,500	26·1	67,787	4·4	1,069,097	69·0	7,882	·5	1,549,266	260,208	16·8	50,000	3·2	1,096,237	70·8	142,821	9·2
1900...	400,000	100,244	500,244	31·0	69,928	4·3	1,026,727	63·6	17,912	1·1	1,614,811	319,343	19·8	25,000	1·5	1,131,648	70·1	138,820	8·6
1895...	400,000	100,244	500,244	30·6	40,379	2·5	1,075,476	65·8	18,295	1·1	1,634,394	320,051	19·6	—	—	1,176,000	72·0	138,343	8·4
1890...	280,000	176,000	456,000	19·7	40,551	1·8	1,789,973	77·2	31,124	1·3	2,317,648	492,380	21·2	—	—	1,758,516	75·9	66,752	2·9
1880...	240,000	70,000	310,000	21·5	33,172	2·3	1,074,788	74·6	23,106	1·6	1,441,066	313,952	21·8	—	—	1,107,114	76·8	20,000	1·4
1870...	265,965	17,913	283,878	38·0	27,641	3·7	419,345	56·0	17,366	2·3	748,230	76,533	10·2	—	—	653,924	87·4	17,773	2·4
1864...	196,457	500	196,957	50·9	18,926	4·9	170,689	44·1	625	·1	387,197	40,178	10·4	—	—	342,721	88·5	4,298	1·1

COLONIAL BANK.

Head Office: 16 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 100,000 Shares of £20 each ... £2,000,000
Subscribed, 100,000 ,, ,, ... 2,000,000
Paid up, £6 per Share 600,000

Price of Share, £4⅜. *Dividend*, 6 %. *Yield*, £8 11*s.* 5*d.*%

The Colonial Bank is one of the few remaining chartered institutions. It was incorporated by Royal charter on June 1, 1836; it has a note issue confined to the West Indian colonies. The authorised amount was increased by an Act of 1900 from £500,000 to £600,000. The head office of the Bank is in London and there is a New York agency. The remaining offices are 19 in number, including agencies, and are situated in Antigua, Barbados, Berbice, Demerara, Dominica, Grenada, Grenville, Kingston, Port Antonio, Falmouth, Montego Bay, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Thomas, St. Vincent, Port of Spain, and San Fernando. The subscribed capital is £2,000,000, and consists of 100,000 shares of £20 each. A sum of £6 has been paid up per share, making the paid-up capital £600,000. Neither capital nor reserve has been altered since 1890.

The accounts of the Bank have remained remarkably steady, the totals showing comparatively few changes during recent years. The deposits usually amount to a sum of about £2,000,000. The amount of cash naturally varies to a somewhat greater extent, but the discount and advances also show comparatively small fluctuations. Since 1910 the amount of the investments has shown some reduction, largely owing to the provision that has been made for the fall in the prices of securities.

From the statement of the liabilities and assets for various years from 1860 given herewith it will be noted that the progress of the Bank was rapid in the days when the cane-sugar industry was highly profitable, but that since beet sugar has competed so fiercely with cane the progress of the institution has been very slow. Indeed, its deposits in 1914 were much smaller than they were in 1880. The

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BOLTON.

Liabilities of The Colonial Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	Bills Payable, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	21·7	383,724	11·1	1,949,983	56·3	313,860	9·1	65,135	1·8	3,462,702
1913 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	21·0	373,093	10·4	2,051,092	57·3	345,766	9·7	58,927	1·6	3,578,878
1912 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	20·5	403,469	11·0	2,037,917	55·8	401,941	11·0	60,281	1·7	3,653,608
1911 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	20·0	440,446	11·7	2,104,481	56·1	398,693	10·6	59,373	1·6	3,752,993
1910 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	18·3	435,878	10·6	2,313,892	56·4	543,496	13·3	55,080	1·4	4,098,346
1900 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	19·2	422,362	10·8	1,893,636	48·4	818,327	20·9	26,761	·7	3,911,086
1890 ...	600,000	150,000	750,000	15·5	444,483	9·1	1,860,088	38·3	1,769,439	36·2	41,405	·9	4,865,415
1880 ...	600,000	100,000	700,000	16·0	468,288	10·8	3,146,203	72·2	—	—	44,380	1·0	4,358,871
1870 ...	500,000	153,000	653,000	18·2	335,894	9·3	2,541,150	71·2	—	—	48,481	1·3	3,578,525
1860 ...	500,000	80,941	580,941	24·6	265,573	11·2	1,478,443	62·6	—	—	36,774	1·6	2,361,731

Assets of The Colonial Bank.

Dec. 31	Specie and Cash in Hand at Bankers and at Call and Short Notice. Amount. £	Specie and Cash % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted and Advances. Amount. £	Bills Discounted % of Total. %	Bills Receivable, &c. Amount. £	Bills Receivable, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	562,089	16·2	1,188,478	34·4	1,110,766	32·1	520,563	15·0	80,000	2·3	3,462,702
1913 ...	426,249	11·9	1,119,245	31·2	1,313,939	36·7	639,445	17·9	80,000	2·3	3,578,878
1912 ...	465,795	12·8	1,220,603	33·4	1,226,137	33·5	661,073	18·1	80,000	2·2	3,653,608
1911 ...	500,260	13·3	1,315,875	35·1	1,133,210	30·2	723,648	19·3	80,000	2·1	3,752,993
1910 ...	712,284	17·3	1,348,809	33·0	1,130,700	27·6	826,553	20·1	80,000	2·0	4,098,346
1900 ...	543,597	13·9	1,102,809	28·2	1,312,125	33·5	902,555	23·1	50,000	1·3	3,911,086
1890 ...	825,185	17·0	884,289	18·2	1,754,095	36·0	1,376,846	28·3	25,000	·5	4,865,415
1880 ...	288,412	6·6	—	—	1,356,597	31·2	2,703,862	62·0	10,000	·2	4,358,871
1870 ...	208,018	5·8	—	—	1,688,527	47·2	1,673,802	46·8	8,178	·2	3,578,525
1860 ...	278,966	11·8	—	—	1,275,359	54·0	803,037	34·0	4,469	·2	2,361,731

increased prosperity of the West Indies in recent years has brought substantial recovery in deposits and in business.

During the past 10 years the fluctuation in income has not been of a very large amount, the figures varying between a minimum of £106,827 and a maximum of £120,907, while after deduction of expenses the net profit has been as low as £41,121 and as high as £55,293. For 1913 the gross profit amounted to £120,500 and the net profit to £54,647.

For 1914 the gross profits amounted to £119,465, as compared with £120,500. On the other hand, the expenses rose from £65,853 to £67,257, so that the net profit amounted to £52,208, as compared with £54,647. The dividend was maintained at 6 per cent., which absorbed £36,000.

Profits of the Colonial Bank.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amt. £	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914 ...	119,465	67,257	52,208	36,000	6	11,000	30,135
1913 ...	120,500	65,853	54,647	36,000	6	20,000	30,927
1912 ...	118,247	65,339	52,908	36,000	6	20,000	32,280
1911 ...	120,907	65,614	55,293	36,000	6	16,000	35,373
1910 ...	114,422	66,867	47,555	36,000	6	10,000	32,080
1909 ...	106,827	65,706	41,121	36,000	6	5,000	30,525
1908 ...	111,424	66,685	44,739	36,000	6	10,000	30,404
1907 ...	109,113	67,062	42,051	36,000	6	5,000	31,665
1906 ...	114,262	67,487	46,775	39,000	6½	—	30,614
1905 ...	108,597	66,527	42,070	42,000	7	—	22,839
1904 ...	113,005	65,610	47,395	42,000	7	—	22,769

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 8.7 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.0 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.5 per cent.

At the meeting in April last the Chairman said: "As to the future, it is quite impossible to prophesy, but the prices of sugar and also of cocoa are extremely good at present. I cannot say what may arise, but one has just reason for hoping that at all events the coming year may be good for the West Indies. You will have seen in the papers that we have made application to the Canadian Government to promote a bank in Canada. Every year the volume of business of the West Indies with Canada more and more tends to increase, and we have for some years wished to establish a branch there. In making application to the Government we were met in so favourable a manner that your directors thought it was desirable to take action at once, and though we are unable to act without authority from the British Government, we felt our hands would be strengthened in our application for such authority if we showed how readily the proposal to open a bank has been received in Canada."

The changes in the figures of the balance sheet at June 30 last are comparatively small as compared with those twelve months previously. The note circulation at £429,638 is £15,413 higher, but deposits have fallen from £2,276,515 to £2,203,247, while bills payable have dropped from £518,303 to £475,389. On the other side of the accounts cash has fallen from £676,805 to £626,142, while bills discounted and advances have dropped from £1,233,785 to £1,190,765. On the other hand, investments have gone up from £1,098,554 to £1,114,689. From the profits of the half-year to June 30 a sum of £18,000 was set aside as further provision for depreciation of investments, so that the value of the investments held by the Bank is in excess of the market prices as on June 30.

COLONIAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Melbourne.
London Office: 33 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital —

Authorised £737,931 10 0

Paid up { 31,184 Pref., £9¾, fully paid / 77,278 *Ordinary*, £4½, £1¼ paid } 439,280 10 0

Price of Preference, £11⅜. *Dividend*, 7%. *Yield*, £6 1*s.* 9*d.*%
,, *Ordinary*, £1¾. *Dividend*, 7%. ,, £7 2*s.* 6*d.*%

This Bank was originally established in 1856 but was reorganised in 1893. It has an authorised capital of £737,931 10*s.*, the amount paid up being £439,280 10*s.* The paid-up capital consists of 31,184 Preference shares, of which £9 15*s.* per share is paid up, these shares being fully paid, and 77,278 Ordinary shares of £4 5*s.* each, of which £1 15*s.* per share has been paid up. There is a further liability of £2 10*s.* callable per Ordinary share and £4 5*s.* reserve per Ordinary share, also £9 15*s.* per Preference share. The Preference shares are entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 5 per cent., and after payment of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary to rank equally with the latter in any dividend declaration. They are also entitled to priority for capital, with further participation after repaying the Ordinary shares, but when they shall have received 14 half-yearly dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum their preferential rights shall cease.

With an allocation of £10,000 from the profits of the six months to March 31 last, the reserve fund was brought up to £240,000. At March 31, 1915, the deposits amounted to £4,184,295, as compared

Liabilities of The Colonial Bank of Australasia, Limited.

Mar. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Govt. Deposits, Amount. £	Other Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Total Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Accept-ances. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities Amount. £
1915...	439,281	240,000	679,281	12·6	19,108	·4	209,023	3·9	414,160	3,770,135	4,184,295	77·9	259,018	4·8	24,652	·4	5,375,377
1914...	439,281	220,000	659,281	12·3	20,163	·4	386,067	7·3	420,707	3,612,531	4,033,238	75·7	207,690	3·9	20,860	·4	5,327,299
1913...	439,281	200,000	639,281	12·2	22,054	·4	311,198	5·9	438,435	3,654,247	4,092,682	77·9	168,510	3·2	20,269	·4	5,253,994
1912...	439,281	180,000	619,281	11·3	27,758	·5	415,897	7·6	525,050	3,634,257	4,158,307	76·2	218,810	4·0	20,084	·4	5,460,137
1911...	439,281	160,000	599,281	11·8	128,851	2·5	335,644	6·6	425,661	3,371,591	3,797,252	74·5	216,251	4·2	18,345	·4	5,095,624
1910...	439,281	140,000	579,281	11·8	138,752	2·8	286,702	5·8	438,819	3,285,107	3,723,926	75·4	187,318	3·8	21,879	·4	4,937,856
1905...	438,714	75,000	513,714	15·0	118,248	3·4	130,997	3·8	427,598	2,140,814	2,568,412	74·5	101,458	2·9	14,403	·4	3,447,212
1900...	402,436	10,000	412,436	12·9	116,716	3·7	111,574	3·5	342,099	2,172,675	2,514,774	79·0	21,805	·6	19,450	·3	3,187,755
1896...	849,516	—	849,516	25·5	99,455	3·0	95,247	2·8	—	—	1,282,835	68·6	—	—	3,588	·1	3,330,641

Assets of The Colonial Bank of Australasia, Limited.

Mar. 31	Coin, Bullion, Aust. Notes and Cash at Bankers. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice in London. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills and Remittances, &c. *in transitu* and in London. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted and other Advances. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Balances Due from Other Banks. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Liability to Customers for Acceptances. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises and Other Assets. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915...	1,057,364	19·6	101,158	1·9	—	—	866,012	16·1	2,862,841	53·3	31,899	·6	259,018	4·8	197,085	3·7	5,375,377
1914...	775,863	14·5	107,560	2·0	365,000	6·9	803,351	15·1	2,845,215	53·4	27,014	·5	207,690	3·9	195,606	3·7	5,327,299
1913...	921,282	17·5	109,023	2·1	85,000	1·6	866,589	16·5	2,851,559	54·3	49,123	·9	168,510	3·2	202,909	3·9	5,253,994
1912...	754,446	13·8	134,766	2·5	175,000	3·2	755,815	13·8	3,190,979	58·4	19,706	·4	218,810	4·0	210,615	3·9	5,460,137
1911...	758,418	14·9	132,949	2·6	115,000	2·3	770,106	15·1	2,861,501	56·1	23,621	·5	216,251	4·2	217,778	4·3	5,095,624
1910...	559,640	11·3	141,561	2·9	245,000	5·0	680,889	13·8	2,850,829	57·7	31,540	·6	187,318	3·8	241,079	4·9	4,937,856
1905...	533,608	15·5	109,046	3·2	—	—	228,536	6·6	2,178,940	63·2	45,525	1·3	101,458	3·0	250,059	7·2	3,447,212
1900...	653,804	20·5	44,649	1·4	—	—	90,220	2·9	2,080,439	65·2	18,088	·6	21,805	·7	278,170	8·7	3,187,755
1896...	390,227	11·8	1,000	—	—	—	28,119	·9	2,596,697	77·9	115,782	3·4	—	—	198,816	6·0	3,330,641

with £4,033,238. The acceptances also rose from £207,690 to £259,018, but the bills in circulation fell from £386,067 to £209,023. On the other side of the accounts the main change is in the holding of cash which rose from £775,863 to £1,057,364, but whereas in March 1914 the bank had money at call in London amounting to £365,000, this item had disappeared at March 31 last. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1896.

Steady growth is shown in the profits during recent years. For the twelve months to March 31, 1905, the gross profit was £89,941, and the net profit £37,609. For the twelve months to March 31, 1915, the gross profit was £134,857, and the net profit £56,542. Since 1910 the dividend has been maintained on both the Preference and Ordinary capital at 7%, while substantial sums have been set aside for reserve, &c., as may be seen from the following statement of the profits since 1905:—

Profits of the Colonial Bank of Australasia, Limited.

Year ended Mar. 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and Other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Total Dividend. Amt. £	Pref. %	Ord. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915...	134,857	78,315	56,542	30,750	7	7	22,000	8,277
1914...	136,656	78,316	58,340	30,750	7	7	27,000	4,485
1913...	136,498	78,563	57,935	30,750	7	7	27,000	3,894
1912...	128,570	74,081	54,489	30,750	7	7	22,000	3,710
1911...	119,074	69,857	49,217	30,750	7	7	22,000	1,970
1910...	111,684	66,976	44,708	30,750	7	7	12,000	5,502
1909...	106,482	59,271	47,211	28,553	6½	6½	21,000	3,543
1908...	102,891	60,153	42,738	26,356	6	6	15,000	5,886
1907...	95,788	54,124	41,664	26,356	6	6	15,000	4,504
1906...	89,528	51,809	37,719	21,959	5	5	15,000	4,196
1905...	89,941	52,332	37,609	21,937	5	5	15,000	3,436

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 12.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Collins Street, Melbourne.
London Office: Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised £3,150,000
Paid up (see letterpress below) 2,213,009
Prices: Preference Share (£10), £7. *Div.*, 4%. *Yield*, £5 14*s.* 4*d.*%
Ordinary Share (10*s.*), 17*s.* ,, Nil ,, Nil

THIS Bank was founded in March 1866, with its head office in Melbourne. It had a capital of £500,000, in 50,000 shares of £10 each, and power was taken to increase to £1,000,000. The prospectus pointed out that it was formed "substantially for the purpose of affording banking and monetary accommodation to large and important classes of the community whose claims for assistance and whose business position entitled them to a much larger share of credit than has hitherto been afforded by the existing banking institutions. To these classes, viz., the manufacturers, small traders, farmers, vignerons, and other producers it will be principally the aim of this institution to afford timely and suitable accommodation." In 1890 the paid-up capital was £1,200,000, while there was a reserve fund of £1,000,000 and the deposits were £10,560,877. Subsequently there

BECKETT'S BANKS.

HEAD OFFICE: LEEDS.

BRANCHES: Beverley, Bradford, Bridlington, Doncaster, Driffield, Goole, Harrogate, Helmsley, Hunslet, Kirby Moorside, Knaresborough, Malton, Pickering, Pocklington, Retford, Ripon, Scarborough, Scunthorpe, Starbeck, Tadcaster, Worksop, York.
AGENCIES: Askern, Bawtry, Crowle, Edwinstowe, Norton, Ollerton, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Thorne, Thornton Dale, Tickhill, Tuxford.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

DR.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
To Deposits and Credit Balances, including Partners' Balances	7,037,694	0	10
Notes in Circulation	53,320	0	0
Liability on Undue Drafts, and Foreign Bills negotiated...	228,957	5	10
Partners' Capital	600,000	0	0
	£7,919,971	6	8

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
By Cash in hand, with the Bank of England, and at Call ...	1,536,602	4	9
Treasury Bills	150,000	0	0
Bills in hand	321,170	12	2
Investments*—			
Consols, War Loan, Exchequer Bonds, Irish Land Stock and Transvaal Government Guaranteed Stock, India Government Short-dated Bonds and Stocks,† Canadian Government Stock, Bank of England Stock and Metropolitan Water Board Stock	828,374	0	0
Brought forward	828,374	0	0
Colonial and Foreign Government Stocks, Metropolitan and Leeds Corporation Stocks, Indian Guaranteed Railways Stocks, English Railway Debenture, Preference and Preferred Ordinary Stocks	955,622	0	0
English Railway Ordinary Stocks, and other Securities	479,717	0	0
			2,263,713	0	0
			4,321,485	16	11
Pre-Moratorium Stock Exchange Loans			158,532	0	0
Advances to Customers			3,033,393	17	2
Bank Premises			172,596	6	9
Liability on Undue Drafts, and on Foreign Bills negotiated, as per Contra			228,957	5	10
			£7,919,971	6	8

CR.

* These Investments have been valued at or under prices current on 27th July, the date of the last official making-up before the closing of the Stock Exchange. Investments made since that date are valued at cost or under. † £80,000 India Stock is deposited with the East Riding County Council.

We have compared the above Balance Sheet with the Books at Head Office and Branches, and find the same correctly drawn up, and in accordance therewith. We have examined the Bills and the Securities representing the Investments, and find them in order, and we have verified the correctness of the Cash Balances.
(Signed) TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO.,
Auditors.
LEEDS, 12th January, 1915.

Liabilities of The Commercial Bank of Australia.

Dec. 31	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Govt. Deposits. Amount. £	Other Deposits. Amount. £	Total Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Contingent Liability. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	1,452,346	16·3	34,794	·4	539,736	6·1	119,991	1·4	448,668	6,205,105	6,653,773	74·9	40,803	·4	49,997	·5	8,891,440
1913 ...	1,401,504	15·4	11,913	·1	367,611	4·0	116,472	1·3	431,493	6,237,040	6,668,533	73·1	515,288	5·7	39,450	·4	9,120,771
1912 ...	1,340,208	15·0	16,021	·2	511,978	5·8	130,730	1·4	522,520	5,741,303	6,263,823	70·1	630,728	7·1	38,120	·4	8,931,608
1911 ...	1,284,243	12·3	33,831	·3	629,233	6·0	101,854	·9	656,444	6,510,911	7,167,355	68·7	1,185,451	11·4	36,638	·4	10,438,605
1910 ...	1,230,899	12·9	257,135	2·7	442,270	4·6	172,259	1·8	681,912	5,162,646	5,844,558	61·3	1,552,842	16·3	38,272	·4	9,538,235
1905 ...	2,419,132(a)	34·2	163,160	2·3	447,640	6·3	148,972	2·1	497,941	3,353,779	3,851,720	54·4	—	—	46,199	·7	7,076,823
1900 ...	3,216,885	42·5	166,984	2·2	157,434	2·1	159,076	2·1	536,823	3,277,539	3,814,362	50·5	—	—	45,505	·6	7,560,246
1890 ...	2,200,000(b)	15·9	262,819	1·9	650,062	4·7	—	—	—	—	10,560,877	76·4	—	—	157,262	1·1	13,831,020
1880•...	361,000(c)	22·4	90,506	5·6	352	—	—	—	—	—	1,138,202	70·8	—	—	19,415	1·2	1,609,475
1867 ...	198,825	36·1	26,664	8·9	674	·2	—	—	—	—	163,523	54·2	—	—	1,911	·6	301,597

• June 30. (a) Includes a reserve of £206,500. (b) Includes a reserve of £1,000,000. (c) Includes a reserve of £15,000.

Assets of The Commercial Bank of Australia.

Dec. 31	Coin & Bullion, Australian Notes and Cash at Bankers. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice in London. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills and Remittances in transitu, &c. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted and other Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Balances Due from Other Banks. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Contingent Assets. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises Account, &c. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	1,901,216	21·4	77,723	·9	409,000	4·6	709,662	7·9	5,211,954	58·6	119,991	1·4	9,204	·1	21,500	·2	431,190	4·9	8,891,440
1913 ...	1,626,793	17·8	41,922	·5	1,025,000	11·2	858,863	9·4	4,973,775	54·5	116,472	1·3	15,891	·2	39,060	·4	423,055	4·7	9,120,771
1912 ...	1,416,304	15·9	44,986	·5	350,000	4·0	943,935	10·5	5,522,385	61·8	130,730	1·4	9,158	·1	101,000	1·2	413,110	4·6	8,931,608
1911 ...	2,277,723	21·8	59,600	·6	235,000	2·2	1,379,426	13·2	5,520,404	52·9	101,854	1·0	14,848	·1	428,000	4·1	421,750	4·1	10,438,605
1910 ...	1,413,001	14·8	102,776	1·1	515,000	5·4	978,116	10·2	5,327,617	55·9	172,259	1·8	16,731	·2	575,000	6·0	437,735	4·6	9,538,235
1905 ...	938,890	13·3	135,050	1·9	250,000	3·5	991,854	14·0	4,145,756	58·6	148,972	2·1	17,487	·2	—	—	448,814	6·4	7,076,823
1900 ...	1,067,567	14·1	120,116	1·6	—	—	320,394	4·2	4,552,525	60·2	159,076	2·1	18,869	·2	736,730	9·8	584,969	7·8	7,560,246
1890 ...	1,713,213	12·4	776,845	5·6	60,170	·5	—	—	10,896,712	78·8	—	—	97,690	·7	—	—	286,390	2·0	13,831,020
1880•...	217,574	13·5	12,000	·8	—	—	—	—	1,320,682	82·0	—	—	3,495	·2	—	—	55,724	3·5	1,609,475
1867 ...	64,779	21·5	—	—	—	—	1,871	·6	207,647	68·9	—	—	8,227	2·7	—	—	19,073	6·3	301,597

• June 30.

was the crisis, suspension, and reconstruction, which occurred in April 1893. Under the reconstruction scheme the capital was fixed at £4,800,000, but it was reduced in August 1902 to £3,150,000 by writing off £5 10s. per Ordinary share, reducing the nominal and paid-up amount of such shares to 10*s*. This reduction provided £1,039,726, which was partly applied in writing off the Bank's interest in the Special Assets Trust Company, Limited, the balance being placed to a suspense account pending the amount of the Bank's liability under its guarantee being finally determined. Until the deposit receipts are repaid one-third of the surplus profits, after paying the Preference dividend, will be placed to a special reserve fund or applied to the reinstatement of the capital, and no dividend in excess of 4 per cent. will be paid on the Ordinary shares. At December 31 last the contingent liability in connection with the guarantee for the payment of the deposits of the Special Assets Trust Company, Limited, amounted to £40,803, and there were contingent assets, consisting of the remaining assets of the old Bank, the value of which is estimated to be about £21,500. The paid-up capital is shown as £2,213,009, less an estimated deficiency in connection with the Special Assets Trust Company of £760,663, leaving the net actual capital £1,452,346. As stated above, the Assets Trust's deposits are now reduced to £40,803, and it is the intention of the directors to continue the systematic redemption of these receipts in order that the whole amount may be extinguished before their maturity.

In consequence of the establishment of a Federal note issue the Bank's circulation, which amounted to £257,135 in 1910, had dropped to £11,913 at the end of 1913. But in consequence of the exceptional events during the latter half of 1914 the note circulation rose at the end of the year to £34,794. Similarly the bills in circulation rose from £367,611 to £539,736. The deposits were comparatively stationary, amounting to £6,653,773, as compared with £6,668,533. On the other side of the accounts the cash rose from £1,626,793 to £1,901,216, but the call money fell from £1,025,000 to £409,000. Investments, however, rose from £41,922 to £77,723. Bills discounted and other advances rose from £4,973,775 to £5,211,954. Herewith we show the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since 1867.

In spite of the dislocation of business arising from the War, the gross profits for 1914 were rather larger than those for the previous year, amounting to £313,076, as compared with £312,186. A substantial rise, however, occurred in the expenses, which rose from £177,335 to £183,422, so that the net profit fell from £134,851 to £129,654. Nevertheless the dividend on the Preference shares was increased from 3 per cent. to 4 per cent., while a sum of £20,000 was appropriated to reinstatement of capital, and £5,000 was allocated for reduction of Bank premises.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 8.9 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.4 per cent. The profit statement since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profits. £	Divs. Pref. Amt. £	Divs. Pref. Shrs. %	Adjustment of Capital, Depn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914 ...	313,076	183,422	129,654	84,694	4	45,000	7,650
1913 ...	312,186	177,335	134,851	63,520	3	70,000	7,690
1912 ...	303,561	171,559	132,002	63,520	3	67,000	6,360
1911 ...	288,757	168,871	119,886	63,520	3	58,000	4,878
1910 ...	271,121	156,561	114,560	63,520	3	52,000	6,513
1909 ...	247,500	137,624	109,876	63,520	3	50,000	7,474
1908 ...	289,262	131,061	158,201	63,520	3	91,968	11,119
1907 ...	280,981	128,035	152,946	63,520	3	94,845	8,406
1906 ...	265,988	121,351	144,637	63,520	3	81,731	13,825
1905 ...	248,932	108,981	139,951	63,520	3	77,950	14,440
1904 ...	242,099	104,082	138,017	63,520	3	90,329	15,960

COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON, LTD.

(Formerly ANGLO-JAPANESE BANK).

Head Office. Dashwood House, 9 New Broad Street, London, E.C.

Tokio Office: 6 and 7 Tori, Nichome.

Capital—

Authorised, 100,000 Shares of £3 each ... £300,000
Subscribed, 60,000 Shares of £3 each ... 180,000
Paid up, £3 per Share 1 0,000
Price of Share, £2 nom. *Dividend*, Nil.

THE Commercial Bank of London, Limited, was formed in May 1906 under the title of the Anglo-Japanese Bank, Limited, with head offices in London, to carry on all descriptions of banking business in Japan, its dependencies, Korea and the Far East, and elsewhere. The prospectus pointed out that Japan possesses about a dozen native banks of importance, which are mainly associated with the internal trade, "but do not provide the prompt and extensive banking facilities so essential between commercial houses and the East and West, and required by the present speedy development of the country. The expediency of establishing an Anglo-Japanese bank has, consequently, so strongly appealed to the business community of Japan that some of its leading bankers and merchants have

Liabilities of The Commercial Bank of London (Anglo-Japanese Bank), Limited.

March 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915*	180,000	—	180,000	33·5	352,200	65·5	3,200	·6	2,357	·4	537,757
1913	300,000	40,000	340,000	36·0	593,313	62·8	6,650	·7	4,571	·5	944,534
1912	300,000	25,000	325,000	38·4	511,402	60·3	2,200	·2	9,348	1·1	847,950
1911	300,000	10,000	310,000	38·8	467,216	58·4	10,000	1·2	13,002	1·6	800,218
1910	300,000	—	300,000	42·1	393,737	55·2	—	—	19,263	2·7	713,000
1909	300,000	—	300,000	38·8	463,139	60·0	—	—	9,077	1·2	772,216
1908	300,000	—	300,000	81·0	56,887	15·4	13,650	3·6	—	—	370,537
1906†	299,115	—	299,115	89·2	35,912	10·8	—	—	—	—	335,027

Assets of The Commercial Bank of London (Anglo-Japanese Bank), Limited.

March 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Advances, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amt.	% of Total.	Preliminary Exp. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amt.
	£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£
1915* ...	22,637	4·2	352,384	65·7	110,242	20·4	—	—	47,884	8·8	3,200	·6	425	·1	1,285	·2	537,757
1913 ...	26,098	2·8	676,044	71·6	75,842	8·0	11,841	1·3	106,786	11·3	6,650	·7	1,273	·1	40,000	4·2	944,534
1912 ...	16,191	1·9	616,038	72·8	25,403	3·0	55,847	6·5	91,523	10·7	2,200	·3	748	·1	40,000	4·7	847,950
1911 ...	15,650	2·0	568,431‡	71·0	—	—	22,634	2·9	112,687	17·8	10,000	1·2	816	·1	40,000	5·0	800,218
1910 ...	28,238	3·9	508,363‡	71·3	—	—	30,196	4·3	99,912	14·1	—	—	823	·1	45,468	6·3	713,000
1909 ...	20,174	2·6	473,361‡	61·3	—	—	22,066	2·9	210,257	27·2	—	—	890	·1	45,468	5·9	772,216
1908 ...	19,486	5·3	133,440	36·0	18,676	5·0	27,756	7·5	111,096	30·0	13,650	3·7	965	·2	45,468	12·3	370,537
1906† ...	19,357	5·8	25,375	7·6	12,859	3·8	67,953	20·3	163,478	48·8	—	—	537	·1	45,468	13·6	335,027

* First statement of accounts of this Bank in its new form. † December 31. ‡ Including Consols at cost, £65,625.

intimated through Messrs. Okura and Company their intention to acquire £100,000 of the Company's capital." A local board was appointed in Japan, and an office has been opened in Tokio. A certain amount of progress has been made, but it should be recognised that any rapid growth has been a matter of impossibility considering the depression that has characterised Japan during the past few years, in which the burdens of the debt incurred during the war with Russia and of the continued heavy expenditures on the army and navy have pressed heavily on the country.

Some two years ago the trust companies associated with Lord St. Davids took a substantial interest in the Bank, and consequently a much more energetic policy has since been carried out, and apparently it is now the policy of the board to gradually retire from Japan and use funds more largely in ordinary banking business in this country. One effect of this new policy was the decision to change the name, and though in future the wider policy adopted will absorb the chief attention of the institution, all the Japanese business hitherto transacted will be continued, and the encashment of Japanese coupons and the purchase and sale of Japanese Government Internal bonds will still remain a special feature of the Bank's business.

In February 1914 a scheme was carried for extinguishing the liability and cancelling the lost capital. It was decided (1) to form a new Company with the same name, having a nominal capital of £300,000.

CHARTERED 1822.

The

Farmers' Loan & Trust Company.

HEAD OFFICE: 16, 18, 20 and 22 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK.
BRANCH OFFICE: 475 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

London: 15 COCKSPUR STREET, S.W.; 26 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.
Paris: 41 BOULEVARD HAUSSMANN.

Makes a speciality of the care and management of real and personal property in the United States for individuals, firms and companies, and will act as Agent, Custodian, Trustee or Executor.

Investments made in railroad and other securities. Income credited to drawing account or remitted or reinvested in accordance with owners' instructions. Interest allowed on time deposits.

Securities and bank balances held in New York, the property of non-resident foreign owners, are not subject to the payment of any American income tax or death duties.

Full information supplied at the offices of the Company.

EUROPEAN BANKERS.

London City and Midland Bank, Ltd., London.
Bank of Scotland, London.
Crédit Lyonnais, Paris.
Deutsche Bank, Berlin.
Dresdner Bank, Berlin.
I. & R. Priv. Austrian Society of Credit for Commerce and Industry, Vienna.
Banca Commerciale Italiana, Milan.
Union of London and Smiths Bank, Ltd., London.
Comptoir National D'Escompte, Paris.
Banque Française pour le Commerce et l'Industrie, Paris.
Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft, Berlin.
Deutsche Bank Filiale, Hamburg.
Amsterdamsche Bank, Amsterdam.
Société de Crédit Suisse, Zurich.
Credito Italiano, Milan.

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Ltd., London and Paris.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE. CABLE TRANSFERS.
LETTERS OF CREDIT PAYABLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

divided into 100,000 shares of £3 each; and (2) that the undertaking and assets of the existing Company should be made over to the new Company. Every shareholder received one share of £3 in the new Company credited as fully paid in respect of every £10 share on which £5 was paid up in the old Company. The new Company undertook the duties and liabilities of the existing Company and also the cost of winding up. Consequently, the issued capital of the new Company amounts to £180,000, leaving £120,000 to be held in reserve for future use. It will be seen that by reducing the paid-up capital from £300,000 to £180,000 there was available a sum of £120,000 for dealing with the preliminary expenses and the lost capital. As the preliminary expenses were £40,000, there was a sum of £80,000 available for providing against the lost capital, which doubtless consisted of the depreciation that has occurred in the amount of the investments.

It was hoped that the reorganisation would be accompanied by a fair measure of good fortune, and in the first four months of the new career the Bank found business proceeding satisfactorily, but the suddenness of the outbreak of war rendered it necessary to realise certain investments at a loss, while it had outstanding loans for £508,000, and at a realised loss of less than £10,000 this item was reduced to £337,000 at March 31 last. Since then the figure has been still further reduced, amounting to £240,000 in May last. Apart from the specific losses the continuance of the War has affected the business in all its departments, and it is not surprising that the gross profit for the twelve months to March 31, 1915, was only £8,007, as compared with £20,587 for the previous year. Naturally no dividend was forthcoming. The profit record since 1906 is as follows:—

Profits of the Commercial Bank of London (Anglo-Japanese Bank), Limited.

Year ended Mar. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Income Tax.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amt.	Dividend. Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Depra., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
1915*	8,007	4,933	716	2,358	—	Nil	1,285	1,073
1913...	20,587	9,515	849	10,223	—	Nil	15,000	4,571
1912...	22,445	10,243	855	11,347	—	Nil	15,000	9,348
1911...	20,431	11,224	—	9,207	—	Nil	15,468	13,001
1910...	21,022	10,837	—	10,185	—	Nil	—	19,262
1909...	23,721	12,820	—	10,901	—	Nil	—	9,077
1908...	16,028	15,127	—	901	—	Nil	—	Dr.1,824
1906†	3,767	6,492	—	—	—	Nil	—	Dr.2,725

* First statement. † December 31.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 1.3 per cent., and to the total working resources, .4 per cent.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LIMITED.

Head Office: 9 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £500,000

Issued, 259,979 "A" Shares, £1, fully paid ... } 261,417
1,438 "B" Shares, £1 each, fully paid }

Price of Share, 9*s.* 4*d.* (*fully paid*). *Dividend*, 3%. *Yield*, £6 8*s.* 4*d.*

The Bank was formed in 1904 under the title of the Cortes Commercial and Banking Company, Limited, to amalgamate the business of the London Bank of Central America, Limited (established 1893), with that of Enrique Cortes and Company, Limited (established 1881). In 1911 the present name was adopted.

The Bank operates chiefly in the Spanish Republics of Central America and the four northern republics of South America. In these countries banking is more closely connected with the commercial side of business than is the case in Europe, or even in the three large republics of South America. There is, in these countries, a scarcity of circulating medium, and the deposit and exchange business is naturally very limited. In the absence, therefore, of such facilities, the basis on which the business of a bank could be carried on successfully would be the produce of the country and the estates on which such produce is raised. The Bank must, consequently, be in a position to deal with the produce received as collateral, or cover, find the best markets for same, and, furthermore, be the intermediary between its local clients and the European manufacturers from whom they purchase their necessities in the way of manufactured goods, comestibles, &c.

The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, is adequately organised for this purpose, and has so far, with the limited means at its disposal, successfully carried on and developed such a business, especially financing coffee crops in Central America and Colombia, and rubber trade in the Amazon Valley, advancing against, shipping and selling in the European and North American markets the above-named products, as well as cocoa, sugar, hides, indigo, ivory, nuts, minerals, timber, &c., and carrying out the finance of, and attending to the transport and delivery of manufactured goods and all other articles imported into these countries, combined with an exchange and collection and general banking business.

In order to carry on such business safely it became essential to conduct it through the medium

Liabilities of The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Current Accounts, &c. Amount.	Current Accounts, &c. % of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	Bills Payable. % of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	Profit Balance. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914	261,417	31,000	292,417	50·8	123,181	21·4	146,122	25·3	14,682	2·5	576,402
1913	141,417	30,000	171,417	32·1	194,994	36·5	155,278	29·1	12,284	2·3	533,973
1912	141,417	25,000	166,417	42·1	64,642	16·4	156,157	39·5	7,637	2·0	394,853
1911	141,417	22,000	163,417	47·8	56,355	16·5	114,536	33·5	7,548	2·2	341,856
1910	141,417	20,000	161,417	51·1	49,113	15·6	97,620	30·9	7,501	2·4	315,651
1909	141,417	15,000	156,417	48·3	72,432	22·3	88,212	27·2	6,982	2·2	324,043
1908	141,417	11,500	152,917	32·1	129,737	27·2	186,493	39·2	6,946	1·5	476,093
1907	141,417	8,500	149,917	43·0	69,704	19·9	121,103	34·7	8,300	2·4	349,024
1906	141,417	6,500	147,917	41·8	42,062	11·9	155,388	43·9	8,494	2·4	353,861
1905	141,417	3,500	144,917	46·4	62,868	20·1	95,106	30·5	9,252	3·0	312,143

Assets of The Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited.

June 30	Cash in Hand, at Call and Short Notice. Amount.	Cash in Hand, at Call and Short Notice. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Bills, Receivable. Amount.	Bills, Receivable. % of Total.	Loans, Advances on Produce, &c. Amount.	Loans, Advances on Produce, &c. % of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount.	Miscellaneous. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914	34,475	6·0	53,664	9·3	14,491	2·5	437,715	76·0	36,057	6·2	576,402
1913	19,462	3·6	54,188	10·1	30,590	5·8	400,406	75·0	29,327	5·5	533,973
1912	40,137	10·2	26,000	6·6	58,566	14·8	217,073	55·0	53,077	13·4	394,853
1911	24,518	7·2	21,070	6·1	29,930	8·8	213,261	62·4	53,077	15·5	341,856
1910	20,573	6·5	16,860	5·3	60,619	19·2	164,722	52·2	52,877	16·8	315,651
1909	19,492	5·0	16,910	5·2	44,804	13·9	189,960	58·6	52,877	16·3	324,043
1908	12,414	2·6	16,750	3·5	38,155	8·0	355,797	74·8	52,977	11·1	476,093
1907	21,378	6·1	16,540	4·7	39,090	11·2	219,039	62·8	52,977	15·2	349,024
1906	49,987	14·1	16,720	4·7	34,077	9·6	200,100	56·6	52,977	15·0	353,861
1905	25,506	8·1	16,847	5·4	32,716	10·5	184,097	59·0	52,977	17·0	312,143

of branches, and the Bank has now established such branches in Managua, Nicaragua; Bogota and Medellin, Colombia; Iquitos, Peru; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Caracas, Venezuela; and San Salvador, Salvador.

Further, in 1912 a branch was established in New York, and in 1913 one was opened in Manchester, whilst the agency in Paris has been transferred to the Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur, which institution was established a few months ago by the Commercial Bank of Spanish America exclusively for this purpose.

It being evident that the Bank's capital would prove insufficient for such increased business, at a shareholders' meeting held in March 1913 it was decided to increase the capital, bringing the amount authorised to £500,000. In November 120,000 "A" shares were offered for subscription at par, thus bringing the paid-up capital to a total of £261,417.

The "A" shares are entitled to a non-cumulative preferential dividend of 6 per cent. and to participate *pari passu* with the "B" shares in the profits remaining after paying 3 per cent. on the latter; they are also entitled to priority for capital with further participation after paying the "B" shares. Holders of "B" shares are entitled on paying 10*s.* per share to have such shares converted into "A" shares, the 10*s.* per share going to reduce the goodwill account, which has been thus brought down from £50,677 to £26,057. Since July 1, 1913, a further 1,059 "B" shares have been converted, leaving outstanding 1,438 shares. The progress made by the Bank may be seen from the following statement of liabilities and assets for each year since the commencement.

Naturally, the most recent accounts available which cover the twelve months to June 30, 1914, are unaffected by war conditions, and the Bank is able to show a gross profit of £29,575, as compared with £27,515. But as the expenses have risen from £10,450 to £16,335, the net profit has fallen from £17,065 to £13,240, and in consequence of the outbreak of war the directors considered it more prudent to distribute a dividend of 3 per cent. only, instead of the customary 6 per cent., while the carry-forward was increased from £5,670 to £9,252. Herewith we set out the profit record since the formation of the Bank:

Profits of the Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Ltd.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit (after deduction of Reserve for Doubtful Debts).	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend Paid on— Amount.	"A" Shs.	"B" Shs.	Transferred to Reserve Fund.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1914 ...	29,575	16,335	13,240	[illegible]	3	Nil	4,228	9,252
1913 ...	27,515	10,450	17,065	6,614	6	Nil	6,919	5,670
1912 ...	20,562	12,045	8,517	5,444	6	Nil	3,000	2,137
1911 ...	16,602	9,124	7,478	5,444	6	Nil	2,000	2,064
1910 ...	19,231	8,263	10,968	5,444	6	Nil	5,000	2,031
1909 ...	17,833	8,866	8,967	5,444	6	Nil	3,500	1,508
1908 ...	17,296	8,670	[illegible]	5,444	6	Nil	3,000	1,486
1907 ...	20,135	11,396	8,739	5,444	[illegible]	3	2,000	1,304
1906 ...	21,717	11,603	10,114	5,444	6	2	3,000	1,529
1905* ...	[illegible]	11,368	11,252	6,352	7	3	3,500	1,380

* Fourteen months.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 4.5 per cent., and to the total working resources 2.3 per cent.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF TASMANIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Hobart, Tasmania.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,000,000
Subscribed, 80,000 Shares of £10 each	800,000
Paid up, £2 10*s.* per Share	200,000

The Commercial Bank of Tasmania, Limited, is one of the smaller of our colonial banking institutions. It dates back to 1832, and though its growth has not been of an exceptionally rapid character, yet it has built up a strong position and has done very well



PARR'S BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1865.

CAPITAL.

Authorised - -	£15,000,000	Paid up - - -	£2,423,530
Issued - - -	12,117,650	Reserve Fund -	2,100,000

DIRECTORS.

CECIL F. PARR, *Chairman.*
R. WALTER WHALLEY, *Deputy-Chairman.*
HENRY J. BADCOCK.
EDWARD BANBURY.
The Hon. HUGO BARING.
H. CARY G. BATTEN.
The Hon. FRANCIS N. CURZON.
ROBERT E. DICKINSON.
N. FFARINGTON ECKERSLEY.
ARTHUR J. FRASER.
JOHN R. P. GOODDEN.
ALFRED HEWLETT.
The Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE H. MURRAY, G.C.B.
EDWARD W. NIX.
A. ALLAN SHAND.
The Hon. ARTHUR STANLEY, M.P.
R. HUGH TENNANT.
ALFRED MORRISON TURNER.

Head Office – 4, Bartholomew Lane, London.

JOHN STEWART, JOHN RAE, *Joint General Managers.*
F. W. INGALL, *Asst. General Manager.*
F. E. STEELE, *Superintendent of Branches.*
JAMES DAVEY, *Asst. Superintendent of Branches.*
JOHN A. CHADWICK, *Accountant.*
E. D. HYATT, *Secretary.*
A. G. PEACE, *Manager;* J. H. COMFORT, and C. J. PROUD, *Joint Asst. Managers* (Bartholomew Lane Office).

BRANCHES.

METROPOLITAN.
52 Threadneedle Street, E.C.
77 Lombard Street, E.C.
7 Cannon Street, E.C.
1 Finsbury Square, E.C.
87 Fleet Street, E.C.
126 High Holborn, W.C.
1 Cavendish Square, W.
239 Regent Street, W.
88 High Street, Kensington, W.
AND 28 OTHERS.

LIVERPOOL.
MANCHESTER.
BATH.
BEDFORD.
BIRMINGHAM.
BOURNEMOUTH.
PROVINCIAL.
BRISTOL.
CHESTER.
CHESTERFIELD.
DERBY.
EXETER.
JERSEY.
LEICESTER.
ST. HELENS.
WARRINGTON.
WIDNES.
WIGAN.
AND 278 OTHERS.

Every description of banking business is transacted at the Head Office and Branches.

The numerous Branches of the Bank, and the agencies of other banking institutions throughout the world acting as correspondents of Parr's Bank Limited, afford every facility to customers for the receipt and transmission of money at home and abroad, and for the collection of Bills and Drafts.

Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, payable at any of the Chief Commercial Cities and Towns of the World, are provided.

The Bank having the necessary powers, is prepared, in approved cases, to undertake the offices of Executor, Trustee, and Custodian Trustee. Particulars may be obtained from any Office of the Bank.

Every Officer of the Bank is bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of customers.

Liabilities of The Commercial Bank of Tasmania, Limited.

Feb.	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Due to Other Banks. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915	200,000	255,000	455,000	19·0	5,086	·2	1,910,862	79·8	.	.	23,120	1·0	2,394,068
1914	200,000	245,000	445,000	1 ·6	5,847	·3	1,919,117	80·1	–	–	24,589	1·0	2,394,553
1913	175,000	210,000	385,000	16·8	7,630	·4	1,878,870	81·9	—	—	22,311	·9	2,293,811
1912	175,000	200,000	375,000	17·2	12,454	·6	1,765,776	81·1	-	—	22,827	1·1	2,176,057
1911	175,000	190,000	365,000	17·0	62,796	2·9	1,690,249	79·0	-	-	22,646	1·1	2,140,691
1910	175,000	185,000	360,000	18·3	61,164	3·1	1,525,920	77·5	—	—	22,249	1·1	1,969,333
1905	141,493	125,000	266,493	14·2	55,861	3·0	1,454,178	77·7	78,933	4·2	16,042	·9	1,871,507
1900	141,493	100,000	241,493	13·7	48,171	2·7	1,472,101	83·2	—	—	7,591	·4	1,769,356
1890	125,000	150,000	275,000	13·2	66,700	3·2	1,722,078	82·8	—	—	15,708	·8	2,079,486

Assets of The Commercial Bank of Tasmania, Limited.

Feb.	Specie, Bullion and Australian Notes. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Due from Other Banks. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable and Other Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915	537,170	22·5	157,800	6·6	85,453	3·6	1,555,642	64·9	58,003	2·4	2,394,068
1914	353,749	14·7	203,000	8·5	42,391	1·8	1,740,319	72·7	55,094	2·3	2,394,553
1913	371,447	16·2	203,000	8·9	33,113	1·4	1,632,212	71·1	54,039	2·4	2,293,811
1912	381,988	17·6	191,800	8·8	51,134	2·3	1,503,515	69·1	47,620	2·2	2,176,057
1911	298,220	14·0	177,800	8·3	148,602	7·0	1,467,367	68·5	48,702	2·2	2,140,691
1910	195,641	9·9	215,800	10·9	28,896	1·5	1,480,021	75·2	48,975	2·5	1,969,333
1905	343,214	18·3	228,404	12·2	—	—	1,268,970	67·8	30,919	1·7	1,871,507
1900	272,969	15·4	158,019	8·9	223,171	12·6	1,080,307	61·1	34,890	2·0	1,769,356
1890	212,020	10·2	76,619	3·7	127,543	6·1	1,639,704	78·9	23,600	1·1	2,079,486

for its shareholders. In addition to its head office at Hobart it has 15 branches. By 1890 the paid-up capital amounted to £125,000, while a reserve fund of £150,000 had been accumulated. Five years later the paid-up capital was £141,493, and the reserve was £190,000. But as a result of the financial troubles it was necessary to draw on the reserve, and by 1900, with no change occurring in the paid-up capital, the reserve fund was £100,000. The capital remained unaltered until 1906, when it was increased to £150,000, the reserve amounting to £132,500. In 1908 the capital was increased to £175,000, the reserve fund being the same. During 1913 the capital was again increased, it now standing at £200,000 and the reserve at £260,000. In 1890 the deposits were £1,722,078, but in 1895 they had fallen to £1,350,058.

Between 1895 and 1910 comparatively little growth was shown, but from 1910 to 1914 a steady and substantial advance occurred, the deposits rising from £1,525,920 to £1,919,117. A slight recession occurred in February 1915, when the amount was £1,910,862. On the other side of the accounts, the cash rose from £353,749 in February 1914 to £537,170 in February 1915. The advances, &c., however, fell from £1,740,319 to £1,555,642. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years since 1890.

For the twelve months to February 1915 the Bank showed a gross profit of £68,279, as compared with £68,423. After providing for expenses, &c., there was a net profit of £37,932. The dividend was maintained at 14 per cent., while £10,000 was carried to reserve. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the Commercial Bank of Tasmania, Limited.

Year ended February	Gross Profit. £	Expenses. £	Taxes. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amt. £	Rate. %	Reserve Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	68,279	29,681	666	37,932	29,400	14	10,000	3,421
1914 ...	68,423	29,687	734	38,002	27,562	14	10,000	4,889
1913 ...	64,804	28,419	2,400	33,985	24,500	14	10,000	4,449
1912 ...	64,306	26,665	2,960	34,681	24,500	14	10,000	4,964
1911 ...	63,213	25,242	2,531	35,440	22,750	13	14,000	4,783
1910 ...	57,974	23,751	2,395	31,828	21,000	12	10,000	6,093
1909 ...	57,676	24,016	2,296	31,364	21,000	12	10,000	5,265
1908 ...	58,011	22,123	2,579	33,309	19,500	12	13,500	4,901
1907 ...	49,712	20,205	2,032	27,475	18,000	12	8,000	4,592
1906 ...	52,111*	19,662	1,986	30,463	17,490	12	13,470	3,117
1905 ...	45,877	19,276	1,881	24,720	14,150	10	10,000	3,614

* Including £8,507 premium on new shares.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 18.9 per cent., to the capital and reserve combined 8.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.6 per cent.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.

Head Office: George Street, Sydney.
London Office: 18 Birchin Lane, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised £4,000,000
Subscribed, 160,000 Shares, £25 each ... 4,000,000
Paid up, £12 10*s.* per Share 2,000,000
Price of Share, £25. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, £5 1*s.* 3*d.*%

With the exception of its London office the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney has confined its business entirely to New South Wales and Queensland, thereby differing to some extent from other financial institutions, which have spread themselves over the whole of the Commonwealth. The Company was started as a co-partnery in 1834, and it was not until 1848 that it was incorporated. The original capital was £300,000 in shares of £100. It was proposed to raise at first £30,000 by a payment of £10 per share. The first report issued, which covered the quarter to December 1834, showed that a paid-up capital of £30,467 had been secured, the note circulation amounted to £8,143, and the deposits were £22,630. Capital increases frequently occurred, and at the end of 1911 the amount paid up was £1,500,000, but owing to the expansion of the business the directors decided in February 1912 to further increase the capital to £1,750,000 by the creation of 20,000 new shares, which were issued to the shareholders at par, the allotment being in the proportion of one new share to each six shares held.

A further increase to £2,000,000 took place during the second half of 1913, and at December 31, 1914, the whole amount was paid up. The growth of the reserve fund has been very substantial. It was not until 1879 that the amount exceeded £500,000, but by 1893 it amounted to £1,000,000. From 1894 to 1902 it remained at £1,010,000, since which date it has steadily increased year by year, until at the end of 1914 it reached a total of £1,730,000.

From the profits of the six months to June 30 last a further £25,000 was added to the reserve, so that at the present time it stands at £1,755,000. The note issue, which at the end of 1910 stood at £631,538, has in consequence of the establishment of a Federal issue steadily dwindled away, and at the end of 1914 it amounted to £18,744 only. At June 30 last it had further fallen to £16,952. At the end of 1914 the deposits amounted to £22,228,133, while at June 30 last they reached a total of £25,071,778. The bills in circulation at the end of 1913 amounted to £1,522,363; at the end of 1914 they had dropped to £865,207. On the other side of the accounts, the cash in hand rose

Liabilities of The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount	% of Total.	Bills in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914	2,000,000	1,730,000	3,730,000	13·8	18,744	·1	22,228,133	82·2	865,207	3·2	195,961	·7	27,038,045
1913	1,976,169	1,630,000	3,606,169	13·6	25,514	·1	21,156,322	79·8	1,522,363	5·7	195,229	·8	26,505,597
1912	1,739,553	1,540,000	3,279,553	13·0	37,058	·1	20,589,544	81·0	1,310,309	5·2	186,551	·7	25,403,015
1911	1,500,000	1,460,000	2,960,000	11·6	79,843	·3	20,948,704	82·2	1,332,055	5·2	160,557	·7	25,481,159
1910	1,500,000	1,380,000	2,880,000	11·7	631,538	2·5	19,622,848	79·7	1,320,467	5·4	159,827	·7	24,614,680
1905	1,000,000	1,085,000	2,085,000	12·5	488,627	2·9	13,165,595	79·1	821,883	4·9	93,889	·6	16,654,994
1900	1,000,000	1,010,000	2,010,000	13·5	514,013	3·4	11,218,243	75·2	1,094,347	7·4	78,375	·5	14,914,978
1890	600,000	790,000	1,390,000	10·5	504,388	3·8	10,671,107	80·6	566,488	4·3	107,419	·8	13,239,402
1880	575,000	570,000	1,145,000	16·0	430,639	6·0	5,466,971	76·4	7,130	·1	104,741	1·5	7,154,481
1870	400,000	120,000	520,000	19·3	225,667	8·4	1,886,666	70·1	2,490	·1	58,265	2·1	2,693,088
1861	320,000	64,000	384,000	24·3	171,111	10·9	990,265	62·7	3,585	·2	31,340	1·9	1,580,301

Assets of The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin and Bullion, Cash, Govt. and other Notes. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Money at Short Call in London. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914... ...	5,844,195	21·6	3,539,025	13·1	546,512	2·0	14,851,835	54·9	1,679,735	6·2	576,743	2·2	27,038,045
1913... ...	5,579,225	21·0	2,383,925	8·9	1,085,000	4·1	13,660,704	51·6	3,241,150	12·3	555,593	2·1	26,505,597
1912... ...	4,153,383	16·3	2,550,425	10·0	960,000	3·8	14,091,956	55·6	3,108,308	12·2	538,943	2·1	25,403,015
1911... ...	4,671,963	18·4	2,949,725	11·6	950,000	3·7	13,762,775	54·0	2,636,108	10·3	510,588	2·0	25,481,159
1910... ...	5,948,049	24·1	2,668,875	10·3	1,270,135	5·1	11,564,052	47·0	2,676,114	11·0	487,455	2·0	24,614,680
1905... ...	3,482,333	21·0	1,400,600	8·4	1,087,850	6·5	8,318,151	49·9	1,906,635	11·4	459,425	2·3	16,654,994
1900... ...	2,379,734	16·3	1,812,776	12·1	—	—	9,375,552	62·8	921,516	6·1	425,400	3·3	14,914,978
1890... ...	1,744,493	13·1	853,700	6·5	—	—	10,271,209	77·3	—	—	370,000	2·8	13,239,402
1880... ...	1,137,272	15·9	521,700	7·3	—	—	5,356,509	74·9	—	—	139,000	1·9	7,154,481
1870... ...	326,857	12·1	83,932	3·1	—	—	2,232,239	82·9	—	—	50,000	1·9	2,693,088
1861... ...	328,207	20·8	—	—	—	—	1,227,841	77·7	—	—	24,253	1·5	1,580,301

from £5,579,225 to £5,844,195, while call money in London fell from £1,085,000 to £546,512. Investments, however, rose from £2,383,925 to £3,539,025; bills discounted also rose from £13,660,704 to £14,851,835; but bills receivable, &c., dropped from £3,241,150 to £1,679,735. We set out herewith a statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1861.

At the time of the crisis in 1893 the Bank occupied a strong financial position, but in view of the Federal deposits and the number of stoppages the directors decided to protect their depositors by a reconstruction, under which the paid-up capital was increased to £400,000. It was not necessary to draw upon the reserve fund, and in spite of the temporary falling off in the amount of the deposits, as we have already indicated, the upward movement continued apace, and the temporary absence of progress was soon made good. As regards the shareholders, the Bank paid a dividend of 25 per cent. for each year from 1876 to 1892, but as a result of the troublous times profits fell from £168,000 for 1892 to £62,000 for 1893, and

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LIMITED

(ESTABLISHED 1836),
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE YORK CITY AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

Authorised Capital ... ... **£20,000,000** **Paid-up Capital** **£2,970,000**
Subscribed Capital ... ... **19,800,000** **Reserve Fund** **1,125,000**

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM BENNETT, Esq.
W. FLEMING BLAINE, Esq.
WILLIAM T. BRAND, Esq.
WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.
STANLEY CHRISTOPHERSON, Esq.
Right Hon. The EARL OF DENBIGH.
ALEXANDER H. GOSCHEN, Esq.
JOHN RICHARD HILL, Esq.
O. E. JOHNSTON, Esq.
CHARLES THOMAS MILBURN, Esq. [G.C.M.G.
Rt. Hon. The VISCOUNT MILNER, G.C.B.,
Sir S. NEUMANN, Bart.
E. M. RODOCANACHI, Esq.
Right Hon. The EARL ST. ALDWYN.
Sir EDWARD D. STERN, D.L.
E. R. TURTON, Esq., M.P.
FALCONER L. WALLACE, Esq.

YORK AND COUNTRY ADVISORY BOARD.

WILLIAM BURNYEAT, Esq. | JOHN RICHARD HILL, Esq. | RICHARD T. C. LYTH, Esq. | Major ROBERT BELL TURTON.

Head Office: 5 PRINCES STREET, LONDON, E.C.

CHARLES GOW, *General Manager.*
B. DAY, *Assistant Manager.*
J. F. DARLING, *Deputy General Manager.*
T. H. OXLEY, *Country Manager.*
W. J DYER, *Head Office Manager.*
E. J. ETHERIDGE, *Secretary.*

LOTHBURY OFFICE, 6 Lothbury, E.C.—GEO. R. GALLAHER, *Manager.*

The Bank has 312 Metropolitan and Country Branches and Sub-Branches.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1914.

Dr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	*Cr.*
To Capital Authorised— 200,000 Shares of £100 each ...	20,000,000 0 0		By Cash in hand and at the Bank of England	8,112,792 0 11		
Capital Issued — 198,000 Shares on which £15 per Share has been called and paid		2,970,000 0 0	Money at Call and Short Notice ...	4,033,300 0 0	12,146,092 0 11	
Reserve Fund		1,125,000 0 0	Investments—(valued at or under 27th July, 1914, prices, and subsequent purchases at or under cost):—			
Amount due by the Bank on Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		40,600,378 1 2	Consols, War Loan and other Securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government, of which £35,000 (Stock) is lodged with Public Bodies	2,936,546 15 0		
Acceptances on Account of Customers		3,122,445 19 3	Indian, Colonial Government and other Securities	4,088,088 0 7	7,024,634 15 7	
Rebate of Interest on Bills Discounted, not yet due, carried to New Account		52,723 15 0	Bills Discounted		6,069,396 0 10	
Amount of Net Profit for the year ended 31st December, including £62,326 10s. 1d. balance of Profit and Loss Account, 31st December, 1913 ...	£515,506 3 11		Loans, Advances, and other Accounts and Securities, including Stock Exchange Loans under Treasury Minute of 31st October, 1914		18,715,399 16 7	
Less Special reserve for depreciation in Investments or other contingencies	£100,000		Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances as per contra		3,122,445 19 3	
Interim Dividend ...	163,350		Freehold and Leasehold Premises		1,044,735 6 2	
	263,350 0 0	252,156 3 11				
		£48,122,703 19 4			£48,122,703 19 4	

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LIMITED.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet dated the 31st December, 1914, and the Profit and Loss Account for the year to that date.
The Accounts of the Head Office in Princes Street and of the Branches within the Metropolitan area and district have been examined by the undersigned William Plender and William Cash, and the Accounts of the Country Branches have been examined by the undersigned, William B. Peat.
We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and, in our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the Books of the Company at the Head Office, in which the Returns from the Branches have been incorporated.

WM. PLENDER (Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co.),
WM. CASH (Cash, Stone & Co.),
W. B. PEAT (W. B. Peat & Co.).
} Auditors

London: 19th January, 1915.

the dividend was reduced to 5 per cent. This was followed by five payments of 8 per cent. per annum and one of 8½ per cent. For 1900 the rate was raised to 10 per cent., and it has been maintained at this figure for each year since.

A prosperous time was enjoyed during 1914, and the profit rose from £272,364 to £287,489. The 10 per cent. dividend called for £199,258, and of the balance £75,000 was carried to reserve, while the carry-forward was increased from £57,730 to £70,961.

The profit and dividend record since 1904 is shown herewith:—

Profits of the Commercial Bank of Sydney.

Year ended Dec. 31	Profit.	Dividend. Amount.		Balance.	Balance.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	%	£	£	£
1914 ...	287,489	199,258	10	88,231	75,000	70,961
1913 ...	272,364	174,883	10	97,481	100,000	57,730
1912 ...	255,994	161,302	10	94,692	80,000	60,249
1911 ...	237,991	150,000	10	87,991	80,000	45,557
1910 ...	234,956	150,000	10	84,956	80,000	37,566
1909 ...	220,933	149,776	10	71,157	80,000	32,610
1908 ...	182,679	130,604	10	52,075	40,000	41,452
1907 ...	154,805	111,288	10	43,517	40,000	29,377
1906 ...	134,004	100,000	10	34,004	30,000	25,860
1905 ...	130,467	100,000	10	30,467	30,000	21,856
1904 ...	131,125	100,000	10	31,125	30,000	21,389

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 14.4 per cent., to the capital and reserve combined 7.7 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Head Office: Sydney, New South Wales.
London Office: 36-38 New Broad Street, E.C.

THE Commonwealth Bank of Australia was established in 1912 under a special Act of the Federal Parliament, and opened for general banking business both in Australia and London on January 20, 1913. It has thus been in operation for about two and a-half years, during which period it has made rapid progress for a new institution. As many of our readers are aware, the Bank is wholly owned and guaranteed by the Commonwealth of Australia, which is responsible for all its obligations. It possesses branches in the Metropolitan cities of all the Australian States, and also at Canberra, the Federal capital, and elsewhere, with agencies throughout the whole of Australia. At the end of 1913 the deposits were £2,378,522, while by the end of December 1914 they had risen to £4,970,881. By June 30 last they had risen to the large total of £8,547,526. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets at the end of 1913, at the end of 1914, and as at June 30 last:—

	June 30, 1915. Amt.	Propn. of Total	Dec. 31, 1914. Amt.	Propn. of Total.	Dec. 31, 1913. Amt.	Propn. of Total.
LIABILITIES.	£	%	£	%	£	%
Deposits	8,547,526	50·9	4,970,881	43·8	2,378,522	36·4
Bills payable and other liabilities	750,328	4·4	285,051	2·5	434,884	6·6
Savings Bank Department:						
Depositors' balances ...	7,446,436	44·4	6,078,392	53·5	3,732,819	57·0
Reserve, &c.	2,221	—	—	—	—	—
Acceptances	47,742	·3	26,180	·2	3,751	—
Total	16,794,253	100·0	11,360,504	100·0	6,558,976	100·0
ASSETS.						
Coin, bullion and cash balances	4,418,668	26·3	3,611,707	31·8	1,582,217	24·1
Australian notes	568,047	3·4	379,800	3·3	38,422	·5
Money at short call in London	2,840,000	16·9	395,000	3·5	900,000	13·7
Investments:						
British, Colonial and Government securities	5,479,480	32·6	3,292,209	29·0	1,929,095	29·3
Fixed deposits of other banks	906,000	5·4	922,500	8·1	840,000	13·2
Bills receivable, bills discounted, loans and advances to customers, and other sums due to the Bank ...	2,379,953	14·1	2,634,262	23·2	1,184,114	18·0
Liability of customers for acceptances	47,742	·3	26,180	·2	3,751	—
Bank premises	128,574	·8	75,189	·7	36,088	·5
Profit and loss	25,788	·2	23,567	·2	45,089	·7
Total	16,794,253	100·0	11,360,504	100·0	6,558,976	100·0

The progress that has been made may be further gathered from the fact that the profits for the six months to June 30, 1915, are sufficient to wipe out the whole of the debit balance brought about by establishment costs in opening branches throughout Australia, and transfer a sum of £1,110 for starting a reserve fund and a similar sum for starting a redemption fund. The profit statement is as follows:—

	Half-Year to June 30, 1915.	Year ended Dec. 31, 1914.	Half-Year to Dec. 31, 1913.
	£	£	£
Profit	25,788	21,522	1,547
Reserves	2,221	—	—
	23,567	21,522	1,547
Brought forward ...	... Dr. 23,567	Dr. 45,089	Dr. 46,636
Carried forward	—	Dr. 23,567	Dr. 45,089

DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 5 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised £500,000
Paid up, 13,505 Shares of £25 each, fully paid 337,625
Price of Share, £16½. *Div.*, 4%. *Yield*, £6 1s. 3d.%

THE Delhi and London Bank, Limited, was established in India in 1844 by Lord Lawrence and others. Its head office is in London, the transfer from India

Liabilities of The Delhi and London Bank, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable. Amt.	% of Total.	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit and Balance. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915	337,625	23,500	361,125	18·6	27,812	1·5	66,258	3·4	1,467,856	75·9	11,809	·6	1,934,860
1914	337,625	21,000	358,625	16·0	39,873	1·8	33,935	1·5	1,800,235	80·1	14,027	·6	2,246,695
1913	337,625	14,000	351,625	15·3	—	—	76,091	3·3	1,855,876	80·7	15,736	7	2,299,328
1912	337,625	10,500	348,125	15·9	—	—	64,427	2·9	1,767,739	80·6	13,653	·6	2,193,944
1911	337,625	8,500	346,125	16·8	—	—	64,809	3·1	1,636,486	79·5	12,848	6	2,060,268
1910	337,625	6,500	344,125	18·5	—	—	30,009	1·6	1,476,078	79·3	12,103	·6	1,862,315
1905	337,625	—	337,625	18·4	—	—	5,111	·3	1,471,731	80·6	12,137	·7	1,826,604
1900	337,625	—	337,625	19·8	—	—	9,251	·6	1,340,718	78·8	14,063	·8	1,701,657
1890	337,625	—	337,625	23·0	—	—	4,645	·3	1,114,566	75·9	11,852	·8	1,468,688
1880	337,625	—	337,625	28·8	—	—	—	—	822,784	70·2	11,066	1·0	1,171,475
1870	337,625	—	337,625	38·4	—	—	—	—	534,668	60·9	6,062	·7	878,355
1865	316,184	14,175	360,359	28·2	—	—	—	—	873,095	69·9	15,926	1·8	1,249,380

Assets of The Delhi and London Bank, Limited.

June 30	Cash in Hand, at Call and Short Notice. Amount.	% of Total.	Government Securities. Amount.	% of Total.	Other Securities, &c., Bills Purchased, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted, Loans, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	237,185	12·2	157,313	8·1	204,940	10·6	1,261,185	65·2	27,812	1·5	46,425	2·4	1,934,860
1914 ...	226,001	10·0	113,867	5·0	234,320	10·4	1,586,852	70·7	39,873	1·8	45,782	2·1	2,246,695
1913 ...	208,848	9·1	113,432	4·9	291,554	12·7	1,642,690	71·5	-	-	42,804	1·8	2,299,328
1912 ...	212,712	9·7	113,320	5·1	289,375	13·2	1,547,541	70·6	-	—	30,996	1·4	2,193,944
1911 ...	257,685	12·5	110,846	5·3	237,748	11·6	1,413,905	68·7	-	—	40,084	1·9	2,060,268
1910 ...	199,022	10·7	120,728	6·4	277,805	15·0	1,223,885	65·7	—	-	40,875	2·2	1,862,315
1905 ...	186,870	10·2	73,053	4·0	79,076	4·3	1,455,041	79·7	—	—	32,564	1·8	1,826,604
1900 ...	108,167	6·4	74,038	4·3	52,895	3·1	1,419,078	83·4	—	—	47,479	2·8	1,701,657
1890 ...	70,650	4·8	202,378	13·8	254,585	17·3	899,905	61·3	-	—	41,170	2·8	1,468,688
1880 ...	99,481	8·5	155,772	13·3	239,087	20·4	635,465	54·2	—	—	41,670	3·6	1,171,475
1870 ...	29,216	3·3	105,633	12·0	411,097	46·8	289,606	33·0	—	-	42,803	4·9	878,355
1865 ...	90,182	7·2	45,614	3·7	462,926	37·0	636,218	50·9	—	—	14,440	1·2	1,249,380

being effected in 1865. Until that year the name was the Delhi Bank Corporation, but since 1865 it has been known by its present title. In addition to its head office the Bank has seven offices open in India, at Amritsar, Calcutta, Delhi, Karachi, Lucknow, Mussoorie, and Simla. During the Indian Mutiny the Bank house in Delhi was plundered, and many of the books were destroyed, but fortunately a duplicate set of books in the native character was at the residence of the Bank's treasurer. This set was kept safely all through the siege, and when Delhi was retaken by the Government troops these vernacular copies of the accounts proved of great service. The authorised capital is £500,000, in 20,000 shares of £25 each, and 13,505 shares have been subscribed and are fully paid, thus making the paid amount £337,625. It may be added that no change has occurred in the amount paid up for many years past. For some time the Bank suffered from legacies of bad business, and in 1900 it was estimated that a provision of £20,000 would be necessary to provide for various losses. The situation was boldly faced, however, and at length by 1907 the whole of the sum was provided for. Since then the Bank has been able to build up a reserve fund. At the end of 1909 the reserve fund amounted to £6,500, at the end of 1910 it rose to £7,500, and at the present time it is £23,500.

In 1870 we find the deposits were but little in excess of £500,000. In the following 20 years they doubled, reaching £1,114,566 in 1890. By 1910 they had risen to £1,476,078, while the high water mark was touched at June 30, 1913, when they reached a total of £1,855,876; the following year they dropped to £1,800,235, while the outbreak of war brought about a shrinkage in the business, and the deposits at June 30 last fell to £1,467,856. Similarly on the other side of the accounts bills discounted and loans fell from £1,586,852 at June 30, 1914, to £1,261,185 at June 30, 1915. We set out herewith the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1865.

Up to 1914 a steady growth was shown in the profits, the gross profit at June 30, 1914, amounting to £59,512, as compared with £42,622 at June 30, 1905. For the twelve months to June 30 last the gross profit fell to £52,223, and after deduction of expenses there was a net profit of £13,896, which compares with £20,071 for the year to June 30, 1914. For many years past the dividend has been maintained at the steady rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the Delhi and London Bank, Limited.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividends* Amount. £	%	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	52,223	38,337	13,896	12,942	4	1,000	5,056
1914 ...	59,512	39,441	20,071	15,505	4	6,319	5,102
1913 ...	56,992	36,686	20,306	13,505	4	6,746	4,855
1912 ...	52,607	35,064	17,543	13,505	4	3,709	4,800
1911 ...	51,294	33,814	17,480	13,505	4	3,232	4,472
1910 ...	48,321	32,526	15,795	13,505	4	2,212	3,728
1909 ...	48,688	30,366	18,322	13,505	4	7,335	3,649
1908 ...	48,580	29,797	18,783	13,505	4	5,000	6,167
1907 ...	46,567	28,636	17,931	13,505	4	3,500	5,890
1906 ...	45,210	28,126	17,084	13,505	4	3,000	4,964
1905 ...	42,622	26,822	15,800	13,505	4	2,000	4,384

* Free of tax.

The proportion that the net profits for 1915 bear to the paid-up capital is 4.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined the proportion is 3.9 per cent., while to the total working resources the proportion works out at .7 per cent.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(REGISTERED IN JAPAN.) ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital - - - Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up - - - „ 30,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - „ 19,600,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES AT

ANTUNG-HSIEN.
BOMBAY.
CALCUTTA.
CHANGCHUN.
DAIREN (Dalny).
HANKOW.
HARBIN.
HONG KONG.
HONOLULU.
KOBE.
LIAO YANG.
LONDON.
LOS ANGELES.
LYONS.
FENGTIEN (Mukden).
NAGASAKI.
NEWCHWANG.
NEW YORK.
OSAKA.
PEKING.
RYOJUN (Port Arthur).
SAN FRANCISCO.
SHANGHAI.
SYDNEY.
TIELING. TIENTSIN.
TOKIO.
TSINGTAU.

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

LONDON OFFICE:
7 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

DOMINION BANK.

Head Office: Toronto, Canada.
London Office: 73 Cornhill, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	$10,000,000
Subscribed	6,000,000
Paid up...	6,000,000

Price of Share, $227. *Dividend,* 14%. *Yield,* £6 5s.%.

THE charter of the Dominion Bank received the Royal assent on June 22, 1869, and provided for an authorised capital of $1,000,000, with $400,000 to be paid up. Business was not commenced until February 1871, and the first report covered the period from the start of business until April 1872, for which time a profit of $107,488 was secured, which permitted of the payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. The paid-up capital amounted to $834,544, and there was shown a reserve fund of $50,000. The deposits amounted to $1,057,150, while the loans and discounts were $2,104,033. By 1882 the paid-up capital had increased to $1,000,000, while the reserve reached a total of $500,000. The deposits reached a total of $4,753,306, while the loans and discounts amounted to $5,416,179. A further increase in the paid-up capital then took place, and in 1884 it reached $1,500,000, at which figure it remained until 1901, when it was decided to increase it to $2,500,000. In 1903 it rose to $3,000,000. By the end of 1912 the paid-up capital had risen to $5,000,000. But in order to meet the general expansion in business, in February 1913 a further $1,000,000 was issued at a premium of $100, bringing the paid-up capital to $6,000,000. There consequently remains unissued $4,000,000. Following out a conservative financial policy, the reserve fund has been steadily increased, and at the end of 1914 was brought up to $7,000,000.

The notes in circulation at the end of 1914 amounted to $4,143,040, as compared with $4,630,890 at the end of 1913. The deposits also fell from $59,877,280 to $58,299,300. On the other hand, the balances due to other banks in Canada rose from $1,323,682 to $3,955,208. On the other side, the total cash fell from $14,356,751 to $13,699,441, and the investments from $6,237,532 to $5,800,313, but call and short loans rose from $4,899,463 to $6,168,323. Current loans, &c., dropped from $48,946,445 to $47,608,673. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years from 1900.

We have already pointed out that for the first period of the Bank's working a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. was paid. This rate has been gradually increased, until in 1912 it was increased to 14 per cent., at which figure it has since been maintained.

The profit for 1914 amounted to $925,365, as compared with $950,403 for 1913. Herewith we set out the profit and dividends, &c., for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Dominion Bank.

Year ended Dec. 31	Profit.	Dividends. Amount.	Dividends. % of Total.	Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1914 ...	925,365	835,236	14	90,129	188,655	588,655	284,317
1913 ...	950,403	765,823	14	184,580	811,345	1,036,345	647,689
1912 ...	901,529	688,536	14	212,983	297,201	322,201	688,109
1911 ...	701,046	503,999	12	195,047	702,799	702,799	500,116
1910 ...	659,301	480,000	12	179,301	—	170,000	305,068
1909 ...	620,927	478,156	12	142,771	18,268	168,268	295,767
1908 ...	641,318	473,463	12	167,855	148,275	248,275	302,996
1907 ...	635,235	428,893	12	206,342	933,457	933,457	235,140
1906 ...	539,360	360,000	12	179,360	—	400,000	28,798
1905 ...	490,495	300,000	10	190,495	—	75,630	249,438
1904 ...	459,670	300,000	10	159,670	—	500,000	134,573

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 15.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.1 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

At the meeting in January last Sir Edward B. Osler, M.P., President, pointed out that "while the War is blamed for much of the depression in trade, it cannot rightly be said to be wholly responsible; anything we may have suffered from this cause has to a large extent been offset by the higher prices we have obtained for our products and the extensive orders which have been placed in Canada for war material. The country had gone mad over speculation in real estate, which nothing apparently could stop; everywhere people were dividing farmlands into town lots, more especially in the West, selling, in some instances, a half-acre lot at the price of a good farm in Ontario, usually receiving only a small payment down and leaving an obligation on the purchaser to pay the balance, which in most cases he has been unable to do. This has been the cause of great distress in Canada, and I think that we should not try to attribute our hard times entirely to the European situation. I do not believe there will be any immediate return of prosperity, but there is no doubt that from year to year there will be a steady improvement. No one questions the future of Canada and the progress it is bound to make. We must bear in mind, however, that most of the great undertakings of late years are now nearing completion, and the expenditure of vast sums of money in this connection will consequently cease."

Liabilities of The Dominion Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	Total Deposits. % of Total.	Acceptances Amount.	Acceptances % of Total.	Bills Payable Amt.	Bills Payable % of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. Amount.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. % of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	Undivided Profits. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	6,000,000	7,000,000	13,000,000	16·2	4,143,040	5·1	58,299,300	72·5	405,674	·5	90,000	—	3,955,208	5·0	384,287	·7	80,457,109
1913 ...	5,811,345	6,811,345	12,622,690	15·7	4,630,890	5·8	59,877,280	74·4	931,915	1·1	184,747	·2	1,323,682	1·6	935,258	1·2	80,506,462
1912 ...	5,000,000	6,000,000	11,000,000	13·9	5,256,368	6·6	59,535,409	75·1	—	—	—	—	2,495,701	3·2	937,202	1·2	79,224,680
1911 ...	4,702,799	5,702,799	10,405,598	14·8	4,649,068	6·6	53,701,436	76·5	—	—	—	—	784,043	1·1	639,407	1·0	70,179,553
1910 ...	4,000,000	5,000,000	9,000,000	14·3	3,587,547	6·0	49,455,024	78·8	—	—	—	—	210,182	·3	425,068	·6	62,677,821
1909 ...	4,000,000	5,000,000	9,000,000	15·3	3,565,994	6·0	45,629,062	77·4	—	—	—	—	346,585	·6	415,398	·7	58,957,039
1908 ...	3,983,392	4,981,732	8,965,124	17·6	3,087,539	6·1	38,041,771	74·8	—	—	—	—	364,519	·7	422,428	·8	50,881,381
1907 ...	3,848,598	4,833,457	8,682,055	18·0	2,913,398	6·0	34,439,413	71·0	—	—	—	—	2,112,798	4·3	349,554	·7	48,497,218
1906*...	3,000,000	3,500,000	6,500,000	15·3	2,838,800	6·7	32,507,661	77·0	—	—	—	—	17,726	—	429,142	1·0	42,293,329
1905*...	3,000,000	3,500,000	6,500,000	16·4	2,689,802	6·8	30,159,254	76·1	—	—	—	—	—	—	297,351	·7	39,646,407
1900†...	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000	14·4	1,472,769	7·1	16,030,741	76·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	320,637	1·5	20,824,147

Assets of The Dominion Bank.

Dec. 31	Total Cash. Amount.	Total Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Call and Short Loans in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. % of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	Bank Premises. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	13,699,441	17·0	5,800,313	7·2	6,168,323	7·6	1,044,041	2·4	47,608,673	59·1	405,674	·5	5,070,651	6·3	80,457,109
1913 ...	14,356,751	17·8	6,237,532	7·8	4,899,463	6·1	1,609,130	2·0	48,946,445	60·8	931,915	1·1	3,525,226	4·4	80,506,46
1912 ...	13,480,411	17·0	7,238,034	9·1	6,040,075	7·6	2,483,321	3·1	47,746,400	60·3	—	—	2,236,439	2·9	79,224,680
1911 ...	11,846,491	16·8	6,880,949	9·8	6,448,429	9·2	1,835,183	2·7	40,929,528	58·3	—	—	2,238,972	3·4	70,179,553
1910 ...	9,385,221	14·9	6,694,022	10·7	4,327,484	6·9	1,634,573	2·6	38,649,322	61·7	—	—	1,987,199	3·2	62,677,821
1909 ...	8,327,190	14·1	6,072,023	10·3	5,407,124	9·0	2,235,295	4·0	35,603,768	60·4	—	—	1,311,039	2·2	58,957,039
1908 ...	8,106,534	16·0	4,530,314	9·0	3,261,661	6·4	1,968,026	3·8	31,979,507	62·8	—	—	1,035,339	2·0	50,881,381
1907 ...	7,176,151	14·8	3,368,037	7·0	3,499,084	7·2	1,806,808	3·7	31,689,154	65·3	—	—	957,984	2·0	48,497,218
1906* ...	4,647,630	11·0	3,517,703	8·3	6,099,695	14·4	1,293,574	3·0	25,927,843	61·3	—	—	806,884	2·0	42,293,329
1905* ...	4,723,184	12·0	3,800,855	9·8	4,609,622	11·6	2,213,130	5·5	23,747,189	60·0	—	—	452,429	1·1	39,646,407
1900† ...	1,833,035	8·8	2,515,555	12·1	—	—	1,632,023	7·8	14,471,769	69·5	—	—	371,765	1·8	20,824,147

* June 30. † April 30.

EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4 Crosby Square, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 100,000 Shares of £10 each £1,500,000
Paid up, £4 per Share... 600,000
Price of Share, £3⅞. *Div.*, 5 %. *Yield*, £5 6*s.* %.

THIS Bank is one of the most recently founded banking institutions of the world, dating back only to December 1909. It was founded under the auspices of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., and the whole of the capital of £1,000,000, divided into 100,000 shares of £10 each, was offered for subscription on December 31, 1909. The prospectus pointed out that it was only proposed to call up £5 per share, the remaining £5 being payable in the event of the Company going into liquidation. In view of the great expansion of Indian and Eastern trade generally the Bank was established for the purpose of transacting both exchange and local banking. In addition to undertaking the usual banking business, shipments to and from India and the East are financed, and a further large scope for the profitable employment of money is found in making advances to natives and Europeans against merchandise and other securities. As at certain seasons of the year the rates of interest that can be earned in India are very high, while in London money can be obtained at much lower rates, since no advance would be made except on good security, even at high rates of interest, handsome profits can be made in this way, both on the capital of the Bank and upon additional funds obtainable at low rates of interest.

At the end of the first twelve months the deposits reached a total of £1,166,190, and such progress was made that in a further two years the deposits nearly doubled, inasmuch as at December 31, 1912, they amounted to £2,155,212. But by reason of the financial stringency in India towards the end of 1913 the deposits in December 1913 receded to £1,675,267. The effect of the stringency was seen in the failure of several banking institutions under Indian management. The Eastern Bank escaped injury, though necessarily a much larger proportion of its liabilities was held in actual cash, and its profit-earning capacity was temporarily reduced. The reduction in deposits occurred in Bombay, the condition of affairs remaining practically normal in Calcutta. The failure of the Indian-managed banks—institutions which have not attained to the high standard of efficiency of management in institutions under the control of Britishers—may cause the people of India to turn to British banks to deposit their funds, and thus may prove a benefit to the latter class of institutions.

The year 1914 passed without noticeable incident until the outbreak of war. As the Bank is engaged in an oversea business it experienced a very anxious time, produce, upon which money had been advanced, being shipped in German and Austrian steamers, some of which were captured by the British Government, while others were forced to take refuge in neutral ports, making it very difficult to obtain delivery of the cargo. The Indian exchanges were seriously affected, but the policy of the Government of India in building up a Gold Standard Reserve enabled them to support the value of the rupee. The trade of India from August to December was naturally much restricted, and the Bank's business during the second half of the year suffered accordingly, and, as the Chairman pointed out in March last, "with a moratorium existing in this country, and not in India, we thought it necessary, as a matter of precaution, to keep our resources very liquid, and a large sum sufficient to meet all possible calls was lying idle in India for several months at a heavy cost to the Bank. At the outbreak of war the Presidency Banks' rates of discount were 3 per cent., but these rose to 6 per cent. by November. Stocks of Manchester piece-

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Head Office - - - MILAN.

SHARE CAPITAL (fully paid), £6,240,000. RESERVES, £2,378,800.

LONDON OFFICE ... ... 1 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.
Manager: E. CONSOLO. Sub-Managers: G. COSTA R. B. HANDLEY, A. ROSSI, G. ZUCCOLI.
Telegraphic Address: "Italiana." Telephone: 3940 City (5 lines).

WEST-END AGENCY and LONDON OFFICE OF ITALIAN STATE RAILWAYS ... ... 12 WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.
Telegraphic Address for West-End Agency: "Italofer." Telephone: 5694 Regent (2 lines).
On the same premises: LONDON OFFICE OF THE ITALIAN STATE RAILWAYS.

BRANCHES IN ITALY:

ACIREALE	CALTANISSETTA	LECCE	PADUA	ROME	SESTRI-PONENTE
ALESSANDRIA	CANELLI	LECCO	PALERMO	SALERNO	SYRACUSE
ANCONA	CARRARA	LEGHORN	PARMA	SALUZZO	TERMINI IMERESE
BARI	CATANIA	LUCCA	PERUGIA	SAMPIERDARENA	TRAPANI
BERGAMO	COMO	MESSINA	PESCARA	SANT'AGNELLO	TURIN
BIELLA	CREMONA	MILAN	PIACENZA	DI SORRENTO	UDINE
BOLOGNA	FERRARA	NAPLES	PISA	SASSARI	VENICE
BRESCIA	FLORENCE	NOVARA	PRATO	SAVONA	VERONA
BUSTO-ARSIZIO	GENOA	ONEGLIA	REGGIO EMILIA	SCHIO	VICENZA
CAGLIARI	IVREA				

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ITALIAN TREASURY.

AGENTS IN LONDON FOR
BANQUE FRANÇAISE ET ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD.
PARIS, BUENOS AIRES, RIO DE JANEIRO, SAN PAULO, SANTOS, CURITYBA, RIBEIRÃO PRETO, SAN CARLOS, BOTUCATU, ESPIRITO SANTO DA PINHAL, MOCOCA, S. JOSE DE RIO PARDO, JAHU, PONTA GROSSA.

And **SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE.**
MILAN, TRIPOLI, ANTIVARI, SCUTARI, DURAZZO, VENICE, BARI, ETC.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.
Special facilities afforded for Anglo-Italian Trade.

Liabilities of The Eastern Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount. £	% of Total.	Bills and Loans Payable, &c. Amount. £	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	598,653	55,000	653,653	23·8	1,395,021	50·8	480,785	17·5	170,467	6·2	45,123	1·7	2,746,049
1913 ..	400,000	15,000	415,000	12·6	1,675,267	50·8	935,619	30·1	166,253	5·0	47,152	1·5	3,239,296
1912 ..	400,000	—	400,000	11·2	2,155,212	60·4	838,473	25·2	69,953	2·0	42,998	1·2	3 566,636
1911 ...	400,000	—	400,000	13·6	1,805,776	61·4	706,641	24·1	*	—	25 173	·9	2,940,593
1910 ...	400,000	—	400,000	17·9	1,166,190	52·2	662,616	29·7	*	—	4,762	·2	2,233,568

* Acceptances included with bills, &c.

Assets of The Eastern Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash and Bullion on Hand and at Bankers. Amount. £	% of Total.	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total.	Loans and Advances. Amount £	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	% of Total.	Bills Receivable Amount. £	% of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances Amount. £	% of Total.	Office Furniture, &c. Amount. £	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	535,649	20·6	225,990	8·2	928,491	33·8	54,423	2·0	799,161	29·1	170,457	6·2	1,835	·1	2 746 049
1913 ...	393 633	12·0	297,795	9·0	1,271,427	38·5	114,024	3·5	1,053,318	31·9	166,258	5·0	2,334	·1	3,299,296
1912 ...	459,042	12·9	277,963	7·7	1,648,758	46·3	327,788	9·2	779,953	21·8	69,953	2·0	3 174	·1	3,563,636
1911 ...	364,078	12·3	170,316	5·8	1,786,354	60·7	*	—	619,159	21·1	—	—	2,686	·1	2,940,593
1910 ...	418,324	18·7	140,025	6·3	1,175,679	52·6	*	—	493,644	22·1	—	—	5,896	·3	2,233,568

* Loans and advances included with bills discounted, &c.

goods in Bombay and Calcutta were abnormally large, while, owing to the lack of tonnage and the closing of many of the Continental markets, exports fell away very heavily. By the close of the year, however, both imports and exports had greatly improved, and, though business is still limited, there is no doubt that conditions in India are more normal, and there is every hope of increased operations in that quarter before very long. The monsoon and winter rains have proved all that could be wished for, and with the high prices at present ruling in Europe for all kinds of grain, the ryot should, we think, experience a period of prosperity, in which we hope the Bank may participate. There is every prospect of a record wheat crop, and it is estimated that there will be available for export between May and December three to six million tons."

We set out herewith a comparison of the liabilities and assets for each year since the formation of the institution.

For 1914 the gross profit amounted to £80,278, as compared with £79,808 for 1913. After providing for expenses there was a net profit of £36,971. The dividend was reduced from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent., and the carry-forward reduced from £8,153 to £6,477.

The manner of distributing the profits may be seen from the following:—

Profits of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., for the Past Five Years.

Year ended Dec. 31—	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £	1910 £
Gross profit	80,278	79,808	70,382	55,543	23,278
Salaries and other expenses	43,307	40,654	36,556	31,546	18,516
Net profit	36,971	39,154	33,826	23,997	4,762
Dividend	20,000 (5%)	24,000 (6%)	20,000 (5%)	16,000 (4%)	— —
Reserve, &c.	18,647	15,000	15,000	—	3,586
Carried forward	6,477	8,153	7,999	9,173	1,176

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid up capital is 6.2 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 5.6 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.3 per cent.

In June 1914 the directors decided to issue new capital, and shareholders were offered one new share for every two shares then registered in their names at a premium of 15*s.* per share. The result is that the subscribed capital has been increased by £500,000 to £1,500,000 and the paid-up capital from £400,000 to £600,000, while £25,000 has been added to the reserve fund.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £1,078,875
Subscribed, 43,155 Shares of £25 each ... 1,078,875
Paid up, £12 10*s.* per Share 539,438

Price of Shares, £15⅝. *Dividend*, 8%.* *Yield*, £7 9*s.* 5*d.*%

* Free of tax.

THIS is a reconstruction of the English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank, the reconstruction scheme having been sanctioned in the English Courts in July 1896, the Bank being registered in August 1893. The authorised and subscribed capital is £1,078,875, the paid-up capital being £539,437 10*s.* The shares are of £25 each, and £12 10*s.* per share has been paid up, so that there is an uncalled capital equal in amount to that paid up. By the terms of the reconstruction scheme there are in issue three perpetual stocks, a Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock of £983,547, outstanding on June 30, 1914, Preferred Inscribed Deposit stock amounting on June 30, 1914, to £889,419, and £702,600 of Deferred Inscribed Deposit stock. The Preferred stock ranks after the Debenture stock, and bears cumulative interest at 3 per cent., after which the Deferred stock ranks for non-cumulative interest at 3 per cent. Of the remaining balance £15,000 is placed to a reserve fund, and any surplus goes as additional interest on the Deferred stock up to a maximum of 4½ per cent. Before paying any dividend to the shareholders one-fourth of the amount available for that purpose is to be applied to the purchase of the Deferred stock which is thus being gradually redeemed.

In a circular issued in 1893 an interesting statement is made showing the effect of the crisis which necessitated reconstruction. It is pointed out that 15 banking institutions in all had closed their doors with liabilities to their depositors "which have been variously estimated at from £80,000,000 to £85,000,000 sterling. But to this figure must be added the liabilities of the various land companies, building societies, mortgage banks, &c., which collapsed during the years 1891 and 1892, and it will be well within the mark to say that if the creditors of all these institutions were to insist upon payment, there would be some £100,000,000 of assets to be realised, in a community which, however rich in the possession of large territory and prospective wealth, was shown by the latest returns to number considerably less than 4,000,000." In the opinion of the directors there was little likelihood of money being placed on deposit with Australian banks in the future as had occurred during the past, especially on the old terms, as the system on which Australian banks had hitherto been conducted was the receipt of large sums of money from the public at short dates of payment, when from the very nature of Australian business it was impossible to lend that money on securities of a liquid character; and although it has proved to be the case that conducting business on the old system has been impossible, nevertheless since the reconstruction the Bank has had such a prosperous career that the deposits have at length exceeded the amount reached before the crisis. In 1890 the deposits amounted to £5,861,427, but in June 1894 they were only £950,764. By 1900 they had increased to £2,309,329, while in the following ten years they doubled in amount, reaching £4,687,119 in June 1910. At June 30, 1914, they amounted to £6,875,928.

A further increase occurred during 1915, and at June 30 deposits reached a total of £7,058,797. In September 1892 with a paid-up capital of £900,000, a

Liabilities of The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposit Stock. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	539,438	365,000	904,438	8·1	2,052	—	532,445	4·8	7,058,797	63·3	2,555,208	22·9	100,000	·9	11,163,389
1914 ...	539,438	315,000	854,438	7·8	2,756	—	549,546	5·0	6,857,928	62·6	2,575,566	23·5	119,046	1·1	10,959,280
1913 ...	539,438	265,000	804,438	8·0	3,714	—	516,303	5·1	6,110,487	60·2	2,591,266	25·5	119,945	1·2	10,146,153
1912 ...	539,438	230,000	769,438	7·7	5,007	—	548,787	5·4	5,981,583	59·7	2,606,966	26·0	114,974	1·2	10,026,755
1911 ...	539,438	215,000	754,438	8·1	13,086	·1	518,256	5·5	5,368,629	57·3	2,620,366	27·9	101,041	1·1	9,376,416
1910 ...	539,438	200,000	739,438	8·5	84,275	1·0	484,110	5·5	4,687,119	53·8	2,632,466	30·2	85,916	1·0	8,713,324
1900 ...	539,438	90,391	629,829	10·1	33,305	·5	481,889	7·8	2,309,329	37·0	2,742,258	44·0	36,915	·6	6,233,525
1890*...	900,000	335,000	1,235,000	15·2	184,717	2·3	778,750	9·6	5,861,127	72·2	—	—	56,128	·7	8,116,022
1880†...	720,000	110,000	830,000	21·8	153,860	4·0	458,189	12·0	2,294,544	60·3	—	—	69,432	1·9	3,806,025
1870†...	600,000	40,000	640,000	35·7	91,670	5·1	255,012	14·2	764,757	42·7	—	—	40,792	2·3	1,792,231
1860†...	500,000	19,585	519,585	40·6	77,862	6·1	99,705	7·8	551,923	43·1	—	—	31,114	2·4	1,280,189

Assets of The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited.

June 30	Cash and Bullion. Amount.	% of Total.	Cash at Bankers and at Short Notice. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable and Remittances in transitu. Amount.	% of Total.	Advances and other Assets. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915	2,430,683	21·8	750,777	6·7	374,037	3·3	1,243,664	11·1	6,083,335	54·5	284,953	2·6	11,163,389
1914	1,832,191	16·7	850,603	7·8	182,046	1·7	1,337,132	12·2	6,457,279	58·8	300,029	2·8	10,959,280
1913	1,591,063	15·6	785,260	7·8	170,000	1·7	1,168,630	11·5	6,132,570	60·4	298,630	3·0	10,146,153
1912	1,320,954	13·2	484,229	4·8	150,000	1·5	1,577,016	15·7	6,199,595	61·8	294,961	3·0	10,026,755
1911	1,332,828	14·2	428,160	4·6	150,000	1·6	1,322,250	14·1	5,826,978	62·1	316,200	3·4	9,376,416
1910	1,220,488	14·0	510,137	5·9	150,000	1·7	1,058,830	12·2	5,444,969	62·5	328,900	3·8	8,713,324
1900	770,191	12·4	129,258	2·1	—	—	983,838	15·8	3,895,107	62·4	455,131	7·3	6,233,525
1890*	950,082	11·7	226,532	2·8	—	—	6,652,510	82·0	—	—	286,898	3·5	8,116,022
1880†	431,536	11·3	—	—	—	—	3,263,105	85·8	—	—	111,384	2·9	3,806,025
1870†	203,272	11·4	—	—	—	—	1,529,474	85·3	—	—	59,485	3·3	1,792,231
1860†	125,561	9·8	—	—	—	—	1,089,321	85·1	—	—	65,307	5·1	1,280,189

* March 31. † Dec. 31.

reserve fund of £310,000 had been accumulated. By reason of the reconstruction the reserve fund was wiped out, but by 1898 another start was made, and in 1900 the reserve amounted to £90,391. The subsequent additions brought the reserve up to £365,000 at June 30 last. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1860.

The twelve months to June 30, 1914, were the most prosperous yet recorded by the Bank, and the gross profit amounted to £285,861, as compared with £269,155 for the previous year. Accompanying this increase of £17,700 in profits the expenses only rose £4,000, so that the net profit amounted to £123,036, as compared with £110,194. For the past twelve months the gross profit was £280,998, and the net profit £100,185. For the fourth year in succession the dividend is 8 per cent.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1915

THE EASTERN BANK
LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra.)

Head Office:

4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital ... £1,500,000
Called up £600,000
Reserve Fund £55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.

Branches:—
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4 per cent. per annum, and on current accounts Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, Manager.

THE
Union Bank of Australia
LIMITED.

Established 1837. Incorporated 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital ...		£6,000,000
Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000 / Reserve Fund, £1,960,000	Together	£3,960,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ...		4,000,000
Total Issued Capital and Reserves ...		£7,960,000

DIRECTORS:

HENRY P. STURGIS, Esq., *Chairman.*

ARTHUR P. BLAKE, Esq.
The Right. Hon. THE EARL OF CHICHESTER.
JOHN DENNISTOUN, Esq.
HUGH D. FLOWER, Esq.
CHARLES A. GALTON, Esq. [Esq.
S. R. LIVINGSTONE-LEARMONTH,
WILLIAM R. MEWBURN, Esq.
The Hon. C. T. MILLS, M.P.
ROBERT C. NESBITT, Esq.
FRED. G. PARBURY, Esq.
Sir WESTBY B. PERCEVAL, K.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE:
71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Manager—A. C. WILLIS. *Assistant Manager*—W. J. ESSAME.

Branches throughout Australia and New Zealand, viz.:

In VICTORIA	41
,, SOUTH AUSTRALIA ..	14
,, NEW SOUTH WALES ..	30
,, WESTERN AUSTRALIA ..	23
,, QUEENSLAND	20
,, PAPUA	1
,, TASMANIA	3
,, NEW ZEALAND	44
	185

Drafts upon the Branches are issued by Head Office, and may also be obtained from the Bank's Agents throughout England, Scotland and Ireland.
Commercial and Circular Travelling Credits issued available throughout the World.
Telegraphic Remittances are also made.
Bills on the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand are purchased or sent for collection.
Deposits are received at Head Office at rates of interest and for periods which may be ascertained on application.

bears to the paid-up capital is 18.6 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 11.1 per cent., and to total working resources .9 per cent.

The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, Limited.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profits.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Capital Adjustment, Reserve, Depr.,&c.,	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1915...	280,998	180,813	100,185	43,155	8	66,885	33,229
1914...	285,861	162,825	123,036	43,155	8	69,385	43,084
1913...	269,155	158,961	110,194	43,155	8	66,885	32,588
1912...	237,090	138,710	98,380	43,155	8	54,385	32,434
1911...	215,356	130,076	85,280	37,761	7	46,687	31,593
1910...	196,021	122,143	73,878	32,366	6	40,885	30,762
1909...	175,018	110,823	64,195	32,366	6	27,789	30,135
1908...	171,816	108,033	63,783	26,973	5	35,991	26,094
1907...	168,487	102,162	66,325	26,972	5	31,991	25,274
1906...	147,046	97,380	49,666	24,275	4½	24,092	17,911
1905...	145,587	96,240	49,347	21,578	4	23,193	16,611

Speaking in October 1914 the Chairman said that if the European war had to take place it could not have come, from the Australian point of view, at a more favourable time. Had it broken out a few months later the shipping season would have been in full swing and all the banks would have held a very much larger number of foreign acceptances representing the shipment of wool and other Australian produce to the Continent, and the dislocation of business would have been much more serious than it was. "Moreover the War finds Australia in an excellent position in all material respects to face the economic problems arising out of it. A succession of good seasons, and the consequent increase in the deposits held by the various banks have placed the Commonwealth in a strong financial position—a stronger one than it has been in for some time past.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Head Office: Hong Kong.
London Office: 9 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised $15,000,000
Subscribed, 120,000 Shares of $125 each ... 15,000,000
Paid up 15,000,000
Price of Share, £72¼. *Dividend*, 40.05%. *Yield*, £6 1s. 10d.
There is a reserve liability of $125 per share.

This very influential Eastern banking institution was incorporated by Ordinance of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong in July 1867, but it was some two years previously that the first steps were taken to establish the Bank. Its formation was largely due to the spirit of enterprise marking the period, which resulted in the formation of many local banking institutions in India, and a group of merchants in Hong Kong considered that the time was ripe for the establishment of a bank in that city. Accordingly steps were taken to found the Bank, which was brought into being with a capital of $5,000,000. Only half of this amount was at first paid up. The head office was fixed at Hong Kong, while a branch was opened at Shanghai. In addition it was decided to establish agencies at Foochow, Ningpo (subsequently closed), Singapore, Manila, Calcutta, Bombay, Bangkok, and London. The base of operations has since been extended to other countries, so that at the present time the Bank is represented not only in China and India, as well as in England, but there are offices in Japan, the United States, France, and Germany; and in addition to the places already mentioned there are offices at Amoy, Batavia, Canton, Colombo, Hamburg, Hankow, Hongkew, Ipoh, Johore, Kobe, Kuala Lumpur, Lyons, Malacca, Nagasaki, New York, Pekin, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtau, Yloilo, and Yokohama. By 1870 the paid-up capital amounted to $3,500,000, and during the seventies the full amount of $5,000,000 was paid up. In 1883 the steady expansion of the business necessitated the raising of the capital to $7,500,000. Progress continued to be made, and in 1890 a further enlargement of the capital was called for, and, accordingly, 20,000 new shares were issued, bringing the paid-up capital up to $10,000,000. It was maintained at this figure until 1907. During this period a great expansion of Eastern trade occurred, and the business of the Bank kept pace with it. Not only so, but the directors had in view the probable further expansion that would occur, especially in China. In order to be ready to meet any such increase in business it was decided to create 40,000 new shares of $125 each, which were issued to existing shareholders in the proportion of one new share to two old. The issued capital was accordingly brought up to $15,000,000, at which figure it still stands.

One of the most noteworthy features of the accounts of the institution is the large amount of the reserve funds. With a paid-up capital, as stated, of $15,000,000 at December 31 last the reserves reached

Liabilities of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Amount.	Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	Bills Payable. % of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	Profit Balance. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914†	15,000,000	33,000,000	48,000,000	8·4	27,247,823	4·8	329,562,276	58·2	138,766,052	24·5	17,350,415	3·1	5,894,227	1·0	566,820,793
1913†	15,000,000	32,450,000	47,450,000	9·3	24,839,191	4·9	298,440,661	58·5	113,734,114	22·3	19,941,452	3·9	5,376,921	1·1	509,782,339
1912...	15,000,000	31,750,000	46,750,000	10·1	22,670,637	4·9	281,788,605	60·5	100,295,813	21·5	9,378,103	2·0	4,869,055	1·0	465,752,213
1911...	15,000,000	31,250,000	46,250,000	10·5	17,706,086	4·0	271,651,435	61·9	80,565,941	18·3	18,285,879	4·1	5,232,844	1·2	439,692,185
1910...	15,000,000	30,500,000	45,500,000	9·8	13,965,133	3·0	290,926,486	62·4	88,646,321	19·0	21,502,333	4·6	5,389,127	1·2	465,929,400
1905...	10,000,000	18,000,000	28,000,000	7·7	15,993,312	4·4	248,887,627	68·6	48,851,936	13·5	17,358,366	4·8	3,711,062	1·0	362,802,303
1900...	10,000,000	11,500,000	21,500,000	8·0	11,353,419	4·2	158,967,176	59·5	46,716,006	17·5	25,250,153	9·5	3,438,826	1·3	267,225,580
1895...	10,000,000	5,000,000	15,000,000	9·0	9,543,172	5·7	120,054,395	71·9	—	—	20,766,669	12·4	1,763,802	1·0	167,128,038
1890...	8,168,062	5,282,127	13,450,189	10·0	6,478,449	4·8	93,351,200	69·5	—	—	19,778,786	14·8	1,249,945	·9	134,308,569
1880...	5,000,000	1,650,000	6,650,000	14·8	*	—	22,915,681	51·0	—	—	14,965,903	33·4	361,178	·8	44,892,762
1870...	3,500,000	800,000	4,300,000	15·6	*	—	8,659,134	31·5	—	—	14,250,529	51·7	324,346	1·2	27,534,009
1866...	2,538,775	33,300	2,572,075	23·2	*	—	3,810,833	34·5	—	—	4,433,715	40·0	258,227	2·3	11,074,850

Assets of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

June 30	Coin Lodged with Hong Kong Govt. against Note Circulation, Bullion and Cash in Hand. Amount.	Coin Lodged with Hong Kong Govt. against Note Circulation, Bullion and Cash in Hand. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	Bills Receivable. % of Total.	Bills Discounted, Loans and Credits. Amount.	Bills Discounted, Loans and Credits. % of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. % of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914†	97,411,762	17·2	31,175,833	5·5	150,946,139	26·6	141,540,885	24·9	138,766,052	24·5	6,980,122	1·3	566,820,793
1913†	69,935,271	13·7	29,636,755	5·8	147,992,278	29·0	142,684,523	27·8	113,734,114	22·3	6,799,398	1·4	509,782,339
1912	69,328,181	14·9	30,240,886	6·5	123,382,046	26·5	140,334,300	30·1	100,295,813	21·5	2,170,987	·5	465,752,213
1911	74,110,752	16·9	27,780,826	6·3	129,995,706	29·6	125,338,369	28·5	80,565,941	18·3	1,900,591	·4	439,692,185
1910	72,941,366	15·7	32,023,991	6·9	125,639,558	27·0	144,630,243	31·0	88,646,321	19·0	2,047,921	·4	465,929,400
1905	57,836,683	16·0	23,954,600	6·6	126,906,178	35·0	104,214,417	28·7	48,851,936	13·4	1,038,489	·3	362,802,303
1900	37,731,477	14·1	17,773,359	6·6	90,183,898	33·8	74,600,982	27·9	46,716,006	17·5	219,858	·1	267,225,580
1895	51,390,450	30·8	6,954,751	4·2	60,036,316	35·9	47,650,727	28·5	—	—	1,095,794	·6	167,128,038
1890	18,914,358	14·1	3,620,946	2·7	46,855,982	34·9	63,880,323	47·6	—	—	1,036,960	·7	134,308,569
1880	7,564,534	16·9	2,699,328	6·0	17,832,917	39·7	16,463,551	36·7	—	—	332,432	·7	44,892,762
1870	5,288,458	19·2	825,792	3·0	14,556,916	52·9	6,730,694	24·4	—	—	132,149	·5	27,534,009
1866	1,542,650	13·9	—	—	4,722,212	42·6	4,754,570	43·0	—	—	55,418	·5	11,074,850

* Included in Current Accounts, &c. † December 31.

a total of no less than $33,000,000, of which $15,000,000, a sum equal to the paid-up capital, is styled a sterling reserve fund, being held in London at the exchange of 2*s.* per dollar (that is, £1,500,000 sterling), and invested in Consols and other sterling securities, these at December 31 last being as follows:—

1,200,000 2½% Consols at 68⅛, of which £250,000 is lodged with the Bank of England as a special London reserve	£822,000
30,000 3% Exchequer Bonds	306,900
496,500 other sterling securities written down	371,100
	£1,500,000

while the balance of $18,000,000 is a silver reserve fund. It may be remarked in passing that in the earlier years the Bank paid its dividend in dollars; but subsequently it was considered inadvisable to pay in a fluctuating currency, and the $125 shares were assumed to have a sterling nominal value of £28 2*s.* 6*d.*, equal to 4*s.* 6*d.* per dollar, and dividends were paid in sterling on that basis; but as the dollar has now shrunk to a value of less than 2*s.*, the $125 nominal value of the shares is only worth £12 10*s.*, upon which the last dividends at the rate of £4 11*s.* per share represent a distribution of 40.05 per cent. But by building up so large a silver reserve fund the depreciation that has occurred in the value of the dollar has been provided for. By reference to the tables given herewith the enormous growth made by the Corporation may readily be seen. Up to the eighties the Bank had no note issue, but power was subsequently secured, and the Bank is authorised to issue notes for the amount of its paid-up capital against coin or securities equal to 55½ per cent. of the paid-up capital. Notes issued in excess must be covered by coin and/or bullion deposited with the Hong Kong Government for the full amount of the excess.

At December 31 last the notes in circulation amounted to $27,247,823. The growth in the deposits affords the best example of the continuous expansion shown by the Bank. By 1880 the deposits were $22,915,681, but in the following 10 years they rose to no less than $93,351,200. By 1900 they reached $158,967,176. In 1910 they touched $290,926,486. At the end of 1913 they were $298,440,661, while by December 31 last they touched the very large figure of $329,562,276. The growth may be seen from the tables herewith.

Since 1904 the rate of dividend paid by the Bank has risen from £3 10*s.* per share to £4 11*s.* per share for the twelve months to December 31 last. In consequence of the conversion at the rate of exchange the actual percentage return has varied between a minimum of 31.52 per cent. and a maximum of 40.05 per cent. The net profit for 1914 amounted to $7,298,711, as compared with $6,288,606. Of the net profit the dividend absorbed $6,008,747. After making provision for reserves, &c., the carry-forward was increased from $2,067,312 to $2,607,275. Herewith we set out the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Year ended June 30	Net Profit. $	Dividends. Rate. £ per Share=%	Dividends. Amount. $	Reserve Invest., Deprn., &c. $	Carried Forward. $
1914† ...	7,298,711	4½ = 40·05	6,008,747	750,000	2,607,275
1913† ...	6,288,606	4½ = 34·88	5,232,704	1,000,000	2,067,312
1912 ...	5,727,640	4½ = 35·37	5,306,126	500,000	1,960,288
1911 ...	6,383,908	4½ = 37·50	5,624,525	750,000	2,038,774
1910 ...	6,636,262	4½ = 38·06	5,708,690	900,000	2,029,391
1909 ...	7,095,563	4½ = 39·00	5,849,519	1,250,000	2,001,819
1908 ...	6,519,336	4 = 33·74	5,060,729	1,250,000	2,005,775
1907 ...	4,814,294	4½ = 32·29	3,229,598	1,500,000	1,797,168
1906 ...	5,227,009	4½ = 34·67	3,467,266	1,750,000	1,712,472
1905 ...	5,440,643	4½ = 35·30	3,530,468	1,700,000	1,702,729
1904 ...	4,409,212	3½ = 31·52	3,152,340	1,200,000	1,492,554

* December 31.

The net profit amounted to $7,298,711, a profit which shows a proportion of 48.6 per cent. to the

Bank of British West Africa, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1894

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies of the GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST and NIGERIA.

HEAD OFFICE:

17 & 18 LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic and Cable Address: "ARREGLO, LONDON."

Liverpool Office: 14 CASTLE STREET.
Telegraphic and Cable Address: "BULLION, LIVERPOOL."

Hamburg Office: NESS 1.
Telegraphic and Cable Address: "BULLION, HAMBURG."

New York Agency: 64 WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital	**£2,000,000**
Subscribed Capital	**£1,000,000**
Called-up Capital	**£400,000**
Reserve	**£150,000**

Directors:

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT MILNER, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. (Chairman).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
F. W. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
Sir OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.

Chief Manager - - - - LESLIE COUPER.
Asst. Managers: G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON.
Secretary - - - - - - - J. R. BINGHAM.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LTD. PARR'S BANK, LTD.

BRANCHES:

CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary).
GAMBIA—Bathurst.
SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro.
LIBERIA—Monrovia.
FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam.
GOLD COAST AND ASHANTI—Axim, Seccondee, Saltpond, Cape Coast Castle, Winnebah, Accra, Tarquah, Coomassie, Koforidua.
TOGOLAND—Lome.
NIGERIA—Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Zungeru, Zaria, Kano, Warri, Forcados, Onitsha, Lokoja, Calabar, Port Harcourt.
CAMEROONS—Duala.

AGENCIES:

Abbidjean, Abonnema, Assinie, Benin, Blama, Bonny, Brass, Buguma, Bo, Cape Mount, Cape Palmas, Dakar, Degama, Dunkwa, Egwanga, Fernando Po, Grand Bassa, Half Assinie, Koko, Lahou, Lomda, Madera, Marshall, Matadi, Obuassi, Opobo, Pendembu, Prestea, River Cess, Segbwema, Sinoe, Teneriffe, White Plains.

Current and Deposit Accounts accepted in London, Liverpool, Hamburg and Branches. Salaries and Dividends collected, Securities accepted for safe custody, Stocks and Shares bought and sold, Payments effected in any part of the world, and every facility afforded to customers resident in West Africa and elsewhere.

English, Scottish & Australian Bank, Limited.

Head Office: 38 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,078,875 0 0**
Paid-up Capital - - -	**£539,437 10 0**
Further Liability of Proprietors - - - -	**£539,437 10 0**
Reserve Fund - - - -	**£400,000 0 0**

Board of Directors.

C. J. HEGAN, Esq., *Chairman.*
JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.
The Hon. Sir JOHN A. COCKBURN, K.C.M.G.
JAMES JACKSON, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Viscount KNUTSFORD.
J. PATERSON, Esq.

Manager and Secretary—E. M. JANION.
Assistant-Manager—GEORGE SCOTT.
Accountant—JOS. GRIEVE.

Bankers.

BANK OF ENGLAND; LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

Letters of Credit and Drafts on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

Remittances made by **Telegraphic Transfer.**

Bills Negotiated or forwarded for **Collection.**

Banking and **Exchange** Business of every description transacted with Australia.

capital. If the reserve funds are added the proportion is reduced to 15.2 per cent. If the total working resources of the Bank are taken into account the net profit works out at a proportion of 1.3 per cent.

In addition to the very important position occupied by the Bank in the Far East in the mercantile and commercial world generally, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has built up for itself a prestige of such a character that it has secured a class of business of a very exceptional nature. By reason of the very great confidence enjoyed by the institution it was selected by the Chinese Imperial Government for the flotation of loans on behalf of China, and since the formation of the Republic it has carried out similar operations, and has, indeed, become the recognised agent for effecting Chinese loans in Europe. Not only so, but it has undertaken similar work on behalf of the Japanese Government. Altogether the Corporation has been responsible, either entirely or in conjunction with other houses, for the flotation of Eastern loans to an amount closely approximating £175,000,000.

Now that China is seeking to introduce a modern system of government and a more enlightened economic policy its progress is likely to be much faster than hitherto, and there are few institutions in the world with such opportunities for increased usefulness as this Bank seems to possess.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

Head Office: Toronto, Canada.

Capital—

Authorised	$10,000,000
Subscribed	7,000,000
Paid up	7,000,000

Price of Share, $210. *Dividend* 12 %. *Yield*, £5 15s. 5d. %

The Imperial Bank of Canada has completed 40 years of existence, having been formed in 1875. The first report that was issued, dated June 22, 1876, showed that the Bank had a paid-up capital of $804,884, and that a sum of $25,000 had been set aside for the purpose of starting a reserve. The notes in circulation were $310,902, while the total deposits amounted to $1,594,199. Against this the Bank had total cash of $244,123, made up of $60,889 of gold and silver coin, $131,139 of Government demand notes, and $52,095 of notes and cheques of other banks. In addition the Bank had call and short loans amounting to $464,965, while current loans and discounts amounted to $2,205,814. By 1890 the paid-up capital amounted to $1,500,000 and the reserve fund was $700,000. In a further 15 years the paid-up capital was doubled, amounting to $3,000,000. The Bank had also accumulated a reserve fund of a similar amount, and from that date until April 1912 the reserve fund was maintained at a figure equal to that of the paid-up capital, and as increases have been made in the latter figure, corresponding additions have been made to the reserve fund; but with the amount placed to its credit by April 30, 1913, the reserve totalled $7,000,000, as against a paid-up capital of $6,788,169, so that the Bank had a reserve in excess of the paid-up capital. In June 1912 there was made a further issue of $1,000,000 of new capital, which became fully paid during 1914, and at April 30 of that year the paid-up capital amounted to $7,000,000, at which figure it still stands. The reserve fund is equal in amount, no additions having been made since 1913. The note circulation at April 30 last amounted to $4,528,252, as compared with $4,762,347. The deposits fell from $58,238,854 to $55,081,904. This reduction, however, is perhaps more apparent than real owing to the fact that a year ago the figures were somewhat abnormal on account of certain special Government deposits which have in the ordinary course of business been withdrawn for the purpose originally intended. Balances due to other banks have risen from $210,656 to $686,425. On the other side of the accounts the cash has risen from $16,008,510 to $17,434,099. The call loans and investments are both rather higher, but sums due by other banks have dropped from $7,863,799 to $4,234,758, while loans, &c., have dropped from $46,000,169 to $44,716,032. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank

When war broke out it was thought advisable to further increase the Bank's holding of cash in order to be ready for any possible emergency, and this has had its effect naturally on the profits of the year, which have fallen from $1,236,985 to $1,008,570. The dividend is maintained at 12 per cent, as may be seen

Liabilities of The Imperial Bank of Canada.

April 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	Total Deposits. % of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	Acceptances. % of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. Amount.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. % of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	Undivided Profits. % of Total.	Tota Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	7,000,000	7,000,000	14,000,000	18·5	4,528,252	6·0	55,081,904	72·9	48,677	·1	686,425	·9	1,222,989	1·6	75,568,247
1914 ...	7,000,000	7,000,000	14,000,000	18·0	4,762,347	6·0	58,238,854	73·8	175,599	·2	210,656	·2	1,475,796	1·8	78,863,252
1913 ...	6,788,169	7,000,000	13,788,169	17·7	5,803,794	7·4	56,941,079	73·0	—	—	224,076	·3	1,206,990	1·6	77,964,108
1912 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	12,000,000	16·2	5,303,642	7·2	55,126,628	74·7	—	—	118,610	·2	1,202,788	1·7	73,751,668
1911 ...	5,769,559	5,769,559	11,539,118	18·1	4,420,715	6·9	46,617,641	73·2	—	—	127,246	·2	1,005,306	1·6	63,710,026
1910 ...	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000	17·8	3,772,949	6·7	41,502,636	73·8	—	—	129,780	·2	833,635	1·5	56,239,000
1905 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	6,000,000	18·1	2,571,577	7·8	24,042,200	72·6	—	—	154,233	·5	326,516	1·0	33,095,526
1900* ...	2,458,603	1,700,000	4,158,603	20·5	1,710,477	8·4	14,235,399	70·1	—	—	3,106	—	202,809	1·0	20,308,394
1890* ...	1,500,000	700,000	2,200,000	22·6	1,207,540	12·4	6,216,872	63·9	—	—	—	—	108,020	1·1	9,732,432
1880* ...	886,132	100,000	986,132	26·5	562,044	15·2	2,127,350	57·3	—	—	—	—	35,683	1·0	3,711,209
1876† ...	804,884	25,000	829,884	26·5	310,902	9·9	1,594,199	50·9	—	—	355,693	11·4	39,058	1·3	3,129,736

Assets of The Imperial Bank of Canada.

April 30	Total Cash. Amount.	Total Cash. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Gt. Britain and U. States. Amount.	Call and Short Loans in Gt. Britain and U. States. % of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Gt. Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Gt. Britain and Foreign Countries. % of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. % of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. % of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	17,434,099	23·0	2,664,115	3·6	3,973,960	5·2	4,234,758	5·6	44,716,032	59·2	48,677	·1	2,496,606	3·3	75,568,247
1914 ...	16,098,510	20·4	2,440,867	3·1	4,050,811	5·1	7,863,799	10·0	46,000,169	58·3	175,599	·2	2,233,497	2·9	78,863,252
1913 ...	16,626,972	21·3	5,495,088	7·0	5,135,597	6·6	5,820,159	7·5	42,966,299	55·1	—	—	1,920,083	2·5	77,964,108
1912 ...	15,881,676	21·5	5,599,181	7·6	4,447,352	6·0	5,566,175	7·3	40,641,353	55·1	—	—	1,821,931	2·5	73,751,668
1911 ...	12,946,474	20·3	4,846,868	7·6	5,490,205	8·6	4,811,664	7·6	33,986,941	53·3	—	—	1,622,476	2·6	63,710,026
1910 ...	10,451,944	18·6	4,486,357	8·0	5,277,999	9·4	2,858,461	5·0	31,748,665	56·5	—	—	1,435,391	2·5	56,239,000
1905 ...	5,480,940	16·6	3,362,261	10·2	2,685,596	8·1	1,982,231	6·0	18,718,924	57·0	—	—	700,614	2·1	33,095,526
1900* ...	2,350,147	11·5	2,470,208	12·2	2,107,218	10·4	1,443,901	7·1	11,573,260	57·0	—	—	377,660	1·8	20,308,394
1890* ...	1,254,196	12·9	1,005,825	10·3	508,550	5·2	507,654	5·2	6,257,475	64·3	—	—	198,734	2·1	9,732,432
1880* ...	599,763	10·8	—	—	—	—	321,231	8·6	2,886,326	77·8	—	—	103,889	2·8	3,711,209
1876† ...	244,123	7·8	—	—	122,769	3·9	464,965	14·9	2,205,814	70·8	—	—	82,068	2·6	3,129,736

* May 31. † First statement dated June 22.

from the following statement of the profits for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Imperial Bank of Canada.

Year ended April 30	Profit.	Dividend, Amount.		Balance.	Premiums on New Stock.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	1,008,570	840,000	12	168,570	—	421,500	1,012,990
1914 ...	1,236,985	834,784	12	402,201	211,831	352,101	1,265,920
1913 ...	1,125,972	780,669	12	345,303	788,169	1,152,271	1,003,989
1912 ...	1,004,340	712,349	12	291,991	230,441	332,769	1,022,788
1911 ...	841,690	625,425	11¼	216,265	769,560	69,275	833,125
1910 ...	702,508	550,000	11	152,508	—	56,352	696,135
1909 ...	743,527	549,539	11	193,988	34,240	104,160	599,978
1908 ...	721,179	535,524	11	185,655	191,805	327,860	475,915
1907 ...	719,031	453,217	10½	265,814	846,205	116,393	426,316
1906 ...	535,788	335,406	10	200,382	927,740	100,002	276,897
1905 ...	510,952	300,000	10	210,952	—	175,042	176,516
1904 ...	504,417	299,194	10	205,223	13,685	225,003	140,606

The proportion that the profit for the year to April 30, 1915, bears to the paid-up capital is 14.4 per cent., to capital and rest combined 7.2 per cent., and to the working resources, amounting to $75,568,247, the proportion works out at 1.3 per cent.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Head Office: 25 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £650,000

Issued, 99,800 Ordinary, 200 Founders' Shares of £6 10*s.*, fully paid 650,000

Price of Ord., £5. *Dividend*, 6⅛%*. *Yield*, £9 3*s.* 10*d.*

NOTE.—The charter provides that the capital may be increased to £4,000,000.

* Free of tax.

THE Imperial Bank of Persia was incorporated by Royal charter in September 1889, granted by the English Government for the purpose of carrying on banking operations under an exclusive concession granted by the Government of the Shah of Persia to Baron Julius de Reuter for the term of 60 years from January 30, 1889, for the establishment of a State Bank in the Persian Empire and the carrying on of the business of a bank of issue and of a financial and commercial institution. Though the period of the concession was 60 years the charter is for a term of 30 years, while there are provisions for renewal. The concession includes, with certain exceptions, exclusive and definite privileges for the term of 60 years of working throughout the Empire the iron, copper, lead, mercury, coal, petroleum, manganese, borax and asbestos mines belonging to the State. Naturally, the mines are not worked by the Bank itself, but the prospectus pointed out that "sub-concessions will from time to time be granted upon terms which it is expected will be productive of large returns to the Bank." As a bank of issue the Bank has the exclusive right of issuing notes which are legal tender for all transactions in Persia. The concession provides that the Government is to be entitled to 6 per cent. on the net profits of the Bank for each year, such share not to be less than £4,000 in any one year. The capital was originally fixed at £1,000,000, in 100,000 shares of £10 each, divided into 99,800 Ordinary shares and 200 Founders' shares, and the capital was offered for subscription at a price of £12 per share. The charter limits the liability of each shareholder to any amount unpaid on the shares held, except in the event of insolvency, when he may be called upon to contribute a further sum, equal to the amount of his holding. In 1894 the capital was reduced by writing off £3 10*s.* of the nominal and paid-up amount of each Ordinary and Founders' share, in accordance with a supplemental charter of December 1894. Accordingly, the present capital is as shown above, £650,000; though the present amount of the share is £6 10*s.* fully paid the reserve liability remains at the original amount of £10 per share. The authorised amount of the

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

35 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: NATDIS, STOCK, LONDON. Telephones { No. 1484 AVENUE (2 lines). No. 11948 CENTRAL.

Subscribed Capital ...	**£4,233,325**
Paid-up Capital	**846,665**
Reserve Fund	**505,000**

Directors.

EDMUND THEODORE DOXAT, Esq., Chairman.
SIGISMUND FERDINAND MENDL, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
LAWRENCE E. CHALMERS, Esq. | WALTER JAMES HERIOT, Esq.
FREDERICK WILLIAM GREEN, Esq. | The Hon. SIDNEY PEEL.
F. LEVERTON HARRIS, Esq., M.P. | CHARLES DAVID SELIGMAN, Esq.

Manager.
PHILIP HAROLD WADE.

Sub-Manager.—FRANCIS GOLDSMITH.

Secretary.
CHARLES HENRY GOUGH.

Bankers.
BANK OF ENGLAND.
UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

Approved Mercantile Bills Discounted.

Money received on Deposit at Call and Short Notice, and Interest allowed at the Current Market Rates; and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

Loans granted upon Negotiable Securities.

Investments and Sales of all descriptions of British and Foreign Securities effected. All communications on this subject to be addressed to the Manager.

ALEXANDERS & CO.

LIMITED,

24 Lombard St., E.C.

Capital	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed	**900,000**
Paid up	**500,000**
Reserve Fund	**120,000**

£100,000 in £10 (fully paid 6 per cent.) Preference Shares.

£800,000 in £10 Ordinary Shares (£5 paid).

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM CLEVERLY ALEXANDER, *Chairman.*
ROBERT ERNEST ALEXANDER.
GEORGE CLEVERLY ALEXANDER
PHILIP PEMBROKE ALEXANDER.
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL.
Manager—F. NEWCOMB. | *Secretary*—A. K. BRUCE.

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Loans granted on negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates, as advertised from time to time in the daily papers. For longer periods on specially agreed terms.

Liabilities of The Imperial Bank of Persia.

Sept. 20	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amt. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits.—London. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Deposits.—Persia (in Silver). Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Deposits. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable, Endorsements and Adjustments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	650,000	210,000	860,000	27·7	832,012	26·8	67,090	2·2	628,277	20·2	695,368	22·4	671,803	21·7	43,358	1·4	3,102,541
1913 ...	650,000	210,000	860,000	26·0	962,419	29·1	65,867	1·9	840,128	25·5	905,995	27·4	514,501	15·6	62,114	1·9	3,305,029
1912 ...	650,000	210,000	860,000	28·6	859,064	28·6	71,592	2·4	653,418	21·7	725,010	24·1	499,386	16·7	60,965	2·0	3,004,424
1911 ...	650,000	210,000	860,000	28·1	805,133	26·3	55,025	1·8	720,768	23·6	775,793	25·4	559,496	18·3	57,426	1·9	3,057,848
1910 ...	650,000	200,000	850,000	30·9	683,945	24·9	44,413	1·6	702,441	25·5	746,854	27·1	419,389	15·2	52,925	1·9	2,753,113
1905 ...	650,000	130,000	780,000	40·3	526,479	26·5	19,571	1·0	406,547	20·5	426,118	21·5	217,765	9·9	36,024	1·8	1,986,386
1900 ...	650,000	72,459	722,459	52·4	206,422	15·0	79,265	5·7	201,493	14·7	280,758	20·4	131,332	9·5	36,645	2·7	1,377,616
1895 ...	650,000	42,287	692,287	49·3	72,668	5·2	11,907	·8	187,349	13·3	239,165*	17·0	358,277	25·6	40,298	2·9	1,402,695
1890 ...	999,748	150,000	1,149,748	64·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	113,015	6·3	458,000	25·6	67,864	3·8	1,789,427

* Including £39,909 deposits *elsewhere.*

Assets of The Imperial Bank of Persia.

Sept. 20	Cash in Hand, at Bankers and in Transit. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable, including Past Due Bills. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Loans and Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	1,062,141	34·2	631,843	20·4	25,926	·8	203,128	6·5	1,127,669	36·4	51,834	1·7	3,102,541
1913 ...	1,156,587	35·0	663,085	20·1	64,016	2·0	240,859	7·2	1,125,173	34·0	55,309	1·7	3,305,029
1912 ...	1,286,644	42·8	677,035	22·5	54,200	1·8	209,635	7·0	723,782	24·1	53,128	1·8	3,004,424
1911 ...	724,478	23·7	677,103	22·1	210,000	6·8	245,486	8·0	1,150,094	37·8	50,687	1·6	3,057,848
1910 ...	696,033	25·3	354,952	12·9	80,000	2·9	152,294	5·5	1,426,956	51·8	42,878	1·6	2,753,113
1905 ...	524,486	26·4	396,404	20·0	115,000	5·8	140,339	7·0	778,115	39·2	32,042	1·6	1,986,386
1900 ...	239,120	17·3	129,263	9·4	—	—	253,705	18·4	741,715	53·9	13,813	1·0	1,377,616
1895 ...	141,987	10·1	133,020	9·5	—	—	292,418	20·8	822,620	58·7	12,650	·9	1,402,695
1890 ...	57,288	3·2	60,000	3·4	335,000	18·7	60,269	3·4	258,557	70·3	18,313	1·0	1,789,427

note issue is £975,000. The charter provides that a metallic reserve equal to at least one-third of the note issue shall be held by the Bank and that the amount of notes not covered by such reserve shall not exceed the amount of the paid-up capital for the time being. No change has taken place in the paid-up capital since 1895, but during that period a reserve fund has been built up from £42,287 to £210,000.

In September 1914 the note circulation amounted to £832,012, as compared with £962,419 twelve months previously, while during the year the total deposits fell from £905,995 to £695,368. On the other side of the accounts the cash fell from £1,156,587 to £1,062,141. The call money also fell from £64,016 to £25,926. Similarly the investments dropped from £663,085 to £631,843, and bills receivable from £240,859 to £203,128. We set out herewith a summary of the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

During the twelve months to September 1914 the bank had to deal with an unprecedented fall in the sterling value of money in Persia and on the Continent as well as a pronounced decline in the value of securities. These two unforeseen events affected profits to a serious extent. The gross profit amounted to £125,656, as compared with £137,037, while the expenses rose from £75,271 to £83,460. Consequently, after providing for the amount due to the Persian Government and for income tax the net profit fell from £51,149 to £31,244. The dividend was reduced from 7.7 per cent. to 6.16 per cent.

It may be pointed out that both classes of shares rank *pari passu* for a cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. (on £10 per share). Of the remaining profits, one-half belongs to the Founders' shares and the other half to the Ordinary and Founders' shares *pro rata.*

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

Year ended Sept. 30	Gross Profit. £	Expenses. £	Due to Persian Govt. £	Income Tax. £	Net Profit. £	Dividends. Amount. £	Dividends. Rate. %	Reserve. Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914...	125,656	83,460	4,000	6,952	31,244	40,000	6·16	—	23,358
1913...	137,037	75,271	4,000	6,617	51,149	50,000	7·7	—	32,114
1912...	134,828	71,307	4,000	5,983	53,538	50,000	7·7	—	30,964
1911...	143,158	69,425	4,424	4,808	64,501	50,000	7·7	10,000	27,426
1910...	134,364	67,096	4,036	4,785	58,447	45,000	6·9	15,000	22,925
1909...	115,137	59,024	4,000	4,129	47,984	40,000	6·1	—	24,478
1908...	122,551	59,871	4,000	3,401	55,279	40,000	6·1	11,000	16,494
1907...	130,866	54,996	5,452	3,156	67,262	40,000	6·1	26,000	12,215
1906...	119,471	52,188	4,037	3,315	59,931	40,000	6·1	20,000	10,953
1905...	109,547	47,604	4,000	2,695	55,248	40,000	6·1	15,000	11,024
1904...	99,403	44,882	4,000	737	49,784	40,000	6·1	15,000	10,776

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 4.8 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 3.6 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

The chief office in Persia is at Teheran, and there are 16 branches.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 25 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£600,000
Issued, 97,116 Shares of £5 each, fully paid	485,580
Price of Share, £3⅜. *Dividend*, 5%.*	*Yield*, £8 8*s.*

* Free of tax.

The Ionian Bank, Limited, is an Anglo-Greek-Egyptian institution, and was incorporated in 1839. It was a project of the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, Lieut.-General Sir Howard Douglas, who suggested its formation as a means for remedying the many grievances and exactions which the small landowners were enduring from the local money-lenders. Overtures were made by him in 1838, through the Agent in London, to certain capitalists for the formation of a Company, which resulted in the incorporation of the Bank with a capital of £100,000, and a convention was finally granted to the Bank by the United States of the Ionian Islands in October 1839. In 1864 the Ionian Islands were united with the Kingdom of Greece, and under the treaty the rights and privileges of the Ionian Bank were protected and guaranteed by the three Great Powers and Greece. It then became a privileged Bank in Greece, and obtained the right by convention to carry on business throughout the Kingdom, and obtained the right to issue notes on its own account up to 9,000,000 drachmas and on Government account up to 3,500,000 drachmas, all of which notes under the Forced Currency Laws became legal tender, but the latter were subsequently redeemed. In 1882 the Ionian Bank Act was passed, and power was given to register the Bank under the English Companies Acts as a Limited Company, which was done in March 1893. On the establishment of the International Financial Control and the readjustment of the Company's finances in 1898 the indebtedness of the Government to the Bank for loans, in some cases forcibly obtained from it, amounted to £181,523, consisting of forced currency notes and Treasury bills, and also 2,000,000 drachmas in notes of the Bank which had been issued by it on behalf of the Government. The notes were withdrawn from

Liabilities of The Ionian Bank, Limited.

Jan.	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	485,580	65,000	550,580	19·2	260,833	9·1	1,998,900	69·6	44,405	1·5	16,377	·6	2,871,095
1914 ...	485,580	65,000	550,580	18·0	290,878	9·5	2,170,316	70·9	35,112	1·1	15,956	·5	3,062,842
1913 ...	485,580	65,000	550,580	20·2	288,967	10·6	1,837,611	67·3	36,244	1·3	15,802	·6	2,729,204
1912 ...	485,580	65,000	550,580	19·1	296,167	10·3	1,918,443	66·8	89,805	3·1	19,838	·7	2,874,833
1911 ...	393,552	114,000	507,552	16·8	353,939	11·7	1,820,270	60·0	324,154	10·7	24,921	·8	3,030,836
1910 ...	315,510	100,000	415,510	15·6	365,369	13·7	1,682,511	63·2	179,029	6·7	21,981	·8	2,664,400
1905 ...	315,510	—	315,510	26·1	237,638	19·7	598,180	49·5	8,749	·7	47,013	4·0	1,207,090
1900 ...	315,508	—	315,508	30·2	331,278	31·7	342,381	32·8	15,902	1·5	39,641	3·8	1,044,710
1890 ...	315,507	—	315,507	27·6	384,954	33·8	339,214	29·7	66,846	5·8	32,589	2·8	1,139,110
1880 ...	204,730	—	204,730	20·1	375,812	36·9	281,972	27·6	118,822	11·7	34,346	3·7	1,015,682
1878 ...	204,730	60,000	264,730	24·1	363,392	33·1	286,982	26·1	182,687	16·6	1,517	·1	1,099,308

Assets of The Ionian Bank, Limited.

Jan.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. £	Notes of Other Banks Amount. £	Total. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Greek Government Loans. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amt. £
1915 ...	139,480	266,015	405,495	14·1	79,976	2·8	244,414	8·5	73,456	2·6	324,249	11·3	1,654,988	57·0	27,564	·9	80,955	2·8	2,871,095
1914 ...	149,850	54,792	204,642	6·8	116,812	3·8	140,966	4·6	330,546	10·8	382,654	12·5	1,751,239	57·2	81,541	2·7	54,442	1·6	3,062,842
1913 ...	122,388	52,856	175,244	6·4	118,722	4·4	147,014	5·4	282,219	10·3	335,886	12·3	1,592,179	58·4	32,944	1·2	44,996	1·6	2,729,204
1912 ...	85,406	60,804	146,210	5·1	122,631	4·2	180,747	6·3	210,277	7·3	463,584	16·1	1,676,143	58·3	51,062	1·8	24,179	·9	2,874,833
1911 ...	60,662	77,124	137,786	4·5	181,559	6·0	151,056	5·0	246,993	8·2	415,836	13·7	1,738,356	57·3	135,071	4·5	24,179	·8	3,030,836
1910 ...	20,735	33,526	54,261	2·0	199,165	7·5	153,291	5·8	66,369	2·5	386,965	14·5	1,713,935	64·3	66,235	2·5	24,179	·9	2,664,400
1905 ...	14,973	37,983	52,956	4·4	168,211	14·0	87,184	7·2	63,179	5·2	179,731	14·9	613,942	50·9	17,708	1·4	24,179	2·0	1,207,090
1900 ...	68,970	—	68,970	6·6	245,067	23·5	188,970	18·1	5,000	·5	133,866	12·8	367,743	35·2	10,910	1·0	24,164	2·3	1,044,710
1890 ...	135,147	—	135,147	11·8	223,011	19·5	185,858	16·3	32,000	2·9	136,702	12·0	366,027	32·2	37,464	3·3	22,901	2·0	1,139,110
1880 ...	206,971	—	206,971	20·4	•	—	79,490	7·8	—	—	617,684	60·8	•	—	98,262	9·7	13,275	1·3	1,015,682
1878 ...	207,309	—	207,309	18·9	•	—	116,344	10·6	—	—	669,733	61·0	•	—	94,336	8·5	11,586	1·0	1,099,308

• Included in Bills discounted, &c.

circulation and the other sums regularised by the issue of various bonds. The Bank's privilege as a Bank of issue in Greece terminates in 1920. Its convention requires in respect of its issue of notes that it should lend a certain proportion of its share capital to peasant proprietors at 5 per cent. interest, and that it shall always keep in current money a sum equivalent to one-third of its notes in circulation; but as a matter of fact the Bank keeps both in London and at its branches abroad an amount in first-class securities and in loans on the London Stock Exchange, also money at call with its bankers, equal to 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of its demand liabilities. In consequence of the extension of commercial relations of Greece with Egypt it was decided to establish a branch in Alexandria in 1907, since when eight sub-branches have also been opened. In Greece, in addition to the office in Athens, there are branches in Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, and Nauplia, making the total number of offices in operation 17. For a number of years up to 1910 the paid-up capital remained

THE COLONIAL BANK.

Established and Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836.

Subscribed Capital, £2,000,000, in 100,000 Shares of £20 each. Paid up, £600,000. Reserve Funds, £150,000.

Head Office, London—

No. 16 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman—C. R. GURNEY HOARE.

Deputy-Chairman—CYRIL GURNEY.

Sir WM. MAX AITKEN, M.P. — O. V. G. HOARE.
O. A. CAMPBELL. — ARTHUR JOHN McCONNELL.
THOMAS DU BUISSON. — EDMUND C. MORGAN.
E. A. DUFF. [M.P. — ROBERT RUTHERFORD.
Sir EDWARD A. GOULDING, Bart., — C. W. SOFER WHITBURN.

AUDITOR.

T. A. WELTON, F.C.A. (Welton, Jones & Co.).

MANAGER. CHARLES H. HEWETT. | BANKERS. LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

NEW YORK AGENCY—82 WALL STREET.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS.

ANTIGUA.
BARBADOS.
BERBICE.
DEMERARA—
GEORGETOWN.
MAHAICA.
DOMINICA.
GRENADA—
ST. GEORGE'S,
AND AGENTS AT
GRENVILLE.
JAMAICA—
KINGSTON.
MONTEGO BAY.
PORT ANTONIO.
AND AGENTS AT
FALMOUTH,
PORT MARIA,
ST. ANNS BAY.
SAVANNA-LA-MAR.
ST. KITTS.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
ST. THOMAS.
TRINIDAD—
PORT OF SPAIN.
SAN FERNANDO.

AGENTS.

Dominion of Canada ... ... The Bank of British North America.
Paris ... ... Messrs. Mallett Frères & Cie.
Copenhagen ... ... The Private Bank.

The Bank in London and New York and their Agents in Canada issue Letters of Credit, Drafts on Demand, and Telegraphic Transfers on the Branches, negotiate approved Bills of Exchange, receive Bills for Collection, and conduct a general Banking business with the West Indies and British Guiana.

The Branches issue Demand and Usance Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on London, New York, Paris, the principal Cities in Canada and other points, negotiate approved Bills, and do a general Banking business.

THE DELHI AND LONDON BANK

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN INDIA IN 1844.

Registered in London under the Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867.

CAPITAL, **£500,000,** in **20,000** SHARES of **£25** each.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, **£337,625,** Fully Paid up.

Head Office:

5 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

COLONEL WILLIAM GRAHAM SMITH, *Chairman.*

A. F. SIMSON, Esq. — C. C. McLEOD, Esq.
A. T. RAWLINSON Esq. — F. H. CUMBERLEGE, Esq.
C. CAREW ROBINSON, Esq.

P. B. BAKER, *Manager.* G. E. M. BUTLIN, *Accountant.*

Bankers.

The BANK OF ENGLAND and UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.

Auditors.

Messrs. W. B. PEAT AND CO. and H. S. McAUSLAN, Esq.

Branches.

CALCUTTA, DELHI, LUCKNOW, MUSSOORIE, SIMLA, KARACHI AMRITSAR, DEHRA DOON.

Agents at Bombay—THE BANK OF BOMBAY.

Current Accounts are opened and kept on same terms as by London Bankers.

Deposits are received, payable at Seven and Fourteen Days' Notice, and for longer periods, upon terms which can be had on application.

Purchases and Sales effected in all British and Foreign Stocks. Pay, Pensions Annuities, &c., realised free of charge to constituents.

Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued, payable on the Continent of Europe, Egypt, Africa, China, Australia, New Zealand, America, Canada, &c and the Bank draws upon most parts of India.

unchanged at £315,510, but in June of that year there were offered for subscription 56,898 shares of £5 each, the new capital being required for the purpose of developing and extending the Bank's business in Egypt. Consequently the paid-up capital became increased to £485,580.

By 1911 there had been accumulated a reserve fund of £114,000, but in 1912 it was necessary to withdraw £53,000 to provide for losses sustained in Egypt and for serious floods, reducing the reserve to £65,000, at which figure it still stands. In January last the notes in circulation amounted to £260,833, as compared with £290,878. The deposits amounted to £1,998,900, as compared with £2,170,316. On the other side of the accounts, the total cash rose from £204,642 to £405,493, while call money fell from £330,546 to £73,456. Greek Government loans also fell from £116,812 to £79,976. On the other hand, investments rose from £140,966 to £244,414. Advances dropped from £1,751,239 to £1,634,988. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1878.

For the twelve months to January 1915 the Bank showed a gross profit of £120,483, as compared with £116,837 for the previous year. Expenses remained stationary, but the sum required for interest on deposits rose from £37,323 to £40,133. Consequently, the net profit amounted to £24,700, as compared with £24,434. The dividend was maintained at 5 per cent., and the balance added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £4,237. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the Ionian Bank, Limited.

Year ended Jan. 13	Gross Profit (a).	Expenses.	Interest on Deposits.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amt.	Dividend. Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forw'd.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1915 ...	120,483	55,650	40,133	24,700	24,279	5	--	4,237
1914 ...	116,837	55,080	37,323	24,434	24,279	5	—	3,816
1913 ...	117,794	55,247	37,449	25,098	24,279	5	—	3,661
1912 ...	117,148	56,538	37,668	22,942	28,568	6	—	2,842
1911 ...	114,834	47,786	34,211	32,837	24,341	7	10,966	8,468
1910 ...	108,730	37,216	32,701	38,813	18,931	6	28,752	10,938
1909 ...	109,411*	32,932	29,365	47,114	18,931	6	50,000	19,808
1908 ...	58,215	21,426	16,918	19,871	18,931	6	—	41,625
1907 ...	56,179	17,846	15,436	22,897	18,931	6	—	40,685
1906 ...	50,938	17,183	14,075	19,680	18,931	6	—	36,719
1905 ...	48,823	16,662	12,133	20,028	18,931	6	—	35,970

(a) Less rebate on bills discounted not due.

* Including the profit arising from the reduction of the converting rate of exchange.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 5.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 4.5 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

At the annual meeting in April last Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, the Chairman, pointed out that the receipts in 1914 from the assigned revenues under the control of the International Financial Commission show the large increase of 30 per cent. over the previous maximum, and this will enable the interest and sinking fund on the various loans to be considerably enhanced. Judging from this result, Greece has made a remarkable recovery from the Balkan wars, but its finances in connection with its late heavy expenditure have yet to be adjusted. Mr. Larkworthy dealt in a very full manner with the question of Greek finance and economics, and also with the position in Egypt created by the War in connection with financial and commercial matters. The speech was a most interesting contribution to modern economic literature, and was published in THE STATIST of April 17 last. It should be read by all who are interested in any way in the finance and economics of Greece and Egypt.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 7 Tokenhouse Yard, London, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed	£2,500,000
Issued, 125,000 Shares of £20 each ...	2,500,000
Paid up, £10 per Share	1,250,000

Price of Share, £21¼. *Dividend*, 15 %.* *Yield*, £8 3*s.* 4*d.*

* Free of tax.

As the London and Brazilian Bank was founded in the spring of 1862 it was able to celebrate its jubilee in 1912. A few months after the formation of the Bank the branch at Rio de Janeiro was opened for business, being the first foreign bank to be established in Brazil. During the next two years the Anglo-Portuguese Bank was taken over, three more branches were opened in Brazil, and also two in Portugal. In September 1864, following on the failure of a private bank with very large deposits in Rio, a monetary crisis and panic occurred. The result was that several other private banks experienced a run and had to close their doors. The crisis was the origin of certain lock-ups at the Rio branch which eventually made it desirable to reorganise the Bank. This took place in 1871, since when very steady progress has been made, and at the present time, in addition to the head office in London,

Liabilities of The London and Brazilian Bank, Limited.

Jan.	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills for Collection. Amount.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915 ...	1,250,000	1,400,000	2,650,000	13·6	3,852,449	19·8	9,121,689	46·7	3,474,793	17·8	—	—	408,940	2·1	19,507,871
1914 ...	1,250,000	1,400,000	2,650,000	11·9	4,789,517	21·4	9,443,052	42·3	4,769,861	21·4	120,000	·6	540,155	2·4	22,312,585
1913 ...	1,250,000	1,300,000	2,550,000	11·4	5,112,530	22·9	9,411,204	42·3	4,550,327	20·4	120,000	·5	563,593	2·5	22,307,654
1912 ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	9·8	4,429,689	21·7	9,143,512	44·7	4,249,485	20·8	100,000	·5	517,978	2·5	20,440,664
1911 ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	10·9	4,772,653	26·0	7,630,029	41·6	3,460,676	18·8	70,000	·4	421,759	2·3	18,355,117
1910 ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	12·7	4,966,675	31·5	6,166,096	39·1	2,247,876	14·2	70,000	·4	340,571	2·1	15,791,218
1905 ...	750,000	600,000	1,350,000	11·4	4,103,306	34·6	4,556,194	38·5	1,577,341	13·3	48,000	·4	206,803	1·8	11,842,144
1900 ...	750,000	600,000	1,350,000	14·3	3,688,734	39·1	2,962,281	31·4	1,192,620	12·6	—	—	242,376	2·6	9,436,011
1890 ...	625,000	360,000	985,000	10·7	5,491,738	59·7	2,607,677	28·4	—	—	—	—	107,255	1·2	9,191,670
1880*...	450,000	80,000	530,000	10·6	2,840,603	56·7	1,548,085	30·9	—	—	—	—	90,114	1·8	5,008,802
1870†...	750,000	—	750,000	40·8	499,876	27·2	554,307	30·1	—	—	—	—	35,229	1·9	1,839,412
1866‡...	750,000	20,000	770,000	12·7	3,882,869	64·1	1,315,745	21·7	—	—	—	—	88,758	1·5	6,057,372

Assets of The London and Brazilian Bank, Limited.

Jan. 31	Specie & Cash at Head Office and Cash and Remittances in Transitu, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted and Loans. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills for Collection *per Contra*. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1915	6,120,586	31·4	7,318,913	37·5	2,308,778	11·8	3,474,793	17·8	284,801	1·5	19,507,871
1914	4,639,525	20·8	9,090,750	49·7	3,513,906	15·7	4,769,861	21·4	298,543	1·4	22,312,585
1913	4,402,725	19·7	8,970,428	40·2	4,142,278	18·6	4,550,327	20·4	241,896	1·1	22,307,654
1912	4,150,000	20·3	8,026,105	39·2	3,796,247	18·6	4,249,485	20·8	218,827	1·1	20,440,664
1911	4,495,780	24·5	6,061,431	33·0	4,186,386	22·8	3,460,676	18·9	150,844	·8	18,355,117
1910	4,448,752	28·2	4,966,961	31·5	3,987,057	25·2	2,247,876	14·2	140,572	·9	15,791,218
1905	3,828,146	32·3	3,324,481	28·1	2,944,108	24·9	1,577,841	13·3	167,568	1·4	11,842,144
1900	1,655,997	17·6	3,889,636	41·2	2,529,513	26·8	1,192,620	12·6	168,245	1·8	9,436,011
1890	1,352,830	14·7	7,774,006	84·6	—	—	—	—	64,834	·7	9,191,670
1880*	953,232	19·0	3,996,698	79·8	—	—	—	—	58,872	1·2	5,008,802
1870†	263,117	14·3	1,529,226	83·1	—	—	—	—	47,069	2·6	1,839,412
1866‡	449,623	7·4	5,589,374	92·3	—	—	—	—	18,375	·3	6,057,372

* July 31. † September 30. ‡ June 30.

there are 11 offices in Brazil, 3 in the River Plate, 2 in Portugal, and 1 in Paris, while there is also an agency in New York. For some years up to 1907 the paid-up capital remained unchanged at £750,000, but in that year the rapidly growing business called for an increase, and accordingly in 1908 the paid-up capital was increased to £1,000,000. The business continued to grow in a rapid manner, and it became necessary in 1912 to issue a further £500,000 of new capital, which was made at a premium of £10 per share. Accordingly, at January 31, 1913, the paid-up capital amounted to £1,250,000, while for the first time the reserve fund was brought up to a figure in excess of the paid-up capital, amounting to £1,300,000. At January 31, 1914, the reserve was further increased to £1,400,000.

In January 1915 the deposits amounted to £9,121,689, as compared with £9,443,052. Bills payable also fell from £4,789,517 to £3,852,449, while bills for collection also dropped from £4,769,861 to £3,474,793. On the other side, the cash rose from £4,639,525 to £6,120,586, the proportion to the total assets rising from 20.8 per cent. to 31.4 per cent. On the other hand, however, loans and bills discounted fell from £9,090,750 to £7,318,913, while bills receivable fell from £3,513,906 to £2,308,778. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1866.

At the meeting in April 1914 the Chairman drew attention to the severe commercial crises that developed simultaneously in Brazil and the Argentine Republic as far back as the month of June 1913, and mentioned the exceptional anxieties they had caused the Bank. The unfavourable effects continued to develop during 1914, and the crises proved to be far more severe and of much longer duration than was anticipated. The Chairman warned the shareholders that it was impossible for the Bank, with its large and important business in Brazil and Argentina, to come scathless through such an ordeal. The ordeal increased in severity during 1914 and proved far more costly than had been anticipated. The result is that the gross profit for the year to January 31, 1915, only amounted to £526,056, as compared with £679,730 for the previous year. After providing for expenses and taxes the net profit was £193,786, as compared with £341,562. Consequently, the distribution was reduced from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent., as may be seen from the following statement of profits for each year since 1905:—

Profits of the London and Brazilian Bank, Limited.

Year ended Jan. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Taxes, &c.	Net Profit.	Dividend Amount.	Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1915 ...	526,056	276,772	[illegible]	193,786	187,500	15	—	280,441
1914 ...	679,730	290,955	47,213	341,562	250,000	20	75,000	280,155
1913 ...	691,146	270,139	42,342	378,615	250,000	20	115,000	273,593
1912 ...	593,731	247,997	37,515	308,219	170,000	17	148,000	259,978
1911 ...	553,320	224,958	35,674	272,688	170,000	17	42,000	269,759
1910 ...	465,954	192,835	32,180	240,019	170,000	17	11,500	209,071
1909 ...	453,422	185,564	28,983	239,075	150,000	15	39,000	150,552
1908 ...	443,479	176,283	27,084	240,112	120,000	15	90,000	100,477
1907 ...	408,336	176,466	23,132	208,738	112,500	15	96,000	100,365
1906 ...	377,132	172,291	21,766	183,075	112,500	15	71,000	100,127
1905 ...	290,675	139,078	16,060	135,537	85,000	12½	50,000	100,552

The proportion that the shown net profit for the year to January 31 bears to the paid-up capital is 15.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined it is 7.3 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

In April last the Chairman pointed out that: "The War has naturally had its effect in both Brazil and Argentina. As regards Argentina, I am glad to say that, according to the last advices, a revival of confidence is showing itself. It will, however, be some time, I think, before the country recovers from its present impecunious position, although the War has created a great demand for its products, and at high

THE RIVER PLATE TRUST, LOAN & AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL.

200,000 "A" Shares of £2 10s. each	£500,000
100,000 "B" Shares of £5 each	500,000
5% Cumulative Preference Stock	1,500,000
	£2,500,000

Reserve Fund £1,050,000

Directors:

JAMES ANDERSON, Esq., Chairman.

A. E. BOWEN, Esq. P. W. CARR, Esq.

E. ROSS DUFFIELD, Esq. R. A. THURBURN, Esq.

The Company undertakes all kinds of Agency business in the River Plate, especially in the following cases: Representation of Companies, Trustees for Debenture Issues, Issue and Service of Loans, Winding-up of Deceased and other Estates, Agencies of Estates, and General Agency Business.

Further information can be obtained at the HEAD OFFICE:

No. 52 MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

G. PROCTOR, Manager and Secretary.

LONDON and BRAZILIAN BANK

LIMITED.

(Established 1862.)

Capital, in 125,000 Shares of £20 each ...	£2,500,000
Paid-up Capital	£1,250,000
Reserve Fund	£1,400,000

Head Office:

7 TOKENHOUSE YARD, LONDON, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

Chairman—JOHN BEATON, Esq.

Deputy-Chairman—WILLIAM DUNCAN HOARE, Esq.

MAX JULIUS BONN, Esq. JOHN GORDON, Esq.
LEONARD DANEHAM CUNLIFFE, Esq. CHARLES SEYMOUR GRENFELL, Esq.
MAURICE GEORGE CARR GLYN, Esq. CHARLES EVELYN JOHNSTON, Esq.

General Manager—E. A. BENN.

Sub-Manager—T. J. FINNIE. *Secretary*—A. W. SAUNDERS.

Inspector of Branches—H. L. RICHARDSON. *Chief Accountant*—T. H. HUGHES.

BANKERS.

London: THE BANK OF ENGLAND: Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co.
Liverpool: THE BANK OF LIVERPOOL LTD.
France: BANQUE DE FRANCE (Paris): SOCIETE GENERALE (Paris and Branches).
Italy: CREDITO ITALIANO. Spain: CREDIT LYONNAIS.
Portugal: BANCO DE PORTUGAL.

BRANCHES.

Brazil—Rio de Janeiro, Manaos, Para, Ceara, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, São Paulo, Campinas, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre.
Argentina—Buenos Ayres, Rosario. **Uruguay**—Montevideo.
United States—New York Agency. **France**—Paris (5 Rue Scribe).
Portugal—Lisbon, Oporto.

CORRESPONDENTS.

The Bank has Accredited Correspondents in all the principal Ports and Cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States, and Europe.

Drafts and Letters of Credit issued, Telegraphic Transfers made, and Bills of Exchange negotiated or collected on the most favourable terms.

The Bank grants Circular Letters of Credit for the use of travellers, and undertakes every description of Banking business.

prices. The country has such a variety of valuable exports that two or three years of 'fair-weather crops' would ensure the return of its former prosperity. It will doubtless interest you to know that the value of the total Argentine exports this year will, according to an estimate I have received from Buenos Ayres, amount to 120 millions sterling. As regards Brazilian finance, to which I referred at some length last year, it is evidently in a state of transition, the country having now to rely on its own resources for a solution of its financial difficulties instead of on foreign loans. The Government is, therefore, meeting its financial requirements by the imposition of new taxes, the instituting of all-round economies, and the issue of internal loans."

LONDON AND HANSEATIC BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,500,000
Subscribed, 75,000 Shares of £20 each ...	1,500,000
Paid up, £10 per Share	750,000

Price of Share, £12½. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, £4 18*s.* 4*d.*

The London and Hanseatic Bank, Limited, was established in the year 1873 with an authorised capital of £800,000, of which £666,000 was subscribed in 33,300 shares of £20 each. Only £7 per share was at first called up, and it was not until 1880 that a call of £3 per share was made, bringing the paid-up amount to £10 per share. Since then the shares have remained at £20, with £10 paid up. The capital remained unchanged until 1906, when it was increased to £1,000,000, with £500,000 paid up. The business continued to grow, and in 1909 the authorised amount was raised to £1,500,000, and of the new shares one-half were taken up immediately, the remaining half being offered for subscription in 1913. The last issue of 12,500 shares was subscribed at a premium of £2 per share. The Bank is a commercial undertaking carrying on business in various parts of the world, but very largely in South America.

Up to last year the Bank had also connections in Germany and acted as agent for several German institutions. Moreover, there was an equal number of directors in Hamburg to those in London. But at the outbreak of war the former Hamburg directors resigned their seats. The Chairman has drawn attention to the fact that an erroneous impression had arisen that in consequence of this connection the Bank's business was principally carried on with Germany, but as a matter of fact, at the outbreak of the War the interests in Germany and Austria together amounted to just one-fifth of the total engagements, and the remainder is spread practically over the whole world, both in this country and in other European and Transatlantic countries, the geographical distribution of the commitments being a feature which is regarded as important.

The Bank is not an ordinary deposit institution, and of the total liabilities of £5,469,166 at the end of 1914 the acceptances totalled £4,126,415, while bills discounted and current accounts amounted to £173,551. The result is that the cash in hand and at short notice formed a very small proportion of the total assets, the largest item being bills discounted, current and other accounts, and it is in the increase in the figures of this item that the growth of the Bank may be most readily seen. In 1880 the figure was £873,639 out of total assets valued at £1,490,440. By 1905 the figure was £2,078,652; by 1910 the amount had doubled, reaching a total of £4,374,984.

At the end of 1914, out of total assets valued at £5,469,166, bills discounted, &c., accounted for £4,525,518. The growth of the business of the Bank may be seen from the statement herewith of its liabilities and assets for various years since 1875.

During the first seven months of 1914 the profits were good, but the outbreak of war and the altered conditions resulting from it in all parts of the world compelled the Bank to restrict its operations within a much narrower compass, with the result that the profits for the latter part of the year were much reduced. Moreover, it was not possible to avoid making some losses; but provision has been made for all bad and doubtful debts so far as they can at present be ascertained. The gross profit has fallen from £122,845 to £74,520, and after deduction of expenses there is a net profit of £45,052, as compared with £87,356 for 1913. The dividend has been reduced from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent., and the surplus added to the carry-forward, making it £25,443. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the London and Hanseatic Bank, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividends.* Amount.	Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1914 ...	74,520	29,468	45,052	45,000	6	—	25,443
1913 ...	122,845	35,489	87,356	56,250	8	27,000	25,392
1912 ...	116,644	32,657	83,987	50,000	8	33,000	21,286
1911 ...	99,409	27,910	71,499	50,000	8	21,000	20,299
1910 ...	93,928	25,224	68,704	50,000	8	16,000	19,800
1909 ...	79,357	25,297	54,060	40,000	8	11,000	17,096
1908 ...	79,415	20,411	59,004	37,500	7½	21,000	14,036
1907 ...	63,154	18,876	44,278	37,500	7½	1,000	13,532
1906 ...	58,976	17,358	41,618	30,000	7½	11,000	7,754
1905 ...	48,480	16,249	32,231	30,000	7½	1,000	7,136
1904 ...	47,317	16,107	31,210	30,000	7½	—	5,905

* Free of tax.

Liabilities of The London and Hanseatic Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Accounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Staff Pension Fund. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914 ...	750,000	350,000	1,100,000	20·1	173,551	3·2	4,126,415	75·4	21,257	·4	47,943	·9	5,469,166
1913 ...	750,000	350,000	1,100,000	13·1	1,415,295	17·2	5,749,835	68·7	18,376	·2	64 891	·8	8,378,397
1912 ...	625,000	270,000	895,000	11·4	1,380,078	17·7	5,447,003	69·6	14,656	·2	85,536	1·1	7,822,273
1911 ...	625,000	250,000	875,000	12·0	1,186,248	16·3	5,120,006	70·5	13,194	·2	72,549	1·0	7,266.997
1910 ...	625,000	235,000	860,000	14·9	629,732	11·0	4,196,683	72·8	11,728	·2	67,051	1·1	5,765,194
1905 ...	400,000	150,000	550,000	17·3	90,524	2·9	2,504,629	78·9	—	—	28,136	·9	3,173,289
1900 ...	400,000	125,000	525,000	18·2	2,324,409*	80·5	-	-	—	—	38,590	1·3	2,887,999
1890 ...	400,000	87,000	487,000	20·2	1,900,599*	78·8	—	—	-	—	25,015	1·0	2,412,614
1880 ...	333,000	42,000	375,000	25·2	1,092,411*	73·3	—	—	—	—	23,029	1·5	1,490,440
1875 ...	233,100	6,000	239,100	17·0	1,139,542*	81·5	—	—	—	—	22,091	1·5	1,400,733

* Including Acceptances.

Assets of The London and Hanseatic Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	% of Total.	Current and Other Accounts, including Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£		£
1914 ...	47,639	·9	340,742	6·2	398,540	7·3	156,727	2·9	4,525,518	82·7	—	—	5,469,166
1913 ...	52,867	·6	311,217	3·7	532,700	6·4	749,451	9·0	6,732,162	80·3	—	—	8,378,397
1912 ...	103,007	1·3	276,005	3·5	632,600	8·1	512,628	6·6	6,298,033	80·5	—	—	7,822,273
1911 ...	33,925	·4	307,199	4·2	640,000	8·8	338,446	4·7	5,947,427	81·9	—	—	7,266,997
1910 ...	42,765	·8	284,380	4·9	509,000	8·8	554,065	9·6	4,374,984	75·9	—	—	5,765,194
1905 ...	68,930	2·2	209,073	6·6	315,000	9·9	501,624	15·8	2,078,652	65·5	10	—	3,173,289
1900 ...	49,456	1·7	211,179	7·3	301,600	10·4	394,986	13·7	1,930,768	66·9	10	—	2,887,999
1890 ...	42,895	1·8	221,449	9·2	225,000	9·3	365,989	15·2	1,557,181	64·5	100	—	2,412,614
1880 ...	25,200	1·7	55,626	3·7	185,000	12·4	350,675	23·6	873,639	58·6	300	—	1,490,440
1875 ...	See column 3		See column 5		136,680*	9·8	251,815	18·0	1,011,638†	72·2	600	—	1,400,733

* Including Cash in Hand and at Bankers. † Including Investments.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 6.0 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 4.1 per cent.; and to the total working resources, .8 per cent.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 7 Princes Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, ...	£4,000,000
Issued, 120,000 Shares of £25 each... ...	3,000,000
Paid up, £15 per Share	1,800,000

Price, £34¼. *Dividend,* 15%.* *Yield,* £7 2*s.* 3*d.*

* Free of tax.

The London and River Plate Bank celebrated its jubilee in 1912, inasmuch as it was established in 1862 under the name of the London, Buenos Ayres and River Plate Bank, Ltd., with a capital of £500,000, of which £200,000 was called up. In January 1863 the office of Buenos Ayres was opened. Later in the same year it was decided to increase the capital by £500,000, bringing it up to £1,000,000, and calling up another £200,000. The new issue of capital brought in a premium of £30,000, which was used to start a reserve fund. Shortly afterwards the name was changed to its present form. The Bank was the first English public bank established in Argentina, and during the earlier period of its existence it experienced the fate of most pioneers, the directors having to face times of great difficulty and anxiety in the shape of serious political disturbances, large paper issues of forced currency with its attendant loss and adverse effect on trade and commerce, and financial breakdown generally. For a considerable time the Bank restricted its operations to Argentina and Uruguay, and it was not until 30 years after the opening of the office in Buenos Ayres that the board, observing the steadily increasing trade between the River Plate countries and Brazil, saw the necessity for establishing a branch of the Bank in Rio de Janeiro, and subsequently in San Paulo and in the chief ports of that country. Subsequently Chile attracted the attention of the board as a very desirable field for the establishment of branches, with the result that an office has been open for some time in Valparaiso, and it was announced at the last meeting that steps were being taken to open in Santiago. At the time the last report was issued, in addition to the head office, the Bank had 13 offices in Argentina, 4 in Uruguay, 9 in Brazil, 1 in Chile, 1 in France, 1 in Belgium, and an agency in New York. For a long period of years the paid-up capital remained unchanged at £900,000, and it was not until 1907 that it was increased to £1,200,000, at which figure it remained until 1912, when it rose to £1,800,000. While the paid-up capital remained unchanged at £900,000 the reserve stood at £1,000,000; but this also has been gradually increased since 1907, and at September 30, 1914, amounted to £2,000,000.

Naturally, the severe commercial and financial crisis in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, together with the effect of the War in those markets and in Europe have had an effect on the business of the London and River Plate Bank, and the bills for collection at September 30, 1914, were only £4,148,844, as compared with £5,956,582 at September 30, 1913. Similarly, the deposits fell from £23,432,461 to £19,913,072, and the acceptances dropped from £6,088,587 to

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: **63 LONDON WALL, E.C.**

Authorised Capital - - £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital - - £1,200,000
Called-up Capital - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - £210,000

Board of Directors.

The Right Hon. VISCOUNT MIDLETON, P.C., *Chairman.*
ROBERT LITTLEJOHN, *Deputy-Chairman*
STANLEY CHRISTOPHERSON
Sir GODFREY LAGDEN, K.C.M.G
Sir SIGMUND NEUMANN, Bart.
WILLIAM JAMES THOMPSON.
GEORGE WILLIAM THOMSON, J.P.

London Manager—J. M. WALLACE

Branches in South Africa.

General Manager in South Africa—CHARLES LIPP.

Aberdeen, Bloemfontein, Boksburg, Bulawayo, Burghersdorp, Calvinia, Cape Town, Cape Town (Long Street), Durban, Durban (Pine Street), East London, Flagstaff (Pondoland), Gatooma, Germiston, Graaff Reinet, Grahamstown, Hermon (Malmesbury District), Idutywa, Jeppestown, Johannesburg, Johannesburg (President Street), Keiskama Hoek, Kimberley, King William's Town, Koffyfontein, Kokstad, Malmesbury, Molteno, Montagu, Moorreesburg, Mossel Bay, Nieuwoudtville, Noorder Paarl, Oudtshoorn, Paarl, Pietermaritzburg, Piquetberg, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, Queenstown, Salisbury, Shamva Umtata, Worcester, and Wynberg.

Agency in America.

New York, 64 Wall Street.

Agent—WM. LOGAN.

Agency in Germany.

Hamburg, Ness 1- BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LTD.

Every kind of approved Banking business is transacted at the Head Offices and Branches. Current Accounts are opened, Drafts issued, Bills and Securities collected, the Sale and Purchase of Stocks, Shares, &c., undertaken, and Securities and Valuables received for Safe Custody. Deposits for fixed periods or at notice are received on terms and rates to be ascertained on application. Every officer of the Bank is pledged to secrecy as to the business affairs of the Bank and its customers.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA,

38 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

CAPITAL - - - £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND - £1,800,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.
Sir HENRY STEWART CUNNINGHAM, K.C.I.E.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
The Right Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.

T. H. WHITEHEAD, T. FRASER, *Managers.* W. E. PRESTON, *Sub-Manager.*

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

AMRITSAR	HONG KONG	PENANG
BANGKOK	ILOILO	PUKET
BATAVIA	IPOH	RANGOON
BOMBAY	KARACHI	SAIGON
CALCUTTA	KLANG	SEREMBAN
CANTON	KOBE	SHANGHAI
CEBU	KUALA LUMPUR	SINGAPORE
COLOMBO	MADRAS	SOURABAYA
DELHI	MALACCA	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
FOOCHOW	MANILA	TIENTSIN
HAIPHONG	MEDAN	YOKOHAMA
HANKOW	NEW YORK	

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
THE LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts payable at the above Agencies and Branches, and transact General Banking business connected with the East. Deposits of money are received for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below £200.

Liabilities of The London and River Plate Bank, Limited.

Sept. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills for Collection per Contra. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	1,800,000	2,000,000	3,800,000	11·7	4,148,844	12·8	19,913,072	61·5	4,129,310	12·8	401,159	1·2	32,392,385
1913 ...	1,800,000	2,000,000	3,800,000	9·5	5,956,582	14·9	23,432,461	58·9	6,088,587	15·3	552,189	1·4	39,829,819
1912 ...	1,800,000	2,000,000	3,800,000	10·0	4,932,900	12·9	24,181,894	63·3	4,668,763	12·2	609,962	1·6	38,193,519
1911 ...	1,200,000	1,300,000	2,500,000	7·0	4,237,590	11·9	24,036,569	67·4	4,351,543	12·2	525,350	1·5	35,651,052
1910 ...	1,200,000	1,300,000	2,500,000	7·0	3,624,351	10·2	23,998,840	67·5	5,023,128	14·1	423,753	1·2	35,570,072
1905 ...	900,000	1,000,000	1,900,000	6·8	1,847,628	6·6	20,323,780	72·3	3,823,524	13·6	196,325	·7	28,091,257
1900 ...	900,000	1,000,000	1,900,000	6·6	1,259,220	4·4	20,123,877	70·1	5,238,844	18·3	181,081	·6	28,703,022
1890 ...	750,000	600,000	1,350,000	10·9	2,050,805	16·6	8,053,049	65·1	556,902	4·5	350,579	2·9	12,361,335
1880 ...	600,000	140,000	740,000	16·1	558,134	12·1	2,849,429	61·9	396,560	8·6	60,459	1·3	4,604,582
1870 ...	600,000	155,000	755,000	20·8	460,936	12·7	2,221,636	61·0	146,355	4·0	54,540	1·5	3,638,467
1863 ...	199,290	2,000	201,290	18·4	190,394	17·4	693,815	63·3	—	—	9,564	·9	1,095,063

Assets of The London and River Plate Bank, Limited.

Sept. 30	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills for Collection. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Advances, Bills Receivable, Bills Discounted, Securities, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	10,799,963	33·3	4,148,844	12·8	12,994,414	40·1	4,129,310	12·8	319,854	1·0	32,392,385
1913 ...	7,837,122	19·7	5,956,582	15·0	19,693,071	49·4	6,088,587	15·3	254,457	·6	39,829,819
1912 ...	8,822,282	23·1	4,932,900	12·9	19,548,135	51·2	4,668,763	12·2	221,429	·6	38,193,519
1911 ...	8,374,045	23·5	4,237,590	11·9	18,481,195	51·8	4,351,543	12·2	206,079	·6	35,651,052
1910 ...	8,782,930	24·7	3,624,351	10·2	17,953,733	50·5	5,023,128	14·1	186,230	·5	35,570,072
1905 ...	7,134,686	25·4	1,847,628	6·6	15,088,908	53·7	3,823,524	13·6	196,511	·7	28,091,257
1900 ...	8,953,585	31·2	1,259,220	4·4	13,095,539	45·5	5,238,844	18·2	186,036	·7	28,703,022
1890 ...	4,050,510	32·8	—	—	8,245,321	66·7	—	—	65,504	·5	12,361,335
1880 ...	1,726,015	37·6	—	—	2,824,070	61·2	—	—	54,497	1·2	4,604,582
1870 ...	593,179	16·3	—	—	2,991,773	82·2	—	—	53,515	1·5	3,638,467
1863 ...	126,811	11·5	—	—	953,153	87·1	—	—	15,299	1·4	1,095,063

£4,129,310. On the other side of the accounts it will be seen that a very substantial increase has taken place in the cash, which rose from £7,837,122 at September 30, 1913, to £10,799,963 at September 30, 1914, the proportion to the total assets rising from 19.7 per cent. to 33.3 per cent. Advances, however, fell from £19,693,071 to £12,994,414. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1863.

Speaking at the meeting in December last the Chairman, after having described the financial and commercial position in the Argentine, Uruguay, Brazil, and Chile when the War broke out, stated that the dreadful calamity could not have taken place at a worse time, so far as their business in South America was concerned. The effect on finance and trade among the great European nations, whose business relations were so internationally woven, was, as all knew and many had experienced, astounding. Exchange with Europe became paralysed, in Chile nitrate shipments ceased, depositors in banks became distrustful, failures increased—in fact, all the concomitant features of an acute financial and commercial crisis were experienced. This perforce entailed on banks the necessity for increasing cash reserves, for the exercise of great discrimination in discounts and advances, which, together with stoppage of trade in most directions, greatly curtailed banking profits. The events which were detailed led up to the paragraph in the report which stated that 'the severe commercial and financial crises in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, together with the effect of war in those markets and in Europe, had necessitated very large provision for bad and doubtful debts and caused corresponding decrease in profits.' Unlike last year, they had not been able to make the provision wholly out of profits, so it had been done partly out of profits and partly out of the contingent account built up during so many prosperous years. While they had had to avail themselves of this fund in the present unprecedented exigency for the purpose for which it was laid by, they had still an efficient balance for future possibilities and usefulness."

The result is that the gross profit for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, was only £660,691, as compared with £868,793 for the previous year. After providing for expenses the net profit was £238,971, as compared with £422,226. The dividend was reduced from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent., and the carry-forward fell from £306,188 to £275,159.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the London and River Plate Bank, Limited.

Year ended Sept. 30	Gross Profit. £	Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amount.† £	Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward £
1914 ...	660,691	421,720	238,971	270,000	15	—	275,159
1913 ...	868,793	446,567	422,226	360,000	20	30 000	306,188
1912 ...	892,660	414,882	477,778	375,166*	23½	60,000	273,962
1911 ...	780,239	388,642	391,597	240,000	20	150,000	231,350
1910 ...	732,232	371,459	360,773	240,000	20	50,000	229,753
1909 ...	674,299	328,710	345,589	240,000	20	25,000	158,980
1908 ...	680,876	311,982	368,894	240,000	20	125,000	78,391
1907 ...	622,999	291,362	331,637	187,083	20	115,000	74,497
1906 ...	560,950	270,331	290,619	110,619	20	110,000	44,943
1905 ...	440,430	215,361	225,069	180,000	20	35,000	49,324
1904 ...	374,716	191,829	183,887	171,000	19	15,000	34,255

* Including special bonus of 10s. per share to shareholders.
† Free of income tax.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the capital paid up is 13.2 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.3 per cent., and to the total working resources .7 per cent.

LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LTD.

Head Office: 71 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised		£2,886,068
Subscribed	17,193 Preference Shares, £10 each 49,103 Ordinary Shares, £22 10*s.* each	1,276,748
Paid up	17,193 Preference Shares, £10 ... 49,103 Ordinary Shares, £7 10*s.* paid	668,832

Price of Shares { Pref., £11¼. *Div.*, 7%. Ord., £7¾. *Div.*, 7%. } *Yield* { £5 19*s.* 2*d.*% £5 16*s.* 0*d.*% }

The original title of this institution was the London Chartered Bank of Australia. It was a Bank that was founded by Royal charter in the height of the gold fever. Amongst the founders were two directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and five bank directors. The prospectus was issued in August 1852, and stated that the capital of the Bank would be £500,000 sterling, with power to increase to £1,000,000, in 25,000 shares of £20 each. Eight years after the Bank was founded the capital was increased to £1,000,000, at which figure it remained until it was reconstructed after the 1893 crisis. At the end of 1853 the deposits were £230,665. The growth was rapid, and by 1866 the deposits exceeded £1,000,000. In a further 10 years they had risen to over £2,000,000, and another duplication occurred by 1886, when the deposits rose to over £4,000,000. At December 31, 1892, the deposits were £6,588,236. After the reconstruction under the

Liabilities of The London Bank of Australia, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	Bills Payable, &c. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	668,832	300,000	968,832	14·1	7,155	·1	683,358	9·9	5,151,572	75·1	51,488	·8	6,862,405
1913 ...	548,393	270,000	818,393	11·2	8,343	·1	971,893	13·2	5,490,278	74·9	43,979	·6	7,332,891
1912 ...	548,393	170,000	718,393	9·7	11,209	·1	1,032,043	14·0	5,571,753	75·4	55,541	·8	7,388,939
1911 ...	548,228	120,000	668,228	9·6	23,226	·3	779,194	11·1	5,464,362	78·2	55,483	·8	6,990,493
1910 ...	548,152	50,000	598,152	9·0	171,873	2·6	838,075	12·7	4,900,321	74·3	90,388	1·4	6,608,409
1909 ...	548,152	35,000	583,152	9·7	131,761	2·2	641,927	10·7	4,562,523	76·3	64,538	1·1	5,983,901
1905 ...	547,828	—	547,828	9·9	106,144	1·9	667,663	12·0	4,193,691	75·6	34,755	·6	5,550,081
1900 ...	915,865	—	915,865	14·1	173,336	2·7	819,431	12·6	4,561,799	70·2	24,989	·4	6,498,411
1890* ...	1,000,000	280,000	1,280,000	14·2	269,665	3·0	721,071	8·0	6,656,733	74·0	71,877	·8	8,999,346
1880 ...	1,000,000	80,000	1,080,000	25·3	152,858	3·6	389,345	9·1	2,613,456	61·3	29,269	·7	4,265,428
1874 ...	1,000,000	120,000	1,120,000	32·2	133,352	3·8	380,657	11·0	1,783,986	51·3	59,657	1·7	3,477,652

Assets of The London Bank of Australia, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin, Bullion, Cash Balances, and Notes of other Banks. Amount. £	Coin, Bullion, Cash Balances, and Notes of other Banks. % of Total. %	Investments and Bills Receivable. Amount. £	Investments and Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice in London. Amount. £	Money at Call and at Short Notice in London. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises Accounts. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914	1,257,088	18·3	917,575	13·4	35,000	·5	4,358,277	63·8	274,465	4·0	6,862,405
1913	1,196,385	16·4	1,414,858	19·3	80,000	1·1	4,353,778	59·4	282,870	3·8	7,332,891
1912	1,194,570	16·2	1,178,073	16·0	70,000	·9	4,554,302	61·6	391,994	5·3	7,388,939
1911	1,134,892	16·2	964,019	13·8	135,000	1·9	4,374,023	62·6	382,559	5·5	6,990,493
1910	1,008,421	15·3	1,205,229	18·2	65,000	1·0	3,943,855	59·7	385,904	5·8	6,608,409
1909	906,984	15·2	913,245	15·3	125,000	2·1	3,653,713	61·0	384,959	6·4	5,983,901
1905	901,130	16·2	658,467	11·9	85,000	1·5	3,522,297	63·5	383,187	6·9	5,550,081
1900	793,227	12·2	756,191	11·6	240,000	3·7	4,327,293	66·6	381,700	5·9	6,498,411
1890*	1,043,832	11·6	—	—	—	—	7,588,348	84·3	367,166	4·1	8,999,346
1880	570,476	13·3	—	—	—	—	3,547,843	83·2	147,109	3·5	4,265,428
1874	426,191	12·2	—	—	—	—	2,915,984	83·9	135,477	3·9	3,477,652

* Known as the London Chartered Bank of Australia.

title of the London Bank of Australia, Limited, the authorised capital became £4,000,000, but in 1899 it was reduced to £3,348,090. A further reduction occurred in 1903 to £2,886,067, by writing off £7 10*s.* per share from the Ordinary shares and reducing the nominal amount from £30 to £22 10*s.* The paid-up capital at the present time is £668,832, and consists of 17,193 Preference shares of £10 each, the balance being Ordinary shares of £22 10*s.* each, of which £7 10*s* has been paid up. The Preference shares are entitled to a cumulative dividend up to 5½ per cent., with a further moiety of any divisible surplus profits up to 7 per cent. after 5 per cent. has been paid on the Ordinary shares. They are also entitled to priority for capital, with further participation.

As for the twelve months to December 31, 1914, the Preference shares received a full dividend of 7%, this makes the fifth yearly payment at this rate, and accordingly the Preference shares now cease to be

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(ESTABLISHED 1865.)

Paid-up Capital	**£500,000**
Reserve Fund	**510,000**
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	**125,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**625,000**
	£1,760,000

London Office:

11 LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.

Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.

Drafts and **Letters of Credit** issued and **Remittances** cabled.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.

PERCY ARNOLD, *Manager.*

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

(ESTABLISHED 1841.)

Paid-up Capital ... ... (25,000 Shares of £10 each)	**£250,000**
Reserve Fund	**680,000**
Reserved Profits	**21,878**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**250,000**

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,

The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ESTABLISHED 1817.

London Office:

29 THREADNEEDLE STREET.

Paid-up Capital	**£3,500,000**
Reserve Fund	**2,550,000**
Reserve Liability	**3,500,000**
	£9,550,000

The Bank has 346 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on Terms which may be known on application; and transacts every description of Australasian Banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

entitled to any preference or priority in respect of dividend.

In accordance with the reconstruction scheme of 1893 transferable deposit receipts were issued to the extent of £485,156, which were to be repaid by July 1, 1917. At December 31, 1913, this sum had been reduced to £546,408, but this balance was repaid during 1914, so that the item of transferable deposits has now disappeared from the balance sheet. During 1914 the Ordinary deposits increased by £207,702, of which a considerable sum represents transferable deposits redeposited. The result of the War influence on the Bank's exchange business may be seen in the fall that has occurred in bills payable, &c., which have dropped from £971,898 to £683,358. Similarly on the other side investments and bills receivable have fallen from £1,414,858 to £917,575. On the other hand, cash has risen from £1,196,385 to £1,257,088. It will be noticed that at the end of 1914 the paid-up capital was £668,832, as compared with £548,393 at the end of 1913. This is due to the payment of a call of £2 10*s.* per share. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1874.

The growth in profits during recent years is of a very substantial character. For 1904 the gross profit of £87,258 was secured, but from this the Bank had to provide no less than £71,365 for interest on deposit receipts so that the amount available for dividend was only £15,893. This steadily rose year by year until for 1913 the balance available for dividend was £86,111. For 1914, with the country suffering from drought and the adverse influences of the War, it is not surprising that the profit showed a slight falling off, reaching £78,394. For 1904 the dividend on the Ordinary shares was 2½ per cent., this rate has gradually risen until for 1914 the distribution was 7 per cent. Herewith we set out the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the London Bank of Australia, Limited

Year ended Dec. 31	Profit.	Interest on Deposit Receipts, &c.	Balance.	Dividends. Amount.	Pref. Shrs.	Ord. Shrs.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1914...	83,578	5,184	78,394	13,148	7	7	52,000	28,318
1913...	111,438	25,327	86,111	34,131	7	6	52,000	25,072
1912...	112,719	32,221	80,498	30,449	7	5	50,000	25,092
1911...	99,697	27,165	72,532	30,440	7	5	45,000	25,043
1910...	99,610	30,902	68,708	30,437	7	5	37,579	22,372
1909...	84,740	41,769	42,971	27,858	5½	5	15,000	21,689
1908...	76,329	42,117	34,212	24,172	5½	4	15,000	21,567
1907...	77,262	42,311	34,951	22,332	5½	3½	10,000	26,527
1906...	83,553	47,098	36,455	18,653	5½	2½	10,000	23,908
1905...	85,781	62,587	23,194	18,659	5½	2½	—	16,107
1904...	87,258	71,365	15,893	18,648	5½	2½	—	11,362

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 11.7 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.1 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

LONDON, SINGAPORE AND JAVA BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4 and 5 Suffolk Place, Pall Mall, S.W.

Capital—

Authorised, in £10 Shares		£300,000
Issued, 4,130 "A" Shares, £10 fully paid	£41,300	61,300
4,000 "B" ,, £5 paid ...	£20,000	
Paid up		51,300

The Bank was incorporated in July 1912 as a private company for the purpose of entering into agreements for the acquisition and amalgamation of several banking houses doing business in the Middle East and for mutual working. The intention of the founders was to undertake banking work for rubber and other plantation enterprises, and to aim at providing a planters' bank with direct representation in the Middle East. It was proposed to acquire and establish branches and agencies in the principal cities and ports in Malaya, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, &c.

In May 1913 it was decided to convert the Bank into a public Company and increase the capital to £150,000, the increase being decided upon in consequence of the influx of business, "and to place the Bank in a position to carry through certain proposals for acquiring and amalgamating with this Company several banking houses doing business in the Middle East." The extensions are intended to secure the direct representation of the Bank in the principal cities and ports of Malaya, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, &c., and to further its scheme for devoting special attention to the rapidly increasing business of plantation, mining, and mercantile undertakings within the British and Dutch possessions in the East Indies.

In May 1914 the authorised capital was increased to £300,000, and in July last it was divided into 15,000 "A" shares and 15,000 "B" shares of £10 each, the former to be paid up in full, the latter to be paid up to £5 only with a reserve liability of £5 which is incapable of being called up except in the event and for the purposes of winding up. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for each year since formation.

For 1914 the gross profit amounted to £13,409, as compared with £8,754 for 1913. After providing for expenses and the maintenance of the 6 per cent. dividend, there was a balance of £4,600, of which £2,500 was carried to reserve. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since formation: —

Profits of the London, Singapore and Java Bank, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Amt.	Int. paid to Customers. Amt.	Expenses. Amt.	Dividend. Amt.	%	Balance. Amt.	Reserve, &c. Amt.	Carried Forward. Amt.
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£
1914 ...	13,409	1,266	4,722	2,821	6	4,600	4,370	806
1913 ...	8,754	1,170	3,024	2,446	6	2,114	1,550	576
1912* ...	1,305	302	1,032	924	6	1,047	1,034	13

* Five months.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 14.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 13.8 per cent., and to the total working resources 4.3 per cent.

Liabilities of The London, Singapore and Java Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Amount.	Reserve Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914 ...	51,300	2,500	53,800	31·3	82,298	47·8	28,013	16·2	7,997	4·7	172,108
1913 ...	45,500	1,000	46,500	36·3	59,721	46·4	17,838	13·9	4,522	3·4	128,581
1912 ...	38,260	—	38,260	42·3	43,179	47·8	7,068	7·8	1,936	2·1	90,443

Assets of The London, Singapore and Java Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash at Bankers, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Customers Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914 ...	10,739	6·3	57,301	33·3	69,086	40·1	28,013	16·2	6,969	4·1	172,108
1913 ...	13,138	10·2	26,006	20·2	68,729	53·5	17,838	13·9	2,870	2·2	128,581
1912 ...	11,565	12·9	24,100	26·7	47,390	52·5	7,068	7·9	320	—	90,443

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 30,000 "A" Shares and 30,000 "B" Shares, £25 each £1,500,000

Paid up, 15,000 "A" Shares, £12 10*s.* paid } 562,500
30,000 "B" " "

Price of Shares: "A" Shares, £19⅞. *Div.* 8*%. *Yield*, £5 13*s.* 2*d.*%
"B" " £20¼ *Div.* 8%*. " £5 10*s.* 9*d.* %

* Free of tax.

In October 1892 the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, was formed under the Companies Acts, with a capital of £1,500,000, divided into 60,000 shares of £25 each, of which one-half were "A" shares and the other half "B" shares. The "A" shares are entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 5 per cent. and to participate equally with the "B" shares in any further dividend declared after 5 per cent. has been paid on the latter. The new Bank took over the whole of the business, assets, property, and liabilities of the old Chartered Mercantile Bank at the price of £375,000, which was paid by the allotment of 30,000 "B" shares credited with £12 10*s.* per share paid up, each shareholder acquiring one "B" share in the new Bank for each £25 fully-paid-up share in the old Bank. The 30,000 "A" shares were offered for subscription for cash, in order to provide additional working capital. Of the £12 10*s.* per share left unpaid on both classes of capital, one-half, or £6 5*s.* per share, is callable, the remainder being reserve capital, only capable of being called up in the event of a winding-up. No change has occurred in the capital, and accordingly the authorised amount is still £1,500,000, the subscribed amount being £1,125,000, and the amount paid up £562,500.

Between the reconstruction in 1892 and 1900 a reserve fund of £40,000 was accumulated, but in the 14 years since that time the reserve has grown to very large dimensions, and at the end of last year it reached a total of £500,000, or only £62,500 short of the paid-up capital. At the end of 1914 the deposits amounted to £5,558,704, as compared with £5,675,696 at the end of 1913. On the other side of the accounts, the cash in hand at the end of 1914 amounted to £1,613,168, as compared with £1,528,713 at the end of 1913. The investments rose from £342,655 to £477,825, while loans, advances, &c., dropped from £3,621,343 to £3,095,511. Bills discounted also dropped from £140,203 to £77,292.

In the table herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the old Chartered Mercantile Bank for 1861, 1870, 1880, and 1890, and the figures of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, for various years since 1900 showing the very substantial progress that has been made since the formation of the institution with limited liability in 1892. An item appears in the accounts of 1912 for the first time since the formation of the Mercantile Bank, namely, £65,980 notes in circulation. In the days of the old Chartered Bank the Bank used to issue notes, and as it was considered that it would be of advantage to have the privilege restored permission was obtained from the Colonial Office to issue notes once again, the whole of which are in circulation in China.

In addition to the office in London there are branches and agencies at Bombay, Calcutta, Howrah, Delhi, Madras, Karachi, Rangoon, Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Singapore, Penang, Kota Bharu, Kuala Lumpur, Batavia, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

As a result of the continued prosperity of India the Bank has been doing an increasing business and is also increasing its ability to take its proper share in the evergrowing requirements of Eastern banking.

For 1902 the dividend was at the rate of 5 per cent. on the "A" shares and 4 per cent. on the "B" shares, but since that year both classes of shares have fared alike, the rate rising to 8 per cent.

CRÉDIT LYONNAIS

LONDON OFFICES:

40 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
4 COCKSPUR STREET, S.W.

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £10,000,000

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1915.

As communication with some of our Agencies is interrupted we have, where this was the case, been obliged to take the last figures available.

ASSETS.

Cash in hand and at Bank	£32,319,319
Bills Discounted & French Treasury Bills	34,319,222
Loans and Advances	10,154,937
Current Accounts	15,833,457
Investments in Government and other Securities	361,352
Sundries	1,121,501
Bank Premises	1,400,000
	£95,509,788

LIABILITIES.

Deposits at Call	£26,261,980
Current Accounts	43,355,977
Accounts payable after Collection ...	4,881,514
Acceptances	633,380
Deposits for fixed periods	789,463
Profit and Loss Account and Sundries ...	2,587,474
Reserve Fund	7,000,000
Capital (fully paid)	10,000,000
£1 = Fcs. 25.	£95,509,788

BERGENS PRIVATBANK

BERGEN, NORWAY.

Established 1855.

CAPITAL, fully paid . . Kr. 5,000,000.00

RESERVE FUNDS . . . Kr. 7,400,000.00

BRANCHES:

Odda Privatbank, Odda.
Sundals Privatbank, Sundalsören.

LONDON AGENTS:

C. J. Hambro & Son.
The London City and Midland Bank, Ltd.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened for Banks, Merchants, Manufacturers and Individuals.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED and Interest allowed thereon at favourable rates.

BILLS COLLECTED throughout Scandinavia, and returns promptly made.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE bought and sold.

MAIL AND CABLE TRANSFERS effected.

LETTERS OF CREDIT, available all over the world, issued.

SHIPPING CREDITS opened; Freights collected and remitted.

STOCKS bought and sold; Dividends collected; Coupons and Drawn Bonds collected or negotiated.

Liabilities of The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable, Loans, &c. Amount. £	Bills Payable, Loans, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	562,500	500,000	1,062,500	13·4	132,428	1·7	409,945	5·2	5,558,704	70·3	668,252	8·5	69,724	·9	7,901,553
1913...	562,500	465,000	1,027,500	12·6	90,750	1·1	334,270	4·1	5,675,696	69·3	1,002,167	12·2	57,104	·7	8,187,487
1912...	562,500	415,000	977,500	11·6	65,980	·8	315,614	3·8	5,922,828	70·8	1,030,974	12·3	55,418	·7	8,368,315
1911...	562,500	365,000	927,500	11·7	—	—	330,086	4·2	5,950,070	75·1	671,530	8·4	48,827	·6	7,928,013
1910...	562,500	325,000	887,500	11·7	—	—	234,026	3·1	5,677,181	74·8	739,671	9·8	49,022	·6	7,587,400
1905...	562,500	135,000	697,500	15·5	—	—	178,163	4·0	2,896,855	64·6	680,080	15·2	33,500	·7	4,486,098
1900*	562,500	40,000	602,500	17·1	—	—	84,965	2·4	1,724,160	49·0	1,071,057	30·5	33,250	1·0	3,515,932
1890...	750,000	250,000	1,000,000	9·4	547,216	5·2	—	—	4,965,276	46·9	4,059,693	38·3	21,003	·2	10,593,188
1880...	750,000	133,246	883,246	11·0	530,654	6·6	—	—	3,892,132	48·3	2,733,855	33·9	18,750	·2	8,068,637
1870...	750,000	37,068	787,068	8·8	—	—	—	—	3,368,650	37·5	4,802,872	53·5	15,000	·2	8,973,590
1861...	500,000	50,000	550,000	10·6	—	—	—	—	1,582,505	30·5	3,020,114	58·2	35,041	·7	5,187,660

Assets of The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers, and Bullion and Money at Call. Amount. £	Cash in Hand and at Bankers, and Bullion and Money at Call. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Loans, Advances, &c. Amount. £	Loans, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. £	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	Bank Premises Account. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	1,613,168	20·4	477,825	6·0	2,046,955	25·9	77,292	·9	3,095,511	39·2	409,945	5·2	180,857	2·4	7,901,553
1913...	1,528,713	18·7	342,655	4·2	2,053,881	25·1	140,203	1·7	3,621,343	44·2	334,270	4·1	166,422	2·0	8,187,487
1912...	1,256,896	15·0	307,963	3·6	2,594,305	31·0	139,666	1·7	3,621,579	43·3	315,614	3·8	132,292	1·6	8,368,315
1911...	1,252,586	15·9	391,245	4·9	2,916,986	36·8	113,979	1·4	2,904,267	36·6	330,086	4·2	18,864	·2	7,928,013
1910...	839,735	11·0	638,915	8·4	3,040,174	40·1	112,893	1·5	2,707,452	35·7	234,026	3·1	14,205	·2	7,587,400
1905...	767,669	17·1	510,805	11·4	1,549,982	34·5	63,324	1·4	1,402,227	31·3	178,163	4·0	13,928	·3	4,486,098
1900*	402,439	11·4	442,943	12·6	1,355,185	38·6	74,534	2·1	1,132,090	32·2	84,965	2·4	23,776	·7	3,515,932
1890 ..	2,182,178	20·6	1,180,342	11·1	3,709,602	35·0	253,976	2·4	3,219,490	30·4	—	—	47,600	·5	10,593,188
1880 ..	1,417,913	17·6	1,436,687	17·8	3,751,826	46·5	253,531	3·1	995,184	12·3	—	—	213,496	2·7	8,068,637
1870 ..	2,340,784	26·1	912,918	10·2	5,495,082	61·2	—	—	—	—	—	—	224,806	2·5	8,973,590
1861...	1,099,377	21·2	163,926	3·1	3,914,931	75·5	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,426	·2	5,187,660

* Reconstruction of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China took place in 1892, when name was altered to Mercantile Bank of India.

Naturally the profits for 1914 are rather less than those for 1913, but they form a very good second in the history of the Bank. The gross amount has reached £218,164, as compared with £222,992. This was accompanied by a rise of £5,000 in expenses, so that the net profits have fallen from £111,500 to £101,620. The 8 per cent. dividend only calls for £45,000, so that it will be realised a conservative distribution policy is followed.

In the following we set out the profits for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits. £	Salaries and Other Expenses. £	Net Profits. £	Dividends. Amount. £	Dividends. Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914...	218 164	116,544	101,620	45,000	8	11,000	47,224
1913...	222,992	111,492	111,500	45,000	8	62,000	34,605
1912...	208,433	109,468	98,965	45,000	8	53,000	30,105
1911...	186,211	101,219	84,992	39,375	7	43,000	29,139
1910...	178,733	95,866	82,867	39,375	7	43,000	26,522
1909...	158,256	86,855	71,401	33,750	6	37,000	26,030
1908...	160,056	83,528	76,528	33,750	6	42,000	25,379
1907...	157,714	77,414	80,300	33,750	6	42,000	24,601
1906...	145,973	74,610	71,363	33,750	6	37,000	20,051
1905...	125,448	65,987	59,461	28,125	5	27,000	19,438
1904...	120,628	59,953	60,675	28,125	5	32,000	15,102

The proportion that the shown net profits for 1914 bear to the paid-up capital is 18.1 per cent., to the capital and reserve combined 9.5 per cent., and to total working resources 1.3 per cent.

At the meeting in March last the Chairman pointed out that it would be dangerous, if not impossible, to predict as to the future. A great deal depends on the duration of the War, "but it is well to bear in mind that the purchasing power of Europe at any rate will be greatly reduced after this enormous expenditure of capital which is unproductive, and there will be a period of recuperation that may not make for activity in trade."

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

Head Office: Montreal, Canada.

Capital—

Authorised	$10,000,000
Subscribed	7,000,000
Paid up	7,000,000

Price of Share, $180. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, £5 12*s.* 8*d.* %

The Merchants' Bank of Canada was established in 1864, and has its head office at Montreal. At November 30, 1914, the paid-up capital amounted to $7,000,000, while the reserve fund also reached the same figure.

The total deposits at April 30 last amounted to $62,729,163, as compared with $59,256,044 twelve months previously. The note circulation rose from $5,597,714 to $6,204,069, while the acceptances rose from $76,039 to $696,100. Balances due to other banks fell from $3,766,721 to $2,140,281. On the other side of the accounts the chief change is in the total cash held, which rose from $11,651,914 at April 30, 1914, to $18,824,409 at April 30 last, the proportion to the total assets rising from 14 per cent. to 21.8 per cent. On the other hand, however, the loans, discounts, &c., fell from $54,263,508, or 65.3 per cent. of the total assets, to $49,100,637, or 57.8 per cent. The investments rose from $5,289,080 to $6,455,861, while call money fell from $6,889,959 to $4,570,536. Sums due by other banks rose from $1,092,451 to $2,235,766. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1900.

During the twelve months to April 1915 the earning power of the Bank has been necessarily very much less than for some years back. Two years ago the real estate boom in Canada was giving indication of weakness, and Canada had a well-defined reaction in full swing, becoming more and more accentuated up to the time of the breaking out of the War in August 1914. Measures were taken in Canada by the Finance Minister in palliation of the situation. Bank-notes were declared legal tender, and the situation was seriously grapped with. The profit of the Merchants' Bank fell from $1,218,694 to $947,006. The Bank, however, was able to maintain its dividend at 10 per cent. and write off a sum of $250,000 for depreciation in bonds and investments. Herewith we give the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Merchants' Bank of Canada since 1904.

Year ended Nov. 30	Profit. $	Dividends. Amt. $	Dividends. Rate. %	Balance. $	Reserve, &c. $	Carried Forward. $
1915 Yr. to Apr. 30 ...	917,006	700,000	10	247,006	250,000	245,140
1914 ,, ...	1,218,694	686,574	10	532,120	865,825	248,134
1913 5 mos. to Apr. ...	533,653	281,357	10	252,296	8,415	401,014
1912 Year to Nov. ...	1,338,845	649,005	10	689,840	1,160,760	148,718
1911 ,, ...	1,179,581	570,000	9½	609,581	650,000	58,878
1910 ,, ...	1,057,140	510,000	8½	547,140	650,000	99,297
1909 ,, ...	831,159	480,000	8	351,159	650,000	102,157
1908 ,, ...	738,597	480,000	8	258,597	125,000	400,998
1907 6 mos. to Nov. ...	473,145	240,000	8	233,145	—	267,401
1907 Year to May ...	961,660	480,000	8	481,660	522,000	34,256
1906 ,, ...	740,399	420,000	7	320,399	319,000	74,596
1905 ,, ...	739,238	420,000	7	319,238	265,000	73,197
1904 ,, ...	729,714	420,000	7	309,714	365,000	18,959

The proportion that the shown net profits for last year bear to the paid-up capital is 13.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.7 per cent., and to total working resources, 1.1 per cent.

Speaking at the meeting in May last the General

Liabilities of The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Rest. Amount. $	Capital and Reserve. Amount. $	Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Total Deposits. Amount. $	Total Deposits. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Balances due to other Banks. Amount. $	Balances due to other Banks. % of Total. %	Unclaimed Dividends. Amount. $	Unclaimed Dividends. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 Apr. 30	7,000,000	7,000,000	14,000,000	16·2	6,204,069	7·2	[illegible]	72·8	[illegible]	·8	2,140,281	2·5	420,851	·5	86,190,464
1914 „	7,000,000	7,000,000	14,000,000	16·8	5,597,714	6·8	[illegible]	71·3	[illegible]	·1	3,766,721	4·5	[illegible]	·5	83,120,741
1913 „	6,758,900	6,419,175	13,178,075	16·4	5,640,841	7·0	[illegible]	74·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1·8	[illegible]	·6	80,573,899
1912 Nov. 30	6,747,680	6,410,760	13,158,440	15·6	6,861,496	8·2	[illegible]	74·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1·6	[illegible]	·4	84,116,908
1911 „	[illegible]	5,400,000	11,400,000	13·9	6,351,230	7·7	[illegible]	77·5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	·6	[illegible]	·3	81,928,961
1910 „	6,000,000	4,900,000	10,900,000	15·2	[illegible]	7·2	[illegible]	76·6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1·7	[illegible]	·3	71,600,059
1909 „	6,000,000	4,500,000	10,500,000	15·9	5,541,700	8·2	[illegible]	72·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3·4	[illegible]	·3	66,800,152
1908 „	6,000,000	4,000,000	10,000,000	17·7	4,740,478	8·3	[illegible]	67·8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5·2	[illegible]	1·0	56,598,626
1907 „	6,000,000	4,000,000	10,000,000	19·2	5,490,940	10·5	[illegible]	66·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·7	[illegible]	·7	52,135,598
1906 May 31	6,000,000	3,600,000	9,600,000	19·5	[illegible]	8·0	[illegible]	69·1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,424,906	2·9	[illegible]	·5	49,541,955
1905 „	6,000,000	3,400,000	9,400,000	22·7	3,684,352	8·8	[illegible]	65·3	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,045,368	1·5	[illegible]	·7	41,477,589
1900 „	6,000,000	2,600,000	8,600,000	29·1	3,282,280	11·1	17,4[illegible]	58·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	261,571	·9	[illegible]

Assets of The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Date.	Total Cash [illegible] Amount. $	Total Cash [illegible] Total. %	Investments, [illegible] Amount. $	Investments, [illegible] Total. %	Call and Short Loans [illegible] Amount. $	Call and Short Loans [illegible] Total. %	Loans [illegible] Amount. $	Loans [illegible] % of Total. %	[illegible] Amount. $	[illegible] Total. %	[illegible] Amount. $	[illegible] Total. %	[illegible] Amount. $	[illegible] % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 Apr. 30	18,824,409	21·8	[illegible]	7·5	4,5[illegible]	5·3	2,235,766	2·6	[illegible]	57·8	[illegible]	·8	[illegible]	5·0	86,190,46[illegible]
1914 „	11,651,914	14·0	[illegible]	6·4	[illegible]	8·3	1,092,451	1·3	54,263,508	65·3	[illegible]	·1	5,857,790	4·6	83,120,741
1913 „	10,671,526	13·2	5,58[illegible]	6·9	7,598,786	9·4	[illegible]	·7	[illegible]	66·3	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,812,111	3·5	80,573,899
1912 Nov. 30	12,143,560	14·4	[illegible]	6·8	9,212,297	11·0	537,991	·6	54,011,929	64·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,477,537	3·0	84,116,908
1911 „	12,470,895	15·2	6,07[illegible]	7·4	12,946,458	15·9	71,150	·4	[illegible]	58·7	—	—	1,961,826	2·4	81,928,961
1910 „	8,627,881	12·0	[illegible]	8·5	12,881,243	18·0	662,813	·9	41,922,866	58·6	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,463,153	2·0	71,600,059
1909 „	8,589,733	12·9	6,534,674	9·8	[illegible]	20·0	157,181	·3	36,888,904	55·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,261,182	1·9	66,800,152
1908 „	6,859,526	12·1	6,9[illegible]	12·3	10,916,134	19·3	17,422	—	30,716,474	54·3	—	—	1,135,774	2·0	56,598,626
1907 „	6,141,087	11·8	6,752,385	12·9	5,484,254	10·5	589,435	1·7	31,690,713	60·8	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,177,724	2·3	52,135,595
1906 May 31	5,425,534	11·0	6,995,130	14·1	[illegible]	14·0	2[illegible]	·4	29,033,864	58·6	[illegible]	[illegible]	981,604	1·9	49,541,985
1905 „	4,921,288	11·8	[illegible]	18·9	5,293,316	12·7	671,726	1·6	21,863,573	52·7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·3	41,477,589
1900 „	2,512,162	8·5	4,662,358	15·8	--	—	-	—	21,547,492	72·8	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	2·9	29,583,521

Manager pointed out that at the present time, considering Canada as a whole, trading and business are not active. "War orders have, however, greatly stimulated certain special lines. These have meant profit and employment to many. Trade is quiet otherwise and disappointing, even dull, but the scale of living and rentals has come down and a careful economy is being generally practised. We have much to hope for from the crop prospects, which at this date are unusually promising throughout the North-West, and no less so in the East. Seeding for the most part is two weeks earlier, and the rainfall so far has been abundant. When we add to this that the acreage is claimed to be 20 per cent. in excess of last year, we think the outlook at least encouraging for Western interests. The crop last year was a great disappointment in matter of quantity, but it was offset in great degree by the excellent price for grain. The policy of mixed farming continues to be prosecuted more and more in the prairie country, to the substantial advantage and profit of the producers and the enrichment of the soil."

ROTTERDAMSCHE
BANKVEREENIGING

ROTTERDAM. AMSTERDAM.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID - F. 30,000,000

RESERVE FUND - - F. 8,000,000

COLLECTIONS.
LETTERS OF CREDIT.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
PURCHASE AND SALE OF
STOCKS & SHARES.

SWISS BANKVEREIN.
ESTABLISHED 1872.

BASLE, ZURICH, ST. CALL, GENEVA,
LAUSANNE, LONDON.

Agencies:
AIGLE, BIENNE, CHIASSO, HERISAU, and
RORSCHACH.

London Office: 43 LOTHBURY, E.C.
Telegraphic Address: "BANKVEREIN."

West-end Branch: 11c REGENT STREET,
WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.
Telegraphic Address of West-end Branch: "BANKWISS."

Capital Issued & Fully Paid up, £3,280,000
Reserve Fund £1,110,000

Bankers:
BANK OF ENGLAND.
LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK
UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.
PARR'S BANK.
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.
BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The Bank conducts every description of banking and exchange business and issues Letters of Credit for travellers available in all parts of the world.
Drafts issued and cable transfers made on all the principal cities. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent for collection. Foreign moneys and bank notes purchased and sold.
Freights collected and payments made abroad for account of shipowners.
Orders executed on all the principal exchanges for the purchase and sale of stocks, bonds, and investment securities. Information supplied on all classes of securities. Coupons and drawn bonds purchased and collected.
Advances made on all approved securities. Guarantees and current moneys arranged.
Securities received for safe custody and dividends collected.
Agents in Great Britain of the Swiss Government's Postal Cheque Service.
Terms may be ascertained on Application.

THE MOLSONS BANK.

Head Office: Montreal.

Capital—

Authorised	$5,000,000
Subscribed	4,000,000
Paid up	4,000,000

Price of Share, $201. *Dividend,* 11%. *Yield,* £5 11*s.*%.

ENGLISH investors are specially interested in The Molsons Bank by reason of the fact that in 1910 $500,000 of capital stock, in shares of $100 each, were offered for sale in London, Parr's Bank receiving applications at the price of $216 per share, and as a result a London register of shares has been established, and the stock forming the issue is transferable by transfer in common form on the London register. The Bank was established in 1855 and is thus one of the oldest banks in Canada. Its career has been distinctly successful, as may be gauged from the fact that on an average capital since incorporation of $1,957,186 an average rate of dividend of 8.32 per cent. has been paid, the actual amount paid in dividends since the incorporation up to September 1914 being $10,366,479. The first balance sheet was made up to July 26, 1856, and was issued in sterling. It showed that the paid-up capital was £75,594, while deposits amounting to £49,290 had been accumulated. In currency figures the paid-up capital was $387,384, while the deposits amounted to $240,000. By 1860 the business had so grown that the paid-up capital was increased to $1,000,000. In 1904 the reserve fund was brought up to a figure equal to the paid-up capital of $3,000,000. Until 1909 the reserve fund was increased *pari passu* with the increase in the paid-up capital, but at September 30, 1910, with the capital raised to $4,000,000 the reserve fund was brought up to a total of $4,400,000. Since then the capital has remained unchanged, but the reserve fund has risen to $4,800,000. By 1880 the total deposits amounted to $3,046,063. In the 10 years to 1890 they doubled, amounting to $6,863,000. By 1900 the deposits again doubled, reaching a total of $13,111,000. A further duplication occurred in the years up to 1909, when they reached a total of $27,521,000.

At September 30, 1914, the deposits amounted to $37,018,387. The acceptances, which at September 30, 1913, amounted to $101,910, dropped to $48,670 at September 30, 1914. On the other side of the accounts the cash fell from $7,647,864 to $6,311,771, the largest fall occurring in Government demand notes, which dropped from $4,472,325 to $3,458,242. The notes and cheques of other banks dropped from $2,665,975 to $1,796,875. But gold and silver coin rose from $569,564 to $1,056,654. Call and short loans dropped from $5,724,203 to $5,221,693. The investments, however, rose from $2,691,088 to $2,771,640, while loans, discounts, &c., rose from $31,039,497 to $32,570,659. Herewith we set out a statement of liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

The report pointed out that the general business of the Bank was in a satisfactory condition, notwithstanding the existing depressed state of affairs in Canada due to decline in values of real estate, the curtailment of business generally prior to the War, and the unprecedented and extraordinary conditions brought about by the War. The profits for the twelve months to September 1914 amounted to $608,196, as compared with $694,357. The dividend was raised to 10 per cent. in 1905 and to 11 per cent. in 1911, a rate which was repeated for 1912, 1913, and 1914.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Molsons Bank.

Year ended Sept. 30	Profits.	Taxes.	Dividends. Amt.	Dividends. Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Depn., &c. Balance.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	$	%	$	$
1914 ...	608,196	—	440,000	11	168,196	183,070	67,058
1913 ...	694,357	24,984	440,000	11	229,373	309,269	81,932
1912 ...	684,779	23,241	440,000	11	221,538	179,016	161,828
1911 ...	712,540	19,371	440,000	11	253,169	249,051	119,306
1910 ...	602,695	19,139	350,000	10	283,556	926,137	115,188
1909 ...	493,479	17,443	350,000	10	126,036	21,952	257,769
1908 ...	612,646	16,844	337,288	10	258,514	158,518	153,684
1907 ...	544,039	15,304	320,802	10	207,933	171,233	53,687
1906 ...	434,668	13,709	300,000	10	120,959	125,390	26,986
1905 ...	399,274	10,450	300,000	10	88,824	94,484	31,417
1904 ...	457,291	9,662	266,929	9	180,700	169,379	37,077

The proportion that the shown net profits for last year bear to the paid-up capital is 15.2 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.0 per cent., and to total working resources, amounting to $50,390,344, 1.2 per cent.

At the meeting in November last the President said: "While the slowing-up in trade has forced some factories to run on short time, yet the situation is somewhat relieved by the very large orders for boots, clothing, and military supplies which many factories are now receiving from the Government, and also by the increased demand for pulp and paper caused by the War. The abundant crops in the country, and the unusual demand for farm products, including cheese, butter, wheat, live stock, &c., in consequence of the

Liabilities of The Molsons Bank.

Sept. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	4,000,000	4,800,000	8,800,000	17·5	3,925,160	7·8	37,018,387	73·5	48,670	·1	420,558	·8	177,569	·3	50,390,344
1913 ...	4,000,000	4,800,000	8,800,000	17·5	3,933,360	7·8	37,067,396	73·5	101,910	·2	289,054	·6	192,549	·4	50,384,269
1912 ...	4,000,000	4,700,000	8,700,000	16·4	3,953,807	7·4	39,496,188	74·6	—	—	536,682	1·0	271,828	·5	52,958,505
1911 ...	4,000,000	4,600,000	8,600,000	18·1	3,761,032	8·0	34,205,429	72·0	—	—	722,066	1·5	229,306	·4	47,517,833
1910 ...	4,000,000	4,400,000	8,400,000	19·0	3,483,817	7·8	31,718,686	71·4	—	—	605,641	1·4	202,688	·4	44,410,833
1905 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	6,000,000	20·0	2,906,970	9·6	20,508,955	68·1	—	—	521,121	1·7	181,418	·6	30,118,464
1900 ...	2,466,040	2,050,000	4,516,040	22·0	2,434,391	11·8	13,111,854	63·8	—	—	361,341	1·7	146,079	·7	20,569,705
1890 ...	2,000,000	1,100,000	3,100,000	25·6	1,885,261	15·6	6 863,442	56·8	—	—	112,123	·9	131,747	1·1	12,092,573
1880 ...	1,999,095	140,000	2,139,095	29·6	1,569,661	21·6	3,046,063	42·0	—	—	415,363	5·7	80,243	1·1	7,250,425
1870 ...	1,000,000	69,000	1,069,000	44·2	494,392	20·5	703,694	49·1	—	—	120,655	5·0	30,000	1·2	2,417,741
1860 ...	1,000,000	84,128	1,084,128	52·0	317,226	15·2	650,086	31·1	—	—	1,652	·1	34,055	1·6	2,087,147
1856* ...	387,384	3,572	390,956	38·3	334,621	32·8	240,011	23·4	—	—	42,051	4·2	13,146	1·3	1,020,785

Assets of The Molsons Bank.

Sept. 30	Total Cash. Amt.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans. Amt.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks. Amt.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	6,311,771	12·5	2,771,640	5·5	5,221,693	10·4	1,583,352	3·1	32,570,659	64·6	48,670	·1	1,882,559	3·8	50,390,344
1913 ...	7,647,864	15·2	2,691,088	5·3	5,724,203	11·4	1,415,068	2·8	31,039,497	61·6	101,910	·2	1,764,497	3·5	50,384,269
1912 ...	8,384,014	15·8	2,842,734	5·4	5,755,496	10·9	2,391,939	4·5	32,238,126	60·9	—	—	1,346,196	2·5	52,958,505
1911 ...	5,658,968	12·0	2,764,339	5·8	5,550,665	11·7	2,014,742	4·2	30,565,054	64·3	—	—	963,565	2·0	47,517,83
1910 ...	5,066,093	11·4	2,827,588	6·4	5,063,370	11·4	2,280,787	5·1	28,333,690	63·8	—	—	839,304	1·9	44,410,832
1905 ...	2,721,362	9·0	3,218,005	10·7	3,476,346	11·5	1,994,042	6·7	18,247,665	60·6	—	—	461,044	1·5	30,118,464
1900 ...	2,096,036	10·2	1,865,041	9·1	638,886	3·1	1,430,790	6·9	14,206,845	69·1	—	—	332,107	1·6	20,569,705
1890 ...	981,188	8·1	602,648	5·0	149,353	1·2	235,159	2·0	9,926,860	82·1	—	—	197,365	1·6	12,092,573
1880 ...	877,655	12·1	—	—	58,510	·8	287,196	4·0	5,838,480	80·5	—	—	188,584	2·6	7,250,425
1870 ...	253,484	10·5	100,253	4·1	—	—	240,580	10·0	1,741,446	72·0	—	—	81,978	3·4	2,417,741
1860 ...	320,354	15·4	180,000	8·6	—	—	56,271	2·7	1,509,972	72·3	—	—	20,550	1·0	2,087,147
1856* ...	108,493	10·6	243,350	23·9	—	—	72,747	7·1	590,812	57·9	—	—	5,383	·5	1,020,785

* July 26.

War, have stimulated business throughout the farming sections of Canada. The Eastern Provinces have benefited largely, and the crops in the Western provinces, although not as large as in former years, are of excellent quality, and the increased prices for grain and cattle have strengthened the financial position of the farmers. The almost certain prospect of higher prices for another season or so has encouraged the farmers to prepare very much more ground for seeding than usual. The price of horses, which had fallen very considerably of late, has been practically regained, owing to the large demands of the War Office for horses suitable for Army purposes; although heavy horses are still difficult to sell. Country payments are well met, and the farmers' business, which, after all, is the foundation of the country's trade, is sound. I think the present depression, by forcing a stop to the extravagant expenditures of the last few years, both public and private, will put the country on a much sounder basis, and will prove a blessing to Canada."

NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Collins Street, Melbourne.
London Office: 5 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised		£3,407,904
Subscribed		2,213,684
Paid up	30,578 Preference Shares, £10 238,488 Ordinary Shares, £5	1,498,220
Price of Shares	Preference, £12⅝. Ordinary, £5⅜.	*Yield* £5 13*s.* 10*d.*% £6 14*s.* 7*d.*%

Dividend, 7 %.

THE establishment of this Bank took place some six years after the gold discoveries in Australia, a preliminary prospectus being issued in November 1857. The prospectus stated: "It will be the desire of this Bank in the prosecution of its business to render all possible accommodation and facilities consistent with its proper functions to the merchant, trader, manufacturer, settler, agriculturist, and miner, as well as to any other industrial classes in this colony. The chief office shall be in Melbourne, and it is intended subsequently to establish branches at Geelong, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Bendigo, and the other goldfields, and at such other places in the interior as may be considered necessary and advantageous." Some delay in establishing the Bank took place, and in June 1858 the prospectus was again issued with some slight amendments. At September 30, 1892, the deposits amounted to £8,997,006, while the reserve funds totalled £670,000. In 1893, in consequence of the heavy withdrawals, and in common with other institutions, payment was suspended. The Bank was reorganised, however, and additional capital brought in. In 1900 the capital was reduced from £4,000,000 to £3,407,904 by writing off £2 per Ordinary share and cancelling 11,512 shares which had been forfeited. The authorised amount has since remained at that figure, and the paid-up capital is now £1,498,220, and consists of 30,578 Preference shares of £10 each and 238,488 Ordinary shares of £5 each. The nominal amount of the Ordinary shares is £8, while the Preference share is £10, so that the Preference shares are fully paid, while there is a liability of £3 per share on the Ordinary shares. The Preference shares are entitled to a preferential dividend of 5 per cent., and to rank with the Ordinary after they have received 5 per cent. They are also entitled to priority for capital until at least 10 half-yearly dividends at the rate of at least 7 per cent. per annum shall have been paid.

The reserve fund, which was wiped out at the time of the reconstruction, has steadily grown again, and at March 31 last, with a transfer of £20,000 from profits, it was brought up to a total of £545,000. In 1905 the deposits were £6,500,000, while on March 31 last

The Citizens Central National Bank of New York.



In the Centre of the Down Town Wholesale District.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

EDWIN S. SCHENCK, *President.*

FRANCIS M. BACON, Jr., *Vice-President.* GARRARD COMLY, *Vice-President.* ALBION K. CHAPMAN, *Cashier.*
JESSE M. SMITH, *Asst. Cashier.* JAMES McALLISTER, *Asst. Cashier.* WILLIAM M. HAINES, *Asst. Cashier.*

DIRECTORS.

AMBROSE R. ADAMS (Shreve & Adams).
F. M. BACON, Jr., *Vice-President* (Bacon & Co.).
CHARLES L. BERNHEIMER (President, Bear Mill Mfg. Co.).
GARRARD COMLY, *Vice-President.*
RALPH L. CUTTER (Smith, Hogg & Company).
OTTO L. DOMMERICH (L. F. Dommerich & Company).
FREDERICK T. FLEITMANN (Fleitmann & Company).
WILLIAM S. GRAY (President, William S. Gray & Co.).
ROBERT B. HIRSCH (Wm. Openhym & Sons).
DARWIN P. KINGSLEY (President, New York Life Insurance Co.).
WALTON P. KINGSLEY (New York Life Insurance Co.).
AUGUSTUS F. LIBBY, 377 Broadway, N.Y.
WILLIAM FELLOWES MORGAN (Chairman, Merchants Refrigerating Co.).
CHAS. ALLEN MUNN (President, Munn & Co.).
FRANK PRESBREY (President, Frank Presbrey Co.).
EDWIN S. SCHENCK, *President.*

CONDENSED STATEMENT JULY 1, 1915.

RESOURCES.

Loans and Discounts	$24,312,518.11
U.S. Bonds and Investments	2,097,930.19
Due from Banks	3,099,054.39
Due from Fed. Res. Bank	1,972,094.60
Cash and Exchanges	8,579,481.59
Total	$40,061,078.88

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock	$2,550,000.00
Surplus and Profits	2,209,844.21
Reserves	300,000.00
Circulation	1,636,697.50
Deposits	33,364,537.17
Total	$40,061,078.88

FOREIGN EXCHANGE, COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELLERS' LETTERS OF CREDIT.

Liabilities of The National Bank of Australasia, Limited.

Mar.31	Capital Paid up. Amt. £	Reserve Funds. Amt £	Total Capital and Reserve Amt. £	Total Capital and Reserve % of Total %	Notes in Circulation Amt. £	Notes in Circulation % of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amt. £	Bills in Circulation. % of Total. %	Govt. Deposits. Amt. £	Other Deposits. Amt. £	Total Deposits, &c. Amt. £	Total Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Balances Due to Other Banks. Amt. £	Balances Due to Other Banks. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amt. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915...	1,498,220	525,000	2,023,220	14·0	36,223	·2	576,537	4·0	804,228	10,392,341	11,196,569	77·3	232,813	1·6	308,671	2·1	108,332	·8	14,482,365
1914...	1,498,220	465,000	1,963,220	13·2	38,981	·2	859,635	5·8	906,695	10,502,412	11,409,107	76·9	229,955	1·6	228,919	1·5	110,909	·8	14,840,726
1913...	1,498,220	405,000	1,903,220	13·9	46,530	·3	656,014	4·8	742,774	9,816,280	10,559,054	77·0	243,827	1·8	188,521	1·4	113,045	·8	13,710,211
1912...	1,498,220	285,000	1,783,220	12·1	64,057	·4	855,216	5·8	1,308,653	10,190,971	11,499,624	78·2	221,977	1·5	165,376	1·1	127,563	·9	14,717,063
1911...	1,498,220	245,000	1,743,020	12·0	340,102	2·4	1,357,162	9·4	648,663	10,015,906	10,664,569	73·7	131,830	·9	142,256	1·0	82,298	·6	14,461,437
1910...	1,498,220	215,000	1,713,220	12·8	330,987	2·5	1,339,213	9·9	715,747	9,030,043	9,745,790	72·6	87,574	·6	136,125	1·0	74,983	·6	13,427,892
1909...	1,498,220	180,000	1,678,220	14·3	309,530	2·7	867,159	7·4	543,952	8,015,048	8,559,600	72·9	84,461	·7	162,833	1·4	67,430	·6	11,729,233
1905...	1,498,220	105,000	1,603,220	16·6	243,939	2·5	1,051,039	10·8	499,557	6,018,612	6,518,169	67·3	32,261	·3	189,595	2·0	45,397	·5	9,683,622
1900...	1,975,196	54,078	2,029,174	21·6	329,222	3·5	660,758	7·0	538,260	5,700,671	6,238,931	66·3	65,280	·7	—	—	85,870	·9	9,410,235
1890...	1,000,000	650,000	1,650,000	13·5	372,960	3·1	1,532,254	12·6	—	—	8,492,988	69·4	61,440	·5	—	—	103,931	·9	12,233,573
1880...	800,000	287,500	1,087,500	18·6	291,062	5·0	1,061,326	18·1	—	—	3,307,199	56·5	48,964	·8	—	—	61,600	1·0	5,857,591
1867...	540,000	135,000	675,000	27·3	211,205	8·5	396,034	16·0	—	—	1,139,792	46·1	11,012	·5	—	—	40,048	1·6	2,473,091

Assets of The National Bank of Australasia, Limited.

Mar. 31	Coin & Bullion, Aust. Notes, & Cash at Bankers. Amt. £	Coin & Bullion, Aust. Notes, & Cash at Bankers. % of Total %	Investments. Amt. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills & Remittances in transit, &c. Amt. £	Bills & Remittances in transit, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted and Other Advances. Amt. £	Bills Discounted and Other Advances. % of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amt. £	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Balances Due from Other Banks. Amt. £	Balances Due from Other Banks. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amt. £	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915...	3,212,400	22·2	585,036	4·0	956,445	6·6	8,914,253	61·5	308,671	2·1	78,619	·6	426,941	3·0	14,482,365
1914...	2,731,502	18·4	567,852	3·9	1,464,560	9·8	9,306,647	62·8	228,919	1·5	106,775	·7	431,471	2·9	14,840,726
1913...	2,236,386	16·3	701,531	5·1	1,219,800	8·9	8,818,171	64·3	188,521	1·4	102,523	·8	439,279	3·2	13,710,211
1912...	2,906,616	19·8	444,314	3·0	1,062,525	7·2	9,577,225	65·1	165,376	1·1	114,737	·8	446,270	3·0	14,717,063
1911...	2,377,456	16·4	513,383	3·5	1,193,450	8·3	9,672,565	66·9	142,256	1·0	91,007	·7	468,320	3·2	14,461,437
1910...	2,165,192	16·1	476,193	3·5	2,105,716	15·7	8,017,862	59·7	136,125	1·0	47,048	·4	479,156	3·6	13,427,892
1909...	1,794,263	15·3	528,649	4·5	1,244,538	10·7	7,448,054	63·5	162,833	1·4	62,565	·5	488,531	4·1	11,729,233
1905...	1,414,327	14·6	727,024	7·5	944,651	9·7	5,666,354	58·5	189,595	2·0	52,281	·6	688,790	7·1	9,683,622
1900...	1,507,353	16·0	736,210	7·8	657,362	7·0	5,542,456	58·9	—	—	40,024	·4	926,830	9·9	9,410,235
1890...	1,923,670	15·7	597,100	2·3	1,672,204	13·7	7,874,564	64·3	—	—	40,068	·4	415,967	3·4	12,233,573
1880...	571,054	9·7	166,348	2·8	1,468,208	25·1	3,521,603	60·1	—	—	26,869	·5	103,509	1·8	5,857,591
1867...	326,226	13·2	14,950	·6	397,429	16·1	1,583,184	64·0	—	—	71,206	2·9	80,096	3·2	2,473,091

they reached a total of £11,196,569, as compared with £11,409,107 in March 1913. On the other side of the accounts, the cash rose from £2,734,502 to £3,212,400; investments also rose from £567,852 to £585,036; bills discounted and other advances, however, fell from £9,306,647 to £8,914,253. This is mainly due to the fact that curtailment of export and other trade reduced the banking requirements of many of the Bank's large mercantile connections throughout the States, and attention was drawn by the Chairman to the fact that it has not been the policy of the Bank to restrict credit injuriously, and that, on the contrary, the policy of the management since the outbreak of war has been to afford its borrowing and exchange customers all the usual facilities, and, in addition, to endeavour to assist them specially in tiding over the unusual conditions of the time. Herewith we show the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since 1867

Very substantial growth in profits has occurred during the past 10 years, both gross and net profits more than doubling in amount. For the year to March 31, 1904, a gross profit of £193,685 was secured, the net profit amounting to £71,108, which permitted of the 5 per cent. Preference dividend being paid and a distribution of 3½ per cent. being made on the Ordinary shares.

For the twelve months to March 31, 1914, the gross profit amounted to £389,338, while the net profit reached a total of £184,140. For the year to March 1915 the gross profit amounted to £386,095, while the net profit reached a total of £176,298. In March 1914 the dividend on both the Preferred and the Ordinary capital was increased to 7 per cent., a rate that has been maintained for the twelve months to March 1915.

The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the National Bank of Australasia, Ltd.

Year ended March 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividends. Amt. £	Pref. Shs. %	Ord. Shs. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	386,095	209,797	176,298	104,876	7	7	60,000	27,895
1914 ...	389,338	205,198	184,140	104,876	7	7	79,000	16,472
1913 ...	408,063	206,087	201,976	97,385	6½	6½	99,000	16,208
1912 ...	352,867	192,176	160,691	89,894	6	6	64,000	10,616
1911 ...	319,581	178,373	141,208	89,894	6	6	49,000	10,351
1910 ...	295,161	161,206	133,955	89,892	6	6	44,000	8,037
1909 ...	265,547	149,359	116,188	74,911	5	5	38,000	7,975
1908 ...	244,765	141,475	103,290	74,911	5	5	26,000	4,698
1907 ...	225,751	132,610	93,141	71,930	5	4¾	20,000	7,360
1906 ...	202,495	125,246	77,249	62,986	5	4	15,000	6,149
1905 ...	197,266	124,186	73,080	57,024	5	3½	20,000	6,887

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 11.8 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.7 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.2 per cent.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Head Office: Cairo.

London Office: 4 and 5 King William Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£3,500,000
Issued, 300,000 Shares of £10 each ...	3,000,000
Paid up in full	3,000,000

Price of Share, 10½. *Div.*, 4%. *Yield*, £3 16s. 2d.%

The National Bank of Egypt was formed under Egyptian law for a period of 50 years, and is to all intents and purposes the State Bank of Egypt. It started originally with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, but in the following year the capital was increased to £1,500,000, which was the amount paid up in the first balance sheet issued by the institution. In 1903 50,000 new shares were issued at a premium of £4 per share. In 1904 the same number of new shares was issued at a premium of £6 per share. This was followed in 1905 by a further issue of 50,000 new shares, which were placed at a premium of £10 per share. The capital has remained at £3,000,000 since 1905. The Bank has the sole concession for the issue of bank-notes in Egypt, the power of circulation being unlimited. In addition to the head office in Cairo there are offices in Alexandria and London, together with 16 branches in Egypt and three in the Soudan. The Bank was founded for the purpose, among other things, of enabling banking assistance to be given to the fellaheen of Egypt, and at the end of 1901 a sum of over £400,000 sterling was invested in these loans, nearly the whole being covered by mortgages. The business was so successful that it was possible to have put out a much larger sum, but the directors came to the conclusion that a larger part of the Bank's capital could not prudently be devoted to this business. It was announced at the meeting in March 1902 that, on account of the good that was being done in this direction, the Government was desirous of extending the system, and had agreed to advance the Bank £250,000 to enable the work to continue. It was found, however, that this could only be in the nature of things a temporary expedient, and finally towards the end of the year there was brought into existence the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, to

Liabilities of The National Bank of Egypt

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £E.	Reserve Funds. Amount. £E.	Total Capital and Reserve.— Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Mixed Tribunals. Amount. £E.	Ministry of Finance. Amount. £E.	Current Deposit and Other Accounts. Amount. £E.	Total —Deposits, &c. Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Cheques and Bills —Payable. Amt. £E.	% of Total. %	Accept-ances. Amt. £E.	% of Total. %	Profit —Balance. Amt. £E.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £E.
1914...	2,925,000	1,267,490	1,142,500	21·5	7,464,954	33·2	1,320,891	2,598,683	3,172,637	7,092,211	36·4	[illegible]	·6	512,510	2·6	120,335	·7	19,499,943
1913...	2,925,000	1,486,875	4,411,875	30·1	2,236,117	15·2	1,510,995	1,837,195	3,780,651	7,128,841	48·7	125,717	·9	597,907	4·1	153,130	1·0	14,653,587
1912...	2,925,000	1,486,875	4,411,875	27·6	2,454,376	15·3	1,367,188	2,784,432	4,149,072	8,300,692	52·0	110,270	·6	555,695	3·5	166,725	1·0	15,999,633
1911...	2,925,000	1,511,250	4,436,250	29·0	2,253,844	14·8	963,617	2,528,513	4,076,693	7,568,823	49·5	124,351	·8	734,850	4·8	170,730	1·1	15,294,848
1910...	2,925,000	1,511,250	4,436,250	31·2	2,256,138	15·9	676,012	1,529,283	4,012,837	6,218,132	43·8	146,769	1·0	965,168	6·8	181,783	1·3	14,204,240
1909...	2,925,000	1,526,069	4,451,069	32·6	2,218,621	16·2	612,028	1,470,101	4,261,388	6,343,517	46·5	91,848	·7	369,829	2·7	182,834	1·3	13,657,678
1908...	2,925,000	1,526,069	4,451,069	31·8	1,824,456	13·0	449,080	1,714,256	4,866,122	7,029,458	50·2	251,149	1·9	230,970	1·7	190,939	1·4	13,978,041
1907...	2,925,000	1,497,193	4,422,193	34·2	2,130,347	16·5	416,603	1,339,668	3,716,584	5,472,855	42·4	566,682	4·4	—	—	317,674	2·5	12,909,751
1906...	2,925,000	1,401,194	4,326,194	35·6	2,171,226	17·9	504,014	1,283,015	3,116,461	4,903,490	40·4	335,904	2·8	—	—	399,151	3·3	12,135,965
1905...	2,681,250	1,317,406	3,998,656	28·2	1,388,774	9·8	387,893	3,868,071	3,910,928	8,166,892	57·7	272,622	2·0	—	—	319,589	2·3	14,146,533
1904...	2,193,750	687,332	2,881,082	37·2	538,241	7·0	386,724	917,104	2,344,376	3,648,204	47·1	331,479	4·3	—	—	341,466	4·4	7,740,473
1903...	1,950,000	395,643	2,345,643	35·0	382,160	5·9	410,346	1,110,789	1,969,620	3,490,755	53·6	134,948	2·0	–	–	160,573	2·5	6,509,377
1902...	1,462,500	204,371	1,666,871	33·1	151,044	3·0	302,482	1,389,196	1,298,137	2,989,815	59·5	101,327	2·0	—	—	120,336	2·4	5,029,393
1901...	1,462,500	193,966	1,656,466	45·1	125,284	3·4	274,641	900,943	563,067	1,738,651	47·4	42,357	1·1	—	—	110,556	3·0	3,673,314
1900...	1,462,500	181,368	1,643,868	50·2	75,053	2·3	254,135	520,931	391,696	1,166,762	35·6	263,122	8·0	—	–	125,973	3·9	3,274,778

Assets of The National Bank of Egypt.

Dec. 31	Cash in —Hand. Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Total —Securities Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short —Notice.— Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Advances on Local and Foreign Securities. Amt. £E.	Other Advances and Current Accounts. Amount. £E.	Total Ad-vances, &c. Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Bills of Ex-change, Bills Discounted, Bills Receivable. Amount. £E.	% of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances Amt. £E.	% of Total. %	Bank Pre-mises, &c.— Amt. £E.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £E.
1914 ...	4,300,191	22·5	4,787,184	24·4	736,125	3·8	2,100,373	4,090,743	6,191,116	32·0	2,612,833	13·4	[illegible]	2·6	264,680	1·3	19,499,943
1913 ...	2,531,030	17·2	2,293,457	15·7	299,203	2·0	1,627,674	5,411,772	7,050,446	48·0	1,617,152	11·0	597,407	4·1	275,392	1·0	14,653,587
1912 ...	2,680,801	16·8	2,430,253	15·2	1,551,225	9·7	1,546,970	4,805,847	6,352,817	39·7	2,140,415	13·4	555,695	3·5	279,427	1·7	15,999,633
1911 ...	2,666,813	17·4	2,588,900	16·9	650,325	4·2	1,839,244	4,561,994	6,401,238	41·9	1,982,636	13·0	734,850	4·8	270,086	1·8	15,294,848
1910 ...	2,397,033	16·9	2,573,878	18·1	662,025	4·7	1,749,104	3,958,424	5,707,528	40·1	1,618,375	11·4	965,168	6·8	279,633	2·0	14,204,240
1909 ...	2,682,163	19·7	3,099,978	22·7	953,487	7·0	1,701,583	2,487,393	4,188,976	30·6	2,102,945	15·4	369,829	2·7	260,300	1·9	13,657,678
1908 ...	3,360,334	24·0	2,951,987	21·1	1,675,261	12·0	1,980,746	1,966,322	3,947,068	28·2	1,570,598	11·3	230,970	1·7	241,823	1·7	13,978,041
1907 ...	3,150,874	24·4	2,301,785	17·9	1,563,334	12·1	2,151,858	1,935,273	4,087,131	31·6	1,578,536	12·2	—	—	228,091	1·8	12,909,751
1906 ...	2,327,661	19·2	2,605,144	21·4	651,398	5·4	3,561,638	1,315,198	4,876,836	40·2	1,466,015	12·1	—	—	208,611	1·7	12,135,965
1905 ...	2,571,330	18·2	2,404,749	17·0	3,519,110	24·9	2,218,958	861,269	3,080,587	21·7	2,434,504	17·2	–	—	136,253	1·0	14,146,533
1904 ...	1,008,836	13·0	1,602,654	20·7	564,206	7·3	2,325,606	1,301,268	3,626,874	47·0	823,847	10·6	—	—	114,056	1·4	7,740,473
1903 ...	475,922	7·3	961,269	14·8	138,373	2·1	1,973,037	2,009,224	3,982,261	61·2	867,792	13·3	—	—	83,850	1·3	6,509,377
1902 ...	294,859	5·8	669,809	13·3	572,023	11·4	1,173,001	1,122,928	2,295,929	45·7	1,117,607	22·2	—	—	79,166	1·6	5,029,393
1901 ...	241,746	6·6	325,076	8·9	459,148	12·5	1,464,045	532,972	1,997,017	54·3	572,415	15·6	—	—	77,912	2·1	3,673,314
1900 ...	340,664	10·4	422,124	12·9	87,750	2·7	1,140,043	595,025	1,735,068	52·9	617,172	18·9	—	—	72,000	2·2	3,274,778

which the National Bank handed over its fellaheen loan business. In addition to a considerable holding of Ordinary shares the National Bank possesses half the Deferred shares of the Agricultural Bank. It also holds an important interest in the Cassa di Sconto Bank. A distinctly successful career has been experienced by the institution. It has filled a badly felt want in Egypt and has also done well for its shareholders.

The main feature of the accounts for 1914 is the largely increased amount of the bank-note issue, which is £E.1,464,954, as compared with £E.2,236,117, and on this question the Governor pointed out that:—

"On the declaration of war the importation of gold into this country became no longer possible, and to meet the demand for currency necessary for commerical requirements, the Egyptian Government decreed the notes of the National Bank of Egypt to be legal tender throughout the country and at the Bank. This prompt measure, for which I think everybody in Egypt is deeply grateful to the Government, coupled with the immediate steps taken in England by the Treasury and the Bank of England to re-establish the discount market, made the financing of the cotton crop to the extent of its demand an easy matter from the point of view of sufficiency of funds. Our Bank, I am glad to say, worked in cordial co-operation with the Government, and has fully proved its utility in the hour of need. Without availing itself of the moratorium, the Bank not only financed the cotton crop, but was also able to give assistance right and left in the

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Head Office:

HARDING, WACE & CO., 19 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

earlier days of the crisis when there was a run on the banks and before the notes were made legal tender.

"While not departing from our statutory backing of the notes, namely, half gold and half gilt-edged securities of the Egyptian Government's approval, we were able to expand the currency in Egypt by purchasing and depositing against the note issue Egyptian Government three months' Treasury bills, the amount of which was passed to the credit of the Ministry of Finance."

The deposits at the end of 1914 amounted to £E.7,092,211, which compares with £E.391,696 shown in the first accounts issued. The total assets in the first balance sheet stood at £E.3,274,778, while at December 31, 1914, the total assets were £E.19,499,943. From a comparison of these figures the growth of the institution may be seen, but in order to give a clearer view of the great growth that has occurred we set out herewith an abstract of the liabilities and assets for each year since the formation of the Bank, the figures being given in Egyptian pounds.

The first dividend was 7 per cent., but as 1901 was much less prosperous the dividend was reduced to 5½ per cent. For 1902 and 1903 the rate was 6 per cent. per annum; it was raised to 7 per cent. for 1914, to 8 per cent. for 1905, and to 9 per cent. for 1906, at which figure it remained until 1911, when it was reduced to 8 per cent., a rate which was maintained for 1912. For 1913 the rate was 7½ per cent., but for 1914 the dividend has been reduced to 4 per cent.

We set out herewith a statement of the profits made for each year since the formation of the Bank:—

Profits of the National Bank of Egypt.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit (a).	Expenses	Net Profit.	—Dividend.— Amount.	Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	%	£E.	£E.
1914 ...	468,089*	159,595	308,494	117,000	4	208,706	–
1913 ...	398,917	178,907	220,010	219,375	7½	—	17,212
1912 ...	372,774	142,244	230,530	234,000	8	—	16,577
1911 ...	383,983	131,647	252,336	234,000	8	—	20,047
1910 ...	387,058	124,631	262,427	263,250	9	—	1,711
1909 ...	376,353	120,372	255,981	263,250	9	—	2,534
1908 ...	395,591	133,121	262,470	263,250	9	—	9,803
1907 ...	491,147	126,220	364,927	263,250	9	119,331	10,583
1906 ...	465,154	117,957	347,197	263,250	9	85,618	28,237
1905 ...	371,947	99,059	272,888	195,000	8	77,666	29,908
1904 ...	374,479	77,978	296,501	136,500	7	153,600	29,686
1903 ...	184,582	87,815	96,767	117,000	6	14,172	23,285
1902 ...	139,448	38,354	101,094	87,750	6	10,466	18,085
1901 ...	134,583	34,047	100,536	80,437	5½	10,405	15,207
1900 ...	187.733	67,832	119,901	102,375	7	6,747	10,779

(a) Less rebate of interest on bills not yet due.
* Includes £E.219,375 taken from reserve.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 10.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.4 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to £E.19,499,943, 1.6 per cent.

Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, the Governor, pointed out in March last that although Egypt is suffering from the effects of the War, yet it is only a question of economy for a time. The necessary foodstuffs are abundant, and her only important industry, which is the production and refining of sugar, has done very much better during the War owing to the rise in prices of that article. "Then we must look to the future. The political status of the country is altered. She is free to borrow and develop her resources. It will be possible to take up again the great drainage and irrigation works, with a free hand to make satisfactory financial arrangements."

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: 26 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed, 80,000 Shares, £25 each ... £2,000,000
Paid up, £12 10s. per Share 1,000,000
Price of Share, £35½. *Div.*, 16 %.* *Yield*, £6 6s. 10*d*.%
* Free of tax.

This important Indian Bank was established September 29, 1863, and under the charge for many years of Mr. Robert Campbell as General Manager, and subsequently as Chairman, has had a most prosperous career. Originally the head office was in Calcutta, but in 1866 it was transferred to London and the Bank registered under the Companies Act of 1862 on March 23, 1866. In 1866 the authorised capital was £2,000,000, the subscribed capital being £933,000, and the amount paid up being £466,500. By 1891 the subscribed capital was increased to £1,000,000 and the paid-up capital was increased to £500,000. In 1905 the subscribed capital was further increased to £1,200,000 and the paid-up capital to £600,000 by a distribution to the shareholders out of accumulated profits of 8,000 bonus shares of £25 credited with £12 10*s*. paid up, the distribution being at the rate of one bonus share for every five shares held. In 1908 the subscribed capital was increased to £1,600,000 and the paid-up capital to £800,000 by another distribution to shareholders out of accumulated profits, consisting of 16,000 bonus shares of £25 each credited with £12 10*s*. per share paid up, at the rate of one bonus share for every three shares held. In 1911 the subscribed capital was increased to £2,000,000 and the paid-up capital to £1,000,000 by a fresh distribution to shareholders out of accumulated profits of 16,000 bonus shares of £25 each credited with £12 10*s*. per share paid up, at the rate of one bonus share for each four shares held. As no further change has occurred the paid-up capital still remains at £1,000,000.

In 1867 the reserve fund was £30,000, but in consequence of the subsequent depression by 1870 it fell to £19,000. Since that date uninterrupted progress has been made with the building up of this fund, and it has been brought up to £1,175,000, or £175,000 more than the paid-up capital. In 1867 the deposits were £713,000; by 1870 they had doubled, amounting to £1,400,000; in the following 20 years they increased threefold, amounting in 1890 to £4,256,000; by 1905 they had again more than doubled, reaching £9,600,000; at the end of 1910 they further rose to £12,150,000; and at the end of 1913 they were £14,876,240.

Comparatively little change occurred in 1914, and at December 31 deposits were £14,832,899. The acceptances rose from £981,205 to £1,005,836, while loans and bills payable dropped from £1,681,732 to £943,947. On the other side of the accounts the cash rose from £3,531,378 to £4,254,985, and the investments from £820,141 to £1,029,971, but the bills of exchange dropped from £6,400,093 to £5,979,465. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years since 1867.

The profit for 1914 is shown as gross £511,146, as compared with £523,858, while after providing for expenses the net profit is shown as £269,371, as compared with £294,617. The decrease is not due to any diminution of the Bank's earning powers. There has been no falling off whatever in that respect, and the reduction is entirely owing to the larger amount placed this year to bad and doubtful debt account to provide for the larger requirements occasioned by the War. The Bank is able to maintain the dividend at 16 per cent., while a total of £75,000 is carried to the reserve fund.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the National Bank of India.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Salaries and Other Expenses.	Net Profit.	—Dividend.— Amt.	Rate.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1914...	511,146	241,775	269,371	160,000	16	95,000	92,996
1913...	523,858	229,241	294,617	160,000	16	120,000	78,625
1912...	489,640	219,001	270,639	140,000	14	120,000	64,008
1911...	465,634	213,138	252,496	120,000	12	120,000	53,369
1910...	444,914	196,695	248,219	96,000	12	20,000	240,873*a*
1909...	413,580	191,768	221,812	96,000	12	120,000	108,654
1908...	429,723	182,790	246,933	96,000	12	120,000	102,842
1907...	409,447	167,703	241,744	72,000	12	20,000	271,909*b*
1906...	359,174	157,573	192,601	72,000	12	67,500	122,165*c*
1905...	310,172	147,906	162,266	72,000	12	65,000	69,064
1904...	300,468	143,679	156,789	50,000	10	13,500	143,798

(*a*) £200,000 capitalised by issue of 16,000 bonus shares, £25 each, £12 10*s*. paid. (*b*) Ditto.
(*c*) £100,000 capitalised by the issue of 8,000 bonus shares of £25 each, £12 10*s*. paid up.

Liabilities of The National Bank of India, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Loans and Bills Payable. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	1,000,000	1,100,000	2,100,000	10·9	1,005,836	5·4	14,832,899	77·3	943,947	4·9	287,996	1·5	19,170,678
1913...	1,000,000	1,040,000	2,040,000	10·3	981,205	4·9	14,876,240	75·1	1,681,732	8·5	238,625	1·2	19,817,802
1912...	1,000,000	950,000	1,950,000	10·5	886,196	4·8	13,936,024	75·2	1,564,987	8·4	214,008	1·1	18,551,215
1911...	1,000,000	850,000	1,850,000	10·6	979,951	5·6	13,080,587	75·0	1,368,872	7·8	183,369	1·0	17,462,779
1910...	800,000	800,000	1,600,000	10·4	812,370	5·3	12,150,682	78·3	633,926	4·1	308,873	1·9	15,505,851
1905...	600,000	525,000	1,125,000	9·0	638,872	5·0	9,614,065	75·8	1,146,334	9·0	151,065	1·2	12,675,336
1900...	500,000	330,000	830,000	8·5	453,979	4·6	6,139,486	63·1	2,216,349	23·0	78,832	·8	9,718,646
1890...	466,500	100,000	566,500	8·3	—	—	4,256,262	62·1	2,005,695	29·2	29,838	·4	6,858,295
1880...	465,250	35,000	500,250	13·1	—	—	2,694,170	70·3	592,846	15·6	18,091	·5	3,805,357
1870...	464,090	19,000	483,000	18·1	—	—	1,408,053	53·0	761,505	28·6	6,865	·3	2,659,413
1867...	463,200	30,000	493,200	30·3	—	—	713,321	43·9	398,943	24·4	23,792	1·4	1,628,356

Assets of The National Bank of India, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin and Bullion and Cash in Hand. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills of Exchange. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Discounts, Loans and Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	4,254,985	22·2	1,029,971	5·4	5,979,465	31·2	6,745,252	35·2	1,005,836	5·4	155,169	·6	19,170,678
1913...	3,531,378	17·9	820,141	4·1	6,400,093	32·3	7,946,565	40·1	981,205	4·9	138,420	·7	19,817,802
1912...	4,000,501	21·6	924,774	5·0	5,688,879	30·7	6,925,420	37·3	886,196	4·8	125,445	·6	18,551,215
1911...	3,175,000	18·2	972,491	5·5	4,852,462	27·8	7,369,797	42·2	979,951	5·6	113,078	·7	17,462,779
1910...	3,058,857	19·7	1,175,172	7·6	3,561,381	43·7	6,783,584	23·0	812,370	5·2	114,487	·8	15,505,851
1905...	1,891,693	14·9	1,341,618	10·6	3,584,651	40·6	5,140,185	28·3	638,872	5·0	78,317	·6	12,675,336
1900...	1,749,496	18·0	776,817	8·0	2,429,333	43·4	4,225,011	25·0	453,979	4·6	84,010	1·0	9,718,646
1890...	1,544,410	22·2	713,431	10·4	2,369,103	32·0	2,189,301	34·6	—	—	42,050	·8	6,858,295
1880...	466,624	12·2	927,179	24·4	1,872,878	13·0	491,212	49·0	—	—	47,464	1·2	3,805,357
1870...	530,807	20·0	523,540	19·7	1,146,153	15·8	418,633	43·0	—	—	40,280	1·5	2,659,413
1867...	662,001	40·6	199,590	12·2	386,616	23·8	368,462	22·6	—	—	11,687	·8	1,628,356

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 26.9 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined 12.8 per cent.; and to the total working resources 1.4 per cent.

Speaking at the meeting in March last Mr. Robert Campbell said: "As regards the future, I am glad to say that, so far as the current year has gone, our business has been quite satisfactory. Our only complaint is the falling off in the volume of business, but this is, perhaps, only what was to be expected, and I am afraid there is no immediate prospect of any improvement in this respect. Of course, so long as the War continues the greatest care and caution will be necessary; and, therefore, while prepared to meet all the legitimate wants of customers, our policy will be to continue to maintain our present strong financial position." It may be added that, in addition to the head office of the Bank in London, it has 26 branches, including eight in East Africa, where it acts as the Government bankers.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED.

Head Office: 17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised, 400,000 Shares of £7 10*s.* each ... £3,000,000
Subscribed, 300,000 „ „ ... 2,250,000
Paid up, 300,000 „ „ £2 10*s.* paid 750,000
Price of Shares, £4¼. *Dividend*, 13%. *Yield*, £6 19*s.* 3*d.* %

THE National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd., was formed in August 1872. The head office is in London, and there are 58 branches and agencies in New Zealand. At March 31, 1913, the issued capital was £500,000, the authorised amount being £3,000,000. But in April 100,000 new shares were offered to shareholders at a premium of £1 5*s.* per share, in the proportion of one share for every two shares held. As a consequence of this new issue the paid-up capital is now £750,000, so that the paid-up amount has been increased by 50 per cent. The reserve now amounts to £685,000. The notes in circulation amounted to £465,515, as compared with £255,899, but, on the other hand, bills payable dropped

OLD YORK TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED,

3 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Directors:

Col. G. H. TREVOR, C.S.I. ALBERT M. COHN, Esq. R. C. BLANCHARD, Ph.D., *Managing Director.*

Statement of Condition at Close of Business, November 30th, 1914.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Capital paid in full	100,000	0	0	Cash due from Banks	20,799	0	10
Reserve Fund	187,000	0	0	Sight Exchange	11,550	0	0
Undivided Profits	1,754	12	6	Stocks and Bonds	241,150	0	0
Unearned Interest	250	13	8	Foreign Bills Discounted	15,000	0	0
Other Liabilities	169	2	3	Other Assets	675	7	7
Total	£289,174	8	5	Total	£289,174	8	5

DIVIDENDS, 10 PER CENT. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE QUARTERLY.

Liabilities of The National Bank of New Zealand, Limited.

Mar. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	750,000	665,000	1,415,000	19·0	465,515	6·2	699,093	9·4	4,740,397	63·7	124,530	1·7	7,444,585
1914 ...	750,000	645,000	1,395,000	20·0	255,899	3·7	899,674	12·9	4,304,654	61·7	120,817	1·7	6,976,044
1913 ...	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	15·0	257,985	3·9	1,058,780	16·0	4,229,440	63·7	95,756	1·4	6,641,961
1912 ...	500,000	480,000	980,000	15·0	268,270	4·1	837,349	12·8	4,357,926	66·9	84,264	1·2	6,527,809
1911 ...	500,000	460,000	960,000	15·4	272,680	4·4	606,773	9·8	4,296,328	69·1	78,005	1·3	6,213,786
1910 ...	375,000	375,000	750,000	12·7	268 559	4·5	536,798	9·0	4,306,295	72·6	69 660	1·2	5,931,312
1905 ...	250,000	210,000	460,000	10·5	247,126	5·6	415,309	9·5	3,218,432	73·4	45,810	1·0	4,386,727
1900 ...	250,000	60,000	310,000	8·7	211,605	6·0	478,821	13·5	2,510,754	70·7	40,009	1·1	3,551,189
1890 ...	250,000	—	250,000	9·7	108,362	4·2	350,863	13·6	1,847,256	71·8	18,029	·7	2,574,510
1880 ...	350,000	10,000	360,000	14·6	99,596	4·0	418,690	17·0	1,576,814	63·9	12,029	·5	2,467,129
1873 ...	183,334	—	183,334	92·9	—	—	—	—	12,939	6·5	1,102	·6	197,375

Assets of The National Bank of New Zealand, Limited.

Mar. 31	Coin and Bullion, Cash at Bankers, and Money at Call and Short Notice. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable in London and Remittances in transit. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Landed Property and Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915 ...	1,233,272	16·6	659,067	8·8	1,370,158	18·4	578,163	7·8	3,442,888	46·2	161,037	2·2	7,444,585
1914 ...	1,171,137	16·8	522,415	7·5	833,843	11·9	808,555	11·6	3 554,338	51·0	85,756	1·2	6,976,044
1913 ...	1,041,201	15·6	492,708	7·4	785,024	11·8	879,973	13·4	3,356,763	50·5	86,292	1·3	6,641,961
1912 ...	1,317,812	20·1	422,858	6·5	677,021	10·4	828,950	12·7	3,202,838	49·1	78,330	1·2	6,527,809
1911 ...	1,331,565	21·4	443,133	7·1	626,723	10·1	789,136	12·7	2,951,537	47·5	71,692	1·2	6,213,786
1910 ...	1,374,319	23·2	532,178	9·0	777,412	13·1	674,328	11·4	2,505,360	42·2	67,715	1·1	5,931,312
1905 ...	873,038	19·9	206,388	4·7	601,796	13·7	581,275	13·3	2,043,613	46·6	80,617	1·8	4,386,727
1900 ...	649,024	18·3	68,481	1·9	—	—	—	—	2,741,453	77·2	92,231	2·6	3,551,189
1890 ...	280,078	10·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,166,884	84·2	127,513	4·9	2,574,510
1880 ...	384,994	15·6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,006,782	81·4	75,353	3·0	2,467,129
1873 ...	6,192	3·1	—	—	—	—	—	—	187,487	95·0	3,696*	1·9	197,375

* Includes £2,737 preliminary expenses.

from £899,674 to £699,093. Deposits, however, rose from £4,304,654 to £4,740,397. On the other side of the accounts, the cash rose from £1,171,137 to £1,233,272, the investments from £522,415 to £659,067, and bills receivable from £833,843 to £1,370,158, while bills discounted fell from £808,555 to £578,163, and advances from £3,554,338 to £3,442,888. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

A distinctly satisfactory time was experienced during the twelve months to March 1915, and the gross profits rose from £258,024 to £275,239. This was accompanied by an increase in expenses from £113,128 to £125,476, so that the net profit rose from £144,896 to £149,763. The dividend was maintained at 13 per cent., a rate that has been paid for each year since March 1911. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd.

Year ended Mar. 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amt. £	Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	275,239	125,476	149,763	97,500	13	47,500	18,080
1914 ...	258,024	113,128	144,896	94,336	13	44,000	43,317
1913 ...	244,850	109,357	135,493	65,000	13	60,000	36,757
1912 ...	222,230	101,470	120,760	65,000	13	49,500	26,264
1911 ...	203,069	96,974	106,095	57,500	13	46,500	20,005
1910 ...	183,167	90,293	92,874	45,000	12	43,000	17,910
1909 ...	182,904	89,481	93,423	48,750	13	43,000	13,036
1908 ...	174,919	84,375	90,544	45,000	12	44,500	11,363
1907 ...	167,545	80,143	87,402	38,750	12	47,500	10,319
1906 ...	144 930	77,073	67,857	30,000	12	37,000	9,167
1905 ...	123,418	73,512	49,906	30,000	12	20,000	8,309

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 19.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 10.6 per cent., and to the total working resources 2.1 per cent.

At the meeting in July last, Mr. Robert Logan pointed out that for the first four months of the Company's banking year the business did not present any features of particular importance. In August and September they suffered in common with all other institutions, and he added: "Since then their business had been exceedingly good, though under altered conditions. New Zealand was primarily and chiefly an agricultural country, and they would recognise what that meant when he told them that the exports of produce last year amounted to about 27½ millions sterling, as compared with 23¼ millions sterling in the previous year. Of that enormous total wool contributed 10½ millions, frozen meat nearly 6½ millions, and dairy produce nearly 4¾ millions. These figures were largely in excess of those of the previous year not only in quality, but also in value. The imports into New Zealand, on the other hand, showed a decrease from 22¼ millions to nearly 20½ millions, so that the surplus of exports of the Dominion, which last year amounted to £1,150,000, increased to about £7,000,000 in the year ended March 31 last. New Zealand had had, since the war began, a period of unexampled prosperity. There had been no labour troubles in the Dominion since he last addressed the proprietors, and the workers had set an admirable example of industry and patriotism. The war, the widespread drought in Australia, and the bountiful seasons in New Zealand had all contributed to this prosperity. While, however, the people of the Dominion were keenly sensible to their financial gain, and recognised that the nature of their products made that gain inevitable, they were all the more zealous to play their full part in the defence of the Empire. 'Last year, in his review of the progress of the Dominion, he drew the attention of the proprietors to the new industry of fruit farming, and expressed his expectation that the produce would in a few years form an important addition to the exports of New Zealand. The area under fruit, chiefly apples, in 1910 was 31,700 acres, and in 1914 42,300 acres. One hundred tons to the acre was below the average, yet that gave a million trees added in four years, and when six years old each tree should yield 20*s.* a tree. Further, much land previously regarded as of little value, which required 7 to 10 acres to support a single sheep, and was assessed dear at 7*s.* 6*d.* an acre, had been found most suitable for this industry. Where trees were in full bearing it was estimated that a small family could live on 8 to 10 acres."

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Pretoria.

London Offices: { Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.
117 Cannon Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£4,000,000
Subscribed, 278,242 Shares, £10 each ...	2,782,420
Paid up, £10 per Share (fully paid) ...	2,782,420

Price of Share, £10⅞. *Dividend*, 6 %. *Yield*, £5 13*s.* 9*d.* %

The National Bank of South Africa, Limited, acts as bankers to the Union of South Africa, both in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Its head office is in Pretoria. It was constituted in 1890, under a con-

cession from the Volksraad of the late South African Republic, its name being changed in 1902, when its concession was abandoned and the continued incorporation of the Bank provided for by an Order in Council of the British Government passed in August 1902. The concession fixed the capital at £4,002,000, in £10 shares, which included 200 Founders' shares, but in 1892 it was reduced to £1,002,000, with power to increase it to its former amount. A further reduction occurred in 1899 to £1,000,000, which was brought about by the cancellation of the Founders' shares, but it was immediately increased to £1,100,000 by the creation of 10,000 shares, the latter being issued in 1903, as to 5,000 shares to certain shareholders in lieu of the Founders' shares, 2,500 to shareholders in consideration of their waiving all right to cumulative dividend. and 2,500 to the Government of the Transvaal in consideration of its waiving all right to 20 per cent. of the surplus profits.

During 1910 the National Bank purchased the business of the National Bank of the Orange River Colony—a business which had been in existence for over 32 years. The price paid was £20 2*s*. 9*d*. per share for the 20,000 shares of this Bank, or a total of £402,750. The purchase account is being written off by annual instalments.

The paid-up capital remained at £1,100,000 until 1912, when arrangements were come to for the acquisition of the Bank of Africa, Limited. This necessitated an increase in the capital to £2,350,000 in £10 shares, which are fully paid. The number of offices open at the end of 1911 amountd to 137, but with the absorption of the business of the Bank of Africa, which had 63 branches open, and with the opening of other new branches, the total number of offices open at the end of 1912 was 195. At the end of 1908 the Bank had a reserve of £140,000, but owing to the continued depression in the value of landed property throughout South Africa, and with a prospect that better values were not likely to be secured within a reasonable period it was decided to transfer £90,000, from the reserve, leaving the balance consequently at £50,000, at which figure it remained until the end of 1910, when it rose to £70,000. From the profits of 1911 a total of £50,000 was added to the reserve, thereby increasing it to £120,000. But by reason of the acquisition of the Bank of Africa the reserve was substantially increased to £370,000, while a further £130,000 was appropriated from the profits of 1912, thereby increasing the fund to £500,000.

A further expansion took place in July 1914, when the National Bank absorbed the Natal Bank. It thereby became necessary to increase the subscribed and paid-up capital to £2,782,420, the authorised capital being £4,000,000. The reserve fund has been brought up to £525,000. Naturally the absorption of the Natal Bank business has increased the figures of the National Bank's balance sheet, and the notes in circulation at March 31, 1915, amounted to £1,163,741, as compared with £793,130 twelve months previously. Similarly the acceptances have risen from £2,956,419 to £20,832,622. On the other side of the accounts cash has risen from £3,519,194 to £4,433,304, call money from £1,474,077 to £2,957,725, investments from £1,052,709 to £1,378,527, and advances from £14,438,877 to £15,700,541. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1893.

The gross profits for the twelve months to March 31, 1915, are shown as £622,640, as compared with £843,657, and after providing for expenses the net profits are £156,373, as compared with £411,172. This fall is more apparent than real, inasmuch as the gross profits were in reality quite as good as in the preceding year. After taking over the Natal Bank a complete re-valuation of the assets acquired was made, and it was found that a much larger sum than was at first estimated would be required to be provided. With the exception of an amount of £175,000, which was taken from reserve, the provision has been made out of profits, which, as a consequence, are materially lower than would have been the case under normal conditions. It is possible, however, to maintain the dividend at 6 per cent., which is distinctly satisfactory in the circumstances.

In the following statement we set out the profit record since 1905:—

Profits of the National Bank of South Africa.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profits. £	Dividend. Amt. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915* ...	[illegible]	466,267	156,373	[illegible]	6	—	30,585
1914* ...	843,657	432,485	411,172	170,250	6	309,931	28,185
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	103,194
1912 ...	710,653	422,399	288,254	140,858	6	173,500	19,833
1911 ...	380,346	220,389	159,957	66,000	6	75,000	27,808
1910 ...	289,622	177,643	111,979	55,000	5	65,000	8,851
1909 ...	177,486	143,251	34,235	23,000	3	1,000	16,372
1908 ...	199,025	147,750	51,275	—	Nil	51,000	16,637
1907 ...	205,926	160,171	45,755	44,000	4	2,000	16,362
1906 ...	247,166	165,354	81,812	77,000	7	—	18,608
1905 ...	260,950	154,124	106,826	88,000	8	20,000	11,796

* March 31. † 9 months to March 31.

INVESTMENT BONDS

GOVERNMENT—MUNICIPAL—RAILROAD

RHOADES & COMPANY

Members of the New York Stock Exchange

37 WALL STREET NEW YORK

Liabilities of The National Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915• ...	2,782,420	525,000	3,307,420	11·4	1,163,741	4·0	3,538,912	12·2	20,832,622	72·0	114,058	·4	28,956,753
1914• ...	2,350,000	500,000	2,850,000	11·8	793,130	3·2	2,956,419	12·2	17,292,611	71·4	328,685	1·4	24,220,845
1912 ...	2,350,000	370,000	2,720,000	12·0	810,245	3·5	2,546,227	11·2	16,423,656	72·1	265,334	1·2	22,765,462
1911 ...	1,100,000	70,000	1,170,000	8·5	521,424	3·8	1,237,534	9·0	10,669,320	77·5	168,808	1·2	13,767,086
1910 ...	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	8·8	458,473	3·5	968,317	7·4	10,375,119	79·3	128,852	1·0	13,080,761
1909 ...	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	10·7	250,373	2·3	603,338	5·6	8,681,811	80·9	50,871	·5	10,736,393
1908 ...	1,100,000	140,000	1,240,000	15·6	245,020	3·1	600,532	7·6	5,796,116	72·9	67,637	·8	7,949,305
1907 ...	1,100,000	140,000	1,240,000	15·9	215,136	2·7	595,944	7·6	5,701,208	73·0	62,362	·8	7,814,650
1906 ...	1,100,000	140,000	1,240,000	13·9	262,251	2·9	591,456	6·6	6,781,706	76·0	49,607	·6	8,925,020
1905 ...	1,100,000	130,000	1,230,000	12·2	292,075	2·9	628,367	6·3	7,821,485	77·8	75,796	·8	10,047,723
1900 ...	1,100,000	48,900	1,148,900	40·5	278,558	9·8	158,543	5·6	1,188,229	41·9	61,932	2·2	2,836,162
1895 ...	752,000	11,700	763,700	12·8	315,298	5·3	114,802	1·9	4,728,182	79·2	50,069	·3	5,972,051
1893 ...	502,000	3,783	505,783	24·9	99,372	4·9	39,974	1·9	1,345,781	66·2	42,503	2·1	2,033,413

Assets of The National Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and with Bankers, Remittances in Transit and Native Gold. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Capital Adjustment Account. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises and Purchase Accounts. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915•	4,433,304	15·3	1,378,527	4·8	2,907,725	10·2	15,706,741	54·2	3,538,912	12·2	—	—	947,744	3·3	28,956,753
1914•	3,519,194	14·5	1,052,769	4·4	1,474,077	6·1	14,488,877	59·6	2,956,419	12·2	—	—	779,509	3·2	24,220,845
1912	3,317,387	14·6	875,870	3·8	1,154,229	5·0	13,964,879	61·4	2,546,227	11·2	—	—	906,872†	4·0	22,765,462
1911	1,931,553	14·4	646,868	4·7	1,299,743	9·4	8,032,612	58·4	1,237,534	9·0	—	—	568,776†	4·1	13,767,086
1910	2,059,070	15·7	663,206	5·1	1,970,911	15·1	6,810,432	52·1	968,317	7·4	40,000	·3	568,825†	4·3	13,080,761
1909	1,926,472	17·9	714,327	6·7	3,004,671	28·0	4,062,631	37·8	603,338	5·6	40,000	·4	384,954	3·6	10,736,393
1908	1,773,625	22·3	730,229	9·1	490,843	6·2	3,918,467	49·3	600,532	7·6	40,000	·5	395,609	5·0	7,949,305
1907	1,363,727	17·4	730,388	9·3	100,617	1·3	4,587,997	58·7	595,944	7·6	40,000	·5	395,977	5·2	7,814,650
1906	1,984,411	12·2	731,388	8·2	366,003	4·1	4,825,609	54·1	591,456	6·6	40,000	·5	386,153	4·3	8,925,020
1905	2,101,525	20·9	731,388	7·3	1,098,001	10·9	5,053,822	50·3	628,367	6·3	50,000	·5	384,620	3·8	10,047,723
1900	510,467	18·0	596,700	21·0	69,400	2·5	1,285,768	45·3	158,543	5·6	98,000	3·5	117,284	4·1	2,836,162
1895	1,825,084	30·6	714,225	12·0	1,576,000	26·4	1,618,620	27·1	114,802	1·9	—	—	123,320	2·0	5,972,051
1893	929,334	45·7	13,664	·7	119,700	5·9	830,761	40·9	39,974	1·9	—	—	99,780	4·9	2,033,413

• March 31. † Including balance of purchase account of National Bank of the Orange River Colony.

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 5.6 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 4.7 per cent., and to the total working resources .6 per cent.

Discussing the question as to the likelihood as to the course of trade and business after the War, the Chairman of the National Bank of South Africa said in May last that he was inclined to the opinion that, comparatively speaking, there will not be any great depression in South Africa, and he added: "In the first place, we are happy in the knowledge that our gold mines are prospering, and although we cannot deny the truth of the dictum that these, as time goes on, are a wasting asset, it will yet be long ere the industry perceptibly wanes, while there is the prospect that new fields will be opened up. Meanwhile we know that other industries are being established and developed, and it cannot be long before South Africa will become a material factor in the production of foodstuffs for consumption overseas. The future, nevertheless, is always difficult to foresee, and with war proceeding on a scale such as the world has never before experienced, it is even harder than usual to be prescient. Should, unhappily, hostilities continue for any further long period, it is conceivable there may be a plethora of money owing to the partial cessation of commercial enterprise; but, with the resumption of peace, it seems reasonable to apprehend a scarcity of capital, so that borrowers will then find themselves in the position of having to pay more for their requirements. Where countries, such as ours, in the developing stage and looking for capital from overseas, are concerned, the effect of dearer money will be that they will be compelled to offer greater inducements than hitherto if they are to have their financial needs supplied. These, gentlemen, are all factors to be considered; but although our progress during the coming year may be somewhat retarded, I am convinced that, with its natural resources, South Africa is well entitled to face the future complacently, while, at the same time, it must be prepared for an interval—I hope brief—of depression."

PROVINCIAL BANK OF CANADA.

Head Office: Montreal, Canada.

Capital—

Authorised	$2,000,000
Subscribed and Paid up, 10,000 *Shares of* $100 *each*	1,000,000

The Provincial Bank is one of the youngest of the Canadian banking institutions, as it was incorporated in July 1900. Steady progress has been shown by the young institution, as may be gathered from the fact that whereas on December 31, 1900, deposits were only $1,524,243, by the end of 1914 they had risen to $9,189,703. In 1907 the paid-up capital was increased to $1,000,000, at which figure it has since remained, but the reserve fund has risen since 1907 from $200,000 to $650,000.

The total deposits at the end of 1914 amounted to $9,189,703, as compared with $8,821,908 at the end of 1913. On the other side of the accounts the cash rose from $1,979,609 to $2,395,307, but the investments fell from $3,053,551 to $2,572,923. Current loans and discounts rose from $5,572,772 to $6,064,660. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1900.

The steady growth is reflected in the profit and loss account and in the dividends. For 1913 the profits reached the record amount of $180,781, the dividend being maintained at 6 per cent., though the President announced that "it is more than probable" an increase of dividend will take place in 1914.

This forecast was verified, inasmuch as the Bank was able to show an increase in the profits from $180,781 . to $194,215, the dividend rising from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent.

The profit record since 1904 is as follows:—

Profits of the Provincial Bank of Canada.

Year ended Dec. 31	Profits. $	Dividend. Amount. $	Rate. %	Balance. $	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. $	Carried Forward. $
1914 ...	194,215	70,000	7	124,215	123,188	13,900
1913 ...	180,781	60,000	6	120,781	121,774	12,873
1912 ...	177,271	60,000	6	117,271	115,868	13,866
1911 ...	176,251	50,000	5	126,251	127,462	12,463
1910 ...	149,062	50,000	5	99,062	96,774	13,674
1909 ...	124,144	50,000	5	74,144	73,062	11,359
1908 ...	127,268	50,000	5	77,268	113,641	10,277
1907 ...	119,466	50,052	5	69,414	86,412	46,650
1906 ...	95,344	24,788	3	70,556	202,294	63,648
1905 ...	72,336	24,700	3	47,636	7,779	195,386
1904 ...	80,228	24,699	3	55,529	—	155,529

Liabilities of The Provincial Bank of Canada.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits Not Bearing Interest. Amount.	Deposits Bearing Interest. Amount.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Balance Due to Other Banks in Canada, U. Kingdom, U.S., and Elsewhere. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	1,000,000	650,000	1,650,000	12·2	1,156,578	8·5	2,304,871	6,884,832	9,189,703	68·2	1,[illegible]	10·8	31,912	·3	13,484,821
1913 ...	1,000,000	625,000	1,625,000	12·5	1,146,923	8·8	1,965,095	6,856,813	8,821,908	67·7	1,409,291	10·8	29,248	·2	13,032,370
1912 ...	1,000,000	575,000	1,575,000	12·4	1,108,273	8·7	2,016,666	6,655,451	8,672,117	68·4	1,314,000	10·4	13,866	·1	12,683,256
1911 ...	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	12·4	1,109,468	9·2	1,933,628	6,600,767	8,534,395	70·6	924,667	7·7	12,463	·1	12,080,993
1910 ...	1,000,000	425,000	1,425,000	14·9	1,084,013	11·3	1,199,452	5,802,711	7,002,163	73·1	53,367	·6	13,674	·1	9,578,217
1909 ...	1,000,000	350,000	1,350,000	15·9	1,004,848	11·8	1,001,315	5,087,246	6,088,561	71·1	97,333	1·1	11,359	·1	8,552,101
1908 ...	1,000,000	300,000	1,300,000	21·1	931,313	15·1	613,127	3,290,509*	5,903,636	63·6	—	—	10,277	·2	6,145,226
1907 ...	1,000,000	200,000	1,200,000	19·1	879,588	14·0	736,117	3,425,544*	4,161,661	66·2	—	—	46,650	·7	6,287,899
1906 ...	829,212	150,000	979,212	16·0	780,643	12·7	626,400	3,704,513*	4,330,913	70·3	—	—	63,648	1·0	6,154,416
1905 ...	823,325	195,386	1,018,711	19·2	761,484	14·3	203,650	3,331,850*	3,535,500	66·5	—	—	—	—	5,315,695
1900 ...	—	—	763,294	26·2	621,624	21·4	301,550	1,222,693	1,524,243	52·4	—	—	—	—	2,909,161

* Including balance due to other banks.

Assets of The Provincial Bank of Canada.

Dec. 31	Specie, Dominion Notes and Notes and Cheques of Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Canada and Elsewhere. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks in Great Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans and Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	2,395,507	17·8	2,572,923	19·0	1,712,152	12·7	686,279	5·1	6,064,440	45·0	[illegible]	·4	13,484,821
1913 ...	1,979,609	15·2	3,053,551	23·4	1,792,981	13·7	578,557	4·5	5,572,772	42·7	54,900	·5	13,032,370
1912 ...	1,396,140	11·0	2,678,664	21·1	1,875,387	14·8	926,822	7·3	5,461,705	43·1	344,445	2·7	12,683,256
1911 ...	1,582,093	13·1	2,057,999	17·0	3,192,011	26·4	667,355	5·5	4,256,535	35·3	325,000	2·7	12,080,993
1910 ...	1,021,269	10·7	1,988,501	20·7	1,493,970	15·6	393,896	4·1	4,410,581	46·1	270,000	2·8	9,578,217
1909 ...	443,465	5·2	2,324,929	27·2	1,155,500	13·5	535,053	6·2	3,843,154	45·0	250,000	2·9	8,552,101
1908 ...	326,137	5·3	1,220,773	19·9	948,653	15·4	347,651	5·7	3,052,012	49·6	250,000	4·1	6,145,226
1907 ...	308,955	5·0	1,187,613	18·9	1,216,128	19·4	394,209	6·2	2,951,444	47·0	229,550	3·5	6,287,899
1906 ...	212,582	3·5	1,433,266	23·3	1,215,066	19·7	479,433	7·8	2,600,081	42·2	213,988	3·5	6,154,416
1905 ...	155,443	3·0	1,247,766	23·5	1,170,142	22·0	346,471	6·5	2,190,891	41·2	204,982	3·8	5,315,695
1900 ...	50,573	1·7	591,246	20·3	525,723	18·1	102,899	3·5	1,485,959	51·1	152,761	5·3	2,909,161

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 19.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 11.7 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.4 per cent.

The Bank has opened altogether 69 branches, of which 55 are in the Province of Quebec, Ontario, and New Brunswick.

QUEBEC BANK.

Head Office: Quebec.

Capital—

Authorised	$5,000,000
Subscribed	2,734,700
Paid up...	2,734,620

Price of Share, $119. *Dividend*, 7%. *Yield* £5 17*s.* 8*d.* %.

The Quebec Bank was founded as far back as 1818. The head office of the institution is at Quebec, while the General Manager's office is at Montreal. The first report issued showed that the paid-up capital was $210,000, while a reserve fund of $9,648 had been set aside. The deposits were $160,656. By 1840 the capital was increased to $300,000, and by 1850 to $400,000. Between 1850 and 1860 a rapid expansion occurred, the capital increasing to $1,000,000. In 1870 it rose to $1,500,000, and by 1880 to $2,500,000, at which figure it remained until the end of 1913, when, owing to the increased business, the directors considered it advisable to issue 5,000 shares of the unissued capital, thereby bringing the amount paid up to $2,734,620 in October last. During the earlier years naturally the allocations to the reserve fund were of a comparatively small amount. By 1860 the reserve amounted to $145,764; in the ensuing 10 years depression was experienced and it fell by 1870 to $30,000. Since then, however, the growth has been rapid, and by 1890 the reserve rose to $500,000; by 1900 it was $700,000, by 1907 $1,250,000, at which figure it remained until 1913, when, with $56,962 of premium on new stock issue added it was brought up to $1,306,962. It is now $1,308,655. Between 1860 and 1870 the deposits rose from $455,388 to $1,892,994. By 1890 they amounted to over $5,000,000, and by 1900 to over $7,000,000. In May 1910 the total deposits amounted to $10,044,177, but

THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—13-17 OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ESTABLISHED 1835.

Capital Subscribed, £7,500,000. Paid up, £1,500,000. Rest, £500,000.

DIRECTORS.

SIR JOHN PURCELL, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN. | JAMES BLACKADER MEERS, Esq., C.B., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.
SIR DOUGLAS F. R. DAWSON, G.C.V.O., C.M.G. | WILLIAM BAILEY HAWKINS, Esq. | PERCY PHILIP O'REILLY, Esq., D.L.
SIR THOMAS HENRY GRATTAN ESMONDE, Bart., M.P. | RT. HON. THE EARL OF KENMARE, C.V.O. | PATRICK WALTER STAFFORD, Esq., LL.D.
RT. HON. THE EARL FITZWILLIAM, D.S.O. | RICHARD BARRY O'BRIEN, Esq., LL.D. | COUNT DE TORRE DIAZ.

Secretary—ALFRED LOCKYER.

Solicitors—W. H. DUNNE, Esq., 7 Suffolk Street, Dublin; and H. G. LOUSADA, Esq., 16 Old Broad Street, London.

LONDON.—13 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.—C. F. HIGGINSON, *Manager*; GEORGE KNEEBONE, F. W. CARR, *Joint Sub-Managers*.

Baker Street.—23 Baker Street, W. ... ... J. H. Sangway, *Manager*.
Bayswater.—68 Gloucester Gardens, Bishop's Rd., W. ...W. H. Bishop, „
Belgravia.—21 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. ... ...H. M. Bexfield, „
Camden Town.—189 High Street, N.W. ... ...J. G. K. Wales, „
Charing Cross.—9 and 10 Charing Cross, S.W. ...Alfred Molony, „
Harrow Road.—2 Elgin Avenue, W. ... ...G. J. Wareham, „
CARDIFF.—St. Mary Street ... F. J. C. Lima, *Manager*.
Islington.—361 and 363 Goswell Road, E.C. ... ...A. W. Davey, *Manager*.
King's Cross.—286 Pentonville Road, N. ... ...H. C. Rayner, „
Notting Hill.—158 High Street, W. ... ...W. J. Stephens, „
Oxford Street.—276 Oxford Street, W. ... ...Robert Carroll, „
Strand.—180 Strand, W.C. ... ...J. H. Canvin, „
Willesden.—St. Mary's Road, Harlesden, N.W. ...George Oswin, „
MANCHESTER.—Spring Gardens
SALFORD.—301 and 303 Chapel Street ... F. E. King, *Manager*.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—34 College Green ... W. L. Burke, S. J. Toole, *Joint Managers*; J. J. O'Loghlen, *Sub-Manager*.

And Ninety-four Branches and Forty-four Sub-Offices throughout the Provinces.

THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

Current Accounts are opened and conducted in conformity with the practice of London Bankers. Current Account Customers have the usual facilities for the discounting of approved Bills, obtaining Loans upon negotiable Securities, depositing Bills, Coupons, &c., for collection, and of lodging with the Bank Deeds and other valuable property for safe custody. Every facility is afforded for the transmission of money and for the receipt and delivery of Stocks, Shares, &c., between London and Ireland. The Bank undertakes the collection of Dividends, Annuities, Pensions, &c., for its Customers free of charge, and transacts every description of Banking Business, including the Purchase and Sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.

Deposits in sums of £10 and upwards are received from the public at the current rate of interest allowed on such accounts, subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal. And at all Branches in Ireland, deposits from 1*s.* upwards are received under the head of "National Thrift."

Letters of Credit payable at the chief commercial cities and towns of the world are granted.

Circular Notes are issued by the Bank addressed to all and payable at any of the places on the Continent where the Bank has an Agent.

Ireland.—Drafts are granted on the numerous Branches of the Bank and Bills, &c., collected in the principal Cities and Towns in Ireland.

*** Every Officer signs a Declaration of Secrecy as to the Accounts of Individuals and the affairs of the Bank generally.

A. LOCKYER, *Secretary*.

Liabilities of The Quebec Bank.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 Oct. 31	2,734,620	1,308,655	4,043,275	20·0	2,434,211	12·1	13,192,971	65·4	6,428	—	442,238	2·2	59,304	·3	20,178,427
1913 ,, 31	2,727,850	1,306,962	4,034,812	18·4	2,840,377	12·9	14,723,457	67·0	12,034	—	263,813	1·2	73,705	·3	21,948,198
1912 ,, 31	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	16·9	2,552,267	11·5	15,563,613	70·0	—	—	280,917	1·3	68,429	·3	22,215,226
1911 ,, 31	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	18·3	2,469,684	12·0	14,101,045	68·8	—	—	111,821	·6	66,034	·3	20,498,584
1910 May 14	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	23·8	1,560,290	10·0	10,044,177	64·0	—	—	272,815	1·7	82,348	·5	15,709,630
1909 ,, 14	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	25·6	1,437,525	9·8	9,228,720	63·1	—	—	136,089	·9	83,422	·6	14,635,756
1908 ,, 14	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	25·6	1,447,568	9·9	8,718,873	59·5	—	—	543,958	3·7	190,650	1·3	14,651,049
1907 ,, 14	2,500,000	1,250,000	3,750,000	25·9	1,466,331	10·1	8,663,370	60·0	—	—	464,355	3·2	114,594	·8	14,458,650
1906 ,, 14	2,500,000	1,150,000	3,650,000	25·4	1,407,189	10·0	8,782,540	61·2	—	—	353,095	2·6	148,332	1·0	14,341,156
1905 ,, 14	2,500,000	1,050,000	3,550,000	26·0	1,360,288	10·0	8,427,482	61·5	—	—	215,367	1·5	150,796	1·0	13,703,933

Assets of The Quebec Bank.

Date.	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 Oct. 31 ...	1,824,022	9·0	2,119,488	10·5	3,077,566	15·3	547,287	2·7	6,428	—	11,056,394	54·8	1,547,292	7·7	20,178,427
1913 Oct. 31 ...	2,599,545	11·9	1,916,944	8·7	3,446,164	15·7	375,103	1·7	12,034	—	12,210,213	55·6	1,390,215	6·3	21,948,198
1912 ,, 31 ...	3,060,275	13·7	1,372,614	6·2	3,641,984	16·4	265,888	1·2	—	—	12,298,520	55·4	1,575,945	7·1	22,215,226
1911 ,, 31 ...	2,679,205	13·0	1,325,584	6·4	4,077,140	20·0	485,229	2·3	—	—	10,716,265	52·3	1,215,161	6·0	20,498,584
1910 May 14 ...	1,200,357	7·7	1,199,221	7·7	2,497,717	15·9	198,307	1·2	—	—	10,065,186	64·3	508,842	3·2	15,709,630
1909 ,, 14 ...	1,288,584	8·8	1,026,049	7·0	1,602,472	11·0	162,319	1·1	—	—	10,213,728	69·8	342,604	2·3	14,635,756
1908 ,, 14 ...	1,410,593	9·7	1,058,543	7·2	1,034,867	7·1	232,355	1·6	—	—	10,587,247	72·2	328,444	2·2	14,651,049
1907 ,, 14 ...	1,548,085	10·7	1,020,712	7·0	1,942,939	13·5	105,482	·7	—	—	9,517,732	65·8	325,700	2·3	14,458,650
1906 ,, 14 ...	1,486,606	10·4	1,041,773	7·1	2,686,927	18·7	213,496	1·5	—	—	8,669,105	60·4	270,249	1·9	14,341,156
1905 ,, 14 ...	1,391,649	10·1	992,634	7·2	2,840,792	20·8	279,091	2·0	—	—	7,970,138	58·2	229,629	1·7	13,703,933

by October 1912 an increase of 50 per cent. occurred to $15,563,613. In 1913 they were $14,723,457. At October 31, 1914, they amounted to $13,192,971. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for each year since 1905.

In accordance with their usual habit, a conservative course has been followed by the directors during the twelve months to October 31, 1914, and they deemed it advisable, owing to the unsettled state of financial conditions, to maintain the cash reserves rather larger than usual. This policy had an effect on the earning power, but, on the other hand, enabled it to pass through a period of contraction of business followed by the outbreak of war without undue anxiety. The profit fell from $309,229 to $296,659. The usual dividend of 7 per cent. was maintained, and sums totalling $120,608 allocated for various purposes.

The profits since 1905 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Quebec Bank.

Year ended	Profits.	Dividends. Amount.	Rate.	Balance.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve, Invest., Depn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$	$
1914 Oct. 31	296,659	191,300	7	105,359	1,692	120,608	11,448
1913 ,, 31	309,229	185,722	7	123,507	56,963	180,143	25,005
1912 ,, 31	294,804	175,000	7	119,804	—	117,409	24,679
1911 ,, 31	276,392	175,000	7	101,392	—	129,690	22,283
1910* ,, 31	135,486	87,500	7	47,986	—	36,003	50,581
1910 May 14	278,926	175,000	7	103,926	—	105,000	38,598
1909 ,, 14	252,771	175,000	7	77,771	—	185,000	39,671
1908 ,, 14	281,057	175,000	7	106,057	—	30,000	146,900
1907 ,, 14	300,011	175,000	7	125,011	—	115,000	70,843
1906 ,, 14	295,036	175,000	7	120,036	—	122,500	60,832
1905 ,, 14	261,475	175,000	7	86,475	—	61,341	63,296

* Six months to October.

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 10.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.3 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.4 per cent.

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK, LTD.

Head Office: Brisbane, Queensland.
London Office: 8 Princes Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,000,000
Subscribed	800,000
Paid up	480,000
Interminable Inscribed Deposit Stock	3,091,669

Price, 93*s.*

The Queensland National Bank was incorporated in 1872. It acts as bankers to the Government of Queensland under an agreement extending to June 30, 1921, and also as bankers in Queensland to the Commonwealth of Australia. It suspended payment in 1893, but resumed business without reincorporation. A scheme of capital reorganisation, agreed upon in 1893, was substituted by a rearrangement in 1897. In November 1896 the liabilities exceeded the assets by £2,436,000. The Government agreed to accept for principal moneys and interest owing, amounting in all to £1,833,326, first, 15*s.* in the £, payable in five equal annual instalments, commencing July 1, 1917; and, secondly, a further 5*s.* in the £, payable out of the half-yearly profits of the Bank. The whole or any portion remaining outstanding on July 1921 becoming payable at that date. By an Act of 1904 the Government agreed to accept in payment of the sum of £1,463,660 owing by the Bank at June 30, 1904, 17 promissory notes of £86,098, carrying interest at $2\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. per annum. By December 31 last the amount of the promissory notes had been reduced to £198,293, there being only three notes remaining unpaid, due in 1919, 1920, and 1921. Under the scheme of 1897 holders of deposit receipts, etc., received 15*s.* of interminable inscribed deposit stock for every £1 of their holdings, the remaining 5*s.* being payable out of profits. The authorised capital is £1,000,000, in £5 shares, the subscribed amount being £800,000, of which there has been paid up £480,000. Of the balance of profits in each half-year, after paying interest on extended deposits, not less than 75 per cent. is placed to a special fund to be divided among the inscribed deposit stockholders until they have received the remaining 5*s.* due to them. No dividends on the capital will be paid until the 5*s.* has been paid to the Government and the deposit stockholders respectively, and no larger dividend than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be paid until all moneys due to the Government have been repaid. The amount of the interminable inscribed deposit stock at June 30 last was £3,091,669. After payment of the moneys due to the Government this stock is redeemable in whole, or in part, upon six months' notice from the Bank at its market value, but not less than par, together with so much of the above mentioned 5*s.* as has not been previously paid. On September 30 last a repayment of 9*d.* in the £, written off the original deposit receipts, was distributed to the holders. At the meeting in February 1913 the Chairman stated that many inquiries had

Liabilities of The Queensland National Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Treasury Notes Deposit. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Govt. Deposits. Amount.	Other Deposits. Amount.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposit Stock. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities Amount.
	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914...	480,000	166,000	646,000	5·9	—	—	493,368	4·6	1,302,050	5,206,695	6,508,745	60·3	3,091,669	28·7	50,101	·5	10,789,886
1913...	413,418	142,000	555,418	5·1	—	—	303,476	2·9	1,520,130	5,290,312	6,810,442	63·0	3,091,669	28·6	49,915	·4	10,810,920
1912...	413,591	118,000	531,591	4·9	—	—	474,203	4·4	1,857,538	4,825,923	6,683,461	61·8	3,091,669	28·5	48,179	·4	10,829,103
1911...	413,589	100,000	513,589	5·4	—	—	480,224	4·9	1,361,703	4,220,033	5,581,736	57·5	3,091,669	31·8	36,000	·4	9,703,218
1910...	413,484	89,000	502,484	5·1	—	—	650,323	·6	1,820,109	3,685,531	5,505,640	56·4	3,091,669	31·6	25,000	·3	9,785,116
1909...	413,369	79,000	492,369	5·4	300,000	3·3	840,665	9·3	1,473,043	2,857,025	4,330,068	47·7	3,091,669	34·1	25,000	·2	9,079,771
1905...	413,241	45,000	458,241	5·9	322,000	4·1	1,722,415	22·1	535,294	1,617,176	2,152,470	27·7	3,116,621	40·0	12,000	·2	7,783,747
1900...	412,823	15,000	427,823	5·9	322,000	4·5	1,772,283	24·5	546,289	1,029,900	1,576,189	21·8	3,116,621	43·1	12,000	·2	7,226,916
1890...	800,000	485,000	1,285,000	11·1	*327,934	2·8	432,229	3·8	—	—	9,425,712	81·7	—	—	69,536	·6	11,539,511
1880...	450,570	100,000	550,570	15·1	*165,472	4·5	49,710	1·4	—	—	2,339,966	78·0	—	—	34,273	1·0	3,639,991
1874...	175,435	2,000	177,435	25·1	*58,469	8·3	649	·1	—	—	458,089	64·8	—	—	12,340	1·7	706,982

* Notes in circulation.

Assets of The Queensland National Bank, Limited.

Dec. 31	Coin, Bullion, Cash Balances, Aust. Notes, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Government Stocks. Amount.	% of Total.	Money in London at Call and at Short Notice. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted Advances, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Remitted and in transitu. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£
1914	2,932,489	27·2	118,700	1·1	547,003	5·0	6,349,998	58·9	530,645	4·9	311,051	2·9	10,789,886
1913	2,536,089	23·4	118,700	1·1	630,000	5·9	6,426,894	59·5	795,584	7·3	303,653	2·8	10,810,920
1912	3,146,520	29·0	118,700	1·1	365,000	3·4	6,137,190	56·7	764,349	7·0	297,344	2·8	10,829,103
1911	2,094,767	21·6	135,700	1·4	425,000	4·4	6,074,523	62·6	677,465	7·0	295,763	3·0	9,703,218
1910	2,800,691	28·6	133,800	1·4	525,000	5·3	5,461,107	55·8	575,677	5·9	288,841	3·0	9,785,119
1909	2,058,901	22·7	135,700	1·5	420,000	4·6	5,460,321	60·2	720,452	7·9	284,397	3·1	9,079,771
1905	943,553	12·1	43,435	·5	335,000	4·3	5,399,323	69·4	784,573	10·1	277,863	3·6	7,783,747
1900	976,567	13·5	—	—	225,000	3·1	5,270,611	72·9	475,250	6·6	279,486	3·9	7,226,916
1890	1,605,404	13·9	906,597	7·8	515,000	4·5	7,969,086	69·1	254,652	2·2	288,772	2·5	11,539,511
1880	639,408	17·6	41,180	1·1	—	—	2,819,089	77·4	58,090	1·6	82,224	2·3	3,639,991
1874	93,393	13·2	—	—	—	—	586,167	82·9	—	—	27,422	3·9	706,982

been made from shareholders as to when the Board expects to be in a position to pay a dividend on the capital, and he said "I am therefore glad to say, without actually committing the Bank in any way, that, unless something unforeseen occurs, we hope, and believe, we shall be in a position to pay a dividend in about seven years. Of course, it is possible that business may improve, and that the time may be slightly shortened; and when we do pay a dividend we hope to be able to start at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the Bank's paid-up capital." Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years from 1874.

The steadily growing prosperity of the institution may be seen from the growth in net profits. For 1904 the net profit was £43,644, which was distributed as to £19,644 to contingency account, £18,000 to private depositors' repayment fund, and £6,000 to the reserve fund. For 1914 the net profit was £100,194, and this was dealt with by carrying £76,194 to private depositors' repayment fund and £24,000 to reserve fund. The profit record since 1904 is appended:—

Profits of the Queensland National Bank, Limited.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Salaries and other Expenses.	Net Profit.	Contingency Account.	Private Depositors' Repayment Fund.	Reserve Fund.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914 ...	226,720	126,526	100,194	—	76,194	24,000
1913 ...	216,089	117,960	98,129	—	74,129	24,000
1912 ...	207,634	111,297	96,337	—	72,337	24,000
1911 ...	196,472	102,655	93,817	21,817	60,000	12,000
1910 ...	183,979	92,178	92,801	41,801	40,000	10,000
1909 ...	175,995	87,405	88,590	38,590	40,000	10,000
1908 ...	173,924	86,704	87,220	42,220	35,000	10,000
1909 ...	159,857	81,467	78,390	42,390	27,000	9,000
1906 ...	133,776	79,934	53,842	25,842	21,000	7,000
1905 ...	118,505	74,189	44,316	20,316	18,000	6,000
1904 ...	116,898	73,254	43,644	19,644	18,000	6,000

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 20.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 15.5 per cent., and to total working resources, amounting to £10,789,886, .9 per cent.

CREDITO ITALIANO
Capital Fully Paid and Reserve, £3,460,000.
Head Office: MILAN.
Branches: BARI, CATANIA, FLORENCE, GENOA, NAPLES, ROME, TURIN, LONDON, AREZZO, ASTI, CAGLIARI, CARRARA, CASALE MONFERRATO, CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA, CHIAVARI, CHIETI, CIVITAVECCHIA, FOGGIA, IGLESIAS, LECCE, LECCO, LUCCA, MODENA, MONZA, NERVI, NOVARA, ORISTANO, PARMA, PORTO MAURIZIO, SAMPIERDARENA, SPEZIA, TARANTO, TORRE ANNUNZIATA, TORRE DEL GRECO, VARESE, VERCELLI, VOGHERA.
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ROYAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Melbourne, Victoria.

Capital—

Authorised	£2,400,000
Subscribed, 300,000 Shares of £4 each ...	1,200,000
Paid up, £1 per Share	300,000

Price, 25*s.* 6*d.* *Dividend*, 8 %. *Yield*, £6 6*s.* 9*d.*%

The Royal Bank of Australia, Limited, was incorporated on May 4, 1888, under "The Companies Statute, 1864" (an Act of the Victorian Legislature on the lines of the English Companies Act, 1862), with a paid-up capital of £300,000. The great "land boom" was at that time at its height, and when the reaction came, which culminated in the disastrous crisis of 1893, the depreciation of securities was so great that the great majority of the Australian banks (including all the banks with head offices in Melbourne, except the Royal) had to suspend payment. The Royal Bank had no difficulty in weathering the storm without assistance from any quarter, and it boldly faced the position created by the depreciation in securities by writing off £150,000 of capital as soon as an alteration in the law permitted it to do so. Since that date its progress has been rapid, as the figures show. The capital was increased in 1906 by £50,000; again in 1908 by £100,000, by the issue of fresh shares, the premium on which, amounting to £25,000, was placed to the reserve fund, which fund has also been steadily added to from profits until it now amounts to £240,000. While the progression has been continuous the management has proceeded with caution, opening branches only where justified by the business offering. The branches in operation at present are at Sydney, Bendigo, Ballarat, Footscray, Geelong, and London. In November 1907 the Bank acquired a share of the State Government account.

In 1900 the deposits were only £366,493, and it was not until 1906 that they first exceeded £1,000,000. The presence of the Government deposits first occurs in 1908, and they formed £40,434 out of a total of £1,272,533.

Since 1908 a very great growth has occurred in the deposits, and they are now nearly double the figure reached in 1907, amounting at March 31 last to £2,279,308. The bills in circulation at March 31 last amounted to £255,661, as compared with £58,602, while acceptances fell during the twelve months from £640,730 to £234,924. On the other side of the accounts the cash rose from £792,671 to £859,105, and bills and remittances from £377,677 to £421,251, while advances also rose from £1,590,682 to £1,655,421. Herewith we show the growth made by the Bank as evidenced in the liabilities and assets for various years from 1900.

During the 10 years from 1914 the Bank was able to record an increase in both gross and net profits year by year until for the year to March 31, 1914, a gross profit of £73,339 was secured, and a net profit of £45,706. It is not surprising that for the twelve months to March 1915 a slight recision has occurred, the gross profit amounting to £70,475 while the net profit was £39,496. The steady increase in profits was accompanied by a gradual rise in the dividend until for the twelve months to March 1913, the rate was raised to 8 per cent., at which figure it has since been maintained. The profit record since 1905 is appended:—

Profits of the Royal Bank of Australia, Limited.

Year ended March 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries, Income Tax and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	70,475	30,979	39,496	24,000	8	15,000	7,661
1914 ...	73,339	27,633	45,706	24,000	8	20,000	7,165
1913 ...	70,702	25,186	45,516	24,000	8	20,000	5,459
1912 ...	65,571	22,620	42,951	22,500	7½	20,000	3,943
1911 ...	60,917	21,543	39,374	21,000	7	20,000	3,492
1910 ...	52,451	15,929	36,522	21,000	7	15,000	5,118
1909 ...	47,691	14,696	32,995	17,062	7	15,294	4,596
1908 ...	42,359	12,724	29,635	14,000	7	14,000	3,957
1907 ...	34,811	11,750	23,061	10,937	7	12,500	2,322
1906 ...	26,718	8,408	18,310	9,750	6½	10,000	2,698
1905 ...	23,247	7,579	15,668	9,000	6	5,000	4,138

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 13.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.4 per cent., and to the working resources the proportion is 1.2 per cent.

Speaking at the meeting in March last the Chairman said: "Australia has probably suffered less from the War than most parts of the Empire, its world's trade being interrupted for only a brief interval, but naturally the volume of such trade has been somewhat reduced. Shipping costs have been greatly increased, and merchants have been severely handicapped by the scarcity of freight owing to the

Liabilities of The Royal Bank of Australia, Limited.

Mar. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amt. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amt. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amt. £	Bills in Circulation. % of Total. %	Government Deposits. Amount. £	Other Deposits. Amount. £	Total Deposits. Amount. £	Total Deposits. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amt. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Balances Due to Other Banks. Amt. £	Balances Due to Other Banks. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915...	300,000	232,500	532,500	15·9	961	-	255,661	7·7	503,271	1,776,037	2,279,308	68·4	234,924	7·0	4,778	·1	27,161	·9	3,335,293
1914...	300,000	200,000	500,000	14·1	1,103	-	58,602	1·6	482,682	1,842,608	2,325,290	65·4	640,730	18·0	720	—	29,165	·9	3,555,610
1913...	300,000	180,000	480,000	14·6	1,256	—	65,790	2·0	476,091	1,687,459	2,163,550	65·9	544,937	16·6	487	—	27,459	·9	3,283,480
1912...	300,000	160,000	460,000	14·0	1,649	—	114,219	3·5	547,757	1,571,624	2,119,381	64·4	567,696	17·3	1,052	—	25,943	·8	3,289,940
1911...	300,000	140,000	440,000	13·8	18,917	·6	156,586	4·9	428,502	1,506,088	1,934,590	60·6	613,841	19·3	830	—	25,358	·8	3,190,122
1910...	300,000	122,500	422,500	15·9	15,877	·6	95,650	3·6	416,260	1,127,632	1,543,892	57·9	561,684	21·1	683	—	23,118	9	2,663,404
1909...	300,000	107,500	407,500	18·4	14,121	·6	35,885	1·6	181,855	1,100,884	1,282,739	57·9	453,963	20·5	420	—	22,158	1·0	2,216,786
1908...	200,000	80,000	280,000	13·1	13,036	·6	152,052	7·1	40,434	1,232,099	1,272,533	59·4	405,990	18·9	690	—	19,958	·9	2,144,259
1907...	193,263	67,500	260,763	13·7	14,205	·7	128,904	6·8	—	1,176,387	1,176,387	61·9	303,730	16·0	1,285	—	16,070	·9	1,901,344
1906...	150,000	45,000	195,000	12·4	11,419	·8	36,818	2·3	—	1,052,505	1,052,505	67·1	259,306	16·6	267	—	12,948	·8	1,568,263
1905...	150,000	35,000	185,000	13·8	8,161	·6	37,333	2·8	—	889,689	889,689	66·9	197,736	14·9	5	—	13,638	1·0	1,331,562
1900...	150,000	5,000	155,000	22·1	6,384	·9	41,441	5·9	—	366,493	366,493	52·4	119,482	17·1	—	—	11,258	1·6	700,058

Assets of The Royal Bank of Australia, Limited.

Mar. 31	Coin, Bullion, Australian Notes, Notes of other Banks, and Cash at Bankers. Amount. £	Coin, Bullion, Australian Notes, Notes of other Banks, and Cash at Bankers. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills and Remittances in Transit. Amount. £	Bills and Remittances in Transit. % of Total. %	Balances Due from Other Banks. Amt. £	Balances Due from Other Banks. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted and Other Advances. Amount. £	Bills Discounted and Other Advances. % of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount. £	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915 ...	859,105	25·8	69,955	2·1	421,251	12·6	27,146	·8	1,655,412	49·7	234,924	7·0	67,500	2·0	3,335,293
1914 ...	792,671	22·3	73,669	2·0	377,677	10·6	17,216	·5	1,590,682	44·8	640,730	18·0	62,965	1·8	3,555,610
1913 ...	524,101	15·9	73,669	2·2	368,899	11·2	24,780	·8	1,690,189	51·5	544,937	16·6	56,995	1·8	3,283,480
1912 ...	567,235	17·2	43,650	1·3	472,959	14·4	10,545	·3	1,570,155	47·7	567,696	17·3	57,700	1·8	3,289,940
1911 ...	568,857	17·8	1,820	—	257,862	8·1	13,459	·4	1,670,738	52·4	613,841	19·3	63,545	2·0	3,190,122
1910 ...	401,818	15·1	39,088	1·4	343,628	12·9	20,194	.8	1,232,904	46·3	561,684	21·1	64,088	2·4	2,663,404
1909 ...	221,083	10·0	2,630	—	328,172	14·8	14,392	·7	1,130,257	51·0	453,963	20·5	66,289	3·0	2,216,786
1908 ...	309,988	14·4	28,400	1·3	301,819	14·1	11,447	·5	1,020,326	47·6	405,990	19·0	66,289	3·1	2,144,259
1907 ...	270,150	14·2	111,000	5·8	326,007	17·2	7,907	·4	812,113	42·7	303,730	16·0	70,437	3·7	1,901,344
1906 ...	240,278	15·3	171,800	10·9	160,719	10·3	9,850	·6	649,024	41·4	259,306	16·6	77,286	4·9	1,568,263
1905 ...	225,000	16·9	89,900	6·7	177,287	13·3	10,186	·8	554,855	41·7	197,736	14·9	76,598	5·7	1,331,562
1900 ...	121,885	17·4	—	—	—	—	3,612	·5	439,174	62·7	119,482	17·2	15,905	2·2	700,058

* Exclusive of provision for bad and doubtful debts.

absorption of regular trading steamers by our Government and the removal of German vessels from the high seas. With these influences affecting our internal trade and the severe drought pressing upon our producers, some reduction in our profits was only to be expected, and I think you will agree with me that, in the circumstances, the Bank has done very well. We have met all the reasonable requirements of our customers, and at the same time have kept in hand very large cash reserves which are necessary in times like the present."

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Head Office: Montreal, Canada.
London Office: 2 Bank Buildings, Princes St., E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	$25,000,000
Subscribed	11,560,000
Paid up	11,560,000

Price of Share, $221¼. *Dividend,* 12 %. *Yield,* £5 8*s.* 5*d.* %.

The Royal Bank of Canada was incorporated in 1869, but it was in 1864 that the origin of the business took place, when a copartnership institution called the Merchants' Bank was established at Halifax. This institution obtained a charter of incorporation as a joint-stock institution to be called the Merchants' Bank of Halifax. The authorised capital of the new institution was $1,000,000, of which at first only $500,000 was offered for subscription. For the first quarter of a century the Bank's operations were confined to the Maritime Provinces.

It was in 1900 that steps were taken to change the name of the Bank. In that year the President said: "The expansion of our business throughout Canada and outside the Dominion is such that we believe the time has come when to meet our changed surroundings we should change our title and adopt a more comprehensive designation." It was felt also that the Bank was now more than a local or a provincial institution, and that it was rather national in its scope. Accordingly, on January 2, 1901, the name was changed to the Royal Bank of Canada. In 1902 a sale of 5,000 shares of the capital stock of the Bank at $250 per share was made, with the unanimous consent of the shareholders, to a number of prominent Americans, a connection which proved to be beneficial to the interests of the institution. In 1903 the Bank's business in Cuba was extended through the purchase of the assets of the Banco de Oriente at Santiago. In 1904 the assets of the Banco del Comercio, Havana, were purchased. In 1907 the Bank changed its headquarters from Halifax to Montreal. In 1910 another important step was taken by the purchase of the Union Bank of Halifax, an institution which had a paid-up capital of $1,500,000, a reserve fund of $1,250,000, and deposits of $10,889,290. The Union Bank had 35 branches at places where the Royal Bank was not represented.

A further important expansion occurred in June 1912, when it was decided to purchase the business of the Traders' Bank of Canada, and in the same month, partially to meet the cost of this purchase, the authorised capital was increased from $10,000,000 to $25,000,000. Nor was the Bank satisfied with this considerable step forward, but in addition it purchased the business of the Bank of British Honduras, which had a capital of $100,000, a surplus of $80,000, and deposits of approximately $400,000. In addition to the 100 branches acquired through the purchase of the Traders' Bank, not including 11 closed at points where the Royal Bank was already represented, and one branch in Belize through the acquisition of the Bank of British Honduras, no less than 28 additional offices were opened during the year. During 1913 the number of new offices opened was 39, and 4 were closed. The number now open is 405. It is very evident that an active policy of expansion is being carried out by the Royal Bank, both in the way of absorption of other institutions and also in opening additional branches. Comparing 1914 figures with 1913 it will be seen that no change has occurred in the paid-up capital or the reserve. The notes in circulation have risen from $13,176,635 to $13,505,255, while the deposits have fallen from $138,181,089 to $136,055,128. Acceptances have risen from $361,107 to $1,481,718. On the other side of the accounts the total cash has risen from $28,609,337 to $33,961,546, while call loans have fallen from $19,819,690 to $14,654,905. Investments also have dropped from $17,774,153 to $16,901,372, while loans and discounts have fallen from $105,294,658 to $103,394,479. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1900.

Profits for the twelve months to November 30, 1914, amounted to $1,886,142, as compared with $2,142,100 for the previous year. The dividend, however, was maintained at 12 per cent., a rate that has been paid for each year since 1911, while $500,000 was written off for depreciation in investments and

The Manchester & Liverpool District Banking Co., Ltd.

Established in 1829.

Capital and Reserve - - -	**£3,306,000**
Deposits - - - - -	**£28,505,432**
Total Assets - - - -	**£33,472,823**

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.

London Office: 75 CORNHILL, E.C.

And **214** Branches and Sub-branches in Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cumberland, Westmorland and North Wales.

30th June 1915.

Liabilities of The Royal Bank of Canada.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Rest. Amount. $	Capital and Reserve. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Deposits. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Accept-ances. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Balance Due to other Banks. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Undivided Profits. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1914 Nov. 30	11,560,000	12,560,000	24,120,000	13·4	13,505,255	7·6	136,055,128	75·9	744,390	·4	1,481,718	·8	2,536,701	1·4	960,862	·5	179,404,054
1913 ,, 30	11,560,000	12,560,000	24,120,000	13·4	13,176,635	7·3	138,181,089	76·9	990,900	·5	361,107	·2	2,055,136	·9	1,361,919	·8	180,246,786
1912 ,, 30	11,560,000	12,560,000	24,120,000	13·5	12,584,618	7·0	137,892,875	76·9	2,137,017	1·2	—	—	1,524,415	·9	951,833	·5	179,210,758
1911 Dec. 31	6,251,080	7,056,188	13,307,268	12·0	6,338,076	5·8	88,570,230	80·1	—	—	—	—	1,725,458	1·6	587,480	·5	110,528,512
1910 ,, 31	6,200,000	7,000,000	13,200,000	14·3	5,925,890	6·4	72,319,608	78·1	—	—	—	—	647,618	·8	417,231	·4	92,510,347
1909 ,, 31	5,000,000	5,700,000	10,700,000	16·0	4,579,679	6·8	50,962,129	76·0	—	—	—	—	457,243	·7	352,052	·5	67,051,103
1908 ,, 31	3,900,000	4,600,000	8,500,000	16·9	3,556,433	7·0	37,543,442	74·4	—	—	—	—	694,151	1·4	176,185	·3	50,470,211
1907 ,, 31	3,900,000	4,390,000	8,290,000	18·0	3,653,911	7·8	33,365,498	72·0	—	—	—	—	787,679	1·7	254,410	·5	46,351,498
1906 ,, 31	3,900,000	4,390,000	8,290,000	18·3	3,780,348	8·3	32,549,685	71·6	—	—	—	—	647,222	1·4	170,262	·4	45,437,517
1905 ,, 31	3,000,000	3,400,000	6,400,000	17·6	2,820,791	7·8	26,500,659	72·8	—	—	—	—	547,464	1·5	104,662	·3	36,373,576
1900 ,, 31	2,000,000	1,700,000	3,700,000	20·8	1,833,314	10·2	12,015,711	67·3	—	—	—	—	165,107	1·0	129,906	·7	17,844,038

Assets of The Royal Bank of Canada.

Date.	Total Cash. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Call and Short Loans on Stocks and Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Sums Due by other Banks. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Accept-ances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 Nov. 30	... 33,961,546	19·0	16,901,372	9·4	14,654,905	8·2	3,148,854	1·8	1,481,718	·8	103,394,179	57·6	5,861,180	3·2	179,404,054
1913 ,, 30	... 28,609,337	15·9	17,774,153	9·9	19,819,690	11·0	3,604,612	2·0	361,107	·2	105,294,658	58·4	4,783,229	2·6	180,246,786
1912 ,, 30	... 29,418,022	16·4	15,666,599	8·8	23,978,642	13·4	3,787,519	2·1	—	—	100,839,185	56·2	5,520,791	3·1	179,210,758
1911 Dec. 31	... 20,598,580	18·6	11,165,090	10·0	13,322,851	12·0	2,341,919	2·2	—	—	60,617,875	54·8	2,482,197	2·4	110,528,512
1910 ,, 31	... 16,888,089	18·3	10,322,031	11·2	7,178,575	7·8	2,527,976	2·7	—	—	53,717,690	58·0	1,875,986	2·0	92,510,347
1909 ,, 31	... 12,300,848	18·3	8,464,567	12·6	9,638,310	14·4	802,896	1·2	—	—	34,400,235	51·3	1,444,247	2·2	67,051,103
1908 ,, 31	... 9,967,803	19·8	7,194,590	14·2	3,286,141	6·5	1,305,906	2·6	—	—	27,564,846	54·6	1,150,925	2·3	50,470,211
1907 ,, 31	... 7,790,126	16·8	6,847,744	14·7	3,916,544	8·4	836,380	1·8	—	—	26,079,018	56·3	881,687	2·0	46,351,498
1906 ,, 31	... 7,163,531	15·8	6,653,127	14·6	5,609,388	12·4	2,009,051	4·4	—	—	23,202,532	51·1	799,888	1·7	45,437,517
1905 ,, 31	... 6,018,961	16·6	6,346,853	17·4	4,977,435	13·7	925,663	2·6	—	—	17,649,933	48·5	454,730	1·2	36,373,576
1900 ,, 31	... 2,534,813	14·0	1,956,129	11·0	1,211,960	7·0	907,599	5·1	—	—	11,163,535	62·5	70,000	·4	17,844,038

$400,000 transferred for various purposes, the carry-forward amounting to $614,061, as compared with $1,015,119. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Year	Net Profit. $	Dividend. Amount. $	Rate %	Balance. $	Premium on New Stock. $	Reserve, &c. $	Carried Forward. $
1914 Nov. 30	1,888,112	1,387,200	12			900,000	614,061
1913 ,, 30	2,142,100	1,387,200	12	754,900	—	350,000	1,015,119
1912* ,, 30	1,527,324	943,586	12	583,738	5,503,812	375,000	610,219
1911 Dec. 31	1,152,250	744,000	12	408,250	—	250,000	401,481
1910 ,, 31	951,337	586,500	11½	364,837	—	350,000	243,231
1909 ,, 31	838,306	463,597	10	374,709	—	225,000	228,394
1908 ,, 31	746,775	390,000	10	356,775	—	435,000	78,685
1907 ,, 31	742,034	390,000	10	352,034	—	276,000	156,910
1906 ,, 31	694,496	323,783	9½	370,713	900,000	333,000	74,875
1905 ,, 31	491,918	247,500	8½	244,418	—	210,000	37,162
1904 ,, 31	435,038	240,000	8	195,038	—	85,000	302,743

* 11 months to Nov. 30.

The proportion that the shown net profits for last year bear to the paid-up capital is 16.3 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 15.0 per cent., and to total working resources 1.1 per cent.

At the meeting in January last Sir Herbert S. Holt, the President, ventured the prediction that the economic effect of the War will finally be beneficial for Canada. Should it be long continued the European nations involved may become financially prostrated for many years, and he added: "Even if the War is not long continued, the flow of capital from Great Britain to this country is not likely to be resumed for a considerable time, and new constructional work will, therefore, be retarded. On the other hand, we reap distinct commercial advantages from our geographical position and remoteness from the scene of warfare, which permit us to prosecute our farming and manufacturing industries unmolested in spite of our participation in the conflict. Britain is buying from us all the war supplies we can produce—many factories are working twenty-four hours a day—and we are securing for our crops and foodstuffs generally the highest prices in our experience. The importance of increasing our productive power is obvious. Only by so doing and by the exercise of rigid economy can we dispense temporarily with the aid of foreign capital. In the interval we must pay the formidable annual interest charge of approximately $140,000,000 on our foreign obligations. We cannot continue to add this amount to our indebtedness, and the only way we can meet it is by increasing exports and reducing imports to the barest necessities, in order to convert the customary adverse trade balance into a favourable one. As it is, we shall probably find that we have borrowed more than we can comfortably carry, especially as much of the money expended is yet unproductively employed. I believe, therefore, that a pause in our borrowings will not prove an unmixed evil."

ROYAL BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LTD.

Head Office: Queen Street, Brisbane.
London Office: 31 Budge Row, Cannon Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£1,425,000
Subscribed	720,632
Paid up	545,659

Price of Ord. Share (£6½ *paid*), 4⅞. *Div.* 5½%. *Yield* £7 6*s.* 8*d.*%
,, *Preference* (£10), 9¾. *Div.* 5½%. £5 12*s.* 10*d.*%

The Royal Bank of Queensland, Limited, dates back to November 1885. It suffered during the crisis of 1893, suspending payment in May, but resumed business without re-registration in August 1893. The authorised capital is £1,425,000, the amount paid up being £545,659. There are two classes of shares, viz., 7,080 Preference shares of £10 each, fully paid, and 69,999 Ordinary shares of £9 each, with an uncalled liability of £2 10*s.* per share. In respect of this uncalled liability a sum of £18,511 has been prepaid. The business done by the Bank is of a comparatively small character, the deposits totalling £1,526,359 at March 31 last. In the statement herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years since 1893.

For the year to September 30, 1914, the gross profit amounted to £116,269, as compared with £109,904 for the previous year. After providing for expenses the net profit amounted to £31,476, as compared with £29,020. This permitted of a payment of a dividend of 5½ per cent. on both Preference and Ordinary shares, as compared with 5 per cent. on each class for the previous year.

It may be added that the Preference shares are entitled to a cumulative dividend of 3½ per cent. and to participate *pari passu* with the Ordinary shares in surplus profits remaining after paying a non-cumulative dividend at the same rate on the latter. They are also entitled to priority to capital, with further participation after paying the other shares.

Liabilities of The Royal Bank of Queensland, Limited.

Sept. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. £	Bills Payable. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	545,634	578,500	624,134	28·6	1,526,359	70·0	10,300	·5	18,901	·9	2,179,394
1913 ...	544,304	76,500	620,804	28·4	1,537,265	70·3	11,394	·5	16,600	·8	2,186,063
1912 ...	542,389	76,500	618,889	28·3	1,535,459	70·3	12,993	·6	16,764	·8	2,184,105
1911 ...	532,985	76,500	609,485	28·6	1,470,871	68·3	37,069	1·7	16,025	·8	2,133,450
1910 ...	519,237	74,500	593,737	29·0	1,431,652	69·9	8,590	·4	14,276	·7	2,048,255
1909 ...	508,197	72,500	580,697	30·9	1,254,887	66·8	28,909	1·6	13,691	·7	1,878,184
1908 ...	492,252	70,500	562,752	32·5	1,137,427	65·6	19,098	1·1	13,474	·8	1,732,751
1907 ...	475,041	69,000	544,041	32·4	1,109,209	66·2	9,389	·6	13,772	·8	1,676,411
1906* ...	458,042	67,000	525,042	31·9	1,090,348	66·4	14,778	·9	12,901	·8	1,643,069
1905* ...	457,538	65,000	522,538	34·8	961,757	64·0	8,184	·5	10,888	·7	1,503,367
1900* ...	385,187	48,000	433,187	31·0	948,026	67·8	9,068	·6	8,856	·6	1,399,137
1893* ...	301,642†	21,000	322,642	27·9	817,379	73·7	4,060	·3	12,650	1·1	1,156,731

* Dec. 31. † Includes £1,642 notes in circulation.

Assets of The Royal Bank of Queensland, Limited.

Sept. 30	Coin, Bullion, Cash, Aust. Notes., &c. Amount. £	Coin, Bullion, Cash, Aust. Notes., &c. % of Total. %	Government Stock. Amount. £	Government Stock. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted, &c. Amount. £	Bills Discounted, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises Accounts. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914	494,129	22·7	87,007	4·0	1,520,947	69·8	77,311	3·5	2,179,394
1913	702,160	32·1	76,977	3·5	1,332,636	61·0	74,290	3·4	2,186,063
1912	591,570	27·1	76,977	3·5	1,440,924	66·0	74,634	3·4	2,184,105
1911	529,998	24·8	76,977	3·6	1,451,983	68·1	74,492	3·5	2,133,450
1910	568,806	27·7	76,977	3·7	1,333,291	65·2	69,181	3·4	2,048,255
1909	532,067	28·4	76,977	4·1	1,206,001	64·2	63,139	3·3	1,878,184
1908	366,218	21·1	76,977	4·4	1,226,098	70·8	63,458	3·7	1,732,751
1907	323,935	19·3	76,977	4·6	1,211,788	72·3	63,711	3·8	1,676,411
1906*	363,176	22·1	76,977	4·7	1,138,937	69·3	63,979	3·9	1,643,069
1905*	283,899	18·8	76,977	5·1	1,080,214	71·9	62,277	4·2	1,503,367
1900*	300,748	21·5	60,722	4·3	975,468	69·7	62,199	4·5	1,399,137
1893*	213,990	18·5	29,410	2·5	850,947	73·6	62,384	5·4	1,156,731

* Dec. 31.

Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Royal Bank of Queensland, Limited.

Year ended Sept. 30	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividends. Amt. £	Pref. Shs. %	Ord. Shs. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914 ...	116,269	84,793	31,476	28,922	5½	5½	2,000	1,809
1913 ...	109,904	80,884	29,020	26,269	5	5	2,500	1,255
1912 ...	104,014	74,460	29,554	26,143	5	5	3,000	1,004
1911 ...	97,195	67,896	29,299	26,254	5	5	3,500	693
1910 ...	89,843	64,535	25,308	23,087	4½	4½	2,000	1,048
1909 ...	82,287	57,952	24,335	22,385	4½	4½	2,000	827
1908*...	59,017	40,826	18,191	16,422	4½	4½	1,500	880
1907†...	74,204	51,424	22,780	19,859	4½	4½	3,000	611
1906†...	68,991	49,032	19,959	17,188	3½	3½	3,500	691
1905†...	61,884	43,205	18,679	16,042	3½	3½	2,000	1,419
1904†...	58,168	40,224	17,944	16,042	3½	3½	2,000	782

* Nine months to Sept. 30. † Year ended Dec. 31.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, bore to the paid-up capital was 5.8 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 5.0 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.5 per cent.

RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH BANK, LTD.

Head Office: Petrograd.

London Agents: Messrs. Boulton Bros. and Co., 39 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised, Subscribed, and Paid up,
40,000 Shares, Rbls. 250 each ... Rbls. 10,000,000
Price of Share, 285. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, £5 5*s.* 3*d.*%.

Of late much greater attention has been paid to the question of the investment of British capital in Russia and Russian enterprises. Up to the past few years the British merchant has refused to adapt himself to the financial conditions prevailing in Russia, which may be summed up in the one phrase of "long credit," but with the establishment of a more friendly political feeling between the two countries steps have been taken in various quarters to bring about a greater participation in Russian trade by Great Britain. Until the early part of 1911 there was no English bank in Petrograd, when Messrs. Boulton Brothers and Company, merchants and private bankers of

BANK OF LIVERPOOL LTD.

Established 1831.

Subscribed Capital, £13,871,120. Paid-up Capital, £1,733,890. Reserve Fund, £900,000.

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Head Office Manager—J. J. RITCHIE.
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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING, TRUSTEE, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Liabilities of The Russian and English Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital. Amount. Rs.	Reserve. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital & Reserve. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Tota Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1914 ...	10,000,000	1,477,440	11,477,440	27·7	22,767,887	54·9	575,110	1·4	5,729,665	13·8	921,148	2·2	41,471,050
1913 ...	10,000,000	823,250	10,823,250	37·8	11,091,724	38·7	250,754	·9	5,474,026	19·1	1,010,728	3·5	28,650,482
1912 ...	5,000,000	—	5,000,000	31·1	10,069,744	62·9	180,139	1·1			786,594	4·9	16,036,477

Assets of The Russian and English Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1914	3,721,856	9·0	4,336,840	10·4	13,113,383	31·6	19,488,047	47·0	575,110	1·4	235,814	·6	41,471,050
1913	4,258,935	14·8	2,766,841	9·7	10,657,239	37·1	10,027,042	35·0	250,753	·9	689,672	2·5	28,650,482
1912	2,491,163	15·5	1,057,578	6·6	12,282,548	76·6	—	—	180,139	1·1	25,049	·2	16,036,477

London, opened a branch in the Russian capital. Subsequently the firm obtained a valuable charter from the Russian Imperial Government for the creation of a joint-stock bank, this being only the second charter granted for such a purpose during the last 40 years. The Bank was founded with a capital of Rbls. 5,000,000 (£528,541), in 20,000 fully-paid shares, Rbls. 250 each. Of this amount Rbls. 2,264,000 were subscribed in Russia, the remainder of the shares being subscribed in Great Britain by the Imperial and Foreign Corporation, Limited, which was established partly for this purpose, as well as to carry on general financial business which lies outside the ordinary scope of banking. The head office is at Petrograd, and it is proposed to establish agencies throughout Russia in all the principal centres of trade, so as to be in a position to afford information to British manufacturers and merchants and give financial facilities otherwise unobtainable. In a statement issued by the Bank occurs the following: "In Russia, as in all undeveloped countries, banking cannot be conducted on the hard-drawn lines which govern finance in older countries of long development. There must be some elasticity in business methods. The condition of Russia to-day requires a commercial adaptability analogous to that which prevailed in Britain during the eighteenth century, when a man (or firm) was at once merchant and banker, accepting deposits from customers and paying interest for their use in his business. Many of the leading banks in England to-day are the outcome of private mercantile businesses, and, in turn, many of the leading industrial firms whose names are now household words owe their original establishment to the timely and personal assistance of a private banker. The personal element in banking—*i.e.* the banker's private knowledge and judgment of his client and of the potentialities of his business (the absence of which has become rather a marked feature of modern British joint-stock banks)—is essential in Russia to the encouragement of trade, as well as to the success of any banking concern in that country."

The first accounts showed that at the end of 1912 the Bank had accumulated deposits to a total of Rbls. 10,069,744. On the other side, the discounts, loans and advances amounted to Rbls. 12,282,548, the total assets being valued at Rbls. 16,036,477. In February 1913 it was decided to make a second issue of shares of Rbls. 5,000,000. The issue price was fixed at Rbls. 272, of which Rbls. 250 have been added to the capital, Rbls. 20 to the reserve capital, the balance of Rbls. 2 being used in connection with the expenses of issue. Consequently, the issued capital was raised to Rbls. 10,000,000 and the reserve account to Rbls. 823,250.

At the end of 1914, while the issued capital remained unchanged, the reserve fund was increased to Rbls. 1,477,440. The deposits doubled in amount, rising from Rbls. 11,091,724 to Rbls. 22,767,887. Similarly the acceptances rose from Rbls. 250,754 to Rbls. 575,110. On the other side of the accounts, the cash fell from Rbls. 4,258,935 to Rbls. 3,721,856, but investments rose from Rbls. 2,766,841 to Rbls. 4,336,840, and bills discounted, &c., from Rbls. 10,657,239 to Rbls. 13,113,383. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank for the three years that it has been in existence.

For the period from November 15, 1911, to December 31, 1912, a gross profit of Rbls. 1,124,871 was secured. After deduction of expenses, &c., there was a balance of Rbls. 723,667, a dividend of 6 per cent. was paid, and of the balance Rbls. 400,000 was carried to reserve. For the year 1912 the gross profit rose to Rbls. 1,319,462. After deduction of expenses, &c., there was a balance of Rbls, 861,931, an increase of nearly Rbls. 140,000 over the previous period. The dividend was increased to 7 per cent., and a total of Rbls. 412,750 carried to reserve, of which Rbls. 212,750 went to reserve capital and Rbls. 200.000 to reserve dividend.

For 1914 the gross profit rose to Rbls. 1,836,096, while after providing for expenses a net profit was shown of Rbls. 996,090. The dividend, however, was reduced to 6 per cent., and a balance of Rbls. 400,000 carried to reserve, one-half as a reserve for possible losses and the other half to reserve capital.

Herewith we set out the profits and the manner of their distribution for each year:—

	Dec. 31, 1914. Roubles	Dec. 31, 1913. Roubles	Dec. 31, 1912. Roubles
Gross profit	1,836,096	1,319,462	1,124,871*
General expenses	312,890	266,755	303,274
Sundry expenses	121,295	92,960	75,936
Government tax	103,373	72,115	—
Depreciation, &c.	302,448	25,701	21,994
	996,090	861,931	723,667
Dividend	600,000 (6%)	452,000 (7%)	300,000 (6%)
	396,090	409,731	423,667
Reserve	400,000	412,750	400,000
	Dr. 3,910	Dr. 3,019	23,667
Brought forward	20,648	23,667	—
Carried forward	16,738	20,648	23,667

* For period from November 15, 1911.

The proportion that the net profit for the past year bears to the paid-up capital is 9.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.6 per cent., and to the total working resources 2.4 per cent.

During the first half of 1914, as in 1913, the Bank took an active part in placing new issues both on the Petrograd and London Stock Exchanges. Authority has been obtained to open branches in Petrograd, Moscow, London, Kiev, Kharkov, Ekaterinburg, and such other places as may be found suitable.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Head Office: 10 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£6,250,000
Subscribed, 309,705 Shares, £20 each ...	6,194,100
Paid up, £5 per Share	1,548,525

Price of Share, £10⅛xd. *Dividend*, 14%. *Yield*, £6 15*s.*%.

THE premier banking institution of South Africa is the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, which was established in 1862, nine years after the granting of representative institutions to the colony and 10

years before the introduction of responsible government. In the prospectus of the Bank attention was drawn to the fact that the banking capital of the colonies had not kept pace with the increase of trade, and that "it has become clear that a new banking institution of considerable magnitude and with adequate resources is now of public necessity and must command success." The capital of the new Bank was fixed at £1,000,000, in 10,000 shares of £100 each, with power to increase to £2,000,000. The first issue consisted of 5,000 shares. It may be added that the title was originally the Standard Bank of British South Africa, and it was not until January 1883 that the name was changed to its present form. The first report issued was dated October 2, 1863, and contained the results of the first half-year's working. This enabled a dividend of 6*s.* 9*d.* per share to be paid, which was equal to 12 per cent. on the paid-up capital. Moreover, a start was made with a reserve fund, £10,000 being so set aside, though the whole of this did not come from profits, being partly received as premium on the issue of the shares. In their report the directors stated "that the most complete success has crowned our efforts and the prospects of the future are most encouraging." Quite early in the history evidence was afforded of the intention of the board to thoroughly cover the field of operations, and by the time that the Bank had been in operation twelve months as many as 17 branches were in operation in South Africa. Moreover, it was evident that business was steadily increasing, for it was decided to increase the capital by the issue of one new share for every two held, and the issue was made at a premium of £8 per share. By 1864 the Bank had 20 branches, of which 2 were in Natal and 3 in the Orange Free State. Soon after this the business of the Commercial Bank of Elizabeth was acquired, and also that of the Colesberg Bank. In 1880 the number of branches amounted to 50. By 1892 the number of branches had increased to 72, and by December 31, 1914, the number reached 220. Of this number 125 were in the Cape Province, 16 were in Natal, 17 in the Orange Free State, 38 in the Transvaal, 1 in Basutoland, 16 in Rhodesia, 1 in the Nyassaland Protectorate, 3 in British East Africa, 1 in Uganda, and 2 in Portuguese East Africa. In addition to which there was the head office in London, and there is an agency in Hamburg and another in New York.

The capital of the Bank was increased in 1862 to £2,000,000; in the following year a further increase occurred to £3,000,000, while in 1873, by the acquisition of the London and South African Bank, the paid-up capital rose to £600,000. By 1880 the amount paid up was £1,000,000, and by 1905 it had increased to £1,548,525, at which figure it still remains. The present authorised capital is £6,250,000, and at December 31 last the subscribed capital amounted to 309,705 shares of £20 each, making £6,194,100, and as £5 per share was called up this made the paid-up capital, as stated, £1,548,525.

In 1870 the reserve fund amounted to £6,000, in 1874 it was £100,000, and in 1880 it was £503,994. In 1884 a transfer of £130,000 was made from reserve to contingent fund, but this was soon made good, and by 1899 the reserve touched £550,000. A rapid increase has occurred since that date, and at December 31 last the reserve totalled £2,000,000, in spite of the fact that in 1907 a transfer of £97,050 was made from the reserve fund to investment reserve account to cover depreciation in the price of investments and provide a margin beyond their market value. It will be seen that the reserve is £451,475 in excess of the paid-up capital. In June 1863 the deposits were only £114,154, at the end of the following year they exceeded £472,000, by 1870 they were in excess of £500,000. By the end of 1914 they had further risen to £21,821,853.

Other changes in the accounts at the end of 1914 are comparatively small in amount. Drafts outstanding and acceptances have fallen from £1,262,958 to £1,036,313. On the other side of the accounts, bills discounted and advances have fallen from £17,699,979 to £16,549,959. The cash has risen from £6,153,144 to £7,690,135. The increase is mainly due to a rise in the amount of cash at short notice, as the lending of money in London at short notice affords a convenient means of employing funds when general business is slack.

Investments have risen from £2,650,242 to £2,949,131, due to the Bank being able to employ profitably a portion of its resources in the purchase of War Loan, Exchequer bonds, and Treasury bills. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years since 1863.

Naturally the profit statement of the Bank reflects fluctuations in trade in South Africa, but it may be pointed out that, in spite of the very severe depression which occurred in 1908 and 1909, it was not necessary to reduce the dividend below 10 per cent.

Naturally war conditions have proved unfavourable. The production of diamonds has practically

THE
NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.
REGISTERED IN THE TRANSVAAL.
(WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED THE BANK OF AFRICA, LTD., AND THE NATAL BANK, LTD.)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.

SUBSCRIBED AND PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - £2,782,420,
With power to increase to £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND - - - £525,000.

Head Office-PRETORIA.

DIRECTORS:

Hon. HUGH CRAWFORD, *Chairman.*
J. EMRYS EVANS, C.M.G., *Vice-Chairman.*
J. ELLIS BROWN.
P. DUNCAN, C.M.G., M.L.A.
WALTER GREENACRE.
C. H. MULLINS, V.D., C.M.G.
Hon. ALBERT OLIFF.
EUGENE RENAUD.
H. A. ROGERS.
Senator the Hon. A. G. VILJOEN.
The Hon. Sir EDGAR H. WALTON, K.C.M.G., M.L.A.
H. O'K. WEBBER.

General Manager—E. C. REYNOLDS.

LONDON OFFICES: CIRCUS PLACE, LONDON WALL, E.C., and 117 CANNON STREET, E.C.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

F. A. GILLAM (*Chairman*), G. H. RAW, OWEN R. DUNELL, G. H. RENNIE, B. KITZINGER, HERMAN B. SIM, H. D. LEWIS, J. B. TAYLOR, J. MACALISTER,

Branches and Agencies at all the principal points within the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo. Agents at Amsterdam, Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.

The Bank is prepared to grant drafts, issue letters of credit, to make mail and telegraphic remittances, to buy and collect bills, and to undertake every description of banking business in connection with South Africa. Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares effected. Dividends and Annuities collected. Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

CIRCUS PLACE, LONDON WALL, E.C. D. CUNNINGHAM, *Manager.*

Liabilities of The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Drafts Outstanding and Acceptances. Amount. £	Drafts Outstanding and Acceptances. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	1,548,525	2,000,000	3,548,525	11·8	1,121,025	3·7	1,036,313	3·4	21,821,853	72·4	2,407,370	8·0	228,837	·7	30,163,923
1913...	1,548,525	2,000,000	3,548,525	11·9	1,119,132	3·8	1,262,958	4·3	20,952,674	70·7	2,572,682	8·7	170,489	·6	29,626,460
1912...	1,548,525	1,980,000	3,528,525	12·2	1,177,291	4·1	618,002	2·1	20,896,971	72·6	2,385,678	8·3	168,635	·7	28,775,102
1911...	1,548,525	1,960,000	3,508,525	12·8	1,165,472	4·3	1,066,693	3·9	19,189,753	70·1	2,278,449	8·3	158,291	·6	27,367,183
1910...	1,548,525	1,920,000	3,468,525	13·1	1,142,808	4·3	1,454,894	5·5	17,586,483	66·5	2,627,526	10·0	155,595	·6	26,435,741
1909...	1,548,525	1,900,000	3,448,525	13·3	978,202	3·8	1,538,846	6·0	17,323,149	67·2	2,386,012	9·3	115,252	·4	25,789,986
1905...	1,548,525	1,997,050	3,545,575	12·1	1,025,173	3·5	1,271,639	4·3	20,465,998	70·0	2,766,590	9·5	174,691	·6	29,249,666
1900...	1,250,000	1,200,000	2,450,000	10·5	1,253,684	5·3	691,095	2·9	16,978,865	72·5	1,873,340	8·0	176,038	·8	23,423,522
1890...	1,000,000	550,000	1,550,000	11·4	768,960	5·6	518,389	3·8	8,918,169	65·5	1,749,303	12·9	104,275	·8	13,608,196
1880...	1,000,000	503,994	1,503,994	13·8	711,360	6·5	1,098,317	10·1	6,081,927	55·9	1,334,627	12·3	158,010	1·4	10,888,235
1870...	408,350	6,000	414,350	26·8	117,417	7·6	—	—	510,881	33·1	494,813	32·0	8,459	·5	1,545,920
1863*	72,950	—	72,950	36·0	—	—	—	—	114,154	56·3	—	—	15,624	7·7	202,728

Assets of The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Dec. 31	Native Gold, Cash in Hand, with Bankers and at Branches, &c. Amount. £	Native Gold, Cash in Hand, with Bankers and at Branches, &c. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Loans on Securities at Short Notice. Amount. £	Loans on Securities at Short Notice. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. Amount. £	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Bills for Collection. Amount. £	Bills for Collection. % of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	Bank Premises Accounts. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	7,690,135	25·5	2,919,151	9·7	-	—	16,544,959	54·9	2,407,370	8·0	567,328	1·9	30,163,923
1913...	6,153,144	20·7	2,650,242	9·0	—	—	17,699,979	59·8	2,572,682	8·7	550,413	1·8	29,626,460
1912...	4,881,550	17·0	2,751,188	9·6	1,353,439	4·7	16,844,725	58·5	2,385,678	8·3	556,522	1·9	28,775,102
1911...	4,540,809	16·6	2,774,233	10·1	1,055,301	3·9	16,124,894	58·9	2,278,449	8·3	593,497	2·2	27,367,183
1910...	4,228,801	16·0	2,950,932	11·1	1,500,423	5·7	14,530,630	55·0	2,627,526	9·9	597,429	2·3	26,435,741
1909...	4,241,146	16·4	2,806,022	10·9	2,341,925	9·1	13,415,216	52·1	2,386,012	9·2	599,665	2·3	25,789,986
1905...	4,971,659	17·0	4,176,184	14·3	786,539	2·7	16,166,298	55·3	2,766,591	9·4	382,395	1·3	29,249,666
1900...	4,631,633	19·8	3,323,841	14·2	2,427,429	10·4	10,946,206	46·7	1,873,340	8·0	220,573	·9	23,423,522
1890...	3,066,407	22·5	1,240,054	9·1	140,000	1·0	7,216,240	53·0	1,749,303	12·9	196,192	1·5	13,608,196
1880...	1,525,478	14·0	344,996	3·2	16,000	·1	7,548,171	69·3	1,334,627	12·3	118,963	1·1	10,888,235
1870...	129,419	8·4	—	—	—	—	1,370,011	88·6	—	—	46,490	3·0	1,545,920
1863*	41,561	20·5	—	-	—	—	160,762	79·3	—	—	405	·2	202,728

* June 30.

ceased in South Africa, ostrich feathers have fallen largely in price, and the wool trade is depressed. Agricultural operations were also interfered with by the outbreak in South Africa, and heavy military expenditure fell on the Government of the Union. A further effect of the War was to bring about the practical closure of the Bank's agencies at Hamburg. Nevertheless the gross profit rose from £920,012 to £935,431, but by reason of the greater proportionate rise in expenses the net profit fell from £338,648 to £315,142. It was possible, however, to maintain the dividend at 14 per cent., while a sum of £30,000 was set aside to write down investments to cover the depreciation in the value, so far as can be ascertained, at December 31, 1914.

Herewith we set out the profits since 1904:—

Profits of the Standard Bank of South Africa.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914 ...	935,431	620,289	315,142	216,794	14	50,000	100,441
1913 ...	920,012	581,364	338,648	216,794	14	120,000	52,093
1912 ...	865,575	553,922	311,653	209,051	13½	100,000	50,239
1911 ...	807,483	503,478	304,005	201,308	13	100,000	47,637
1910 ...	724,250	463,570	260,680	193,565	12½*	60,000	44,940
1909 ...	619,698	448,410	171,278	154,852	10	—	37,825
1908 ...	597,196	445,698	151,498	170,338	11	—	21,399
1907 ...	693,215	457,616	235,599	232,279	15	—	40,238
1906 ...	740,524	470,650	269,874	247,764	16	23,000	36,919
1905 ...	755,090	476,600	278,490	247,764	16	26,000	37,809
1904 ...	777,489	484,603	292,886	278,734	18	41,000	33,083

* Tax free]1st half.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 20.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 8.9 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

Speaking to the shareholders on April 21 last, Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., pointed out that the diamond and ostrich feather industries had been affected in the earlier portion of 1913 by the approach of one of those general depressions which are periodically experienced, and he added: "Diamonds and ostrich feathers are luxuries, and luxuries are always affected in a special degree by periods of depression. The War has practically put a stop to the production of diamonds for the time being, and is checking the production of ostrich feathers. The gold-mining industry is one that is fairly independent of the War, but the strike in January 1914 has led to a reduction in the year's production of the Transvaal of £1,770,000 as compared with the previous year. A hopeful sign is that the cost of production was reduced by 10*d.* in the ton. It may seem a small amount, but its importance will be recognised when it is borne in mind that the total number of tons crushed was 26,369,946. Twenty six millions of tenpences amount to a large sum, and every reduction in the cost per ton renders it more profitable to deal with low-grade ores, and will greatly prolong the life of the gold-mining industry on the Rand. The production of gold in Rhodesia showed a large increase from £2,902,268 in 1913 to £3,580,208 in 1914. Industries other than the production of diamonds and ostrich feathers have been affected in a minor degree by the War, but apart from the War prospects are generally good. Drought was experienced in the first six months of the year, and the effects of seasons of drought were specially severe in the Orange Free State and parts of the Transvaal and Rhodesia. It is to be regretted that the local outbreak prevented full advantage being taken of the rains which were experienced when the drought broke up."

The balance-sheet figures as at June 30, 1915, show a substantial growth as compared with those of the previous year. The capital and reserve are unchanged, but the notes in circulation have risen from £1,069,233 to £1,221,080. Deposits, however, have risen from £21,560,485 to £24,761,230, an increase of no less than £3,200,751. On the other side of the accounts the cash has increased £1,848,026, amounting to £9,180,073, as compared with £7,332,047. Investments also have risen from £2,643,335 to £3,132,031, and bills discounted, advances, &c., have risen from £16,703,295 to £17,584,821.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: 71 Cornhill, London, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£6,000,000
Subscribed, 80,000 Shares, £75 each ...	6,000,000
Paid up, £25 per Share	2,000,000

Price of Share, £49. *Dividend*, 14%. *Yield*, £7 5s. 8d.%.

The prospectus of the Union Bank of Australia was dated September 1, 1837, when the Bank was formed with a capital of £500,000, in 20,000 shares of £25 each. The prospectus stated that "in the establishment of a bank of issue and deposit under the above title the directors are chiefly impressed with a conviction of the importance of meeting the increased demand for capital in the Australian colonies, and are desirous in the establishment of their banks in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and other Australasian settlements to identify to the utmost of their power the interests of the colonists with their own. The directors are fully persuaded that in no part of the world can capital be more advantageously or securely employed than in Australasia, where the bank interest is 8 per cent. and the current rate considerably higher." In 1838 the Tamar Bank, in Van Diemen's Land, was taken over, and within two years the Bank was established in four colonies. By 1844 the paid-up capital amounted to £820,000, at which it remained until 1857; by 1859 it had risen to £1,000,000, and by 1864 to £1,250,000, at which figure it remained until 1877, when a further issue of shares was made at £33 premium, which brought the capital paid up to £1,500,000, at which figure it remained until July 1913, when it was decided to issue 20,000 shares, £25 paid, at the price of £45 per share, existing shareholders being allotted one new share for every three shares held. By 1852 the Bank had accumulated a reserve fund of £200,000, and by 1864, in consequence largely of the increased capital, the reserve was increased to £400,000. The subsequent increase of capital in 1878 brought up the reserve to £816,500, and subsequent additions brought it up to £1,000,000 in 1889, at which figure it stood until 1896. It then dropped to £750,000, since when additions have been made year by year, until at the present time it amounts to £1,960,000.

The Union Bank of Australia is one of the few institutions that passed satisfactorily through the financial crisis in 1893, though it is not surprising that it suffered a fall in its deposits. In February 1893 they amounted to £18,118,495; by 1894 they had fallen to £16,930,110, and by 1899 they had fallen to £14,800,000. A recovery then occurred, and by 1906 the high-water mark of 1893 was passed, the deposits at February 28, 1906, reaching a total of £18,683,000.

Since 1910 the deposits have shown practically uninterrupted growth, and in February 1915 they reached the high-water mark of £23,594,898, as compared with £23,538,534 in February 1914. On the other side of the accounts cash and advances rose from £4,953,179 to £5,500,872, but call money fell from £1,805,000 to £500,000. Investments, however, rose from £2,020,433 to £2,507,759. Bills discounted also rose from £16,306,479 to £17,704,216. We set out herewith the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1860.

It may be added that in 1892 the Union Bank of Australia took over the Bank of South Australia.

The growing prosperity of Australia during recent years is amply reflected in the profit statement of the Union Bank of Australia. The most prosperous year secured by the Bank was that ended February 1907, when the gross profits reached £689,489, and the net profits were £410,155.

For the year to February 1914 the gross profit was £700,978, while the net profit was £306,507. For the twelve months to February 1915 the gross profit further rose to £709,338. The expenses, however, increased at a greater rate, and, consequently, the net profit amounted to £305,000.

For 1892 the Bank paid a dividend of 12 per cent., for 1893 the rate was 10 per cent., while for 1894 it fell to 5 per cent. It remained at this figure for three years, and since then progress has been steadily upwards. Thus for 1899 the rate was 5½ per cent.; for 1900 it rose to 6 per cent.; for 1901 to 7½ per cent.; for 1902 to 8 per cent.; for 1904 to 10 per cent.; for 1907 to 14 per cent., at which rate it has since remained. At the same time substantial sums have been added to reserve, &c., as may be seen from the following statement giving the profit record since 1905.

Profits of the Union Bank of Australia.

Year ended February	Gross Profit. £	General Expenses, Income Tax, &c. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amount. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	709,338	404,338	305,000	280,000	14		70,510
1914 ...	700,978	394,471	306,507	245,000	14	60,000	45,510
1913 ...	678,551	367,316	311,235	210,000	14	100,000	44,003
1912 ...	652,725	349,147	303,578	210,000	14	93,000	42,767
1911 ...	609,957	332,696	277,261	210,000	14	65,000	42,189
1910 ...	586,834	314,912	261,922	210,000	14	60,000	39,928
1909 ...	578,594	306,645	271,949	210,000	14	60,000	38,006
1908 ...	604,222	294,475	309,747	210,000	14	98,000	36,057
1907 ...	689,489	279,334	410,155	210,000	14	195,000	34,310
1906 ...	477,699	268,053	209,646	150,000	10	58,000	29,155
1905 ...	477,409	268,205	209,204	150,000	10	58,000	27,509

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL BANK, LIMITED,

3 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Directors:

Colonel HENRY B. PURVES. Commander L. G. S. HANCOCK, R.N.

Colonel G. H. TREVOR, C.S.I.

Statement of Condition at Close of Business, December 31st, 1914.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Capital paid in full	100,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	112,000	0	0
Deposits—Current Account ...	1,174,317	8	10
Unearned Interest	3,050	0	0
Other Liabilities	3,523	11	2
Undivided Profits	9,181	9	4
Total	£1,402,072	9	4

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand and due from Banks	405,189	12	0
Sight Exchange	473,990	12	7
Foreign Bills Discounted	305,000	0	0
Investments	216,888	0	0
Other Assets	1,004	4	9
Total	£1,402,072	9	4

DIVIDENDS 10 PER CENT. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE QUARTERLY.

Liabilities of The Union Bank of Australia, Limited.

Feb.	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	2,000,000	1,960,000	3,960,000	13·3	271,937	·9	23,594,898	79·2	1,747,446	5·8	210,510	·8	29,787,791
1914 ...	2,000,000	1,960,000	3,960,000	13·4	183,408	·6	23,538,534	79·6	1,714,216	5·8	185,510	·6	29,581,668
1913 ...	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000	11·0	201,327	·8	22,170,879†	81·4	1,707,766	6·3	149,003	·5	27,228,975
1912 ...	1,500,000	1,400,000	2,900,000	10·2	224,524	·8	23,228,911†	81·4	2,035,439	7·1	147,767	·5	28,536,641
1911 ...	1,500,000	1,350,000	2,850,000	10·0	543,925	1·9	22,817,958†	80·4	2,042,520	7·2	147,189	·5	28,401,592
1910 ...	1,500,000	1,310,000	2,810,000	10·7	470,997	1·8	21,349,025†	81·0	1,559,150	5·9	144,928	·6	26,334,100
1905 ...	1,500,000	1,055,000	2,555,000	11·7	458,740	2·1	16,869,958†	77·2	1,851,562	8·5	102,508	·5	21,837,768
1900 ...	1,500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000	11·8	489,083	2·3	15,793,602	74·5	2,307,642	10·9	122,364	·5	21,212,691
1890 ...	1,500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000	13·0	408,651	2·1	13,799,044	72·0	2,346,510	12·3	120,379	·6	19,174,584
1880* ...	1,500,000	816,500	2,316,500	20·8	348,143	3·1	6,767,351	60·5	1,604,267	14·4	125,191	1·1	11,161,452
1870* ...	1,250,000	400,000	1,650,000	24·4	360,537	5·3	3,644,343	54·0	1,023,247	15·1	78,714	1·2	6,756,841
1860* ...	1,000,000	211,000	1,211,000	18·5	478,414	7·3	2,811,835	42·9	1,995,006	30·4	62,847	·9	6,559,102

Assets of The Union Bank of Australia, Limited.

Feb.	Cash, Bullion, and Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Money at Call and at Short Notice in London. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable and Remittances in Transit. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises Accounts. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915 ...	5,500,872	18·5	2,507,759	8·4	500,000	1·7	17,704,216	59·5	3,074,614	10·3	500,330	1·6	29,787,791
1914 ...	4,953,179	16·8	2,020,433	6·8	1,805,000	6·1	16,306,479	55·1	3,992,361	13·5	504,216	1·7	29,581,668
1913 ...	4,048,397	14·9	1,790,056	6·6	675,000	2·5	16,229,308	59·6	3,978,059	14·6	508,155	1·8	27,228,975
1912 ...	4,841,534	16·9	1,751,344	6·1	615,000	2·2	17,279,913	60·5	3,536,209	12·4	512,641	1·8	28,536,641
1911 ...	5,003,718	17·7	2,010,056	7·1	930,000	3·2	16,183,038	57·0	3,738,591	13·2	536,189	1·8	28,401,592
1910 ...	4,042,314	15·3	1,818,368	6·9	1,140,000	4·3	14,356,601	54·5	4,427,756	16·8	549,061	2·2	26,334,100
1905 ...	3,069,435	14·0	1,584,023	7·2	1,365,000	6·2	11,957,220	55·0	3,186,195	14·5	675,895	3·1	21,837,768
1900 ...	3,338,499	15·7	1,145,747	5·4	585,000	2·7	11,730,557	55·3	3,682,150	17·4	730,738	3·5	21,212,691
1890 ...	2,726,820	14·2	829,343	4·3	405,000	2·1	12,260,425	64·0	2,533,885	13·2	419,111	2·2	19,174,584
1880* ...	1,222,638	11·0	1,025,973	9·2	833,000	7·5	6,616,017	59·2	1,197,624	10·7	266,200	2·4	11,161,452
1870* ...	952,834	14·1	489,862	7·3	—	—	5,129,988	75·9	—	—	184,157	2·7	6,756,841
1860* ...	832,354	12·7	503,560	7·6	—	—	5,118,753	78·0	—	—	104,435	1·6	6,559,102

* June 30. † Includes inscribed stock deposits.

The proportion that the shown net profit for the past twelve months bears to the paid-up capital is 15.2 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.7 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.0 per cent.

Naturally the War has been an important factor in the large decrease in exports of the Commonwealth; as, for example, the disorganisation of the metal business, the difficulty at one time of obtaining freight room, the holding back of wool, and in other ways, and as the Chairman pointed out in July last, "The War had also affected the general trade of the Commonwealth, which, though sound on the whole, had been dull in most directions. But whatever effect the War had had the immediately important factor during the half year was the severe drought, from which practically all the States in the Commonwealth suffered, many localities experiencing the worst drought, for the time being, of which there were records. New Zealand also had an unusually dry season in certain districts. The wheat harvest in the Commonwealth was a failure, and importation of wheat had become necessary. There had also been heavy losses in stock, and lambing in many parts had been poor. Some estimates put the loss of sheep at 10,000,000 since December 1914. It was not possible to state with any accuracy the result of the wool clip. The export was stated to be 391,000 bales less than in the previous year, owing to some extent of freight difficulties, but there was no doubt that some portion of the above amount was still in store in various parts; it was probable that the actual shortage might be from 200,000 to 250,000 bales and a further serious diminution must be looked for next year. The dairying industry, too, which showed very satisfactory expansion, had also temporarily suffered from the want of rain. That was rather the dark side of the picture. On the other side, it was satisfactory to be able to state that the prices obtained for the wool had been good, and went some way to compensate for the reduced quantity. But the most encouraging feature had been the fine rains which had recently fallen throughout all the States, except parts of Queensland, where rain was still wanted. The rains, unfortunately, came too late to materially help the pastoralists, but entirely altered the prospects for the agriculturists, and it might fairly be said that these latter started the season under most favourable conditions."

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Head Office: Winnipeg, Canada.
London Office: 6 Princes Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	$8,000,000
Subscribed	5,000,000
Paid up	5,000,000

Price of Share, $140. *Dividend,* 9 %. *Yield,* £6 8*s.* 7*d.* %

The Union Bank of Canada was established in 1865 under the title of the Union Bank of Lower Canada, the name being changed to its present form in 1886. Originally the head office was in Quebec, but in July 1912 it was removed from Quebec to Winnipeg. The chief growth of the institution is largely due to the development of the West, and it is on account of this that the change of headquarters has been made. At the meeting in November 1912, the President pointed out that the Union Bank was the first Bank to establish a chain of branches in the West, and as railways and population spread westward the Bank followed. The Union Bank of Canada was the first to appoint a board of Western directors. During the twelve months to November 30, 1912, the Bank opened no less than 43 new offices, a forward step which was taken after careful consideration and a close examination of local conditions. As the President remarked, "One not conversant with Western life would find it difficult to realise the change made each year in a few months by the incoming thousands of new settlers. Vast areas of vacant land are brought under cultivation, new lines of railway are built, divisional towns established, and villages with stores and hotels spring up with magical rapidity. To these communities a bank is essential, and one of the chief merits of our Canadian banking system is that it lends itself to the prompt establishment and equipment of branches whenever they are required." During 1913 a further 31 offices were opened, while 3 were closed. In 1914 the Bank opened 13 new offices and closed 4, bringing the total number up to 328. In 1904 the Bank had a paid-up capital of $2,500,000, a reserve fund of $1,000,000, and total assets amounting to $20,602,110. By November 1912 the paid-up capital had increased to

Liabilities of The Union Bank of Canada.

Nov. 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Rest. Amount.	Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Payable. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Balances Due to Other Banks in Canada and Elsewhere. Amt.	% of Total.	Undivided Profits. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914 ...	5,000,000	3,400,000	8,400,000	10·3	6,382,214	7·9	63,463,284	77·8	97,334	·1	1,988,591	2·4	977,457	1·2	253,020	·3	81,561,850
1913 ...	5,000,000	3,400,000	8,400,000	10·4	6,287,179	7·8	64,598,616	79·8	150,566	·2	631,591	·9	454,901	·5	240,579	·3	80,766,532
1912 ...	5,000,000	3,300,000	8,300,000	11·9	4,711,534	6·8	55,805,950	80·4	—	—	—	—	418,160	·6	175,484	·3	69,408,228
1911 ...	4,914,120	3,057,060	7,971,180	13·7	4,490,963	7·7	45,373,196	77·6	—	—	—	—	429,378	·7	170,195	·3	58,434,822
1910 ...	4,000,000	2,400,000	6,400,000	13·5	3,203,387	6·7	37,544,216	79·1	—	—	—	—	147,737	·3	160,487	·4	47,455,827
1909 ...	3,202,670	1,900,000	5,102,670	13·1	2,383,772	6·8	34,341,725	80·7	—	—	—	—	103,592	·2	81,721	·2	42,516,480
1908 ...	3,200,410	1,800,000	5,000,410	14·7	3,027,093	9·0	25,807,972	75·7	—	—	—	—	115,668	·3	111,266	·3	34,062,409
1907 ...	3,139,100	1,700,000	4,839,100	16·3	2,845,271	9·6	21,755,343	73·1	—	—	—	—	194,534	·6	116,905	·4	29,751,153
1906* ...	3,000,000	1,500,000	4,500,000	15·9	2,589,640	9·1	20,966,537	72·3	—	—	—	—	92,434	·3	132,547	·4	28,281,158
1905* ...	2,500,000	1,100,000	3,600,000	15·8	2,350,216	10·3	16,650,907	73·7	—	—	—	—	4,863	—	162,014	·7	22,767,100
1901* ...	2,000,000	550,000	2,550,000	22·9	1,454,378	13·0	6,849,851	61·5	—	—	—	—	198,414	1·8	85,635	·8	11,136,278

Assets of The Union Bank of Canada.

Nov. 30	Total Cash. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Call and Short Loans in Great Britain and U. States. Amount.	% of Total.	Sums Due by other Banks in Gt. Britain and Foreign Countries. Amount.	% of Total.	Current Loans, Discounts, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1914	10,196,556	12·5	4,445,715	5·5	7,030,415	8·6	3,076,854	3·8	53,888,906	66·1	1,988,591	2·4	934,753	1·1	81,561,850
1913	11,785,269	14·6	3,223,441	4·0	11,859,650	14·7	787,420	·9	50,410,777	62·3	631,591	·9	2,065,584	2·6	80,766,532
1912	10,702,703	15·4	3,782,064	5·5	6,345,476	9·1	1,729,802	2·5	45,734,302	65·9	—	—	1,113,881	1·6	69,408,228
1911	8,965,746	15·3	2,607,733	4·4	6,379,926	10·9	713,883	1·2	38,477,306	65·0	—	—	1,290,228	2·2	58,434,822
1910	7,329,851	15·4	1,524,923	3·2	5,147,552	10·8	831,111	1·2	30,929,641	65·1	—	—	1,692,747	3·5	47,455,827
1909	7,425,336	17·5	1,339,985	3·1	4,252,084	10·1	1,595,546	3·7	26,634,419	62·6	—	—	1,240,010	3·0	42,516,480
1908	8,217,751	24·1	772,535	2·2	1,248,025	3·7	1,445,525	4·3	21,145,823	62·1	—	—	1,232,750	3·6	34,062,409
1907	4,223,641	14·2	778,701	4·6	342,769	11·4	606,166	2·0	22,443,432	75·4	—	—	1,356,384	4·4	29,751,153
1906*	2,769,341	9·8	294,025	1·0	3,429,738	12·1	780,963	2·8	20,014,381	70·8	—	—	992,710	3·5	28,281,158
1905*	2,583,362	11·3	67,266	·3	497,255	2·2	943,788	4·1	17,637,426	77·5	—	—	1,038,003	4·6	22,767,100
1901*	806,929	7·2	169,844	1·5	585,755	5·3	108,334	·9	9,172,200	82·4	—	—	293,225	2·7	11,136,278

* May 31.

$5,000,000, the reserve fund to $3,300,000, and the total assets to $69,408,228; so that in eight years the capital was doubled, the reserve fund trebled, and the total assets nearly quadrupled.

At November 30, 1914, while the paid-up capital remained unchanged at $5,000,000, the reserve fund was $3,400,000, while the total deposits amounted to $63,463,284. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1901.

The profit for the 12 months to November 1914 amounted to $712,440 as compared with $750,095 for the previous year. The dividend, however, was maintained at 9 per cent., and a sum of $215,000 written off for depreciation in securities. The carry-forward was increased from $90,579 to $103,019. The profit record since 1905 is as follows:—

Profits of the Union Bank of Canada.

Year ending Nov.	Profit.	Dividends. Amt.	% of Total.	Premium on New Stock.	Reserve.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$	$
1914 ...	712,440	450,000	9	—	250,000	103,019
1913 ...	750,095	450,000	9	—	285,000	90,579
1912 ...	706,833	397,964	8	47,580	352,940	75,484
1911 ...	662,437	360,948	8	457,060	767,060	71,975
1910 ...	451,621	249,621	7½	359,810	510,000	80,487
1909 ...	407,541	224,127	7	—	210,000	28,677
1908 ...	401,013	222,488	7	24,524	210,000	55,262
1907* ...	196,216	108,723	7	55,640	125,000	62,213
1907† ...	446,533	210,000	7	—	220,000	44,080
1906† ...	452,930	199,897	7	200,000	500,000	27,547
1905† ...	382,174	175,000	7	—	200,000	74,514

* Six months to Nov. 30. † Year ended May 31.

The proportion that the shown net profit for 1914 bears to the paid-up capital is 14.2 per cent., to capital and rest combined 8.5 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to $81,561,850, .9 per cent.

The President, Mr. John Galt, warned the shareholders that Canada must look for decreased activities whether the War continues or not, and that the deposits of the Bank must shrink as indebtedness is paid, though the large purchases of war material in Canada will offset this to some extent. Canada cannot expect to receive outside capital from Europe, and it must, therefore, rely upon its own resources. "Vast sums have been spent in the development of this country, and in affording facilities for handling its products. Our wheat, cattle, lumber, fish, all the wonderful resources of Canada are needed by the world. The hour for Canada has struck, and now is the time for us to show what we can do. Our first duty is to defend the Empire; our next to devote all our energies to replace the wastage of war by increased production, and it is to our farmers chiefly that we must look for this. A splendid beginning has been made in the great increase of land ready for crop, which is estimated at about 20 per cent. Farmers should be urged and helped to conserve their breeding

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - $15,000,000 (£3,082,192).
RESERVE FUND - - $13,500,000 (£2,773,972).

Head Office: TORONTO.

Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L., *President.*
JOHN AIRD, *General Manager.*
H. V. F. JONES, *Assistant General Manager.*

375 BRANCHES throughout CANADA and in the UNITED STATES and elsewhere.

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Deposit Accounts opened and American Securities purchased and sold for clients.

stock and to improve their methods. Every possible encouragement should be given to farmers to go in for mixed farming. The results achieved in certain districts—notably between Calgary and Edmonton—are well known to bankers and loaning companies, and if the same policy is followed throughout our country it will soon be reflected in bank deposits and general prosperity. Our banks fully recognise this, and will do everything in their power to aid the production of real wealth. Though there is little hope of our being able to get funds in Europe for a considerable time, there seems good reason to believe that abundance of capital will be available in the United States, and no opportunity should be lost of bringing to the notice of investors there the magnificent field for investment which is offered by Canada at the present time."

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Head Office: Perth, W.A.

London Agents: Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised	£250,000
Subscribed, 25,000 Shares of £10 each ...	250,000
Paid up, £10 per Share	250,000

Price of Share, £27½. *Dividend* 20%. *Yield*, £7 5*s.* 5*d.*%

THE Western Australian Bank was established by a deed of settlement on June 23, 1841, with a capital of £20,000, in 2,000 shares of £10 each. The first accounts issued showed that at the end of 1841 the paid-up capital was £2,481, and that the business was sufficiently profitable to warrant the payment of a dividend of 15 per cent. The capital has been steadily increased since that date, the last increase taking place in 1912, when the paid-up amount was brought up to £250,000. The growth of the reserve fund is of a remarkable character, and in September last it amounted to as much as £680,000, or not very far short of three times the amount of the paid-up capital. In 1869 the deposits not bearing interest amounted to £42,659, while those bearing interest stood at £30,176, or a total of £72,835. By 1895 the deposits reached a total of £887,041. It was in 1906 that the deposits first exceeded £2,000,000. The highest figure recorded is in 1911, when they reached £2,994,181, of which £1,467,481 represents non-interest bearing and £1,526,700 interest-bearing deposits.

Since 1911 the deposits have shown a slight falling off, and in March last they amounted to £2,486,231, as compared with £2,622,037 in the previous year. Herewith we set out a statement of the liabilities and assets for various years from 1895.

The most prosperous year experienced by the Bank was that for the twelve months to March 1913, when the net profit amounted to £73,892. For the following year the net profit was £68,559, while for the twelve months to March 1915 it was £57,444. In 1906 the dividend was increased from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent., a rate which has been maintained for each year since that time.

Herewith we set out the profit record since 1904:—

Profits of the Western Australian Bank.

Year ended March	Gross Profit. £	Dividend Tax. £	Duty on Note Circulation. £	Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amt.* £	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1915 ...	137,701	2,500	256	77,501	57,444	50,000	20	—	21,879
1914 ...	148,749	2,500	290	77,400	68,559	50,000	20	20,000	14,435
1913 ...	152,789	2,500	389	76,008	73,892	50,000	20	20,000	15,876
1912 ...	147,561	2,197	2,035	75,170	68,159	48,939	20	29,700	11,984
1911 ...	131,233	1,959	2,909	70,093	56,272	40,000	20	25,000	22,464
1910 ...	124,377	1,750	2,623	64,630	55,374	36,689	20	—	31,192
1909 ...	116,504	1,725	2,494	61,590	50,695	35,000	20	21,068	12,507
1908 ...	116,362	1,500	2,601	60,700	51,561	32,006	20	25,000	17,880
1907 ...	109,693	1,375	2,605	56,896	48,817	30,000	20	25,000	23,325
1906 ...	106,034	1,172	2,427	54,661	47,774	25,000	20	30,850	29,508
1905 ...	101,571	1,094	2,209	52,190	46,078	21,875	17½	—	37,584
1904 ...	95,655	875	2,434	49,093	43,253	17,500	17½	19,687	13,380

* Free of dividend tax.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 22.9 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 6.2 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.6 per cent.

At the meeting in May last the Chairman congratulated the shareholders on the break-up of the drought in the North-west and on the prospects that the pastoralists would have a good season. Similarly, further south, in the more populous district, splendid rains had fallen, and there was every appearance of a good season. Apart from the War and the partial cessation of the timber industry of Western Australia through the closing down of the mills, the outlook appeared to be good.

It may be added that the Bank came through the financial troubles in Australia unscathed, and since the establishment of the institution it has regularly paid dividends to its shareholders, and, as will be gathered by what has already been stated, on several occasions, especially during the earlier part of its history, very substantial bonuses have been forthcoming.

Liabilities of The Western Australian Bank.

Mar. 25	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills in Circulation. Amt. £	% of Total. %	Deposits Not Bearing Interest. Amount. £	Deposits Bearing Interest. Amount. £	Total Deposits, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Balances Due to Other Banks. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1915 ...	250,000	680,000	930,000	25·5	12,219	·4	78,544	2·1	1,201,620	1,284,611	2,486,231	68·1	93,980	2·6	46,878	1·3	3,647,852
1914 ...	250,000	660,000	910,000	24·5	12,913	·3	35,532	·9	1,378,452	1,243,585	2,622,037	70·7	67,788	1·8	59,435	1·8	3,707,705
1913 ...	250,000	640,000	890,000	23·8	15,196	·4	42,238	1·2	1,289,871	1,292,321	2,582,192	69·2	142,426	3·8	60,376	1·6	3,732,928
1912 ...	250,000	615,000	865,000	21·1	21,442	·5	68,392	1·7	1,386,134	1,541,421	2,927,555	71·3	160,632	3·9	61,984	1·5	4,105,005
1911 ...	200,000	525,000	725,000	17·9	146,661	3·6	41,400	1·0	1,467,481	1,526,700	2,994,181	74·1	91,428	2·3	42,464	1·1	4,041,134
1910 ...	200,000	487,024	687,024	20·3	147,399	4·3	38,400	1·1	1,231,884	1,129,434	2,361,318	69·8	99,965	3·0	50,381	1·5	3,384,487
1905 ...	125,000	300,000	425,000	17·5	111,155	4·6	81,542	3·3	1,192,403	512,766	1,705,169	70·2	58,711	2·4	48,521	2·0	2,430,098
1900 ...	100,000	200,000	300,000	14·9	128,178	6·4	21,289	1·1	850,825	664,089	1,514,914	75·5	16,673	·8	26,057	1·3	2,007,111
1895*...	80,000	100,000	180,000	14·7	74,684	6·1	46,425	3·8	444,251	442,790	887,041	72·6	1,531	·1	33,215	2·7	1,222,896

Assets of The Western Australian Bank.

Mar. 25		Coin and Bullion, Aust. Notes and Cash at Bankers. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Remittances in transitu. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable and Other Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Balances Due from Other Banks. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915 ...	...	943,352	25·8	124,585	3·4	21,451	·6	2,395,622	65·7	82,982	2·3	79,880	2·2	3,647,852
1914 ...	...	1,026,232	28·0	124,585	3·3	47,724	1·2	2,413,230	65·0	17,934	·4	78,000	2·1	3,707,705
1913 ...	...	781,632	21·0	124,585	3·3	82,570	2·2	2,636,544	70·6	29,087	·8	78,510	2·1	3,732,928
1912 ...	...	1,060,690	25·8	124,685	3·0	44,428	1·1	2,761,315	67·3	33,887	·8	80,000	2·0	4,105,005
1911 ...	...	1,323,432	32·7	124,685	3·1	57,338	1·4	2,390,072	59·2	71,607	1·8	74,000	1·8	4,041,134
1910 ...	...	949,378	27·8	112,740	3·3	83,493	2·5	2,031,783	60·1	147,143	4·3	68,950	2·0	3,384,487
1905 ...	...	762,082	31·4	100,200	4·1	102,486	4·2	1,395,747	57·4	9,583	·4	60,000	2·5	2,430,098
1900 ...	...	810,250	40·5	35,000	1·6	40,966	2·0	843,538	42·1	228,652	11·4	48,705	2·4	2,007,111
1895*...	...	446,791	36·5	7,500	·6	15,589	1·3	659,960	54·0	67,346	5·5	25,800	2·1	1,222,896

* June 30.

FOREIGN BANKS.

ALLGEMEINE OESTERREICHISCHE BODEN CREDIT-ANSTALT.

Head Office: Vienna.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued in shares of Kr. 300...Kr. 54,000,000
Price per Share, Kr. 1,145. *Div.*, 1914, 17%. *Yield*, 4·5%.

THIS institution was formed in 1864, when economic and financial conditions in Austria were extremely unsatisfactory. At that time the Government debt was on a 7 per cent. basis, and the currency was at a heavy discount. In the work of increasing the productivity of the country, of restoring the finances of the State to order, of reforming the currency, and of restoring the exchange to par the institution largely contributed. In order to attract funds from a public unaccustomed to banking it borrowed on mortgage on the one hand and lent on mortgage on the other. Its mortgages were of various descriptions. Some were just mortgages secured upon house property, land, and buildings. Others were mortgages secured on communes. Others, again, were mortgages secured upon State lands, and in recent years it has issued mortgages secured on industrial establishments. These mortgage bonds became very popular, and in a few years a large number were sold. Beyond its mortgage business the institution also obtained a large amount of deposits on current account. The panic of 1873, however, caused a run upon it by depositors, and the institution would have come to grief but for the assistance of the Government. The heavy losses it then suffered compelled it to adopt an extremely conservative policy for many years, and not until about the year 1890 did its deposits recover to the level they touched in the early seventies. In large part through the ability and hard work of Dr. von Taussig it eventually recovered the whole of its losses. The work of readjustment called for the suspension of the dividends from 1873 to 1877. Since 1880 the institution has made steady progress. It was not, however, until the year 1905 that its business began to show great expansion. In that year it took advantage for the first time of an alteration in its statutes that had been made in 1899, giving it power to control industrial institutions after the manner that industries in Germany are controlled by German bankers. By means of this power the institution has provided large sums of money for the expansion of Austrian industry, and its business has grown more rapidly than it ever grew before. It now controls many of the most important industrial institutions of Austria, to which it has supplied a large amount of capital. The recent policy of the institution in providing new capital for industrial establishments is to be ascribed to the present Governor, Dr. Rudolf Sieghart.

The B.C.A., as it is termed, commenced business with the modest capital of 9,600,000 kronen, or £400,000, which was increased in 1870 to 19,200,000 kronen, at which it remained until 1900. In that year it was increased to 24,000,000 kronen by the appropriation of 4,800,000 kronen from the reserve fund. In 1906 the capital was further increased to 45,000,000 kronen by the appropriation of 12,000,000 kronen from the reserve fund and by the issue of 9,000,000 kronen in 30,000 new shares of 300 kronen each. In 1912 the capital was further increased to 54,000,000 kronen. The reserve fund in the early days was rapidly increased, until in 1873 it reached 12,956,000 kronen, but in consequence of the losses incurred in the *Krach* the reserve was reduced to 970,000 kronen in 1875. From that figure it was steadily increased to 55,000,000 kronen in 1899. Notwithstanding the transfer from reserve to capital, the reserve fund at the end of 1914 was 122,454,000 kronen. The proposed issue of shares in 1914 was not made.

With the exception of the period from 1873 to 1878, when the Company was liquidating its losses after the 1873 crisis, the institution has always earned substantial profits and paid handsome dividends. In the first

Liabilities of The Allgemeine Oesterreichische Boden Credit-Anstalt.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kronen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kronen.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Mortgage Debentures, &c. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kronen.
1914	54,000,000	122,454,000	176,454,000	15·7	416,925,064	37·0	464,581,812	41·3	55,147,270	4·9	12,831,937	1·1	1,125,940,083
1913	54,000,000	119,876,400	173,876,400	18·9	398,916,420	43·3	291,583,917	31·7	40,185,421	4·4	15,552,177	1·7	920,114,335
1912	54,000,000	116,948,831	170,948,831	19·5	393,209,600	44·8	269,491,561	30·8	28,401,634	3·2	14,961,418	1·7	877,013,044
1911	45,000,000	88,573,262	133,573,262	17·0	325,347,971	41·4	287,691,376	36·5	26,556,879	3·4	13,701,139	1·7	786,870,627
1910	45,000,000	84,678,431	129,678,431	16·7	331,676,943	42·5	281,525,138	36·2	22,861,185	2·9	13,093,822	1·7	778,835,519
1909	45,000,000	82,073,262	127,073,262	17·0	336,315,514	44·9	250,587,889	33·4	22,675,260	3·0	12,967,264	1·7	749,619,189
1908	45,000,000	78,178,432	123,178,432	17·1	338,351,829	47·2	223,125,127	31·1	20,823,144	2·9	12,097,053	1·7	717,575,585
1907	45,000,000	75,573,262	120,573,262	17·3	340,783,371	49·1	212,312,359	30·6	9,293,692	1·3	11,641,623	1·7	694,604,307
1906	45,000,000	72,573,262	117,573,262	16·1	342,301,543	46·9	254,692,336	34·8	5,242,925	·7	10,939,906	1·5	730,749,972
1905	24,000,000	61,600,000	85,600,000	13·7	344,594,629	55·2	180,044,185	28·8	5,868,738	·9	8,604,380	1·4	624,711,932
1900 *...	24,000,000	52,594,380	76,594,380	12·0	390,899,579	61·2	159,096,704	24·9	4,186,145	·7	7,755,247	1·2	638,532,055
1895	19,200,000	39,923,064	59,123,064	10·8	347,176,920	63·5	133,854,320	24·5	290,738	—	6,827,792	1·2	547,272,834
1890	19,200,000	23,166,516	42,366,516	8·6	320,470,720	65·3	122,309,730	24·9	15,084	—	5,666,064	1·2	490,828,114
1880	19,200,000	1,294,364	20,494,364	5·2	278,690,360	70·7	90,751,492	23·0	623,348	·2	3,540,042	·9	394,099,606
1870	19,200,000	6,921,866	26,121,866	7·9	200,389,952	59·4	104,055,732	30·9	2,684,102	·8	3,487,202	1·0	336,738,854
1866	9,600,000	143,414	9,743,414	7·3	103,251,200	77·7	9,255,032	7·0	9,004,008	6·7	1,746,054	1·3	132,999,708

Assets of The Allgemeine Oesterreichische Boden Credit-Anstalt.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Banks. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Mortgages. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Advances and Current Accounts. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amt. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amt. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kronen.
1914...	41,230,414	3·6	50,914,618	4·5	127,974,632	11·4	437,289,509	38·8	403,789,890	35·9	55,147,270	4·9	2,173,911	·2	7,419,809	·7	1,125,940,083
1913...	7,860,946	·8	33,339,701	3·6	108,234,375	11·8	409,715,400	44·5	312,732,843	34·0	40,185,421	4·4	625,311	·1	7,420,338	·8	920,114,335
1912...	7,342,792	·8	32,782,205	3·8	96,246,855	11·0	407,158,682	46·5	297,423,970	33·9	28,401,634	3·2	293,679	—	7,363,227	·8	877,013,044
1911...	4,259,535	·5	30,158,104	3·8	94,533,785	12·0	325,004,078	41·3	299,544,598	38·1	26,556,879	3·4	838,060	·1	5,975,588	·8	786,870,627
1910...	4,076,007	·5	26,650,759	3·4	111,573,989	14·3	294,770,879	37·9	312,195,431	40·2	22,861,185	2·9	360,891	—	6,346,378	·8	778,835,519
1909...	6,192,651	·8	41,998,447	5·6	74,920,599	10·0	337,171,310	45·0	260,851,373	34·8	22,675,260	3·0	264,381	—	5,555,168	·8	749,619,189
1908...	9,499,430	1·3	61,305,071	8·5	44,437,602	6·2	245,450,495	34·2	330,078,512	46·0	20,823,144	2·9	425,787	·1	5,555,544	·8	717,575,585
1907...	8,086,032	1·2	25,746,613	3·7	44,199,881	6·4	363,815,856	52·4	238,212,857	34·3	9,293,692	1·3	373,801	—	4,875,545	·7	694,604,307
1906...	5,857,329	·8	91,834,246	12·6	42,823,846	5·9	367,232,972	50·2	212,935,230	29·2	5,242,925	·7	363,713	—	4,459,711	·6	730,749,972
1905...	6,606,473	1·0	43,706,915	7·0	42,085,054	6·8	391,960,592	62·7	129,553,373	20·8	5,868,738	·9	471,076	·1	4,459,711	·7	624,711,932
1900...	9,383,253	1·5	21,699,461	3·4	56,992,499	8·9	382,669,179	59·9	158,330,273	24·8	4,186,145	·7	700,274	·1	4,570,971	·7	638,532,055
1895...	12,960,814	2·4	16,972,332	3·1	25,727,830	4·7	350,869,226	64·1	134,945,336	24·7	290,738	—	789,402	·1	4,717,156	·9	547,272,834
1890...	6,568,238	1·4	7,959,498	1·6	28,774,508	5·8	326,422,160	66·5	114,385,678	23·3	15,084	—	891,388	·2	5,811,560	1·2	490,828,114
1880...	13,400,208	3·4	4,527,958	1·1	5,325,426	1·3	281,588,342	71·4	80,308,176	20·4	623,348	·2	3,168,818	·8	5,157,330	1·4	394,099,606
1870...	4,059,036	1·2	3,589,228	1·1	9,070,176	2·7	201,257,714	59·7	110,378,850	32·8	2,684,102	·8	821,356	·2	4,878,302	1·5	336,738,854
1866...	647,884	·5	4,206,222	3·2	9,104,330	6·9	106,879,860	80·4	2,989,494	2·2	9,004,008	6·7	—	—	167,910	·1	132,999,708

year of its operations its dividend was at the rate of 13¾ per cent., and in 1872 it had risen to 26¼ per cent. In 1878 the dividends were restarted with a 5 per cent. distribution, and by 1881 had been increased to 13¾ per cent. On four subsequent occasions in the eighties the dividends dropped to 12½ per cent., but since then they have steadily risen, until in 1905 a dividend of 21 per cent. was paid. In consequence of the new issue of capital and the appropriation of reserve to capital in 1906 the dividend had to be reduced to 14⅔ per cent., but in 1913 it again rose to 20 per cent., notwithstanding the increased capital. Owing mainly to increased expenses in 1914, the profit for that year declined substantially, and the dividend had to be reduced to 17 per cent. The profits in recent years are shown by the following statement:—

Profits of Allgemeine Oest. Boden Credit-Anstalt.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Kronen.	Expenses. Kronen.	Net Profit. Kronen.	Dividend—Amount. Kronen.	Dividend—Rate. %	Special Allocat'ns. Kronen.	Carried Forward. Kronen.
1914...	36,066,773	24,984,965	11,081,808	9,180,000	17	1,300,000	820,625
1913...	36,608,305	22,988,868	13,619,437	10,800,000	20	2,777,600	818,817
1912...	33,814,552	20,644,608	13,169,944	10,260,000	19	2,850,000	776,980
1911...	31,623,654	19,616,728	12,006,926	8,550,000	18	3,350,000	717,036
1910...	30,761,895	19,208,488	11,553,407	8,100,000	18	3,350,000	610,110
1909...	30,792,658	18,785,955	11,395,045	7,650,000	17	3,850,000	506,703
1908...	29,978,433	19,309,875	10,668,558	7,200,000	16	3,350,000	611,658
1907...	29,588,545	19,251,840	10,336,705	6,900,000	15¼	3,350,000	493,100
1906...	28,669,608	18,918,011	9,751,597	6,600,000	14⅔	3,100,000	406,395
1905...	25,876,516	18,290,283	7,586,233	5,040,000	21	2,500,000	354,798
1904...	25,825,027	18,456,925	7,368,102	4,883,250	20½	2,500,000	308,565

In consequence of the outbreak of war, and the great Governmental expenditures, combined with the demand for credit, the business of the Bank has shown great expansion. At the end of 1913 its current accounts were 291,000,000 kronen, and at the end of 1914 they had risen to 464,000,000 kronen, while the total funds at its disposal rose from 920,000,000 kronen to 1,126,000,000 kronen. The Bank has employed its funds mainly in advances on current accounts, which rose from 312,000,000 kronen to 404,000,000 kronen. The great expansion in the liabilities and assets of the Bank in 1914 in consequence of the War will be obvious from the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK.

Head Office: Vienna.

London Office: 31 Lombard Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised £5,000,000

Issued in 1914, 416,667 Shares of Kr.240 each 4,166,670

Price per Share, Kr.327. *Div.*, 1914, 6¼%. *Yield*, 4·6%

The Anglo-Austrian Bank was established in 1863 and ranks as the oldest purely foreign banking establishment in London, the London office being opened simultaneously with the head office at Vienna. During the present War the London office has been placed under the supervision and control of Sir William Plender, acting for the British Treasury, and Mr. Edward Dexter has been appointed special supervisor. It was founded to act as a clearing-house for the payments made by Austrian manufacturers importing raw material from England and British possessions, and also to facilitate the distribution of produce and manufactured articles between the two countries. In addition it assists in the development of industry in Austria-Hungary doing a regular Continental banking business. It also carries through important financial transactions. For example, in 1912 the Bank took part in the formation of no less than 14 Austro-Hungarian limited companies, and before the War it was represented on the boards of 35 companies, mostly industrial, but including other banks, such as the Banca Commerciale Italiana, the Banque Internationale de Bruxelles, Banque Commerciale Roumaine, Banque de Salonique, &c. Altogether the Bank had 21 offices in Vienna and 30 in other parts of Austria-Hungary, in addition to the London office. The first balance sheet showed that the paid-up capital was £600,000, the deposits and note circulation amounting to £758,042; by 1870 the paid-up capital had increased to £1,400,000; by 1880 to £1,500,000, and by 1900 to £2,000,000; in 1906 it was raised to £2,500,000, and in 1910 to £3,333,340. In 1911 it was further increased to £4,166,670, while at the general meeting, in April 1914, the directors were authorised to increase

Liabilities of The Anglo-Austrian Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Funds. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Deposits and Deposit Notes in Circulation, &c. Amount. £	Deposits and Deposit Notes in Circulation, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Payable.—Vienna. Amount. £	Bills Payable.—Vienna. % of Total. %	Bills Payable.—London. Amount. $	Bills Payable.—London. % of Total. %	Total Bills Payable. Amount. £	Total Bills Payable. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914...	4,166,670	1,446,205	5,612,875	17·5	25,071,186	78·3	977,177	3·1	-	—	977,177	3·1	353,338	1·1	32,014,576
1913...	4,166,670	1,112,872	5,279,542	16·9	20,785,715	66·4	1,583,574	5·0	3,087,586	9·9	4,671,160	14·9	542,819	1·8	31,279,236
1912...	4,166,670	987,872	5,154,542	18·8	17,613,015	64·3	1,438,921	5·2	2,680,195	9·8	4,119,116	15·0	529,255	1·9	27,415,958
1911...	4,166,670	946,205	5,112,875	20·0	15,728,929	61·6	1,496,011	5·8	2,791,623	10·9	4,287,634	16·7	427,142	1·7	25,556,580
1910...	3,333,340	701,982	4,035,322	19·1	13,071,567	61·8	1,456,275	6·9	2,251,912	10·6	3,708,187	17·5	346,698	1·6	21,161,774
1909...	2,500,000	517,676	3,017,676	16·3	11,764,808	63·4	1,382,502	7·5	2,123,056	11·4	3,505,558	18·9	253,713	1·4	18,541,755
1908...	2,500,000	501,009	3,001,009	17·8	10,040,489	59·8	1,464,359	8·7	2,079,156	12·4	3,543,515	21·1	222,898	1·3	16,807,911
1907...	2,500,000	498,926	2,998,926	19·0	9,076,506	58·5	1,696,158	11·1	1,547,788	10·1	3,243,946	21·2	205,265	1·3	15,524,643
1906...	2,500,000	480,176	2,980,176	19·9	8,457,097	56·6	1,542,348	10·2	1,768,552	12.0	3,310,900	22·2	202,127	1·3	14,950,300
1905...	2,000,000	400,140	2,400,140	22·5	5,671,781	53·0	1,339,151	12·5	1,135,443	10·6	2,474,594	23·1	153,487	1·4	10,700,002
1900...	2,000,000	358,473	2,358,473	25·8	4,139,681	45·4	1,673,352	18·4	796,257	8·7	2,475,609	27·1	152,705	1·7	9,126,468
1895...	1,500,000	215,376	1,715,376	26·1	2,790,669	42·6	890,362	13·6	1,002,792	15·2	1,893,754	28·8	164,408	2·5	6,570,207
1890...	1,500,000	148,924	1,648,924	33·2	2,147,951	43·2	—	—	—	—	974,425	19·6	200,206	4·0	4,971,506
1880...	1,500,000	131,026	1,631,026	44·6	1,048,886	28·7	—	—	—	—	874,549	23·9	100,819	2·8	3,655,280
1870...	1,400,000	126,313	1,526,313	23·8	3,828,468	59·7	—	—	—	—	694,106	10·9	356,277	5·6	6,405,164
1864...	600,000	—	600,000	30·5	758,042	38·5	—	—	—	—	550,174	28·0	58,532	3·0	1,966,748

Assets of the Anglo-Austrian Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash. Amount. £	Cash. % of Total. %	Investments, &c. Amount. £	Investments, &c. % of Total. %	Loans against Securities and Money at Short Notice. Amount. £	Loans against Securities and Money at Short Notice. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Sundry Debtors. Amount. £	Sundry Debtors. % of Total. %	Syndicates and Participations en Commandite. Amount. £	Syndicates and Participations en Commandite. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	2,037,250	6·4	1,416,361	4·4	809,635	2·5	6,695,313	20·9	19,881,328	62·1	1,174,689	3·7	32,014,576
1913 ...	585,463	1·9	1,059,046	3·4	1,058,387	3·4	6,663,748	21·3	20,800,513	66·5	1,112,079	3·5	31,279,236
1912 ...	570,976	2·1	747,566	2·8	1,064,580	3·9	5,753,173	21·0	18,387,187	67·0	892,476	3·2	27,415,958
1911 ...	334,715	1·3	797,536	3·1	1,372,753	5·4	4,810,437	18·8	17,587,061	68·8	654,078	2·6	25,556,580
1910 ...	300,918	1·4	873,211	4·1	1,282,788	6·1	4,570,550	21·6	13,600,980	64·3	533,327	2·5	21,161,774
1909 ...	225,623	1·2	850,182	4·5	1,159,909	6·3	4,231,462	22·8	11,577,372	62·5	497,207	2·7	18,541,755
1908 ...	218,287	1·3	786,533	4·6	558,955	3·3	3,749,670	22·3	10,861,048	64·6	639,418	3·9	16,807,911
1907 ...	202,694	1·3	765,331	4·9	557,489	3·6	3,377,972	21·8	10,621,157	68·4	—	—	15,524,643
1906 ...	147,274	·9	711,548	4·8	934,941	6·2	2,178,065	14·6	10,978,472	73·5	—	—	14,950,300
1905 ...	149,252	1·4	534,456	5·0	190,246	1·8	1,817,357	17·0	8,008,691	74·8	—	—	10,700,002
1900 ...	111,217	1·2	567,888	6·2	162,804	1·8	1,369,781	15·0	6,914,778	75·8	—	—	9,126,468
1895 ...	150,825	2·3	221,322	3·4	190,149	2·9	1,188,636	18·1	4,819,275	73·3	—	—	6,570,207
1890 ...	189,718	3·8	502,612	10·1	102,992	2·0	956,621	19·3	3,219,563	64·8	—	—	4,971,506
1880 ...	160,771	4·4	363,527	10·0	227,445	6·2	592,314	16·2	2,311,223	63·2	—	—	3,655,280
1870 ...	379,332	6·0	464,016	7·2	311,737	4·9	564,985	8·8	4,685,094	73·1	—	—	6,405,164
1864 ...	226,713	11·5	261,792	13·3	286,696	14·6	382,743	19·5	808,804	41·1	—	—	1,966,748

the capital to £5,000,000, leaving the council to fix the date of and the conditions under which the new shares were to be offered. This growth in paid-up capital was accompanied by a steady and unbroken increase in the reserve fund. By 1870 the reserve amounted to £126,313, and by 1900 to £358,437; by 1910 it had practically doubled, reaching a total of £701,982, while at December 31, 1914, it had been brought up to £1,446,205. The growth is still better shown in the rise in the deposits. It was not until 1901 that they first exceeded £5,000,000, while by 1908 they had risen to £10,040,489; at December 31, 1913, they amounted to £20,785,714, and in 1914 they jumped to £25,071,186. In the statement below we set out the liabilities and assets for various years since the formation of the Bank.

In consequence of the War the acceptance business of the Bank has been almost entirely destroyed, and whereas at the end of 1913 the bills payable were £4,671,000, at the end of last year they were only £977,000. Most of these bills were payable in London. Against the decline in bills payable must be placed an expansion of over £4,000,000 in deposits, so that the total funds at the disposal of the Bank at the end of last year were rather greater than at the end of the previous year. It will be seen from the statement of assets herewith that the Bank has strengthened its cash position. In consequence of the War the directors decided to reduce its dividends in 1914 from 8½ per cent. to 6¼ per cent., and to allocate to special purposes £229,000 instead of £125,000. The maintenance of the profit and the decline in dividend last year are shown below:—

Profits of the Anglo-Austrian Bank.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Govt. Duty and Taxes.	Net Profit.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate	Special Allocations, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1914 ...	1,045,260	435,588	98,652	511,020	260,417	6¼	229,167	52,344
1913 ...	1,045,126	464,770	98,162	482,194	347,222	8½	125,000	30,908
1912 ...	923,990	398,800	75,323	449,867	347,222	8⅓	125,000	20,936
1911 ...	800,150	362,837	57,869	379,444	312,709	7 11/12	41,667	43,291
1910 ...	628,298	295,498	51,538	281,272	230,000	7½	75,000	18,223
1909 ...	480,309	231,234	41,169	207,906	177,083	7 1/12	20,833	41,955
1908 ...	448,897	215,939	39,561	193,397	166,667	6⅔	16,667	31,965
1907 ...	442,047	223,135	37,399	181,513	166,667	6⅔	10,417	21,902
1906 ...	385,010	172,029	19,827	193,154	166,667	6⅔	10,417	17,472
1905 ...	247,787	81,475	25,662	140,650	100,000	5	52,083	1,403
1904 ...	239,836	81,904	22,930	135,002	125,000	6¼	8,333	12,836

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Head Office: Milan.

London Branch: 1 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—
Subscribed and fully paid, consisting of 272,000 Shares of L. 500 and 8,000 of L. 2,500 ... Lire 156,000,000
Price of L.500 *Shares*, L.545. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, 5·5%.

THE growth of this Bank is one of the noteworthy events of modern banking. Formed only in October 1894, it has in less than 20 years built up a great business, its deposit and current accounts at the end of December 1913 amounting to nearly £32,000,000. Its growth has, indeed, been so rapid that fresh issues of capital are constantly necessary to take care of its growing business. Originally the capital was only Lire 20,000,000, or £800,000; while at the end of 1914 the share capital was Lire 156,000,000, or £6,240,000. In the remarkable progress of Italy in the last 20 years this Bank has taken a leading part. Indeed, its activities have in a large measure contributed to the manufacturing and commercial development of Italy which is raising the country from a condition of poverty to comparative affluence. At the time the new Bank was formed Italy was more or less dependent upon foreign countries for supplies of new capital. In the last 20 years Italy has redeemed a large part of her debt previously held abroad, and has now become self-sustaining in the matter of capital. The growth of the Bank has been in some measure due to the assistance it has received from both French and German bankers. Upon its board are representatives of German, French, Austrian and Swiss banking institutions. Its financial policy has been a conservative one, and in less than 20 years it has built up a reserve fund of nearly Lire 60,000,000. The Bank has 62 branches, situated in every part of Italy. The progress of this institution may be regarded as indicative of the general progress of Italy.

The following extract from the Bank's report for 1914 describes how banking in Italy was affected by the outbreak of war:—

The regular and encouraging progress of affairs was unexpectedly interrupted by the sudden rupture of the peace of Europe, which immediately plunged the whole world into an economic crisis of a most serious and complex nature.

International relations, both commercial and financial, were practically paralysed. During the last days of July the principal Money markets of the world were greatly excited and eventually closed. All the belligerent countries resorted to special financial measures, each one in its turn proclaiming a Moratorium, and the majority of the neutral States immediately followed suit. Discount rates rose rapidly in all the leading financial centres, reaching 6% in Paris and Berlin and 8% in Vienna, and at one time touching even 10% in London. Dealings in the foreign exchanges became extremely difficult, owing to disorganised communications and the uncertainty of the Foreign Exchange market. Rates

The Mechanics & Metals National Bank

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

— ESTABLISHED 1810 —

CAPITAL (Fully Paid) $6,000,000
SURPLUS & UNDIVIDED PROFITS - - - 9,000,000
TOTAL ASSETS - - 180,000,000

This Bank receives accounts of banks, bankers, corporations, firms, and individuals on favorable terms, and grants to its depositors every facility consistent with prudent and conservative banking methods. Correspondence invited :: ::

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

Finances exports and imports, buys and sells foreign exchange, telegraphic transfers, etc., and makes collections on all parts of the world.

London Agents: London Joint Stock Bank Ltd. and London City and Midland Bank Ltd.

continued to fluctuate considerably for some time, eventually reaching a point of disparity, to our detriment, unknown for many years, particularly as regards France, England, and Switzerland. In the cases of Germany and Austria, however, rates moved in our favour.

The pressure which events brought to bear on industry, commerce, and banking in Italy is too well known to require discussion.

Thanks to a very clear and sagacious conception of the state of affairs and to the united efforts to efficiently meet the requirements of the situation, as well as the precautionary steps taken to protect our national economy, the panic which also swept over Italy during the early stages of the crisis was rapidly rendered less acute. Nevertheless, a feeling of uneasiness and disquietude was always more or less evident, and there remained, although in a lesser degree, a tendency to hoard. This disturbed the circulation, made the conditions of credit more difficult, and hampered the normal expansion of a considerable amount of productive energy.

As far as could be judged from the open market, in the absence of public dealings, industrial shares were particularly affected, many falling far below their intrinsic value. Government bonds were influenced not only by international disturbances, but also by public conjecture as to the probability of new internal issues. Thus, for instance, our 3½% Consolidated stock, which, during the first seven months of 1914, stood at an average price of 96.97%, gradually declined until finally, at the end of December, it hovered round about 86%.

It is important, and at the same time comforting, to note that nowithstanding the unforeseen difficulties and exceptionally critical conditions, and the general economic reaction brought about by the War, which surprised us at a moment when we were emerging from an unfavourable period, our national industry manifested, on the whole, appreciable strength of resistance and solidity, thanks to its leaders, who understood how to make the best of every favourable opportunity that presented itself and to deal effectively with the adverse circumstances. With few exceptions, of a special character, they developed a lucrative business, and in many cases the urgent necessity of the moment was productive of a fresh impulse, which, although of a transitory nature, may serve to prepare new ground for the future.

In view of the abnormal situation our Government also deemed it advisable, in order to safeguard our national economy, to take special measures, as occasion arose, for the regulation of the relations between the various banking institutions and their depositors. The Moratorium which was declared for this purpose is now about to expire. The measures referred to were moderately and rationally applied, with very satisfactory results, inasmuch as the desired benefits were obtained without bringing undue pressure to bear upon anyone. For bills of exchange and Stock Exchange transactions other measures were adopted, which, together with those above mentioned, secured a sound and practical basis for the continuance of regular relations in the principal branches of home activities.

The general feeling of restlessness caused by the gravity of events, the tendency of the public to provide itself with liquid assets, and the large investments in State bonds of old and new issues, had the effect of reducing the flow of money to deposit accounts. This, of course, was inevitable in the circumstances; the same would have happened anywhere. The effects of such a grave situation, particularly if provocated by such tragic and lasting circumstances as the present, can only be removed by slow and persistent means.

We are glad to inform you, however, that money began to flow back again immediately after the outbreak of the general panic; the amount which thus has come in again is very considerable, and is not subject to any Moratorium restrictions.

The highly liquid nature of our investments greatly assisted us in meeting the requirements of the difficult situation. Our task was also lightened by the alertness of the banks of issue, particularly by the Bank of Italy, who, by prudent and able management, did much to facilitate matters and ease the situation, thereby proving themselves once more to be worthy of the implicit confidence reposed in them by the country. We were enabled to consider and treat on broad lines the requirements of our clients, particularly the legitimate needs of our industrial concerns, to which, even in these critical times, we have always given liberal support.

As a result of the above and other facilities, especially as regards the bank-note circulation, the condition of the Money market underwent a marked improvement; the official rate of discount, which on August 3 had been raised to 6%, was reduced on November 9 to 5½%. Public confidence gradually returned, and the 4½% National Loan, which had been opportunely prepared, was authorised by the Royal Decree dated December 19, and offered to the public, by whom it was almost entirely taken up. At the request of the Bank of Italy a group of banks was formed to guarantee one-half of the issue. You will be glad to hear that, as on previous occasions, our institution was keenly interested in this operation, and strongly supported it with a large participation in the Syndicate, and by facilitating and promoting the subscriptions of clients in every way.

During the last five months of the year 1914 we were obliged by force of circumstances to suit our actions to the special situation created in all the fields of economic activity by the great War. The problems which presented themselves day by day during this period were innumerable and unprecedented, and there was a marked falling off in banking transactions with foreign countries. Nevertheless, whilst always maintaining an attitude of prudent reserve, and carefully considering the consistency and purpose of each operation, we were able to increase our ordinary business.

We made a special point of seeing that all our investments constituted a liquid asset of the highest order, and for this reason alone we sometimes declined very remunerative operations.

We also turned our attention to other transactions which, in the exceptional circumstances of the moment, seemed to offer good profits—*i.e.*, the special and temporary financing of our national industries, which were urgently called upon to increase their output, and also the handling of the banking transactions arising from the increased importation of foreign goods and raw materials for Italian consumption.

Liabilities of The Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Lire.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Lire.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Guarantees. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Lire.
1914...	156,000,000	59,470,000	215,470,000	19·8	19,665,642	1·8	758,878,164	69·7	23,335,497	2·1	63,446,383	5·8	8,393,397	·8	1,089,189,083
1913...	134,000,000	47,700,000	177,700,000	15·7	26,979,479	2·4	812,268,935	71·7	63,459,428	5·6	38,952,190	3·4	13,126,874	1·2	1,132,486,906
1912...	130,000,000	47,000,000	177,000,000	17·1	25,159,242	2·4	730,455,371	70·6	57,687,115	5·6	31,533,058	3·0	13,308,920	1·3	1,035,143,706
1911...	130,000,000	46,400,000	176,400,000	19·9	20,810,775	2·4	615,417,895	69·2	33,310,166	3·7	31,947,753	3·6	10,892,176	1·2	888,778,765
1910...	105,000,000	35,000,000	140,000,000	17·9	16,938,267	2·2	558,562,431	71·6	32,443,236	4·1	21,536,783	2·8	10,843,961	1·4	780,384,678
1909...	105,000,000	35,000,000	140,000,000	18·8	14,131,669	1·9	524,318,403	70·5	32,613,006	4·4	21,847,248	2·9	10,885,483	1·5	743,795,809
1908...	105,000,000	34,947,119	139,947,009	19·2	12,560,515	1·7	501,921,842	68·9	26,152,806	3·6	36,162,449	4·0	10,940,403	1·7	727,685,134
1907...	105,000,000	34,424,396	139,424,396	20·8	9,744,543	1·5	450,910,770	67·3	27,995,902	4·2	30,508,864	4·6	10,943,037	1·6	669,527,512
1906...	105,000,000	33,961,453	138,961,453	21·8	15,944,474	2·5	438,455,376	68·7	30,005,975	4·7	5,020,417	·8	9,684,189	1·5	638,071,886
1905...	105,000,000	33,554,035	138,554,035	23·2	9,790,818	1·6	409,732,062	68·5	24,153,245	4·0	7,504,155	1·3	8,396,027	1·4	598,130,342
1900...	60,000,000	8,910,389	68,910,389	27·6	1,985,655	·8	145,777,786	58·3	11,663,451	4·7	17,669,546	7·0	4,086,219	1·6	250,093,046
1895...	20,000,000	1,318,000	21,318,000	28·1	583,618	·8	49,426,233	65·1	3,239,447	4·3	—	—	1,293,364	1·7	75,860,662

Assets of The Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Loans, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Guarantees. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Lire.
1914 ...	80,623,500	7·4	56,929,090	5·2	455,746,308	41·9	391,797,608	36·0	23,335,497	2·1	63,446,383	5·8	17,310,697	1·6	1,089,189,083
1913 ...	55,390,298	4·9	50,630,014	4·5	489,483,601	43·2	421,052,416	37·2	63,459,428	5·6	38,952,190	3·4	13,518,959	1·2	1,132,486,906
1912 ...	53,692,867	5·2	45,713,295	4·4	428,188,540	41·4	405,249,064	39·1	57,687,115	5·6	31,533,058	3·0	13,079,767	1·3	1,035,143,706
1911 ...	50,844,153	5·7	44,322,718	5·0	358,219,261	40·3	357,918,028	40·3	33,310,166	3·7	31,947,753	3·6	12,216,686	1·4	888,778,765
1910 ...	46,219,880	5·9	47,516,314	6·1	299,517,616	38·4	322,378,274	41·3	32,443,236	4·1	21,536,783	2·8	10,772,574	1·4	780,384,678
1909 ...	47,954,212	6·4	47,859,360	6·4	278,583,362	37·5	305,571,803	41·1	32,613,006	4·4	21,847,248	2·9	9,366,818	1·3	743,795,809
1908 ...	47,460,295	6·5	43,932,652	6·0	279,702,933	38·5	285,320,031	39·2	26,152,806	3·6	36,162,449	4·9	8,953,968	1·3	727,685,134
1907 ...	45,361,821	6·8	47,002,299	7·0	208,942,766	31·1	301,929,733	45·1	27,995,902	4·2	30,508,864	4·6	7,986,127	1·2	669,527,512
1906 ...	42,952,626	6·7	36,680,505	5·8	139,655,353	21·9	375,899,691	58·9	30,005,975	4·7	5,020,417	·8	7,857,319	1·2	638,071,886
1905 ...	47,785,654	8·0	33,910,518	5·7	119,363,483	20·0	357,344,215	59·7	24,153,245	4·0	7,504,155	1·3	8,069,072	1·3	598,130,342
1900 ...	16,508,872	6·6	17,833,008	7·1	38,659,534	15·5	142,734,669	57·1	11,663,451	4·7	17,669,546	7·0	5,023,976	2·0	250,093,046
1895 ...	5,239,526	6·8	2,698,045	3·6	15,999,134	21·1	47,437,551	62·5	3,239,447	4·3	—	—	1,246,959	1·7	75,860,662

The profits of the Bank since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Lire.	Expenses. Lire.	Interest Account. Lire.	Net Profit. Lire.	Dividend. Amt. Lire.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Apprns. Lire.	Carried Frw'd. Lire.
1914	37,794,160	22,695,485	7,105,835	7,992,840	7,800,000	6	195,499	397,898
1913	33,985,854	15,693,309	6,071,235	12,221,310	11,700,000	9	538,353	400,557
1912	32,406,331	14,332,412	5,646,385	12,427,534	11,700,000	9	700,000	417,600
1911	28,785,776	12,446,406	6,340,094	9,999,276	9,450,000	9	600,000	390,066
1910	25,973,045	11,315,903	4,745,673	9,911,469	9,450,000	9	500,000	440,790
1909	25,553,164	10,765,896	4,841,411	9,945,857	9,450,000	9	500,000	479,321
1908	24,739,986	10,036,798	4,728,618	9,974,570	9,450,000	9	552,881	483,464
1907	24,006,634	9,595,728	4,414,982	9,995,924	9,450,000	9	522,723	511,775
1906	21,596,563	8,865,518	3,879,861	8,851,184	8,325,000	9	462,943	488,574
1905	18,761,760	7,380,795	3,073,809	8,307,156	7,200,000	9	929,479	425,333
1904	14,622,689	5,735,585	2,062,308	6,824,796	6,400,000	8	355,454	247,658

BANCA D'ITALIA.

Head Office: Rome.

Capital—

Authorised and Subscribed, 300,000 Shares of Lire 800 .. .. Lire 240,000,000

Paid up, Lire 600 per Share 180,000,000

The Bank of Italy was formed in 1893 by an amalgamation of three banks then existing. Its capital was fixed at 300 million lire, or 12 millions sterling nominal, of which 210 million lire, or £8,400,000, were paid up; but in 1897 it was reduced to 180 million lire, or £7,200,000. The maximum amount of notes which the Bank of Italy and the Banks of Sicily and Naples could keep in circulation was, at the end of 14 years, not to exceed 864 million lire, or £34,560,000. Each bank was bound to accept the notes of the other banks in the cities in which they had legal currency. The metallic reserve was to be increased within a year to 40 per cent. of the notes in circulation, 33 per cent. of which was to consist of coin or bullion, in the ratio of at least three-quarters in gold and one quarter partly in silver coin. The remaining 7 per cent. might be composed of foreign bills of exchange on firms of the first order. Mortgage operations were forbidden. The Bank of Naples was authorised to continue its pawn operations. The banks were allowed to assume the office of provincial receivers of the direct taxes. The Bank, further, assumed the Treasury service of the State in all the provinces of the kingdom from February 1, 1895, until the end of 1912. The amount of statutory loans to be made by the Bank to the Treasury was fixed at 100 million lire. In consequence of the Adowa disaster and the general over-expenditure of the Government the position of the Bank of Naples became endangered, and the Government found it necessary once more to deal with the banking situation. Because of urgency the changes were at first made by Royal Decree, which was definitely sanctioned by the Law of March 1898. To ensure a guarantee for the redemption of notes it was ordered that the Bank of Italy should accumulate an irreducible minimum reserve of 300 million lire, or 12 millions sterling, the Bank of Naples 90½ million lire, or £3,620,000, and the Bank of Sicily 21 million lire, or £840,000. For any notes not actually covered by the reserve the holders had a claim on all gold and silver belonging to the banks. At the same time the law authorising the State to issue notes against 200 million lire, or 8 millions sterling, of metallic reserve was repealed. After the crisis of 1907 no very important changes were made in the banking law. The maximum circulation was slightly increased. There was also ordered to be some increase in the irreducible metallic reserve held against notes. It was also provided that, to give somewhat greater elasticity, the banks should be allowed to issue more in times of emergency. The amount in the case of the Bank of Italy was raised from 45 to 50 million lire, in the

The

Mechanics-American National Bank

SAINT LOUIS, MO., U.S.A.

Capital (paid in)	**$2,000,000**
Surplus	**2,500,000**
Deposits	**31,000,000**
Cash Reserve	**17,000,000**

WALKER HILL, *President.*

F. O. HICKS, *Vice-President.* **J. S. CALFEE,** *Cashier.*

Liabilities of The Banca d'Italia.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Lire.	Reserve Fund Amount. Lire.	Total Capital & Reserve. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Note Circulation. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Treasury Accounts. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts and Deposits, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Sundry Liabilities. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Lire.
1914	180,000,000	70,025,413*	250,025,413	7·6	2,162,448,450	65·9	208,912,072	6·4	549,922,984	16·7	92,832,046	2·8	19,228,418	·6	3,283,369,383
1913	180,000,000	60,025,413	240,025,413	9·7	1,764,433,300	71·0	158,830,962	6·4	198,363,348	8·0	101,870,463	4·1	19,728,909	·8	2,483,252,395
1912	180,000,000	60,025,413	240,025,413	10·2	1,700,724,900	72·1	108,283,232	4·6	198,880,785	8·4	93,797,641	3·9	18,590,567	·8	2,360,302,537
1911	180,000,000	60,025,413	240,025,413	9·9	1,693,709,650	70·2	146,658,763	6·1	208,505,276	8·7	106,453,894	4·4	17,799,622	·7	2,413,152,618
1910	180,000,000	60,025,413	240,025,413	10·5	1,523,534,350	66·5	209,489,863	9·1	207,315,244	9·0	94,670,590	4·1	17,394,294	·8	2,292,429,754
1909	180,000,000	58,000,000	238,000,000	10·9	1,441,746,750	66·3	236,025,155	10·9	184,793,296	8·5	57,666,675	2·7	15,244,570	·7	2,173,476,446
1908	180,000,000	48,000,000	228,000,000	11·0	1,389,144,750	67·4	170,329,401	8·3	198,251,932	9·6	64,806,232	3·1	11,613,338	·6	2,062,655,653
1907	180,000,000	46,704,920	226,704,920	10·9	1,411,587,600	68·1	175,552,747	8·4	212,289,259	10·3	38,811,117	1·9	9,268,127	·4	2,071,283,770
1906	180,000,000	46,231,035	226,231,035	12·3	1,187,608,800	64·9	221,039,042	12·0	166,315,517	9·0	27,903,414	1·5	6,264,307	·3	1,836,362,115
1905	180,000,000	45,915,459	225,915,459	13·1	1,005,477,900	58·7	262,336,362	15·3	185,497,131	10·8	31,265,145	1·8	5,668,356	·3	1,716,160,353
1900	180,000,000	88,893,195*	268,893,195	19·0	820,437,584	58·9	100,685,105	7·1	192,313,770	13·6	25,311,277	1·9	5,586,053	·4	1,413,226,984
1895	210,000,000	43,013,870	253,013,870	16·5	775,507,916	50·5	71,192,114	4·6	215,035,989	14·0	216,877,260	14·1	5,154,307	·3	1,536,781,456
1894	210,000,000	42,742,591	252,742,591	16·4	826,456,894	53·8	11,962,214	·7	213,285,169	14·0	226,332,047	14·8	4,554,515	·3	1,535,333,430

* Including Special Reserve, 1900, Lire 44,412,910; 1914, Lire 10,000,000.

Assets of The Banca d'Italia.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Sundry Assets. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Lire.
1914	1,300,883,523	39·6	204,590,725	6·2	792,906,553	24·1	752,492,856*	23·0	204,701,016	6·2	27,794,710	·9	3,283,369,383
1913	1,213,409,380	49·0	218,650,648	8·8	578,703,936	23·3	208,094,503	8·3	237,637,154	9·6	26,756,774	1·0	2,483,252,395
1912	1,156,430,265	49·0	162,875,367	6·9	559,745,365	23·7	212,122,523	9·0	243,315,408	10·3	25,313,610	1·1	2,360,302,537
1911	1,124,961,435	46·6	165,034,573	6·9	624,955,477	25·9	336,083,482	14·0	138,312,039	5·7	23,805,612	·9	2,413,152,618
1910	1,070,947,467	46·8	169,130,875	7·3	609,088,558	26·6	229,762,106	10·0	189,930,713	8·3	23,570,035	1·0	2,292,429,754
1909	1,065,523,478	49·0	171,654,368	7·9	498,453,409	22·9	187,646,100	8·6	228,727,403	10·6	21,471,778	1·0	2,173,476,446
1908	1,058,010,947	51·3	164,821,990	8·0	459,434,266	22·3	125,364,852	6·1	233,666,807	11·3	21,356,791	1·0	2,062,655,653
1907	1,031,534,256	49·8	145,851,097	7·0	547,433,017	26·4	135,815,604	6·6	192,789,902	9·3	17,859,894	·9	2,071,283,770
1906	856,349,982	46·9	185,147,167	10·1	429,227,160	23·3	131,191,245	7·1	215,677,009	11·7	17,769,552	·9	1,836,362,115
1905	728,211,823	42·4	210,206,843	12·2	401,133,360	23·4	119,573,004	7·0	239,292,915	14·0	17,742,408	1·0	1,716,160,353
1900	363,224,366	25·7	175,358,421	12·4	330,862,093	23·4	77,920,964	5·5	448,919,182	31·8	16,941,958	1·2	1,413,226,984
1895	424,102,368	27·6	94,506,419	6·1	178,241,073	11·6	117,927,632	7·7	706,321,626	46·0	15,682,338	1·0	1,536,781,456
1894	413,243,539	27·0	91,800,193	6·0	203,974,445	13·3	102,830,290	6·7	708,593,937	46·1	14,891,026	·9	1,535,333,430

* Including Lire 518,812,387 advances to the Treasury.

case of the Bank of Naples from 14 to 15 million lire, and in that of the Bank of Sicily from three and a-half to four million lire. But in every case the payment of a tax equal to one-third of the discount rate was to be exacted. If, however, the occasion seemed to require it the three banks were authorised to issue double the amounts just specified, on condition that they paid a tax equal to two-thirds of the discount rate. Any increase in the circulation above these limits would involve the payment of a tax of 7½ per cent.

The business of the Bank other than that of providing the country with currency is comparatively small. In accordance with laws passed in August and in November 1914 the Bank last year substantially increased its note circulation; and in the current year has, by means of note issues, lent large sums of money to the Italian Government. At the end of December 1913 the note circulation of the Bank was about 1,750,000,000 lire, or £70,000,000, and by the end of 1914 it had increased to about 2,150,000,000 lire, or £86,000,000. It has now risen to 2,790,000,000 lire, or £111,600,000. The whole of the increase has been for the purpose of making loans to the Government, these loans now standing at close to £50,000,000. The following statement shows the expansion in the note circulation of the Bank since the outbreak of war at the end of July 1914 between the Central Powers and the Allies:—

	Sept. 20, 1915. Lire.	July 20, 1914. Lire.	Inc. or Dec. Lire.
Assets.			
Total cash	1,378,903,000	1,208,450,000	+ 170,453,000
Inland bills	532,690,000	446,975,000	+ 85,715,000
Foreign bills	20,815,000	82,800,000	— 61,985,000
Advances	248,618,000	78,175,000	+ 170,443,000
Government securities	186,381,000	204,375,000	— 17,994,000
Loans to the State ...	1,216,350,000	—	+1,216,350,000
Liabilities.			
Note circulation ...	2,789,491,000	1,661,125,000	+1,128,366,000
Deposits	741,734,000	204,550,000	+ 537,184,000

The Bank of Italy has provided a large part of the money spent by the Italian Government upon the War. A Government loan was placed in December 1914 for 1,000,000,000 lire, or £40,000,000, on the basis of 4½ per cent. net, and another loan for 1,000,000,000 lire, or £40,000,000, bearing 5 per cent. interest at the price of 95 was placed in July 1915. Altogether by means of loans from the public and from the Bank of Italy the Government by the middle of August had borrowed 3,228,000,000 lire, or about £130,000,000, of which £50,000,000 was obtained from the Bank. Arrangements have just been concluded for $25,000,000 of Italian Government One-Year 6% Notes, to be disposed of in New York.

The actual amount of gold held at the end of last year was 1,118,000,000 lire, or £44,000,000. In the last 10 years the Bank has added £21,000,000 to its stock of gold. The expansion in the stock of gold and silver held by the Bank of Italy since 1893 is shown by the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Banca d'Italia at December 31.

Year.	Gold. Lire.	% of Total.	Silver. Lire.	% of Total.	Total. Lire.
1915* ...	1,149,443,000	91·2	110,721,000	8·8	1,260,164,000
1914 ...	1,118,188,000	91·2	107,890,000	8·8	1,226,078,000
1913 ...	1,107,633,000	92·1	94,607,000	7·9	1,202,240,000
1912 ...	1,022,900,000	89·0	126,400,000	11·0	1,149,300,000
1911 ...	1,007,900,000	90·3	108,200,000	9·7	1,116,100,000
1910 ...	975,200,000	91·7	89,000,000	8·3	1,064,200,000
1909 ...	950,800,000	89·8	107,900,000	10·2	1,058,700,000
1908 ...	932,100,000	89·1	114,300,000	10·9	1,046,400,000
1907 ...	896,300,000	87·8	125,300,000	12·2	1,021,600,000
1906 ...	724,300,000	85·5	123,600,000	14·5	847,900,000
1905 ...	622,400,000	86·4	97,600,000	13·6	720,000,000
1900 ...	300,200,000	85·3	51,600,000	14·7	351,800,000
1895 ...	299,300,000	84·9	53,200,000	15·1	352,500,000
1894 ...	292,600,000	81·0	68,900,000	19·0	361,500,000
1893 ...	235,800,000	89·5	27,800,000	10·5	263,600,000

* Sept. 20.

Comparative statements of the assets and liabilities of the Bank at the end of each year since 1900, and in 1895 and 1894, are furnished herewith.

In recent years the profit has shown substantial expansion, and last year was 38,256,000 lire, equal to about 20 per cent. of the capital and to 15 per cent. of the capital and reserve. Of this profit a sum of 4,500,000 lire was paid to the State, about 19,000,000 lire was specially allocated, and 14,400,000 lire was distributed to the shareholders by means of a dividend of 8 per cent. The great improvement in the profit in recent years is shown by the statement appended:—

Profits of the Banca d'Italia.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Lire.	Expenses and Taxes.* Lire.	Net Profit. Lire.	Proportion Paid to State. Lire.	Dividend. Amount. Lire.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Allocations. Lire.
1914	58,136,262	19,879,490	38,256,772	4,500,000	14,400,000	8	19,028,354
1913	52,659,472	15,879,259	36,780,213	4,800,000	14,400,000	8	17,641,870
1912	44,708,839	16,865,838	27,843,001	4,200,000	13,800,000	7⅔	9,652,056
1911	41,535,678	15,243,526	26,292,152	3,900,000	13,500,000	7½	8,686,825
1910	39,351,614	13,408,334	25,943,280	3,300,000	12,900,000	7⅙	9,793,556
1909	34,887,833	12,943,277	21,944,556	2,700,000	12,300,000	6⅚	6,913,324
1908	36,682,803	11,532,640	25,150,163	—	11,400,000	6⅓	13,804,952
1907	34,237,055	11,659,034	22,578,011	—	9,000,000	5	13,574,201
1906	29,229,905	10,771,026	18,458,879	—	6,000,000	3⅓	12,462,928
1905	28,953,606	11,663,911	17,289,695	—	5,400,000	3	11,892,843
1904	28,777,459	11,614,348	17,163,111	—	5,400,000	3	11,768,863

* Includes taxes as follows: 1914, L.6,568,523; 1913, L.4,626,251; 1912, L.6,106,866; 1911, L.4,702,050; 1910, L.3,376,720; 1909, L.3,145,569; 1908, L.1,940,644; 1907, L.2,247,635; 1906, L.1,922,248; 1905, L.3,170,695; 1904, L.3,199,069.

BANCO DE CHILE.

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
London Agency: 94 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed, 400,000 Shares of $200 each	$80,000,000
Paid up, $100 per Share	40,000,000
Price of Share, $176. *Dividend*, 14%.	*Yield*, £8.

The first Bank of Chile was founded as far back as November 16, 1859, and was the original institution from which the Banco Nacional de Chile was formed in 1865. Three years before the establishment of the first Bank of Chile there was formed in Valparaiso the Bank of Valparaiso. In 1893 it was decided to amalgamate the Banco Nacional de Chile with the Bank of Valparaiso, and there was also brought in another Company entitled the Banco Agricola, which had been formed in January 1869. Thus the present Bank of Chile commenced its operations in January 1894, with its head offices at Santiago and Valparaiso and 23 branches scattered over the Republic. Since that time considerable progress has been made, and at present, in addition to the head offices and the London office, there are 45 branches, situated in all parts of the country. The amalgamated institution was formed with a subscribed capital of $40,000,000, divided into 200,000 shares, of which $20,000,000 was paid up. In 1906 the capital was increased by 100,000 new shares, placed at a premium of 100 per cent., to $60,000,000 subscribed and $30,000,000 paid up. The premium of $10,000,000 was added to the reserve fund. Steady growth of the business called for a further increase of capital in 1910, when a further 100,000 shares were issued at a premium of 70 per cent., thereby increasing the subscribed capital to $80,000,000 and the paid-up amount to $40,000,000. The premium of $7,000,000 was transferred to the reserve fund. Altogether a reserve fund of $22,000,000 has been accumulated, together with a contingency fund of $600,000.

At June 30, 1905, the deposits amounted to $100,492,042, and at June 30 1915, they were $209,112,492 paper and $21,447,559 gold, a comparison which reflects the steady growth that has occurred.

Further evidence of this growth may be seen from the tables which set out the liabilities and assets of the Bank in various years since 1895.

The gold assets and liabilities of the Bank are given below, while the currency assets and liabilities are contained in the larger tabulations herewith. Up to and including 1911 the gold and currency assets and liabilities were combined by the Bank, whereas now they are separated.

The growth of the business is amply reflected in the expansion that has occurred in profits. For the twelve months to June 30, 1904, a gross profit of $3,793,085 was secured and a net profit of $2,477,911. For the twelve months to June 30, 1914, the gross profit rose to $12,596,869 and the net profit to $7,407,885. During this period the dividend

NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ

(NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY).

Established by Royal Charter A.D. 1824.

Capital Paid up - - - f. 50,000,000 Neth. Currency (£4,166,667)
Reserve Fund, Dec. 31, 1914 - f. 9,237,150 „ „ (£769,763)

Head Office: AMSTERDAM.

Branches:

HOLLAND	THE HAGUE, ROTTERDAM.
JAVA	BATAVIA, SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, BANDOENG, WELTEVREDEN, CHERIBON, TEGAL, PEKALONGAN, DJEMBER, SOERAKARTA (SOLO), DJOKJAKARTA, TJILATJAP.
SUMATRA	PADANG, MEDAN, TEBING-TINGGI (DELI), TANDJONG-BALEI, KOTA-RADJA, PALEMBANG, TELOK-BETONG.
BORNEO	PONTIANAK, BANDJERMASIN.
CELEBES	MAKASSER.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ...	SINGAPORE, PENANG.
BRITISH INDIA	RANGOON.
CHINA	HONGKONG, SHANGHAI.

Grant Drafts and Issue Letters of Credit on all their Branches and Correspondents in the East, on the Continent, on Great Britain, Africa, America and Australia, and transact Banking Business of every description.

LONDON BANKERS: The Union of London & Smiths Bank, Limited, London.

Gold Liabilities of The Banco de Chile.

	June 30, 1915.	% of Total.	June 30, 1914.	% of Total.	June 30, 1913.	% of Total.	June 30, 1912.	% of Total.
	$*	%	$*	%	$*	%	$*	%
Deposits in Chile and in London	21,447,559	81·0	15,754,902	65·8	22,007,397	74·6	17,319,828	74·4
Clearing balances outstanding	84,676	·3	82,041	·4	395,314	1·3	372,731	1·6
Various creditors	4,905,433	18·6	7,598,100	31·7	7,044,716	23·8	5,497,573	23·9
Suspense account	—	—	385,924	1·6	—	—	—	—
Agencies and branches	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,644	·1
Interest, discount, &c.	32,282	·1	132,718	·5	76,102	·3	21,040	—
Total liabilities	26,469,950	—	23,954,785	—	29,523,529	—	23,836,826	—

Gold Assets of The Banco de Chile.

	June 30, 1915.	% of Total.	June 30, 1914.	% of Total.	June 30, 1913.	% of Total.	June 30, 1912.	% of Total.
	$*	%	$*	%	$*	%	$*	%
Gold disposable in Chile and in London	4,938,662	18·7	4,079,865	17·0	3,901,707	13·2	12,409,322	52·1
Cheques and balances in other banks in Chile and abroad	232,480	·9	—	—	—	—	34,618	·1
Advances in gold in Chile and in London	9,880,254	37·3	15,456,503	64·6	19,455,276	65·9	5,939,691	24·9
Advances in gold at short notice in Europe	704,000	2·7	2,400,000	10·0	3,115,693	10·6	—	—
Suspense account in Chile and in London	114,076	·4	—	—	114,076	·4	5,447,408	22·9
Agencies and branches	10,594,665	40·0	2,011,244	8·4	2,928,737	9·9	—	—
Furniture	5,813	—	7,173	—	8,040	—	5,787	—
Total assets	26,469,950	—	23,954,785	—	29,523,529	—	23,836,826	—

* Gold dollars of 18*d.*

Currency liabilities of The Banco de Chile.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Fund. Amount.	Contingency Fund. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits and Current Accounts, &c. Amount	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915	40,000,000	22,000,000	600,000	62,600,000	22·6	209,112,492	75·7	4,606,651	1·7	276,319,143
1914	40,000,000	22,000,000	600,000	62,600,000	26·3	170,532,575	71·6	5,125,137	2·1	238,257,712
1913	40,000,000	22,000,000	600,000	62,600,000	26·7	166,741,168	71·1	5,050,644	2·2	234,391,812
1912	40,000,000	22,000,000	600,000	62,600,000	28·4	151,979,418	68·9	4,703,999	2·1	220,698,610‡
1911	40,000,000	22,000,000	600,000	62,600,000	25·6	177,514,511	72·5	4,543,876	1·9	244,658,387
1910	30,000,000	15,000,000	600,000	45,600,000	22·1	156,822,409	76·1	3,629,830	1·8	206,052,239
1905	20,000,000	4,080,427	—	24,080,427	18·8	100,492,042	78·1	4,067,521	3·1	128,639,990
1900	20,000,000	1,950,000	—	21,950,000	24·7	65,223,956	73·6	1,548,667	1·7	88,722,623
1895	20,000,000	600,000	500,000†	21,100,000	23·1	73,287,633	76·7	1,161,671	1·2	95,549,304

† Conversion fund. ‡ In 1912 a debit balance of $1,415,193 in respect of agencies and branches is included in the total currency liabilities.

Currency Assets of The Banco de Chile.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Fiscal Notes, Silver. Amount.	% of Total.	Cheques and Balances in Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Advances, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Agencies and Branches, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915	26,607,174	9·6	24,205,672	8·8	9,637,827	3·5	189,784,967	68·6	12,889,210	4·7	13,194,293	4·8	276,319,143
1914	21,862,741	9·2	25,146,446	10·6	10,516,349	4·4	158,348,306	66·4	9,383,678	4·0	13,000,192	5·4	238,257,712
1913	22,527,800	9·6	19,340,359	8·2	10,762,552	4·6	155,921,436	66·5	13,533,704	5·8	12,305,961	5·3	234,391,812
1912	16,944,671	7·7	28,052,617	12·7	5,938,091	2·7	157,863,628	71·5	—	—	11,899,603	5·4	220,698,610
1911	20,394,993	8·3	10,476,540	4·2	6,487,536	2·6	179,057,140	73·2	18,972,358	7·8	9,269,820	3·9	244,658,387
1910	26,268,978	12·8	8,273,277	4·0	4,497,494	2·1	148,242,317	72·0	10,480,516	5·1	8,289,657	4·0	206,052,239
1905	32,097,173	25·0	—	—	6,131,761	4·8	80,811,310	62·8	5,689,250	4·4	3,910,496	3·0	128,639,990
1900	21,253,214	23·9	—	—	5,999,829	6·7	55,902,508	63·0	2,091,383	2·4	3,475,689	4·0	88,722,623
1895	15,922,424	16·7	—	—	11,630,353	12·2	65,352,311	68·4	125,455	·1	2,518,761	2·6	95,549,304

gradually rose from 10 per cent. to 18 per cent. Naturally the profits for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, show a falling-off. The gross profit has amounted to $11,241,970, and the net profit to $5,999,592, while the dividend has been reduced to 14 per cent. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Banco de Chile.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit.	Salaries and Other Expenses.	Municipal Tax.	Net Profit.	Div. Amt.	Div. Rate.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1915...	11,241,970	4,736,387	505,991	5,999,592	5,600,000	14	—	1,610,651
1914...	12,596,869	4,690,117	498,867	7,407,885	7,200,000	18	—	1,211,059
1913...	12,517,241	4,806,398	320,000	7,390,843	7,200,000	18	—	1,003,174
1912...	11,861,766	4,281,740	290,000	7,290,026	7,200,000	18	—	812,331
1911...	10,104,918	3,571,918	238,000	6,295,000	6,268,837	18	—	722,305
1910...	8,860,698	3,249,732	178,000	5,432,966	5,400,000	18	—	696,142
1909...	8,965,400	3,192,017	154,750	5,618,633	5,400,000	18	200,000	663,176
1908...	8,931,929	2,988,533	139,500	5,803,896	5,400,000	18	400,000	644,543
1907...	8,358,255	2,109,712	170,000	6,078,043	5,100,000	17	—	640,647
1906...	5,915,731	1,509,248	117,000	4,289,483	3,700,000	13½	250,000	45,701
1905...	4,691,760	1,375,533	98,000	3,218,227	2,300,000	11½	—	680,162
1904...	3,793,085	1,232,874	82,300	2,477,911	2,000,000	10	—	444,436

In the current year to June next conditions in Chile are showing great improvement, and the profits of the Bank may be greater than in any previous year. The price of nitrate, which for the year 1914 averaged less than 11*s.* per cwt. in Liverpool, in the current year has risen to about 13*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and much greater profits are accruing to Chile in consequence. This is reflected by the course of exchange, which in the closing months of last year fell from 9¾*d.* to 7*d.*, and has now in October recovered to 9⅝*d.*

ANCO DE ESPAÑA.

Head Office: Madrid.

London Office: 37 New Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up, 300,000 Shares of 500 Pesetas ... ... Pesetas 150,000,000

Price per Share, 452½. *Dividend,* 20%. *Yield,* £4 8*s.* 6*d.*%

SPAIN, during her period of prosperity in the Middle Ages, had banks of deposit. One of them, indeed, the Bank of Barcelona, is said to have been founded so long ago as 1401, and to have attained great celebrity in its time. But when Spain declined in prosperity and power banking practically died out; and it was not till 1782 that the Bank of San Carlos was founded at Madrid. It was still issuing circulating notes in 1874. The Bank of Spain was founded in 1829 under the name of the Bank of San Fernando, but enjoyed special privileges only in Madrid and the places where it had branches until 1856. It was at first a Government Bank, and its name was changed in 1856 to that of the Bank of Spain. Even then, however, the Government had the right, when it pleased, to incorporate other banks. The legislation of January 8, 1856, prescribed that there should not be more than one bank of issue in any commercial city; the circulation of notes was limited to three times the capital of each bank; and every bank that issued notes was required to keep a coin reserve of at least one-third of its circulation. The minimum denomination of the notes was fixed at £1 of our money. In 1856 the charter was granted for 25 years; but in 1874

it was renewed for 30 years. The Law of March 19, 1874, conferred upon the Bank the exclusive privilege of issuing notes, and increased the capital from £1,320,000 to £4,000,000. All the existing provincial banks, then numbering 18, were ordered to liquidate their circulation and transfer it to the Bank of Spain. Nevertheless, the Bank was not constituted a State institution, and the State does not participate in its profits. But the State had the authority to require advances by the Bank to the amount of 5 millions sterling upon the deposit of proper guarantees. Notes of the Bank were made legal tender and limited to five times the capital. Nevertheless, the capital was increased soon after to 6 millions sterling, which carried the limit of circulation to 30 millions sterling.

There was a new revision of the charter in July 1891, the privileges of the Bank being extended till the last day of December 1921. The issue of notes to the amount of 60 millions sterling was authorised against a cash reserve of one-third, of which at least half was required to be kept in gold. The Bank, however, was required to pay for these privileges by advancing 2 millions sterling to the Government annually for three years, without interest or right to reimbursement until the expiration of the charter. By this constant borrowing from the Bank it became practically dependent upon the Treasury for its existence. Each year's Budget showed a persistent deficit, and the floating debt of the country increased enormously. There was an outcry throughout the country that the Bank failed to perform its commercial duties to the public, as the whole of its resources practically were at the mercy of the State. Matters continued to grow worse till the war with the United States in 1898. As a result of that war the circulation of notes was forced up in February 1899 to £58,380,200, while the value of the notes fell fully 50 per cent. The restoration of peace brought down the gold premium to 20 per cent.; and the Spanish Treasury, recognising how nearly it had ruined the Bank, as well as destroyed the credit of the country, set to work to restore order in the finances of both. The depreciation in the value of the peseta did not, however, injure the Bank; indeed, its net profits rose from £1,369,237 in 1895 to over 2 millions sterling in 1899. What made this the more remarkable was that the rates of interest and discount upon loans stood for a considerable time at only 3½ per cent., while the quotations of the Exterior Debt were so low as to yield a return of about 5½ per cent. to the purchaser. At last Señor Villaverde, as Minister of Finance, earnestly set about restoring order. By strenuous economies and the imposition of new taxes he and his successors succeeded in at last putting an end to the deficits and obtaining a surplus in 1899.

The Act of May 1902 again carried through a revision of the Bank's charter, the authorised note circulation then being raised to 2,000 million pesetas, or £80,000,000. The new Act required that the Treasury should reimburse to the Bank before the end of December 1911 the amount of obligations in its assets represented by Treasury certificates. The Treasury was forbidden to borrow from the Bank except by authority of the law; and the maximum limit of circulation against which only a reserve of one-third was required was reduced to

BANCO DE CHILE

94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	$40,000,000	Chilian Dollars
RESERVE FUND - - - - -	22,000,000	
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS - - - -	40,000,000	

Head Offices—SANTIAGO & VALPARAISO.

BRANCHES.

Santiago (Estacion), Santiago (Matadero), Santiago (San Pablo), Santiago (Av. Irrarazaval), Valparaiso (Almendral), Ancud, Antofagasta, Arica, Chillan, Concepcion, Copiapó, Coquimbo, Curicó, Illapel, Iquique, La Calera, Lebu, Ligua, Los Andes, Los Angeles, Mulchen, Nueva Imperial, Osorno, Ovalle, Pisagua, Puerto Montt, Quillota, Rancagua, Rengo, San Carlos, San Fernando, San Felipe, Serena, Tacna, Talca, Talcahuano, Taltal, Temuco, Tomé, Tocopilla, Traiguen, Valdivia, Vallenar, Vicuña, Vina del Mar.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current Accounts also opened and Deposits received.

DAVID BURNS, Manager. **PERCY C. WEST, Sub-Manager.**

Liabilities of The Banco de España at December 31.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Pesetas.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Pesetas.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Government Deposits. Amount. Pesetas.	Other Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Pesetas.	Total Deposits, &c. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous Accounts. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount. Pesetas.
1914...	150,000,000	22,000,000	172,000,000	4·7	1,973,639,325	53·6	115,340,070	989,974,313	1,105,314,383	30·0	408,843,940	11·1	23,897,310	·6	3,683,695,558
1913...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	4·8	1,931,283,500	54·7	149,944,244	772,678,993	922,623,237	26·1	485,281,033	13·8	22,137,259	·6	3,531,325,029
1912...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	5·0	1,862,823,325	54·0	154,517,771	759,885,200	914,402,971	26·5	477,531,362	13·9	22,376,767	·6	3,447,034,425
1911...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	4·8	1,762,771,725	50·0	140,008,868	832,582,236	972,591,104	27·6	598,426,790	17·0	21,019,972	·6	3,524,809,591
1910...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	4·9	1,715,225,150	49·0	163,908,398	845,555,251	1,009,463,649	28·8	585,387,891	16·7	21,065,960	·6	3,501,142,650
1909...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	4·9	1,670,998,175	48·5	139,688,039	877,157,983	1,016,846,022	29·5	569,653,734	16·5	20,843,113	·6	3,448,341,044
1908...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	5·0	1,642,761,000	48·2	204,966,915	849,571,569	1,054,538,484	30·9	520,373,541	15·3	21,257,050	·6	3,408,931,075
1907...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	5·3	1,557,080,225	48·7	149,864,132	808,596,902	958,461,034	30·0	492,809,001	15·4	20,552,530	·6	3,198,902,790
1906...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	5·5	1,524,829,925	49·7	175,990,011	761,544,054	937,534,065	30·6	413,498,754	13·5	21,490,349	·7	3,067,353,093
1905...	150,000,000	20,000,000	170,000,000	5·6	1,550,123,075	50·4	162,135,393	831,612,172	993,747,565	32·3	339,910,420	11·1	20,548,710	·6	3,074,329,770
1900...	150,000,000	19,000,000	169,000,000	5·9	1,591,619,625	55·9	137,065,553	891,286,280	1,028,351,833	36·1	34,688,408	1·2	26,829,921	·9	2,850,489,787
1895...	150,000,000	15,000,000	165,000,000	9·6	994,399,850	57·8	30,203,010	459,306,027	489,509,037	28·4	57,133,383	3·3	16,956,725	·9	1,722,998,995
1890...	150,000,000	15,000,000	165,000,000	10·7	734,129,550	47·8	7,957,196	592,092,080	600,049,276	39·1	19,436,514	1·3	18,243,367	1·1	1,536,858,707
1880...	100,000,000	10,000,000	110,000,000	13·4	91,702,750	11·2	2,452,638	591,320,451	593,773,089	72·5	7,114,077	·9	16,848,397	2·0	819,438,313
1870...	50,000,000	5,000,000	55,000,000	20·1	61,141,000	22·3	5,530,000	145,499,581	151,029,581	55·1	2,013,552	·7	4,864,742	1·8	274,048,875
1860...	30,000,000	3,000,000	33,000,000	21·5	63,484,250	41·4	—	47,642,116	47,642,116	31·0	4,366,246	2·8	5,045,636	3·3	153,538,248
1856...	30,000,000	—	30,000,000	23·7	39,694,700	31·4	—	49,578,904	49,578,904	39·2	3,406,947	2·7	3,864,280	3·0	126,544,831

Assets of The Banco de España at December 31.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Government and Other Investments. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Bills. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Advances to Treasury. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Loans, Advances, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount. Pesetas.
1914...	1,432,295,570	38·9	356,086,144	9·7	562,863,895	15·3	253,313,773	6·8	1,065,051,812	28·9	14,084,364	·4	3,683,695,558
1913...	1,393,401,289	39·5	356,986,144	10·1	484,069,859	13·7	192,696,019	5·5	1,090,223,269	30·8	13,948,449	·4	3,531,325,029
1912...	1,381,262,159	40·1	356,123,578	10·3	414,058,414	12·0	250,813,171	7·3	1,031,654,349	29·9	13,122,754	·4	3,447,034,425
1911...	1,317,940,016	37·4	356,123,578	10·1	409,817,047	11·6	151,758,816	4·3	1,275,799,393	36·2	13,370,741	·4	3,524,809,591
1910...	1,324,161,340	37·8	356,123,578	10·2	414,344,183	11·8	152,203,566	4·4	1,240,922,641	35·4	13,387,342	·4	3,501,142,650
1909...	1,307,092,724	37·9	356,123,578	10·4	410,828,472	11·8	153,836,048	4·5	1,207,419,668	35·0	13,040,554	·4	3,448,341,044
1908...	1,285,057,566	37·7	355,738,703	10·4	435,596,068	12·8	152,389,383	4·5	1,167,170,078	34·2	12,979,277	·4	3,408,931,075
1907...	1,099,976,932	34·4	355,738,703	11·1	519,852,880	16·3	150,387,615	4·7	1,059,768,901	33·1	13,177,759	·4	3,198,902,790
1906...	1,080,300,448	35·2	354,968,953	11·6	595,175,616	19·4	150,020,518	4·9	873,625,940	28·5	13,261,618	·4	3,067,353,093
1905...	1,028,474,311	33·4	355,468,953	11·6	685,098,984	22·3	150,074,025	4·9	841,792,249	27·4	13,421,248	·4	3,074,329,770
1900...	811,562,778	28·5	381,520,261	13·4	981,851,093	34·4	153,342,633	5·4	511,141,457	17·9	11,071,565	·4	2,850,489,787
1895...	507,405,596	29·4	419,089,008	24·3	218,489,713	12·7	164,536,534	9·6	396,101,814	23·0	17,376,330	1·0	1,722,998,995
1890...	260,564,729	16·9	455,430,535	29·6	267,314,120	17·4	85,121,685	5·6	450,842,517	29·3	17,585,121	1·2	1,536,858,707
1880...	120,198,904	14·7	385,353,171	47·0	40,446,025	5·0	5,179,410	·6	266,136,495	32·5	2,124,278	·2	819,438,313
1870...	74,313,495	27·1	383,562	·1	8,500,000	3·1	—	—	189,538,951	69·2	1,312,867	·5	274,048,875
1860...	25,123,615	16·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	127,011,658	82·9	1,402,975	1·0	153,538,248
1856...	36,509,200	28·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	93,035,631	71·1	—	—	126,544,831

48 millions sterling. The Bank was thus required to keep a reserve of 16 millions sterling, of which half was to be in gold. In other words, against the maximum limit of 48 millions sterling, against which a reserve of no more than one-third was required to be held, half that one-third, or 6 millions sterling, had to be held in gold. Against the next 12 millions sterling of notes issued 40 per cent. was required to be in gold, and the remainder, up to a total metallic reserve of 60 per cent., might be in silver. Against the remaining 20 millions sterling which the Bank might issue 50 per cent. was required to be in gold, and the remainder, up to a total of 70 per cent., might be in silver. Still further to liberate the Bank from its subordination to the Treasury, and ultimately lead to the restoration of a stable exchange on a gold basis, an Act was passed in 1908 providing for the issue of Four per Cent. bonds running for 50 years to the amount of £6,400,000, for the exclusive purpose of taking up the outstanding Treasury certificates in circulation and in the vaults of the Bank.

A measure for further increasing the authorised note circulation to 2,500 million pesetas was passed by the Cortes last year. The note circulation is now 2,065,000,000 pesetas, while the gold held at home and abroad is 866,866,000 pesetas, and the stock of silver is 732,912,000 pesetas. The rate of exchange has now fallen to 24.80, and the peseta is thus at a small premium after having stood at a discount for many years.

The great War which has been raging since the summer of last year has brought advantage to Spain, which has experienced a heavy demand for goods of all kinds and descriptions, more especially manufactured articles. At the same time the imports of goods into Spain have declined appreciably. In the first six months of the current year Spanish exports have been nearly £25,000,000, while imports have been only £20,572,000, the exports exceeding the imports by about £4,400,000. For the corresponding period of 1914 the exports were only £18,682,000 and the imports were £23,538,000, so that there was an excess of imports amounting to nearly £5,000,000. Thus the improvement in the trade balance for the six months compared with last year is over £9,000,000. This change accounts for the improvement in the value of the peseta and the large accumulation of gold in the vaults of the Bank of Spain. The improvement in the situation of the Bank of Spain will be evident from the following statements:—

	1915. Oct. 9. Pesetas.	1914. Aug. 1. Pesetas.	Inc. or Dec. Pesetas.
LIABILITIES.			
Capital	150,000,000	150,000,000	
Reserve funds	23,000,000	20,000,000	+ 3,000,000
Total	173,000,000	170,000,000	+ 3,000,000
Notes in circulation	2,065,565,000	1,938,944,000	+126,621,000
Government deposits	35,052,000	124,329,000	— 89,277,000
Other deposits, current accounts, &c.	686,820,000	524,648,000	+162,172,000
Miscellaneous	45,261,000	48,044,000	— 2,783,000
Profit balance	22,484,000	12,120,000	+ 10,364,000
Total	3,028,182,000	2,818,085,000	+210,097,000
ASSETS.			
Gold	760,374,000	545,108,000	+215,266,000
Silver	732,912,000	729,697,000	+ 3,215,000
Bronze	3,434,000	3,398,000	+ 36,000
Foreign Balances	106,492,000	175,015,000	— 68,523,000
Government and other investments	421,781,000	376,786,000	+ 44,995,000
Bills	379,931,000	344,503,000	+ 35,428,000
Advances to Treasury	250,000,000	250,000,000	—
Loans, advances, &c.	360,216,000	378,963,000	— 18,747,000
Bank premises, &c.	13,042,000	14,615,000	— 1,573,000
Total Assets	3,028,182,000	2,818,085,000	+210,097,000

The amounts of gold and silver held by the Bank in each year since 1902 will be seen by the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Banco de España at Dec. 31.

Year.	Gold. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Silver. Pesetas.	% of Total.	Total. Pesetas.
1915*	866,866,000†	54·2	732,912,000	45·8	1,599,778,000
1914...	720,331,495	50·4	708,856,910	49·6	1,429,188,405
1913...	674,127,821	48·5	716,291,082	55·5	1,390,418,903
1912...	640,871,591	46·5	737,274,510	53·5	1,378,146,101
1911...	560,738,990	42·6	753,824,993	57·4	1,314,563,983
1910...	553,521,474	41·9	767,635,364	58·1	1,321,156,838
1909...	534,694,328	41·0	769,865,438	59·0	1,304,559,766
1908...	472,341,798	36·8	810,635,956	63·2	1,282,977,754
1907...	453,327,985	41·4	642,017,817	58·6	1,095,345,802
1906...	470,941,693	43·8	604,691,405	56·2	1,075,633,098
1905...	453,022,195	44·2	570,914,188	55·8	1,023,936,383
1902...	392,850,000	44·2	496,310,000	55·8	889,160,000

* October 9, 1915. † Of this total 106,492,000 Pesetas are foreign balances.

The greater business transacted in 1914, coupled with the profit arising from exchange transactions, brought the Bank a net profit of 30,294,000 pesetas, against 27,900,000 pesetas in the previous year. This was equal to a dividend of 20 per cent., and this was the rate of distribution. The course of the profits of the Bank since 1904 is shown by the statement appended:—

Profits of the Banco de España.

Yr. to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Pesetas.	Expenses. Pesetas.	Taxes. Pesetas.	Net Profit. Pesetas.	Dividend. Pesetas.	Rate. %	Carried Forward. Pesetas.
1914 ...	62,690,969	23,759,262	8,637,650	30,294,057	30,000,000	20·0	4,549,984
1913 ...	56,745,874	20,939,725	7,912,388	27,893,761	28,500,000	19·0	4,255,926
1912 ...	55,264,115	17,672,880	7,839,994	29,751,241	28,500,000	19·0	4,862,165
1911 ...	57,996,598	21,266,510	8,208,778	28,521,310	28,500,000	19·0	3,610,924
1910 ...	57,889,636	20,882,650	8,272,925	28,734,061	28,500,000	19·0	3,589,614
1909 ...	57,709,689	21,232,666	8,185,788	28,291,235	28,500,000	19·0	3,355,553
1908 ...	58,327,839	19,076,599	8,648,189	30,603,051	29,250,000	19·5	3,564,318
1907 ...	55,748,193	17,369,170	7,929,801	30,449,222	30,750,000	20·5	2,211,267
1906 ...	54,094,490	13,571,092	8,279,595	32,243,803	31,500,000	21·0	2,512,045
1905 ...	53,578,405	12,717,858	8,382,082	32,478,465	31,500,000	21·0	1,768,242
1904 ...	57,167,240	15,237,549	8,869,209	33,060,482	32,400,000	21·6	789,778

From the statement of liabilities and assets presented herewith it will be seen that the business of the Bank expanded rapidly until 1900, and that after that year its deposits did not grow until 1914, when they rose from 922,000,000 pesetas to 1,105,000,000 pesetas. On the other hand, its note circulation since 1900 has continued to grow, and the expansion has been attended by a corresponding increase in the cash in hand. In 1900 the proportion of cash to notes in circulation was not much over 50 per cent., while now the proportion is over 78 per cent., and this increase in cash in proportion to the note circulation has been attended by a steady improvement in the exchange. During the war with the United States the gold premium rose to 86 per cent.; in 1906 it touched 6 per cent., and at the present time there is a discount of 1.6 per cent. instead of a premium.

BANCO DE LA NACION ARGENTINA.

Head Office: Buenos Ayres.

Capital—	Paper
Authorised	$128,000,000
Paid up	128,000,000

The Bank of the Argentine Nation is the official Government institution, the directors being nominated and all the liabilities guaranteed by the Government. It is in effect the successor of the old National Bank, which, in common with many other institutions, suffered very acutely from the severe political and financial crisis from which the country suffered in 1890. As a result of the general confusion a new Government was called into being under the Presidency of Signor Pellegrini. After careful consideration of the various problems that presented themselves, the Government came to the conclusion that it was desirable, rather than bolster up the tottering credit of the old National Bank, to establish a new institution, and, accordingly, there was founded in October 1891 the Banco de la Nacion Argentina, with a capital of $50,000,000, national currency, the shares of which were offered for public subscription. In order to obtain the confidence of the people for the new institution the Government promised a certain amount of administrative control and retained the right of appointing the President. Moreover, in the charter creating the Bank certain restrictions were imposed with the idea of guaranteeing both the shareholders and the public against abuses which had prevailed in the past. In such a critical time, however, public confidence was not easily established, and the result was that the new Bank was not regarded with popular favour, and the shares were not taken up. Fortunately, however, the new President was a man of considerable foresight and strength of character. Seeing that it was impossible to start the new Bank successfully on a shareholding basis, he decided to replace the system of public subscription by an issue

The Dime Savings Bank

DETROIT, MICH.



Capital - - - - $1,000,000
Surplus and Profits over - $950,000
Assets over - - - $24,000,000

COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS DEPARTMENTS

The Dime Savings Bank, with its able management and progressive policy, keeps apace with Detroit's remarkable business development.

OFFICERS:
WILLIAM LIVINGSTONE, President
GEORGE H. BARBOUR, Vice-President
CHAS. A. WARREN, Vice-President and Cashier
F. F. TILLOTSON, L. C. SHERWOOD } Asst. Cashiers { D. S. CARNEGIE, C. E. PARTRIDGE
GEO. T. BREEN, Auditor

Liabilities of The Banco de la Nacion Argentina.

Dec. 31	Capital. Paper.	Reserve Fund. Gold.	Conversion Fund. Gold.	Contingency Fund. Paper.	Total Capital and Reserve. Equivalent.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Caisse de Conversion. Equivalent.	Caisse de Conversion. % of Total.	Deposits. Paper.	Deposits. Gold.	Deposits. Equivalent.	Deposits. % of Total.	Conversion Account. Paper.	Conversion Account. Gold.	Conversion Account. Equivalent.	Conversion Account. % of Total.	Branches and Other Liabilities. Paper.	Branches and Other Liabilities. Gold.	Branches and Other Liabilities. Equivalent.	Branches and Other Liabilities. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Paper.	Total Liabilities. Gold.	Total Liabilities. Equiv.
	$	$	$	$	£	%	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£
1914...	128,000,000	14,565,407	30,000,000	—	20,016,196	**25·4**	—	—	583,313,148	9,723,293	52,8 3,388	**66·9**	45,451,545	5,107,863	5,041,245	**6·4**	11,439,576	15,838	1,007,074	**1·3**	768,267,269	59,712,401	78,918,651
1913...	128,000,000	14,565,407	30,000,000	3,500,000	20,322,501	**28·4**	—	—	517,543,792	10,489,373	47,263,621	**66·2**	31,244,933	—	2,727,732	**3·8**	12,884,062	24,908	1,129,741	**1·6**	693,172,787	55,079,688	71,443,595
1912...	125,000,000	13,245,407	30,000,000	3,500,000	19,798,691	**30·4**	—	—	465,466,521	5,658,510	41,758,686	**64·1**	—	11,981,694	2,377,915	**3·6**	13,814,197	24,149	1,210,793	**1·9**	607,780,718	60,912,760	65,146,086
1911...	120,999,950	11,485,385	30,000,000	2,700,000	19,030,429	**33·5**	—	—	406,513,148	3,015,794	36,093,567	**63·6**	—	3,960,098	785,734	**1·4**	9,688,970	68,163	859,387	**1·5**	539,902,068	48,559,440	56,769,117
1910...	117,179,009	9,804,171	30,000,000	7,216,769	18,757,602	**33·7**	—	—	339,582,158	16,158,994	32,852 211	**59·0**	1,000,000	—	87,302	**·2**	12,270,030	1,115,986	3,971,190	**7·1**	507,247,066	57,379,151	55,668,305
1909...	113,422,657	8,151,376	28,500,000	—	17,174,076	**34·2**	—	—	335,027,822	5,089,931	29,258,368	**60·3**	—	10,654,516	2,115,991	**4·2**	7,298,672	21,971	611,545	**1·3**	455,749,151	52,417,794	50,187,980
1908...	110,203,941	6,525,240	25,000,000	—	15,875,987	**38·8**	—	—	234,176,861	5,290,594	21,493,733	**52·4**	—	12,868,027	2,553,179	**6·2**	12,016,345	21,218	1,053,256	**2·6**	356,397,147	49,705,079	40,976,155
1907...	56,544,616	4,915,150	19,762,407	—	9,832,778	**32·5**	—	—	192,569,578	4,939,515	17,791,692	**58·7**	19,075,190	—	1,665,294	**5·5**	11,314,190	55,595	998,778	**3·3**	279,503,604	29,672,667	30,288,542
1906...	53,773,386	3,695,796	16,808,743	—	8,762,863	**35·9**	—	—	167,989,358	1,788,215	15,020,541	**60·7**	3,564,312	—	311,170	**1·2**	7,429,980	27,192	654,045	**2·2**	232,757,036	22,319,946	24,748,619
1905...	51,566,388	2,724,717	11,710,546	—	7,365,967	**30·4**	—	—	170,190,233	2,900,150	15,133,301	**63·7**	—	4,237,860	840,845	**3·4**	6,890,308	18,614	605,228	**2·5**	228,646,929	21,591,887	24,245,344
1900...	50,000,000	2,035,506	6,100,876	1,143,082	6,079,234	**31·8**	4,365,079	**22·9**	93,747,660	815,224	8,346,070	**43·6**	—	130,776	25,948	**·2**	3,193,711	5,199	279,847	**1·4**	198,084,453	9,087,581	19,091,178
1895...	50,000,000	—	—	971,023	4,449,851	**27·1**	4,365,079	**26·6**	72,272,826	683,366	6,445,121	**39·3**	6,434	—	562	—	13,032,347	21,200	1,141,951	**7·0**	186,282,630	704,566	16,402,564
1892...	50,000,000	—	—	560,977	4,414,053	**32·4**	2,095,238	**15·4**	48,719,117	298,858	4,312,549	**31·9**	—	6,077	1,206	—	31,203,340	69,636	2,737,918	**20·2**	154,483,434	374,550	13,560,964

Assets of The Banco de la Nacion Argentina.

Dec. 31	Cash. Paper.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Equivalent.	Cash. % of Total.	Government Securities. Paper.	Government Securities. Gold.	Government Securities. Equiv.	Government Securities. % of Total.	Conversion. Paper.	Conversion. Gold.	Conversion. Equiv.	Conversion. % of Total.	Advances, &c. Paper.	Advances, &c. Gold.	Advances, &c. Equiv.	Advances, &c. % of Total.	Bills Discounted. Paper.	Bills Discounted. Gold.	Bills Discounted. Equiv.	Bills Discounted. % of Total.	Bank Premises and Other Assets. Paper.	Bank Premises and Other Assets. Equiv.	Bank Premises and Other Assets. % of Total.	Total Assets. Paper.	Total Assets. Gold.	Total Assets. Equiv.
	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	$	£	%	$	£	%	$	$	£
1914 ...	194,147,852	28,641,226	22,632,199	**28·7**	1,283,792	1,937,650	496,531	**·6**	12,290,598	20,000,000	5,041,243	**6·4**	95,084,810	8,466,060	9,980,829	**12·6**	443,977,757	667,465	38,892,396	**49·3**	21,482,460	1,875,153	**2·4**	768,267,269	59,712,401	78,918,651
1913 ...	180,056,048	32,272,703	22,122,493	**30·9**	1,283,792	1,937,650	496,531	**·7**	—	13,747,771	2,727,732	**3·8**	76,988,984	5,624,686	7,837,271	**11·0**	416,539,109	1,496,878	36,661,525	**51·3**	18,301,855	1,598,043	**2·3**	693,172,787	55,079,688	71,443,595
1912 ...	130,860,992	37,802,050	18,924,779	**29·0**	1,283,792	1,937,650	496,531	**·8**	27,237,939	—	2,377,915	**3·7**	49,503,399	19,714,270	8,233,286	**12·6**	379,366,319	1,458,790	35,108,813	**51·3**	19,527,277	1,701,762	**2·6**	607,780,718	60,912,760	65,146,086
1911 ...	99,666,527	34,012,850	15,449,627	**27·2**	1,283,792	1,937,650	496,531	**·9**	9,000,223	—	785,734	**1·4**	51,515,321	11,700,902	6,818,977	**12·0**	358,951,510	908,038	31,517,206	**55·5**	19,481,665	1,701,042	**3·0**	539,902,068	48,559,440	56,769,117
1910 ...	99,182,591	36,591,916	15,919,099	**28·6**	1,283,792	1,937,650	496,531	**·9**	27,019,675	—	2,358,861	**4·2**	51,096,062	18,022,866	8,036,733	**14·4**	310,923,795	826,719	27,308,172	**49·1**	17,742,051	1,548,909	**2·8**	507,247,966	57,379,151	55,668,305
1909 ...	115,005,871	34,878,806	16,960,593	**33·8**	1,283,792	1,937,650	649,531	**1·0**	24,214,809	—	2,113,991	**4·2**	45,929,705	11,831,038	6,952,407	**13·8**	252,876,752	770,280	22,229,375	**44·3**	16,138,222	1,435,083	**2·9**	455,749,151	52,417,794	50,187,980
1908 ...	67,853,422	22,696,192	10,426,924	**25·5**	1,283,792	17,970,000	3,677,553	**8·0**	29,245,515	—	2,553,180	**6·2**	34,537,554	8,197,778	4,641,726	**11·3**	214,563,364	841,109	18,898,609	**46·1**	8,913,500	778,163	**1·9**	356,397,147	49,705,079	40,976,155
1907 ...	55,057,452	18,618,100	8,500,670	**28·1**	—	—	—	—	—	8,393,023	1,665,282	**5·5**	31,821,761	1,804,774	3,136,180	**10·3**	185,697,970	856,769	16,381,722	**54·1**	6,926,421	604,688	**2·0**	279,503,604	29,672,667	30,288,542
1906 ...	52,439,174	9,354,377	6,434,050	**25·9**	—	—	—	—	—	1,568,297	311,170	**1·3**	23,406,262	11,282,449	4,281,985	**17·3**	151,729,382	114,823	13,268,998	**53·6**	5,182,218	452,416	**1·9**	232,757,036	22,319,946	24,748,619
1905 ...	51,257,251	11,328,868	6,722,631	**27·7**	—	—	—	—	9,631,500	—	840,845	**3·5**	28,987,736	9,970,158	4,508,940	**18·6**	131,208,660	292,561	11,771,677	**48·5**	4,561,782	398,251	**1·7**	228,646,929	21,591,887	24,245,341
1900 ...	44,190,902	7,974,709	5,440,219	**28·5**	10,387,323	—	906,830	**4·7**	297,218	—	25,947	**·1**	52,163,158	1,100,028	4,772,186	**25·0**	82,950,113	12,844	7,242,479	**38·0**	8,115,739	708,517	**3·7**	198,084,453	9,087,581	19,091,178
1895 ...	43,958,769	696,091	3,975,783	**24·2**	16,043,351	—	1,400,610	**8·6**	—	1,955	388	—	60,577,330	6,519	5,289,791	**32·3**	51,499,744	--	4,757,914	**29·0**	11,203,136	978,078	**5·9**	186,282,630	704,566	16,402,564
1892 ...	20,888,887	367,709	1,896,591	**14·0**	—	—	—	—	17,773	—	1,552	—	77,311,014	6,841	6,750,731	**49·8**	32,448,534	—	2,832,808	**20·9**	23,817,226	2,079,282	**15·3**	154,483,433	374,550	13,560,964

of Government notes, and the Bank thus became a Government institution. Moreover, realising that the future of the institution must depend upon the establishment of public confidence, Dr. Pellegrini took especial pains to place the management of the Bank in the most capable hands. The Bank opened its doors on December 1, 1891, and Dr. Pellegrini, accompanied by the then Minister of Finance, was present at the inauguration, detailed the reasons actuating the formation of the new Bank, and expressed the great confidence with which he regarded the future. He pointed out that he recognised that the Bank was founded against the opinion of certain circles, but that, nevertheless, if the attention of the Council of Administration were given "to the interests of the whole Republic, to its industries and to its commerce, the day will come when your efforts will be rewarded by the importance that this establishment will have acquired." He stated that the Bank had not been created in the interests of any political party, proof of which was afforded by the composition of the first Council of Administration; adding, according to the French edition of the Bank's report, "l'intention qui a présidé à la nomination de chacun de vous n'est pas due à une situation politique que vous n'avez pas, mais à votre connaissance du milieu où votre action va se développer et des intérêts que vous êtes appelés à servir. Cette Banque est fondée dans le but unique de favoriser l'industrie et le commerce et vos aptitudes sont une garantie de succès, car vous en connaissez bien les exigences. Permettez-moi, messieurs, de recommander à votre attention espéciale une corporation qui n'a pas mérité jusqu'à ce jour la faveur des établissements de crédit et qui est, cependant, digne du plus haut intérêt."

The foresight of Dr. Pellegrini has been amply justified, and the Bank has built up a position of the greatest importance in Argentina. Its growth has been even more rapid than even the President anticipated, and it has justified the confidence of those who were responsible for its establishment. At the end of 1892, when the first balance sheet was issued, the deposits in sterling equivalent amounted to £4,312,549. Twenty years later, at December 31, 1912, the sterling equivalent was £41,758,686. Similar growth is witnessed in other respects. Of late years the Bank has adopted the policy of extending the business by means of opening up new branches in all those parts of the Republic where the want has been felt, in so far as the means at their disposal have permitted. The result is that at the end of 1914 the number of branches in operation in the whole Republic amounted to 153.

In his report to his Excellency the Minister of Finance of the Nation, the President of the Bank pointed out that the year 1914 would be signalled in the economic history of the Argentine Republic by reason of the great lessons which it has taught for the future. The crisis, which was due to the excesses into which the country had fallen in recent years, may be said to have culminated in 1914, commercial and individual disasters reaching extraordinary proportions; the losses caused by the fall in the value of real and personal estate are immense, and only the strong vitality of the country, whose source of production remained unimpaired, could have averted the catastrophe. When the War broke out the Government closed the banks for a period of eight days and took exceptional measures to cope with the situation. The first measure was the closing of the Caja de Conversión, a step which guaranteed the stability of the currency. Laws were also passed relating to the moratoria, mobilisation of the conversion fund, rediscount, the deposit of gold, and a moratorium for inter-

THE
UNION TRUST COMPANY
LIMITED (OF CANADA).

CAPITAL, $1,000,000. RESERVE, $950,000.

TORONTO: TEMPLE BUILDING.
WINNIPEG: UNION TRUST BUILDING, MAIN STREET.
LONDON: 75 Lombard Street, E.C.

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national operations. The Bank of the Nation was utilised for the whole movement, and its ability proved equal to the situation, so that the overgrowing confidence of the public in the Banq became accentuated. By reason of the contingency which had to be faced the balances on doubtful debtors and guaranteed accounts assumed large proportions, and accordingly the directors did not hesitate to devote to the purpose of writing down these accounts as far as possible the entire profits for the year after providing for expenses. They also applied to the same object the reserve fund of $3,500,000 paper, which was created in 1911 after an unusually good year. Altogether the Bank was able to write off 42 per cent. of the doubtful debts and 15 per cent. of the guaranteed accounts, especially those which are secured by real estate, whose value was insufficient on account of the drop in prices or which was so burdened by prior obligations as to diminish considerably the value of the security. Furthermore, the writing down of the doubtful debts has been carried out without affecting in the least the Bank's gold reserve fund, which remains intact.

Herewith we set out the profits of the Bank for each year since 1905:—

Profits of the Banco de la Nacion Argentina.

Year ended Dec. 31	Total Profit. Paper. $	Expenses.* Paper. $	Net Profit. Paper. $	To Capital Account. Paper. $	Reserve Fund. Paper. $
1914 ...	35,910,757	35,910,757	—	—	—
1913 ...	32,883,095	26,883,095	6,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
1912 ...	29,326,723	21,326,623	8,000,100	4,000,050	4,000,050
1911 ...	25,729,112	18,087,230	7,641,882	3,820,941	3,820,941
1910 ...	22,292,785	14,780,079	7,512,706	3,756,353	3,756,353
1909 ...	18,754,695	11,363,169	7,391,526	3,695,763	3,695,763
1908 ...	16,887,225	9,568,634	7,318,591	3,659,295	3,659,296
1907 ...	13,650,014	8,107,496	5,542,518	2,771,259	2,771,259
1906 ...	10,760,761	6,346,765	4,413,996	2,206,798	2,206,998
1905 ...	8,404,064	5,271,288	3,132,776	1,566,388	1,566,388

* Including sums written off. In 1914 these reached $18,799,000.

In the current year the situation in Argentina has very greatly improved in consequence of good crops and of the high prices they realised. The country has kept down its purchases of foreign goods, but, on the other hand, has very greatly increased its exports, and the trade balance in its favour shows a really remarkable change. With the maintenance of the great European demand for foodstuffs at high prices, and the continuance of economy in Argentina, it is probable that the country will not only be able to meet its interest payments on the great amount of foreign capital employed, but will be able to import a substantial amount of gold. In 1914 the stock of gold in the Caja de Conversion was reduced from 233,000,000 pesos to 222,000,000 pesos, and it has now been restored to 234,000,000 pesos.

BANCO DO BRASIL.

Head Office: Rio de Janeiro.

Capital—	Milreis
Authorised	70,000,000
Subscribed and Paid up, in Shares of 200 milreis, fully paid	45,000,000

Price of Shares, 184 milreis. *Dividend*, 9%. *Yield*, 4·89 %.

The first bank in Brazil was founded by Royal charter in 1809, under the title of Banco Publico, which was a little later changed to Banco do Brasil, with a capital equivalent at the then par of exchange to £400,000 of our current money. But this Bank was not successful, as its loans to the Government and its note issue became excessive. It was wound up in 1829 and subsequent years by the Government becoming responsible for its notes in circulation. In 1838 a private bank, known as the Banco Commercial, was started with a capital of five million reis. The capital, however, was not completely paid up until 1851. In this latter year a second bank, called the Banco do Brasil, was started with a capital of 10 million reis. Both the Banco Commercial and the new Banco do Brasil were authorised to issue promissory notes for small sums at short terms. This form of issue proved so popular that in 1853 the two banks, with local banks at Para, Pernambuco, Bahia, and Maharanao, were amalgamated under the title of the Banco do Brasil with a capital of 30 million reis. The new Bank commenced operations the following year under favourable circumstances, with exchange at par, and succeeded by 1856 in accumulating a considerable gold reserve in guarantee of its note issue. Unfortunately, the great crisis of 1857 in the United States seriously affected Brazil, where numerous failures took place. In addition to this, the new Banco do Brasil had to face competition from two other banks, the Banco Rural Hypothecario and the Banco Commercial and Agricola, and others in the provinces which had been authorised to issue notes on the security of Government stock. In consequence of this competition the Banco do Brasil found itself constrained to take over the affairs of its principal competitors. To carry out this amalgamation the capital of the new concern was raised to 33 million reis. But after a few years of comparative prosperity, the Paraguayan war and the crisis of 1864 brought it into difficulties, like its predecessors. The note issues had reached enormous proportions; exchange fell at one time to 14*d.* from the par of about 27*d.*, and it was only after the termination of the war in 1870 that the Bank was able to begin withdrawing paper money. Revival, however, was rapid, and by 1873 exchange had risen again to par. Unfortunately, the price of coffee fell seriously in 1877. A period of acute depression ensued, and exchange once more fell to 18*d.* in 1885. But in 1888 the current of prosperity turned again and exchange went over par, gold being imported in considerable amounts. An attempt was then made to return to specie payments, and for the purpose a new Bank, the Banco National do Brasil, was organised. Simultaneously, however, the Banco do Brasil availed itself of the right to issue notes, and increased its circulation from under 11½ million reis to nearly 52½ million reis, and its nominal capital to 100 million reis. Exchange naturally fell rapidly. The Bank then hastened to call in its notes, and in 1893 had succeeded in reducing them to somewhat under 9½ million reis. On the abolition of the Monarchy a new bank of issue was established, called the Banco dos Estados Unidos do Brasil, with a right to issue notes convertible when exchange should be established at par for twelve consecutive months. The capital was fixed at 200 million reis. Notes were issued in excessive amounts; exchange fell, and confidence was destroyed. In 1893 the Banco do Brasil and the Banco dos Estados Unidos do Brasil were amalgamated under the denomination of Banco da Republica, with a nominal capital of 156½ million reis. At the same time the Government assumed responsibility for the note issues of the new Bank and assisted it in various other ways. The position, however, proved too difficult for the Bank, and the management was taken over by the Government, which, to satisfy creditors, issued Three per Cent. Federal bonds to them. In 1905, the liquidation being practically completed, the Bank was reorganised under its present name of the Banco do Brasil, with a nominal capital of 70 million reis and a paid-up capital of 45,000,000 reis, of which one-half is owned by the Government. The shares are of 200 reis, fully paid.

In the last 10 years Brazil has made great progress and has secured a large amount of foreign capital for railway construction and other objects, which when it becomes fully productive will add largely to the country's wealth and income. Unfortunately, the series of political crises in Europe which began with Morocco has interfered with the completion of this programme of development, and the resulting stoppage of the flow of foreign capital

Liabilities of The Banco do Brasil at December 31.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Milreis.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Milreis.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Federal Treasury Exchange Account. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Federal Treasury Current Account. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Due to Agents and Other Accounts. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Milreis.
1914...	45,000,000	4,407,174	49,407,174	24·9	8,888,888	4·5	5,175,225	2·6	103,606,644	52·3	5,724,285	2·9	19,644,672	9·9	5,619,365	2·9	198,066,253
1913...	45,000,000	3,927,488	48,927,488	21·6	8,888,888	3·9	8,697,596	3·8	131,827,452	58·0	10,606,571	4·7	11,736,997	5·2	6,276,678	2·8	226,931,670
1912...	45,000,000	3,161,680	48,161,680	20·8	8,888,888	3·8	8,841,064	3·8	146,235,963	62·9	12,432,635	5·3	3,226,038	1·4	4,768,541	2·0	232,554,809
1911...	45,000,000	2,425,197	47,425,197	18·1	8,888,888	3·4	11,989,982	4·5	176,009,085	67·2	10,572,579	4·0	5,578,396	1·4	3,483,932	1·4	261,647,969
1910...	45,000,000	2,018,247	47,018,247	20·2	8,888,888	3·8	18,551,203	8·0	132,727,874	57·0	17,015,801	7·3	4,628,210	2·0	3,932,638	1·7	232,762,861
1909...	45,000,000	1,672,579	46,672,579	21·9	8,888,888	4·2	7,667,880	3·6	104,466,860	48·9	34,580,547	16·1	6,508,753	3·0	4,916,898	2·3	213,702,165
1908...	45,000,000	1,081,902	46,081,902	21·0	8,888,888	4·0	9,101,917	4·1	98,446,610	45·0	13,695,728	6·2	39,054,300	18·0	3,651,828	1·7	218,924,173
1907...	45,000,000	413,888	45,413,888	29·1	8,888,888	5·7	787,209	·5	79,986,624	51·2	4,834,394	3·1	14,150,803	9·1	2,031,963	1·3	156,093,769
1906...	45,000,000	91,446	45,091,446	45·1	8,888,888	8·9	16,019,192	16·0	20,195,087	20·2	3,458,657	3·5	5,253,196	5·2	1,141,396	1·1	100,027,862

Assets of The Banco do Brasil at December 31.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Due from Agents and Other Accounts. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Milreis.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Milreis.
1914 ...	28,022,593	14·1	21,929,380	11·1	35,588,616	18·0	4,141,472	2·1	36,919,855	18·6	70,034,337	35·4	1,430,000	·7	198,066,253
1913 ...	40,668,238	17·9	21,788,060	9·6	50,875,105	22·4	4,597,315	2·0	30,647,830	13·5	76,925,122	33·9	1,430,000	·7	226,931,670
1912 ...	35,536,758	15·3	20,935,579	9·0	51,230,296	22·0	3,223,214	1·4	26,062,846	11·2	94,138,116	40·5	1,430,000	·6	232,554,809
1911 ...	41,338,247	15·8	21,049,237	8·0	29,344,863	11·2	2,566,292	1·0	21,982,543	8·4	143,936,787	55·0	1,430,000	·6	261,647,969
1910 ...	53,654,438	23·1	19,839,088	8·5	34,189,369	14·7	2,476,307	1·1	17,238,109	7·4	103,935,550	44·6	1,430,000	·6	232,762,861
1909 ...	40,487,366	19·0	15,582,337	7·3	43,445,052	20·3	2,939,092	1·4	12,305,020	5·8	97,513,298	45·6	1,430,000	·6	213,702,165
1908 ...	44,677,223	20·4	12,711,900	5·8	53,915,258	24·6	1,486,757	·7	30,694,675	14·0	74,008,360	33·8	1,430,000	·7	218,924,173
1907 ...	31,886,076	20·4	11,340,722	7·3	35,103,972	22·5	1,634,927	1·0	24,833,208	15·9	49,864,864	32·0	1,430,000	·8	156,093,769
1906 ...	20,869,085	20·9	11,366,920	11·4	11,509,780	11·5	2,305,316	2·3	10,262,742	10·2	42,284,019	42·3	1,430,000	1·4	100,027,862

has seriously affected the finances of the country. Moreover, the heavy fall in the prices of coffee and of rubber has reduced the country's foreign income concurrently with the need for a greater income to meet interest payments upon the new capital supplied in recent years. This situation brought about a decline in the exchange from it new par of 16*d.* to 10*d.* A recovery was brought about by an arrangement to meet the coupons on the Government's debt by a Funding loan, and the reduction in the demand for exchange thus effected has been attended by a great contraction in imports. In the first seven months of 1915 the exports exceeded the imports by £10,651,000, against an excess last year of only £3,995,000, thus indicating the ability of Brazil to meet her foreign obligations now that the interest on the Government debt is funded and the exchange is maintained at over 12*d.* per milreis. The value of the imports for the first seven months of 1915 is only £16,640,000, against £26,797,000 last year in the same period and £41,084,000 two years ago.

In consequence of the expansion in trade the deposits of the new Bank grew from 20,000,000 reis in 1906 to no less than 176,000,000 reis in 1911, when the Morocco crisis occurred in Europe. After that they declined steadily until at the end of last

COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY

COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING PHILADELPHIA

CAPITAL, $1,000,000 **SURPLUS, $1,500,000**

THOMAS DEWITT CUYLER, President
JOHN H. MASON, Vice-President
C. P. LINEAWEAVER, Vice-President
H. W. STEHFEST, Treasurer
SAMUEL A. CROZER, Secretary
MARK WILLCOX, Assistant Treasurer
HENRY C. GIBSON, Assistant Secretary

DIRECTORS

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SAMUEL T. BODINE
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MORRIS L. CLOTHIER
JOHN H. MASON
JOHN CADWALADER
CLEMENT B. NEWBOLD
SEWARD PROSSER

INTEREST PAID ON DEPOSITS

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES ISSUED

ACTS AS EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, TRUSTEE AND GUARDIAN

December they were under 104,000,000 milreis. The note issue is controlled by the Government through the Caixa de Conversao, and the Bank has no power of issue. The statement we give herewith shows the amount of the Bank's funds and the manner they are employed.

Since its reorganisation the Bank has been fairly successful in earning profits, and in 1912 and 1913 paid dividends of 10 per cent. In 1914 the net profit fell from 6,756,000 milreis to 4,270,000 milreis, and the dividend was reduced from 10 to 9 per cent. The profits earned in recent years were as set out below:—

Profits of the Banco do Brasil.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Milreis.	Expenses. Milreis.	Net Profit. Milreis.	Dividend.* Amount. Milreis.	Dividend.* Rate %	Reserve, &c. Milreis.	Carried Forward. Milreis.
1914	6,285,254	2,014,650	4,270,604	4,050,000	9	479,685	3,231,991
1913	9,261,725	2,504,957	6,756,768	4,500,000	10	765,807	3,491,072
1912	8,849,500	2,421,073	6,428,427	4,500,000	10	736,482	2,000,111
1911	5,741,331	1,812,392	3,928,939	4,275,000	9½	406,950	808,166
1910	5,032,539	1,575,861	3,456,678	4,050,000	9	345,667	1,561,177
1909	7,364,223	1,457,454	5,906,769	4,050,000	9	590,676	2,598,997
1908	7,860,026	1,179,881	6,680,145	3,825,000	8½	668,014	1,424,357
1907	4,250,290	1,025,875	3,224,415	2,250,000	5	322,441	583,766
1906	1,362,541	448,081	914,460	787,500	1¾	91,446	15,826

* By reason of the Govt.'s holding of one half of the Bank's capital, 50% of the dividend goes to the Brazilian Treasury.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DEL RIO DE LA PLATA.

Head Office: Buenos Ayres.
London Office: 7 Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised $100,000,000 (£8,730,158)
Subscribed and Paid up ... $97,878,000 (£8,544,904)
Price of Share, £10 3/8. *Dividend*, 4%. *Yield*, £7 16*s.* 10*d.*

THIS Bank, which ranks as one of the most important of the joint-stock banks working in South America, was established in 1886, commencing operations in Buenos Ayres in January 1887. The original capital was $3,000,000 Argentine currency. By 1889 it was found necessary to increase the capital to $5,000,000, and later in the same year to $6,000,000. In 1904 it was decided to bring about a further large increase to $20,000,000. Since then the authorised capital has been raised to $100,000,000 (£8,730,158) and the paid-up capital to $97,878,000 (£8,544,904). The reserve fund has also been steadily increased, and at June 30 last amounted to £4,149,465. The very great growth in the business of the Bank may be seen from an examination of the deposits. In 1887 the deposits amounted to £575,000; by 1895 they had risen to £3,709,000; by 1903 they reached a total of over £7,000,000; and by 1906 they had increased to £11,600,000. Further rapid progress ensued, and in 1910 they reached £20,300,000.

By June 1914 they reached a total of £21,500,000. During the following twelve months the country and business generally were adversely affected, first of all by a severe economic crisis, and subsequently by the War, and it is not surprising, therefore, that at June 30 last the deposits had fallen back to £15,958,878. On the other side of the accounts, the cash in hand fell from £9,337,730 to £7,102,726. Bills discounted also fell from £13,324,800 to £10,019,931. The report for the year to June 30 last pointed out that twelve months ago signs were already appearing of a reaction from the acute economic crisis through which the country had been passing for some time previously, permitting the hope of a gradual improvement in the state of affairs; but the outbreak of war "has had an intense repercussion upon this country, aggravating afresh and with a greater intensity the difficulties of the situation, to such an extent that during the first moments of the conflict confidence wholly disappeared and commerce was paralysed in a manner quite without precedent. A natural consequence of this was, as is well known, a series of commercial and private failures, causing very considerable losses. Happily this state of affairs did not last long, thanks to the great productiveness of the country and the comparative rapidity with which international trade was re-established. The high prices and ready sale obtained for our meat, wool, hides, &c., the bountiful harvest of cereals, also sold with excellent results, caused a real and effective improvement in the situation, dispelling the uncertainty which prevailed and creating complete confidence in the economic future of the Republic, which rests on solid foundations. Our institution, so closely connected with the commercial activity and economic development of this country, has naturally, under the adverse conditions, suffered a set-back, but the general improvement in the situation is already being reflected in the gradual and constant increase of the number and volume of the operations of the Bank, an increase which has been particularly noticeable in the last months of the half-year just ended. This seems to us to be a good sign for the future."

We set out herewith a statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for various years from 1877.

The growth in profits is also of a most astonishing character. For the year to June 30, 1904, the net profits were £75,213; by 1909 they had risen to £536,691; by 1912 they had again practically doubled, reaching a total of £1,095,967. Further progress occurred during the following twelve months, and for the year to June 30, 1913, they amounted to £1,206,565.

Naturally, the results for the twelve months to June 1915 are much poorer than those for the previous year and the gross profits have receded to £1,031,461. Economies have been found possible in working expenses, and they have dropped from £698,108 to £661,764. The net profits thus amount to £369,697. From the foundation of the Bank up to 1914 the dividend never sunk below 10 per cent., while from 1907 to 1913 the rate was 12 per cent. per annum. For the twelve months to June 1914 the rate was reduced to 11 per cent., while the result of the fall in profits for the past twelve months has brought about a reduction in the rate to 4 per cent. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of Banco Español del Rio De La Plata.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profits.* £	Salaries and Other Expenses. £	Net Profits. £	Dividend— Amount. £	Dividend— Rate. %	Special Allocations. £
1915 ...	1,031,461	661,764	369,697	342,125	4	28,511
1914 ...	1,766,845	698,108	1,068,737	919,409	11	143,291
1913 ...	1,882,412	675,847	1,206,565	978,766	12	227,799
1912 ...	1,756,556	660,589	1,095,967	888,011	12	207,956
1911 ...	1,417,156	605,124	812,032	654,071	12	157,961
1910 ...	1,140,907	518,363	622,544	552,000	12	70,544
1909 ...	887,105	350,414	536,691	469,698	12	66,993
1908 ...	728,092	336,064	392,028	336,532	12	55,496
1907 ...	576,507	299,671	276,835	227,713	12	49,122
1906 ...	436,760	274,421	162,339	136,208	10	26,131
1905 ...	343,987	224,346	119,641	99,668	10	19,973
1904 ...	298,997	223,784	75,213	64,878	10	10,335

* Less rebate.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 4.3 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 2.9 per cent., and to the total working resources 1.1 per cent.

The Bank has as many as 15 branches in the city of Buenos Ayres itself, while there are 33 offices in the other towns of the Argentine Republic. There is also an office in Uruguay, at Montevideo, and three branches have been opened in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Santos respectively. But in addition to these 52 offices in South America the Bank is represented in Europe at such important centres as London, Paris, Madrid, Hamburg, and Genoa, and other European branches have been opened at Barcelona, Bilbao, Coruña, San Sebastian, Valencia, and Vigo. The Bank is thus able to facilitate all kinds of financial operations between the various Spanish-speaking countries. Originally started by financiers in Buenos Ayres, a considerable amount of French capital has also been introduced, and the Bank is thus of an international character.

Liabilities of The Banco Español del Rio de La Plata.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Paper. $	Reserve Fund. Paper. $	Total Capital & Reserve. Equivalent. £	% of Total.	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total.	Conversion Account. Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Paper. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £
1915 ...	97,878,000	47,530,242	12,694,369	39·5	137,629,572	19,875,738	15,958,878	49·7	16,573,223	3,288,338	10·2	2,236,378	195,239	·6	285,274,192	36,448,961	32,136 824
1914 ...	97,537,910	47,024,393	12,620,518	33·0	192,818,521	23,471,226	21,490,353	56·2	18,250,346	3,621,100	9·5	5,431,811	474,206	1·3	342,812,635	41,721,572	38,206,177
1913 ...	94,481,090	43,436,172	12,040,395	35·2	207,978,623	7,837,785	19,711,979	57·6	9,279,291	1,841,129	5·4	7,041,146	614,703	1·8	352,937,031	17,117,076	34,208,206
1912 ...	89,537,330	38,818,789	11,205,692	32·5	220,947,484	9,038,323	21,082,385	61·2	8,039,750	1,595,188	4·6	6,505,163	567,911	1·7	355,808,766	17,078,073	34,451,176
1911	79,978,330	31,713,703	9,750,890	28·7	222,892,048	10,271,295	21,496,784	63·4	11,126,326	2,207,604	6·5	5,504,313	480,535	1·4	340,088,394	21,397,621	33,935,813
1910 ...	48,493,160	12,272,587	5,301,947	20·0	208,367,716	10,674,804	20,308,848	76·4	3,240,503	642,957	2·4	3,680,433	321,308	1·2	272,813,896	13,915,307	26,578,060
1909 ...	45,515,250	10,604,196	4,899,316	21·7	161,467,715	7,024,862	15,490,209	68·4	9,851,574	1,954,677	8·6	3,342,798	291,831	1·3	220,929,959	16,876,436	22,636,033
1908 ...	36,148,830	7,480,999	3,808,950	22·0	122,815,738	5,290,170	11,771,646	67·8	7,807,048	1,549,017	8·9	2,542,245	221,942	1·3	168,987,812	13,097,218	17,351,555
1907 ...	25,185,990	4,095,186	2,556,293	16·3	118,329,879	5,473,830	11,116,465	72·7	7,816,830	1,550,958	9·9	2,052,269	179,166	1·1	149,663,324	13,290,660	15,702,882
1906 ...	16,991,480	2,438,226	1,696,244	11·4	119,892,075	6,146,883	11,686,389	78·2	7,381,735	1,464,630	9·8	1,054,317	92,043	·6	140,376,098	13,528,618	14,939,306
1905 ...	11,591,200	2,169,068	1,201,293	9·8	99,906,263	5,070,770	9,728,081	79·3	6,407,116	1,271,253	10·3	791,284	69,080	·6	114,457,815	11,477,886	12,269,707
1904 ...	6,000,000	1,502,600	654,989	10·3	51,642,910	4,580,179	5,417,274	85·2	1,246,782	247,377	3·9	443,260	38,697	·6	59,588,770	5,826,961	6,358,337
1900 ...	6,000,000	565,746	573,200	13·3	38,064,024	1,946,269	3,709,214	85·7	5,463	1,084	—	490,920	42,858	1·0	45,120,690	1,951,731	4,326,356
1895 ...	4,858,380	Gold 56,961	435,446	33·9	7,656,077	531,692	773,883	60·3	177,666	35,251	2·8	449,140	39,210	3·0	12,963,597	766,319	1,283,790
1890 ...	4,858,380	—	166,606	20·6	5,413,410	518,217	575,420	71·0	300,515	59,626	7·3	100,162	8,744	1·1	7,421,972	818,732	810,396
1887 ...	1,908,400																

Total Assets of The Banco Español del Rio de La Plata

June 30	Cash at Head Offices and Branches. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total. %	Conversion Account. Paper. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Paper. $	Gold. $	Equivalent in Sterling. £
1915	35,773,157	20,511,153	7,192,726	22·4	107,491,498	3,203,692	10,019,831	31·2	94,924,477	11,122,721	10,193,945	32·7	37,666,416	3,288,338	10·2	9,418,644	1,611,395	1,111,984	3·5	285,274,192	36,448,961	32,136,824
1914	74,448,356	14,304,880	9,337,730	24·4	137,750,980	6,546,564	13,324,800	34·9	79,851,674	19,259,953	10,792,598	28·3	41,478,059	3,621,100	9·5	9,283,566	1,610,175	1,129,949	2·9	342,812,635	41,721,572	38,206,177
1913	70,148,340	10,812,995	8,269,514	24·2	178,575,150	3,346,266	16,253,835	47·5	74,150,457	2,791,683	7,027,357	20·5	21,089,298	1,841,129	5·4	8,973,586	166,132	816,371	2·4	352,937,031	17,117,076	34,208,206
1912	67,450,469	9,071,841	7,732,191	22·5	189,636,884	3,881,103	17,325,661	50·3	71,875,660	3,958,997	7,060,374	20·5	18,272,158	1,595,188	4·6	8,073,155	166,132	737,762	2·1	355,808,766	17,078,073	34,451,176
1911	81,871,192	14,836,929	10,351,767	30·5	171,594,824	2,860,376	15,518,223	45·8	51,579,131	3,526,818	5,202,704	15·3	25,287,104	2,207,604	6·5	6,772,843	172,498	625,505	1·9	340,088,394	21,397,621	33,935,813
1910	69,708,889	8,020,943	7,677,153	28·9	150,486,752	2,876,582	13,708,483	51·6	40,242,430	2,788,971	4,066,595	15·3	7,364,781	642,957	2·4	5,011,011	228,811	482,872	1·8	272,813,896	13,915,307	26,578,060
1909	56,569,288	11,028,404	7,126,764	31·5	106,273,076	3,082,954	9,889,505	43·7	32,186,634*	2,550,332	3,315,961	14·7	22,389,942	1,954,677	8·6	3,511,019	214,746	349,126	1·5	220,929,959	16,876,436	22,636,033
1908	18,195,441	7,046,907	5,605,734	32·3	81,087,197	2,808,228	7,636,229	44·0	19,427,018*	3,020,724	2,295,358	13·2	17,743,291	1,549,017	9·0	2,534,865	221,359	265,217	1·5	168,987,812	13,097,218	17,351,555
1907	15,552,491	6,601,787	5,284,937	33·6	71,431,203	3,405,269	6,911,706	44·0	13,184,108	3,131,018	1,772,228	11·3	17,765,522	1,550,958	9·9	1,750,000	152,586	183,053	1·2	149,663,324	13,290,660	15,702,882
1906	32,574,559	6,562,405	4,145,877	27·8	80,008,809	3,267,753	7,633,260	51·1	9,141,959	3,545,871	1,501,576	10·0	16,776,671	1,464,630	9·8	1,875,000	152,586	193,965	1·3	140,376,098	13,528,618	14,939,306
1905	26,017,583	7,145,219	3,689,079	30·1	65,091,026	2,401,137	6,159,560	50·2	7,357,578	1,756,879	990,915	8·1	14,561,628	1,271,253	10·3	1,430,000	171,650	158,900	1·3	114,457,815	11,477,886	12,269,707
1904	16,912,168	3,955,926	2,261,365	35·6	36,252,897	986,612	3,360,691	52·8	2,350,142	884,423	380,653	6·0	2,833,563	247,574	3·9	1,240,000	—	108,254	1·7	59,588,770	5,826,961	6,358,337
1900	16,318,604	1,181,659	1,659,096	38·4	25,873,594	332,092	2,324,697	53·7	2,351,011	437,980	292,148	6·8	17,481	1,526	—	560,000	—	48,889	1·1	45,120,690	1,951,731	4,326,356
1895	3,227,645	20,539	323,353	25·2	7,944,516	250,383	743,248	57·9	846,338	306,397	134,681	10·5	414,164	38,776	3·0	500,934	—	43,732	3·4	12,963,597	766,319	1,283,790
1890	3,227,645	20,539	323,353	25·2	7,944,516	250,383	743,248	57·9	846,338	306,397	134,681	10·5	414,164	38,776	3·0	31,200	—	2,723	·3	7,421,972	818,732	810,396
1887	3,935,774	451,194	354,550	43·7	3,443,027	13,855	303,330	37·6	509,280	353,683	114,637	14·1	402,691	35,156	4·3	31,200	—	2,723	·3	7,421,972	818,732	810,396

* Including (1909) $1,008,000 (equivalent £88,000) National Agricultural Loan for the destruction of locusts).
„ (1908) 1,017,500 („ 88,829)

BANK OF DENMARK

(BANQUE NATIONALE DE COPENHAGUE DANEMARK).

Head Office: Copenhagen.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up, in Shares of Kr. 2,000, Kr. 1,000 and Kr. 200 Kroner 27,000,000

Price, 153%. *Dividend*, 8%. *Yield*, 5·25%.

As early as 1736 a charter was granted by the Government of Denmark to a Bank which acquired, among other privileges, that of issuing notes. The freedom of issue was abused, so that in 1745 it became necessary to grant a temporary dispensation from the obligation to redeem the notes on presentation. Very quickly a second dispensation had to be issued, so that from 1757 till 1845, a period of 88 years, the bank-notes remained irredeemable. In 1773 the Bank was taken over by the State, and the note issues were increased so largely that within the following 10 years the circulation rose to two and a-half times what it was in the beginning, and the notes were depreciated to the extent of 15 per cent. During 1807-14, when Denmark was involved in the great French wars, the Government had to rely largely on the issue of notes for meeting its expenses, and the circulation, which had been in 1773 only 6 million rigsdalers, rose at the end of 1812 to 142 million rigsdalers. The consequence was that in the latter year 1,760 bank dalers were equal to 100 dalers in specie. Matters having come to such a pitch the Bank was declared bankrupt, and at the beginning of 1813 a new State Bank, with the name of Rigsbank, was created. Previous to this, however, the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein were able to secure for themselves a special Bank in Altona, which issued redeemable notes and replaced the depreciated currency. As the new Rigsbank had no capital, and, therefore, no means of calling in the depreciated currency and replacing it by redeemable notes, a lien was imposed on all real estate, corresponding to 6 per cent. of the value of the property, and a rent-charge of 6½ per cent. per annum on the amount of the lien was exacted. It amounted to about 2½ million dalers, and was applied to the reduction of the circulation. The rural owners of property resisted the new charge, so that to a great extent it had to be collected only from the urban proprietors. This, of course, reduced the amount of the annual rent-charge. In 1818 a private Bank called the National Bank was created to take the place of the State-owned Rigsbank. Those who were subject to the rent-charge just mentioned were transformed into shareholders in the new Bank, being credited with shares to the amount of the lien in favour of the Bank. For a considerable time the new Bank was unable to pay dividends—indeed, not until 1845. After that time, however, the situation was so much improved that owners of property who had shirked the taking of shares in the Bank now came forward to demand them, and were permitted to enrol themselves as shareholders on condition that they paid up in cash such amounts as might be required to bring up the shares due to them to round hundreds of dalers.

In 1878 the capital of the Bank was fixed at 27 million kroner, which coin had recently been adopted as the unit of value. Gradually the circulation, which in 1818 amounted to 31 million dalers, was reduced by 1845 to 16½ million dalers, and then redemption of notes was recommenced and dividends were paid. On this occasion it was decided that the issue of notes must not exceed twice the cash in hand, in which was included not only silver actually in possession of the Bank, but sight drafts on Hamburg to the extent of not more than one-fourth of the total cash. The part not covered by cash was required to be covered by easily realisable securities to an amount exceeding by 50 per cent. the notes secured by them. In 1854 the maximum limit of notes was fixed at 24 million dalers. But in 1859 the maximum limit of issue was abandoned, and instead a maximum fiduciary issue was fixed at 13½ million dalers. Beyond this fiduciary issue the Bank might issue notes to any amount so long as they were fully covered by silver. In 1873 gold was adopted as the standard of value, and it was decreed that the Bank may issue notes to any amount provided it has in its possession cash equal to the excess of the issue over 27 million kroner and not less than three-eighths of the entire outstanding circulation. The part of the issue not covered by cash must be covered by good and safe assets in the pro-

Liabilities of The Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn (Banque Nationale de Copenhague).

July 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kroner.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kroner.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kroner.
1915...	27,000,000	8,197,950	35,197,950	12·5	204,325,210	74·3	3,559,145	1·3	26,823,095	9·8	2,278,383	·9	3,271,885	1·2	275,455,668
1914...	27,000,000	8,205,750	35,205,750	14·9	160,579,935	68·1	3,660,625	1·6	32,922,364	13·8	602,576	·2	3,222,931	1·4	235,894,181
1913...	27,000,000	9,704,676	36,704,676	17·7	153,175,985	73·7	3,748,015	1·8	10,717,433	5·2	79,692	—	3,318,352	1·6	207,744,153
1912...	27,000,000	9,431,537	36,431,537	18·4	145,132,250	73·2	3,842,226	1·9	9,938,970	5·0	269,960	·1	2,722,903	1·4	198,337,846
1911...	27,000,000	10,489,396	37,489,396	19·0	141,847,785	71·7	4,020,967	2·0	11,726,022	6·0	228,773	·1	2,389,101	1·2	197,702,044
1910...	27,000,000	10,168,296	37,168,296	19·9	130,231,525	69·7	4,053,144	2·1	12,924,387	6·9	150,651	·1	2,379,661	1·3	186,907,664
1905...	27,000,000	7,495,162	34,495,162	21·3	114,046,180	70·4	4,482,298	2·8	5,582,202	3·4	1,356,824	·8	2,106,803	1·3	162,069,469
1900...	27,000,000	6,575,766	33,575,766	24·0	92,024,645	66·0	4,804,074	3·4	5,750,705	4·1	1,318,544	1·0	2,039,989	1·5	139,513,723
1895...	27,000,000	6,261,866	33,261,866	26·4	78,467,460	62·3	173,900	·1	10,661,545	8·5	1,479,450	1·2	1,831,420	1·5	125,875,641
1890...	27,000,000	5,314,353	32,314,353	28·1	68,537,020	59·6	719,348	·6	9,118,976	7·9	2,128,264	1·8	2,153,012	1·9	114,970,993
1880...	27,000,000	4,015,811	31,015,811	27·7	59,716,510	53·3	804,548	·7	16,299,257	14·6	2,048,276	1·8	2,098,067	1·9	111,982,469
1870...	26,845,048	2,454,204	29,299,252	32·9	44,390,880	49·8	1,057,448	1·2	8,785,794	9·8	3,442,976	3·8	2,204,176	2·5	89,180,526
1860...	26,923,196	1,523,300	28,446,496	32·0	43,051,209	48·5	5,746,668	6·5	2,085,212	2·4	7,515,494	8·5	1,875,974	2·1	88,721,053
1850...	26,923,924	1,579,944	28,503,868	34·7	39,815,283	48·5	1,670,848	2·0	4,615,430	5·6	5,551,849	6·8	1,960,894	2·4	82,118,172
1840...	-	—	10,934,931	19·3	32,535,089	57·4	2,986,986	5·3	—	—	9,298,198	16·4	905,170	1·6	56,660,374

Assets of The Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn (Banque Nationale de Copenhague)

July 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Loans and Advances. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Correspondents and Branches. Amt. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kroner.
1915 ...	112,442,218	40·8	28,675,635	10·4	19,931,529	7·2	15,275,514	5·6	66,137,108	24·0	31,323,139	11·4	1,670,527	·6	275,455,668
1914 ...	86,487,866	36·7	11,588,620	4·9	46,859,463	19·9	35,876,909	15·2	50,514,931	21·4	3,184,881	1·3	1,411,511	·6	235,894,181
1913 ...	81,410,924	39·2	10,172,649	4·9	25,699,002	12·4	37,098,174	17·8	48,814,060	23·5	3,291,930	1·6	1,257,414	·6	207,744,153
1912 ...	74,871,346	37·8	10,684,971	5·4	22,266,956	11·2	43,194,941	21·8	45,013,524	22·7	1,036,343	·5	1,269,765	·6	198,337,846
1911 ...	77,698,701	39·3	8,329,986	4·2	18,749,770	9·5	44,336,104	22·4	46,496,026	23·5	1,371,457	·7	720,000	·4	197,702,044
1910 ...	75,095,114	40·1	7,629,237	4·1	16,573,069	8·9	50,673,054	27·1	34,795,329	18·6	1,421,870	·8	720,000	·4	186,907,664
1905 ...	72,145,364	44·6	12,188,170	7·5	19,937,802	12·3	15,811,150	9·8	40,573,300	25·0	693,683	·4	720,000	·4	162,069,469
1900 ...	61,294,171	43·9	11,692,443	8·4	18,744,583	13·4	19,486,334	14·0	26,873,463	19·3	702,729	·5	720,000	·5	139,513,723
1895 ...	51,868,983	41·2	16,300,530	13·0	14,753,446	11·7	12,231,460	9·7	29,321,684	23·3	679,538	·5	720,000	·6	125,875,641
1890 ...	44,208,399	38·5	16,359,910	14·2	11,846,182	10·3	15,686,952	13·6	25,615,120	22·3	534,430	·5	720,000	·6	114,970,993
1880 ...	36,511,646	32·6	14,792,736	13·2	8,535,961	7·6	23,403,738	20·9	27,711,073	24·8	307,315	·3	720,000	·6	111,982,469
1870 ...	19,637,552	22·0	5,454,940	6·1	16,902,432	19·0	27,664,028	31·1	13,633,794	15·3	5,019,670	5·6	868,110	·9	89,180,526
1860 ...	20,736,923	23·4	2,427,864	2·8	14,910,634	16·8	27,286,640	30·7	12,427,950	14·0	10,835,483	12·2	95,559	·1	88,721,053
1850 ...	18,715,513	22·8	716,134	·9	12,828,886	16·4	26,256,210	32·0	9,183,054	11·2	14,322,816	16·6	95,559	·1	82,118,172
1840 ...	4,498,145	7·9	107,318	·2	9,045,464	15·9	10,889,632	19·2	4,584,940	8·1	27,439,316	48·5	95,559	·2	56,660,374

portion of 150 kroner to each 100 kroner of notes. The assets may be bills of exchange, either inland or foreign, balances repayable on demand by foreign correspondents, stock exchange securities taken at the price of the day, notes on borrowers secured by collateral, and mortgages on real estate, the last named, however, not to exceed 6 million kroner. Cash is stated to consist of legal current coin at its face value; foreign gold coin or bullion; and, to a limited amount, silver bars and silver foreign coin. The Bank is required to redeem its notes in gold at their face value on presentation at its head office, and to purchase all gold bars offered. In 1877 the fiduciary issue was increased to 30 million kroner, and in 1897 to 33 million kroner. Since 1886 the balances held by the Bank of Norway and the Swedish Riksbank to the credit of the National Bank may be reckoned as part of the cash. The National Bank is only required to present a monthly account to the Minister of Justice, acting as Bank Commissioner, showing that the conditions of the law are duly fulfilled. If they are not, however, a month's grace is granted to the Bank to comply with the law. In 1907 the Bank charter was renewed for 20 years, and it was required that half the circulation must be covered by cash, the remainder by good and sound assets. Under exceptional circumstances an Order in Council may be granted permitting the limit to be exceeded on paying the Treasury 5 per cent. per annum on the excess. The management of the Bank is conducted by five managing directors, of whom two are appointed by the Government and three elected by the board of directors, which consists of 15 representatives of the shareholders.

From the statement herewith of liabilities and assets of the Bank at various periods since 1840 it will be seen that the expansion in its note circulation has been continuous.

Denmark has also gained great advantage from the War, as it has been able to sell its produce at high and profitable prices both to Germany and to England. The prosperity of the country has brought about a great expansion in the note circulation, has enabled the Bank to make a substantial addition to its cash holding, to add to its investments, and to leave a large sum of money with its correspondents. The prosperity is shown not merely by the very large amount of notes in circulation, but by the considerable sums of money that have been repaid to the Bank of Denmark, the bills held being only two-thirds of the normal amount, while loans and advances have been reduced by nearly 50 per cent. The comparison of the position of the Bank at the end of September this year and at the end of July last year will give some indication of the advantages accruing to the country:—

LIABILITIES.	1915, Sept. 30. Kroner.	1914, July 31. Kroner.	Inc. or Dec. Kroner.
Capital	27,000,000	27,000,000	--
Reserve funds	8,198,000	8,206,000	— 8,000
Total	35,198,000	35,206,000	— 8,000
Notes in circulation	220,468,000	156,473,000	+63,995,000
Deposits	3,832,000	3,660,000	+ 172,000
Current accounts	25,290,000	20,385,000	+ 4,905,000
Miscellaneous	683,000	512,000	+ 171,000
Profit balance	3,272,000	3,223,000	+ 49,000
Total	288,743,000	219,459,000	+69,284,000
ASSETS.			
Cash in hand	111,767,000	79,943,000	+31,824,000
Investments	37,848,000	11,723,000	+26,125,000
Bills	43,207,000	66,910,000	−23,703,000
Loans and advances	22,797,000	41,154,000	−18,357,000
Correspondents	61,675,000	14,139,000	+47,536,000
Miscellaneous	9,371,000	3,818,000	+ 5,553,000
Bank premises	2,078,000	1,772,000	+ 306,000
Total	288,743,000	219,459,000	+69,284,000

UNITED KINGDOM
TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,
196 Strand, London.

Founded 1840.

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DIRECTORS.

RIGHT HON. SIR THOMAS P. WHITTAKER, M.P. (*Chairman and Managing Director*).

SIR THOMAS BARLOW, BART., K.C.V.O., M.D.
SIR WM. HOWELL DAVIES, M.P.
HENRY HOLLOWAY, ESQ., J.P.
SIR E. STAFFORD HOWARD, K.C.B., D.L.
R. MURRAY HYSLOP, ESQ., J.P.
SIR J. HERBERT ROBERTS, BART., M.P.
RIGHT HON. LORD ROWALLAN.
RIGHT HON. SIR T. VEZEY STRONG, K.C.V.O. (Alderman of the City of London).
SIR C. ERNEST TRITTON, BART.

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The amount of gold and silver held at the end of July last was 112,000,000 kroner, against 80,000,000 kroner twelve months previously. The expansion in the cash reserves of the Bank is shown by the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn.

July 31	Scandinavian Coin (Gold and Silver). Kroner.	% of Total.	Gold Bullion and Foreign Coin. Kroner.	% of Total.	Total. Kroner.†
1915	43,369,858	38·6	69,072,360	61·4	112,442,218
1914	25,419,343	31·7	54,853,690	68·3	80,273,033
1913	28,317,408	35·6	51,273,790	64·4	79,591,198
1912	24,497,040	30·5	55,815,538	69·5	80,312,578
1911	23,911,496	32·8	49,022,837	67·2	72,934,333
1910	27,234,925	37·1	46,079,174	62·9	73,314,099
1905	30,098,752	38·4	48,250,005	61·6	78,348,757
1900	25,871,865	46·5	29,705,012	53·5	55,576,877
1895	23,032,644	41·5	32,436,653	58·5	55,469,297
1890	26,028,843	56·6	19,933,515	43·4	45,962,358
1880	29,597,210	68·7	13,437,302	31·3	43,034,512
1870	21,426,669‡	—	—	—	21,426,669
1860	23,705,122‡	—	—	—	23,705,122
1850	19,445,020‡	—	—	—	19,445,020
1840	4,799,412‡	—	—	—	4,799,412

† There are 18 kroner to the £1. 1 krone equals 1*s.* 1½*d.* ‡ Silver.

For the year to July last the net profit was 3,272,000 kroner, and the Bank was able to pay a dividend of 8 per cent., in comparison with 7 per cent. in the previous year. The statement of profits since 1904 is appended:—

Profits of the Nationalbanken i Kjøbenhavn.

Year to July 31	Gross Profit. Kr.	Expenses. Kr.	Net Profit. Kr.	Proportion Due to the State. Kr.	Dividend. Amount. Kr.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve Fund, &c. Kr.
1915 ...	6,073,867	2,801,982	3,271,885	943,947	2,160,000	8	41,843
1914 ...	5,452,364	2,229,432	3,222,932	963,233	1,890,000	7	369,699
1913 ...	5,075,789	1,757,437	3,318,352	987,088	2,160,000	8	171,264
1912 ...	4,537,604	1,814,701	2,722,903	838,226	1,890,000	7	—
1911 ...	4,148,157	1,759,056	2,389,101	754,775	1,890,000	7	—
1910 ...	4,025,029	1,645,368	2,379,661	752,415	1,755,000	6½	—
1909 ...	4,445,957	1,684,709	2,761,248	847,812	1,890,000	7	23,436
1908 ...	5,926,194	1,971,183	3,955,011	369,929	2,160,000	8	1,425,082
1907 ...	3,706,185	1,060,032	2,646,153	—	2,160,000	8	486,153
1906 ...	3,055,569	796,858	2,258,711	—	1,890,000	7	368,711
1905 ...	2,891,132	784,329	2,106,803	—	1,890,000	7	216,803
1904 ...	3,012,568	805,629	2,206,939	—	1,890,000	7	316,939

BANK OF JAPAN.

(NIPPON GINKO).

Head Office: Tokio, Japan.

Capital—

		Yen
Subscribed,	200,000 Shares of 200 yen	60,000,000
Paid up	150,000 Shares, fully paid	30,000,000
	150,000 Shares, 50 yen	7,500,000

Price per Share:—
200 yen fully paid, 525 — *Div.*, 12 %. *Yield* £4 10*s.* 7*d.*%
50 yen paid, 256 — *Div.*, 12 %. *Yield* £2 6*s.* 10*d.*%

When Japan decided to adopt Western civilisation it speedily came to see that it was necessary to introduce banking practice. It made several experiments which were not very successful. And having thus felt its way, it undertook the study of the banking systems of the leading countries in the world: England, France, Austria, America, and so on. It came to the conclusion that the banks of England and of France had been so long established and had so ancient a history that their systems would not apply to Japan. The Imperial Bank of Germany was a new institution, but even it seemed unsuitable for Japanese purposes. The Bank of Belgium, however, recommended itself. It was new; there had been several mistakes before it was adopted, and, as the Belgian Government had been able not only to profit by its own mistakes, but to take advantage of the long experience of so many European countries, Japan decided that the Bank of Belgium was the best model to follow. It, however, adopted some of the characteristics of other European banks, and in regard to note-issuing and reserves, it followed, to a certain extent, the Reichsbank. The object of the Bank of Japan was to withdraw inconvertible notes from circulation, to unify the paper currency, and to facilitate the handling and disposition of money belonging to the Treasury and the National banks, and to adjust the monetary conditions prevailing at home and abroad and regulate the rate of interest. It was established by Imperial Ordinance in 1882. The Yokohama Specie Bank had been established two years previously. The latter was organised on the joint-stock principle, and its special object was foreign exchange and issuing of drafts on commercial commodities, inland exchange and issuing of drafts on commercial commodities, advancing loans, deposits of money and custody of articles of value, discount and collection of bills of exchange, promissory notes and other securities, and exchange and coin. It has a capital of 30,000,000 Yen, or £3,000,000. It will be seen that it issues no notes. The Bank of Japan, on the other hand, is forbidden to make loans on the security of real estate or shares of banks or corporations; on the security of shares of the Bank of Japan, or to purchase the same; to become a shareholder in industrial corporations, or to engage, either directly or indirectly, in industrial enterprises of any kind; or to become the owner of real estate, except so far as is necessary for establishing the head office and branches of the Bank.

When the Bank was first established the Government was a large shareholder, but its shares were afterwards transferred to the Imperial Household Department. The Bank of Japan is responsible for the custody of the Government's cash and negotiable instruments. It is entrusted with the management of the Treasury receipts and disbursements, the investment of the Treasury funds, and the management of national bonds. So far the Bank is almost a part of the Department of Finance, and performs valuable services in facilitating the work of that Department. In return, it is obliged to transact that business without remuneration. The Government appoints the Governor and the Deputy-Governor. The directors are, likewise, appointed by the Government from among candidates elected by the shareholders. The Government also appoints official inspectors from among the officials of the Department of Finance, who have a voice in the directors' meetings and even in the meetings of the shareholders, though they have no vote in either. The Bank is required to keep gold or silver coins, or bullion of those metals, as a conversion reserve, equal in amount to the convertible Bank notes issued. The amount of silver coin and silver bullion in no case is to exceed one-fourth of the whole. But the Bank of Japan, outside the provisions of the paragraph just cited, may issue further convertible Bank notes, on the security of Government bonds or Treasury bills or other bonds and commercial bills of a reliable nature, up to 12 millions sterling. With the special permission of the Minister of Finance the Bank of Japan may make a still further increase of notes, in order to meet special emergencies, on the security of Government bonds or Treasury bills, or other bonds or commercial bills of a reliable nature, the notes being subject to a special tax of not less than 5 per cent. per annum, the rate of interest to be fixed in each case by the Minister of Finance. The Bank must supply by way of loan not more than £2,200,000 to the Government without interest. The notes issued by the Bank of Japan on the security of Government or other bonds are subject to a tax of 1¼ per cent. per annum, less the amounts lent to the Government or others without interest, or at interest not exceeding 1 per cent. In making advances on current accounts or loans for a fixed period the Bank of Japan must obtain the sanction of the Minister of Finance as to the amount of such advances and loans, and the rates of interest to be charged. The Government superintends all the business of the Bank and restricts and forbids the action of banks, not conforming to the Bank Acts or Articles of Association, or contrary to the interests of the Government.

The subscribed capital of the Bank is now Yen 60,000,000, or £6,000,000, and the paid-up capital

Liabilities of The Bank of Japan.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Yen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Yen.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	National Bank-notes Account. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Suspense Account. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Yen.
1914...	37,500,000	29,205,000	66,705,000	11·4	385,589,096	65·8	—	—	117,869,814	20·1	10,630,840	1·8	4,994,738	·9	585,849,488
1913...	37,500,000	28,280,000	65,780,000	10·1	426,388,707	65·5	—	—	123,281,694	18·9	30,839,577	4·7	5,037,646	·8	651,327,624
1912...	37,500,000	27,660,000	65,160,000	10·0	448,921,707	68·8	—	—	98,203,328	15·1	35,048,221	5·4	4,636,804	·7	651,970,060
1911...	37,500,000	27,040,000	64,540,000	9·5	433,399,116	64·1	—	—	134,023,230	19·8	40,230,570	6·9	4,252,575	·8	676,514,491
1910...	37,500,000	26,560,000	64,060,000	8·1	401,624,928	51·0	—	—	281,228,670	35·7	36,969,355	4·7	3,663,293	·5	787,546,246
1909...	30,000,000	25,500,000	55,500,000	9·0	352,763,201	57·4	—	—	187,882,012	30·6	8,322,827	1·3	10,610,543	1·7	615,078,583
1908...	30,000,000	23,500,000	53,500,000	8·3	352,734,271	55·3	—	—	220,618,369	34·7	6,946,466	1·0	4,440,808	·7	638,239,914
1907...	30,000,000	21,500,000	51,500,000	5·6	369,984,111	40·1	—	—	471,299,658	51·0	26,389,644	2·9	4,271,823	·4	923,445,236
1906...	30,000,000	20,100,000	50,100,000	6·2	341,766,164	42·5	—	—	401,612,950	49·9	8,428,077	1·0	3,666,990	·4	805,574,181
1905...	30,000,000	18,800,000	48,800,000	6·0	312,790,819	38·4	—	—	449,282,420	55·2	68,274	—	3,263,930	·4	814,205,443
1900...	30,000,000	14,850,000	44,850,000	14·4	228,570,032	73·3	—	—	35,493,817	11·3	—	—	3,165,619	1·0	312,079,468
1895...	22,500,000	8,542,500	31,042,500	14·2	180,336,815	82·6	—	—	2,058,172	·9	3,286,628	1·5	1,611,650	·8	218,329,765
1890...	10,100,000	5,240,000	15,240,000	10·7	102,931,766	72·4	15,026,563	10·6	7,237,424	5·0	—	—	1,854,646	1·3	142,290,399
1883...	4,000,000	3,800	4,003,800	20·8	—	—	8,640,309	44·9	6,434,387	33·4	17,703	·1	149,278	·8	19,245,477

Assets of The Bank of Japan.

Dec. 31	Gold Coin. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Gold Bullion. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Government Bonds. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Accounts with Other Banks. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Suspense Account. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Yen.
1914...	97,847,081	16·7	121,717,292	20·8	55,876,694	9·4	37,071,866	6·4	105,443,653	18·0	163,722,664	28·0	1,594,287	·3	2,575,951	·4	585,849,488
1913...	102,388,450	15·8	122,680,066	18·8	55,529,540	8·5	72,599,114	11·2	105,879,049	16·3	188,436,567	28·9	692,907	·1	2,621,931	·4	651,327,624
1912...	107,193,952	16·5	141,343,830	21·7	51,228,332	7·9	118,956,379	18·2	99,893,789	15·3	130,507,363	20·0	269,144	—	2,577,271	·4	651,970,060
1911...	100,305,641	14·8	133,117,579	19·7	58,989,520	8·7	106,273,464	15·7	107,285,648	15·9	163,315,346	24·1	4,718,347	·7	2,508,946	·4	676,514,491
1910...	95,076,967	12·1	130,564,171	16·6	55,663,942	7·1	81,415,943	10·3	88,549,195	11·2	330,769,433	42·0	3,186,719	·4	2,319,876	·3	787,546,246
1909...	75,570,808	12·3	146,054,354	23·8	43,656,793	7·1	23,862,233	3·8	68,079,667	11·1	252,632,809	41·1	3,092,536	·5	2,129,383	·3	615,078,583
1908...	50,434,782	7·9	120,727,430	18·9	75,314,742	11·8	58,730,362	9·2	69,586,895	11·0	257,061,068	40·3	3,472,892	·5	2,911,743	·4	638,239,914
1907...	33,152,511	3·1	139,740,564	15·1	79,995,091	8·7	87,722,892	9·5	90,805,327	9·8	482,125,618	52·2	6,588,556	·7	3,314,677	·9	923,445,236
1906...	23,138,265	2·9	126,353,843	15·7	83,388,913	10·3	82,144,587	10·2	84,471,748	10·5	399,390,448	49·6	3,522,410	·4	3,163,967	·4	805,574,181
1905...	30,756,971	3·8	89,128,789	11·0	50,934,912	6·3	109,184,177	13·4	138,871,525	17·0	392,072,591	48·1	241,133	—	3,015,345	·4	814,205,443
1900...	36,473,491	11·7	32,507,380	10·4	51,371,639	16·5	97,558,216	31·3	84,915,051	27·2	6,995,836	2·2	—	—	2,257,855	·7	312,079,468
1895...	19,462,422	8·9	41,619,980	19·1	27,300,993	12·5	34,690,723	15·9	92,827,418	42·5	1,396,757	·6	—	—	1,031,472	·5	218,329,765
1890*	36,006,485	25·3	26,395,335	18·6	17,959,112	12·6	21,562,321	15·1	37,823,831	26·6	2,266,669	1·6	175,089	·1	100,957	·1	142,290,399
1883*	10,536,263	54·8	—	—	1,883,213	9·8	555,500	2·9	1,852,200	9·6	4,362,109	22·7	10,768	—	45,424	·2	19,245,477

* Including National Bank-notes Account, 1883, Yen 8,271,403; 1890, Yen 14,561,695.

is Yen 37,500,000, or £3,750,000. The paid-up capital of the Bank has been successively increased since 1883, when it was only Yen 4,000,000. The Bank's business has grown with great rapidity. During the period in which the finances of Japan were affected by the war with Russia the deposits attained a total of Yen 471,000,000. But this was, of course, an exceptional situation, and just prior to the present European war they had fallen back to Yen 153,000,000.

In 1914 a series of misfortunes visited Japan, both the home and foreign trade showing severe contraction,

LADD & TILTON BANK

PORTLAND, OREGON, U.S.A.

ESTABLISHED 1859

Report made to the Superintendent of Banks for the State of Oregon, September 2, 1915.

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock Fully Paid		$1,000,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits		1,358,206.44
Reserve for Interest and Taxes		24,000.00
Letters of Credit		71,444.36
Demand Deposits	$7,055,428.44	
Time and Savings Deposits	6,476,122.07	
		13,531,550.51
TOTAL		$15,985,201.31

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	$7,862,015.80
Bonds and Stocks	3,299,298.19
Customers' Liability on Letters of Credit	66,454.14
Real Estate	70,000.00
Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	4,687,433.18
TOTAL	$15,985,201.31

OFFICERS

W. M. LADD, President
EDWARD COOKINGHAM, Vice Pres.
W. H. DUNCKLEY, Cashier
ROBERT S. HOWARD, Asst. Cashier
J. W. LADD, Asst. Cashier
WALTER M. COOK, Asst. Cashier

Accounts of Banks, Firms, Corporations and Individuals solicited.

Collections sent this Bank will have immediate attention.

LADD & TILTON BANK will be pleased to receive any inquiries concerning Portland and the State of Oregon, and will see that such inquiries reach responsible authorities.

while there was much anxiety as to the future. The course of the War, however, has brought certain compensations to Japan which have already brought about a substantial recovery in trade, and seem likely to cause still greater expansion. This was the demand for war munitions with which Japan has been able to supply Russia. The consequent maintenance, indeed we believe expansion, in exports was attended by a great contraction in imports, and the trade balance became much more favourable to Japan. For the eight months to August the exports of Japan were £42,641,000, against £41,142,000 last year and £39,296,000 in 1913. On the other hand, the imports for the eight months were only £37,000,000, against £46,708,000 last year and £51,352,000 two years ago. Thus there was an excess of exports for the first eight months of this year of over £5,600,000, against an excess of imports last year of £5,566,000 and of over £12,000,000 two years ago. The effect of the increasing exports of Japan is being shown by the situation of the Bank of Japan. Last year the deposits of the Bank showed contraction, but this year there is expansion, and the great increase in the accounts of the Bank of Japan with other banks seems to indicate that the foreign balances of the Bank are exceptionally large. Before the War the accounts with other banks were 185,000,000 Yen, and they are now 298,000,000 Yen. If these increased balances are due to the payment made in London to Japan by Russia for munitions it would account in some degree for the demand for Japanese Government bonds that has recently been in evidence in the London market, and for the announcement that the Japanese Government intends to redeem the Japanese Treasury bills now held in England. The effect of the War upon the Bank of Japan will be evident from the following statement:—

LIABILITIES.	1915. Sept. 4. Yen.	1914. Aug. 1. Yen.	Inc. or Dec. Yen.
Capital	37,500,000	37,500,000	—
Reserve funds and profit balance	32,917,000	34,606,000	—
Total	70,417,000	72,106,000	— 1,689,000
Notes in circulation	313,104,000	327,226,000	—14,122,000
Deposits and current accounts...	242,179,000	153,393,000	+88,786,000
Total Liabilities ...	625,700,000	552,725,000	+72,975,000
ASSETS.			
Gold	209,786,000	218,677,000	— 8,891,000
Government bonds	48,622,000	49,601,000	— 979,000
Bills discounted...	6,030,000	18,292,000	—12,262,000
Advances	60,309,000	78,719,000	—18,410,000
Accounts with other banks ...	298,365,000	184,834,000	+113,531,000
Bank premises	2,588,000	2,602,000	14,000
Total Assets	625,700,000	552,725,000	+72,975,000

Last year the net profit was 5,742,000 Yen, equal to 15 per cent. upon the capital and to 8.6 per cent. upon the capital and reserve employed. The dividend paid for a number of years past has been 12 per cent., and after the distribution of this substantial dividend considerable sums have been placed to reserve. The profits of the Bank since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Bank of Japan.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Yen.	Expenses, &c. Yen.	Net Profit. Yen.	—Dividend.— Amount. Yen.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Yen.	Carried Forward. Yen.
1914...	12,817,436	7,075,345	5,742,091	4,500,000	12	1,020,000	2,414,737
1913...	18,888,445	13,004,411	5,884,034	4,500,000	12	725,000	2,554,646
1912...	20,423,794	14,556,532	5,867,262	4,500,000	12	981,000	1,895,612
1911...	15,155,233	9,233,176	5,922,057	4,500,000	12	976,000	1,509,350
1910...	22,110,400	16,198,649	5,911,751	4,293,000	12	766,000	1,063,293
1909...	23,886,532	11,677,797	12,208,735	11,100,000a	37a	2,319,000	210,543
1908...	20,835,951	14,630,967	6,204,984	3,600,000	12	2,439,000	1,420,808
1907...	21,221,968	15,222,135	5,999,833	3,600,000	12	2,169,000	1,254,823
1906...	25,710,623	20,021,383	5,689,240	3,600,000	12	1,688,000	1,023,990
1905...	20,003,706	14,582,771	5,420,935	3,600,000	12	1,661,000	622,750
1904...	12,656,087	7,909,703	4,746,384	3,600,000	12	1,094,000	462,814

(a) Including special dividend of Yen 7,500,000.

BANKERS' TRUST COMPANY.

Office: 16 Wall Street, New York, U.S.A.

Capital—
Authorised, Subscribed, and Paid up, 100,000
Shares of $100 each $10,000,000
Price of Shares, $440. *Dividend,* 20%. *Yield,* 4·6%

The Bankers' Trust Company began business March 30, 1903, with a capital of $1,000,000, and a surplus of $500,000. The bankers who founded it desired to form a trust company which could handle the fiduciary business which the National Banks with which they were connected were prevented from dealing with. It was decided at the outset that the new Company should not do a commercial banking business, and this policy has been adhered to. About the the time of its organisation a speculative element was very active in the New York banking field, and it was deemed advisable to place the stock of the Bankers' Trust Company in a voting trust to avoid the risk of its control falling into the hands of speculators. This voting trust contiuued until 1913, when it was dissolved.

On October 1, 1909, the capital was increased to $3,000,000, and the surplus to $4,500,000. On August 7, 1911, the capital was increased to $5,000,000 and the surplus to $10,000,000. Shortly after the Mercantile Trust Company of New York was absorbed. On March 18, 1912, the capital was further increased to $10,000,000, the surplus remaining at $10,000,000, and shortly after the Manhattan Trust Company was acquired.

The Company does a large business as agent and trustee for corporations, and also acts in various fiduciary capacities for individuals. Its foreign department is responsible for the traveller's cheques of the American Bankers' Association (A.B.A. Cheques), for the issuance and protection of which the Company is the accredited agent.

The Bankers' Trust Company became a member of the New York City Bankers' Clearing House in 1911, and its cash reserves conform to the regulations of that body. From the statement herewith it will be seen that at the end of last June with deposits of $189,000,000 it had cash in hand and in the banks of $37,000,000, a proportion of nearly 20 per cent. Including exchanges for the clearing house, the proportion of cash to deposits was over 26 per cent. Beyond this the Company held securities amounting to nearly $45,000,000. A Trust company in the United States is merely a bank under another name. It has all the privileges of a bank other than that of issuing notes, and beyond this is permitted to act as trustee. The wide powers of the trust companies have caused bankers to demand similar powers, and now that the new Federal Reserve Banks have been created and are responsible for the issue of notes the constitutional difference between the National Banks and the Trust companies will ultimately disappear. The statement herewith reveals the rapidity with which the business of the Company has grown. In the short space of 12 years to June last its deposits have expanded from nothing to $189,000,000. According to the latest figures, the deposits had been further raised to $214,000,000 in September. The growth of the net profits has been as remarkable as the expansion in business. They have risen to $2,708,000, equal to a dividend of 27 per cent. upon the capital stock and to 13½ per cent. on the capital and surplus. The regular dividends are now at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. Beyond the regular dividends shareholders in 1909 received a special cash dividend of 50 per cent. on old stock. The profits

Liabilities of The Bankers' Trust Company.

June 30	Capital. Amount. $	Surplus. Amount. $	Undivided Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount. $	Total Capital and Surplus. % of Total. %	Outstanding Treasurer's Checks. Amount. $	Outstanding Treasurer's Checks. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. $	Deposits. % of Total. %	Amt. $	% of Total. %	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses. Amount. $	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915...	10,000,000	10,000,000	2,943,255	22,943,255	10·0	10,038,493	4·4	189,432,961	82·4	[illegible]	3·1	257,150	·1	229,744,973
1914...	10,000,000	10,000,000	3,565,504	23,565,504	12·8	5,427,253	3·0	154,836,235	84·1	—	—	270,037	·1	184,099,029
1913...	10,000,000	[illegible]	5,194,910	25,194,910	15·1	4,403,384	2·7	137,086,673	82·1	—	—	268,829	·1	166,953,796
1912...	10,000,000	[illegible]	4,747,386	24,747,386	12·2	1,636,386	·8	176,034,120	86·9	—	—	223,070	·1	202,640,962
1911...	3,000,000	[illegible]	2,372,454	9,872,454	8·0	12,725,465	10·4	99,908,397	81·6	[illegible]	[illegible]	79,305	—	122,585,621
1910...	3,000,000	4,500,000	1,769,643	[illegible]	11·0	6,949,749	8·2	68,410,344	80·8	[illegible]	[illegible]	54,599	—	84,684,335
1909...	1,000,000	500,000	916,126	2,416,126	4·8	4,017,734	8·0	43,902,796	87·2	[illegible]	[illegible]	28,672	—	50,365,328
1908...	1,000,000	500,000	643,958	[illegible]	6·5	2,852,852	8·6	28,096,816	84·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	25,000	—	33,118,626
1907...	1,000,000	500,000	881,915	[illegible]	8·0	2,198,322	7·5	25,063,028	84·5	[illegible]	[illegible]	24,400	—	29,667,665
1906...	1,000,000	500,000	643,564	2,143,564	8·1	1,449,151	5·5	22,904,676	86·4	[illegible]	[illegible]	18,500	—	26,515,891
1905...	1,000,000	500,000	260,858	1,760,858	6·0	1,916,877	6·5	25,777,270	87·5	[illegible]	—	15,984	—	29,470,989
1904...	[illegible]	[illegible]	126,219	[illegible]	9·6	-	-	15,299,835	90·4	-	—	14,167	-	16,940,221

Assets of The Bankers' Trust Company.

June 30	Cash on hand and in Banks. Amount. $	Cash on hand and in Banks. % of Total. %	Stocks and Bonds (Investment) —House.— Amount. $	Stocks and Bonds (Investment) —House.— Total. %	Stocks and Bonds (Investment) —Trust Funds.— Amount. $	Stocks and Bonds (Investment) —Trust Funds.— % of Total. %	Loans and Bills —Purchased.— Amount. $	Loans and Bills —Purchased.— % of Total. %	Accrued Interest on Investments. Amount. $	Accrued Interest on Investments. Total. %	Real Estate —Estate— Amt. $	Real Estate —Estate— Total. %	Real Estate Amount. $	Real Estate Total. %	Total Assets. $
1915...	37,150,740	16·1	12,883,718	5·6	44,793,751	19·5	120,676,757	52·6	2,780,259	1·2	[illegible]	3·1	4,386,634	1·9	229,744,973
1914...	38,047,343	20·7	5,547,250	3·0	37,032,404	20·1	98,072,176	53·3	1,015,914	·5	-	-	4,383,942	2·4	184,099,029
1913...	36,011,132	21·6	10,943,766	6·0	[illegible]	22·8	76,895,905	46·6	776,670	·4	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,343,725	2·6	166,953,796
1912...	38,460,035	19·0	2,528,836	1·2	44,451,472	22·0	112,005,540	55·2	968,069	·5	-	—	4,227,010	2·1	202,640,962
1911...	22,057,487	18·0	14,121,770	11·6	21,880,783	17·9	61,371,199	50·0	[illegible]	·5	—	—	2,532,236	2·0	122,585,621
1910...	19,520,763	23·0	—	—	17,076,464	20·2	47,307,132	55·9	414,906	·5	- -	- -	365,070	·4	84,684,335
1909...	12,182,270	24·2	Became	-	12,612,167	25·0	25,434,627	50·5	136,264	·3	[illegible]	—	- -	—	50,365,328
1908...	7,661,951	23·1	Member	—	[illegible]	25·5	16,825,115	50·8	202,530	·6	—	—	[illegible]	—	33,118,626
1907...	4,433,657	15·0	of New York	—	[illegible]	28·8	16,399,848	55·3	265,563	·9	—	—	Erection of	—	29,667,665
1906...	4,533,674	17·1	Clearing	—	6,917,417	26·1	14,819,294	55·9	245,506	·9	- -	—	New Office	—	26,515,891
1905...	5,166,890	17·5	House, 1911	—	7,997,584	27·2	16,173,557	54·9	132,958	·4	-	-	Building	—	29,470,989
1904...	2,303,491	13·6	-	-	[illegible]	30·5	9,400,478	55·5	73,548	·4	-		1910	—	16,940,221

earned and the dividends distributed since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Bankers' Trust Company.

Year ended Dec. 31	Net Profit. $	Dividend. Amount. $	Dividend. Rate %	Surplus for Year. $
1914	2,707,726	2,000,000	20	707,726
1913	2,621,627	2,000,000	20	621,627
1912	2,340,539	1,860,000	21a	480,539
1911	1,417,496	1,140,000	26b	277,496
1910	911,740	480,000	16	431,740
1909	417,218	240,000	16	177,218
1908	297,329	160,000	16	137,329
1907	348,748	160,000	16	188,748
1906	393,508	130,000	13	263,508
1905	230,565	70,000	7	160,565
1904	176,534	30,000	3	146,534

(a) 6 per cent. on $5,000,000 and 15 per cent. on $10,000,000.
(b) 8 per cent. on $3,000,000 and 18 per cent. on $5,000,000.
(c) In addition a special cash dividend of 50 per cent. was paid on old stock.

BANQUE DE FRANCE.

Head Office: Paris, France.

Capital—

Authorised, Subscribed, and Paid up, 182,500 Shares of 1,000 frs. each ... ... Frs. 182,500,000

Price of Shares, 4,275 frs. *Dividend* for 1914, 19% net. *Yield,* £4 10s. 11d.%.

When the great Napoleon found himself at the head of the French nation as First Consul he set about reorganising the country politically, economically, and socially. Among other things, he decided to establish a great issuing bank which should serve the interests of the State and also of trade. Previously, banking had not made much progress in France. The disasters that attended Law's plan had brought the very name of banking into discredit. Nevertheless, there were several institutions which did banking business, although they did not take the discredited name. Two of these in particular the First Consul decided should be amalgamated and should be constituted the national bank. One of them very readily fell in with his views. It entered into voluntary liquidation, accepted a charter from the Government with the name of the Banque de France, and set up with a nominal capital of 30 million francs, or £1,200,000. The capital was got together very slowly. Indeed, in the first instance the Government had to lend largely to the Bank from the sinking-fund surplus. The loans were repaid, and gradually the Bank began to do a large and profitable business. But a few years passed before the second of the banks referred to came into the amalgamation and fully constituted the Bank of France. Then the capital was raised to 45 million francs, or £1,800,000. In its early days the Bank of France somewhat imitated the action of the Bank of England when it also was in swaddling clothes. It lent to the Government to a much larger extent than it accommodated the trading public. Still, it did give accommodation to merchants and bankers. The Bank, like the Bank

THE BANK OF CHOSEN.
CAPITAL (paid up) - - Yen 10,000,000.
Governor - - - - - - - - - Dr. M. ICHIHARA.
DIRECTORS:
R. MIZUKOSHI, Esq., T. MISHIMA, Esq., Y. KIMURA, Esq.
Head Office - - - - - - - SEOUL, CHOSEN.
BRANCHES:
CHOSEN—Chemulpo, Pyongyang, Wonsan, Taiku, Fusan, Chinnampo, Kunsan, Mokpo, Ranam, Masan, Shinwiju, Hoilyong.
MANCHURIA—Antung, Mukden, Dairen, Changchun. JAPAN—Tokyo, Osaka.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. | YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LTD.
BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD.
Every description of General Banking and Exchange Business transacted.

of England, at its start was given a very free hand. It was given a charter at first for only 15 years. But before that period expired the charter was renewed for another 25 years. That again was renewed, and so on. Moreover, the Bank of France, like the original Bank of England, was not tied by rules regulating either the issues of notes or the keeping of reserves. The Bank of France has always had greater freedom in these respects than most of the other State banks, and, consequently, it has weathered storms which probably would have proved fatal to most of the other great institutions of the world. The Bank was founded in 1800, 106 years after the Bank of England, and, broadly speaking, upon very much the same model. From that time until Waterloo France never was at peace. The Bank was started in the midst of almost universal war, and universal war continued throughout its infancy. Furthermore, in 1812 Napoleon rushed into the mad invasion of Russia, and at last had to abdicate. It was a time when the greatest nerve, the greatest skill, and the greatest experience were required to tide a bank over its difficulties. It is an extraordinary proof of the capacity of the men who controlled the Bank of France that they succeeded in getting over so long-continued and so terrible a crisis without failure.

In the beginning the Bank of France was intended to be governed by representatives of its own shareholders. The money was found by them, and, as in the case of the Bank of England, it seemed only reasonable that they should guide it. Accordingly, they were allowed to elect the first Governor and Deputy-Governors, to elect also Regents, or, as we call them, Directors, and *Censeurs*, or supervisors. Very soon, however, when Napoleon became Emperor and saw almost all Europe excepting England and Russia quivering before him, he resolved that the real management should be invested in a nominee of the Government. Accordingly, he appointed during pleasure both the Governor and the two Deputy-Governors. That organisation has lasted till to-day. The Bank was not required to keep gold. In fact, France was then, as she nominally is now, a bimetallic country, and the Bank accordingly would have been fully justified if it kept only silver. But the Bank was too wisely governed to commit so great a mistake. It has always held a very considerable reserve in both metals. Lastly, the Bank was allowed very great discretion in regard to the issue of notes. The Government had always, indeed, fixed a maximum beyond which the issue must not go. But, likewise, it has always raised the maximum whenever a strong public demand arose. Therefore, there has been the appearance of a strict regulation and the reality of a very wide discretion. Again and again the limit has been raised until at the present time the Bank is authorised to issue 272 millions sterling. It is unnecessary to consider closely the history of the Bank during the Restoration and the July Monarchy.

It would, however, be doing injustice to the management of the Bank of France not to note that the crisis which attended the deposition of Charles the Tenth and that which ushered in the downfall of Louis Philippe were tided over so ably that the prestige of the Bank rose inestimably. In 1810, five years before the fall of the great Napoleon, the capital of the Bank of France was £3,600,000; its total note issue was £4,139,159; and its loans and discounts amounted to £6,697,089. In 1850, two years after the fall of the last of the Bourbons, the capital had risen to no more than £3,690,000, while the note issue had increased to £19,847,009; on the other hand, the loans and discounts were somewhat less at £6,468,491. In 40 years, therefore, there was a rise of only £90,000, or 2½ per cent. in the capital; of as much as £15,707,850, or 383.0 per cent. in the note issues; but there was a diminution of £228,598, or 3.4 per cent., in the loans and discounts. When Louis Napoleon was elected President of the Republic confidence revived. The bad features of the great Napoleon's career had been forgotten. Only the splendour of his victories was fully remembered. And, naturally, France was delighted that in spite of the coalition which had forbidden her a Napoleon she was able to place the nephew of her hero at her head. The *coup d'état* followed; and the second Napoleon crowned himself as Napoleon the Third. France then entered upon a great development. The country was covered with a network of railways; canals were constructed; banks sprang up in all directions. Manufactures flourished, and visibly the wealth of the nation grew larger and larger. It was a result, partly, of the new confidence the country felt in itself in making a Buonaparte Emperor and so defying the whole of Europe; partly it was owing to the country's increasing recovery from the effects of the Revolution and the revolutionary wars; partly it was a natural consequence of the construction of railways and of a wiser fiscal policy; and partly it was due to the gold discoveries in California and Australia. The crises that were occasioned by the war undertaken for the liberation of Italy by Napoleon the Third, by the great American Civil War, by the wild expedition to Mexico, and by the wars of 1864 and 1866, which raised Prussia to a pinnacle of glory little anticipated, were skilfully weathered by the Bank. At the end of 1869, just half a year before the disastrous war began which overthrew the Second Empire, the capital of the Bank of France was £7,300,000; its total note issue was £55,942,312; and its loans and discounts were £31,624,652; showing an increase in the first item compared with 1850 of £3,610,000, or 97.6 per cent.; in the second item of £36,095,303, or 182.3 per cent.; and in the third item of £25,156,161, or 388.9 per cent. Compared with 1810 the increase in the first item was £3,700,000, or 102.8 per cent.; the increase in the second item was £51,803,153, or 1,263.5 per cent.; and the increase in the third item was £24,927,563, or 372.2 per cent.

Napoleon rushed madly into war with Prussia totally unprepared and utterly ignorant of the full preparedness of his foe. The consequence was inevitable The French armies were overthrown wherever they met the enemy. The principal army was shut up in Metz, and when its provisions failed had to surrender. A second army made up of very inferior units was fitted out to relieve Metz; had to fall back upon Sedan; and there the Emperor and his whole force were made prisoners. As a matter of course, the Empire fell without a blow being struck in its defence, and the Republic was declared. The management of the Bank of France in this dread period of national disaster and universal upheaval once more gave evidence of high judgment and experienced skill. Even when the Prussians were encamped on the hills overlooking Paris; when the capital itself was in the hands of the rebellious Commune; and when the Commune was being besieged by a national army, the notes of the Bank of France were readily received everywhere almost at their full face value. For a short moment there was, indeed, a depreciation of 15 per cent. But it rapidly passed off, and after a while the depreciation averaged only from ½ to 1 per cent.; while it is said that the small notes of £2 and £1 sterling never depreciated at all. It may here be mentioned that the Bank originally was not authorised to issue notes of lesser denomination than 200 francs, or £8 of our money; but that so cautious were its earlier governors that it contented itself with issuing as the note of lowest denomination 250 francs, or £10 of English money. Gradually, however, as the Bank grew in strength, increased its stock of gold and silver, and rendered great benefits to every branch of trade, it unbent. But for a long time the lowest note it issued was of the value of 100 francs, or £4 sterling. During the Second Empire, however, notes

of 50 francs, or £2, and 25 francs, or £1, were issued. From the first the Bank was a Government Bank and a bankers' bank. It always, however, rendered service to trade. But in its earlier times it looked mainly to the Government for its profits, and it rediscounted for bankers to regulate the rate of discount. As experience was gained, as its prestige rose, and as the general public came to appreciate the great services it was capable of rendering, it widened its sphere of activity. For a while it even raised capital or advanced capital to railway companies so as to hasten the equipment of France with a proper network of railways. It did not, however, permanently continue in that branch of business. But it gave greater attention to trade. It, however, did so more by discounting than by lending. France, as every reader knows, is a country of peasant proprietors, who are exceedingly hardworking, skilful, and thrifty —who are, indeed, the very backbone of the greatness of France. And every French Government since the Revolution has recognised that because of their great numbers, their conservative instincts, their industry, and their thrift, it is of the very utmost importance that their interests should be looked after. That is one of the reasons why the Bank of France has been so careful to keep its rate of discount low. It, indeed, recognises that a low rate of discount seldom changed is advantageous to every community, however it may be composed. But clearly, for the small man with little capital and dependent upon banking for assistance to an exceptional extent in his business, it is of even greater importance that the rate should be low, than it is to the wealthy capitalist. Therefore, the Bank of France maintained a low rate of discount whenever possible. Only twice in its history has it raised its rate as high as 10 per cent. And curiously enough, it was not home political revolutions that compelled it to do so, but rather difficulties that had their origin in the United States. For a very long time the Bank of France has not put its rate above 6 per cent., and very rarely has it raised it higher than 5 per cent.

If it be asked how it is that the Bank of France has been able to win so completely, as the experience of 1870 proved it had, the confidence of the whole community; to weather storms of the greatest severity, and upon the whole to keep its rate of discount lower than other great central institutions, the answer is not difficult to find. In the first place, as already said, the Bank of France is practically free to issue notes as it pleases. At the present time its actual issue is about 40 millions sterling under its possible circulation. And no doubt is entertained anywhere that if there was need the limit would be raised as it has been so often. To put the matter a little differently, the Bank is freer than other great institutions like it; and, therefore, is able to meet crises and panics with a cool head and a steady nerve. In the second place, the Bank has been fortunate in its governors. The govenor is appointed during good behaviour. He is appointed by the Government, and he can be removed by the Government. But the Government wisely very seldom does remove a governor. As a broad general rule it gives its confidence to the man it has selected, and he proves by his conduct that the confidence is well bestowed. In the third place, the Bank being well-managed and being public-spirited is careful to keep a very large gold reserve. As has been said already, it can pay either in silver or in gold. And when money becomes scarce and dear it very often does refuse to give anything but silver or its own notes to persons who are engaged in the home trade. But to persons who are engaged in the foreign trade, if they really need gold they always obtain it. The Bank is not compelled to cancel notes when it loses gold, and consequently, it can allow

THE
LONDON, SINGAPORE & JAVA BANK
LIMITED,
4 & 5 Suffolk Place, Pall Mall, S.W.

Authorised Capital - £300,000.

Directors:
G. St. L. Mowbray (*Chairman*). R. Eden Richardson. H. R. Savory. C. S. Gilman.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1915.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Authorised Capital—		
30,000 Shares of £10 each	300,000 0 0	
To Issued Capital—		
4,130 "A" Shares fully paid	41,300 0 0	
2,000 "B" ditto £5 paid	10,000 0 0	
		51,300 0 0
Amount due on Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		91,733 15 3
Bills held on behalf of Customers		39,510 11 8
Reserve Account		5,000 0 0
Profit and Loss -		
Balance brought forward... £806 3 9		
Profit for the half-year ... 2,866 18 5		
		3,673 2 2
		£191,217 9 1

	£ s. d.
By Cash at Bankers and in hand in London and the East	24,768 18 11
Investments	42,407 6 11
Bills discounted, Advances to Customers, and other sums due to the Bank ...	78,150 16 7
Furniture and Fittings	579 15 0
Leasehold Premises	5,800 0 0
Bills held on behalf of Customers per contra	39,510 11 8
	£191,217 9 1

The Bank transacts the usual business of Exchange and General Bankers. Current and Deposit Accounts opened for Customers.

Special attention given to the interests of Rubber and other Plantations and Mercantile affairs in the Dutch and British East Indies.

The Agency of Foreign and Colonial Banks undertaken.

September 1915.

STANLEY NISBETT, Secretary.

Liabilities of The Bank of France.

Dec. 31	Capital. Amount. Fr.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Fr.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Government Deposits. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Other Deposits. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Balance of Different Accounts. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Fr.
1914*	182,500,000	42,963,892	225,463,892	1·7	10,042,899,720	74·9	450,466,780	3·3	2,650,596,234	19·7	49,749,936	·4	—	—	13,419,176,592
1913	182,500,000	42,519,340	225,019,340	3·2	5,713,551,290	81·8	403,358,906	5·8	604,592,347	8·6	41,434,107	·6	—	—	6,987,955,990
1912	182,500,000	42,519,340	225,019,340	3·3	5,584,337,635	82·1	237,107,759	3·5	731,726,574	10·7	22,649,126	·4	—	—	6,800,840,434
1911†	182,500,000	42,519,340	225,019,340	3·5	5,268,847,065	82·3	291,314,155	4·5	596,730,303	9·4	18,886,440	·3	—	—	6,400,797,303
1910	182,500,000	42,519,340	225,019,340	3·6	5,183,558,880	83·6	167,551,528	2·7	607,509,896	9·8	19,540,781	·3	—	—	6,203,180,425
1905†	182,500,000	42,515,508	225,015,508	3·9	4,515,057,595	77·8	396,151,957	6·8	652,648,245	11·3	14,620,056	·2	—	—	5,803,493,361
1900	182,500,000	42,515,508	225,015,508	4·4	4,146,462,305	80·6	271,340,864	5·3	484,858,899	9·4	16,952,949	·3	—	—	5,144,630,525
1895	182,500,000	42,515,508	225,015,508	4·9	3,484,934,925	75·8	235,749,548	5·1	640,193,614	13·9	13,147,630	·3	—	—	4,599,041,225
1890	182,500,000	43,015,508	225,515,508	5·7	3,051,751,440	77·0	188,005,191	4·7	482,865,028	12·2	16,707,001	·4	—	—	3,964,844,168
1880	182,500,000	44,186,647	226,686,647	7·0	2,408,761,060	73·5	160,227,056	4·9	465,052,851	14·2	15,931,412	·4	—	—	3,276,659,026
1869	182,500,000	33,150,526	215,650,528	9·3	1,398,557,800	60·7	210,725,935	9·1	468,791,077	20·4	10,991,393	·5	—	—	2,304,716,733
1860	182,500,000	27,616,278	210,116,278	16·1	748,670,725	57·3	122,736,205	9·4	204,825,518	15·7	13,778,591	1·0	6,263,693	·5	1,306,391,010
1850	92,250,000	16,980,750	109,230,750	13·5	496,175,225	61·5	79,080,164	9·8	117,750,397	14·6	5,018,046	·6	—	—	807,254,582
1840	67,900,000	14,010,984	81,910,984	16·2	238,683,750	47·1	118,322,878	23·4	62,242,111	12·3	5,029,960	1·0	—	—	506,189,683
1830	67,900,000	18,412,430	86,312,430	22·8	213,869,500	56·3	3,085,932	·8	71,918,245	19·0	4,364,773	1·1	—	—	379,550,880
1820	67,900,000	7,749,322	75,649,322	22·6	166,777,500	50·0	—	—	65,443,620	19·6	3,390,580	1·0	23,016,317	6·8	334,277,339
1810	90,000,000	20,191,686	110,191,686	41·4	103,478,969	38·9	—	—	48,056,719	18·1	4,218,135	1·6	—	—	265,945,509
1800	7,477,441	—	7,477,441	22·4	19,354,619	58·1	—	—	5,662,975	17·0	836,653	2·5	—	—	33,331,688

Assets of The Bank of France.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Branches. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Investments.‡ Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Balance of Different Accounts. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Fr.
1914*	4,514,412,872	33·7	4,316,227,659	32·5	3,735,988,786	27·6	745,378,221	5·5	44,945,015	·3	62,224,039	·6	13,419,176,592
1913	4,157,454,630	59·5	417,958,544	6·0	1,526,461,970	21·8	841,850,630	12·1	44,230,216	·6	—	—	6,987,955,990
1912	3,896,534,867	57·3	421,013,990	6·2	1,719,155,888	25·3	723,781,997	10·6	40,353,692	·6	—	—	6,800,840,434
1911†	4,018,653,508	62·8	401,019,238	6·3	1,245,601,875	19·5	694,585,315	10·8	40,937,367	·6	—	—	6,400,797,303
1910	4,112,978,628	66·3	401,019,284	6·4	1,046,762,506	16·9	603,647,128	9·7	38,772,879	·7	—	—	6,203,180,425
1905†	3,963,825,655	68·3	401,015,503	6·9	905,253,003	15·6	503,536,440	8·7	29,862,760	·5	—	—	5,803,493,361
1900	3,448,519,885	67·0	401,015,484	7·8	760,128,523	14·8	512,164,811	10·0	22,801,822	·4	—	—	5,144,630,525
1895	3,202,919,875	69·7	361,014,755	7·8	626,367,444	13·3	370,497,909	8·1	19,225,830	·4	19,015,412	·4	4,599,041,225
1890	2,372,246,246	59·8	361,514,415	9·1	868,618,741	21·9	273,663,285	6·9	13,360,655	·4	75,440,826	1·9	3,964,844,168
1880	1,779,585,754	54·3	282,650,243	8·6	931,797,090	28·4	178,812,250	5·5	10,095,162	·3	93,718,347	2·9	3,276,659,026
1869	1,247,125,675	54·1	253,575,937	11·0	660,685,554	28·7	129,930,750	5·6	12,450,875	·5	947,942	·1	2,304,716,733
1860	422,291,526	32·3	201,689,578	15·5	542,147,251	41·5	124,236,460	9·5	16,026,195	1·2	—	—	1,306,391,010
1850	471,887,748	58·5	165,179,964	20·5	145,636,087	18·0	16,076,197	2·0	8,350,379	1·0	124,207	—	807,254,582
1840	227,376,046	44·9	60,173,737	11·9	151,973,843	30·0	31,851,972	6·3	4,000,000	·8	30,814,085	6·1	506,189,683
1830	128,545,323	33·9	51,204,256	13·5	162,793,248	42·9	—	—	4,084,933	1·0	32,923,120	8·7	379,550,880
1820	168,911,229	50·6	117,083,379	35·0	47,942,304	14·3	—	—	340,427	·1	—	—	334,277,339
1810	31,901,685	12·0	25,271,973	9·5	167,427,232	62·9	—	—	3,377,255	1·3	37,967,364	14·3	265,945,509
1800	7,598,650	23·0	—	—	21,354,759	64·7	—	—	284,659	—	4,093,620	12·3	33,331,688

* Dec. 24; figures partially estimated. † December 23. ‡ Includes Government's book debt to Bank, amounting to 200,000,000 francs since 1912 180,000,000 francs in previous years back to 1878, 60,000,000 francs back to 1857.

Profits of The Bank of France.

Year	Bank Rate of Discount. %	Gross Profit less Rebates. Fr.	Expenses. Fr.	Taxes. Fr.	Net Profit. Fr.	Dividends. Amount. Fr.	Dividends. Rate %	Reserve, Depreciation, &c. Fr.	Carried Forward. Fr.
1914	4·22	124,662,882	41,091,714	18,081,691	65,489,477	36,119,792	19·792	31,604,552	3,936,157
1913	4	116,508,084	30,327,903	15,627,189	70,552,992	38,020,833	20·833	31,255,174	2,868,013
1912	3·37	90,934,899	26,477,748	10,533,515	53,923,636	30,416,667	16·666	20,400,000	1,563,552
1911	3·14	77,348,965	25,035,061	8,937,500	43,376,404	26,614,584	14·583	16,197,087	408,968
1910	3	64,373,610	23,247,764	7,329,887	33,795,959	26,614,584	14·583	6,690,000	804,512
1909	3	57,887,223	21,367,363	6,285,691	30,234,169	26,614,584	14·583	5,463,815	359,056
1908	3·05	63,500,382	21,559,507	7,044,461	34,897,014	30,416,666	16·666	4,030,000	161,476
1907	3·46	77,182,436	22,071,449	8,926,689	46,184,298	33,268,229	18·229	11,615,000	112,250
1906	3	60,744,616	19,796,584	6,776,946	34,171,086	28,515,625	15·625	4,760,000	161,476
1905	3	50,818,156	18,541,461	5,526,158	26,750,537	24,713,542	13·542	1,690,000	33,182
1904	3	53,004,312	19,058,718	5,832,613	28,112,981	24,713,542	13·542	3,526,000	336,185
1903	3	51,137,198	17,830,778	5,606,994	27,699,426	24,713,542	13·542	2,900,000	170,186

gold to go on a very large scale without losing its nerve. Still, as everybody knows, the gold holdings of the Bank of France are enormous, and considering the times and the resources of the institution, they always have been enormous. One reason for that is, of course, the wisdom and experience of the governors, who soon learned that to be safe it was necessary to have a large gold reserve. The second reason is that the Bank of France keeps the ultimate banking reserve of the Government, and gold alone will serve for that. A third reason is that the Bank of France is charged with keeping the legal-tender silver coins at their mint value. It has to do so both in the interest of the State and in its own interest. Napoleon the Third dreamt of making himself head of a great Union of the peoples who speak languages derived from the Latin. To accomplish that he induced a great many of those States to enter into an arrangement with him called the Latin Union. Bimetallism was to be maintained. Silver was to be coined by each of the States in certain proportions, and so on. But it soon became evident that upon France would fall the duty of seeing that silver did not become greatly depreciated. Just before the Franco-German War the French Government was believed to be preparing for dropping the Latin Union and adopting the single gold standard. But either, like so many of Napoleon's dreams, it remained a dream or he procrastinated too long; at all events, when the war ended as it did and Germany exacted from France a war indemnity of 200 millions sterling, she seized the opportunity to get rid of her silver pieces and to adopt the single gold standard. France held at the time an immense mass of silver, and the Bank of France found that it was obliged both in the national interest and in its own to protect silver.

During the eighties the stock of silver in the Bank of France has greatly increased. But since 1895 there has been a steady reduction, and whereas in 1890 the Bank held nearly £50,000,000 of silver, the amount held at the present time is less than £15,000,000. The reduction in the stock of the metal since the war began is especially noteworthy.

The outbreak of war between France, Russia, Belgium, Servia, and England on the one side and Germany and Austria on the other found France in a very strong financial position. During the years of peace since 1871 her wealth had immensely grown, and she enjoyed a large income from foreign countries from interest and services. Unfortunately, the German army succeeded in invading the country, and came within a short distance of Paris, and, although driven

back to the Marne, it retained its occupation of one of the most important industrial districts in the East and North-East of France. The effect of this was to diminish the income of the country, and to reduce its power to meet its war expenditures. The first effect of the invasion was indeed so disturbing that the financial situation was completely upset, and it was impossible either to incur or to collect debts. In these circumstances the Government was compelled to resort to the Bank of France for the means of meeting its military expenditures, and, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the Government of France from Paris to Bordeaux, and with it the chief officers, the gold, and the securities of the Bank of France, the latter was able to provide the Government with all the money it needed for the mobilisation of the army. But for the great reputation of the Bank and the willingness of everyone to accept payment in Bank of France notes this would have been impossible, for it was not until September that public confidence was sufficiently restored to permit the Government to raise loans from investors. In a period of two months the Bank provided the Government with £84,000,000 of money. In September the Government was able to resort to the public, and began to issue short-dated securities bearing the title of Bon de la Défense Nationale and Obligation de la Défense Nationale. In all, the Government has borrowed from the Bank of France a very large part of the money it has needed to finance the war. Up to the middle of October 1915 it had obtained £289,000,000 from the Bank, which the latter was able to provide by the issue of notes. In the first fourteen-and-a-half months of war the French Government has borrowed from the Bank and from the public about £844,000,000, and the Bank has provided no less than one-third of this great sum. The assistance which the Bank of France rendered to the French nation up to the middle of October this year will be evident from the following statement of the sums borrowed by the French Government for war purposes:—

War Loans of France, July 1914 to October 14, 1915.

	£.
Advances from the Bank of France	7,[illegible]
French Treasury Bonds [illegible] Bank of France in order to make advances to the [illegible]	[illegible]
3½% Loan of July, 1914	[illegible]
Bon de la Défense Nationale	7[illegible]
Obligations de la Défense Nationale	[illegible]
Loan from England	1,500,000,000
Loan from [illegible]	[illegible]
Total sum borrowed by France for War to middle Oct., 1915...	21,122,000,000

The great reputation and the great strength of the Bank of France have caused many persons to deposit money with it for safety, and this explains the increase in its other deposits from under £40,000,000 to about £108,000,000. In all, the liabilities of the Bank since the War began have increased no less than 8,300,000,000 francs, or £332,000,000, and from the statement below it will be seen they have nearly doubled:—

Situation of Bank of France at Present Time and Before the War.

	Oct. 14, 1915 Fr.	[illegible] 1914 Fr.	Increase Fr.
Capital	182,[illegible]	[illegible]	
Reserve fund	42,963,892	42,519,340	+ 444,552
Total Capital and reserve ...	225,463,892	225,019,340	+ 444,552
Notes in circulation	13,752,143,320	6,683,184,785	+7,068,958,535
Government deposits	59,434,589	382,561,817	— 323,127,228
Other deposits	2,693,663,388	947,571,862	+1,746,091,526
Miscellaneous	363,771,416	548,775,078	— 185,003,662
Total Liabilities	17,094,476,605	8,787,112,882	+8,307,363,723
Cash:			
Gold	4,647,366,645	4,141,341,664	+ 506,024,981
Silver	363,267,933	625,332,643	— 262,064,710
Total cash	5,010,634,578	4,766,674,307	+ [illegible]
Foreign balances	1,[illegible]	—	+1,016,622,920
Investments	414,322,299	217,522,786	+ 196,[illegible]
Advances to the Government...	7,430,000,000	200,000,000	+7,230,000,000
Bills discounted...	2,219,846,825	2,444,180,326	— 224,333,501
Advances	582,272,169	758,772,955	— [illegible]
Miscellaneous	420,777,814	399,962,508	+ [illegible]
Total Assets	17,094,476,605	8,787,112,882	+8,307,363,732

THE
British Bank of Northern Commerce
LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - - - £2,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - - £1,500,000
(Subscribed at a premium of 50 per cent., to be applied to Reserve Fund.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. EARL GREY, G.C.B., Chairman.

H. BENDIXSON
J. V. FABER
E. GLÜCKSTADT
H. HUNTER
J. JORGENSEN
N. KIELLAND-TORKILDSEN
K. F. KNUDSEN
J. MADSEN-MYGDAL

General Manager—G. L. d'ABO. Sub-Manager—S. COLVIN.
Secretary—J. H. ROSCOE.

The Bank having been formed in connection with leading Banks of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Russia, &c., is exceptionally placed to transact all Banking business with these Countries on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Telegraphic Transfers effected.

Telegraphic Addresses: Foreign, "BANKONORD, LONDON." Inland, "BANKONORD, LED, LONDON." Lieber's Code, &c., used.
Telephone: 3290 LONDON WALL (4 lines).

London Offices: 41, 43 & 47 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

The wealth of France, the genius of its people, their thrift, the immense sums due to them from abroad as investors, the ability of the governors and regents, all go to make up the explanation for the ability of the Bank of France to obtain and retain the position she occupies in the financial world. France is the second greatest lending country in the world, and the thrift of the French people enables them to keep their purchases of goods from abroad always well within their power to pay for them, so that to obtain gold all they have to do is to refrain for a time from making new loans to foreign countries or to reduce the sums of new money they usually place abroad. By so doing they obtain power to ask for payment of their goods or their interest in the gold they need to strengthen their resources.

Between 1869 and 1880 the gold held by the Bank of France declined from £28,000,000 to £22,000,000, while the silver advanced from £22,000,000 to £49,000,000. Since then gold has risen to £186,000,000 while silver has fallen to under £15,000,000. The following statement of the stocks of gold and silver in the Bank of France is specially interesting:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Bank of France.

Year.	Gold. Fr.	% of Total.	Silver. Fr.	% of Total.	Total. Fr.
Oct. 14, 1915 ...	4,647,367,000	92·7	363,268,000	7·3	5,010:635,000
Dec. 24, 1914 ...	4,158,461,000	92·1	355,952,000	7·9	4,514,413,000
„ 26, 1913 ...	3,517,392,000	84·6	640,063,000	15·4	4,157,455,000
„ „ 1912 ...	3,207,300,000	82·4	689,200,000	17·6	3,896,500,000
„ 21, 1911 ...	3,213,400,000	79·8	811,600,000	20·2	4,025,000,000
„ 22, 1910 ...	3,288,700,000	79·9	827,200,000	20·1	4,115,900,000
„ 21, 1905 ...	2,888,900,000	72·7	1,086,500,000	27·3	3,975,400,000
„ 20, 1900 ...	2,331,700,000	67·7	1,110,300,000	32·3	3,442,000,000
„ 26, 1895 ...	1,963,000,000	61·3	1,239,900,000	38·7	3,202,900,000
„ „ 1890 ...	1,126,000,000	47·4	1,246,200,000	52·6	2,372,200,000
„ 24, 1880 ...	551,300,000	31·0	1,226,500,000	69 0	1,777,800,000
„ „ 1869 ...	698,100,000	56·0	549,000,000	44·0	1,247,100,000
„ „ 1860 ...	152,100,000	36·0	270,200,000	64·0	422,300,000
„ „ 1850 ...	29,200,000	8·4	318,500,000	91·6	347,700,000
„ „ 1840 ...	39,500,000	17·4	187,900,000	82·6	227,400,000
„ „ 1830 ...	900,000	·7	127,600,000	99·3	128,500,000
„ „ 1820 ...	22,500,000	13·3	146,400,000	86·7	168,900,000
„ „ 1810 ...	22,500,000	13·3	146,400,000	86·7	168,900,000
„ „ 1800 ...	22,500,000	13·3	146,400,000	86·7	168,900,000

From the comparative statements of the liabilities and assets of the Bank of France since 1800 given herewith, the part played by the Bank in the economy of France will be evident. The profits of the Bank fluctuate with the rate of interest; and, as under normal circumstances the rate of interest is low, the dividend is not large, especially taking into account the relative smallness of the capital. Even in 1914 the average rate was no higher than 4.22 per cent. This rate gave gross profits of 124,663,000 francs, which enabled a dividend of nearly 20 per cent. to be paid, free of tax, after devoting 31,605,000 francs to reserve, &c. The profits earned by the Bank of France in the last 12 years, and the dividends distributed will be seen from the statement on page 312.

BANQUE INTERNATIONALE DE COMMERCE DE PETROGRAD.

Head Office: Petrograd.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up, 240,000 Shares of Rbls. 250... ... ... Rbls. 60,000,000

This important Russian Bank was founded in May 1869 with an authorised capital of 5,000,000 roubles, in shares of 250 roubles each, of which 100 roubles were called up. The growth of the Bank was, however, so rapid that in April 1872 the authorised capital was raised to 30,000,000 roubles. Of the first issue 150 roubles per share was called up, and of the second 100 roubles, so that the paid-up capital was 18,000,000 roubles. In 1878 it was decided to make the shares fully paid up, and thus to get rid of the uncalled liability by reducing the number from 120,000 partly-paid to 52,000 fully-paid shares. In 1895 the capital was raised to 18,000,000 roubles. By 1898 the growth of the business called for a further increase to 24,000,000 roubles. It remained at this figure until 1907, when another 12,000,000 roubles was created, of which 6,000,000 roubles were issued in 1909 and another 6,000,000 roubles in 1910. In 1911 another 12,000,000 roubles were subscribed, bringing the total to 48,000,000 roubles, and last year the capital was increased to 60,000,000 roubles. Concurrently the reserve has been built up to over 37,000,000 roubles, and the combined capital and reserve of the Bank have been raised from 2,000,000 roubles in 1870 to 97,000,000 roubles at the present time, an expansion which indicates the

Liabilities of The Banque Internationale de Commerce de Petrograd.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Branches Account. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundry Liabilities. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rs.
1914...	60,000,000	37,311,398	97,311,398	16·2	229,679,515	38·3	52,136,650	8·7	193,334,767	32·3	23,022,199	3·9	3,769,847	·6	599,254,376
1913...	48,000,000	28,181,598	76,181,598	12·5	264,814,669	43·3	68,600,469	11·2	167,240,780	27·3	28,359,020	4·6	6,953,995	1·1	612,150,531
1912...	48,000,000	27,869,462	75,869,462	12·3	240,275,454	39·1	74,149,557	12·1	194,372,127	31·6	23,447,762	3·8	6,840,135	1·1	614,954,497
1911...	48,000,000	27,693,207	75,693,207	13·8	197,535,230	36·0	70,808,642	12·9	180,893,942	33·0	18,204,932	3·3	5,421,193	1·0	548,557,146
1910...	36,000,000	18,000,000	54,000,000	10·9	184,974,226	37·3	73,984,741	14·9	163,941,534	33 0	19,198,786	3·9	—	—	496,099,287
1909...	30,000,000	15,000,000	45,000,000	13·4	141,876,602	42·4	49,788,760	14·8	86,063,669	25·7	11,352,707	3·7	—	—	334,081,738
1908...	24,000,000	12,845,528	36,845,528	15·1	83,085,053	34·1	29,655,092	12·2	85,955,620	35·3	7,900,080	3·3	—	—	243,441,373
1907...	24,000,000	12,845,528	36,845,528	18·0	50,827,441	24·8	26,811,276	13·1	83,688,785	40·8	6,791,376	3·3	—	—	204,964,406
1906...	24,000,000	12,845,528	36,845,528	19·0	43,600,057	22·4	27,905,473	14·3	79,736,224	41·0	6,385,483	3·3	—	—	194,472,765
1905...	24,000,000	12,845,528	36,845,528	19·0	43,500,378	22·5	27,574,076	14·2	79,748,024	41·2	6,016,276	3·1	—	—	193,684,282
1900...	24,000,000	15,482,142	39,482,142	34·2	22,642,809	19·7	8,125,737	7·0	41,727,710	36·1	3,424,182	2·9	—	—	115,402,580
1895...	18,000,000	9,536,333	27,536,333	39·3	9,351,461	13·4	4,591,015	6·6	23,486,632	33·8	4,777,822	6·9	—	—	69,743,263
1890...	13,000,000	3,602,149	16,602,149	22·5	26,623,206	36·0	837,053	1·1	26,700,183	36·1	3,149,884	4·3	—	—	73,912,475
1880...	13,000,000	1,176,389	14,176,389	35·0	14,929,925	36·8	213,767	·5	7,342,938	18·1	3,877,269	9·6	—	—	40,540,288
1870...	2,000,000	—	2,000,000	10·1	15,793,067	80·0	—	—	637,370	3·2	1,321,048	6·7	—	—	19,751,485

Assets of The Banque Internationale de Commerce de Petrograd

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Banks. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills, Loans, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Branches Account. Amount. Rs.	% o Total. %	Correspondents. Amount Rs	% of Total. %	Sundry Assets. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1914 ...	18,139,515	3·0	59,341,484	9·9	226,507,274	37·8	44,855,901	7·5	237,967,068	39·7	4,460,040	·8	7,983,094	1·3	599,254,376
1913 ...	12,818,723	2·1	51,364,483	8·4	262,243,839	42·8	71,679,145	11·7	201,711,454	33·0	4,386,447	·7	7,946,440	1·3	612,150,531
1912 ...	13,149,890	2·1	43,830,526	7·1	268,734,015	43·7	75,563,635	12·3	200,556,185	32·6	6,027,831	1·0	7,092,415	1·2	614,954,497
1911 ...	11,982,471	2·2	41,068,208	7·5	253,548,013	46·2	72,715,135	13·3	156,509,062	28·5	6,615,524	1·2	6,118,733	1·1	548,557,146
1910 ...	10,534,241	2·1	34,064,276	6·9	238,239,026	48·0	72,570,281	14·6	134,798,125	27·2	2,572,755	·5	3,320,583	·7	496,099,287
1909 ...	9,425,137	2·8	32,583,115	10·0	144,074,948	43·1	48,564,215	14·5	90,451,472	27·0	4,263,279	1·2	4,719,572	1·4	334,081,738
1908 ...	7,171,996	3·0	18,403,641	7·8	91,714,340	37·7	29,655,092	12·2	89,762,545	36·9	2,199,705	·9	4,534,054	1·8	243,441,373
1907 ...	4,984,589	2·4	18,573,224	9·0	60,743,294	29·6	26,811,275	13·1	89,039,920	43·5	842,564	·4	3,969,540	2·0	204,964,406
1906 ...	6,517,092	3·4	21,525,856	11·0	53,738,200	27·7	27,905,473	14·4	78,863,704	40·5	1,864,411	1·0	4,058,029	2·0	194,472,765
1905 ...	7,949,903	4·1	20,104,326	10·4	57,368,396	29·7	27,574,076	14·2	75,982,447	39·2	573,447	·3	4,131,687	2·1	193,684,282
1900 ...	2,771,231	2·4	17,009,245	14·8	34,323,222	29·8	8,125,737	7·0	51,714,098	44·8	115,328	·1	1,343,719	1 1	115,402,580
1895 ...	3,979,789	5·7	10,235,571	14·7	29,457,307	42·2	4,591,015	6·8	20,668,049	29·7	444,513	·6	367,019	·5	69,743,263
1890 ...	8,731,487	11·8	10,115,554	13·7	32,977,228	44·7	—	—	19,410,820	26·3	2,254,861	3·1	422,525	·4	73,912,475
1880 ...	4,601,321	11·4	1,734,162	4·3	19,527,792	48·1	—	—	14,212,258	35·0	183,811	·5	280,944	·7	40,540,288
1870 ...	4,124,274	20·9	243,622	1·2	6,329,689	32·0	—	—	7,807,737	39·6	1,246,163	6·3	—	—	19,751,485

vast growth in the business of this important institution, and reflects the great expansion that has taken place in the productive power of Russia.

In 1870 the total liabilities of the Bank were 20,000,000 roubles, and at the end of 1913 they reached 612,000,000 roubles, or £61,000,000. The events of 1914 brought about a diminution in deposits, but an increase in correspondents, and the liabilities of the Bank fell to 599 millions of roubles.

The Bank possesses 39 branches and 12 agencies in Russia, and 2 branches abroad—one in Paris and one in Brussels—besides the head office of the Bank in Petrograd. It transacts a large international as well as a great national business, and it has contributed in no small measure to the progress of Russian commerce in modern times. Inasmuch as the Imperial Bank of Russia is responsible for the currency of the country, the Bank of Commerce does not keep any large cash reserves. If it needs gold, silver, or notes, it has merely to discount its paper at the State Bank in order to obtain all the currency it requires. The cash held is merely the amount required for till purposes.

The situation in Russia brought about by the War was not conducive to large banking profits in 1914, and, moreover, it caused bankers to act conservatively in the matter of dividend distribution, as they were anxious, as far as possible, to make provision against the future. Consequently the dividend was reduced from 14 per cent. to 6 per cent. The profits of the Bank in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of Banque Internationale de Commerce de Petrograd.

Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Rs.	Expenses. Rs.	Taxes. Rs.	Net Profit. Rs.	Dividend. Amnt. Rs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve. Rs.	Carried Forward. Rs.
1914	15,210,989	8,103,509	1,461,638	5,645,842	3,600,000	6·0	1642000	169,847
1913	17,892,093	9,794,260	1,143,838	6,953,995	6,720,000	14·0	233,995	—
1912	14,609,693	6,960,251	809,307	6,840,135	6,528,000	13·6	312,135	—
1911	11,885,103	5,930,778	578,070	5,376,255	5,200,000	13·0	176,255	—
1910	9,338,616	4,611,598	378,110	4,348,908	4,096,000	12·8	252,908	—
1909	5,983,011	3,073,157	314,396	2,595,458	2,500,000	10·0	—	95,458
1908	5,289,545	2,529,295	312,422	2,447,828	2,400,000	10·0	—	47,828
1907	5,075,058	2,307,992	345,459	2,421,607	2,400,000	10·0	—	21,607
1906	5,161,982	2,206,867	300,970	2,654,146	2,592,000	10·8	—	47,146
1905	4,579,712	1,976,777	240,726	2,362,209	2,304,000	9·6	—	58,209
1904	4,372,627	1,826,422	234,068	2,312,137	2,304,000	9·6	—	8,137

The great expansion in the business of the institution is shown by the comparative statements herewith of the liabilities and assets of the Bank in various years since 1870.

BANQUE NATIONALE DE BELGIQUE

(NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM).

Head Office: Brussels.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up (no liability),
50,000 Shares of 1,000 frs. ... Frs. 50,000,000

Price of Shares, 3,635 frs. *Dividend,* 17%. *Yield,* £4 13*s.* 6*d.*%

When Belgium separated from Holland in 1830 there existed four banks in the country. One of them, the Société Générale, had been used as the Government Bank while Belgium was part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and it was found convenient by the new Government to continue so to use it. The administration of the Société Générale, however, was principally Dutch, and, rightly or wrongly, the members were accused of Dutch leanings and of a bias against Belgium. After a few years, therefore, when the Société Générale applied for a renewal of its charter, the Belgian Government offered renewal on conditions which were considered entirely too onerous by the Société. In consequence, the Belgian Government decided upon creating a Bank of its own, with the title National Bank of Belgium. Originally the capital of the Bank was fixed at 25 million francs, or a million sterling. Later the capital was doubled, and it stands at 50 million francs at present. From the first the attempt has been steadily followed to restrict the business of the Bank to purely commercial operations. It is forbidden to lend upon mortgages, or, indeed, on any securities arising out of transactions in land, and to confine discounting to bills proper. The Bank started operations in 1850. In its early days it had many trials. But it was ably and successfully managed. It was not, however, until the war between France and Germany broke out in 1870 that the goodness of the administration was tested in the most trying way. The Government, fearing that its territory would be invaded by one or other of the belligerents, lost its head to some extent. The Finance Minister insisted that the Government moneys deposited with the Bank should be transferred from Brussels, where they were supposed to be in danger, to Antwerp; and, after protests and delays, the transfer had to be effected. The Minister of Finance, further, directed his subordinates not to exchange coin for bank-notes. Moreover, the Minister of War issued an order to those under him which was considered to throw doubts upon the solvency of the Bank. In consequence, the public became alarmed, and a run upon the Bank occurred. The Bank met its difficulties bravely. It obtained cash resources in London, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Paris, and succeeded in preventing the metallic reserve from falling below 25 per cent. of its note circulation.

In 1900 a new law was proclaimed continuing the life of the Bank until New Year's Day, 1929. The amount of the capital was not changed, but the Government was granted a larger share in the profits of the Bank than previously. In 1872 it was enacted that the note circulation of the Bank in excess of 275 million francs, or 11 millions sterling, should pay a tax at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent. per annum. In 1900 the limit of untaxed notes was left unchanged at 11 millions sterling, in spite of the increase in the circulation from about 8 millions sterling in 1870 to about 24 millions sterling in 1900. There was much discussion as to whether the Bank should not be transformed from an institution the capital of which was provided by the

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

7 GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Head Office: LONDON. Branch: BUCAREST.

Telegraphic Address—"Bancheri, Ave, London."

Capital - - - - £300,000, fully paid up.
Reserve Funds - - £177,834.

Directors:
EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B. The Hon. H. A. LAWRENCE.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. P. NAVILLE. E. W. H. BARRY.
Secretary and London Manager: H. W. A. KILGOUR.

The Bank conducts a general banking business with Roumania, and is the only banking institution with its own offices in both countries.

Liabilities of The Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid-up. Amount. Fr.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Fr.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Dividends Payable, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Fr.
1914* ...	5,000,000	42,324,542	92,324,542	5·9	1,295,000,030	82·7	160,216,953	10·2	18,306,319	1·2	1,565,917,844
1913 ...	50,000,000	41,780,788	91,780,788	6·9	1,067,407,000	80·9	124,288,066	9·4	36,698,614	2·8	1,320,174,468
1912 ...	50,000,000	40,693,275	90,693,275	6·9	1,034,616,125	79·1	151,066,975	11·5	33,284,275	2·5	1,309,660,650
1911 ...	50,000,000	39,622,450	89,622,450	7·3	969,763,575	78·8	140,618,100	11·4	30,604,300	2·5	1,230,608,425
1910 ...	50,000,000	38,431,000	88,431,000	7·8	904,534,150	79·8	111,806,125	9·9	28,138,875	2·5	1,132,910,150
1909 ...	50,000,000	37,276,775	87,276,775	8·1	845,015,550	78·4	122,123,875	11·3	23,977,300	2·2	1,078,393,500
1908 ...	50,000,000	36,122,475	86,122,475	8·4	806,878,050	79·1	105,562,800	10·4	20,898,150	2·1	1,019,461,475
1907 ...	50,000,000	34,968,100	84,968,100	8·5	798,167,750	79·7	93,614,250	9·3	25,040,000	2·5	1,001,790,100
1906 ...	50,000,000	33,813,850	83,813,850	8·6	770,423,350	79·5	95,128,925	9·8	19,847,750	2·1	969,213,875
1905 ...	50,000,000	32,734,325	82,734,325	9·0	724,082,150	78·4	98,615,550	10·7	17,967,225	1·9	923,399,250
1900 ...	50,000,000	27,629,800	77,629,800	9·6	631,631,800	78·2	81,754,200	10·1	16,658,025	2·1	807,673,825
1895 ...	50,000,000	25,096,900	75,096,900	11·9	476,502,025	75·2	72,103,800	11·4	9,800,575	1·5	633,503,300
1890 ...	50,000,000	22,409,775	72,409,775	13·1	404,721,600	73·2	67,723,925	12·1	8,599,425	1·6	553,454,725
1880 ...	50,000,000	14,729,925	64,729,925	13·4	339,969,500	70·5	72,142,900	15·0	5,387,475	1·1	482,229,800
1870 ...	25,000,000	14,708,325	39,708,325	12·1	202,528,525	61·7	81,319,925	24·8	4,655,850	1·4	328,212,625
1860 ...	25,000,000	5,328,550	30,328,550	13·0	117,899,950	50·6	81,825,150	35·2	2,861,025	1·2	232,914,675
1852 ...	15,000,000	12,000	15,012,000	11·4	69,379,500	53·2	34,161,150	26·2	11,829,700	9·2	130,382,050

Assets of The Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, &c.† Amount. Fr.	Foreign Bills. Amount. Fr.	Total Cash and Foreign Bills. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Fr.
1914* ...	290,288,387	109,217,471	399,505,858	25·5	92,323,710	5·9	942,624,000	60·2	95,696,712	6·1	35,767,564	2·3	1,565,917,844
1913 ...	310,584,356	166,624,700	477,209,056	36·2	111,581,789	8·4	641,984,794	48·6	61,449,202	4·7	27,949,627	2·1	1,320,174,468
1912 ...	290,626,350	153,290,125	443,916,475	33·9	108,633,300	8·3	638,220,325	48·7	92,058,875	7·0	26,830,675	2·1	1,309,660,650
1911 ...	251,978,700	149,311,875	401,290,575	32·6	106,365,850	8·6	603,597,675	49·1	92,789,600	7·5	26,564,725	2·2	1,230,608,425
1910 ...	210,178,025	173,432,075	383,610,100	33·9	103,418,775	9·1	531,144,600	46·9	88,464,700	7·8	26,271,975	2·3	1,132,910,150
1909 ...	164,292,175	149,128,625	313,420,800	29·1	99,803,800	9·2	576,077,925	53·4	63,303,850	5·9	25,787,125	2·4	1,078,393,500
1908 ...	162,205,825	185,540,975	347,746,800	34·1	96,706,250	9·5	498,304,525	48·9	51,419,125	5·0	25,284,775	2·5	1,019,461,475
1907 ...	138,261,800	150,325,225	288,587,025	28·8	92,955,425	9·3	534,356,550	53·3	61,716,725	6·2	24,174,375	2·4	1,001,790,100
1906 ...	207,529,175	144,911,075	352,440,250	36·4	91,912,000	9·5	452,459,400	46·7	48,766,450	5·0	23,635,775	2·4	969,213,875
1905 ...	202,457,600	134,856,500	337,314,100	36·5	90,382,950	9·8	435,167,725	47·1	38,011,400	4·2	22,523,075	2·4	923,399,250
1900 ...	181,529,475	135,944,025	317,473,500	39·4	83,567,075	10·3	329,300,275	40·8	58,373,075	7·2	18,959,900	2·3	807,673,825
1895 ...	146,436,775	107,638,100	254,074,875	40·1	79,960,825	12·6	257,625,200	40·7	21,973,000	3·5	19,869,400	3·1	633,503,300
1890 ...	138,029,200	74,659,350	212,688,550	38·4	74,951,150	13·5	241,933,950	43·7	7,587,900	1·4	16,293,175	2·9	553,454,725
1880 ...	121,488,575	54,910,200	176,398,775	36·6	47,781,975	9·9	234,600,250	48·6	7,787,100	1·6	15,661,700	3·3	482,229,800
1870 ...	108,950,925	327,950	109,278,875	33·3	16,145,100	4·9	195,905,925	59·7	3,813,325	1·2	3,069,400	·9	328,212,625
1860 ...	71,002,425	—	71,002,425	30·4	7,627,050	3·4	148,026,300	63·6	4,468,875	1·9	1,590,025	·7	232,914,675
1852 ...	39,287,275	—	39,287,275	30·1	14,627,500	11·2	53,264,950	40·9	6,293,350	4·8	16,908,975	3·0	130,382,05

* August 6. † Includes coin and bullion, bills due Dec. 31, and coupons paid before due date.

public to a State Bank proper. The matter was decided in the negative. But though the Bank belongs to private shareholders it is really under the strict control of the Government. The Governor is appointed by the King for five years, and may be continued in office longer. The six directors, who, with the Governor, constitute the Administrative Council, are chosen in general meeting of the shareholders, and serve for six years. The Government exercises supervision through a Special Commissioner, whose compensation is fixed by the Government by agreement with the Bank, and who is paid by the Bank. There is also a Council of Censors, consisting of seven members, elected by the shareholders, and performing the functions of auditors and supervisors. Thus, while the members of the management are controlled by the Government, the actual day-by-day business is left largely in the hands of the Governor and the elected directors. In 1872 one of the provisions laid down was that the profits arising from a discount rate above 5 per cent. should go into the public Treasury. It is alleged that this arrangement has prevented the National Bank of Belgium from moving its rate of discount, as the Bank of England does, to protect its reserve. The Bank clearly would not profit by a high rate of discount, and, therefore, has no interest in bringing such about. Therefore it leans much more to the French practice of keeping the rate as low as possible and providing itself with the necessary metallic reserve at its own expense. However that may be, the Bank has prospered greatly during the past 40 years, and so high is its credit at home that its notes, and especially its small notes, representing 20 francs, or 16*s.* of our money, have largely taken the place of coin. Such notes in 1873 amounted on the average to a little under 35 million francs, or £1,400,000. In 1913 they averaged about 217,000,000 francs, or £8,680,000.

The Bank is authorised to issue notes payable to bearer on condition that the amount in circulation shall be represented by securities which can be easily converted into cash, the proportion between the cash reserve and the notes in circulation to be fixed by the statutes. A further article in the charter provides that the Government, by agreement with the Bank, shall determine the form of the notes, the method of their issue, and the amount of each denomination. No change was made in these respects in 1900. The Bank must redeem its notes at the head office and at the branches and agencies. But at the branches and agencies payment may be deferred until there has been time to receive the necessary funds from the head office. In 1873 the notes were declared legal tender between individuals so long as they continued to be redeemed in legal coin. It will be seen that the Belgian law imposes no limit upon the amount of notes which may be issued by the National Bank. The amount, as shown above, is settled by the statutes of the Bank, which are drawn up under the supervision of the Government. The proportion at present is fixed at one-third of the amount of notes and other obligations payable at sight. But it is provided that the cash reserve may be allowed to go below this minimum under circumstances and limits to be authorised by the Minister of Finance. The National Bank was allowed from an early date to hold first-class foreign bills as part of its reserve when guaranteed by banking houses in Belgium. The proportion of such bills to the total reserve increased steadily till just before the renewal of the charter in 1900, when they reached 25 per cent. of the total reserve. Another point which has often been debated is as to whether the National Bank has a monopoly of note issue. The answer seems to be that in practice it has such a monopoly, but not in strict law. Regarding the share of the Government in the profits of the Bank, the latter has to pay a patent tax on the gross volume of business, a stamp tax on its notes, and a tax of one-half of 1 per cent. on the excess of the circulation above 11 millions sterling. In addition, one-quarter of the profits go to the State after 4 per cent. has been distributed to the shareholders, and the State takes all profits obtained from a discount rate above 3½ per cent. The National Bank performs gratuitously the service of cashier to the Government. It bears all expenses of management, material, transportation, and transfer of funds, and shares in the expenses of the Treasury in the provinces to the

amount of 230,000 francs (£9,200) annually. The available funds of the Treasury in excess of the requirements of the service must be invested by the Bank in commercial securities, the Bank guaranteeing the securities.

Whereas in 1908 the notes in circulation were 807 million francs, on August 6 of last year, just after the outbreak of war, they amounted to 1,295 million francs. This increase in the note circulation has placed at the service of the country a large sum of money, and whereas in 1908 bills discounted were under 500,000,000 francs, in August 1914 they reached 943,000,000 francs. The expansion in the business of the Bank since 1852 will be appreciated from the statements of liabilities and assets presented herewith.

The stock of gold held by the Bank last year in August was 274,000,000 francs (£11,000,000), while in 1908 the stock was only £4,500,000. The amounts of gold and silver and total coin held by the National Bank of Belgium at various periods since 1852 are shown by the statement appended:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of Banque Nationale de Belgique.

	Gold Coins.		Silver 5-Fr. Pieces.		Divisional and Token Coins.		
Dec. 31	Amount. Fr.	% of Total.	Amount. Fr.	% of Total.	Amount. Fr.	% of Total.	Total. Amount. Fr.
1914*...	274,444,125	94·5	6,569,805	2·3	9,274,456	3·2	290,288,386
1913 ...	249,026,688	81·6	44,293,390	14·5	12,073,465	3·9	305,393,543
1912 ...	214,428,650	75·6	54,007,250	19·1	15,058,025	5·3	283,493,925
1911 ...	189,114,125	76·7	45,130,225	18·3	12,462,750	5·0	246,707,100
1910 ...	125,694,400	61·8	64,469,100	31·7	13,237,825	6·5	203,401,325
1909 ...	115,301,225	72·6	31,053,925	19·5	12,557,300	7·9	158,912,450
1908 ...	112,436,850	71·1	37,032,500	23·4	8,693,875	5·5	158,163,225
1907 ...	106,707,900	80·1	19,565,500	14·7	6,988,400	5·2	133,261,800
1906 ...	103,871,150	83·6	10,596,675	8·6	9,717,300	7·8	124,185,125
1905 ...	100,746,025	85·7	5,426,450	4·6	11,448,625	9·7	117,621,100
1900 ...	91,904,050	84·5	12,003.000	11·0	4,850,050	4·5	108,757,100
1895 ...	87,306,700	86·4	7,440,875	7·4	6,313,950	6·2	101,061,525
1890 ...	59,622,650	57·7	22,413,000	21·6	21,377,675	20·7	103,413,325
1880 ...	73,063,300	74·0	15,923,000	16·1	9,800,900	9·9	98,787,200
1870 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	95,614,525
1860 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	63,023,525
1852 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	39,287,275

* August 6, 1914, last return published.

Although the Bank has to hand over nearly 22 per cent. of its profits to the State, the amount remaining before the War was large enough to pay a handsome dividend, and for the year 1913 the distribution was as high as 17 per cent. The profitableness of the Bank's business will be evident from the statement below:—

Profits of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.

Year.	Gross Profit. Fr.	Expenses.* Fr.	Net Profit. Fr.	Dividend. Amount. Fr.	Dividend. Rate. %	State's Proportion of Net Profits. Fr.	Reserve Fund, &c. Fr.
1913...	21,970,579	9,409,061	12,561,518	8,500,000	17·0	2,718,753	1,342,765
1912...	21,436,072	9,043,147	12,392,925	8,400,000	16·8	2,677,085	1,315,840
1911...	21,166,329	8,794,464	12,371,865	8,300,000	16·6	2,635,423	1,436,442
1910...	20,947,786	8,017,755	12,930,031	8,300,000	16·6	2,635,440	1,994,591
1909...	20,507,160	7,802,520	12,704,640	8,300,000	16·6	2,635,458	1,769,182
1908...	20,639,025	7,622,202	13,016,823	8,300,000	16·6	2,635,491	2,081,332
1907...	21,122,923	7,168,145	13,954,778	8,300,000	16·6	2,635,448	3,019,330
1906...	19,704,409	6,997,506	12,706,903	7,850,000	15·7	2,448,045	2,408,858
1905...	18,498,900	6,569,036	11,929,864	7,700,000	15·4	2,385,444	1,844,420
1904...	18,395,748	6,143,165	12,252,583	7,600,000	15·2	2,343,769	2,308,814
1903...	18,298,522	5,982,536	12,315,986	7,500,000	15·0	2,302,095	2,513,891

* Includes taxes as follows: 1913, Fr. 5,124,974; 1912, Fr. 4,716,325; 1911, Fr. 4,363,796; 1910, Fr. 3,998,246; 1909, Fr. 3,700,843; 1908, Fr. 3,595,234; 1907, Fr. 3,280,191; 1906, Fr. 3,305,789; 1905, Fr. 2,917,183; 1904, Fr. 2,744,012; 1903, Fr. 2,682,472.

After the fall of Liége and the occupation of Brussels by the German Army early in August 1914 the Bank's officials retired to Havre with the Belgian Government, taking with them the treasure securities and note-making machinery of the Bank. Subsequently under a threat from the German Government that it would either make its *billets de réquisition* legal tender to an unlimited extent or would set up a branch of the Reichsbank as the State bank of Belgium unless arrangements were made for providing Belgium with bank-notes, an agreement was reached whereby the Société Générale de Belgium undertook the duty on behalf of the Bank of Belgium of supplying the country during the War with bank-notes, and to deposit security for the notes with the Banque

STOCKHOLMS ENSKILDA BANK

N.B.—BANK WITH UNLIMITED LIABILITY.

Established 1856.

STOCKHOLM.

CAPITAL (entirely paid up) - Kr. 25,500,000

RESERVE FUNDS „ 27,500,000

Banking and Exchange Business of every description.

Bills negotiated or forwarded for Collection.

Letters of Credit issued available in the principal Cities of the World.

Remittances made by Telegraphic Transfer.

Deposits received for fixed periods or at notice.

London Agents:

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK Ltd.

FREDK. HUTH & CO.

THE BRITISH BANK OF NORTHERN COMMERCE Ltd.

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER

Société Anonyme.

(Filiale de la Société Générale de Belgique.)

CAPITAL - Frs. 30,000,000

RESERVES - Frs. 2,023,000

LONDON OFFICE: 2 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
(P.O. Box 537).

BRUSSELS OFFICE: RUE DES COLONIES, 66.

Branches at ROTTERDAM, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, PEKIN, CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA.

Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the World.

Undertakes all kinds of Banking Business.

Opening of Accounts bearing Interest.

Encashment of Clean and Documentary Drafts

Opening of Cash and Documentary Credits.

Letters of Credit, Collections and Negotiation of Coupons, Drawn Bonds, &c., &c.

Special attention given to Exchange and Transfer Business with all Countries.

Apply to the Management,

2 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

Nationale. Further, it was agreed that the notes of the Société Générale should be re-exchanged at the request of the bearer for notes of the same value of the Banque Nationale de Belgique within three months after the conclusion of peace.

BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE

(SWISS NATIONAL BANK).

Head Offices: Zurich and Berne.

Capital—

Subscribed, 50,000 Shares of 1,000 frs. each...Frs. 50,000,000
Paid up, 500 frs. per Share 25,000,000
Price, 472½ frs. *Dividend*, 4%. *Yield*, £4 4*s.* 8*d.*%

In 1904 the Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation, acting under the article of the Federal Constitution of 1874, passed an Act creating the Swiss National Bank. To this institution the exclusive right of issuing bank-notes is assigned. Article 2 declares the chief function of the National Bank to be to regulate the monetary circulation of the country and to facilitate the operations of payment. Furthermore, the Bank must take over the Exchequer business of the Confederation free of charge, so far as it may be called upon to do so. Previous to the passage of this Act Berne and Zurich had struggled for possession of the chief office of the Bank. The Federal Assembly, apparently unwilling to offend either city, got over the difficulty by refraining from establishing any head office. There are two principal offices, one in Berne and one in Zurich. But every Canton can insist upon the establishment of a branch of the Bank within its own territory, and the Bank is obliged to establish a branch wherever any Canton wishes. The Bank has a capital of 50 million francs, or 2 millions sterling. The Bank has its legal and administrative seat at Berne, where the general meetings of the shareholders, the meetings of the Bank council, and usually also those of the Bank committee, must be held. But the seat of the Direktorium is at Zurich. The cities of Berne and Zurich are each required to place at the disposal of the National Bank, without compensation, a suitable site for building the necessary offices, or to make an equivalent money payment. The Bank, moreover, is authorised to acquire by purchase existing banks whose business is of similar character, and, upon liquidation of such part of the business as may be unsuitable, to carry them on as branches. The share capital must be fully subscribed and half of it paid up by the day of commencing business. The payment of the remainder must follow at a date to be made known by the administration of the Bank six months in advance. According to Article 6, the capital of the National Bank was to be raised, two-fifths by the subscription of the Cantons, or, in their stead, the Cantonal banks, in proportion to their population; one-fifth was reserved for subscription by the then existing banks of issue, in proportion to their actual issue of notes on the last day of 1904. The last two-fifths, and any remainder of shares reserved to the Cantons or banks of issue and not taken up, were to be offered for public subscription. There was a long and eager fight over the proposal that the Confederation should also be allowed to subscribe. But it was finally decided that as the Confederation was to have a controlling influence over the Bank it would be illogical and unreasonable to give it an interest in the working of the Bank.

The immediate management of the Bank is vested in the Direktorium. It is composed of three members, of whom two reside at Zurich and one at Berne. The members are appointed by the Bundesrat for a period of six years. The Bundesrat chooses from among the members of the Direktorium the President and Vice-President. The departments of discount and deposit business and that of control have their seat at Zurich; the department for the issue of notes, for the management of cash holdings, and for the transaction of business for the Federal Administration and the Federal railways has its seat at Berne. In the actual management of business the several members of the Direktorium must carry out the decisions and instructions of the Direktorium. The branches of the Bank in other cities and towns are under local management. In addition, there is a general meeting of the shareholders. An ordinary general meeting must be held at least once a year. The Bank council consists of 40 members, 15 elected by the shareholders and 25 by the Bundesrat. It is charged with the general supervision of the course of business and the management of the business of the National Bank. The Bank committee consists of seven members. It is delegated by the Bank council, and exercises the detailed supervision and control of the management of the National Bank. There are local committees of the same kind. The audit commission is elected by the general meeting of shareholders. It consists of three members and three substitutes, and its business, as its name implies, is to audit the accounts. The National Bank is authorised to issue notes according to the needs of business. The manufacture, delivery, withdrawal, and destruction of bank-notes is under the control of the Federal Department of Finance. According to Article 20, the equivalent of the entire amount of notes in circulation must be in possession of the Bank in lawful money or in gold bars calculated at the market value, or in foreign gold coins, in Swiss discount bills, and drafts on foreign countries. The metallic reserve must amount to at least 40 per cent. of the notes in circulation. The bills must always bear two signatures independent of each other. The Bank is also bound to keep the equivalent of all short-time liabilities—that is, liabilities falling due within 10 days—in Swiss discount bills, in drafts on foreign countries, in lawful money, foreign gold coins, or gold bars. It is obliged to redeem its notes at par in lawful money in Berne on presentation, or at its branches and agencies within the time required to get the necessary cash from the head office. It must at all times receive its own notes at par. The charter was granted for 20 years. Of the profits, 10 per cent. up to half a million francs is transferred each year to the surplus. After this a dividend of 4 per cent. on the paid-up capital is distributed. The remainder of the net profits is divided as follows: the Cantons receive the indemnity assigned to them under Article 28; any excess still remaining is distributed, one-third to the Confederation, and two-thirds to the Cantons. The distribution among the latter is made in proportion to the population, according to the last Census.

Apart from the general disturbance of credit at the beginning of the War, Switzerland has not been greatly affected by the great European war which began in July 1914. The first effect of the catastrophe was a panic in Switzerland and a run upon the banks, a situation which caused the Government to proclaim a month's moratorium, subsequently extended to the end of September. Towards the end of September, however, the situation became more normal, partly in consequence of the creation of a Loan Bank by the Government, to assist both individuals and commerce, and it became possible to discontinue the moratorium. The hoarding that occurred at the end of July and early in August caused the note circulation of the Bank to rise from 268,000,000 francs in July to 452,000,000 francs at the end of August. It has since remained at an unusually high level, and at the beginning of the present month is still nearly 428,000,000 francs. The cash held has also greatly increased—from 199 million francs in July 1914 to 305,000,000 francs at the present time. The economic effect of the War upon Switzerland has been adverse, as it has prevented the usual influx of tourists and visitors. Nevertheless, the harvest was a good one, and,

Liabilities of The Banque Nationale Suisse.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Frs.	Reserve Fund. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amt. Frs.	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs	% of Total. %	Pension Fund. Amt. Frs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Frs.
1914 ...	25,000,000	1,495,620	26,495,620	4·7	455,888,905	80·8	2,851,585	·5	18,822,620	3·4	54,649,567	9·7	270,000	—	5,272,065	·9	564,250,364
1913 ...	25,000,000	1,146,912	26,146,912	6·5	313,821,300	77·5	1,340,102	·4	32,423,012	8·0	27,429,833	6·8	210,000	—	3,487,080	·8	404,858,239
1912 ...	25,000,000	843,150	25,843,150	6·0	339,239,700	79·7	1,086,476	·2	27,773,542	6·5	28,907,181	6·8	110,000	—	3,037,624	·8	425,997,673
1911 ...	25,000,000	585,628	25,585,628	6·5	314,755,900	79·7	1,252,802	·3	25,464,942	6·5	24,633,346	6·2	70,000	—	2,575,216	·6	394,337,834
1910 ...	25,000,000	333,245	25,333,245	6·4	297,212,350	75·0	1,151,426	·3	47,267,759	12·0	22,446,424	5·7	40,000	—	2,523,834	·6	395,975,038
1909 ...	25,000,000	201,712	25,201,712	7·0	261,515,950	72·4	1,147,316	·3	42,422,034	11·7	29,404,775	8·2	20,000	—	1,315,333	·4	361,027,120
1908 ...	25,000,000	—	25,000,000	9·3	204,055,550	76·2	936,576	·3	14,672,493	5·4	21,131,622	8·0	—	—	2,017,120	·8	267,873,361

Assets of The Banque Nationale Suisse.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Loan Society Bonds. Amount. Frs.	% of Total %	Investments. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amt. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Frs.	% of Total %	Total Assets. Amount. Frs.
1914...	263,785,544	46·7	29,345,025	5·2	9,329,110	1·6	196,639,381	34·9	19,552,182	3·5	35,825,184	6·0	5,175,478	·9	6,000,000	1·2	564,250,364
1913...	191,562,202	47·3	—	—	6,377,430	1·6	146,965,937	36·3	28,384,993	7·0	21,240,602	5·2	3,455,655	·9	6,872,000	1·7	404,858,239
1912...	186,524,112	43·8	—	—	7,065,802	1·7	172,012,096	40·4	25,491,708	5·9	25,310,558	5·9	2,567,397	·6	7,026,000	1·7	425,997,673
1911...	170,526,474	43·2	—	—	16,456,853	4·2	158,739,759	40·3	16,829,444	4·3	22,585,319	5·7	2,591,654	·6	6,608,331	1·7	394,337,834
1910...	166,591,892	42·1	—	—	9,955,209	2·5	150,438,258	38·0	18,012,256	4·6	43,619,348	11·0	1,768,478	·4	5,589,597	1·4	395,975,038
1909...	140,406,021	38·9	—	—	10,836,973	3·0	154,047,762	42·7	14,701,720	4·1	33,850,607	9·3	2,131,144	·6	5,052,893	1·4	361,027,120
1908...	128,221,444	47·7	—	—	6,171,308	2·2	108,877,882	40·7	10,445,181	3·8	8,182,188	3·5	1,148,321	·4	4,827,037	1·7	267,873,361

although the withdrawal of labour for the Army has affected industry, the economic and financial situation is very sound.

To show the effect of the War upon the position of the State Bank, the following contrast is presented:—

	1915, Oct. 7. Frs.	1914, July 23. Frs.	Inc. or Dec. Frs.
Capital	25,000,000	25,000,000	—
Reserve fund	1,996,000	1,496,000	+500,000
	26,996,000	26,496,000	+ 500,000
Notes in circulation	427,738,000	267,920,000	+159,818,000
Deposits, &c.	77,800,000	50,656,000	+ 27,144,000
Miscellaneous	9,785,000	3,358,000	+ 6,427,000
	542,319,000	348,430,000	+193,889,000
Cash in hand—gold	242,985,000	180,066,000	+ 62,919,000
,, ,, silver	61,803,000	18,945,000	+ 42,858,000
Loan Society bonds ...	14,816,000	—	+ 14,816,000
Investments	8,849,000	12,671,000	— 3,822,000
Bills	142,436,000	93,778,000	+ 48,658,000
Advances	18,327,000	13,986,000	+ 4,341,000
Correspondents	41,971,000	19,282,000	+ 22,689,000
Miscellaneous	11,132,000	9,702,000	+ 1,430,000
	542,319,000	348,430,000	+193,889,000

The amount of gold accumulated since 1907 is as follows:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Banque Nationale Suisse.

Dec. 31	Gold. Frs.	% of Total. %	Silver. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total. Frs.
1915* ...	242,985,000	9·7	61,803,000	20·3	304,788,000
1914 ...	237,935,862	90·5	24,913,230	9·5	262,849,092
1913 ...	169,955,452	89·8	20,836,045	10·2	190,791,497
1912 ...	173,137,817	93·1	12,775,890	6·9	185,913,707
1911 ...	160,666,437	94·8	9,188,380	5·4	169,854,817
1910 ...	155,614,335	93·9	10,155,365	6·1	165,769,700
1909 ...	123,944,254	87·4	14,412,545	12·6	138,356,799
1908 ...	117,481,104	94·2	7,227,050	5·8	124,708,154
1907 ...	75,483,429	92·8	5,860,620	7·2	81,344,049

* October 7.

The growth of the business since 1908 will be seen from the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

Inasmuch as the greater portion of the profits are payable to the Swiss Government, dividends of only 4 per cent. have as yet been paid. The appropriation of 10 per cent. of net profit to reserve is causing the reserve fund to increase steadily. The wisdom of the Swiss Government in appropriating so much of the profit instead of devoting a large share of it to dividend and reserve may be questioned. With a dividend of not more than 4 per cent. and with its shares at a discount the Bank would be unable to issue additional capital at par. The increase in the reserve fund is not sufficiently rapid to give the Bank command of much additional capital by this means. The unduly large part of the profits of the Bank appropriated by the Swiss Government will be evident from the statement below. Doubtless some revision of the charter will be made in order that the Bank may pay a dividend large enough to permit it to raise the additional capital it will need as its business expands:—

Profits of the Banque Nationale Suisse.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Frs.	Expenses. Frs.	Net Profit. Frs.	Dividend. Amount. Frs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve Fund.: Frs.	Balance to Swiss Govt. Frs.
1914 ...	8,770,748	3,498,683	5,272,065	1,000,000	4	500,000	3,772,065
1913 ...	6,701,389	3,214,309	3,487,080	1,000,000	4	348,708	2,138,372
1912 ...	6,137,825	3,100,201	3,037,624	1,000,000	4	303,762	1,733,862
1911 ...	5,744,097	3,168,881	2,575,216	1,000,000	4	257,522	1,317,694
1910 ...	5,658,063	3,134,229	2,523,834	1,000,000	4	252,383	1,271,451
1909 ...	3,401,810	2,086,477	1,315,333	1,000,000	4	131,533	183,800
1908* ...	4,982,115	2,964,995	2,017,120	1,800,000†	4	201,712	15,408

* Period from June 20, 1907, to December 31, 1908.
† Includes interest at rate of 2½ per cent. on instalments paid up prior to June 20, 1907. ‡ Yearly appropriation, 10 % of net; maximum limited to $500,000.

BANQUE RUSSO-ASIATIQUE.

Head Office: Petrograd.
London Office: 64 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—
Subscribed and Fully Paid, 24,000 Shares of 187½ Roubles ... ... Rbls. 45,000,000
Contributed by Chinese Government 4,179,322
Price of Shares in Paris, f. 700 = Rbls. 266¾.
Dividend for 1914, 5%. *Yield*, 7.575%.

THIS institution is playing an important part in the industrial and agricultural development of Russia. Under its existing title its history has been a short

The National Bank of New Zealand,
LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £3,000,000 | **PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - £750,000**
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - £2,250,000 | **RESERVE FUND - - - £685,000**
UNCALLED CAPITAL - - - £1,500,000.

Directors:
ROBERT LOGAN, ESQ. (*Chairman*).
JAMES H. B. COATES, ESQ. — EDMUND CHARLES MORGAN, ESQ. — LINDSAY ERIC SMITH, ESQ.
HON. HENRY STUART LITTLETON. — HON. WILLIAM PEMBER REEVES. — THOMAS SEABER, ESQ.

Head Office:—17 MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager:—H. F. FRESHWATER.
Chief Office in New Zealand:—WELLINGTON.
General Manager:—D. W. DUTHIE.

Branches and Agencies throughout New Zealand and Correspondents in all parts of the World.

The National Bank of New Zealand, Limited, issues DRAFTS and LETTERS of CREDIT, makes **Telegraphic Transfers**, opens **Current Accounts, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.** Receives **Deposits** of £50 and upwards for 1, 2 or 3 years at 4 per cent. per annum, and conducts every other description of banking business.

one, as its charter dates only from 1910. In that year the Russo-Asiatic Bank was formed to amalgamate the Russo-Chinese Bank and the Northern Bank. By this combination its activities were made to cover the whole of Russia—European and Asiatic—as well as China. The Russo-Chinese Bank was established in 1896, immediately after the Japan-Chinese war, to protect the interests of Russia, and devoted its attention to providing banking facilities for Russian and Chinese merchants trading between Russia in Asia and China, and consequently opened a large number of branches both in China and in Asiatic Russia. The Bank received the support both of the Russian and Chinese Governments. Indeed, the latter subscribed 5,000,000 taels to its capital and reserves. On the other hand, the Northern Bank applied its activities to promoting the trade of European Russia. Having regard to the development of Siberia and Turkestan, and the general expansion in Russian industries, the Bank's business seems likely to show indefinite expansion.

The deposits of the Russo-Chinese Bank grew in the first 10 years of its history to 161 million roubles. The political disturbances in Russia after the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war for the time being seriously affected the progress of the Bank, as well as of other institutions, and the deposits dropped to 113 million roubles early in 1908. With the restoration of order the deposits quickly rose to nearly 184 million roubles in 1909. In 1910 the Bank was amalgamated with the Northern Bank, and the deposits of the Russo-Asiatic Bank rose to 432 million roubles. At the end of December 1913 the deposits and current accounts of the Bank were 508 million roubles.

As the Russo-Chinese Bank the institution commenced its operations with a capital of 9,000,000 roubles subscribed in Russia and 5,000,000 taels subscribed by the Government of China. In Russian money the taels were equal to 7,593.000 roubles, and, according to its first balance sheet, the paid-up capital of the Russo-Chinese Bank was 16,594,000 roubles. Including the reserves, the capital of the Russo-Chinese Bank grew to nearly 29.000,000 roubles in May 1909. The capital and reserves of the new Russo-Asiatic Bank at the end of 1913 amounted to 73,265,000 roubles.

In common with banking companies on the Continent, other than the State banks, the institution has to keep almost no cash reserves beyond that required as till money for everyday purposes; it is able to rely upon the Bank of Russia to supply it with all the currency it may need at a moment's notice. The proportion of its cash to deposits is rather more than 7 per cent., while the proportion of cash to the total assets is only 4.4 per cent. The War has not seriously affected the business of the Bank. Its deposits in 1914 only declined from 508 million roubles to 451 million roubles. On the other side of the account the loans were reduced from 340 million roubles to 249 million roubles, while the bills discounted were somewhat reduced. The importance of this Bank will be realised from the statements of liabilities and assets herewith.

We should mention that the Bank has a large number of branches in the principal cities of Russia in Europe, in Siberia, in the Caucasus, in Turkestan, and in China, while it has offices in England, France, Japan, and India. The undertaking has been a fairly profitable one if the period of political disturbance immediately succeeding the Russo-Japanese war be excluded. In 1913 the dividend distributed was 10 per cent., but in 1914 it was reduced to 5 per cent. The report for the year 1913 has not yet been issued. The profits of the Bank compare as follows:—

Profits of the Banque Russo-Asiatique.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Rbls.	Expenses. Rbls.	Net Profit. Rbls.	Dividend. Rbls.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Allocations. Rbls.	Carried Forward. Rbls.
1914 ...	19,112,169	17,930,007	1,182,162	2,387,751	5	25,243	nil
1913 ...	18,361,859	12,918,590	5,443,269	4,987,172	10	122,999	1,230,832
1912 ...	18,298,143	12,981,032	5,317,111	4,954,566	10	167,441	897,734
1911 ...	16,003,696	11,651,136	4,352,560	3,554,621	9	186,377	702,630
1910 ...	16,006,177	13,038,653	2,967,524	2,839,531	8	62,835	387,722
1909* ...	—	—	1,452,405	1,170,750	5	194,367	578,550
1908* ...	—	—	1,616,433	963,528	4	161,643	491,262
1907* ...	—	—	2,979,897	—	nil	7,222,967	—
1906* ...	—	—	2,793,702	2,045,658	9⅛	721,606	26,438
1905* ...	—	—	6,300,568	2,212,400	10	4,088,168	—

* Banque Russo-Chinoise.

CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY
(OF NEW YORK).

Head Office: 54 Wall Street, New York City.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up, 30,000 Shares of $100 each $3,000,000
Price per Share, $995. *Dividend*, 50%. *Yield*, 5·09%

The Central Trust Company of New York was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1873 with a capital of $1,000,000, and soon began to build up a great business. Rapid as was its pro-

Liabilities of The Banque Russo-Asiatique.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rbls.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rbls.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amt. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Deposit and Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amt. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rbls.
1914 ...	49,179,322	23,373,058	72,552,380	9·5	1,706,226	·2	451,335,309	59·1	27,290,786	3·6	192,930,776	25·3	15,599,570	2·0	2,492,994	·3	763,908,341
1913 ...	49,737,460	23,527,793	73,265,253	8·8	2,172,371	·3	507,410,644	61·3	38,169,616	4·6	187,254,936	22·6	12,551,806	1·5	7,417,491	·9	828,741,276
1912 ...	49,871,720	23,474,306	73,346,026	10·1	1,138,127	·2	467,259,288	64·0	36,263,199	4·9	134,232,844	18·4	9,800,794	1·4	7,196,226	1·0	729,536,504
1911 ...	30,545,660	13,280,187	58,831,847	9·3	2,853,248	·4	396,649,575	62·5	32,501,236	5·1	131,400,605	20·7	7,015,134	1·1	5,441,921	·9	634,696,566
1910 ...	39,495,792	19,204,714	58,700,506	9·1	1,235,703	·2	431,883,111	67·1	36,481,383	5·7	106,089,728	16·5	5,073,701	·8	3,762,430	·6	643,226,562
1909* ...	23,377,600	5,405,248	28,782,848	10·0	1,295,833	·4	183,611,191	63·9	9,281,662	3·2	59,447,788	20·7	2,877,052	1·0	2,354,500	·8	287,650,874
1908* ...	23,415,000	5,030,309	28,495,309	12·9	869,507	·4	113,678,398	51·6	8,989,581	4·0	63,764,625	29·0	2,759,542	1·2	2,019,245	·9	220,576,207
1907* ...	24,988,200	8,176,513	33,264,713	11·5	897,477	·3	133,071,843	45·2	13,996,560	4·9	104,631,312	36·3	2,311,241	·8	—	—	288,176,152
1906* ...	23,000,800	8,053,720	31,054,520	13·0	1,727,865	·5	161,133,759	52·1	12,695,809	4·1	97,347,293	31·5	3,462,158	1·1	2,045,658	·7	309,467,071
1905* ...	22,562,400	10,415,926	32,978,326	10·2	1,349,296	·4	141,357,059	43·7	13,171,234	4·1	129,679,920	40·0	2,977,853	·9	2,212,400	·7	323,717,088
1900* ...	18,620,600	2,187,841	20,808,441	12·9	895,969	·5	82,682,167	51·3	9,631,436	6·0	43,658,510	27·1	3,655,809	2·2	—	—	161,332,332
1897*† ...	16,593,995	276,456	16,870,451	43·5	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,949,173	56·5	—	—	—	—	38,819,624

Assets of The Banque Russo-Asiatique.

Dec. 31	Cash & Bullion. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Loans, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Assets Amount. Rbls.
1914 ...	33,903,437	4·4	38,899,078	5·1	123,435,045	16·2	249,229,127	32·6	308,610,861	40·4	9,825,733	1·3	763,908,341
1913 ...	36,114,734	4·4	44,856,604	5·3	133,674,358	16·8	339,631,856	41·0	259,099,217	31·3	9,364,507	1·1	828,741,276
1912 ...	31,625,613	4·3	43,276,612	6·0	141,389,327	19·4	280,818,295	38·4	223,037,704	30·6	9,388,923	1·3	729,536,504
1911 ...	23,255,017	3·6	36,800,678	5·8	130,180,705	20·5	271,046,809	42·7	163,302,317	25·7	10,111,040	1·6	634,696,566
1910 ...	24,868,400	3·8	35,276,486	5·5	139,777,341	21·8	313,668,623	48·8	120,470,195	18·7	9,165,517	1·4	643,226,562
1909* ...	17,813,323	6·2	18,741,964	6·5	67,472,882	23·5	142,062,399	49·4	37,901,490	13·2	3,655,825	1·2	287,650,874
1908* ...	15,804,420	7·1	10,717,439	4·9	57,221,736	26·0	97,265,645	44·1	36,653,115	16·6	2,913,852	1·3	220,576,207
1907* ...	15,222,327	5·3	8,294,731	2·9	73,513,291	25·5	127,479,094	44·2	60,856,062	21·1	2,810,647	1·0	288,176,152
1906* ...	21,799,271	7·0	10,135,764	3·2	74,886,568	24·2	147,362,130	47·7	53,528,218	17·4	1,755,120	·5	309,467,071
1905* ...	41,443,934	12·8	10,287,679	3·2	57,400,104	17·8	130,938,599	40·4	81,933,191	25·3	1,713,581	·5	323,717,088
1900* ...	15,531,196	9·5	1,738,215	1·1	26,655,574	16·5	83,333,055	51·7	33,466,849	20·7	807,143	·5	161,332,332
1897*† ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,395,069	39·7	23,297,561	60·0	127,003	·3	38,819,624

* Banque Russo-Chinoise. † May 31.

Liabilities of The Central Trust Company of New York.

June 30	Capital. Amount. $	Capital. % of Total. %	Surplus and Undivided Profits. Amount. $	Surplus and Undivided Profits. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. $	Deposits. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses. Amount. $	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915... ...	3,000,000	2·0	16,046,573	10·6	130,265,050	86·2	1,500,000	1·0	226,917	·2	151,038,540
1914... ...	3,000.000	2·4	17,481,124	15·0	95,503,911	82·0	—	—	431,154	·4	116,416,189
1913... ...	3,000,000	2·4	17,681,950	14·2	103,240,005	83·0	—	—	446,821	·4	124,368,776
1912... ...	3,000,000	2·4	16,921,233	13·8	102,728,469	83·4	—	—	453,082	·4	123,102,784
1911... ...	3,000,000	2·7	16,233,047	14·6	91,549,471	82·3	—	—	399,890	·4	111,182,408
1910... ...	3,000,000	3·4	15,946,663	18·0	69,301,070	78·3	—	—	305,234	·3	88,552,967
1909... ...	3,000,000	2·7	15,701,028	13·9	93,724,526	83·1	—	—	338,617	·3	112,764,171
1908... ...	1,000,000	1·2	15,001,692	17·8	68,160,077	80·8	—	—	201,027	·2	84,362,796
1907... ...	1,000,000	1·4	15,739,625	22·3	53,681,686	76·0	—	—	210,758	·3	70,632,069
1906... ...	1,000,000	1·2	15,214,975	18·3	66,572,494	80·2	—	—	217,399	·3	83,004,868
1905... ...	1,000,000	1·3	14,538,330	18·5	62,168,034	80·0	—	—	212,166	·2	77,918,530
1900... ...	1,000,000	1·6	10,542,327	17·6	48,081,580	80·2	—	—	344,718	·6	59,968,625
1895... ...	1,000,000	2·5	5,863,446	14·8	32,496,446	81·8	—	—	371,189	·9	39,731,081
1890... ...	1,000,000	3·2	4,279,365	14·0	25,094,103	81·8	—	—	307,362	1·0	30,680,830
1880... ...	1,000,000	15·4	327,454	5·0	5,112,371	78·8	—	—	50,191	·8	6,490,016
1876... ...	1,000,000	19·0	84,525	1·6	4,127,798	78·4	—	—	50,980	1·0	5,263,303

Assets of The Central Trust Company of New York.

June 30	Cash on Hand and in Banks. Amount. $	Cash on Hand and in Banks. % of Total. %	Total Securities. Amount. $	Total Securities. % of Total. %	Loans and Bills Purchased. Amount. $	Loans and Bills Purchased. % of Total. %	Accrued Interest and Accounts Receivable. Amount. $	Accrued Interest and Accounts Receivable. % of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount. $	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. % of Total. %	Real Estate. Amount. $	Real Estate. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 ...	42,615,606	28·2	45,772,517	30·3	58,732,984	38·9	1,075,497	·7	1,500,000	1·0	1,341,936	·9	151,038,540
1914 ...	25,495,774	21·9	37,396,380	32·1	51,426,589	44·2	945,589	·8	—	—	1,151,857	1·0	116,416,189
1913 ...	40,683,773	32·7	29,386,329	23·7	52,332,312	42·1	937,234	·7	—	—	1,029,128	·8	124,368,776
1912 ...	39,876,010	32·4	31,370,893	25·4	50,124,917	40·8	724,018	·5	—	—	1,006,946	·9	123,102,784
1911 ...	36,770,041	33·0	28,425,117	25·6	44,447,621	40·0	531,885	·5	—	—	1,007,744	·9	111,182,408
1910 ...	22,347,330	25·2	21,817,771	24·9	42,874,192	48·4	530,230	·6	—	—	983,444	·9	88,552,967
1909 ...	42,684,351	37·8	27,255,386	24·1	41,496,393	36·9	348,276	·3	—	—	979,765	·9	112,764,171
1908 ...	38,041,060	45·1	19,286,902	22·9	25,761,677	30·5	286,642	·3	—	—	986,515	1·2	84,362,796
1907 ...	11,877,985	16·8	17,985,349	25·5	39,485,240	55·9	290,809	·4	—	—	992,686	1·4	70,632,069
1906 ...	10,371,706	12·5	19,698,425	23·8	51,643,128	62·2	273,901	·3	—	—	1,017,708	1·2	83,004,868
1905 ...	10,040,823	12·9	19,004,044	24·4	47,698,525	61·2	176,671	·2	—	—	998,467	1·3	77,918,530
1900 ...	5,160,768	8·6	19,096,715	31·9	34,571,780	57·6	171,155	·3	—	—	968,207	1·6	59,968,625
1895 ...	8,655,436	21·8	6,866,935	17·3	23,006,304	58·0	352,406	·8	—	—	850,000	2·1	39,731,081
1890 ...	1,088,964	3·5	4,445,393	14·5	23,988,775	78·2	307,698	1·0	—	—	850,000	2·8	30,680,830
1880 ...	183,695	2·8	1,671,500	25·8	4,612,264	71·1	22,557	·3	—	—	—	—	6,490,016
1876 ...	326,788	6·2	1,799,067	34·2	3,078,611	58·5	58,837	1·1	—	—	—	—	5,263,303

gress up to 1890, its growth in recent years has been even more remarkable. In 1890 its deposits had grown to $25,000,000, and in 1903 to $44,000,000, while in June 1915 they were $130,000,000. The capital needed to safeguard the fast-growing deposits has been provided almost entirely out of appropriations from profit. It is true that in 1909 the capital stock of the Company was raised to $3,000,000, but this was carried out by the payment of a special dividend of 200 per cent. upon the stock. At the end of June last the capital was $3,000,000, while the surplus and undivided profits amounted to $16,046,000, so that the capital and surplus together reach $19,000,000 and represent a proportion of 12.6 per cent. of the total liabilities. The Bank is a member of the New York Bankers' Clearing House, and its proportion of cash to deposits at the end of June was nearly 33 per cent. Just over one-half of its funds is at the present time employed in loans and in the discount of bills. The fall in the prices of securities in recent years has caused it to write off considerable sums out of profits in respect of depreciation; nevertheless its profits have still been very great. A few years ago dividends of 80 per cent. were paid on the capital of $1,000,000, and since the capital was raised to $3,000,000 by the payment of a 200 per cent. dividend the distribution has been maintained at 45 per cent. to 50 per cent. In other words, had the large bonus dividend not been paid the profit now distributed would be equal to a dividend of no less than 150

The National City Bank
of New York.

Chartered 1812.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID - - - - - - - - - £25,000,000.00
CAPITAL SET ASIDE FOR FOREIGN BRANCHES - £ 3,000,000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS - - - - £34,942,329.68

Office London Representative: 3 LOMBARD STREET.

per cent. upon the $1,000,000 of stock. The profits made by the Company in recent years will be seen from the following statement:—

Profits of the Central Trust Company of New York since 1904.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. $	Expenses. $	Net Profit. $	Dividend. Amount. $	Rate. %	Charged to Profit and Loss Account.† $	Undivided Balance. $
1914 ...	—	—	—	1,500,000	50	—	—
1913 ...	5,301,461	3,409,810	1,891,651	1,500,000	50	359,372	32,279
1912 ...	5,915,458	3,462,882	2,452,576	1,500,000	50	228,533	724,043
1911 ...	4,748,144	2,792,574	1,955,570	1,350,000	45	87,296	518,274
1910 ...	4,227,187	2,612,055	1,615,132	1,350,000	45	—	265,132
1909 ...	6,418,421	2,764,958	3,653,463	3,160,000	262*	—	493,463
1908 ...	3,704,366	1,982,458	1,721,908	800,000	80	—	921,908
1907 ...	3,241,312	1,710,384	1,530,928	800,000	80	1,905,386	—
1906 ...	4,048,736	2,168,494	1,880,242	800,000	80	528,016	552,226
1905 ...	3,900,563	1,834,259	1,266,304	800,000	80	—	1,266,304
1904 ...	2,949,222	1,253,466	1,695,756	800,000	80	—	895,576

* 235 per cent. was paid on the old capital of $1,000,000, and 27 per cent. on the new capital of $3,000,000.
† Written off for depreciation.

The strength of the institution and the growth of its business will be realised from the statement of the liabilities and assets given herewith.

A trust company in the United States is, of course, both a bank and a trustee. The success of the trust companies has, indeed, been so great that power has been given to the National Banks under the new law to act as trustees, executors, administrators, or registrars of stocks and bonds, so that this fundamental difference between the trust companies and the National Banks has now disappeared.

The Company is the trustee of many railroad mortgages and of many large estates, and was chosen by the Government in 1913 to conduct the sale and distribution of the Southern Pacific stock held by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

CHASE NATIONAL BANK
(OF NEW YORK)

Office: Adams Building, 57 Broadway, New York City.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up, 50,000 Shares of $100 each $5,000,000
Price per Share, $537½. *Dividend*, 20%. *Yield*, 3·75%.

THE Chase National Bank ranks, indisputably, among the leading financial institutions of New York, and were it not that the laws of the United States do not permit the National Banks to open branches at home it would undoubtedly be one of the greatest banks in the world. It was organised in 1877, having begun business in December of that year, and has prospered from the start.

An important change in the management took place in October 1886, when control of the Bank passed into the hands of Messrs. Henry W. Cannon, John G. Moore, Edward Tuck, Calvin S. Brice, and General Samuel Thomas. Mr. James J. Hill shortly after entered the directorate of the Bank. On July 1, 1887, the new management increased the capital from $300,000 to $500,000, the new stock being paid for at the book value of the old, viz. 180. In December 1897 the capital was further increased from $500,000 to $1,000,000, a cash dividend of $500,000 being paid at the same time. Again in December 1906 the capital was increased $4,000,000, making it $5,000,000, and coincident with this increase a cash dividend of 400 per cent. was declared, the dividend thus equalling the increase in the capital. While altogether the stockholders of the Bank have paid in $660,000 on account of capital, the paid-in capital has been increased by the earnings of the Bank, in the form of capital, surplus and undivided profits, nearly $14,000,000. The enlargement of the capital equipment to keep pace with the rise in deposits affords an evidence of a due recognition of one of the most necessary requisites of prudent and efficient banking.

Among the National Bank members of the New York Clearing House Association the Chase National Bank ranks third in point of net deposits. The Bank not only holds large individual deposits, but has long been notable for its numerous bank correspondents in all parts of the country.

The foundations of the Bank's success were carefully laid by its organisers. For many years its official head has been the Hon. A. Barton Hepburn, a man whose financial judgment is widely sought and as widely respected. He is an authority not only on banking itself, but on all those matters where commerce and finance come into touch with banking, and is invariably consulted and looked to for leadership. Between 1890 and 1900 the deposits of the Bank grew from $13,000,000 to $51,000,000. In the following 10 years they rose to $98,000,000, and at the present time reach $211,000,000. The funds thus obtained have been employed mainly in loans to

Liabilities of The Chase National Bank of New York.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds Account. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 Sept. 2	5,000,000	9,694 000	14,694,000	6·5	450,000	·2	211,206,000	93·2	101.000	—	205 000	·1	226,656,000
1914 ...	5,000,000	9,147,000	14,147,000	9·5	450,000	·3	135,960,000	90·1	123,000	·1	26,000	—	149,806,000
1913 ...	5,000,000	9,637,000	14,637,000	10·8	447,000	·3	120,321,000	88·9	—	—	20,000	—	135,425,000
1912 ...	5,000,000	9,613,000	14,613,000	10·5	1,000,000	·7	124,405,000	88·8	—	—	20,000	—	140,038,000
1911 ...	5,000,000	8,707,000	13,707,000	11·2	1,000,000	·8	107,633,000	88·0	—	—	—	—	122,340,000
1910 ...	5,000,000	7,896,000	12,896,000	11·4	1,000,000	·9	98,059,000	87·0	800,000	·7	—	—	112,755,000
1909 ...	5,000,000	6,899,000	11,899,000	10·8	2,510,000	2·3	96,058,000	86·9	—	—	15,000	—	110,482,000
1908 ...	5,000,000	5,746,000	10,746,000	9·0	2,510,000	2·1	106,395,000*	88·9	—	—	—	—	119,651,000
1907 ...	5,000,000	4,768,000	9,768,000	8·7	4,741,000	4·1	96,017,000†	84·5	3,081,000	2·7	—	—	113,607,000
1906 ...	5,000,000	4,275,000	9,275,000	11·7	460,000	·6	69,343,000	87·7	—	—	—	—	79,078,000
1905 ...	1,000,000	5,152,000	6,152,000	10·0	928,000	1·6	54,443,000	88·4	38,000	—	55,000	—	61,616,000
1900 ...	1,000,000	2,212,000	3,212,000	5·8	800,000	1·4	51,139,000	91·5	750,000	1·3	—	—	55,901,000
1895 ...	500,000	1,304,000	1,804,000	8·0	45,000	—	20,937,000	92·0	—	—	—	—	22,786,000
1890 ...	500,000	923,000	1,423,000	9·5	225,000	1·5	13,466,000	89·0	—	—	—	—	15,114,000

Assets of The Chase National Bank of New York.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders and Bank Notes. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	United States Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. $	Loans. Amount. $	Total Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 (Sept. 2)	58,349,000	25·7	24,195,000	10·7	1,500,000	·7	30,736,000	13·5	23,291,000	88,585,000	111,876,000	49·4	226,656,000
1914 ...	23,879,000	15·9	18,713,000	12·5	1,500,000	1·0	20,603,000	13·8	21,741,000	63,369,000	85,110,000	56·8	149,806,000
1913 ...	23,171,000	17·1	21,395,000	15·8	1,650,000	1·2	22,987,000	17·0	13,829,000	52,393,000	66,222,000	48·9	135,425,000
1912 ...	22,873,000	16·3	30,033,000	21·4	1,005,000	·8	20,682,000	14·8	17,890,000	47,555,000	65,445,000	46·7	140,038,000
1911 ...	22,600,000	18·4	17,336,000	14·2	1,616,000	1·3	19,694,000	16·1	18,836,000	42,258,000	61,094,000	50·0	122,340,000
1910 ...	18,322,000	16·3	18,320,000	16·3	1,009,000	·9	19,147,000	16·9	16,265,000	39,691,000	55,956,000	49·6	112,754,000
1909 ...	12,874,000	11·7	23,930,000	21·7	3,065,000	2·7	13,679,000	12·4	13,768,000	43,116,000	56,884,000	51·5	110,482,000
1908 ...	19,666,000	16·5	25,390,000	21·2	3,663,000	3·0	19,898,000	16·6	11,057,000	39,977,000	51,034,000	42·7	119,651,000
1907 ...	15,047,000	13·3	11,457,000	10·0	1,510,000	1·3	31,598,000	27·8	16,884,000	37,111,000	53,995,000	47·6	113,607,000
1906 ...	13,182,000	16·6	19,009,000	24·0	460,000	·6	11,552,000	14·7	6,847,000	28,028,000	34,875,000	44·1	79,078,000
1905 ...	10,762,000	17·5	7,183,000	11·6	1,338,000	2·2	10,632,000	17·2	5,272,000	26,429,000	31,701,000	51·5	61,616,000
1900 ...	10,786,000	19·3	8,981,000	16·0	2,630,000	4·7	9,341,000	16·7	2,095,000	22,068,000	24,163,000	43·3	55,901,000
1895 ...	6,638,000	29·1	2,582,000	11·4	475,000	2·0	970,000	4·3	4,342,000	7,779,000	12,121,000	53·2	22,786,000
1890 ...	3,607,000	23·9	1,771,000	11·7	500,000	3·4	932,000	6·1	3,198,000	5,106,000	8,304,000	54·9	15,114,000

* Includes "Bonds Borrowed."
† Includes "Clearing-House Certificates" and "Bonds Borrowed."

customers, which between 1890 and 1900 grew from $5,000,000 to $22,000,000, and now reach $88,585,000.

Last year, in consequence of the outbreak of war, of the severe trade depression, and of the transfer of banking reserves to the Federal Reserve banks, the deposits of the New York banks at the end of the year were somewhat heavily reduced; but in the current year the great demand for American goods for export has brought pronounced recovery, and in the past twelve months to September 1915 the deposits of the Chase National have grown from under $124,000,000 to no less than $211,000,000. The strength of the institution will be evident from the statements and liabilities and assets herewith.

Although it has power to issue notes based upon the deposit of Government bonds, it has not availed itself of the privilege to any appreciable extent and has now less than $500,000 of notes outstanding. The rapid growth in the business means that from time to time additional amounts of capital will be needed, and that shareholders will participate in the continued well-being of the institution, not merely by reason of the dividends they will receive on their existing capital, but from their ability to invest additional capital at profitable rates of interest. In consequence of the capital having been raised from $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 in 1906 by the distribution of a bonus dividend of 400 per cent., the rate of dividend declined to 6 per cent. in 1907-08, from which it rose to 12 per cent. in 1909, and since 1910 has been at the rate of 20 per cent.

The profitable character of the business is shown by the following statement:—

Profits of the Chase National Bank of New York.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profits. $	Expenses. $	Net Profits. $	Dividends. Amount. $	Rate. %	Special Appropriations. $	Carried Forwd. $
1914...	5,064,000	3,072,000	1,992,000	1,000,000	20	1,488,000	—
1913...	4,916,000	2,713,000	2,203,000	1,000,000	20	1,178,000	25,000
1912...	4,581,000	2,676,000	1,905,000	1,000,000	20	—	905,000
1911...	4,238,000	2,427,000	1,811,000	1,000,000	20	—	811,000
1910...	3,996,000	2,000,000	1,996,000	1,000,000	20	—	996,000
1909...	3,845,000	2,092,000	1,753,000	600,000	12	—	1,153,000
1908...	3,303,000	2,025,000	1,278,000	300,000	6	1,000,000§	—
1907...	3,063,000	1,411,000	1,652,000*	300,000	6	860,000	492,000
1906...	4,688,000*	1,364,000	4,324,000‡	4,200,000†	420	—	124,000
1905...	2,595,000	1,461,000	1,134,000	120,000	12	—	1,014,000
1904...	1,756,000	1,329,000	427,000	120,000	12	—	307,000

* Includes $1,985,000 from Bond Account. † Special dividend of 400 per cent. ‡ Includes $1,000,000 from Surplus. § $1,000,000 transferred to Surplus Account.

COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

Head Office: 14 Rue Bergère, Paris.
London Office: 52 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.
Other British Branches: Manchester and Liverpool.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up, 400,000 Shares of Frs. 500 each ... ...Frs. 200,000,000
Price of Share, Frs. 640. *Dividend*, 5%. *Yield*, £3 18*s.* 2*d.*%.

This great French Bank was founded during the Revolutionary crisis in France in 1848. The political troubles which then broke out impaired both public and private credit, and a run on the Bank of France brought about the suspension of specie payments. The necessity of providing credit facilities at that time compelled the Government to provide loan facilities to carry on the everyday trade of the country. Louis Philippe abdicated towards the end of February 1848, and on March 7 a decree was issued authorising the creation of banks of discount in the industrial and commercial towns. This was followed by a second decree, dated March 8, signed by all the members of the Provisional Government, establishing the Comptoir National d'Escompte de la Ville de Paris with a guaranteed capital of 20 million francs, of which one-third was to be in shares subscribed by the public, one-third was to be guaranteed by the City of Paris, and one-third was to be guaranteed by the Government of France. All the strongest elements in France, including the Chamber of Notaries, benefit societies, &c., assisted in providing the initial capital, and on March 18, 1848, the Bank commenced its operations with a paid-up capital of 1,587,021 francs in respect of the 6,666,500 francs of capital subscribed by shareholders, plus 1,000,000 francs received from the Treasury. With these small resources the Bank in 12 days, between March 18 and 31, discounted bills amounting to 13,402,167 francs.

A Council of Discount of 60 members, comprising the leading merchants and manufacturers, scrutinised the bills presented for discount by the public. This body is still maintained and has very largely contributed to the development and reputation of the Comptoir; indeed, the post of councillor is regarded as a great honour by business men. In 1853 the authorised share capital was raised from 6,666,500 francs to 20,000,000 francs, and as by that time the Bank had become a strong corporation, it decided to relinquish the State guarantee. Consequently its title was changed to the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, and by Imperial decree its life was fixed at 30 years, which period has been extended from time to time. Notwithstanding the abandonment of the Government subsidy the names of the directors appointed by the shareholders had still to be submitted to the Minister of Finance for his approval. The influence and importance of the Bank continued to expand rapidly after its change of name, and it assisted in the issue of many loans for the Government, for the City of Paris, and for French railway companies, as well as in the formation of a large number of industrial joint-stock enterprises. The activities of the Bank were not confined to France, and as a result of the policy of expansion which animated the Imperial Government, and which caused the latter to conclude a number of commercial treaties, the Bank created many agencies abroad—at Shanghai and at Calcutta (1860), Réunion (1861), Bombay, Hong Kong and Saigon (1862), London and Yokohama (1867), and Alexandria

THE RUSSIAN
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

Capital Paid up - - - £3,703,704
Reserve Fund - - - - £1,033,410

PETROGRAD MOSCOW PARIS

AND OVER 100 BRANCHES IN RUSSIA.

LONDON OFFICE: 24-28, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Liabilities of The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Frs	Reserve Funds. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Fixed Deposits. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Deposit Accounts. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Sundries. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Frs.
1914 ...	200,000,000	44,154,552	244,154,552	18·1	52,973,515	3·9	481,749,392	35·8	506,460,339	37·6	32,448,233	2·4	18,673,457	1·4	10,725,608	·8	1,347,185,096
1913 ...	200,000,000	42,605,598	242,605,598	12·9	51,588,010	2·8	694,734,449	37·0	668,034,603	35·6	174,849,206	9·3	26,548,363	1·4	18,064,816	1·0	1,876,425,045
1912 ...	200,000,000	40,807,354	240,807,354	13·5	49,735,937	2·8	645,365,566	36·3	611,682,860	34·5	186,172,364	10·5	25,628,961	1·4	17,892,721	1·0	1,777,285,763
1911 ...	200,000,000	39,042,513	239,042,513	14·4	50,417,563	3·0	664,332,251	40·0	530,708,844	32·0	146,940,349	8·8	14,480,169	·9	15,864,550	·9	1,661,786,239
1910 ...	200,000,000	37,554,747	237,554,747	14·3	54,101,786	3·3	579,279,723	34·9	569,608,296	34·3	184,350,984	11·1	18,828,882	1·1	15,783,958	1·0	1,659,508,376
1909 ...	200,000,000	36,433,545	236,433,545	15·3	60,369,971	3·9	593,519,215	38·5	447,686,161	29·0	170,114,512	11·0	19,849,070	1·3	14,286,163	1·0	1,542,258,637
1908 ...	150,000,000	21,379,258	171,379,258	13·2	60,355,800	4·6	571,733,828	43·9	343,248,119	26·4	126,020,168	9·7	18,137,285	1·3	10,264,976	·9	1,301,139,444
1907 ...	150,000,000	20,444,749	170,444,749	13·9	61,417,678	5·0	507,640,922	41·5	313,007,145	25·5	142,034,779	11·6	19,613,187	1·6	10,039,282	·9	1,224,196,842
1906 ...	150,000,000	19,720,301	169,720,301	12·6	63,632,530	4·7	527,807,496	39·1	424,691,465	31·4	142,518,449	10·6	12,781,888	·9	9,807,605	·7	1,350,959,734
1905 ...	150,000,000	19,043,031	169,043,031	14·0	63,117,174	5·2	512,679,900	42·3	328,292,938	27·1	124,122,846	10·3	5,266,396	·4	8,908,842	·7	1,211,431,127
1900 ...	150,000,000	16,172,387	166,172,387	20·6	74,591,805	9·3	290,841,417	36·1	165,066,846	20·5	98,512,660	12·2	2,883,207	·3	8,490,335	1·0	806,558,657
1895 ...	100,000,000	7,780,538	107,780,538	20·1	32,817,540	6·1	181,983,507	34·0	113,825,164	21·2	89,286,358	16·7	4,474,189	·9	5,201,129	1·0	535,368,425
1890 ...	40,000,000	2,572,160	42,572,160	12·6	—	—	122,904,083	36·3	94,340,161	28·0	68,819,942	20·3	6,489,312	1·9	2,831,904	·9	337,957,562
1889 ...	30,000,000	2,265,925	32,265,925	16·0	—	—	90,142,141	44·7	57,392,974	28·5	17,423,706	8·6	4,066,065	2·0	433,618	·2	201,724,429

Assets of The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Short Loans on Stocks. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills for Collection. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Advances on Securities. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Frs.
1914...	385,714,689	28·6	17,181,480	1·3	49,763,974	3·7	355,126,037	26·4	109,881,519	8·1	173,863,184	12·9	208,544,838	15·5	31,268,731	2·3	15,841,544	1·2	1,347,185,096
1913...	123,984,871	6·6	14,500,973	·8	57,412,601	3·1	1,004,360,545	53·5	94,277,222	5·0	200,933,954	10·7	190,036,507	10·1	175,076,828	9·4	15,841,544	·8	1,876,425,045
1912...	124,930,754	7·0	14,337,669	·8	50,778,422	2·9	947,012,860	53·3	88,858,748	5·0	186,983,736	10·5	161,244,357	9·1	187,297,673	10·5	15,841,544	·9	1,777,285,763
1911...	124,349,720	7·5	13,783,492	·8	71,163,732	4·3	892,611,228	53·7	82,123,156	4·9	175,153,754	10·6	138,085,685	8·3	148,673,928	8·9	15,841,544	1·0	1,661,786,239
1910...	83,009,819	5·0	14,198,498	·9	111,361,616	6·7	870,131,651	52·4	74,133,398	4·5	169,422,069	10·2	136,800,852	8·3	184,608,929	11·1	15,841,544	·9	1,659,508,376
1909...	92,432,421	6·0	13,069,337	·8	111,991,385	7·3	797,459,075	51·8	78,696,113	5·1	133,496,434	8·7	125,556,696	8·1	173,715,632	11·2	15,841,544	1·0	1,542,258,637
1908...	101,846,763	7·9	17,874,177	1·3	64,708,023	5·0	637,204,322	49·0	69,806,840	5·4	121,806,435	9·4	143,073,221	11·0	128,981,119	9·8	15,841,544	1·2	1,301,139,444
1907...	70,784,748	5·8	25,033,633	2·0	41,073,450	3·4	633,525,066	51·8	56,450,075	4·6	126,323,387	10·3	112,731,171	9·2	142,433,768	11·6	15,841,544	1·3	1,224,196,842
1906...	98,743,701	7·3	21,445,847	1·6	59,257,897	4·4	652,898,883	48·3	53,215,976	3·9	156,362,687	11·6	149,021,456	11·0	145,753,517	10·8	14,259,770	1·1	1,350,959,734
1905...	102,951,208	8·5	21,707,806	1·8	63,531,457	5·2	547,221,116	45·1	57,642,433	4·8	133,835,425	11·1	147,240,562	12·1	124,213,450	10·3	13,087,670	1·1	1,211,431,127
1900...	51,868,053	6·4	33,352,568	4·1	54,022,967	6·7	334,349,671	41·5	40,208,242	5·0	78,592,528	9·7	111,035,731	13·8	94,268,643	11·7	8,860,254	1·1	806,558,657
1895...	35,042,998	6·5	17,157,590	3·2	15,768,942	2·9	220,238,019	41·5	36,994,179	6·9	47,037,113	9·0	75,909,318	14·1	79,970,266	14·9	7,250,000	4·1	535,368,425
1890...	15,888,605	4·7	805,290	·2	20,348,000	6·0	139,914,793	41·4	—	—	29,969,221	8·9	86,299,653	25·6	37,482,000	11·1	7,250,000	2·1	337,957,562
1889...	18,573,195	9·2	161,451	—	20,204,000	10·0	97,650,575	48·5	—	—	—	—	43,541,199	21·6	14,344,029*	7·1	7,250,000	3·6	201,724,429

* Including Advances on Securities.

(1869). Moreover, it assisted in the formation of colonial banks at Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, and later on at Guyane and Sénégal, and was officially designated by the Government as correspondent to these institutions. After increasing its capital from 40 to 80 million francs and the reserve to 20 million francs in 1866, the Comptoir founded agencies at Nantes (1867), Lyon (1868), and Marseille (1869), in order to provide French commerce and industry with banking facilities in its dealings with French colonies and with foreign countries. The Bank passed through the Franco-German war without the least difficulty, in spite of the demand upon it for deposits and the offer to it of exceptionally large amounts of bills. In a single week it paid off 70 million francs of deposits. Immediately it became known that the German Army was advancing on Paris it sent a large part of its *personnel* and bills in its portfolio to Nantes, and at the same time despatched to its agency in London its foreign securities, and established in London a department for dealing with its correspondents abroad and its branch establishments in the Far East. In October 1871 the Bank was authorised to issue 5-franc notes for account of a syndicate, comprising nine banks; and these notes were freely taken in all parts of France. Furthermore, it rendered valuable assistance to the State when the French indemnity loan of three milliards of francs was offered for subscription. It was instrumental in obtaining subscriptions from 15,000 persons for 1,200 million francs, and it participated in the work of remitting the war indemnity to Germany. Towards the close of the seventies it opened agencies in Australia and in the United States, and participated in many important loan transactions, including the unification and conversion of the Egyptian Debt. Unfortunately, in 1887 the Bank began to finance the Société des Métaux, which by means of the advances it obtained from the Comptoir attempted to create a corner in copper. The knowledge that the Bank was financing the copper syndicate caused a run to be made upon it, and in two days 70 million francs of deposits were withdrawn.

Fortunately the Bank of France came forward and lent the Comptoir 140,000,000 francs on the security of commercial paper and securities. It was then decided to liquidate the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, and to initiate a new Company with the old title of the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris. The liquidation of the Bank was not unfavourable to the shareholders, the whole of the depositors and other creditors of the institution having been paid in full, and important distributions having been made to the shareholders, either in cash or securities. It is calculated that shareholders who subscribed for the new shares in the new Bank that was formed to take over the goodwill of the older institution have fully recovered their money, taking into account the premium on the new shares for which they subscribed.

The new institution was created on May 2, 1889, with an authorised capital of 40,000,000 francs. The first issue of 80,000 shares of 500 francs each took place on May 15, 1889, and was fully subscribed by the shareholders of the Bank. Since that date the progress of the institution has been rapid. At the end of 1889 its paid-up capital was 30,000,000 francs, from which it rose in the following year to 40,000,000 francs; soon after it was increased to 100,000,000 francs, from which it has now risen to 200,000,000 francs. Since 1889 the reserve has been substantially increased, partly out of premiums on new shares, and at the end of last year amounted to 44,154,000 francs. The total capital and reserve is therefore 244,154,000 francs, a sum which represents over 18 per cent. of the total liabilities. The deposits grew from 147,000,000 francs in 1889 to no less than 1,413,000,000 francs at the end of 1913. Over two-thirds are employed in the discount of bills, the bill portfolio at the end of 1913 amounting to nearly 1,100,000,000 francs. Beyond this the Bank had made advances on securities to the extent of 201,000,000 francs.

In consequence of the War the position of the Bank at the end of 1914 was greatly modified in comparison with its position at the end of the previous year. The trade of France was greatly curtailed, and business was conducted on a cash basis. This situation caused a great demand for the notes of the Bank of France, and gave the Government the power to meet a large part of its war expenses by the issue of

notes. At the same time, however, it curtailed the normal business of the great joint-stock banks of France, and the acceptances of the Comptoir declined from 175,000,000 francs to only 32,000,000 francs. Furthermore, a great many people were compelled to live upon their bank balances, and the deposits of the joint-stock banks were substantially reduced. The deposits and current accounts of the Comptoir were reduced during the year from 1,414,000,000 francs to 1,040,000,000 francs, or by 27 per cent. With the improved political and financial situation of the current year the position of the banks has somewhat recovered, and their deposits are now higher than at the end of December. The disposition to make cash payments in France, which is the usual effect of great Government expenditures, is reflected in the reduction in the bill case of the Comptoir. At the end of 1913 the bills receivable amounted to 1,004,000,000 francs; at the end of 1914 they were only 355,000,000 francs; and although the amount at the end of August increased to 587,000,000 francs, this was less than 60 per cent. of normal. In ordinary times the joint-stock banks rely for cash entirely upon the Bank of France, apart altogether from a relatively small amount of till-money that can be used for everyday purposes. The War with its vicissitudes has caused them to modify this practice, and at the end of last year the Comptoir held 386,000,000 francs in cash, against only 124,000,000 francs in cash at the end of 1913. At the end of August last the amount of cash held was 407,000,000 francs, representing 28 per cent. of the total assets, and 37 per cent. of the deposit liabilities. The position of the Bank at the end of August was as follows:—

Position of Comptoir Nationale d'Escompte de Paris, August 31, 1915.

LIABILITIES.	Fr.	ASSETS.	Fr.
Capital	200,000,000	Cash in hand	407,086,000
Reserve...	41,690,000	Investments	15,270,000
Fixed deposits ...	44,014,000	Short loans on stocks...	34,539,000
Deposit accounts ...	644,515,000	Bills receivable ...	587,572,000
Current accounts ...	464,248,000	Bills for collection ...	82,526,000
Acceptances	33,450,000	Advances on securities	141,612,000
Sundries	39,019,000	Current accounts, &c.	150,349,000
		Acceptances	32,100,000
		Bank premises ...	15,842,000
Total liabilities ...	1,467,496,000	Total assets	1,467,496,000

The great expansion in the business of the Comptoir since its organisation in 1889 will be evident from the statements of liabilities and assets herewith.

In 1912-13 its profits were large enough to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. upon its shares after appropriating substantial sums for reserve. Last year in consequence of the War the profit declined, and the dividend was reduced from 8 to 5 per cent. With the improving financial situation in France, and the recovery in its position, the profit in the current year will show improvement, and a higher dividend may be distributed. The profits in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.

Year to Dec. 31	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Balance.	Reserve, Investments, Depreciation, &c.	Undivided Balance of Year.
	Frs.	Frs.	%	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
1914 ...	10,976,034	10,000,000	5	976,034	806,964	169,070
1913 ...	18,719,135	16,000,000	8	2,719,135	2,323,848	395,287
1912 ...	18,335,643	16,000,000	8	2,335,643	2,086,353	249,290
1911 ...	16,102,798	14,000,000	7	2,102,798	1,574,107	528,691
1910 ...	15,950,189	14,000,000	7	1,950,189	1,489,868	460,321
1909 ...	15,559,192	12,945,000	6½	2,617,192	2,376,530	240,662
1908 ...	10,416,905	9,000,000	6	1,416,905	948,896	468,009
1907 ...	10,185,095	9,000,000	6	1,185,095	904,479	280,616
1906 ...	9,947,421	9,000,000	6	947,421	859,167	88,254
1905 ...	9,042,780	8,250,000	5½	792,780	700,768	92,012
1904 ...	8,971,994	8,250,000	5½	721,994	683,971	38,023

CONTINENTAL AND COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO.

Office: Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up, 215,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $21,500,000
Price, $268. *Dividend*, 12%. *Yield*, 4.5%.

The Continental and Commercial National Bank as it is now constituted was formed by the amalgamation in August 1910 of the Continental National Bank and the Commercial National Bank. The latter was much the older institution of the two, having been organised in 1864 with a capital of $200,000. At the time of the amalgamation the capital of the Commercial National was $8,000,000 and its deposits $72,887,000. The Continental National Bank was organised in 1883 with a capital of $2,000,000, and at the time of its fusion with the Commercial National in 1910 its capital was $9,000,000 and its deposits amounted to $98,259,000. The capital of the combined enterprise was placed at $20,000,000, of which $10,800,000 was allotted to the shareholders of the Continental and $9,200,000 to the shareholders of the Commercial National. The latter, however, had to pay $200 per share for the additional $1,200,000 of stock allotted to them in order to equalise the book value of the two institutions, which was fixed at $165 per share. In 1912 the capital was increased to $21,500,000, and the deposits rose to $187,000,000. In 1913 and 1914 in consequence of the trade reaction, the deposits declined to $175,000,000; but the renewed prosperity which returned to Chicago through the purchases of food products for the Allied Powers brought a fresh expansion to $192,000,000 at the end of June last. The importance of the institution as at present constituted is shown by the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

The particulars prior to 1911 are those of the Continental National Bank alone, and do not include the assets and liabilities of the Commercial National Bank,

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ESTABLISHED 1825.
Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.
Head Office—EDINBURGH.
J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE B. HART, Secretary.
London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.
J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.
Every description of banking business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of remittances to all parts.
The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.
The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its customers.

which was then absorbed. To show the progress made by the latter prior to its absorption we give the following statement of its capital and deposits since 1867:—

Capital and Deposits of the Commercial National Bank, 1867-1910.

Jan. 1	Capital Stock. $	Deposits. $
1910	8,000,000	71,791,707
1905	2,000,000	34,819,001
1902	2,000,000	25,978,874
1897	1,000,000	7,267,134
1892	1,000,000	8,566,429
1887	1,000,000	5,754,906
1882	500,000	5,614,505
1877	500,000	2,048,626
1872	500,000	1,793,102
1867	250,000	590,358

In part the business of the Commercial National was built up by the absorption of the Bankers' National Bank in 1909, which increased its capital from $3,000,000 to $7,000,000. This was the only bank absorbed by that institution. The Continental National Bank purchased several institutions:—the Globe National Bank in 1898, with deposits of $2,500,000, and the National Bank of North America in 1904, with deposits of $14,000,000. In August 1911 the Hibernian Banking Association of Chicago was purchased by the consolidated Bank, but the individual existence of this Company has been maintained, and it now possesses deposits of $28,000,000. The deposits of the Hibernian Banking Association,

Liabilities of The Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 ...	21,500,000	11,873,103	33,373,103	14·1	8,639,997	3·6	192,328,274	81·3	2,265,047	1·0	236,606,421
1914 ...	21,500,000	11,349,678	32,849,678	15·0	8,578,297	4·0	175 [illegible]		2,076,505	·9	218,574,178
1913 ...	21,500,000	10,425,898	31,925,898	14·7	8,594,600	[illegible]	[illegible],383,245	81·4	—	—	217,903,743
1912 ...	21,500,000	9,335,344	30,835,344	13·6	8,542,996	3·8	187,117,535	82·6	—	—	226,495,875
1911 ...	20,000,000	10,427,075	30,427,075	14·2	8,253,990	3·8	175,471,359	82·0	—	—	214,152,424
1910 ...	9,000,000	5,434,551	14,434,551	12·8	4,814,997	4·2	93,689,324	83·0	—	—	112,938,872
1909 ...	4,000,000	3,924,177	7,924,177	9·0	3,600,800	4·0	76,671,384	87·0	—	—	88,196,361
1908 ...	4,000,000	3,505,870	7,505,870	9·3	3,580,397	4·4	69,624,653	86·3	—	—	80,710,920
1907 ...	4,000,000	2,983,142	6,983,142	9·4	2,975,100	4·0	64,343,431	86·6	—	—	74,301,673
1906 ...	4,000,000	2,184,394	6,184,394	9·6	2,980,500	4·6	55,421,047	85·8	—	—	64,585,941
1905 ...	3,000,000	1,232,536	4,232,536	7·5	50,000	—	52,673,205	92·5	—	—	56,955,741
1900 ...	2,000,000	717,964	2,717,964	8·5	700,000	2·2	28,454,609	89·3	—	—	31,872,573
1895 ...	2,000,000	505,132	2,505,132	19·9	36,150	·3	10,005,136	79·8	—	—	12,546,418
1890 ...	2,000,000	305,504	2,305,504	23·2	16,800	·2	7,609,797	76·6	—	—	9,932,101
1883 ...	2,000,000	48,566	2,048,566	31·3	45,000	·7	4,439,096	68·0	—	—	6,532,662

Assets of The Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tender, and Bank-Notes. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Exchanges & Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915...	36,399,100	15·3	41,024,813	18·6	8,920,000	3·8	14,155,805	6·0	130,984,349	55·3	2,182,263	1·0	236,606,421
1914...	34,735,770	15·9	30,444,427	13·9	8,920,000	4·1	14,583,504	6·7	127,864,828	58·5	2,020,649	·9	218,574,178
1913...	30,008,293	13·3	35,406,635	15·3	9,051,572	4·8	16,184,234	7·4	127,242,959	58·4	—	—	217,903,703
1912...	35,791,869	15·8	33,356,562	14·7	8,953,062	4·0	14,928,759	6·5	133,465,623	59·0	—	—	226,495,875
1911...	36,158,937	16·9	30,906,822	14·4	8,696,594	4·0	15,911,557	7·4	122,478,514	57·2	—	—	214,152,424
1910...	18,016,776	15·9	20,405,600	18·1	4,999,719	4·4	5,785,494	5·1	63,731,283	56·5	—	—	112,938,872
1909...	15,859,442	18·0	15,379,166	17·4	3,742,187	4·2	3,754,561	4·3	49,461,005	56·1	—	—	88,196,361
1908...	16,715,125	20·7	13,963,418	17·3	3,829,688	4·8	3,851,131	4·7	42,351,558	52·5	—	—	80,710,920
1907...	13,823,388	18·6	9,175,685	12·3	3,101,250	4·2	2,051,876	2·8	46,149,474	62·1	—	—	74,301,673
1906...	10,178,484	15·7	13,209,667	20·6	3,101,250	4·8	1,558,130	2·4	36,538,410	56·5	—	—	64,585,941
1905...	10,810,442	19·0	11,398,966	20·0	50,000	—	1,569,964	2·8	33,126,369	58·2	—	—	56,955,741
1900...	5,755,719	18·0	8,574,759	27·0	1,044,486	3·2	567,359	1·8	15,930,250	50·0	—	—	31,872,573
1895...	2,678,900	21·3	2,260,175	18·0	50,000	·4	810,507	6·4	6,746,836	53·9	—	—	12,546,418
1890...	1,504,034	15·1	1,480,187	14·9	58,000	·5	63,114	·6	6,826,766	68·9	—	—	9,932,101
1883...	910,907	14·0	1,331,330	20·3	52,000	·8	11,194	·2	4,227,231	64·7	—	—	6,532,662

Liabilities of The Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings Bank.

June 30.	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Reserved for Taxes & Int. Miscellaneous. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915	3,000,000	1,861,548	4,861,548	13·2	31,768,286	86·1	250,363	·7	36,880,197
1914	3,000,000	1,939,824	4,939,824	15·1	27,444,044	84·2	221,173	·7	32,603,041
1913	3,000,000	1,911,808	4,911,808	17·9	22,360,423	81·2	258,926	·9	27,531,157
1912	3,000,000	1,375,874	4,375,874	16·6	21,865,592	82·1	173,807	·6	26,415,273
1911	3,000,000	734,546	3,734,546	15·3	20,507,322	84·1	155,726	·6	24,397,594
1910	3,000,000	392,618	3,392,618	18·6	14,733,507	81·0	72,448	·4	18,198,573
1905	3,000,000	1,969,687	4,969,687	14·4	29,583,548	85·6	—	—	34,553,235
1900	1,000,000	279,996	1,279,996	10·3	11,078,738	89·7	—	—	12,358,734
1895	1,000,000	234,215	1,234,215	19·3	5,167,732	80·7	—	—	6,401,947
1890	1,000,000	70,353	1,070,353	33·5	2,121,638	66·5	—	—	3,191,991
1889	1,000,000	3,661	1,003,661	79·2	264,105	20·8	—	—	1,267,766

Assets of The Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings Bank.

June 30.	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tender and Bank-Notes. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds. Amount. $	Other Investments. Amount. $	Total Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Due from U.S. Treasury. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Real Estate. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 ...	2,187,454	5·9	10,342,694	28·1	—	10,948,617	10,948,617	29·7	13,364,584	36·2	—	—	36,847	·1	36,880,197
1914 ...	2,513,019	7·7	3,418,634	10·5	—	12,496,867	12,496,867	38·3	14,138,265	43·4	—	—	36,256	·1	32,603,041
1913 ...	1,777,365	6·5	3,094,873	11·2	—	10,451,514	10,451,514	38·0	12,171,892	44·2	—	—	35,513	·1	27,531,157
1912 ...	1,793,101	6·8	1,869,930	7·0	1,025	10,657,348	10,658,073	40·4	12,058,459	45·7	—	—	35,360	·1	26,415,273
1911 ...	2,058,817	8·4	5,849,488	24·0	—	6,466,654	6,466,654	26·5	9,977,227	40·9	—	—	45,408	·2	24,397,594
1910 ...	1,847,248	10·1	2,207,954	12·1	—	5,253,799	5,253,799	28·9	8,857,120	48·7	—	—	32,452	·2	18,198,573
1905 ...	4,648,547	13·4	6,335,356	18·3	19,721	4,928,080	4,947,801	14·4	18,360,031	53·1	—	—	261,500	·8	34,553,235
1900 ...	829,993	6·7	3,737,570	30·3	33,292	1,206,184	1,239,476	10·0	6,511,695	52·7	—	—	40,000	·3	12,358,734
1895 ...	579,841	9·0	1,534,492	24·0	—	244,246	244,246	3·8	4,043,368	63·2	—	—	—	—	6,401,947
1890 ...	96,480	3·0	515,538	16·1	125,000	61,500	186,500	5·9	2,393,473	75·0	—	—	—	—	3,191,991
1889 ...	8,218	—	450,754	35·8	—	—	—	—	808,794	64·2	—	—	—	—	1,267,766

the capital of which is now owned by the Continental and Commercial National, are as follows:—

Capital and Deposits of Hibernian Banking Association.

	Capital Stock.	Deposits.
	$	$
1914, Dec. 31	2,000,000	28,285,322
1913, Dec. 31	2,000,000	28,018,096
1911, Dec. 31	1,500,000	26,725,786
1906, Dec. 31	1,000,000	20,287,008
1901, Dec. 31	500,000	9,876,185
1896, Dec. 31	222,000	4,031,900
1891, Dec. 31	222,000	2,930,180
1886, Dec. 31	111,000	1,946,302
1881, Dec. 31	111,000	1,401,108
1876, Dec. 31	111,000	674,558
1871, Dec. 31	111,000	640,759
1867, Nov.	111,000	129,441

The stockholders of the Continental and Commercial National Bank also own the stock of the Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings Bank, an affiliated institution, for the purpose of enabling the Bank to compete with the savings banks for long-term deposits, and to permit it to compete with the trust companies in respect of trust business. The present institution was formed by the consolidation of the American Trust and Savings Bank and the Commercial Trust and Savings Bank. This savings bank institution now possesses a paid-up capital of $3,000,000, a surplus of nearly $2,000,000, and nearly $32,000,000 of deposits. It should be understood, of course, that the Trust and Savings Bank, although a subsidiary of the National Bank, is not a part of that institution, nor is the National Bank legally responsible for the deposits. Nevertheless, from a practical point of view the two institutions are one, as the credit of the one is dependent on the credit of the other. Therefore any statement of the liabilities and assets of the Continental and Commercial National Bank would not be complete without statements of the liabilities and assets of the affiliated Trust and Savings Bank.

The profits of the institution have substantially increased since the Continental and Commercial were consolidated. In 1914 the total profit earned was $3,580,000, equal to a dividend of nearly 17 per cent., and after the payment of a dividend of 9.23 per cent. the undivided balance amounted to $1,596,000. The profits and dividends distributed since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Continental and Commercial National Bank since 1904.

Year.	Net Profits.	Dividends. Amount.	Rate.	Balance.
	$	$	%	$
1914†	3,580,392	1,983,600	9·23‡	1,596,792
1913†	3,694,522	2,472,500	11·5	1,222,022
1912†	2,794,911	2,150,000	10·0	644,911
1911†	2,601,002	2,075,000	10·0*	526,002
1910†	2,831,871	1,450,000	10·0*	1,381,871
1909§	1,026,006	565,000	8·5*	461,006
1908	1,025,630	320,000	8·0	705,630
1907	1,259,777	320,000	8·0	939,777
1906	921,482	300,000	8·0	621,482
1905	304,741	240,000	8·0	64,741
1904	461,323	240,000	8·0	221,323

* In addition special dividends were paid as follows: 1909, 10 per cent.; 1910, 20 per cent.; 1911, 7½ per cent.
† Continental and Commercial National Bank.
§ In 1909 and previous years the Continental only.
‡ Together with dividends of C. & C. Trust Savings Bank and Hibernian Banking Association makes even 12%.

Beyond the dividends derived from the National Bank the stockholders of the latter receive substantial dividends from the Trust and Savings Bank. The profits earned and the dividends distributed by the Trust and Savings Bank since 1904 will be seen in the statement appended:—

Profits of Continental & Commercial Trust & Savings Bank.

Year to Dec. 31	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Balance.
	$	$	%	$
1914...	603,647	360,000	12	243,647
1913...	620,697	360,000	12	260,697
1912...	700,868	—	Nil	700,868
1911...	751,036	—	Nil	751,036
1910...	361,154	—	Nil	361,154
1909...	531,128	120,000	4	411,128
1908...	455,696	240,000	8	215,606
1907...	458,459	240,000	8	218,459
1906...	516,580	240,000	8	276,580
1905...	451,552	220,000	8	231,552
1904...	294,676	140,000	7	154,676

CRÉDIT LYONNAIS.

Head Office: Lyons, France.
London Offices: 40 Lombard Street, E.C., and 4 Cockspur Street, S.W.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 500,000 fully-paid Shares of Frs. 500 ... ... Frs. 250,000,000
Price of Share, Frs 891. *Dividend*, 5%. *Yield*, 2.84%.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the services which the great French banks have rendered to the people of France. In no other country is wealth so evenly distributed as in France, and in no other country can it be said that everyone is not only a consumer or producer, but capitalist also. The existing great wealth of France is made up mainly of the small savings of a vast number of persons, and in the work of increasing the wealth of everyone the great banks have played a leading part. The manner in which the wealth of the country has become more evenly distributed from period to period is exemplified by the number of persons who have become *rentiers*. Notwithstanding an immense increase in the debt of France during the past century, there has been a steady decline in the amount of the debt held per person. In the work of enabling the democracy of France to effect savings and to increase their wealth as well as their income the great banks have very largely participated. Prior to the formation of the great joint-stock banks the rate of interest in France was relatively high, whereas since their formation it has become much lower. In the 20 years from 1847 to 1866 the averagge open-market rate of discount in France was at least 5 per cent., while in the 20 years from 1890 to 1909 the average rate of discount was no more than 2.27 per cent., or less than one-half the rate of interest before the days of joint-stock banking. In the old days, moreover, it was possible only for relatively rich men to obtain loan facilities. In these

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

PAID-UP CAPITAL £2,000,000
REST AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS £960,629

Head Office - - - ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
Cashier and General Manager: ADAM TAIT. *Secretary*: A. K. WRIGHT.

London Office - - - 3 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
WM. WALLACE, *Manager*. ALEX. DICK, *Deputy Manager*.

Glasgow Office - - EXCHANGE SQUARE.
A. DENNISTOUN, *Agent*. THOMAS LILLIE, *Sub-Agent*.

166 Branches throughout Scotland.

Banking business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques and other documents collected. Deposits received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

Liabilities of the Crédit Lyonnais.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Frs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital —& Reserve.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	—Deposits.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current —Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	—Acceptances.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Net —Profits.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Frs.
1914 ...	250,000,000	175,000,000	425,000,000	18·9	683,517,097	30·3	1,114,093,099	49·5	15,360,465	·7	14,421,604	·6	2,252,392,265
1913 ...	250,000,000	[illegible]	415,960,000	14·7	912,973,258	32·2	1,322,006,061	46·6	142,435,780	5·0	41,659,248	1·5	2,834,076,347
1912 ...	250,000,000	162,605,423	412,605,423	14·9	[illegible]	32·4	1,244,517,113	45·1	166,254,593	6·1	40,231,880	1·5	2,758,317,861
1911 ...	250,000,000	156,297,531	406,297,531	15·5	882,478,055	33·8	1,149,682,897	44·0	136,571,484	5·3	36,307,892	1·4	2,611,337,859
1910 ...	250,000,000	148,083,943	398,083,943	15·9	[illegible]	33·8	1,067,432,899	42·6	144,388,694	5·9	38,213,588	1·5	2,488,944,862
1909 ...	250,000,000	140,468,699	390,468,699	15·9	849,975,020	34·7	1,038,325,348	42·3	134,904,405	5·5	37,615,243	1·6	2,451,288,715
1908 ...	250,000,000	134,079,848	384,079,848	16·3	798,353,700	34·0	999,425,122	42·5	133,791,592	5·7	33,888,852	1·5	2,349,539,114
1907 ...	250,000,000	127,469,218	377,469,218	17·5	732,197,696	34·0	879,273,508	40·8	132,203,529	6·1	34,110,630	1·6	2,155,254,581
1906 ...	250,000,000	120,361,769	370,361,769	15·6	739,683,555	31·2	1,055,261,817	44·5	169,340,383	7·2	34,607,449	1·5	2,369,254,973
1905 ...	250,000,000	116,856,221	366,856,221	16·9	740,118,844	34·0	860,696,385	39·5	180,559,616	8·3	28,505,548	1·3	2,176,736,614
1900 ...	250,000,000	100,053,097	350,053,097	20·6	546,353,839	32·1	645,780,480	37·0	134,471,924	7·9	25,348,079	1·5	1,702,007,419
1895 ...	168,931,800	44,533,318	213,465,118	17·7	418,024,536	34·6	431,341,513	35·7	131,616,859	10·9	13,689,022	1·1	1,208,137,048
1890 ...	100,000,000	50,000,000	150,000,000	15·2	301,295,537	30·6	380,127,966	38·5	142,382,478	14·4	12,589,338	1·3	986,395,319
1880 ...	50,000,000	30,236,244	80,236,244	14·9	244,688,372	45·5	167,514,498	31·2	37,306,979	7·0	7,389,459	1·4	537,135,552
1870 ...	20,000,000	2,311,442	22,311,442	31·8	30,248,852	43·0	12,613,829	17·9	3,625,445	5·2	1,457,220	2·1	70,256,788
1863 ...	8,000,000	—	8,000,000	34·6	9,866,698	42·6	3,865,932	16·6	1,232,272	5·3	198,072	·9	23,162,974

Assets of The Crédit Lyonnais.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Banks. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	—Investments. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills —Receivable.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	—Advances.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current —Accounts, &c.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bank —Premises.— Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Frs.
1914...	721,361,384	32·0	8,608,525	·4	653,589,065	29·0	321,776,870	14·3	496,695,956	22·0	15,360,465	·7	35,000,000	1·6	2,252,392,265
1913...	174,406,835	6·1	[illegible]	·3	1,517,975,657	53·6	[illegible]	12·5	601,499,607	21·3	142,435,780	5·0	35,000,000	1·2	2,834,076,347
1912...	192,946,513	7·0	10,803,369	·4	1,411,224,937	51·2	362,115,909	13·1	579,972,540	20·9	166,254,593	6·1	35,000,000	1·3	2,758,317,861
1911...	183,393,848	7·0	11,257,492	·4	1,316,642,983	50·4	411,320,211	15·8	517,151,841	19·7	136,571,484	5·3	35,000,000	1·4	2,611,337,859
1910...	157,533,630	6·3	11,431,902	·5	1,229,516,789	49·4	450,702,766	18·1	460,371,081	18·4	144,388,694	5·9	35,000,000	1·4	2,488,944,862
1909...	145,711,259	6·0	8,588,923	·3	1,266,068,273	51·6	431,535,932	17·1	429,479,923	17·5	134,904,405	5·5	35,000,000	1·0	2,451,288,715
1908...	153,710,334	6·5	8,593,512	·4	1,187,827,874	50·6	410,053,348	17·5	420,562,454	17·9	133,791,592	5·7	35,000,000	1·4	2,349,539,114
1907...	150,060,799	7·0	[illegible]	·4	1,094,966,468	50·8	297,155,630	13·8	437,587,948	20·3	132,203,529	6·1	35,000,000	1·6	2,155,254,581
1906...	165,581,389	7·0	9,069,570	·4	1,137,888,950	48·0	492,518,789	20·8	359,855,892	15·1	169,340,383	7·2	35,000,000	1·5	2,369,254,973
1905...	171,554,053	8·0	5,446,755	·2	1,030,060,878	47·3	395,685,194	18·1	356,430,118	16·4	180,559,616	8·3	37,000,000	1·7	2,176,736,614
1900...	144,204,778	8·5	6,490,636	·4	759,709,671	44·6	347,121,794	20·4	280,008,616	16·5	134,471,924	7·9	30,000,000	1·7	1,702,007,419
1895...	105,883,825	8·8	20,402,573	1·7	521,957,157	43·2	205,290,843	17·0	192,985,791	16·0	131,616,859	10·9	30,000,000	2·4	1,208,137,048
1890...	63,217,131	6·4	20,055,007	2·0	459,917,006	46·6	138,842,662	14·1	131,981,035	13·5	142,382,478	14·4	30,000,000	3·0	986,395,319
1880...	40,391,385	7·5	37,747,795	7·0	138,344,388	25·7	170,659,303	31·8	94,645,202	17·6	37,306,979	7·0	18,000,000	3·4	537,135,552
1870...	14,130,637	20·1	6,207,561	8·9	16,017,790	22·8	18,848,881	26·8	11,426,474	16·2	3,625,445	5·2	-	—	70,256,788
1861...	900,741	3·9	1,486,478	6·4	5,845,413	25·2	5,254,756	22·7	8,443,314	36·5	1,232,272	5·3		—	23,162,974

days everyone in good reputation can discount their bills either at the Bank of France or with the joint-stock banks for relatively insignificant sums. Furthermore, the banks not only take care of the cash balances of the French people, but make themselves responsible for their investments, and almost the whole of the money invested by the French public is placed on the advice of bankers. When great borrowers apply to France for a loan they deal with the French public entirely through the banks. By examining the accounts of their customers bankers know whether they want to invest or not, and they endeavour to have stocks or bonds to offer to them as they require them. When a bank recommends its customers to invest their money in a given security they rarely or never reject the advice. It is possible, therefore, for the French bankers to take large loans and to place them with the public within a few days.

The greatest of the joint-stock banks of France is the Crédit Lyonnais, which was formed at Lyons in 1863 under the Joint Stock Companies Act, and transformed in 1872 into a société anonyme under the Law of 1867. Originally the life of the Bank was placed at only 30 years, but this period has been extended from time to time, and at present the Bank is not due to expire until 1960; but its duration may always be extended by a vote of the shareholders. The original capital was 20,000,000 francs, of which 8,000,000 francs were paid up. In 1872 the capital was increased to 50,000,000 francs, in shares of 500 francs each, of which 250 francs were paid up. In 1875 the subscribed capital was raised to 75,000,000 francs. In 1879 it was further increased to 100,000,000 francs by the issue of 50,000 shares of 500 francs at the price of 625 francs, the amount paid up apart from the premium being 250 francs; and in 1881 it was raised to 200,000,000 francs, the new shares being issued at 750 francs per 500 francs, with 250 francs paid. The subscribed capital remained at this figure until 1900, when it was increased to 250,000,000 francs, the price of issue being 925 francs per 500-franc share. In 1894 it was decided to call up the unpaid capital of 250 francs per share in five instalments of 50 francs each, extended into 1896. The subscribed and paid-up capital has remained at 250,000,000 francs since 1896. The reserve fund has been accumulated partly out of profits and partly out of premiums on new shares. In 1900 the reserve amounted to 100,000,000 francs, and it has since been increased to 175,000,000 francs entirely out of profits. At the present time the paid-up capital and reserve amount to the great sum of 425,000,000 francs.

To give a description of all the work the Bank has performed for France would call for a history of the French Money market since 1863. The Banque d'Etat has supplied the French people with all the currency they have needed, and has stood behind the great joint-stock banks in providing them with whatever cash they required at all times; while the Crédit Lyonnais has supplied the French people with a large part of the great quantity of securities in which they have placed their savings for the past 50 years, and at the same time has taken care of a large part of their cash balances, as well as providing them with the temporary loans they required from time to time, either for the purchase of goods or securities. The Bank does not lend on the security of land or houses; that duty it leaves to the Crédit Foncier, which raises its funds by the issue of long-term bonds, and not by deposits liable to call at any time. The Crédit Lyonnais employs the greater portion of its funds in the discount of bills which have an average maturity of 55 to 60 days, the average maturity of the bills held at any given moment being about 45 days. Should the Bank need a large amount of cash at any time it has merely to take its bills for discount to the Bank of France to be supplied with all the money it needs. The progress of the Bank has been very rapid, and in 1864 it extended its operations from Lyons to Paris; in 1865 to Marseilles; in 1873 to Saint-Etienne; and in 1871 it founded its agency in London. The number of its offices and branches has grown with the extension of banking in France, and whereas in 1865 it had only three offices, and in 1885 no more than 100, it had 200 in 1899, and it has now over 400 offices and agencies at home and abroad. The expansion of its business has been, indeed, incredibly great. In 1863 its deposits and current accounts were 14,000,000

francs; by 1880 they had grown to 412,000,000 francs; by 1890 to 681,000,000 francs; by 1900 they increased to 1,192,000,000 francs; and at the end of 1913 they were no less than 2,235,000,000 francs.

The great War that began at the end of July last year has seriously reduced the income of the French nation, and has diminished the deposits of French bankers. In the first place, a considerable portion of the industrial section of France is occupied by the enemy forces; secondly, the large income which France enjoys from the expenditures of tourists has almost entirely ceased; and, thirdly, her income from interest on capital invested abroad, and especially in Russia, has been reduced because of the closing of the Dardanelles, which prevents Russia from exporting produce in any appreciable amount. In these circumstances it has been necessary for many people in France to draw upon their balances with bankers in order to live, and there has been a heavy reduction in the deposits of the joint-stock banks. At the end of December last the deposits and current accounts of the Crédit Lyonnais had been reduced to 1,797,000,000 francs, whereas a year previously they stood at 2,235,000,000 francs. There was thus a decline of over 400,000,000 francs, or about 20 per cent. Since the end of December, however, both the military and financial situations have improved, and the deposits of the Crédit Lyonnais have recovered to 1,930,000,000 francs. The desire for cash payments in these days brought about a reduction in bills receivable from 1,518,000,000 francs at the end of 1913 to 653,000,000 francs in December 1914. According to the statement at the end of August last the Bank had placed a substantial amount of its unemployed funds in French Treasury bills, and the total amount of its bills had thus increased to 920,000,000 francs. In consequence of so many bills having been paid off the cash holding of the Bank is very largely increased. At the end of 1913 no more than 174,000,000 francs of cash was held, but at the end of August this year the cash reached 806,000,000 francs, equal to over 44 per cent. of the deposits, against a normal 7 per cent. The vast growth in the Society's business since 1863, and the effect of the War upon its position, will be evident from the statement of assets and liabilities herewith.

The position of the Bank at the end of August last is as follows:—

Position of Credit Lyonnais, August 31, 1915.

LIABILITIES.	Fr.	ASSETS.	Fr.
Capital	250,000,000	Cash in hand, &c. ...	806,411,000
Reserve	175,000,000	Investments	9,004,000
Deposits	687,489,000	Bills receivable ...	920,411,000
Current accounts ...	1,140,251,000	Advances	247,354,000
Accounts in course of collection	102,411,000	Current accounts ...	414,281,000
Acceptances, &c. ...	13,391,000	Liability of customers for acceptances ...	13,391,000
Miscellaneous	77,310,000	Bank premises ...	35,000,000
Total	2,445,852,000	Total	2,445,852,000

Normally its profits are very large, and in recent years have been equal to a return of about 17 per cent. upon its capital, and the dividend upon the shares in 1912 and 1913 was 13 per cent. Last year the profit was, of course, small; nevertheless, it was sufficient to induce the directors to distribute a dividend of 5 per cent. and to carry forward an undivided balance of nearly 19,000,000 francs.

The profits in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Crédit Lyonnais.

Year to Dec. 31	Net Profit. Frs.	—Dividend.— Amount. Frs.	Rate. %	Balance. Frs.	Special Appropriations. Frs.	Carried Forward. Frs.
1914 ...	—	12,500,000	5	—	—	18,918,155
1913 ...	41,659,248	32,500,000	13	9,159,248	10,000,000	4,496,551
1912 ...	40,231,880	32,500,000	13	7,731,880	13,000,000	8,337,303
1911 ...	36,307,892	30,000,000	12	6,307,892	—	10,605,423
1910 ...	38,213,588	30,000,000	12	8,213,588	12,000,000	4,297,531
1909 ...	37,615,243	30,000,000	12	7,615,000	15,000,000	8,083,942
1908 ...	33,888,852	27,500,000	11	6,388,852	—	15,468,699
1907 ...	34,110,630	27,500,000	11	6,610,630	—	9,079,847
1906 ...	34,607,449	27,500,000	11	7,107,449	25,000,000	2,469,217
1905 ...	28,505,548	25,000,000	10	3,505,548	—	20,361,768

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Head Office: Milan, Italy.

London Branch: 22 Abchurch Lane, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up, 150,000 Shares of 500 Lire, fully paid ... ... Lire 75,000,000

The Credito Italiano came into existence at the end of 1894 as a transformation of the old Bank of Genoa, which was founded in 1870. The institution has largely participated and assisted in the great commercial and industrial progress of Italy in recent years, and it has opened up a considerable number of branches in the chief cities, including a branch in London. The initial capital was 14,000,000 lire, a sum that was fully sufficient at that time, but the rapid growth of the business has rendered essential successive increases. In 1899 the capital was raised to 25,000,000 lire, in 1900 to 30,000,000 lire, in 1901 to 35,000,000 lire, in 1904 to 50,000,000 lire, and in 1907 to 75,000,000 lire. Between 1902 and 1906 the deposits grew from 24,000,000 lire to 104,000,000 lire, and since 1906 they further increased to no less than 206,000,000 lire at the end of 1913. In 1914, owing to the War, the deposits were reduced to 167,000,000 lire, while obligations to correspondents jumped up from 244,000,000 lire to 283,000,000 lire.

At the end of December, beyond the paid-up capital of 75,000,000 lire, the reserve was 11,000,000 lire, so that its total capital and reserve was 86,000,000 lire. This sum was equal to 14.1 per cent. of the total assets.

Since 1908 dividends have been maintained at 6 per cent., and substantial sums have been set aside for reserve. In 1914 the gross profit amounted to 22,000,000 lire and the net profit to 5,000,000 lire.

SHEFFIELD BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1831.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - £1,154,500.
Paid-up Capital, £404,075. Reserve Fund, £295,925.

DIRECTORS.

SAMUEL ROBERTS, Esq., M.P., Chairman. WILLIAM B. ESAM, Esq., J.P.
FREDERICK FOWLER, Esq. FREDERICK C. WILD, Esq., J.P. HENRY H. BEDFORD, Esq., J.P.

Head Office - - GEORGE STREET, SHEFFIELD.
Manager: ERNEST G. WRAGG.

BRANCHES.—The Bank has eleven Offices in Sheffield; also Branches at Barnsley, Chesterfield, Conisborough, Doncaster, Gainsborough, Mexborough, Rotherham, Swinton, Worksop, and in the surrounding districts.

The Bank has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and provides Circular Letters of Credit, Circular Notes and Drafts for the use of Travellers abroad.
Current, Deposit and Savings Accounts opened, and every kind of Banking business transacted at Head Office and Branches.
For the convenience of Customers, moneys may be paid in at any of the Branches or through Agents for their credit.
The Bank is prepared to act as Executor, Trustee, &c. The conditions may be ascertained on application to the Head Office.

Liabilities of the Credito Italiano.

Dec. 31	Capital. Amount. Lire.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Lire.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Cheques in Circulation. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Guarantees. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Net Profit. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Lire.
1914 ...	75,000,000	11,000,000	86,000,000	14·1	12,928,291	2·1	167,042,300	27·4	282,774,316	46·4	24,176,527	4·0	31,192,700	5·1	5,424,185	·9	609,538,319
1913 ...	75,000,000	10,500,000	85,500,000	13·7	14,554,945	2·3	206,064,937	33·0	244,100,898	39·0	47,331,931	7·6	22,439,304	3·6	5,112,284	·8	625,104,299
1912 ...	75,000,000	10,000,000	85,000,000	14·7	13,761,634	2·4	184,208,394	31·9	232,423,377	40·3	33,049,152	5·7	23,501,858	4·1	5,405,106	·9	577,349,521
1911 ...	75,000,000	9,530,000	84,530,000	15·6	13,733,114	2·5	178,114,408	33·4	194,617,310	36·0	32,474,494	6·0	30,503,591	5·6	5,365,937	·9	539,338,854
1910 ...	75,000,000	9,276,691	84,276,691	17·6	11,516,553	2·4	157,362,227	32·9	160,021,319	33·5	35,956,243	7·6	23,321,054	4·9	5,145,173	1·1	477,599,260
1909 ...	75,000,000	9,025,266	84,025,266	18·9	9,523,263	2·1	147,466,251	33·1	149,406,569	33·5	30,047,690	6·8	20,109,792	4·5	5,117,120	1·1	445,695,951
1908 ...	75,000,000	8,773,088	83,773,088	20·5	8,851,070	2·2	136,910,818	33·6	124,892,257	30·6	28,665,462	7·0	20,095,150	4·9	5,128,275	1·2	408,316,120
1907 ...	75,000,000	8,500,000	83,500,000	22·4	6,831,000	1·8	115,999,823	31·1	107,338,784	28·7	29,768,232	8·0	24,548,738	6·5	5,544,126	1·5	373,530,703
1906 ...	50,000,000	5,000,000	55,000,000	15·6	4,557,505	1·2	103,514,335	29·4	150,309,531	43·0	25,486,188	7·2	8,788,519	2·4	4,240,566	1·2	351,896,644
1905 ...	50,000,000	3,770,889	53,770,889	18·7	3,148,694	1·1	78,362,385	27·3	126,250,040	43·9	17,830,353	6·2	3,264,923	1·1	4,757,986	1·7	287,385,270
1900 ...	30,000,000	1,843,055	31,843,055	25·5	1,182,582	1·0	16,034,930	12·9	61,945,018	49·5	11,337,153	9·1	—	—	2,564,022	2·0	124,906,760
1895 ...	14,000,000	17,426	14,017,426	27·5	—	—	10,996,662	21·6	25,008,562	49·0	—	—	—	—	937,797	1·9	50,960,447

Assets of the Credito Italiano.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Investments & Participations. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Loans, &c. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Guarantees. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Lire.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Lire.
1914 ...	45,447,298	7·5	23,294,826	3·8	252,711,145	41·5	54,216,694	8·9	165,980,929	27·7	24,176,527	4·0	31,192,700	5·1	12,518,200	2·0	609,538,319
1913 ...	35,653,641	5·7	20,123,210	3·2	274,028,097	43·8	24,305,506	3·9	190,439,610	30·5	47,331,931	7·6	22,439,304	3·6	10,783,000	1·7	625,104,299
1912 ...	38,699,422	6·7	24,344,099	4·2	228,616,966	39·6	45,629,238	7·9	173,040,196	30·0	33,049,152	5·7	23,501,858	4·1	10,468,590	1·8	577,349,521
1911 ...	37,687,781	7·0	25,871,144	4·8	202,133,614	37·5	53,604,535	10·0	147,135,030	27·3	32,474,494	6·0	30,503,591	5·6	9,928,665	1·8	539,338,854
1910 ...	37,439,947	7·8	24,017,962	5·0	182,514,948	38·2	29,670,298	6·2	135,696,446	28·4	35,956,243	7·6	23,321,054	4·9	8,982,362	1·9	477,599,260
1909 ...	32,801,876	7·4	27,733,146	6·2	170,484,948	38·2	35,186,123	7·9	122,112,159	27·4	30,047,690	6·8	20,109,792	4·5	7,220,217	1·6	445,695,951
1908 ...	34,488,744	8·5	32,077,880	7·8	147,377,646	36·1	28,530,498	7·0	110,346,036	27·0	28,665,462	7·0	20,095,150	4·9	6,734,704	1·7	408,316,120
1907 ...	28,687,816	7·7	34,757,157	9·3	105,435,552	28·2	42,343,075	11·3	102,641,002	27·5	29,768,232	8·0	24,548,738	6·5	5,349,131	1·5	373,530,703
1906 ...	14,890,636	4·3	27,376,989	7·8	69,990,314	19·9	43,360,977	12·3	157,511,510	44·8	25,486,188	7·2	8,788,519	2·4	4,491,511	1·3	351,896,644
1905 ...	13,426,968	4·7	16,967,143	5·9	53,238,420	18·5	55,335,524	19·3	124,080,803	43·2	17,830,353	6·2	3,264,923	1·1	3,241,136	1·1	287,385,270
1900 ...	5,097,229	4·1	11,483,843	9·2	21,288,133	17·0	11,459,744	9·2	62,724,090	50·2	11,337,153	9·1	—	—	1,516,568	1·2	124,906,760
1895 ...	2,568,427	5·0	2,713,526	5·3	13,691,555	26·9	16,880,791	33·1	14,137,406	27·8	—	—	—	—	968,742	1·9	50,960,447

The profits of the institution since 1903 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Credito Italiano.

Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Lire.	Interest Gen. Exp., & Taxes. Lire.	Net Profit. Lire.	Dividend. Amount. Lire.	Rate. %	Special Appropriations. Lire.	Carried Forward. Lire.
1914...	21,729,322	16,725,364	5,003,958	4,500,000	6	500,000	136,699
1913...	21,095,051	16,079,611	5,015,440	4,500,000	6	500,000	132,741
1912...	19,527,612	14,518,677	5,008,935	4,500,000	6	500,000	117,301
1911...	17,960,025	12,984,755	4,975,270	4,500,000	6	470,000	108,366
1910...	16,940,964	12,163,629	4,777,335	4,500,000	6	253,309	103,096
1909...	15,188,481	10,446,601	4,741,880	4,500,000	6	251,425	79,070
1908...	14,330,223	9,574,148	1,756,075	4,500,000	6	252,178	88,615
1907...	13,770,078	8,619,641	5,150,437	4,875,000	6½	273,088	84,718
1906...	11,072,954	7,111,187	3,961,767	3,250,000	6½	700,000	82,369
1905...	10,085,846	5,593,778	4,492,068	3,250,030	6½	1,229,111	70,601
1904...	6,021,923	3,800,248	2,221,675	2,100,000	6	117,798	57,644
1903...	5,399,168	3,182,635	2,216,533	2,100,000	6	117,526	53,767

DARMSTÄDTER BANK.

(BANK FÜR HANDEL UND INDUSTRIE.)

Head Offices: Berlin and Darmstadt (Germany).

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up in 158,203 Shares of 1,000 marks and 4,193 of 250 florins, fully paid (no further liability) ... ... M. 160,000,000

Price of Shares, 100. *Dividend*, 4%. *Yield*, £4%.

This Bank was founded in Darmstadt in 1853, and since the formation of United Germany has become one of the great banks of the German Empire, with branches and agencies in nearly every German town of importance. In common with the other German banks it has been instrumental in raising large sums of money from the public for the promotion of banking, industry, and commerce. Its most noteworthy promotions have been banks which operate in Holland, in China, in Italy, in Brussels, and in Roumania. In these banks the Darmstädter possesses an important share interest. Originally its authorised capital was only 10,000,000 gulden, of which 40 per cent. was paid up, but with the opening of the Berlin branch in 1871 the capital was increased to 35,000,000 gulden, equal to 60,000,000 marks. In consequence of the great expansion in business that has since occurred the capital was increased in 1889, in 1898, in 1902, in 1904, and in 1910, until at present the subscribed and paid-up capital is 160,000,000 marks, or £8,000,000. In consequence of this increase of capital the growth in the reserve fund has been slow, and at the present time amounts to 32,000,000 marks. From its earliest days the founders of the institution contemplated the extension of its sphere of influence far beyond the walls of Darmstadt, and as early as 1854 appointed an agent in Frankfort, and in 1864 opened a branch office in that city, which was then the leading Money market of the country. The after-effects of the war with France severely affected the business of the Bank, and the deposits of the institution did not recover to the level at which they had stood in 1870 for more than 20 years. Indeed, the great expansion in the business of the Bank has occurred only with the absorption of a large number of other institutions in recent years. As recently as 1900 its deposits and current accounts were no more than 74,500,000 marks. In the five years to 1905 they rose to 296,000,000 marks, and at the end of last year they were 592,000,000 marks, scarcely a year having passed since 1900 in which the Bank has not absorbed several other institutions. The statement of its liabilities and assets is given herewith. Its capital and reserve fund represent 19.4 per cent. of its total liabilities. Its total resources amount to 990,000,000 marks, or about £50,000,000. The Bank does not need to keep any very large amount of cash in its vaults, as it can always supplement its till money with additional cash obtained from the Imperial Bank, upon which is thrown the task of supplying the country with currency. The Bank's investments last December were 110,000,000 marks; its bills were 175,000,000 marks; its advances were 115,000,000 marks; and its loans on current account were 310,000,000 marks. Its acceptances amounted to the substantial total of 199,000,000 marks.

The largeness of its capital has interfered in some measure with high rates of dividend. In 1913 the rate of dividend was 6½, but owing to the War its net profit in 1914 fell from 10,404,000 marks to 6,400,000 marks, and its dividend declined to 4 per cent. The sum distributed in dividend closely corresponds to the profit earned. The net profits of the institution and the dividends paid since 1903 will be seen from the statement appended:—

Profits of the Darmstädter Bank (Bank für Handel und Industrie).

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profits. Marks.	Expenses. Marks.	Net Profits. Marks.	Dividend. Amount. Marks.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Marks.	Carried Forward. Marks.
1914 ...	23,539,455	17,138,801	6,400,654	6,400,000	4	—	480,141
1913 ...	26,738,409	16,334,222	10,404,187	10,400,000	6½	—	479,487
1912 ...	24,519,207	14,110,818	10,408,389	10,400,000	6½	—	475,300
1911 ...	23,920,113	13,493,684	10,426,429	10,400,000	6½	—	466,911
1910 ...	23,215,227	12,318,991	10,896,236	10,400,000	6½	500,000	440,482
1909 ...	21,760,644	10,497,477	11,263,167	10,010,000	6½	1,250,000	444,246
1908 ...	18,953,475	8,867,376	10,086,099	9,240,000	6	750,000	441,079
1907 ...	17,506,255	8,241,634	9,264,621	9,240,000	6	—	344,980
1906 ...	21,227,701	8,880,682	12,347,019	12,320,000	8	—	320,359
1905 ...	22,400,084	7,475,387	14,924,697	12,320,000	8	2,500,000	293,340
1904 ...	15,354,356	5,651,201	9,703,155	9,240,000	7	417,171	148,643

Liabilities of The Darmstädter Bank (Bank für Handel und Industrie).

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Marks.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Marks.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Marks.
1914...	160,000,000	32,000,000	192,000,000	19·4	592,161,866	59·7	198,894,671	20·1	957,156	·1	6,880,141	·7	[illegible]
1913...	160,000,000	32,000,000	192,000,000	19·6	607,680,900	62·1	166,351,427	17·0	946,686	·1	11,159,487	1·2	978,138,500
1912...	160,000,000	32,000,000	192,000,000	21·4	547,591,506	61·2	140,478,377	15·7	3,304,600	·4	11,155,300	1·3	894,529,783
1911...	160,000,000	32,000,000	192,000,000	21·1	575,784,405	63·1	132,230,506	14·5	980,000	·1	11,146,911	1·2	912,141,822
1910...	160,000,000	32,000,000	192,000,000	21·8	555,684,115	63·1	122,114,374	13·8	434,307	—	11,120,482	1·3	881,353,278
1909...	154,000,000	31,500,000	185,500,000	24·9	462,898,186	62·0	84,591,592	11·3	3,278,067	·4	10,723,746	1·4	746,991,591
1908...	154,000,000	30,250,000	184,250,000	27·1	391,994,688	57·8	88,551,282	13·1	3,235,293	·5	9,896,679	1·5	677,927,942
1907...	154,000,000	29,500,000	183,500,000	30·0	337,456,922	55·1	78,580,046	12·8	3,249,175	·5	9,800,580	1·6	612,586,723
1906...	154,000,000	29,500,000	183,500,000	30·9	315,334,670	53·1	78,498,271	13·2	3,409,557	·6	13,071,559	2·2	593,814,057
1905...	154,000,000	29,500,000	183,500,000	31·4	295,990 370	50·6	88,903,574	15·2	3,[illegible]	·6	13,044,540	2·2	585,103,410
1900...	105,000,000	22,280,262	127,280,262	50·4	74,509,378	29·5	43,805,378	17·3	[illegible]	·3	6,351,543	2·5	252,601,768
1895...	80,000,000	17,538,399	97,538,399	46·8	57,932,120	27·8	45,065,081	21·6	1,258,356	·6	6,648,059	3·2	208,442,015
1890...	80,000,000	17,579,116	97,579,116	53·9	46,122,071	25·4	27,628,358	15·3	2,434,230	1·3	7,368,919	4·1	181,132,694
1880...	60,000,000	9,807,633	69,807,633	55·4	29,146,266	23·1	19,105,764	15·2	2,079,973	1·7	5,739,048	4·6	125,878,684
1870...	25,833,333	2,966,817	28,800,150	35·6	49,082,360	60·6	502,283	·6	508,334	·6	2,099,830	2·8	80,992,957
1860...	25,076,666	697,304	25,773,970	80·5	5,503,620	17·1	134,013	·4	40,137	·1	619,692	1·9	32,071,432
1853...	6,666,667	—	6,666,667	94·0	—	—	73,140	1·0	354,097	5·0	—	—	7,093,904

Assets of The Darmstädter Bank (Bank für Handel und Industrie).

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and Coupons. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount Marks.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Marks.
1914...	63,491,146	6·4	109,751,973	11·1	174,382,088	17·6	115,409,135	11·6	310,321,254	31·3	198,894,671	20·1	18,643,567	1·9	990,893,834
1913...	48,385,481	5·0	107,024,706	10·9	185,022,878	18·9	127,663,771	13·1	325,368,126	33·3	166,351,427	17·0	18,322,111	1·8	978,138,500
1912...	46,642,229	5·2	111,751,156	12·5	120,946,376	13·5	133,711,478	15·0	325,374,876	36·4	140,478,377	15·7	15,625,291	1·7	894,529,783
1911...	48,545,831	5·3	110,442,710	12·1	160,698,623	17·6	135,356,174	14·9	309,653,684	34·0	132,230,506	14·5	15,228,294	1·6	912,141,822
1910...	45,115,717	5·1	108,668,121	12·3	156,268,873	17·8	157,672,132	17·9	276,888,959	31·4	122,114,374	13·8	14,625,102	1·7	881,353,278
1909...	37,470,401	5·0	117,093,713	15·7	140,929,679	18·8	130,673,078	17·5	224,133,826	30·1	84,591,592	11·3	12,099,302	1·6	746,991,591
1908...	37,243,523	5·5	127,931,371	18·9	147,287,819	21·7	65,293,676	9·6	200,375,228	29·5	88,551,282	13·1	11,245,043	1·7	677,927,942
1907...	31,307,659	5·1	148,340,597	24·2	116,789,588	19·1	48,531,557	7·9	177,560,878	29·0	78,580,046	12·8	11,476,398	1·9	612,586,723
1906...	26,825,690	4·5	148,183,328	25·0	108,088,851	18·2	73,380,629	12·3	147,902,595	25·0	78,498,271	13·2	10,934,193	1·8	593,814,057
1905...	26,151,070	4·5	126,485,786	21·6	94,960,699	16·2	72,258,679	12·3	166,620,568	28·5	88,903,574	15·2	9,723,034	1·7	585,103,410
1900...	11,912,650	4·7	71,685,570	28·4	26,007,671	10·3	27,620,658	11·0	65,500,685	25·9	43,805,378	17·3	6,069,156	2·4	252,601,768
1895...	13,146,441	6·3	45,348,464	21·8	19,514,777	9·3	31,446,555	15·1	47,605,100	22·9	45,065,081	21·6	6,315,597	3·0	208,442,015
1890...	9,349,549	5·1	31,143,442	17·2	17,904,498	9·9	27,584,440	15·3	61,642,033	34·0	27,628,358	15·3	5,880,374	3·2	181,132,694
1880...	7,007,013	5·6	28,787,930	22·9	7,826,865	6·2	30,328,572	24·1	30,904,269	24·5	19,105,764	15·2	1,918,271	1·5	125,878,684
1870...	254,755	·3	17,849,604	22·0	1,442,993	1·8	279,878	·4	60,121,887	74·2	502,283	·6	541,555	·7	80,992,957
1860...	337,862	1·0	10,579,807	33·0	1,860,884	5·8	367,084	1·1	18,544,342	58·0	134,013	·4	247,440	·7	32,071,432
1853...	62,527	·9	—	—	3,278,505	46·2	—	—	3,614,872	51·0	73,140	1·0	64,415	·9	7,093,904

DEUTSCHE BANK.

Head Office: Berlin.

London Office: 4 George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued ... ... M. 250,000,000

Price of Shares 224%. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, 4·463%.

Not only does the Deutsche Bank possess branches in all the principal towns of Germany, but it has formed daughter banks or allied institutions which operate in nearly every country, more especially in the United States, Mexico, Central America, South America, East Africa, and Asia, as well as in Italy. Furthermore, it has a large stockholding in a number of other German banks. Indeed, its ramifications are so great that to give even a list of the banks with which it is intimately connected and the firms that have been absorbed into what is known as the "Deutsche Bank Group" would occupy a large amount of space. Suffice it to say that the Bank was formed for the express purpose of furthering and promoting German trade and commerce in all parts of the world. The Bank does not merely perform the functions of an ordinary bank; it is a promoter of enterprises on a great scale, its method being to acquire concessions or to purchase properties, and to work or develop them up to the point at which the public can be invited to subscribe the necessary capital.

From 15,000,000 marks in 1870 the capital was increased in the following year to 30,000,000 marks, and in 1873 to 45,000,000 marks. The depression in trade and the losses which then fell upon German traders and bankers prevented any substantial expansion in the Bank's business until about the year 1879, when world events took another turn for the better. In 1881-82 the capital was raised to 60,000,000 marks, and by 1888 the expansion in the business called for another increase to 75,000,000 marks. For the first 25 years of its existence, however, the growth of its business was relatively slow in comparison with the enormous expansion that has taken place in the last 17 years. In 1895 and 1896 the capital was increased

WEST YORKSHIRE BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	£1,000,000	PAID-UP CAPITAL - - -	£400,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - -	£1,000,000	RESERVE FUND - - -	£400,000

DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN—JAMES HENRY HOWARTH, Esq., J.P., Holly Bank, Halifax.

GAMALIEL SUTCLIFFE, Esq., J.P., Stoneshey Gate, Hebden Bridge.
RICHARD MOORE, Esq., Colston House, Burley-in-Wharfedale.
JOSEPH HENRY KAYE, Esq., J.P., Norwood, Huddersfield.
WILLIAM FOSTER, Esq., J.P., Whiteshaw, Denholme, near Bradford.
ROBERT WHITWORTH, Esq., Southwood End, Halifax.
J. HERBERT L. BALDWIN, Esq., J.P., The Hall, Thornton-le-Dale.
JOSEPH BLAMIRES, Esq., J.P., Bradley Lodge, nr. Huddersfield.

General Manager: J. H. HOWARTH *Deputy General Manager:* V. W. WANKLYN.

Head Office - - PRINCESS STREET, HALIFAX.

BRANCHES in LEEDS, BRADFORD, and HUDDERSFIELD, with 29 other Offices.

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business. Foreign Exchange. Savings Bank Department. Trustee and Executorships.

Liabilities of The Deutsche Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Marks.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Marks.	Current Accounts, —Capital & Reserve.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	—Deposits, &c.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	—Acceptances.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	—Miscellaneous.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	—Net Profit.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Marks.
1914	250,000,000	178,500,000	428,500,000	16·0	2,042,100,790	76·0	162,557,703	6·0	14,190,635	·5	41,074,482	1·5	2,688,423,610
1913	200,000,000	112,500,000	312,500,000	13·9	1,580,045,790	70·4	300,703,095	13·4	16,680,915	·7	35,745,407	1·6	2,245,675,207
1912	200,000,000	110,000,000	310,000,000	13·7	1,573,451,278	69·7	312,246,333	13·8	29,918,599	1·3	34,348,244	1·5	2,259,964,454
1911	200,000,000	107,781,262	307,781,262	14·4	1,508,646,793	70·6	255,252,229	11·9	32,104,459	1·5	33,466,665	1·6	2,137,251,408
1910	200,000,000	105,726,164	305,726,164	14·1	1,534,641,671	71·1	260,712,303	12·1	24,605,687	1·2	32,550,982	·5	2,158,236,807
1909	200,000,000	103,699,002	303,699,002	16·0	1,279,697,137	67·7	249,802,259	13·2	26,278,768	1·4	32,271,617	1·7	1,891,748,783
1908	200,000,000	101,831,917	301,831,917	16·4	1,268,816,251	69·0	231,948,425	12·6	5,870,331	·3	30,670,852	1·7	1,839,137,776
1907	200,000,000	100,000,000	300,000,000	16·0	1,264,405,721	67·6	263,537,867	14·1	13,469,089	·7	30,319,176	1·6	1,871,731,853
1906	200,000,000	97,098,560	297,098,560	16·4	1,250,744,128	69·0	226,110,088	12·5	9,761,861	·5	29,147,876	1·6	1,812,862,513
1905	180,000,000	76,662,853	256,662,853	16·5	1,064,340,142	68·4	197,843,097	12·7	10,975,279	·7	27,257,070	1·7	1,557,078,441
1900	150,000,000	48,049,218	198,049,218	22·1	531,166,118	59·2	141,131,301	15·7	6,273,987	·7	20,410,437	2·3	897,031,061
1895	90,159,400	37,869,031	128,028,431	22·5	295,948,126	52·0	122,496,507	21·5	11,622,842	2·0	11,403,589	2·0	569,499,495
1890	75,000,000	24,205,596	99,205,596	23·5	204,627,949	48·1	101,076,473	24·0	7,197,812	1·7	11,226,270	2·7	423,334,100
1880	45,000,000	7,401,035	52,401,035	31·0	64,303,006	38·0	45,834,592	27·1	832,628	·4	6,003,841	3·5	169,325,102
1871	15,000,000	21,225	15,021,225	42·2	12,126,159	34·1	7,325,286	20·4	285	—	1,169,940	3·3	35,642,895
1870	6,000,000	36,213	6,036,213	54·5	2,352,261	21·2	2,463,738	22·2	6,903	—	225,000	2·1	11,084,115

Assets of The Deutsche Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and —at Bankers.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Investments, including Treasury —Bonds.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Syndicates and Shares in Allied —Banks.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bills —Receivable.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Stock Exchange —Loans.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Loans and —Advances.°— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bank —Premises.— Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Marks.
1914 ...	357,079,200	13·3	172,940,242	6·4	113,345,432	4·2	674,610,444	25·1	254,399,310	9·5	1,073,048,970	39·9	43,000,012	1·6	2,688,423,610
1913 ...	189,183,536	8·4	161,201,623	7·2	135,931,898	6·1	639,402,212	28·4	233,226,705	10·4	855,229,233	38·1	31,500,000	1·4	2,245,675,207
1912 ...	197,377,565	8·7	113,412,191	5·0	128,016,727	5·7	646,912,649	28·6	240,198,323	10·6	902,546,999	40·0	31,500,000	1·4	2,259,964,454
1911 ...	198,516,493	9·3	93,819,001	4·4	104,342,141	4·9	586,636,739	27·4	297,007,547	14·0	830,139,487	38·8	26,790,000	1·2	2,137,251,408
1910 ...	192,291,793	8·9	85,607,203	4·0	109,987,214	5·1	621,400,691	28·8	336,552,667	15·6	784,265,839	36·3	28,131,400	1·3	2,158,236,807
1909 ...	173,682,176	9·2	73,198,341	3·9	101,297,406	5·4	528,710,782	28·0	279,001,957	14·7	710,551,715	37·5	25,306,806	1·3	1,891,748,783
1908 ...	164,843,974	9·0	87,858,988	4·8	115,757,326	6·2	539,386,524	29·4	222,116,087	12·0	687,846,346	37·4	21,328,531	1·1	1,839,137,776
1907 ...	169,589,452	9·0	68,600,081	3·6	135,660,077	7·2	631,461,993	34·0	154,933,214	8·2	690,942,569	36·9	20,544,467	1·1	1,871,731,853
1906 ...	189,588,375	10·4	72,421,074	4·0	125,331,258	7·0	540,409,798	29·8	209,342,100	11·5	655,717,818	36·2	20,052,090	1·1	1,812,862,513
1905 ...	171,203,256	11·0	61,436,343	4·0	100,620,098	6·4	460,583,059	29·6	221,018,863	14·2	521,550,894	33·5	20,665,928	1·3	1,557,078,441
1900 ...	78,585,075	8·8	38,433,990	4·3	86,283,286	9·6	299,686,901	33·4	54,232,479	6·0	331,576,029	37·0	8,233,301	·9	897,031,061
1895 ...	53,693,497	9·4	49,409,193	8·7	41,598,661	7·3	133,231,952	23·4	51,418,990	9·0	233,317,878	41·0	6,829,324	1·2	569,499,495
1890 ...	42,877,942	10·1	11,473,598	2·8	35,315,035	8·3	126,714,934	30·0	32,318,282	7·6	170,631,043	40·3	4,003,266	·9	423,334,100
1880 ...	8,300,478	4·9	6,053,307	3·5	11,863,283	7·0	37,606,859	22·2	21,793,719	12·9	80,921,364	47·9	2,836,092	1·6	169,375,102
1871 ...	950,688	3·0	809,712	2·2	4,079,010	11·5	2,613,372	7·0	9,045,693	25·4	17,877,633	50·2	266,787	·7	35,642,895
1870 ...	357,378	3·2	692,070	6·3	—	—	1,945,830	17·6	—	—	8,080,713	72·9	8,124	—	11,084,115

° Including acceptances, for amount of which see contra.

to 100,000,000 marks; in 1897 to 150,000,000 marks; in 1902 there was another increase to 160,000,000 marks; in 1904 to 180,000,000 marks; in 1906 to 200,000,000 marks; and in 1914 it was raised to 250,000,000 marks. The rapidity of the growth of the business is reflected by the expansion in deposits. At the end of 1871 the deposits were 27,000,000 marks; by 1876 they had grown to 96,000,000 marks. Then the collapse of business and the depression in trade caused a reaction to 41,000,000 marks in 1877, and it was not until 1883 that the deposits again exceeded the 1876 level. During the eighties they grew from 64,000,000 marks to 218,000,000 marks. The trade depression and lack of confidence in the early nineties then affected business, and in 1896 the deposits were still no greater than 287,000,000 marks. It will be recollected that in 1899 Great Britain was engaged in war in South Africa, and that during the period the British Money market was almost closed to the demands for capital for foreign countries. It was in this period the German people greatly extended their banking facilities and their loans to foreign countries. Between 1898 and 1902 the deposits of the Deutsche grew from 444,000,000 marks to 720,000,000 marks, and since then they have continued to expand, until at the end of 1914 they reached 2,042,000,000 marks, or £102,000,000.

Partly by means of the premiums received on new issues of capital, and partly by the appropriation of profits, the reserve fund has been increased, until at the present time it amounts to 178,000,000 marks. When the new capital recently authorised has been placed the total capital and reserve will amount to 365,000,000 marks. The paid-up capital and reserve at the end of December last was 312,500,000 marks. The German joint-stock banks do not need to hold any large amount of cash in their vaults other than that required to meet their daily needs, as at all times the Reichsbank is prepared to provide currency for the country. Nevertheless, the amount of cash held by the Deutsche Bank, in hand and at bankers, at the end of last year amounted to 357,000,000 marks, equal to about 13 per cent. of its total assets. The Bank's investments were 172,000,000 marks.

The total liabilities and assets of this, the greatest of the German banks, are set out herewith.

The business of the institution is a profitable one. Its total income last year was over 74,000,000 marks, and its net profit was nearly 37,000,000 marks, equal to a dividend upon the stock of nearly 15 per cent. The dividend distributed on the increased capital was reduced to 10 per cent. The profits and income of the Bank since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Deutsche Bank.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Marks.	Expenses.* Marks.	Net Profit. Marks.	—Dividend.— Amount. Marks.	Rate. %	Special Apprns. Marks.	Carried Forward. Marks.
1914...	74,434,609	37,627,039	36,807,570	25,000,000	10	3,958,602	12,115,880
1913...	68,307,136	34,560,936	33,745,562	25,000,000	12½	7,498,400	4,266,912
1912...	66,340,380	34,366,260	31,974,120	25,000,000	12½	6,523,800	3,019,740
1911...	64,184,580	32,804,100	31,380,480	25,000,000	12½	5,878,440	2,569,420
1910...	61,825,380	30,629,560	31,195,820	25,000,000	12½	5,294,400	2,067,380
1909...	58,156,440	28,706,700	29,449,740	25,000,000	12½	4,434,320	1,165,960
1908...	53,888,800	25,019,080	28,869,720	24,000,000	12	4,853,220	1,150,540
1907...	52,462,760	23,425,380	29,037,380	24,000,000	12	5,019,140	1,134,040
1906...	48,912,320	21,343,480	27,568,840	22,000,000	12	5,493,760	1,115,800
1905...	45,574,520	19,626,140	25,948,380	21,600,000	12	4,356,220	1,040,720
1904...	39,625,240	16,841,240	22,784,000	19,200,000	12	3,389,700	1,048,560

* Includes taxes as follows: 1914, M. 4,416,065; 1913, M. 3,977,697; 1912, M. 3,981,340; 1911, M. 3,853,960; 1910, M. 3,752,180; 1909, M. 3,572,320; 1908, M. 2,532,640; 1907, M. 2,383,920; 1906, M. 2,165,160; 1905, M. 2,102,460; 1904, M. 2,110,800.

DIRECTION DER DISCONTO-GESELLSCHAFT.

Head Office: Berlin.
London Branch: 33 Cornhill, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued ... ... M. 300,000,000*

In addition to the Ordinary shareholders there are seven acting partners, whose liability is unlimited.

Price of Shares, 176%. *Dividend*, 8%. *Yield*, 4.55%.

THE Disconto-Gesellschaft in Berlin was founded in 1851 by the former Prussian Minister of Finance, David Hansemann, for the purpose of being the medium of procuring cheap credit accommodation for its members, consisting chiefly of small and middle-class traders and business people. In the year 1856, however, the institution was turned into a banking business. with a capital of 10 million thalers

Liabilities of The Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Marks.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Marks.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Acceptances and Cheques. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Staff Pension Fund, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Marks.
1914 ...	300,000,000	118,975,000	418,975,000	29·8	805,681,972	57·3	152,680,230	10·9	5,071,396	·4	23,121,515	1·6	1,406,530,113
1913 ...	200,000,000	81,300,000	281,300,000	22·8	674,023,980	54·4	250,941,010	20·3	6,194,730	·5	25,493,650	2·0	1,238,253,370
1912 ...	200,000,000	81,300,000	281,300,000	24·2	604,514,540	52·1	238,826,020	20·6	6,430,180*	·5	29,205,880	2·6	1,160,266,620
1911 ...	200,000,000	81,300,000	281,300,000	25·1	568,912,000	50·5	235,140,400	20·9	12,964,940	1·1	26,554,760	2·4	1,124,872,100
1910 ...	170,000,000	61,092,620	231,092,620	21·2	608,883,480	56·2	207,501,720	19·2	11,934,240	1·1	24,540,340	2·3	1,083,952,400
1909 ...	170,000,000	60,092,620	230,092,620	23·8	509,949,940	52·8	193,206,940	20·0	10,608,260	1·1	22,684,280	2·3	966,542,040
1908 ...	170,000,000	57,592,620	227,592,620	25·8	453,544,600	51·4	171,014,620	19·4	9,977,340	1·1	20,099,580	2·3	882,228,760
1907 ...	170,000,000	57,592,620	227,592,620	26·8	400,795,060	47·1	194,099,800	22·8	9,513,500	1·1	18,833,600	2·2	850,834,580
1906 ...	170,000,000	57,592,620	227,592,620	27·4	380,027,360	45·6	195,988,020	23·6	9,567,500	1·1	18,713,320	2·3	831,888,820
1905 ...	170,000,000	57,592,620	227,592,620	30·7	325,450,460	43·9	162,186,900	21·8	8,349,500	1·2	18,285,380	2·4	742,464,860
1900 ...	130,000,000	38,474,020	168,474,020	36·8	180,818,680	39·5	89,093,840	19·5	5,718,620	1·2	14,521,580	3·0	458,656,740
1895 ...	115,000,000	28,750,000	143,750,000	39·2	154,737,050	42·2	48,695,300	13·3	5,457,620	1·5	14,122,290	3·8	366,762,260
1890 ...	75,000,000	24,088,337	99,088,337	38·0	126,342,335	48·6	20,349,570	7·9	5,934,780	1·5	10,704,928	4·0	260,419,950
1880 ...	60,175,620	9,571,761	69,747,381	45·1	64,549,506	41·7	11,362,040	7·4	790,663	·5	8,258,920	5·3	154,708,510
1870 ...	33,835,770	2,801,702	36,637,472	39·5	42,740,300	46·0	7,232,830	7·9	418,910	·4	5,795,528	6·2	92,825,040
1860 ...	33,539,100	2,649,495	36,188,595	58·5	16,310,245	26·3	7,160,795	11·6	165,140	·2	2,080,595	3·4	61,895,360
1852 ...	1,105,830	15,980	1,121,810	27·4	2,334,760	57·1	554,830	13·6	—	—	77,020	1·9	4,088,430

* Savings of the staff, formerly given under this heading, now included in "Deposits and Current Accounts."

Assets of The Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Securities, Syndicates, Participation in Other Banks, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Loans. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Marks.
1914 ...	142,489,320	10·1	328,064,549	23·3	118,161,632	8·4	361,632,012	25·6	427,848,839	30·6	28,333,961	2·0	1,406,530,113
1913 ...	120,927,110	9·7	211,547,290	17·0	238,805,300	19·3	257,539,350	20·8	391,295,160	31·7	18,139,169	1·5	1,238,253,370
1912 ...	96,972,500	8·4	196,354,980	16·9	229,049,280	19·8	232,367,000	19·9	385,878,140	33·4	19,644,720	1·6	1,160,266,620
1911 ...	89,450,260	8·0	174,698,020	15·5	247,249,540	22·0	190,829,060	16·9	401,986,380	36·0	17,658,840	1·6	1,124,872,100
1910 ...	85,515,760	7·9	174,037,960	16·0	195,285,080	18·0	200,374,840	18·5	413,063,040	38·1	15,675,720	1·5	1,083,952,400
1909 ...	83,476,740	8·6	160,738,840	16·6	191,110,760	19·8	197,751,340	20·5	318,710,380	33·0	14,753,980	1·5	966,542,040
1908 ...	80,878,020	9·2	199,776,640	22·7	136,530,280	15·5	158,928,060	18·0	293,998,700	33·3	12,117,060	1·3	882,228,760
1907 ...	52,482,720	6·1	202,815,180	23·8	49,554,640	5·8	154,295,680	18·1	380,998,140	44·9	10,688,220	1·3	850,834,580
1906 ...	41,525,220	5·2	191,080,940	22·9	57,703,820	6·9	175,833,000	21·1	354,063,480	42·6	11,682,360	1·3	831,888,820
1905 ...	48,162,940	6·5	172,920,780	23·2	38,536,420	5·2	151,965,820	20·4	319,198,840	43·1	11,680,060	1·6	742,464,860
1900 ...	21,462,620	4·7	118,105,160	25·7	31,462,800	6·8	100,681,880	22·0	181,719,840	39·7	5,224,440	1·1	458,656,740
1895 ...	20,294,735	5·5	80,676,300	22·0	36,053,450	9·9	65,974,290	18·0	158,994,940	43·3	4,768,540	1·3	366,762,260
1890 ...	27,319,915	10·5	46,438,340	17·9	31,889,675	12·1	67,451,300	26·0	82,407,090	31·6	4,913,630	1·9	260,419,950
1880 ...	12,781,280	8·3	26,567,520	17·2	24,807,280	16·0	37,056,240	24·0	48,911,770	31·6	4,584,420	2·9	154,708,510
1870 ...	10,924,445	11·8	24,468,040	26·3	7,577,905	8·2	17,492,485	18·8	31,338,080	33·8	1,024,085	1·1	92,825,040
1860 ...	1,108,160	1·8	12,648,530	20·4	1,622,680	2·7	12,922,740	21·0	32,708,050	52·7	885,200	1·4	61,895,360
1852 ...	383,105	9·4	16,650	·4	—	—	2,737,125	67·0	946,360	23·1	5,190	·1	4,088,430

(M. 30,000,000 = £1,500,000). Under the management of David Hansemann and his son Adolph Hansemann, of whom the latter was at the head of the undertaking until 1903, the institution soon developed into a bank of importance. It is interesting to note that the Bank is both limited and unlimited, its Constitution being based upon the *commandite* principle. The seven directors are partners in the business with unlimited liability, while the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares. The most important steps in its progress are marked by the different additions to the capital. These were in the year 1872 from 10 million thalers to 20 million thalers (60 million marks), 1889 to 75 million marks, 1898 to 130 million marks, 1902 to 150 million marks, 1904 to 170 million marks, and 1911 to 200 million marks, fully paid up.

In the year 1914 the capital of the Bank has been increased from 200,000,000 marks to 300,000,000 marks, the additional 100,000,000 marks having been raised partly for the purpose of acquiring 10,000,000 marks of new shares in the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg, and 75,000,000 marks has been issued in exchange for the shares of the Schaaffhausen'scher Bankverein of Cologne. The paid-up capital of this latter Bank was 145,000,000 marks, of which the Disconto held 20,000,000 marks. The balance of 125,000,000 marks was taken over by the Disconto on the basis of three of its own shares for five shares of the Schaaffhausen'scher. The acquisition of this Bank was expected to raise the deposits and current accounts of the Disconto from 674,000,000 marks to about 1,000,000,000 marks.

Beyond regular banking business the Disconto-Gesellschaft has since the sixties taken up the work of making new issues of loans and companies as its own speciality, and the special form of this branch of business in Germany has chiefly been brought about

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

Head Office:—EDINBURGH.

Paid-up Capital ... ... £1,000,000. **Reserve Fund ... ... £800,000.**

ALEX. ROBB, General Manager. MAGNUS IRVINE, Secretary.

London Office:—62 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

GEORGE S. COUTTS, Manager. JOHN F. SANDEMAN, Asst.-Manager.

GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS transacted. CIRCULAR NOTES, DRAFTS, and LETTERS OF CREDIT issued, payable at Banking Houses in all parts of the world.

With its 176 Branches located all over Scotland the Bank is in a very favourable position to deal with remittance and all other Banking transactions on the best Terms.

The Bank undertakes AGENCY BUSINESS for Foreign and Colonial Banks.

by this Bank. During the war years 1870-71 the institution carried through the loan transactions of the North German Federal Government, which availed themselves of the Bank's services for the negotiation of the war loans.

While most of the other large banking houses in Berlin began at an early date to develop a widely spread net of branch offices and agencies, this Bank until the beginning of the twentieth century adhered to the principle of centralisation of business. Since then, however, having regard to the altered circumstances of the time, it has established a number of branch offices outside Berlin. But before this period—in 1895—it had entered into close connection with the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg, the whole capital of which, amounting to M. 70,000,000 (£3,500,000) is in its possession. The category of allied banks includes: Allgemeine Deutsche Credit-Anstalt, Leipzig, Süddeutsche Disconto-Gesellschaft A.G., Mannheim, Bayerische Disconto- und Wechsel-Bank A. G., Nürnberg, Bank für Thüringen vorm. B.M. Strupp Aktiengesellschaft, Meiningen, Stahl and Federer A.G., Stuttgart, Barmer Bank-Verein Hinsberg, Fischer and Co., Barmen, Magdeburger Bank-Verein, Magdeburg, Oberlausitzer Bank, Zittau. And the Bank is interested in other banks in various parts of the world.

The activity of the Disconto has also been of importance to the industrial progress of Germany in recent decades.

From about 2,000,000 marks in 1852 the deposits grew to nearly 43,000,000 marks in 1870. By 1890 they had risen to 126,000,000 marks, and by 1900 to 181,000,000 marks. In the last 14 years they have risen to 805,000,000 marks, partly in consequence of the recent acquisition of the Schaaffhausen'scher Bankverein of Cologne.

The Continental banks have no need to keep in hand any large amount of cash, as the State banks are charged with the duty of providing an adequate supply of currency. All they need is a sufficiency of till money for everyday purposes. Any extra demand is met by loans from or by bills discounted at the State banks. The proportion of cash to deposits and current accounts at the end of last year was 18%.

The Bank earned a gross profit last year of nearly 39 million marks, but as the expenses were heavy in consequence of the War the net profit was reduced from 24,517,000 marks to 20,865,000 marks. It was still large enough to provide a dividend of 8%, against 10% in 1913. The profits since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of The Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Marks.	Expenses. Marks.	Net Profit. Marks.	Dividend.* Amount. Marks.	Dividend.* Rate. %	Special Apprns. Marks.	Carried Forward. Marks.
1914 ...	38,662,769	17,797,863	20,864,905	20,250,000	8	597,857	1,234,080
1913 ...	39,274,360	14,756,650	24,517,710	22,936,840	10	1,572,860	1,217,030
1912 ...	38,391,840	14,050,020	24,341,820	22,936 840	10	1,572,860	1,209,020
1911 ...	35,671,060	12,677,420	22,993,640	21,399,480	10	1,572,840	1,376,900
1910 ...	33,883,600	11,656,460	22,227,140	19,684,220	10	2,542,860	1,355,580
1909 ...	33,201,180	10,818,880	22,382,300	18,610,520	9½	3,800,000	1,355,520
1908 ...	27,739,880	8,941,440	18,798,440	17,536,840	9	1,150,000	1,383,740
1907 ...	26,628,620	8,828,020	17,800,600	17,536,840	9	150,000	1,272,140
1906 ...	26,033,180	7,920,880	18,112,300	17,536,840	9	150,000	1,158,380
1905 ...	25,758,780	7,867,320	17,891,460	17,536,840	9	150,000	732,920
1904 ...	23,263,440	6,669,460	16,593,980	16,463,160	8½	100,000	528,300

* Including partner's and directors' participation.

DRESDNER BANK.

Head Office: Dresden, Germany.
London Office: 65 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued ... ... M. 200,000,000
Price of Shares, 136%. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, 4·41%.

The third largest German joint-stock bank is the Dresdner. It was founded in 1872 to take over the Dresden banking house of Michael Kaskel, its initial capital amounting to 9,600,000 marks. The progress of Germany and the rapid development of banking in Berlin induced the Dresdner to open a branch in that city in 1881. Since that date the growth of its business has been very rapid, its capital rising almost year after year from 9,600,000 marks in 1879 to 130,000,000 marks in 1899, and to 200,000,000 marks in 1910. At this figure it still remains. At the same time its reserve funds, partly by means of the premiums obtained on the issue of shares, have risen, until they now amount to 61,000,000 marks. The total capital and reserve of this Bank is, therefore, 261,000,000 marks, or £13,050,000. For the greater part the expansion in its business has been brought

Liabilities of The Dresdner Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Marks.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Marks.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Marks.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Current Accounts and Deposits. Amount. Marks.	Current Accounts and Deposits. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. Marks.	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Marks.	Miscellaneous. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Marks.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Marks.
1914 ...	200,000,000	61,000,000	261,000,000	19·0	948,517,983	68·4	146,628,688	10·5	5,882,002	·4	23,999,586	1·7	1,386,028,259
1913 ...	200,000,000	61,000,000	261,000,000	17·0	958,395,690	62·3	287,315,530	18·7	5,136,280	·3	26,278,750	1·7	1,538,126,250
1912 ...	200,000,000	61,000,000	261,000,000	18·1	886,988,040	61·4	267,787,320	18·5	4,616,880	·3	25,115,820	1·7	1,445,508,060
1911 ...	200,000,000	61,000,000	261,000,000	18·0	898,449,020	61·8	264,564,160	18·2	4,247,060	·3	24,673,620	1·7	1,452,933,860
1910 ...	200,000,000	60,337,240	260,337,240	18·8	857,872,280	62·2	232,847,320	16·9	3,593,400	·3	25,107,420	1·8	1,379,757,660
1909 ...	180,000,000	51,500,000	231,500,000	19·6	727,839,760	61·6	195,877,260	16·6	3,963,160	·3	22,131,960	1·9	1,181,312,140
1908 ...	180,000,000	51,500,000	231,500,000	22·3	596,102,480	57·3	189,145,320	18·2	3,540,660	·3	19,287,980	1·9	1,039,576,440
1907 ...	180,000,000	51,500,000	231,500,000	22·9	548,573,880	54·1	209,491,700	20·7	2,992,120	·3	19,505,940	2·0	1,012,063,640
1906 ...	180,000,000	50,150,000	230,150,000	21·4	618,299,120	57·3	205,891,320	19·1	2,932,560	·2	21,939,960	2·0	1,079,212,960
1905 ...	160,000,000	41,500,000	201,500,000	21·6	535,089,000	57·5	170,684,660	18·4	2,283,380	·3	20,981,140	2·2	930,538,180
1900 ...	130,000,000	34,000,000	164,000,000	27·1	294,813,820	48·7	131,063,040	21·6	1,537,660	·3	14,087,600	2·3	605,502,120
1895 ...	85,000,000	15,000,000	100,000,000	29·6	146,164,690	43·0	77,204,680	22·8	919,200	·2	13,671,220	4·4	337,959,790
1890 ...	60,000,000	12,000,000	72,000,000	37·0	79,647,340	41·0	33,802,220	17·3	427,400	·2	8,749,500	4·5	194,626,460
1880 ...	15,000,000	900,000	15,900,000	53·6	9,502,130	32·0	2,566,360	8·7	37,730	—	1,674,270	5·7	29,680,490
1872 ...	9,600,000	—	9,600,000	61·6	3,511,950	22·5	2,186,570	14·0	—	—	270,110	1·9	15,568,630

Assets of The Dresdner Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, &c. Amount. Marks.	Cash in Hand, &c. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Marks.	Investments. % of Total. %	Syndicates. Amount. Marks.	Syndicates. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Marks.	Bills Receivable. % of Total. %	Loans. Amount. Marks.	Loans. % of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Marks.	Current Accounts, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Marks.	Bank Premises. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Marks.
1914 ...	161,283,203	11·6	90,540,568	6·6	63,593,684	4·8	330,000,955	23·8	118,203,353	8·5	589,240,466	42·5	33,166,030	2·4	1,386,028,259
1913 ...	130,026,619	8·5	79,428,270	5·2	55,275,960	3·6	375,895,050	24·4	235,700,390	15·3	631,208,720	41·0	30,591,250	2·0	1,538,126,250
1912 ...	99,912,300	6·9	101,759,820	7·0	50,177,520	3·4	285,635,680	19·8	254,993,220	17·7	623,835,980	43·2	29,193,540	2·0	1,445,508,060
1911 ...	96,809,480	6·7	88,370,620	6·1	44,455,700	3·0	330,320,820	22·7	238,199,680	16·4	626,860,660	43·1	27,916,900	2·0	1,452,933,860
1910 ...	96,671,560	7·0	101,622,400	7·4	44,081,920	3·2	318,601,380	23·1	254,298,040	18·4	538,783,160	39·0	25,699,200	1·9	1,379,757,660
1909 ...	101,120,860	8·6	91,864,500	7·8	36,730,460	3·1	257,622,760	21·8	227,575,860	19·3	443,629,660	37·5	22,768,040	1·9	1,181,312,140
1908 ...	77,503,960	7·4	91,021,800	8·8	42,300,460	4·1	248,666,820	23·9	113,847,620	10·9	444,700,700	42·8	21,535,080	2·1	1,039,576,440
1907 ...	81,273,860	8·0	86,683,000	8·6	48,376,820	4·8	217,645,920	21·5	102,692,100	10·1	454,821,680	44·9	20,570,260	2·1	1,012,063,640
1906 ...	90,677,740	8·4	84,887,600	7·9	49,749,180	4·6	242,626,440	22·4	161,836,180	15·0	429,049,080	39·8	20,386,740	1·9	1,079,212,960
1905 ...	81,643,200	8·8	87,996,800	9·5	45,648,980	4·9	176,761,760	18·9	139,452,060	15·0	380,048,980	40·8	18,986,400	2·1	930,538,180
1900 ...	34,574,200	5·7	33,973,330	5·6	37,847,900	6·3	150,471,160	24·8	41,439,360	6·8	293,502,500	48·5	13,693,620	2·3	605,502,120
1895 ...	21,898,680	6·5	18,645,540	5·5	20,672,420	6·1	59,478,900	17·6	41,054,990	12·1	168,801,930	50·0	7,407,330	2·2	337,959,790
1890 ...	15,148,660	7·8	10,592,750	5·5	10,941,670	5·7	33,518,440	17·2	35,953,640	18·4	85,471,290	43·9	3,000,000	1·5	194,626,460
1880 ...	1,475,120*	5·0	4,392,560	14·8	543,310	1·9	4,758,430	16·0	1,412,490	4·8	15,639,360	52·6	1,459,220	4·9	29,680,490
1872 ...	1,066,060*	6·9	1,761,070	11·3	1,803,290	11·6	2,923,950	18·8	355,350	2·3	6,426,260	41·4	1,192,230	7·7	15,568,630

* Cash at other banks included in Current Accounts.

about by the general expansion of Germany; but it has also come from the absorption of a number of provincial banks, and many of its existing branches were formerly the establishments of private bankers. The Dresdner has participated with the other great banks in the foundation of subsidiary and allied institutions in many other countries, and also works in alliance with various banks and private bankers in other countries.

From the statement of assets and liabilities of the Dresdner at various periods since its formation it will be seen that its deposits, which in 1880 amounted to only 9,500,000 marks, and which in 1890 increased to 80,000,000 marks, had grown by 1900 to 295,000,000 marks, and that since then they have increased to the sum of 948,000,000 marks, in part through the absorption of a number of small banks. The Bank employs 42 per cent. of its resources in current accounts, while the bills discounted amount to 24 per cent. of its assets. The falling off in Stock Exchange business owing to the War has reduced the loans by one-half. The proportion of cash to deposits is 17 per cent., and its investments are less than 7 per cent. of its total assets. The gross profit in 1914 was reduced from 43,171,000 marks, to 41,447,000 marks, and as the Bank was able to reduce its expenses the net profit was nearly the same as in the previous year, amounting to 18,610,000 marks. Nevertheless, the directors deemed it wise to adopt a conservative dividend policy, and the dividend was reduced from 8½ per cent. to 6 per cent. The profits and dividends of the Bank in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Dresdner Bank.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Marks.	Expenses.* Marks.	Net Profit. Marks.	Dividend.—Amt. Marks.	Rate. %	Special Approps. Marks.	Carried Forw'd. Marks.
1914	41,446,603	22,836,188	18,610,415	12,000,000	6	6,340,520	476,588
1913	43,170,890	24,196,747	18,974,143	17,000,000	8½	2,044,050	206,693
1912	41,036,080	22,784,560	18,251,520	17,000,000	8½	1,236,820	276,600
1911	39,925,640	21,791,020	18,134,620	17,000,000	8½	1,140,140	261,900
1910	38,881,180	20,119,160	18,762,020	17,000,000	8½	1,772,360	267,420
1909	33,807,160	17,504,800	16,302,360	15,300,000	8½	1,100,220	277,760
1908	30,681,420	16,353,910	14,327,480	13,500,000	7½	817,780	375,620
1907	31,021,060	16,203,080	14,817,980	12,600,000	7	2,321,880	365,920
1906	31,941,900	15,381,000	16,560,900	13,600,000	8½	2,562,540	403,820
1905	29,128,540	12,971,980	16,156,560	13,600,000	8½	2,563,780	71,060
1904	23,889,000	10,862,600	13,026,400	10,875,000	7½	2,134,340	78,680

* Includes taxes as follows: 1914, M. 2,347,895; 1913, M. 2,250,670; 1912, M. 2,067,460; 1911, M. 1,856,440; 1910, M. 1,884,420; 1909, M. 1,672,100; 1908, M. 1,538,920; 1907, M. 1,368,620; 1906, M. 1,115,820; 1905, M. 977,660; 1904, M. 941,560.

EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

Head Office: 37 Wall Street, New York City.
London Branch: 95 Gresham Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 30,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $3,000,000
Price, 415%. *Dividend*, 24%. *Yield*, 5.78%.

This is one of the older trust companies in the United States. It was formed in 1871 as the American Deposit and Loan Company, and adopted its present title in 1902. Its growth was comparatively slow until recent years, when its business was largely increased by the absorption of the Bowling Green Trust Company in 1909, of the Madison Trust in 1911, and of the Trust Company of America early in 1912. At the end of 1903 its deposits rose to over $22,000,000, but at the end of 1907 they fell to under $10,000,000 in consequence of the runs to which the various trust companies were then subjected during the banking crisis of that year. Since then, however, partly by reason of the amalgamations and partly owing

Liabilities of the Equitable Trust Company.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus, and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Accrued Interest Payable, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 June 23	3,000,000	9,192,800	12,192,800	10·7	96,402,100	85·0	2,361,700	2·0	2,584,900	2·3	113,541,800
1914 Dec. 24	3,000,000	9,170,979	12,170,979	13·0	75,477,703	80·4	2,400,726	2·6	3,785,778	4·0	93,835,186
1913 ,, 31	3,000,000	10,153,461	13,153,461	15·4	69,040,632	81·1	—	—	2,985,093	3·5	85,179,186
1912* ,, 26	3,000,000	10,727,892	13,727,892	16·2	67,668,627	80·0	—	—	3,179,458	3·8	84,575,977
1911 ,, 21	3,000,000	11,205,317	14,205,317	25·9	40,348,692	73·5	—	—	331,712	·6	54,885,721
1910† ,, 31	3,000,000	11,079,371	14,079,371	28·6	35,044,787	71·0	—	—	205,061	·4	49,329,219
1909 ,, 31	3,000,000	11,054,360	14,054,360	21·5	50,905,975	77·9	—	—	394,631	·6	65,354,966
1908 ,, 31	3,000,000	10,926,892	13,926,892	37·4	23,125,910	62·0	—	—	236,642	·6	37,288,544
1907 ,, 31	3,000,000	10,225,323	13,225,323	55·0	9,715,775	40·3	—	—	1,134,484	4·7	24,075,582
1906 ,, 31	3,000,000	10,569,620	13,569,620	41·2	18,806,150	57·1	—	—	543,911	1·7	32,919,681
1905 ,, 31	3,000,000	10,214,068	13,214,068	40·8	18,684,616	57·7	—	—	493,767	1·5	32,392,451
1904 ,, 31	3,000,000	9,639,130	12,639,130	23·3	18,097,225	76·2	—	—	259,471	·5	54,225,826
1903 ,, 31	3,000,000	9,037,763	12,037,763	34·7	22,302,827	64·4	—	—	309,840	·9	34,650,430
1902 ,, 31	1,000,000	619,485	1,619,485	10·5	13,615,030	88·3	—	—	187,904	1·2	15,422,419
1901‡ ,, 31	500,000	242,654	742,654	14·0	4,464,540	84·7	—	—	71,676	1·3	5,278,870
1900‡ ,, 31	500,000	183,515	683,515	14·6	3,909,427	83·6	—	—	85,059	1·8	4,678,001
1897‡ ,, 31	500,000	394,519	894,519	11·4	6,736,236	86·4	—	—	172,495	2·2	7,803,250

Assets of the Equitable Trust Company.

Date.	Cash on Hand and in Banks. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Public Securities. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Other Securities, Bonds and Mortgages. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Loans and Bills Purchased. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Accrued Interest Receivable, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Real Estate. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 June 23	36,051,200	31·8	5,283,900	4·7	23,703,500	20·9	41,292,200	36·4	1,190,000	1·0	2,361,700	2·0	3,655,400	3·2	113,541,800
1914 Dec. 24	22,238,288	23·7	4,062,747	4·3	22,897,675	24·4	35,121,751	37·4	3,449,273	3·7	2,400,726	2·6	3,664,726	3·9	93,835,186
1913 ,, 31	16,882,176	19·8	5,051,928	5·9	24,252,272	28·5	32,459,755	38·1	2,884,663	3·4	—	—	3,645,392	4·3	85,179,186
1912* ,, 26	16,529,218	19·5	2,946,012	3·5	25,545,436	30·2	34,378,836	40·7	1,561,053	1·8	—	—	3,645,392	4·3	84,575,977
1911 ,, 21	11,486,252	20·9	3,314,234	5·9	19,841,923	36·3	19,706,034	35·9	420,806	·8	—	—	116,472	·2	54,885,721
1910† ,, 31	10,315,374	21·0	1,619,823	3·2	19,036,391	38·6	17,858,709	36·2	382,450	·8	—	—	116,472	·2	49,329,219
1909 ,, 31	12,032,563	18·4	1,547,194	2·4	18,200,549	27·8	33,014,413	50·5	440,277	·7	—	—	119,370	·2	65,354,966
1908 ,, 31	4,940,645	13·2	776,671	2·1	13,150,060	35·2	18,135,399	48·7	222,503	·6	—	—	83,266	·2	37,288,544
1907 ,, 31	1,830,168	7·7	1,051,546	4·4	7,077,795	29·4	12,956,520	53·8	1,159,553	4·7	—	—	—	—	24,075,582
1906 ,, 31	2,149,928	6·5	—	—	9,780,598	29·7	20,758,758	63·1	230,397	·7	—	—	—	—	32,919,681
1905 ,, 31	2,663,593	8·2	—	—	6,102,301	18·8	23,409,089	72·3	217,468	·7	—	—	—	—	32,392,451
1904 ,, 31	5,286,454	9·7	—	—	14,058,200	26·0	34,577,015	63·7	304,157	·6	—	—	—	—	54,225,826
1903 ,, 31	3,585,291	10·4	—	—	4,019,746	11·6	26,672,328	77·0	372,865	1·0	—	—	—	—	34,650,430
1902 ,, 31	1,006,267	6·5	—	—	1,408,130	9·1	12,895,742	83·6	112,310	·8	—	—	—	—	15,422,419
1901‡ ,, 31	246,971	4·7	—	—	1,421,093	26·8	3,580,813	67·9	29,993	·5	—	—	—	—	5,278,870
1900‡ ,, 31	227,137	4·8	—	—	1,231,658	26·4	3,202,635	68·5	16,591	·3	—	—	—	—	4,678,001
1897‡ ,, 31	366,526	4·7	—	—	652,059	8·4	6,666,018	85·4	22,428	·3	96,219	1·2	—	—	7,803,250

* Trust Company of America merged into Equitable Trust Company, February 26, 1912. † Equitable and Bowling Green Trust Companies consolidated in March 1909. ‡ American Deposit and Loan Company.

to the increasing strength of the institution, its deposits have rapidly expanded until in June of this year they amounted to $96,402,000. The capital of the undertaking was raised from $500,000 to $1,000,000 in 1902, and to $3,000,000 in 1913, at which figure it has since remained. The greater portion of its capital funds are, however, derived from its surplus profits, and whereas prior to 1902 these were only a few thousand dollars, they now reach $9,192,000. Hence the total capital and surplus is $12,192,000, and represent 10.7 per cent. of the total liabilities. We should mention that in 1911 practically a controlling interest in the undertaking was purchased by the existing President, Mr. Alvin W. Krech, from the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

The business is a profitable one. For the last six years the dividends have been 24 per cent., but doubtless owing to the fall in the prices of securities, the surplus and undivided profits since 1911 have been reduced from $11,205,000 to $9,192,000. The Company holds about $29,000,000 of securities. Its other assets consist of $41,000,000 of loans and bills and $36,000,000 of cash. The profits of the institution from 1904 to 1911 are stated below. The amount of the profit in the last three years has not been published:—

Profits of the Equitable Trust Company.

Year ended, Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Charged to Profit and Loss Account.	Unappropriated Balance.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1914...	Not published			720,000	24		
1913...	Not published			720,000	24		
1912...	Not published			720,000	24		
1911...	2,243,527	1,483,605	759,922	720,000	24	?	?
1910...	2,390,220	1,488,931	901,289	720,000	24	?	?
1909...	2,687,408	1,465,399	1,222,009	570,000	19	271,998	380,011
1908...	1,896,134	751,633	1,144,501	540,000*	18	197,759	406,742
1907...	1,507,812	714,122	793,690	180,000	6	—	613,690
1906...	1,712,947	783,580	929,367	345,000	11½	—	584,367
1905...	1,929,363	1,020,836	908,527	300,000	10	—	608,527
1904...	2,048,982	1,024,974	1,024,008	300,000	10	—	724,008

* Including deferred dividends paid after abandonment of proposition for merger with Mercantile Trust Company.

FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY.

Head Office: 16-22 William Street, New York City.
London Offices: 15 Cockspur Street, S.W., and 26 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 10,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $1,000,000
Price of Shares, 1,127½%. *Dividend,* 50%. *Yield,* 4.46%.

ALTHOUGH the majority of the trust companies of the United States have been organised within the past forty years, the need of them was felt many years before, and as early in the last century as 1822 the first trust company was incorporated, and a charter granted to the Farmers' Fire Insurance and Loan Company, of New York, which name was changed by an Act of the Legislature, passed in 1836, to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company.

The original Act of incorporation gave to the Company power to make loans on mortgages; but the feeling that was then prevalent, that corporations should not hold real property any further than was absolutely necessary for their corporate purposes, was manifested by the provision that any mortgaged property which was taken on foreclosure should not be held longer than five years, and that, if held for a period beyond that term, the title should immediately be forfeited to, and vested in, the people of the State of New York.

Authority was also given to this corporation to purchase and hold any stock or foreign debt, or the stock of any corporation; which is interesting in view of the subsequent history of corporations, in reference to which legislation for some time practically forbade their acquiring stock in other corporations.

The corporation also originally had power to insure against loss by fire, and to grant life insurance and annuities.

In the same Session of the Legislature which passed the Act of Incorporation, another Act was passed providing: "That the said Corporation shall also have

Liabilities of The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company (New York).

Date.	Capital. Amount.	Surplus Fund and Undivided Profits. Amount.	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Accrued Interest, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 June 30 ...	1,000,000	6,574,620	7,574,620	5·2	134,091,189	92·7	1,977,226	1·4	940,390	·7	144,583,425
1914 Dec. 31 ...	1,000,000	6,368,618	7,368,618	5·8	117,380,356	92·5	1,167,375	·9	1,003,196	·8	126,919,545
1913 ,, 9 ...	1,000,000	6,032,409	7,032,409	5·8	111,733,941	92·7	—	—	1,751,099	1·5	120,517,359
1912 ,, 26 ..	1,000,000	6,610,006	7,610,006	6·7	105,147,229	92·7	—	—	712,392	·6	113,469,627
1911 ,, 21 ...	1,000,000	6,340,391	7,340,391	5·2	132,631,251	94·3	—	—	656,263	·5	140,627,905
1910 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	6,033,004	7,033,004	5·7	116,368,586	93·9	—	—	487,887	·4	123,889,477
1909 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	7,116,561	8,116,561	6·4	115,793,637	91·8	—	—	2,221,057	1·8	126,131,255
1908 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	7,027,943	8,027,943	6·1	122,389,384	92·6	—	—	1,820,276	1·3	132,237,603
1907 ,, 31 ..	1,000,000	5,618,256	6,618,256	9·7	58,447,298	85·4	—	—	3,373,564	4·9	68,489,118
1906 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	7,263,467	8,263,467	9·4	78,445,774	89·0	—	—	1,387,545	1·6	88,096,786
1905 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	6,969,276	7,969,276	10·0	70,577,985	88·9	—	—	897,941	1·1	79,445,202
1900 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	6,185,149	7,185,149	13·5	45,[illegible]765	86·1	—	—	202,653	·4	53,277,567
1895 ,, 31 ..	1,000,000	4,187,199	5,187,199	14·3	30,948,665	85·3	—	—	133,785	·4	36,269,649
1890 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	3,656,293	4,656,293	18·5	23,225,969	82·6	—	—	244,631	·9	28,126,893
1880 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	1,066,427	2,066,427	16·9	10,139,050	83·1	—	—	—	—	12,205,477
1870 ,, 31 ...	1,000,000	473,118	1,473,118	33·1	2,[illegible]95	66·4	—	—	23,454	·5	4,445,567
1861 Jan. 19 ...	1,000,000	559,549	1,559,549	74·9	516,697	24·8	—	—	6,298	·3	2,082,544
1851 Apr. 30 ..	2,000,000	Def. 210,870	1,789,130	53·7	2,381,765	53·7	—	—	267,436	6·0	1,438,331
1840 Dec. 31 ..	2,000,000	130,688	2,130,688	32·4	4,298,943	65·5	—	—	136,158	2·1	6,565,789
1828 ,, 29 ...	500,000	31,452	531,452	98·2	Nil	—	—	—	9,979	1·8	541,431
1826 Sept. 1 ...	500,000	43,118	543,118	72·1	Nil	—	—	—	209,740	27·9	752,858

Assets of The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company (New York).

Date.	Cash in Hand and in Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Public Securities. Amount.	Other Securities, Bonds, & Mortgages. Amount.	Total Securities. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Bills Purchased. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amt.	% of Total.	Real Estate. Amt.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 June 30	42,438,340	29·3	—	—	43,173,398	29·9	52,527,081	36·3	1,977,226	1·4	828,380	·6	3,639,000	2·5	144,583,425
1914 Dec. 31	30,748,236	24·2	4,425,530	31,181,174	35,606,704	28·1	54,988,003	43·3	1,167,375	·9	775,327	·6	3,632,000	2·9	126,919,545
1913 ,, 9	25,787,515	21·4	10,872,400	29,481,403	40,353,803	33·5	49,797,707	41·3	—	—	930,503	·8	3,647,831	3·0	120,517,359
1912 ,, 26	22,769,693	20·1	9,980,274	26,358,446	36,338,720	32·0	49,524,200	43·7	—	—	1,189,183	1·0	3,647,831	3·2	113,469,627
1911 ,, 21	32,466,043	23·1	10,177,169	29,157,114	39,334,283	28·0	64,232,590	45·7	—	—	1,325,804	·9	3,269,185	2·3	140,627,905
1910 ,, 31	28,875,827	23·3	10,074,495	24,711,611	34,786,106	28·1	55,797,586	45·0	—	—	1,160,773	·9	3,269,185	2·7	123,889,477
1909 ,, 31	26,410,661	20·9	6,587,060	24,167,695	30,754,755	24·4	65,036,790	51·6	—	—	835,607	·7	3,093,442	2·4	126,131,255
1908 ,, 31	41,391,927	31·3	6,123,910	17,818,596	23,942,506	18·1	63,997,242	48·4	—	—	503,496	·4	2,396,432	1·8	132,237,603
1907 ,, 31	11,963,176	17·4	4,224,271	19,302,626	23,526,897	34·3	29,134,289	42·5	—	—	2,414,756	3·7	1,450,000	2·1	68,489,118
1906 ,, 31	16,929,836	19·2	—	—	24,355,366	27·6	45,361,584	51·5	—	—	—	—	1,450,000	1·7	88,096,786
1905 ,, 31	7,479,248	9·4	—	—	24,697,397	31·1	45,818,557	57·7	—	—	—	—	1,450,000	1·8	79,445,202
1900 ,, 31	11,103,963	20·9	—	—	12,790,840	24·0	27,212,753	51·2	—	—	1,170,011	2·0	1,000,000	1·9	53,277,567
1895 ,, 31	6,474,628	17·8	—	—	8,646,582	23·8	19,677,255	54·3	—	—	471,184	1·3	1,000,000	2·8	36,269,649
1890 ,, 31	3,433,604	12·2	—	—	4,334,862	15·4	19,096,862	67·9	—	—	311,566	1·1	950,000	3·4	28,126,893

authority to receive and take by deed or devise any effects and property, both real and personal, which may be left or conveyed to them in trust, and to assume, perform, and execute any trust which has been or which may be created or declared by any deed or devise as aforesaid; and the said Corporation are authorised to receive, take, possess, and stand seized of, and to execute any and all such trust or trusts in their corporate capacity and name, in the same manner and to the same extent as trustee or trustees might or could lawfully do, and no further."

This grant of power to act as trustee is undoubtedly the earliest bestowal of such powers upon any corporation in the State of New York, if not in the United States. The language employed is of the broadest character possible.

The early Acts relating to this Trust Company are also interesting as reflecting to a considerable degree the feeling of jealousy which was prevalent in the United States in the early part of the last century, to the formation of banks and money institutions. The original Act of Incorporation of the Trust Company provided that nothing in the Act should be so construed as to authorise the said corporation to receive any deposit or deposits, nor to discount any promissory note, bond, due-bill, draft, or bill of exchange; nor shall it be so construed as to allow any banking privileges or business whatever.

The subsequent history of this Trust Company has emphasised the truth that persons in creating business institutions are often unable to foretell the course of development of those institutions in the future.

So, in the case of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, which was organised as an insurance and loan company, the last outstanding life insurance policy, which was issued in February 1838, was not paid until February 1898—sixty years after the date of its issue. The very first power given to the Company was that of making loans on mortgages, and the purpose of this power was set forth clearly in the Act, showing that the design was to aid the citizens of the State residing in the country. Under its charter the Company was required, within one year from its incorporation, to make loans on the security of real estate within the State of New York and within the limits of the Southern District of New York, to the amount of at least $150,000, and when the capital stock of the Company was increased from $500,000—which it was originally—to $1,000,000, such increase was made conditional on the investment of an additional $150,000 in bonds and mortgages on lands within the city and county of New York.

After the capital was increased to $2,000,000 it was reduced to $1,000,000, at which it has remained since the fifties. The reserve fund, or, as it is termed in the United States, "surplus profits," has been gradually built up until at the present moment it amounts to $6,575,000. This sum includes the undivided profits. The business has shown the greatest expansion since 1902. In that year the deposits were $45,000,000, from which they have increased to $134,091,000 in June 1915. Of the total assets, amounting to $144,000,000, $52,000,000 are now employed in loans and bills, $43,000,000 are invested in securities and mortgages, and $42,000,000 is cash in hand. The great expansion in the business of the Company since its foundation is shown by the statements of the liabilities since 1826 and of the assets since 1890.

The undertaking is a very profitable one, and on its small share capital the dividends have been 50 per cent. since 1910, before which they were 40 per cent. The course of the profits since 1904 has been as follows:—

Profits of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company (New York).

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend.— Amt.	Rate.	Charged to Profit and Loss Account.	Undivided Balance.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1914 ...	—	—	—	500,000	50	—	—
1913 ...	5,558,703	3,652,385	1,906,318	500,000	50	903,255	1,003,063
1912 ...	5,544,838	4,086,883	1,757,955	500,000	50	194,285	1,063,670
1911 ...	4,815,861	4,139,297	676,564	500,000	50	16,126	160,438
1910 ...	4,487,738	3,932,755	554,983	500,000	50	?	?
1909 ...	4,684,501	4,259,511	424,990	400,000	40	290,292	—
1908 ...	4,244,481	3,552,326	692,155	400,000	40	1,001,600	—
1907 ...	4,022,886	2,995,581	1,027,305	400,000	40	1,611,406	—
1906 ...	3,743,502	2,675,320	1,068,182	400,000	40	—	668,128
1905 ...	3,053,560	2,434,979	618,581	400,000	40	—	218,581
1904 ...	2,435,282	1,781,146	654,136	400,000	40	—	254,136

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON.

Offices: 70 Federal Street, Boston, Mass.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 50,000 Shares of $100 each $5,000,000
Price of Shares, 430%. *Dividend,* 16%. *Yield,* 3.75%

UNTIL June 1903 the business of the First National Bank of Boston was of very moderate proportions, its deposits at that time amounting to no more than $4,000,000. It then took over the business of the Massachusetts National Bank, retaining the same title, and at the end of 1904 its deposits were $36,000,000. Since then its growth has been rapid, and in June of this year the deposits reached the great sum of $90,668,000. The whole of the increase since 1904 has been due to the expansion of business and not to any further amalgamations or absorptions. The Bank commenced business in 1859 with the title of the Safety Fund Bank, but its title was changed to the First National Bank in February 1864, when it was decided to take advantage of the National Bank Act. The Massachusetts National Bank, which it absorbed in 1904, and which brought it so great an increase of business, was a very old institution, its original charter dating back to 1784. The latter institution experienced very great difficulties during its history, and at the end of the nineties its deposits fell to less than $1,000,000. However, it was saved from destruction by the courage, energy, and ability of Mr. John W. Weeks, the Senator for Massachusetts, and the institution as the First National Bank is now one of the strongest and most progressive banks in New England. The institution is a reserve bank, and its cash in hand and with other banks largely exceeded the minimum required by law. The capital of the Company was increased from $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 when the Massachusetts National Bank was absorbed, and it has since been increased to $5,000,000, while the surplus and undivided profits which grew from $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 in 1904 have since been raised to $11,833,000. The total capital and reserves have now attained the relatively large total of $16,833,000, and represent a proportion of 14 per cent. to the total assets. A large part of this great addition to the reserve was secured by the creation of new capital at high premiums. The strength of the institution will be appreciated from the comparative statement of the liabilities and assets herewith. The Bank has 4,000 domestic and foreign correspondents, while it is the depositary for nearly 700 banks throughout New England.

In June last the Bank raised its rate of dividend to a 16 per cent. basis, 12 per cent. having been paid since 1908. The net profit earned last year was equal to nearly 20 per cent. on its stock and to about 6 per cent. on its capital and reserves. The profits of the undertaking are set out below:—

Profits of the First National Bank, Boston.

Year ended Dec. 31	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Undivided Profit for Year.	Undivided Profits Carried Forward.
	$	$	%	$	$
1914	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	[illegible]	6,585,229
1913	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	365,252	6,192,941
1912	[illegible]	540,000	12	439,359*	5,827,691
1911	[illegible]	360,000	12	445,634	3,388,332
1910	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	457,823†	2,942,698
1909	614,944	240,000	12	[illegible]	1,484,874
1908	563,290	[illegible]	12	323,290	1,109,929
1907	[illegible]	160,000	[illegible]	208,327‡	786,639
1906	457,147	160,000	8	[illegible]	[illegible]
1905	179,702	160,000	8	19,702	81,165

* $2,[illegible] capital increase not included.
† $1,[illegible] capital increase not included.
‡ $[illegible] Bank Building Account not included.

Liabilities of The First National Bank, Boston.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds Account. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 ...	5,000,000	11,833,706	16,833,706	14·2	1,500,000	1·3	90,688,214	76·6	500,000	·4	8,941,791	7·5	118,463,711
1914 ...	5,000,000	11,557,917	16,557,917	15·7	1,985,600	1·9	83,002,213	79·0	500,000	·5	3,068,608	2·9	105,114,338
1913 ...	5,000,000	11,151,408	16,151,408	16·8	1,983,700	2·1	77,718,709	80·6	500,000	·5	—	—	96,353,817
1912 ...	5,000,000	10,602,858	15,602,858	17·2	2,235,700	2·5	72,658,974	80·3	—	—	—	—	90,497,522
1911 ...	3,000,000	6,309,686	9,309,686	11·9	450,000	·5	68,056,243	87·6	—	—	—	—	77,815,929
1910 ...	3,000,000	5,846,731	8,846,731	12·9	1,195,000	1·7	58,611,560	85·4	—	—	—	—	68,653,291
1909 ...	2,000,000	3,264,433	5,264,433	7·4	800,000	1·1	65,275,443	91·5	—	—	—	—	71,339,876
1908 ...	2,000,000	3,072,949	5,072,949	9·0	1,972,000	3·5	49,094,500	86·3	790,000	1·2	—	—	56,929,449
1907 ...	2,000,000	2,516,642	4,516,642	9·4	705,800	1·4	42,295,243	88·0	593,000	1·2	—	—	48,110,685
1906 ...	2,000,000	2,308,509	4,308,509	9·5	499,197	1·1	39,887,824	88·6	339,000	·8	—	—	45,034,530
1905 ...	2,000,000	2,100,251	4,100,251	9·0	918,000	2·0	40,902,346	89·0	18,000	—	—	—	45,938,597
1900 ...	1,000,000	1,115,390	2,115,390	28·5	50,000	·7	5,243,538	70·8	—	—	—	—	7,408,928
1895 ...	1,000,000	—	—	—	45,000	—	3,834,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
1890 ...	1,000,000	—	—	—	45,000	—	3,294,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
1880 ...	1,000,000	—	—	—	799,400	—	2,886,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
1870 ...	1,000,000	—	—	—	794,120	—	2,746,190	—	—	—	—	—	—
1860 ...	1,000,000	—	—	—	216,283	—	930,486	—	—	—	—	—	—

Assets of The First National Bank, Boston.

June 30	Cash in Hand. Amt. $	% of Total. %	Due from Banks, &c. Amt. $	% of %	U.S. Bonds. Amt. $	% of %	Other Investments. Amt. $	% of %	Bills Discounted. Amount. $	Loans. Amount. $	Total Loans & Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amt. $	% of %	Bank Premises, &c. Amt. £	% of %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1915	7,732,871	6·5	29,020,470	24·5	1,950,000	1·6	7,713,004	6·5	47,599,266	14,090,696	61,689,962	52·1	8,857,404	7·5	1,500,000	1·3	118,463,711
1914...	9,864,932	9·4	23,435,378	22·3	2,574,125	2·4	5,863,422	5·6	41,577,869	17,237,982	58,815,851	56·0	3,060,630	2·9	1,500,000	1·4	105,114,338
1913...	11,220,126	11·6	23,190,696	24·0	2,455,792	2·6	4,589,630	4·8	38,075,524	15,322,049	53,397,573	55·4	—	—	1,500,000	1·6	96,353,817
1912...	9,331,238	10·3	17,957,448	19·8	2,640,000	3·0	4,603,292	5·1	36,341,795	18,283,559	54,625,354	60·3	—	—	1,340,200	1·5	90,497,522
1911...	7,742,011	10·0	19,225,957	24·7	1,214,226	1·5	2,509,216	3·2	32,141,746	13,711,774	45,853,520	59·0	—	—	1,270,999	1·6	77,815,929
1910...	5,620,609	8·2	17,565,374	25·6	1,929,525	2·6	1,065,383	1·6	31,434,625	10,037,775	41,472,400	60·5	—	—	1,000,000	1·5	68,653,291
1909...	8,648,279	12·2	17,495,043	24·5	1,533,070	2·2	3,143,704	4·4	25,149,499	14,310,281	39,459,780	55·3	-	-	1,000,000	1·4	71,339,876
1908...	6,642,389	11·7	14,009,400	24·6	2,799,000	4·9	1,496,090	2·6	18,872,266	12,119,304	30,991,570	54·4	—	-	1,000,000	1·8	56,929,449
1907...	4,405,174	9·2	11,869,922	24·7	1,854,560	3·9	1,019,068	2·1	19,056,817	9,405,144	28,461,961	59·1	—	—	500,000	1·0	48,110,685
1906...	3,974,673	8·8	10,912,907	24·3	1,039,000	2·3	961,336	2·1	18,638,348	9,008,266	27,646,614	61·4	—	-	500,000	1·1	45,034,530
1905...	4,642,632	10·2	12,156,015	26·5	1,218,000	2·7	1,612,847	3·6	14,978,769	11,330,334	26,309,103	57·0	-	-	—	—	45,938,597
1900...	597,348	8·0	1,324,305	17·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,137,275	69·3	-	-	350,000	4·8	7,408,928
1895...	510,000	—	968,250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,600,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
1890...	358,700	—	518,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,248,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
1880...	313,300	—	595,800	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,406,600	—	—	—	—	—	—
1870...	442,763	—	463,330	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,857,078	—	—	—	—	—	—
1860...	119,348	—	96,623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,871,102	—	—	—	—	—	—

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO.

Office: Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 100,000 Shares of $100 each $10,000,000
Price of Shares, 470%. *Dividend,* 23%. *Yield,* 4·89%

Probably no city in the world has made as much progress as Chicago in the past century, and there seems to be no limit to its possible expansion. As recently as 1831 it was a tiny village of 100 inhabitants, and when it was incorporated as a city in 1837 its population was no more than 4,170. In 1850 its numbers had increased to not quite 30,000, and in 1860 to 109,206. At that stage of its development the need for banking accommodation became pressing. It is true a number of banks then had offices in Chicago, but the growth of the city was so rapid that the banking facilities were entirely inadequate. Consequently, when the National Banking system was created in 1863 a number of leading Chicago merchants immediately decided to form the First National Bank of Chicago, and in June 1863 the Bank was authorised to commence business by the Comptroller of the Currency. It was thus among the first banks to be created under the National Currency Act.

The banking facilities which the National Banks, headed by the First National, provided for Chicago have powerfully contributed to the marvellous growth of the population, trade, and wealth of the second city of the United States. By 1870 the population had grown to 306,000, and notwithstanding the great fire that destroyed a large portion of the city in 1871, the population in 1880 had grown to 503,000. Since then its numbers have continued to double every decade, amounting in 1890 to 1,100,000, and in 1910 to 2,185,000. Throughout its history the First National Bank has had for its Presidents men of conspicuous ability. Its first President, Mr. Edmund Aiken, saw the deposits of the institution grow from nothing in 1863 to about $1,500,000 in 1867. The second President, Mr. Samuel M. Nickerson, saw the deposits rise to nearly $24,000,000 in 1891. Mr. Lyman J. Gage, who subsequently became Secretary of the United States Treasury, and who was largely responsible for the step taken by the McKinley Government in securing the maintenance of the gold standard, witnessed the deposits rise to $29,000,000 in 1897, notwithstanding the extremely severe depression which visited the United States during his Presidency. And Mr. James B. Forgan, one of the recognised leaders of American banking, has, since 1900, seen the deposits expand from $43,000,000 to $136,000,000. In 1900 the Union National Bank was taken over with deposits of $14,607,000, and in 1902 the Metropolitan National Bank was acquired with deposits of $22,273,000. On the other hand, a number of accounts have been transferred from the First National Bank of Chicago to the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago—an undertaking created by the Bank and owned by its stockholders. The First Trust and Savings Bank was formed in 1903 by the payment of a special dividend of $12.50 per share upon the stock of the First National Bank of Chicago, a distribution which provided a stock capital of $1,000,000 for the new undertaking. This institution was formed to enable the First National to overcome the legal obstacles to its receiving savings deposits and performing the work of a trust company. For all practical purposes the two institutions are one undertaking. The agreement constituting the First Savings Bank and Trust Company, dated November 2, 1903, stated in its preamble that:—

It is deemed to be for the interest of the stockholders of said The First National Bank of Chicago that a Savings Bank and Trust Company should be organised under the laws of the State of Illinois, which shall be continuously owned by the persons who shall from time to time be the shareholders of record of the said National Bank, or such other bank as may from time to time succeed to said National Bank's good-will and business, in proportion to the respective holdings of record of the stock of said National Bank (or its successors as aforesaid,) for the purpose, in part, of transacting for the patrons of said National Bank certain branches of business usually or often transacted by banking institutions, but not clearly included within the corporate powers of said National Bank; and to that end it is desirable to secure the consent in writing of all the shareholders of

Liabilities of First National Bank of Chicago.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds Amount. $	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915‡ ...	10,000,000	12,507,283	22,507,283	13·3	1,077,000	·6	136,212,147	80·7	3,340,000	2·0	5,729,780	3·4	168,866,210
1914 ...	10,000,000	12,313,344	22,313,344	14·3	3,668,397	2·4	122,693,953	78·6	3,190,000	2·0	4,155,384	2·7	156,021,078
1913 ...	10,000,000	12,012,718	22,012,718	16·0	3,224,100	2·4	109,099,911	79·6	2,750,000	2·0	—	—	[illegible]
1912 ...	10,000,000	11,631,464	[illegible]	15·9	2,009,000	1·5	111,011,948	81·4	1,600,000	1·2	—	—	[illegible]
1911 ...	10,000,000	11,503,648	21,503,648	16·0	1,103,000	·9	110,821,834	82·6	600,000	·5	—	—	[illegible]
1910 ...	10,000,000	10,925,077	20,925,077	15·7	3,182,000	2·4	108,017,939	81·2	918,000	·7	—	—	133,043,016
1909 ...	8,000,000	8,241,905	16,241,905	12·8	2,981,997	2·4	106,457,499	84·2	718,000	·6	—	—	[illegible]
1908 ...	[illegible]	7,835,803	[illegible]	12·5	2,021,997	1·6	107,920,952	85·3	718,000	·6	—	—	[illegible]
1907 ...	8,000,000	7,352,727	15,352,727	13·5	5,213,698	4·6	89,539,795	78·6	3,717,000	3·3	—	—	[illegible]
1906 ...	8,000,000	6,603,099	14,603,099	12·5	2,086,200	1·8	99,701,188	85·2	552,000	·5	—	—	[illegible]
1905 ...	8,000,000	6,103,916	14,103,916	12·3	1,627,300	1·4	91,158,760	85·8	[illegible]	·5		—	114,441,976
1900 ...	5,000,000	3,251,466	8,251,466	10·7	996,300	1·3	67,239,937	83·0	—	—		—	[illegible]
1895 ...	3,000,000	2,123,159	5,123,159	16·5	—	—	25,902,997	83·5	—	—		—	31,026,156
1890 ...	3,000,000	2,621,973	5,621,973	19·2	—	—	23,659,031	80·8	—	—	—	—	[illegible]
1880 ...	1,000,000	1,225,581	2,225,581	14·6	47,297	·3	12,958,940	85·1	—	—	—	—	[illegible]
1870* ...	1,000,000	405,484	1,405,484	32·3	[illegible]	13·6	2,356,238	54·1	—	—	—	—	[illegible]
1863 ...	300,000	[illegible]	309,442	40·8	—	—	[illegible]	59·2	—	—	—	—	[illegible]
1863† ...	205,000	1,760	206,760	43·0	—	—	273,089	57·0	—	—	—	—	[illegible]

Assets of First National Bank of Chicago.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tender and Bank Notes. Amount. $	% of Total.	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total.	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total.	Total Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. $	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915‡...57,184,238§		33·9	—	—	3,999,000	2·4	6,446,902	3·8	94,594,548	56·0	5,391,522	3·2	1,250,000	·7	168,866,210
1914 ...14,433,265		9·3	33,653,809	21·6	3,674,000	2·3	[illegible]	3·5	93,454,583	59·9	4,005,697	2·6	1,250,000	·8	156,021,078
1913 ...[illegible]		13·4	24,626,919	17·9	3,409,000	2·5	[illegible]	3·4	83,412,620	60·8	—	—	1,250,000	1·0	137,086,729
1912 ...20,109,718		14·8	27,585,642	20·2	2,259,000	1·7	6,135,128	4·5	78,912,924	57·9	—	—	1,250,000	·9	136,252,412
1911 ...22,158,644		16·5	23,308,548	17·4	1,359,000	1·0	6,032,879	4·5	79,925,411	59·6	—	—	1,250,000	1·0	134,034,482
1910 ...20,826,041		15·6	26,414,993	19·9	3,432,000	2·6	5,961,246	4·5	75,146,736	56·5	—	—	1,262,000	·9	133,043,016
1909 ...19,354,398		15·3	26,018,937	20·6	3,232,000	2·5	7,236,027	5·7	69,296,039	54·9	—	—	1,262,000	1·0	126,399,401
1908 ...21,003,381		16·7	27,579,732	21·9	3,607,000	2·8	7,999,577	6·2	65,045,062	51·4	—	—	1,262,000	1·0	126,496,752
1907 ...15,953,847		14·0	19,759,433	17·4	6,973,000	6·1	7,150,936	6·3	62,735,904	55·1	—	—	1,250,100	1·1	113,823,220
1906 ...15,650,183		13·4	25,774,903	22·1	2,107,000	1·8	7,746,450	6·6	64,413,851	55·0	—	—	1,250,100	1·1	116,942,487
1905 ...18,408,207		16·1	25,138,189	22·0	2,107,000	1·8	6,608,581	5·8	60,929,899	53·2	—	—	1,250,100	1·1	114,441,976
1900 ...17,782,159		23·2	13,239,566	17·3	1,300,000	1·7	5,095,117	6·7	38,720,861	50·6	—	—	350,000	·5	76,487,703
1895 ... 7,107,157		22·9	4,646,375	14·9	170,650	·6	1,469,031	4·8	17,132,883	55·2	—	—	500,000	1·6	31,026,156
1890 ... 6,393,795		21·8	4,951,639	16·9	54,650	·2	799,580	2·7	16,581,340	56·6	—	—	500,000	1·8	29,281,004
1880 ... 2,278,208		15·0	3,521,720	23·2	276,750	1·8	385,769	2·5	8,565,304	56·2	—	—	204,067	1·3	15,231,818
1870*... 462,827		12·9	[illegible]	10·8	783,250	18·0	132,026	3·0	2,082,226	47·9	—	—	322,795	7·4	4,351,692
1863 ... 264,626		34·8	61,251	8·1	176,000	23·2	—	—	[illegible]	33·9	—	—	—	—	759,196
1863†... 60,828		12·7	178,371	37·2	91,000	18·9	—	—	149,650	31·2	—	—	—	—	[illegible]

* December 28. † October 1. ‡ Sept. 2. § Including Exchanges, &c.

Liabilities of First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount. $	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 (Sept. 2)	5,000,000	5,494,838	10,494,838	14·6	61,071,653	85·2	147,034	·2	71,713,525
1914	5,000,000	5,019,985	10,019,985	14·5	58,720,617	85·2	217,975	·3	68,958,577
1913	5,000,000	3,713,245	8,713,245	13·2	56,662,989	86·4	210,165	·4	65,586,399
1912	5,000,000	2,510,792	7,510,792	11·2	59,456,357	88·5	183,127	·3	67,150,276
1911	5,000,000	1,345,203	6,345,203	10·3	54,555,356	89·4	179,747	·3	61,080,306
1910	2,500,000	3,150,230	5,650,230	10·1	50,047,061	89·6	138,544	·3	55,835,835
1909	2,000,000	3,089,625	5,089,625	10·0	45,601,108	89·7	135,254	·3	50,825,987
1908	2,000,000	2,205,430	4,205,430	10·4	36,073,773	89·6	—	—	40,279,203
1907	2,000,000	1,355,044	3,355,044	9·3	32,489,130	90·7	—	—	35,844,174
1906	2,000,000	648,826	2,648,826	7·3	33,597,286	92·7	—	—	36,246,112
1905	1,000,000	1,015,712	2,015,712	7·2	25,812,064	92·8	—	—	27,844,776
1904	1,000,000	524,166	1,524,166	7·8	17,931,057	92·2	—	—	[illegible]
1903	1,000,000	19,395	1,019,895	28·9	2,492,025	70·8	13,722	·3	3,525,642

Assets of First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tender and Bank Notes. Amount. $	% of Total.	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total.	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount. $	Loans. Amount. $	Total Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 (Sept. 2)	15,954,691*	22·2	—	—	—	—	27,436,129	38·3	15,823,225	12,499,480	28,322,705	39·5	71,713,525
1914	6,095,056	8·8	8,553,915	12·4	161,540	·2	23,187,556	33·7	16,746,025	14,214,485	30,960,510	44·9	68,958,577
1913	6,123,701	9·3	7,119,402	10·9	5,120	—	18,571,853	28·3	18,721,960	15,044,363	33,766,323	51·5	65,586,399
1912	5,789,961	8·7	7,546,115	11·2	53,630	—	21,210,667	31·6	20,338,819	12,211,084	32,549,903	48·5	67,150,276
1911	5,540,173	9·1	6,753,256	11·0	472,840	·8	21,608,263	35·4	15,707,920	10,997,854	26,705,774	43·7	61,080,306
1910	4,963,138	8·9	8,281,415	14·8	571,130	1·0	16,787,218	30·1	15,335,824	9,897,109	25,232,934	45·2	55,835,835
1909	4,512,328	8·9	5,655,978	11·1	568,180	1·1	16,753,733	33·0	13,513,715	9,822,054	23,335,768	45·9	50,825,987
1908	3,571,296	8·9	8,546,852	21·2	633,030	1·6	10,799,969	26·8	10,815,183	5,912,873	16,728,056	41·5	40,279,203
1907	3,683,301	10·2	5,541,932	15·4	293,100	·8	10,102,164	29·2	9,217,396	6,706,281	15,923,677	44·4	35,844,174
1906	2,616,901	7·2	3,505,751	9·7	324,920	·9	9,910,589	27·3	11,894,573	7,993,378	19,887,951	54·9	36,246,112
1905	1,163,948	4·1	3,051,713	11·0	284,320	1·0	8,826,704	31·7	8,239,986	6,278,105	14,518,091	52·2	27,844,776
1904	591,705	3·0	3,327,009	17·1	403,780	2·1	6,311,054	32·4	5,794,146	3,027,529	8,821,675	45·4	19,455,223
1903	16,075	·4	724,165	20·5	234,250	6·6	2,508,902	71·3	—	42,250	[illegible]	1·2	3,525,642

* Including Exchanges, &c.

said National Bank to the plan for the organisation of said Savings Bank and Trust Company and the ownership of its stock and the management of its affairs.

Under the new Federal Reserve Act passed by Congress in 1913 National Banks are permitted to act as trustees, so that the need for carrying on the two branches of the business as separate undertakings would now seem to have disappeared. The deposits of the Trust and Savings branch of the business are now as much as $61,000,000, and the aggregate deposits of the combined undertakings have now risen to nearly $200,000,000. When it is remembered that the National Banks in the United States have no branch establishments the greatness of these deposits will be realised.

The authorised initial capital of the First National Bank was $250,000, and the amount has steadily grown as the business has expanded until in 1910 it was raised to $10,000,000, at which it still remains Reserves began to be accumulated from the first, and they have now grown to $12,507,000, so that the total capital and reserve is $22,507,000, representing

a proportion of 13.3 per cent. to the total funds. The paid up capital of the First Trust and Savings Bank is $5,000,000, of which the first $1,000,000 was provided by a dividend paid by the First National Bank and the remainder has been built up out of the Savings Bank's own profit. Beyond this the Trust Company has accumulated a surplus of $5,495,000, and its total capital and surplus is thus $10,495,000, representing a proportion of 14.6 per cent. of the total liabilities. Inasmuch as the two Banks are practically one, it may be said that the paid-up capital and reserves of the institution amount to $33.000,000, and that this is the margin of security for the combined deposits, amounting to nearly $200,000,000, the proportion of the one to the other being over 16 per cent.

The profits of the First National are very substantial, and for last year, in spite of the depression into which American business was thrown by the War, amounted to $2,300,000, equal to a dividend of nearly 24 per cent. upon the capital and of over 10 per cent. upon the capital and reserve. The normal rate of distribution is 12 per cent., but special dividends of 5 per cent. extra have been paid in the last three years. In the current year the directors are understood to have decided to pay regular dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum and a 5 per cent. bonus, making 17 per cent. in all, *plus* a dividend of 6 per cent. from the profits of the Trust Company, or a total dividend of 23 per cent. The course of the dividends and profits of the First National Bank since 1904 has been as follows:—

Profits of First National Bank of Chicago.

Year ended, Dec. 31	Gross Profits.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	—Dividend.— Amount.	Rate.	Special Appropriations.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1914 ...	5,707,625	3,407,000	2,300,625	1,700,000	17*	300,000	300,625
1913 ...	5,659,901	3,278,647	2,381,254	1,700,000	17*	300,000	381,254
1912 ...	5,036,489	3,208,674	1,827,815	1,700,000	17*	—	127,815
1911 ...	4,911,423	3,062,852	1,878,571	1,200,000	12	100,000	578,571
1910 ...	4,947,228	2,824,056	2,123,172	1,140,000	12	300,000	683,172
1909 ...	4,254,635	2,763,533	1,491,102	960,000	12	125,000	406,102
1908 ...	4,418,690	2,625,614	1,793,076	960,000	12	350,000	483,076
1907 ...	4,740,436	2,415,808	2,324,628	960,000	12	615,000	749,628
1906 ...	4,304,401	2,395,218	1,909,183	960,000	12	450,000	499,183
1905 ...	3,686,256	2,369,131	1,317,125	960,000	12	275,000	82,125
1904 ...	3,496,730	2,226,047	1,270,683	960,000	12	300,000	10,683

* Includes special dividend of 5 per cent.

The profits of the Trust Company are also substantial. Last year they amounted to $1,306,000, equal to a dividend of 26 per cent. upon the paid-up capital and of nearly 13 per cent. upon the paid-up capital and reserve. In the past three years the whole of the profits have been devoted to reserve, but the directors have now decided to pay dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, being equal to 6 per cent. on the shares of the First National Bank. The price of the $100 shares of the First National is now 470, and a 23 per cent. dividend gives a yield of nearly 5 per cent. In considering this yield, however, it should be borne in mind that the profits of the two institutions for 1914 were no less than $3,600,000, equal to a dividend upon the capital of the National of nearly 36 per cent. The profit earned by the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, the whole of the capital of which is held by the First National Bank, is as follows: —

Profits of First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago.

Year ended, Dec. 31	Gross Profits. Amount.	Expenses. Amount.	Net Profit. Amount.	—Dividend.— Amount.	Rate.	Carried Forward.
	$	$	$	$	%	$
1914 ...	3,596,757	2,290,017	1,306,740	—	Nil	1,306,740
1913 ...	3,288,969	2,086,516	1,202,453	—	Nil	1,202,453
1912 ...	3,142,217	1,976,629	1,165,588	—	Nil	1,165,588
1911 ...	2,918,703	1,823,729	1,094,974	400,000	16	694,974
1910 ...	2,601,568	1,660,964	940,604	380,000	16	560,604
1909 ...	2,641,806	1,437,611	1,204,195	320,000	16	884,195
1908 ...	2,088,038	1,237,652	850,386	—	Nil	850,386
1907 ...	1,927,011	1,220,794	706,217	—	Nil	706,217
1906 ...	1,642,006	1,008,891	633,115	—	Nil	633,115
1905 ...	1,206,095	714,549	491,546	—	Nil	491,546
1904 ...	877,047	374,234	502,813	—	Nil	502,813

The growth both of the business of the First National and of the First Trust and Savings Bank will be evident from the statement of liabilities and assets of the two institutions given herewith.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
(OF NEW YORK).

Office: New York City.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 100,000 Shares of $100 each, fully paid $10,000,000

Price of Shares, 880%. *Dividend,* 38%.* *Yield,* 5.7%.

* Plus 12 per cent. on stock of First Security Company.

This institution is one of the leading banks of the United States, and its Chairman, Mr. George F. Baker, has taken a leading part, in company with the late Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, a director of the institution until his death, in shaping the policy of American banking and in contributing to its present great stability.

The Bank came into existence with the birth of the National system, receiving its charter in 1863, and was, as its name implies, the first in the metropolis to take out a National charter. There were at that time in New York City but 54 banks in operation. These had an aggregate capital of $70,000,000 and deposits of $160,000,000. The National system was inaugurated at a critical period in American banking history. It had to resist many antagonisms, especially in the City of New York, from State banks which had the prestige of long-established Clearing-House connections and undoubted financial strength. Prejudice against the new order of things vanished as the advantages of the National system became better understood, and within eighteen months 39 of the old New York banks with a capitalisation of $56,000,000 applied for Federal charters. Besides this, new banks with a combined capital of $12,000,000 were formed, leaving but 31, capitalised at $15,000,000, continuing allegiance to the State system. From the beginning the First National Bank sought the business of banks and bankers and became the redemption agent and depositary for a large number of out-of-town National banks. It took an active part in the negotiation of war loans, thus employing a large part of its deposits during the first years of business, the results of which amply rewarded the management for their confidence in the credit of the Government. The Bank from the start took a leading position among dealers in United States securities, for itself and as representative of the several refunding syndicates, in financing the various United States loans issued by successive Administrations. During the year 1879 the Bank handled $780,000,000 United States Government bonds, completing their receipt and delivery without error or loss. The capital was increased on July 19, 1901, to $10,000,000, a like sum being carried to surplus account. The dividend of 1,900 per cent., declared at that time, is believed to be the largest ever made by a banking institution.

Notwithstanding the very large distributions of profits that have been made from time to time, the present amount of the surplus and undivided profits is $21,308,000, and the capital and reserve together amount to $31,308,000, or 14.8 per cent. of the total liabilities. The deposits of the institution are liable to wide fluctations. After rising to $110,000,000 in 1904 they declined to $87,000,000 in 1906. In 1911 they rose to $145,000,000, and again declined to $103,000,000 in June 1913. They have now risen to $172,000,000. These fluctuations are due to the varying needs of its many correspondents in the country. In periods when the interior bankers have large balances they cannot use, the deposits reach great figures; on the other hand, when trade is very active and interior bankers require funds its deposits decline.

Liabilities of First National Bank, New York.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Surplus and Profits. Amount.	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds Account. Amount.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$		$		$		$		$		$
1915 ...	10,000,000	21,307,967	[illegible]	14·8	5,077,000	2·4	172,068,983	81·4	[illegible]	·2	2,580,950	1·2	211,359,900
1914 ...	10,000,000	23,177,729	[illegible]	20·3	4,974,100	3·0	124,893,839	76·3	[illegible]	·2	329,500	·2	163,700,168
1913 ...	10,000,000	22,020,175	32,020,175	22·4	6,211,500	4·4	102,834,718	72·2	1,[illegible]	·8	314,036	·2	142,511,029
1912 ...	10,000,000	21,585,526	31,585,526	18·4	6,168,000	3·6	132,594,195	77·0	1,[illegible]	·8	307,201	·2	172,064,922
1911 ...	10,000,000	20,906,714	30,906,715	16·7	5,694,398	3·1	145,320,846	78·6	2,[illegible]	1·4	300,514	·2	184,800,973
1910 ...	10,000,000	19,855,567	29,855,567	20·0	5,825,398	4·0	112,041,115	75·3	[illegible]	·5	302,155	·2	148,822,235
1909 ...	10,000,000	18,968,133	28,968,133	17·4	6,475,998	3·9	130,073,965	78·0	1,[illegible]	·6	286,131	·1	166,866,227
1908 ...	10,000,000	16,589,876	26,589,877	15·6	7,451,000	4·4	135,793,220	78·5	2,[illegible]	1·4	235,083	·1	170,281,180
1907 ...	10,000,000	19,749,571	29,749,571	22·4	5,828,000	4·4	89,916,684	67·7	7,[illegible]	5·4	150,000	·1	132,874,565
1906 ...	10,000,000	17,277,070	27,277,070	22·0	7,534,100	6·0	87,178,716	70·3	1,[illegible]	1·5	270,379	·2	124,141,265
1905 ...	10,000,000	15,851,794	25,851,794	19·2	7,480,797	5·6	98,917,864	73·4	2,[illegible]	1·8	62,500	—	134,757,955
1900 ...	500,000	9,117,081	9,617,082	17·0	495,797	·9	45,407,432	80·3	1,000,000	1·8	—	—	56,520,311
1895 ...	500,000	7,232,374	7,732,374	20·7	360,000	1·0	29,294 877	78·3	—	—	—	—	37,387,251
1890 ...	500,000	6,314,882	6,814,882	23·0	45,000	·1	22,808,287	76·9	—	—	—	—	29.668,169
1880 ...	500,000	2,184,675	2,684,676	14·1	450,000	2·4	15,866,070	83·5	—	—	—	—	19,000,746
1870 ...	500,000	30,566	530,566	8·5	344,000	5·5	5,363,331	86·0	—	—	—	—	6,237,898
1863* ...	300,000	13,016	313,017	32·0	100,000	10·2	565,512	57·8	—	—	—	—	978,529

Assets of First National Bank, New York.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders, and Bank Notes. Amount.	% of Total.	Exchanges and Items from other Banks, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds. Amount.	% of Total.	Other Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Discounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$		$		$		$		$		$		$
1915 ...	23,632,603	11·2	[illegible]	19·4	5,088,124	2·4	70,279,930	33·3	69,469,892	32·9	1,[illegible]	·8	211,359,900
1914 ...	23,[illegible]671	14·5	17,466,186	10·7	5,209,424	3·2	45,231,278	27·6	[illegible]	42·9	1,750,000	1·1	163,700,168
1913 ...	24,547,287	17·2	9,[illegible]	6·7	6,347,407	4·5	45,752,837	32·1	54,584,039	38·3	1,[illegible]	1·2	142,511,029
1912 ...	33,[illegible]	19·5	18,[illegible]	10·5	6,461,750	3·8	47,643,111	27·7	64,560,451	37·5	1,750,000	1·0	172,064,922
1911 ...	35,114,659	19·0	18,[illegible]	10·0	6,085,329	3·3	61,881,735	33·5	61,534,916	33·3	1,[illegible]	·9	184,800,973
1910 ...	23,561,135	15·9	19,199,844	12·9	6,[illegible]	4·2	38,352,397	25·9	59,680,334	40·1	1,[illegible]	1·0	148,822,235
1909 ...	27,219,828	16·3	21,215,[illegible]	12·7	6,717,002	4·0	50,320,142	30·2	59,793,749	35·8	1,600,000	1·0	166,866,227
1908 ...	33,533,939	19·7	12,942,[illegible]	7·6	9,012,319	5·3	54,254,884	31·8	58,937,698	34·6	1,600,000	1·0	170,281,180
1907 ...	23,009,416	17·3	12,673,914	9·5	8,[illegible]	6·4	51,361,810	38·6	35,791,050	27·0	1,[illegible]	1·2	132,874,565
1906 ...	18,900,259	15·2	14,432,[illegible]	11·6	8,965,182	7·3	52,083,661	41·9	28,159,441	22·7	1,600,000	1·3	124,141,265
1905 ...	18,538,702	13·8	15,[illegible]	11·6	9,500,309	7·0	48,250,924	35·8	41,283,911	30·6	1,600,000	1·2	134,757,955
1900 ...	9,247,144	16·4	6,048,618	10·7	4,[illegible]	7·7	20,250,581	35·9	16,050,642	28·2	[illegible]	1·1	56,520,311
1895 ...	8,996,160	24·1	2,061,[illegible]	5·5	[illegible]	1·8	12,112,404	32·4	12,950,980	34·6	[illegible]	1·6	37,387,251
1890 ...	4,935,633	16·8	2,533,245	8·5	2,344,046	7·9	9,719,216	32·8	9,486,029	32·0	600,000	2·0	29,668,169
1880 ...	2,915,162	15·5	2,051,368	10·8	2,835,554	15·0	1,285,218	6·7	9,562,403	50·3	321,[illegible]	1·7	19,000,746
1870 ...	1,553,345	24·9	552,051	8·8	491,600	7·9	1,476,347	23·7	2,164,055	34·7	—	—	6,237,898
1863* ...	165,264	16·9	191,[illegible]	19·5	541,383	55·4	—	—	75,500	7·7	5,367	·5	978,529

* As at December 31.

In 1908 the Bank followed the example of the First National Bank of Chicago and formed a subsidiary Company entitled the First Security Company. The capital of this subsidiary Company was fixed at $10,000,000, and the whole of it was provided by the payment of a special dividend of 100 per cent. upon the shares of the First National Bank of New York. That this institution is merely a branch of the First National is shown by the endorsement which has been made upon its shares. The endorsement is as follows:—

The registered holder of the within certificate is entitled, for and in respect of each and every share of stock of the First National Bank of the City of New York represented thereby, to share equally and rateably with all other holders of stock certificates of the Bank similarly endorsed, according to their several interests, in the dividend or profits, and in case of dissolution in the distribution of the capital of the First Security Company, a corporation of the State of New York, organised in pursuance of a certain written agreement dated February 14, 1908, between G. F. Baker and others and J. P. Morgan and others, stockholders, such interest of the owner of the within certificate and of all other like certificates similarly endorsed being subjected to all the terms, conditions, and limitations of the said agreement; such rateable interest to be sold or transferred rateably only by the transfer upon the books of the Bank of one or more of the shares of the stock represented by a bank stock certificate bearing this endorsement, and all of the interest in and to, or in respect of said Security Company or its capital stock represented by a bank stock certificate bearing this endorsement shall pass rateably with, and only with, the transfer of such shares of the Bank represented by such a bank stock certificate, and upon transfer thereof upon the books of the Bank; and an interest in the Security Company attached to any share of the Bank shall be alienable only in connection with such transfer of such bank stock.

No holder of the within certificate or any transferee of any share thereby represented shall be entitled in lieu thereof to demand or receive from the Bank a new certificate except with this endorsement thereon, and a transfer of any share of bank stock represented by the within bank stock certificate shall be made by any holder thereof only to a transferee accepting therefor a new certificate bearing this endorsement.

No right to vote upon or in respect of any stock of the Security Company passes to or shall be exercised by the holder of the within certificate, such voting right being reserved to and by the trustees of their successors.

The object of this subsidiary institution was to carry on certain lines of profitable business which, though often transacted by bankers, were not included within the corporate power of National Banks, including the acquiring and holding of real estate, securities, stocks, and other property. The particulars of the liabilities and assets of this subsidiary Company are not available. In the past year the dividend distributed by the National Bank was 38 per cent., but to this must be added the 12 per cent. paid by the First Security Company, making a total dividend of 50 per cent.

Throughout its history the First National has been a very profitable undertaking, its dividends at no time having been less than 10 per cent., while for many years it was 100 per cent. This was when its capital remained at $500,000. Since its capital was increased to $10,000,000 by the payment of a dividend of 1,900 per cent. the distributions have ranged from 20 per cent. to 132 per cent. How very profitable the business has been will be evident from the following statement of the dividends distributed since 1864:—

Dividends Paid by First National Bank (N.Y.), 1864 to 1915.

Year to June.	Div.	Year to June.	Div.	Year to June.	Div	Year to June 30.	Paid by Bank Sec. Co.
	%		%		%	%	%
Capital	$500,000.	Capital	$500,000.	Capital	$500,000.	Capital $10,000,000	
1864	24	1877	12	1890	100	1902	20 —
1865	20	1878	12	1891	100	1903	20 —
1866	20	1879	68	1892	100	1904	20 —
1867	10	1880	120	1893	100	1905	20 —
1868	20	1881	85	1894	100	1906	28½ —
1869	54	1882	40	1895	100	1907	30½ —
1870	12	1883	40	1896	100	1908	132(a) —
1871	27	1884	40	1897	100	1909	20 +12
1872	45	1885	40	1898	100	1910	28 +12
1873	20	1886	40	1899	100	1911	32 +12
1874	11	1887	40	1900	100	1912	38 +12
1875	12	1888	50	1901	100	1913	33 +17
1876	20	1889	80	1902	1,900	1914	33 +17
						1915	38 +12

(a) Div. of 100% was for capital of First Security Co.; div. of 32% regular.

The profit of the Bank was temporarily reduced by the War crisis of 1914, but has recovered to a normal level in the current year, when its business and deposits have so largely increased. The profits of the First National in recent years and the dividends distributed, exclusive of those received from the Security Company, have been as follows:—

Profits of First National Bank, New York.

Year to June 30	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Balance.
	$	$	$	$	%	$
1915...	5,251,167	1,080,486	2,034,085	(a)3,800,000	38	Dr.1,765,915
1914...	5,465,361	1,069,224	1,396,137	3,300,000	33	1,096,137
1913...	4,929,799	976,499	3,953,299	3,300,000	33	653,299
1912...	5,123,348	1,020,605	4,102,743	3,800,000	38	302,743
1911...	4,548,158	923,932	3,624,226	3,200,000	32	424,226
1910...	5,267,494	900,321	4,367,173	2,800,000	28	1,567,173
1909...	5,318,759	838,609	4,480,159	2,000,000	20	2,480,159
1908...	10,850,555	771,734	10,078,821	13,200,000	132*	Dr.3,121,179
1907...	5,652,430	831,825	4,820,605	3,025,000	30½	1,795,605
1906...	5,584,799	768,521	4,816,279	2,875,000	28½	1,941,279
1905...	4,727,317	899,124	3,828,193	2,000,000	20	1,828,193

* 1908: Dividend of 100% was for capital of First Security Company; dividend of 32% regular.
(a) This profit was reached after charging to a special reserve for depreciation in securities $1,500,000, and after charging off for depreciation in value on specific security items, $636,596.

The statements of the liabilities and assets are given herewith.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY (OF NEW YORK).

Head Office: 140 Broadway, New York City.
London Office: 33 Lombard Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 100,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $10,000,000
Price, 607½%. *Dividend*, 32%. *Yield*, 5.33%.

THE affairs of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York are of special interest to bankers in Europe in consequence of the large business it transacts in foreign exchange, no small part of the bills drawn against produce—especially cotton—exported from the United States passing through its hands. The institution was formed in 1863 under the title of the New York Guaranty and Indemnity Company, with a capital of $100,000. Its progress was, however, very slow, and in 1891, when it was decided to increase the capital to $2,000,000, its deposits were still no more than $1,000,000. At that time, however, its business began to expand, and by 1895 the deposits had grown to $11,000,000. Since Mr. Alexander J. Hemphill, the Chairman, became President in 1909 its progress has been very rapid. In 1900 its deposits reached $25,000,000, and in 1909, $88,000,000. In 1910 the Fifth Avenue Trust Company and the Morton Trust Company were acquired, both of them being old and well-established institutions, and the deposits in that year rose to $157,000,000. In June last the deposits were no less than $306,000,000, and at the end of September had been further raised to $327,000,000. Its capital was increased from $2,000,000 to $5,000,000 in 1910, and in 1913 was further raised to $10,000,000. The surplus profits have shown steady expansion, and from $500,000 in 1891 grew to $5,500,000 in 1905, to $8,000,000 in 1909, to $18,000,000 in 1910, and to $20,000,000 in 1913. Its total capital and surplus is now $30,000,000. The war panic of 1914 seriously affected bankers in the United States, but the effects had almost completely disappeared by the end of the year.

The dividends distributed were for many years 20 per cent., from which they were raised to 32 per cent. in 1910, and to 40 per cent. in 1911. In 1912 the rate was reduced to 38 per cent. For 1913, with double the capital, the dividend was 32 per cent., and in 1914, notwithstanding the adverse effect of the war panic, the dividend was 28 per cent. The dividends have now been restored to the basis of 32 per cent., the basis for the twelve months from June 1914 to June 1915 having been at the rate of 24 per cent. The profits of the institution and the dividends distributed since 1903 will be seen from the appended statement:—

Profits of Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses and Taxes.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amt.	Dividend. Rate.	Carried to Profit and Loss.	Balance for Year.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1914...		Not published.		2,800,000	28		
1913...		Not published.		3,200,000	32		
1912...	9,628,103	5,790,428	3,837,675	2,300,000	38	957,710	579,965
1911...	7,830,998	4,808,912	3,022,086	2,000,000	40	530,000	492,086
1910...	7,554,990	4,272,987	3,282,003	1,600,000	32	229,890	1,352,113
1909...	3,759,735	2,477,526	1,282,209	400,000	20	1,019	881,190
1908...	3,498,208	1,685,566	1,812,642	400,000	20	764	1,411,878
1907...	2,730,006	1,448,739	1,281,267	400,000	20	701,956	179,311
1906...	2,460,807	1,325,577	1,135,230	400,000	20	266,316	468,914
1905...	2,661,872	1,753,550	908,322	400,000	20	?	?
1904...	2,288,520	1,412,435	876,085	400,000	20	?	?
1903...	2,050,000	1,314,697	735,303	404,000	20	?	?

Liabilities of The Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

June 30	Capital. Amount.	Surplus. Amount.	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount.	% of Total.	Outstanding Treasurer's Cheques. Amount.	% of Total	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Foreign Accounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Accept-ances. Amount.	% of Total.	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses. Amt.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915	10,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000	7·8	14,029,205	3·6	306,019,754	79·3	—	—	32,731,625	8·5	308,273	·1	2,727,839	·7	385,816,696
1914	10,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000	10·0	6,313,671	2·2	234,077,684	79·2	11,155,169	3·8	12,782,236	4·3	289,586	·1	1,222,069	·4	295,480,415
1913	10,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000	12·8	4,117,298	1·8	189,637,959	80·8	7,575,156	3·2	—	—	308,270	·1	3,017,712	1·3	234,656,375
1912	5,000,000	18,000,000	23,000,000	9·6	4,051,255	1·7	190,881,330	79·6	16,938,940	7·0	—	—	275,230	·2	4,529,930	1·9	239,676,685
1911	5,000,000	18,000,000	23,000,000	10·6	12,016,430	5·5	163,520,725	75·2	14,828,560	6·9	—	—	280,605	·1	3,723,945	1·7	217,370,265
1910	5,000,000	18,000,000	23,000,000	12·5	—	—	157,143,653	85·6	—	—	—	—	249,454	·1	3,239,122	1·8	183,632,229
1909	2,000,000	8,000,000	10,000,000	10·1	—	—	88,567,340	89·4	—	—	—	—	90,000	·1	391,195	·4	99,048,535
1908	2,000,000	6,000,000	8,000,000	12·7	—	—	54,111,609	85·8	—	—	—	—	84,000	·1	860,960	1·4	63,056,569
1907	2,000,000	5,500,000	7,500,000	13·2	—	—	48,075,459	84·9	—	—	—	—	84,000	·1	1,002,782	1·8	56,662,241
1906	2,000,000	5,500,000	7,500,000	15·1	—	—	41,253,625	83·2	—	—	—	—	80,000	·2	757,250	1·5	49,590,875
1905	2,000,000	5,500,000	7,500,000	9·9	—	—	67,995,461	83·6	—	—	—	—	74,000	·1	309,817	·4	75,879,278
1900	2,000,000	3,500,000	5,500,000	17·6	117,450	·4	25,158,519	80·4	—	—	—	—	20,000	·1	460,138	1·5	31,256,107
1895	2,000,000	1,500,000	3,500,000	23·3	—	—	11,144,742	74·1	—	—	—	—	—	—	402,919	2·6	15,047,661
1891*	2,000,000	500,000	2,500,000	67·0	—	—	1,197,756	32·1	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,786	·9	3,730,542

Assets of The Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

June 30	Cash on Hand and in Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	Exchanges or Clearing House. Amount.	% of Total.	Foreign Exchange. Amount.	% of Total.	Securities, Bonds, and Mortgages. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Bills Purchased. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Accrued Interest and Accounts Receivable. Amount.	% of Total.	Real Estate. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915	57,486,705	15·1	27,589,235	7·1	49,148,647	12·7	64,011,899	16·6	150,622,841	39·0	32,731,625	8·5	1,463,216	·3	2,762,508	·7	385,816,696
1914	44,199,203	15·0	22,925,956	7·8	27,848,132	9·4	66,111,048	22·3	118,019,734	39·8	12,782,236	4·3	1,350,449	·5	2,603,657	·9	295,840,415
1913	41,574,414	17·7	12,231,485	5·2	24,196,489	10·3	62,016,019	25·4	90,851,281	38·8	—	—	1,324,769	·6	2,471,418	1·0	234,656,375
1912	46,016,150	19·2	7,030,125	3·0	23,084,400	9·6	63,606,665	26·5	96,294,085	40·2	—	—	1,210,330	·5	2,374,930	1·0	239,676,685
1911	43,813,070	20·2	9,210,430	4·2	23,338,995	10·8	55,111,760	25·4	84,901,975	39·0	—	—	935,615	·4	50,240	—	217,370,265
1910	43,664,335	23·8	—	—	34,389,669	18·7	51,303,188	28·0	52,223,550	28·4	—	—	2,049,496	1·1	—	—	183,632,229
1909	25,707,325	25·0	—	—	6,332,535	6·4	41,353,185	42·2	24,192,690	24·4	—	—	962,809	1·0	—	—	99,048,535
1908	16,028,155	25·4	—	—	4,250,518	6·8	27,109,330	43·0	14,963,182	23·7	—	—	695,384	1·1	—	—	63,056,569
1907	6,360,543	11·2	—	—	2,597,964	4·6	13,935,180	24·7	33,408,900	59·0	—	—	309,654	·5	—	—	56,662,241
1906	7,286,929	14·7	—	—	5,709,751	11·5	13,293,763	25·8	23,065,750	43·5	—	—	234,682	·5	—	—	49,590,875
1905	10,445,411	13·8	—	—	3,882,000	5·1	20,390,301	26·7	40,900,789	53·9	—	—	360,777	·5	—	—	75,879,278
1900	6,018,670	19·3	—	—	—	—	13,550,130	43·3	11,249,407	36·0	—	—	288,546	·9	149,354	·5	31,256,100
1895	4,583,342	30·5	—	—	—	—	5,401,747	33·0	4,902,586	32·5	—	—	59,827	·4	100,159	·6	15,047,661
1891*	341,290	9·2	—	—	—	—	1,612,294	43·2	1,676,958	44·9	—	—	—	—	100,000	2·7	3,730,542

* December 31.

Liabilities of The Hanover National Bank.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Bonds Borrowed. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915, June 23 ...	3,000,000	15,389,592	18,389,392	12·4	305,000	·2	129,576,134	87·4	—	—	148,270,526
1914, June 30 ...	3,000,000	15,054,767	18,054,767	13·1	50,000	—	119,803,501	86·8	110,000	·1	138,018,268
1913, June 4 ...	3,000,000	14,536,621	17,536,621	13·4	1,450,000	1·2	111,699,882	85·4	110,000	—	130,796,503
1912, June 14 ...	3,000,000	13,346,610	16,346,610	12·6	1,602,000	1·3	111,751,276	86·1	150,000	—	129,849,886
1911, June 7 ...	3,000,000	12,620,657	15,620,657	12·3	1,058,000	·9	109,408,858	86·7	150,000	·1	126,237,515
1910, June 30 ...	3,000,000	11,707,416	14,707,416	12·3	1,585,800	1·3	103,015,846	86·2	265,000	·2	119,574,062
1909, June 23 ...	3,000,000	10,747,472	13,747,472	10·9	50,000	—	111,740,018	88·8	300,000	·3	125,837,490
1908, July 15 ...	3,000,000	9,684,190	12,684,190	10·9	1,239,980	1·1	101,100,057	87·2	872,500	·8	115,896,727
1907, May 20 ...	3,000,000	8,521,254	11,521,254	11·0	2,386,550	2·3	86,360,641	82·1	4,831,500	4·6	105,099,945
1906, June 18 ...	3,000,000	7,622,432	10,622,432	10·4	1,676,300	1·6	86,605,727	85·0	3,003,500	3·0	101,907,959
1905, May 29 ...	3,000,000	6,961,492	9,961,492	10·7	1,100,000	1·2	79,751,951	85·9	2,053,000	2·2	92,866,443
1900, June 29 ...	3,000,000	5,063,224	8,063,224	11·4	1,000,000	1·4	59,782,496	84·1	2,216,380	3·1	71,062,100
1895, June 30 ...	1,000,000	1,920,143	2,920,143	11·0	495,000	1·9	23,069,159	87·1	—	—	26,484,302
1890, June 30 ...	1,000,000	1,469,969	2,469,969	11·1	45,000	·2	19,781,046	88·7	—	—	22,296,015
1880, June 30 ...	1,000,000	282,159	1,282,159	12·9	800,000	8·0	7,855,273	79·1	—	—	9,937,432
1870, June 30 ...	1,000,000	243,105	1,243,105	31·5	294,086	7·4	2,409,211	61·1	—	—	3,946,402
1860, June 30 ...	1,000,000	90,695	1,090,695	46·7	83,137	3·6	1,159,623	49·7	—	—	2,333,455
1851, Dec. 31 ...	500,000	19,024	519,024	48·4	144,000	13·4	410,538	38·2	—	—	1,073,562

Assets of The Hanover National Bank.

Date.	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders and Bank Notes. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915, June 23 ...	25,074,636	16·9	31,803,301	21·5	525,000	·3	3,776,882	2·5	81,790,707	55·2	5,300,000	3·6	148,270,526
1914, June 30 ...	26,147,567	19·0	21,749,992	15·7	200,000	·1	3,603,583	2·6	80,974,126	58·7	5,343,000	3·9	138,018,268
1913, June 4 ...	24,732,537	18·9	26,128,657	20·0	1,852,410	1·4	5,878,500	4·5	66,[illegible]	50·9	5,580,500	4·3	130,796,503
1912, June 14 ...	20,600,417	16·0	27,745,815	21·3	1,949,690	1·5	6,035,941	4·7	67,[illegible]	52·2	5,691,750	4·3	129,849,886
1911, June 7 ...	19,598,485	15·5	29,165,071	23·1	1,281,650	1·0	8,733,523	7·0	61,[illegible]	49·0	5,540,000	4·4	126,237,515
1910, June 30 ...	16,027,244	13·4	36,413,851	30·4	1,775,900	1·5	8,188,681	6·8	51,[illegible]	43·1	5,662,000	4·8	119,574,062
1909, June 23 ...	22,447,760	17·8	28,063,378	22·4	349,550	·3	9,011,439	7·1	60,[illegible]	48·0	5,560,500	4·4	125,837,490
1908, July 15 ...	24,796,257	21·4	21,829,602	18·8	2,230,520	2·0	3,706,305	3·2	57,[illegible]	49·8	5,582,000	4·8	115,896,727
1907, May 20 ...	14,428,215	13·7	24,039,548	22·9	4,061,000	3·9	6,669,182	6·3	50,401,500	48·0	5,500,500	5·2	105,099,945
1906, June 18 ...	14,402,060	14·1	29,915,898	29·4	2,945,100	2·9	3,958,866	3·9	45,244,605	44·4	5,441,430	5·3	101,907,959
1905, May 29 ...	14,177,122	15·3	23,212,197	24·9	2,943,550	3·2	3,354,098	3·6	43,971,116	47·4	5,208,360	5·6	92,866,443
1900, June 29 ...	14,683,624	20·7	10,593,249	15·0	6,923,949	9·7	3,260,566	4·4	34,[illegible]	48·1	1,428,000	2·1	71,062,100
1895, June 30 ...	5,583,500	21·1	3,945,477	14·9	2,194,946	8·3	32,918	·1	14,727,461	55·6	—	—	26,484,302
1890, June 30 ...	3,836,152	17·2	4,345,469	19·4	850,000	3·9	3,000	·1	13,261,394	59·4	—	—	22,296,015
1880, June 30 ...	1,600,754	16·1	969,344	9·8	890,000	9·0	7,800	—	6,469,534	65·1	—	—	9,937,432
1870, June 30 ...	1,205,285	30·5	137,334	3·4	535,000	13·6	45,175	1·1	2,023,608	51·4	—	—	3,946,402
1860, June 30 ...	481,487	20·7	149,905	6·4	123,005	5·3	—	—	1,579,058	67·6	—	—	2,333,455
1851, Dec. 31 ...	363,145	33·8	111,016	15·8	169,000	10·3	—	—	430,401	40.1	—	—	1,073,562

HANOVER NATIONAL BANK.

Office: Nassau and Pine Streets, New York City.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 30,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $3,000,000
Price of Shares, 622½%. *Dividend*, 20%. *Yield*, 3.18%.

THE Hanover Bank was organised in 1851. It began in an old store at the corner of Pearl Street and Hanover Square—hence the name "Hanover Bank." The original capital of the Bank was $500,000, which was soon afterwards increased to $1,000,000. Business grew, and it had deposits of $1,500,000. The Bank then moved into new quarters in a building of its own. Hanover Square was at that time the centre of the wholesale trade, importers and great shipping merchants doing business near by. In 1860 the Bank removed to another building erected for it. In 1865 the Hanover Bank went into the National system, and became "The Hanover National Bank of the City of New York." In 1877 the present administration, headed by Mr. James T. Woodward as President, took control of the Bank. In 1900 the capital was increased from $1,000,000 to $3,000,000, surplus $5,000,000. In January 1903 it took possession of its present home. Since that time the business of the Bank has grown rapidly. In 1881 the Hanover started on an aggressive campaign to build up its business. At that time its deposits were about $6,000,000; and to-day they are $130,000,000.

Through all the varying mercantile and financial conditions since the "Hanover" was established it has maintained a reputation for stability. A feature of its policy has been the holding of a large cash reserve, and in times of financial pressure this policy has been of inestimable value, not only to its own dealers, but to the entire business community, and no customer of the Bank has ever been refused the accommodation to which he was entitled. A large and growing foreign exchange connection has become a prominent feature of the Bank's business. The Hanover National Bank is a Government depositary and acts as reserve agent and correspondent for a great number of out-of-town banks and bankers.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
Established 1835.

ALL SURPLUS DIVIDED BY WAY OF REDUCTION OF PREMIUM.

The Rates of Reduction for current year range from 79% to 34%.

APPLY FOR PARTICULARS OF THE SOCIETY'S
DISCOUNTED ABATEMENT SYSTEM.

ANNUAL PREMIUM, FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS, reduced in anticipation of future distribution of surplus, for Whole-Life Policies or Endowment Assurances of £100.

AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY	ASSURANCE PAYABLE: At Death	At Death or Age 55	At Death or Age 60
25 ...	£1 12 3	£2 10 7	£2 3 1
30 ...	1 16 9	3 3 7	2 12 8
35 ...	2 2 9	4 3 2	3 5 11
40 ...	2 9 10	5 16 0	4 6 0

After 5 years the Premiums under this scheme are subject to FURTHER REDUCTION in respect of any abatement declared in excess of 33 per cent.

NO COMMISSION. NO SHAREHOLDERS

Office: 13 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

In 1901 it absorbed the Continenal National Bank, which had a capital of $1,000,000, surplus of $500,000, and deposits of $5,000,000. In April 1912 it further added to its business by absorbing the Gallatin National Bank, with a capital of $1,000,000, surplus of $3,000,000, and deposits of $8,000,000. This Bank was organised under a special charter in 1829.

The capital of the Bank has remained unchanged at $3,000,000 since 1900, but its surplus has risen steadily from $5,000,000 in 1900 to $15,000,000 at the present time. The progress of the institution, more especially since 1905, will be evident from the statement of liabilities and assets given herewith.

For the year to June last its profit was $948,000, equal to a dividend of 31 per cent. upon the stock, notwithstanding the severe depression following upon the declaration of war in Europe. The dividend distributed was 20 per cent., calling for $600,000. The profits and dividends since 1904 have been:—

Profits of the Hanover National Bank.

Year ended June 30	Net Profit.	—Dividend.— Amount.	Rate.	Added to Surplus.	Undivided Balance.
	$	$	%	$	$
1915	948,266	600,000	20	—	1,252,691
1914	1,008,313	510,000	17	—	904,425
1913	1,639,586	480,000	16	1,000,000	406,112
1912	1,170,187	480,000	16	1,000,000	246,526
1911	1,329,254	480,000	16	500,000	556,339
1910	1,455,519	480,000	16	1,000,000	207,084
1909	1,632,620	480,000	16	1,500,000	231,564
1908	1,559,129	480,000	16	1,000,000	578,944
1907	1,461,927	480,000	16	1,000,000	499,815
1906	1,124,884	390,000	13	750,000	517,887
1905	616,331	330,000	11	250,000	583,002
1904	596,482	300,000	10	500,000	496,671

It will be noted that the price of the shares is 622½ per cent., and that the 20 per cent. dividend gives a yield of less than 3¼ per cent. It is evident, however, that the price of the shares is regulated by the fact that the Bank could pay a dividend largely in excess of the present rate of distribution.

ILLINOIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK.

Offices: La Salle and Jackson Streets, Chicago, Ill.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 50,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $5,000,000
Price per Share, 477½%. *Dividend,* 20%. *Yield,* 4.18%

THE greatest of the trust companies of Chicago is the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, which was organised in 1873 with a capital of only $100,000. The progress of the institution was very slow until Mr. John J. Mitchell became the President in 1880, but since then it has developed into one of the great banks of the country. Within 10 years from 1880 its capital had been increased from $100,000 to $1,000,000, and its deposits had grown from $700,000 to $13,000,000. In the following 10 years the capital was increased to $3,000,000 and the deposits grew to $65,000,000, and by 1910 the capital had risen to $5,000,000 and the deposits to $91,000,000. The capital is now $5,000,000 and the deposits are $97,040,000. In building up the business of the institution great care has been taken to strengthen the reserve fund, and whereas in 1890 the reserve was less than $700,000, it is now $10,000,000. It should be specially noted that the growth of deposits is entirely natural and has been brought about without the assistance of mergers or of consolidations with other banks.

The undertaking is a profitable one, dividends of 20 per cent. having been paid for the last eight years. For the year to June 1915 the net profit was $1,326,000, equal to a distribution of 26 per cent. upon the stock. It will be realised that the past twelve months has been an exceptionally difficult period for bankers in all parts of the world, but that bankers in neutral countries especially are now making large profits. The conservative policy followed as regards the distri-

Liabilities of Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.

June 30	Capital. Amount.	Surplus. Amount.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	Total Capital, Surplus and Undivided —Profits.— Amount.	% of Total.	—Deposits.— Amount.	% of Total.	Reserve for Taxes and —Expenses.— Amount.	% of Total.	Profit —Balance.— Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915... ...	5,000,000	10,000,000	700,000	15,700,000	13·8	97,040,269	85·6	135,000	·1	542,627	·5	113,417,896
1914... ...	5,000,000	10,000,000	500,000	15,500,000	14·1	93,583,770	85·4	135,000	·1	415,721	·4	109,634,491
1913... ...	5,000,000	10,000,000	—	15,000,000	13·9	92,178,585	85·5	120,000	·1	541,093	·5	107,839,678
1912... ...	5,000,000	9,000,000	300,000	14,300,000	12·4	100,830,572	87·3	105,000	·1	278,845	·2	115,514,417
1911... ...	5,000,000	8,000,000	800,000	13,800,000	13·1	91,738,396	86·5	105,000	·1	365,519	·3	106,006,915
1910... ...	5,000,000	8,000,000	400,000	13,600,000	12·8	91,092,200	86·8	105,000	1	346,624	·3	104,943,824
1909... ...	5,000,000	7,500,000	700,000	13,200,000	13·0	88,012,075	86·8	90,000	—	191,615	·2	101,493,690
1908... ...	5,000,000	7,500,000	500,000	13,000,000	13·8	80,715,848	85·8	—	—	384,146	·4	94,099,994
1907... ...	4,500,000	6,000,000	1,300,000	11,800,000	10·9	95,348,527	88·3	—	—	880,683	·8	108,029,210
1906... ...	4,000,000	5,000,000	1,300,000	10,300,000	9·6	96,001,042	89·8	—	—	571,128	·6	106,872,170
1905... ...	4,000,000	5,000,000	1,000,000	10,000,000	10·0	90,344,548	89·4	—	—	645,756	·6	100,990,304
1900... ...	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	6,000,000	8·4	65,590,442	90·6	—	—	785,187	1·0	72,375,629
1895... ...	2,000,000	1,000,000	900,000	3,900,000	12·5	27,017,337	86·9	—	—	187,254	·6	31,104,591
1890... ...	1,000,000	688,916	177,533	1,866,449	12·5	13,090,262	87·5	—	—	—	—	14,956,711
1880	100,000	—	—	100,000	12·0	717,032	86·3	—	—	14,663	1·7	831,695
1874... ...	500,000	25,000	—	525,000	60·7	333,691	38·7	—	—	5,351	·6	864,042

Assets of Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.

June 30	Cash on Hand and —in Banks.— Amount.	% of Total.	Exchanges for —Clearing House.— Amount.	% of Total.	Foreign —Exchange. Amount.	% of Total.	—Securities.— Amount.	% of Total.	—Loans.— Amount.	% of Total.	Real —Estate.— Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ..	23,009,956	20·3	1,257,353	1·1	445,065	·4	26,108,524	23·0	62,596,998	55·2	—	—	113,417,896
1914 ...	23,113,620	21·1	1,832,660	1·6	635,827	·6	26,415,701	24·1	57,636,683	52·6	—	—	109,634,491
1913 ...	19,362,859	18·0	2,800,958	2·6	670,976	·6	27,193,616	25·2	57,811,269	53·6	—	—	107,839,678
1912 ...	22,462,619	19·5	4,446,056	3·8	2,003,318	1·7	28,421,142	24·6	58,181,282	50·4	—	—	115,514,417
1911 ...	21,372,347	20·2	1,119,307	1·0	2,793,746	2·6	24,269,249	23·0	56,452,266	53·2	—	—	106,006,915
1910 ...	19,788,218	18·9	2,101,970	2·0	1,182,549	1·1	23,502,252	22·4	58,359,119	55·6	9,716	—	104,943,824
1909 ...	23,373,205	23·0	1,882,041	1·9	638,891	·6	17,929,154	17·7	57,645,666	56·8	24,733	—	101,493,690
1908 ...	24,773,735	26·4	1,943,542	2·0	772,890	·8	14,633,621	15·6	51,929,045	55·2	47,161	—	94,099,994
1907 ...	17,752,668	16·4	1,194,622	1·1	738,785	·7	15,557,445	14·4	72,739,510	67·4	46,180	—	108,029,210
1906 ...	18,204,579	17·0	1,182,109	1·1	843,335	·8	17,537,545	16·5	69,042,526	64·6	61,576	—	106,872,170
1905 ...	25,414,300	25·2	826,505	·8	607,165	·6	24,869,167	24·6	49,183,815	48·8	89,352	—	100,990,304
1900 ...	19,535,470	27·0	696,450	·9	1,006,865	1·4	14,491,282	20·0	36,451,791	50·4	193,771	·3	72,375,629
1895 ..	6,973,481	22·4	474,239	1·5	—	—	3,091,268	10·0	20,565,603	66·1	—	—	31,104,591
1890 ...	2,079,523	13·9	178,023	1·2	111,080	·7	1,928,325	12·9	10,633,469	71·1	26,291	·2	14,956,711
1880 ...	87,268	10·5	—	—	488	—	187,058	22·5	542,858	65·3	14,023	1·7	831,695
1874 ...	57,549	6·7	—	—	10,313	1·2	299,805	34·7	496,375	57·4	—	—	864,042

bution of its profits will be evident from the statement below:—

Profits of Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.

Year to June 30	Gross Profits.	Salaries & Expenses.	Net Profits.	Dividend.—Amount.	Rate.	Special Appropriation.	Carried Forw'd.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1915 ...	2,142,882	815,976	1,326,206	1,000,000	20	200,000	542,628
1914 ...	2,186,265	811,636	1,374,629	1,000,000	20	500,000	415,722
1913 ...	2,687,835	725,587	1,962,247	1,000,000	20	700,000	541,093
1912 ...	2,122,481	707,155	1,415,326	1,000,000	20	1,500,000	278,845
1911 ...	2,079,379	662,484	1,416,895	1,000,000	20	1,400,000	363,519
1910 ...	2,026,178	671,170	1,355,008	1,000,000	20	1,200,000	346,624
1909 ...	1,765,908	758,439	1,007,470	1,000,000	20	1,200,000	191,615
1908 ...	1,785,263	606,800	1,178,463	975,000	20	700,000	384,146
1907 ...	2,670,815	526,260	2,144,555	835,000	19	1,000,000	880,683
1906 ...	1,348,940	183,569	865,372	640,000	16	300,000	571,128
1905 ...	1,626,392	475,249	1,151,143	640,000	16	200,000	785,187

The price of the $100 share is 477½, and the 20 per cent. dividend gives a yield of 4.18 per cent. It should, however, be noted that the profit earned for many years past would have allowed of much greater dividends.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (REICHSBANK).

Head Office: Berlin, S.W.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up, in fully-paid Shares of 3,000 Marks and 1,000 Marks (no Liability) ... ... M. 180,000,000

Price of Shares, 148%. *Dividend*, 10·24%. *Yield*, 6·92%.

When the Franco-German war broke out, Germany was split up into a multitude of States, each having its own Government, its own laws, and its own institutions. The old Germanic Confederation had, indeed, been abolished by the war of 1866, and Austria's constitutional connection with the German States brought to an end. On the other hand, that war had added to the Prussian dominions the Duchies taken from Denmark by the war of 1864, while the Franco-Prussian war added to the new German Empire Alsace and Lorraine. When, therefore, the Franco-German struggle ended in the complete and unexpected success of the Germans, a strong desire sprang up for consolidating the new Empire and abolishing everything that stood in the way of a close union between the several States. Amongst other things, it was felt to be indispensable that the gold standard should be established; that one single currency should prevail throughout the Empire; and that these reforms should be safeguarded by the foundation of a single great central bank. The gold standard had been growing in favour all over the Continent, largely owing to the unfounded belief that England's pre-eminence at sea and as a manufacturing and commercial country was largely due to her having established it when she resumed specie payments. It is probable, indeed, that if the war of 1870 had not occurred France would have taken the lead upon the Continent in adopting the gold standard. As it happened, however, the cession by France to Germany of a war indemnity of five milliards of francs, or 200 millions sterling, enabled the latter to forestall the former. Accordingly, one of the earliest changes made was to establish the gold standard. Having thus established a single currency the new Empire turned next to the establishment of one great central bank. First, it debated at great length whether the Bank was to be a State Bank or a private bank. Now, in German phraseology a State bank means a bank owned, as well as controlled ,by the State. There is, as a matter of fact, if that be the true definition, only a single State bank in Europe, and that is the Imperial Bank of Russia. The Bank of England is really a private bank, though connected with the Government. The Bank of France is also regarded as a private bank, though it is managed by a governor and two deputy-governors appointed by the Government. And all the other central banks are, in fact, private in the sense in which the word is used in Germany.

Finally the discussion ended in the decision that the Reichsbank was to be a private bank. The Bank of Prussia—that is of the State which had driven Austria out of the Germanic Confederation and forced all the smaller States to bow to her will—was turned into the Bank of Germany, the capital of the Bank of Prussia being increased by 50 per cent. The capital has been increased twice since. It now amounts to 180 million marks, or nine millions sterling. Strange to say, the argument which seems to have determined that the Reichsbank should be a private bank was, that if Germany were ever to be defeated in war and invaded, the invader would respect the property of a private institution, but almost certainly would disregard the claims of the Government. Hence it was determined that the Bank of Prussia should be turned into the Bank of Germany, and endowed with the capital stated; the fresh capital was to be provided by the investing public; and the Bank was to be under the supreme control of the Chancellor of the German Empire, who is free, when necessary, to appoint a deputy to represent him. Under the Chancellor, the Bank is managed by a President and sub-Presidents, appointed by the Government, and these are assisted by a committee, likewise approved by the Government. The shareholders have, it is true, the right to elect another committee. But it has only consultative powers. As the shareholders are mainly bankers, and as the shareholders must elect from the largest shareholders, it is no doubt true that a committee of experts must advise with very considerable authority. Still, the fact remains that the committee, though it represents the shareholders and consists of a certain number of the largest shareholders, has only consultative powers. Lastly, it was enacted at first that the shareholders should be entitled to a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent.; that the excess profit, if

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Liabilities of The Imperial Bank of Germany.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Marks.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Marks.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount Marks.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Current, Clearing Accounts and Deposits. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Marks.
1914	180,000,000	122,110,324	302,110,324	4·2	5,046,146,450	70·0	1,759,513,148	24·4	42,744,345	·6	54,640,639	·8	7,204,984,206
1913	180,000,000	80,928,350	260,928,350	7·0	2,593,616,050	70·0	793,872,570	21·5	15,115,090	·4	39,895,570	1·1	3,703,427,630
1912	180,000,000	76,041,140	256,041,140	7·1	2,519,498,520	70·6	746,856,960	21·0	18,640,920	·5	27,996,640	·8	3,569,034,180
1911	180,000,000	71,792,880	251,792,880	7·7	2,250,647,200	69·3	710,993,240	22·0	14,047,080	·4	19,112,180	·6	3,246,592,580
1910	180,000,000	69,761,820	249,761,820	8·1	2,072,766,470	67·6	711,181,960	23·2	12,722,660	·4	21,437,420	·7	3,067,870,330
1909	180,000,000	69,813,720	249,813,720	8·2	2,071,511,785	68·1	685,265,400	22·6	17,570,700	·6	16,788,920	·5	3,040,950,525
1908	180,000,000	69,171,620	249,171,620	8·5	1,975,389,895	67·3	665,389,160	22·7	14,401,440	·5	30,745,740	1·0	2,935,097,855
1907	180,000,000	68,079,720	248,079,720	8·7	1,885,922,000	65·8	667,778,630	23·2	21,718,060	·7	46,021,540	1·6	2,869,520,000
1906	180,000,000	65,395,920	245,395,920	9·0	1,775,898,000	64·9	662,404,020	24·2	18,980,280	·7	33,976,080	1·2	2,736,655,100
1905	180,000,000	65,378,820	245,378,820	9·5	1,656,632,200	64·6	636,851,060	24·7	14,157,720	·5	19,112,940	·7	2,572,182,740
1900	120,000,000	30,865,800	150,865,800	7·0	1,409,945,000	65·6	505,265,700	23·6	52,461,220	2·4	29,776,560	1·4	2,148,314,280
1895	120,000,000	30,053,900	150,053,900	7·9	1,320,089,000	68·7	439,572,020	22·7	6,937,220	·4	5,719,970	·3	1,922,372,110
1890	120,000,000	29,517,710	149,517,710	9·2	1,102,588,000	68·2	346,926,010	21·5	7,086,700	·4	12,279,150	·7	1,618,397,570
1880	120,000,000	19,678,870	139,678,870	13·2	735,013,000	69·7	173,250,870	16·5	3,546,470	·3	3,595,090	·3	1,055,084,300
1876	120,000,000	13,782,470	133,782,470	13·2	684,866,000	67·8	183,221,170	18·1	4,736,350	·5	3,908,190	·4	1,010,514,180

Assets of The Imperial Bank of Germany.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand.* Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Marks.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Marks.
1914	3,009,987,992	41·8	33,734,111	·5	3,951,641,396	54·8	22,870,225	·3	69,568,330	1·0	117,182,152	1·6	7,204,984,206
1913	1,505,770,220	40·7	403,553,990	10·9	1,507,581,260	40·7	94,472,800	2·6	68,123,700	1·8	123,925,660	3·3	3,703,427,630
1912	1,065,525,940	29·9	108,310,120	3·1	2,046,036,560	57·1	176,704,000	5·0	67,510,800	1·9	104,946,760	3·0	3,569,034,180
1911	1,048,590,540	32·3	148,925,860	4·6	1,806,729,200	55·6	117,243,460	3·6	28,779,640	·9	96,323,880	3·0	3,246,592,580
1910	988,318,710	32·2	156,804,260	5·1	1,337,202,440	43·6	370,776,660	12·1	84,098,220	2·8	130,670,040	4·2	3,067,870,330
1909	963,554,605	31·7	331,738,420	10·9	1,247,407,480	41·0	292,000,260	9·6	67,377,040	2·2	138,872,720	4·6	3,040,950,525
1908	1,047,727,755	35·7	394,492,540	13·4	1,167,208,380	39·8	175,929,360	6·0	24,684,360	·8	125,055,460	4·3	2,935,097,855
1907	762,718,360	26·6	121,797,000	4·2	1,500,037,840	52·3	364,297,560	12·7	10,070,880	·3	110,598,360	3·9	2,869,520,000
1906	705,547,600	25·8	262,716,340	9·6	1,341,295,880	49·0	284,519,700	10·4	19,857,100	·7	122,718,480	4·5	2,736,655,100
1905	813,911,820	31·6	214,854,860	8·3	1,229,172,980	47·8	204,339,900	8·0	14,846,380	·6	95,056,800	3·7	2,572,182,740
1900	755,506,680	35·1	84,802,060	4·0	1,089,774,580	50·8	146,226,700	6·8	4,843,160	·2	67,161,100	3·1	2,148,314,280
1895	851,580,600	44·3	19,984,630	1·0	769,149,210	40·0	211,188,350	11·0	5,335,030	·3	65,134,290	3·4	1,922,372,110
1890	757,677,540	46·9	37,719,290	2·3	613,883,270	38·0	146,133,750	9·0	4,649,360	·2	58,334,360	3·6	1,618,397,570
1880	497,822,640	47·2	24,499,270	2·4	398,096,530	37·8	95,687,550	9·0	6,610,620	·6	32,367,690	3·0	1,055,084,300
1876	292,293,820	29·0	725,000	—	448,476,350	44·4	60,449,110	6·0	1,095,320	·1	207,474,580	20·5	1,010,514,180

* Includes Treasury Notes and Notes of other Banks.

any, should be divided equally between the shareholders and the Government until the reserve fund reached the sum of 60 million marks or three millions sterling; and that after that the Government should receive a larger share. As the charter of the Bank is granted for only 10 years at a time, all these arrangements are subject to amendment whenever a renewal takes place. Accordingly, several changes have been introduced. At the present time the shareholders are entitled, first, to a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent.; then 20 per cent. of the surplus is to be added to the reserve. And, finally, whatever surplus remains is to be divided in the proportion of three-quarters to the Government and one-quarter to the shareholders. The result is that at the present time the Government's share is considerably larger than the share of the shareholders. In addition to all this, the law requires any premium on new shares sold to be added to the reserve.

The business of the Bank resembles that of the Bank of England and the Bank of France. It is, in fact, a Government bank and a bankers' bank, though, of course, it does business also with private persons and with trading firms and companies. It is, moreover, a note-issuing bank. When it was originally established at the end of 1875 there were no fewer than 33 note-issuing banks in the Empire. Since then 28 of them have lost the right to issue. And as the law was specially framed to eliminate most of the note-issuing banks, and give a monopoly to a very few, it was arranged that the Reichsbank should acquire the right to increase its authorised issue by the amount of the lapsed authorised issue of any and every one of the other banks. At the present time the authorised issue of the Reichsbank amounts to 550 millions of marks, or 27½ millions sterling. The remaining five smaller issuing banks have an aggregate authorised issue of 68 million marks, or £3,400,000. Lastly, the Bank is bound to open branches and agencies in every place which the Government designates. It has covered the Empire very widely with its offices. The regulation of the note issues constitutes the most complex and the most peculiar portion of the law. As has just been said, the Bank has a large authorised circulation. Secondly, it can issue notes against all moneys held, and moneys in this particular are declared to consist of gold, whether coined or in bars, silver, Imperial Treasury notes, and notes of other banks. Above the aggregate of the authorised and the covered circulation the Bank is empowered to issue notes, provided it pays a duty to the Government at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, but subject to the condition that the notes shall never exceed three times the moneys held. In this case the moneys held mean Imperial gold, silver, nickel, and copper coins, together with the thalers that were not sold when the silver was disposed of; and, lastly, Imperial Treasury notes.

Since the crisis in 1911 a reorganisation of the financial situation has been going on in Germany. Until the Moroccan incident German bankers not only lent to all borrowers, and especially to their own industrial corporations, but they borrowed freely from any country which would lend money to them at rates of interest which gave them a good margin of profit when they came to employ it. In consequence of the Moroccan incident a great deal of French money was withdrawn from Berlin, and German bankers found themselves face to face with the task of financing a large number of industries enjoying great expansion just at the moment they were called upon to repay a considerable amount of the funds they had used in the past for this particular purpose. Hence they had recourse to the Imperial Bank for assistance, and in 1911 the bills held by the Reichsbank increased from 1,337 million marks to 1,800 million marks. The outbreak of the war in the Balkans caused them in 1912 to rise further to 2,046 million marks, an increase in two years of no less than 709 million marks, or £35,000,000. In 1913-14 there was readjustment, and industrial institutions previously financed by bankers' loans appealed to the investing public for funds with which to redeem their indebtedness to bankers. In consequence of this readjustment, the bills held by the Imperial Bank in a single twelve months declined 539 million marks, or £27,000,000. Since Germany's declaration of war against the *Entente* Powers the Reichsbank has been called upon to finance a large part of the Government's war expenditures, and has done so

by expanding its note circulation. Indeed, in the first weeks of war the Government had to rely largely upon the Bank for the means of meeting its expenditures, and between July 23 and August 7, 1914, its note circulation expanded just over 2,000,000,000 marks, or £100,000,000, and within a month the increase reached 2,300,000,000 marks, or £115,000,000. Since that date its note circulation has largely expanded until at the present time it shows an increase, compared with July 23, 1914, of no less than 3,886,000,000 marks, or £194,000,000. Bank of Germany notes provided the whole of the money for the War until the first German war loan of £223,000,000 was issued in September 1914, and also provided over one-fifth of all the money raised for war purposes up to the present time. Moreover, the War has brought a great addition to the deposits of the Reichsbank, and this money has been used directly and indirectly in financing the Government. The increase in the Bank's liabilities since July 1914 has been close to 5,000,000,000 marks, or £250,000,000. and of this great sum 765,000,000 marks has been placed in Treasury notes, while over 3,600,000,000 marks, or £180,000,000, has been employed in the discount of bills, or in making advances under the guarantee of the State. The expansion in both these items may be regarded as the Bank's contribution to the Imperial funds for war purposes. The great assistance which the Bank has rendered to the German Government since the War began will be evident from the following contrast:—

Present and Pre-War Position of Imperial Bank of Germany.

	Oct. 15, 1915. Marks.	July 23, 1914. Marks.	Increase or Decrease. Marks.
Liabilities—			
Capital	180,000,000	180,000,000	—
Reserve fund	113,804,000	71,479,000	+ 39,325,000
Notes in circulation ..	5,777,260,000	1,890,895,000	+3,886,365,000
Deposits	1,677,600,000	945,264,000	+ 732,336,000
Miscellaneous	244,480,000	39,964,000	+ 204,516,000
Total liabilities ...	7,993,144,000	3,129,302,000	+4,863,842,000
Assets—			
Cash in hand:			
Gold	2,426,360,000	1,356,857,000	+1,069,503,000
Silver	36,180,000	334,541,000	— 298,361,000
Total cash	2,462,540,000	1,691,398,000	+ 771,142,000
Treasury notes	830,800,000	65,479,000	+ 765,321,000
Notes of other banks ..	20,380,000	40,106,000	— 19,726,000
Investments	30,520,000	330,819,000	— 294,299,000
Other securities	238,260,000	200,408,000	+ 37,852,000
Bills discounted	4,390,380,000	750,892,000	+3,639,488,000
Advances	13,780,000	50,200,000	— 36,420,000
Total assets	7,995,160,000	3,129,302,000	+4,863,858,000

The last German loan of £601,000,000 has only recently been placed. The War loans of Germany so far raised have been as follows:—

Germany's War Loans to October 1915.

	£
September, 1914, 5% War Stock	173,000,000
Treasury Bonds...	50,000,000
February, 1915, 5% War Stock	453,000,000
Treasury Bills approximate	223,000,000
September, 1915, 5% War Loan	601,000,000
Total War Credits	...1,500,000,000

Since the War began the stock of gold in the Bank of Germany has increased about £53,000,000, in spite of considerable exports of gold to pay for imports. Where this great sum of gold has come from is an enigma. Doubtless in part it has come from the German people, who have given up their gold ornaments in order that the gold reserves might be strengthened, and in part from circulation, but in part it is believed to have come from out of the stock of gold held by the Austro-Hungarian Bank prior to the War. Since the War began no return of the latter institution has been published. From the statement below the great accumulation of gold by the Reichsbank in anticipation of war will be evident. Indeed, the financial stringency which was felt over a large part of the world in 1913 and early in 1914 arose from Germany's imports of gold at the time that the world's trade demanded a greater rather than a reduced supply of the metal:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Imperial Bank of Germany.

	—Gold.—		—Silver.—		
Dec. 31	Marks.	% of Total.	Marks.	% of Total.	Total. Marks.
1915 (Oct. 15)	2,426,360,000	98·5	36,180,000	1·5	2,462,540,000
1914 ...	2,092,811,000	98·2	36,865,000	1·8	2,129,676,000
1914 (July 23)	1,356,857,000	80·2	334,541,000	19·8	1,691,398,000
1913 ...	1,169,971,000	80·9	276,832,000	19·1	1,446,803,000
1912 ...	776,648,440	74·9	260,386,100	25·1	1,037,034,540
1911 ...	727,760,000	72·2	280,078,360	27·8	1,007,838,360
1910 ...	661,037,340	71·5	262,974,820	28·5	924,012,160
1909 ...	681,056,020	74·4	234,124,220	25·6	915,180,240
1908 ...	768,260,000	78·4	211,881,000	21·6	980,141,000
1907 ...	497,546,000	70·7	206,630,000	29·3	704,176,000
1906 ...	481,381,000	72·4	183,636,000	27·6	665,017,000
1905 ...	596,389,000	74·2	207,191,000	25·8	803,580,000
1900 ...	500,626,000	68·6	229,213,000	31·4	729,839,000
1895 ...	570,943,000	66·9	282,134,000	33·1	853,077,000
1890 ...	—	—	—	—	758,695,780
1880 ...	—	—	—	—	522,177,500
1876 ...	—	—	—	—	500,599,710

The great business which the Bank transacted in 1914 brought in a net profit of 67,000,000 marks, against 51,000,000 marks in the previous year and 37,000,000 marks in 1912. The dividend distributed on account of 1914 was 10.24 per cent., against 8.43 per cent. in the previous year and 6.95 per cent. in 1912. The profit accruing to the German Government last year was over 42,000,000 marks, against 31,000,000 marks in the previous year and 22,000,000 marks in 1912. The profits of the Bank in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Imperial Bank of Germany.

Year.	Gross Profit. Marks.	Expenses.* Marks.	Net Profit. Marks.	Dividend. Marks.	Rate. %	Treasury Proportion. Marks.	Reserve. Marks.
1914	133,298,813	66,288,119	67,010,694	18,432,000	10·24	42,497,486	6,071,069
1913	83,452,880	32,837,000	50,615,080	15,174,000	8·43	31,020,550	4,431,510
1912	69,787,440	32,380,820	37,406,620	12,510,000	6·95	21,774,640	3,110,660
1911	57,203,400	29,669,800	27,533,600	10,543,000	5·86	14,863,520	2,123,360
1910	57,432,620	29,704,000	27,728,620	11,664,000	6·48	16,071,460	—
1909	53,411,840	30,330,340	23,081,500	10,494,000	5·83	12,586,120	—
1908	65,614,580	28,578,160	37,036,420	13,986,000	7·77	23,052,300	—
1907	82,550,400	30,236,760	52,313,640	17,802,000	9·89	34,510,240	—
1906	64,205,920	23,943,020	40,262,900	14,796,000	8·22	25,472,160	—
1905	45,247,280	19,840,920	25,406,360	11,070,000	6·15	14,329,780	—
1904	45,243,600	18,784,040	26,459,560	10,560,000	7·04	15,907,160	—

* Includes note tax as follows: 1914, M. 1,040,036; 1913, M. 3,674,320; 1912, M. 4,627,480; 1911, M. 2,734,100; 1910, M. 3,931,200; 1909, M. 3,862,060; 1908, M. 2,564,440; 1907, M. 5,600,700; 1906, M. 3,692,360; 1905, M. 1,651,000; 1904, M. 1,118,380.

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IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA
(BANQUE DE L'ETAT).

Head Office: Petrograd.

Capital—
Subscribed and Paid up (all of which is owned by the Russian Government) ... ... Rbls. 55,000,000

THE charter of the Imperial Bank of Russia was granted in 1860 for a few years, and it has since been frequently altered. The capital of 55,000,000 roubles has been supplied by the Government. It is administered by a Governor, two Deputy-Governors, and a Council, all appointed by the Government and removable by it. In short, it is a department of the Treasury. It does all the Treasury financial business. And, of course, it holds the Treasury balances. Before the Bank could be firmly and satisfactorily established it was necessary, in the first place, to bring order into the Russian finances; and, in the second place, to reform the currency. Whether these things could have been done if Russia had to depend upon her own resources it is needless now to inquire. But after France took the finances of Russia under her protection Russia was able to borrow so largely and so freely that she was in a position to endow the Imperial Bank with all the resources requisite and at the same time to reform the currency. The Russian Government, like so many other impecunious Governments, had paid its way largely by issuing inconvertible paper. It decided when it was sure of the help of France to call in and cancel the Government paper. Therefore, it handed over to the Imperial Bank gold obtained by raising loans. The Imperial Bank, on its side, called in the Government paper, issuing its own paper instead; and, of course, when it received gold from the Government it handed over to the Government a corresponding amount of paper, with which the latter could defray its expenses. In this way the reform of the currency was effected in the concluding decade of last century. The rouble was fixed at its present value of a little over 2*s.* of our money, and gold was declared legal tender. The Bank, having thus cleared out of its way the Government paper and become the sole issuer of notes, having also received from the Government immense masses of gold, was in a position to discharge the functions for which it was created. The gold unit is the rouble, but a five-rouble piece is also issued. The Bank is bound to redeem its notes in gold without any limitation. Furthermore, their redemption is guaranteed by the whole resources of the Government. In 1898 the maximum coinage of silver was fixed at three roubles per head of the population and the legal-tender quantity of full-weight silver coins was restricted to 25 roubles. The silver is not counted as part of the cover for the notes. All gold, however, whether in the actual possession of the Bank, or the Government, or held abroad is allowed to be counted.

Prior to the present War the fiduciary note issue of the Bank was restricted to 300 million roubles, and beyond this sum notes had to be covered by gold, and as the stock of gold was as much or more than the notes in circulation the power to make this fiduciary issue was kept in reserve.

Since the present War began necessarily everything has been changed, and the Bank has been called upon to render all the service it was capable of rendering to the Russian Government, and in fifteen months its note circulation has been increased from 1,634 millions to 4,767 millions of roubles, while its stock of gold has fallen slightly from 1,601 millions to 1,592 millions. Beyond providing the Government with some 3,130 million roubles by loan by expanding its note circulation the Bank has repaid to the Government some 281 millions of roubles of Treasury balances, and altogether has supplied the Government with about 3,400 millions of roubles, or £340,000,000. The Government's war expenses up to June 14, 1915, were estimated by the Minister of Finance to have been £573,500,000, and since then at the rate of £2,000,000 per day, so that the total war outlay to the middle of October 1915 is about £817,000,000, and of this sum the Bank of Russia has found over £340,000,000. The Bank has also rendered great services to the Russian nation by means of its foreign balances. The closing of the Dardanelles has practically stopped Russia's power to export, and purchases of goods and munitions from abroad and foreign interest payments have had to be provided out of the foreign balances of the Bank of Russia and by loans raised in Paris and in London. The foreign balances of the Bank have been reduced from 144 million roubles to 38 million roubles; and, moreover, the Bank has entered into an agreement with the Bank of France for a credit of 500 million roubles (£52,770,000), and into another with the Bank of England for £10,000,000. Arrangements have recently been made in London for an additional credit for a large amount.

It is now announced that a new internal short-term 5½ per cent. War Loan for 1,000,000,000 roubles will shortly be issued.

Hence the Bank has rendered and is rendering the most valuable assistance to the Government in financing the War. Of course, when the War is over

RUSSIAN BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE

ESTABLISHED IN PETROGRAD AND LONDON IN 1871.

Capital, fully paid up - -	**Rbls. 60,000,000**
Reserves - - - -	**„ 21,969,598**
Deposits and other Accounts -	**„ 474,642,161**

Head Office: PETROGRAD.

London Office: 61/2 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

OFFICES AT PARIS AND GENOA.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT RUSSIA AND SIBERIA.

Liabilities of the Banque de L'Etat (Imperial Bank of Russia).

July 1	Capital. Amount. Rbls.	Capital. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Rbls.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Treasury Account. Amount. Rbls.	Treasury Account. % of Total. %	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. % of Total. %	Reserves Account. Amount. Rbls.	Reserves Account. % of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rbls.	Miscellaneous. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rbls.
1915 ...	[illegible]	1·0	[illegible]	71·4	226,[illegible]	4·3	1,116,412,747	21·2	—	—	110,523,644	2·1	5,263,863,701
1914 ...	55,000,000	1·9	[illegible]	57·9	491,065,251	17·4	571,078,877	20·3	2,152,394	·1	68,048,766	2·4	2,817,719,767
1913 ...	55,000,000	2·0	[illegible]	54·2	527,896,456	19·5	554,996,999	20·5	31,629,896	1·2	70,646,638	2·6	2,709,415,069
1912 ...	55,000,000	2·3	[illegible]	52·8	517,248,065	20·9	540,328,073	21·9	—	—	53,330,056	2·1	2,467,921,797
1911 ...	55,000,000	2·3	[illegible]	53·1	455,588,485	19·7	530,640,578	22·9	—	—	70,440,121	3·0	2,311,191,353
1910 ...	[illegible]	2·8	[illegible]	54·4	210,[illegible]	10·8	573,557,626	28·7	[illegible]	·2	61,629,769	3·1	1,998,118,709
1909 ...	55,000,000	3·0	[illegible]	57·8	184,[illegible]	10·0	478,621,481	25·7	—	—	64,821,417	3·5	1,855,325,082
1908 ...	55,000,000	3·0	[illegible]	56·7	98,[illegible]	5·4	540,508,12[illegible]	30·2	18,318,157	1·0	66,029,461	3·7	1,790,316,608
1907 ...	55,000,000	3·0	[illegible]	62·1	97,[illegible]	5·4	461,643,033	25·6	27,399,807	1·5	43,854,959	2·4	1,808,205,413
1906 ...	55,000,000	3·1	[illegible]	63·2	15,[illegible]	·8	522,861,560	29·8	—	—	53,619,242	3·1	1,752,321,336
1905 ...	55,000,000	3·3	[illegible]	55·7	99,[illegible]	6·0	537,665,927	32·4	—	—	42,334,488	2·6	1,658,900,498
1900 ...	55,000,000	4·3	[illegible]	42·5	230,[illegible]	18·1	393,113,[illegible]	30·7	6,5[illegible]	·5	49,820,716	3·9	1,285,547,683
1895† ...	[illegible]	1·7	[illegible]	61·9	170,[illegible]	10·5	403,054,000	23·9	—	—	34,614,000	2·0	1,691,107,000
1890† ...	[illegible]	2·0	[illegible]	63·1	45,[illegible]	3·1	315,712,828	22·6	—	—	128,144,111	9·2	1,398,082,823
1880† ...	[illegible]	1·8	[illegible]	69·7	—	—	359,129,260	23·2	—	—	81,770,272	5·3	1,547,278,263
1870† ...	[illegible]	2·3	[illegible]	68·8	—	—	261,625,000	25·9	—	—	[illegible]	3·0	1,009,246,000
1861† ...	[illegible]	2·0	[illegible]	89·3	—	—	62,294,000	7·8	—	—	7,291,000	1·0	798,561,000

Assets of The Banque de L'Etat (Imperial Bank of Russia).

July 1	Cash, Bullion, Foreign Money, &c. Amount. Rbls.	Cash, Bullion, Foreign Money, &c. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rbls.	Investments. % of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. Rbls.	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. % of Total. %	Loans, Advances, &c. Amount. Rbls.	Loans, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Branches, &c. Amount. Rbls.	Branches, &c. % of Total. %	Other Assets. Amount. Rbls.	Other Assets. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rbls.
1915 ...	1,733,130,786	33·0	131,408,134	2·5	413,236,492	7·8	2,359,980,619	44·8	519,500,264	9·9	106,580,406	2·0	5,263,836,701
1914 ...	1,816,909,728	64·5	106,366,457	3·7	406,[illegible]	14·4	368,115,236	13·1	—	—	120,207,378	4·3	2,817,719,767
1913 ...	1,684,043,314	62·3	114,988,588	4·2	485,496,515	18·0	390,605,728	14·4	—	—	34,180,924	1·2	2,709,415,069
1912 ...	1,603,392,120	65·0	126,061,246	5·1	388,961,693	15·8	301,862,562	12·3	22,[illegible]	·9	23,880,932	·9	2,467,921,797
1911 ...	1,558,217,522	67·4	126,167,042	5·4	295,249,880	12·8	278,616,816	12·1	22,178,087	1·0	30,762,006	1·3	2,311,191,353
1910 ...	1,505,575,490	75·3	76,085,490	3·8	174,304,852	8·7	214,344,668	10·8	—	—	27,808,209	1·4	1,998,118,709
1909 ...	1,352,663,363	72·9	79,804,316	4·3	179,637,755	9·7	209,630,980	11·3	5,140,616	·3	28,442,052	1·5	1,855,325,082
1908 ...	1,243,674,832	69·5	93,981,140	5·2	174,536,125	9·8	239,518,395	13·4	—	—	38,606,116	2·1	1,790,316,608
1907 ...	1,237,745,445	68·5	89,230,577	4·9	187,781,604	10·4	242,148,677	13·4	—	—	51,299,110	2·8	1,808,205,413
1906 ...	1,172,069,507	66·9	88,618,588	5·0	173,435,770	9·9	250,107,220	14·3	1,889,158	·1	66,201,093	3·8	1,752,321,336
1905 ...	1,160,146,481	70·0	56,969,769	3·4	155,639,344	9·4	202,[illegible]	12·2	30,292,771	1·8	52,[illegible]	3·2	1,658,900,498
1900 ...	881,000,118	68·7	50,827,951	3·9	184,665,855	14·3	144,102,681	11·2	—	—	24,951,078	1·9	1,285,547,683
1895† ...	918,271,000	54·3	44,822,000	2·6	217,809,000	12·9	145,155,000	8·6	—	—	365,050,000	21·6	1,691,107,000
1890† ...	494,297,025	35·4	57,753,071	4·1	116,145,414	8·3	92,702,267	6·6	55,459,208	4·0	581,728,838‡	41·6	1,398,082,823
1880† ...	239,255,854	15·5	30,561,494	1·9	144,550,598	9·4	126,969,256	8·2	38,031,113	2·4	967,909,948‡	62·6	1,547,278,263
1870† ...	222,821,000	22·1	8,669,000	·9	50,918,000	5·0	8,675,000	4·8	—	—	678,163,000	67·2	1,009,246,000
1861† ...	138,843,000	16·8	925,000	·1	32,142,000	4·0	13,683,000	1·7	—	—	617,[illegible]	77·4	798,561,000

† January 1. ‡ Including debt without interest of the State Treasury for Treasury Bills.

steps will be taken to fund the great debt of the Government to the Bank and to reduce the notes in circulation to a normal amount. The effect of the War on the Bank will be evident from the following contrast of its position prior to hostilities and at this time:—

LIABILITIES.	1915, Oct. 6. Rbls.	1914, July 21. Rbls.	Inc. or Dec. Rbls.
Notes in circulation	4,766,840,000	1,634,111,000	+1,939,410,000
Capital	55,000,000	55,000,000	—
Deposits	27,718,000	25,402,000	+ 2,316,000
Treasury accounts current ..	221,962,000	502,619,000	— 280,657,000
Special accounts and "consignations"	349,961,000	334,851,000	+ 15,110,000
Current accounts	745,844,000	236,234,000	+ 509,610,000
"Mandats non acquittés" ...	27,742,000	8,260,000	+ 19,482,000
Interest accrued	94,281,000	39,139,000	+ 55,142,000
Miscellaneous	35,200,000	25,069,000	+ 10,131,000
Total Liabilities	6,324,548,000	2,860,685,000	+3,463,863,000
ASSETS.			
Gold	1,591,879,000	1,601,137,000	— 9,258,000
Gold abroad	[illegible]	143,955,000	— 105,593,000
Silver and copper	19,633,000	73,[illegible]	— 54,192,000
Bills discounted and other short term securities	443,839,000	393,373,000	+ 50,466,000
Treasury bonds	2,555,645,000	Nil	+2,555,645,000
Loans on securities	746,575,000	121,349,000	+ 625,226,000
Loans on merchandise ..	73,493,000	54,262,000	+ 19,231,000
Loans to "institutions de crédit populaire"	111,747,000	136,457,000	— 24,710,000
Loans to farmers	23,026,000	19,597,000	+ 3,429,000
Loans to industry	9,673,000	14,[illegible]	— 4,805,000
Loans to Monts de Piété de l'Etat	18,[illegible]	18,538,000	— 47,000
Protested bills	5,621,000	2,753,000	+ 2,868,000
Investments	138,883,000	101,792,000	+ 37,091,000
Miscellaneous	149,915,000	156,463,000	— 6,548,000
Balances of provincial branches	397,766,000	22,706,000	+ 375,060,000
Total Assets	6,324,548,000	2,860,685,000	+3,463,863,000

It will be realised that the gold position of the Bank is a very strong one. Between 1900 and 1914 the stock of gold rose from 800 millions of roubles to 1,743 millions, and, notwithstanding the need of Russia to pay out its foreign gold balances for goods purchased abroad, it still amounts to 1,630 millions of roubles. The following statement shows the great increase in the stock of gold since 1900:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of Imperial Bank of Russia.

July 1	Gold. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Silver. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total. Rbls.
1915 ...	1,678,827,995	96·9	54,302,791	3·1	1,733,130,786
1914 ...	1,743,516,113	95·9	73,393,615	4·1	1,816,909,728
1913 ...	1,607,286,412	95·4	76,756,902	4·6	1,684,043,314
1912 ...	1,523,899,273	95·1	79,492,847	4·9	1,603,392,120
1911 ...	1,481,387,679	95·1	76,829,843	4·9	1,558,217,522
1910 ...	1,417,161,156	94·6	81,677,348	5·4	1,498,838,504
1905 ...	1,101,385,873	94·9	59,078,608	5·1	1,160,464,481
1900 ...	799,951,406	91·0	79,803,738	9·0	879,755,144
1880 ...	234,516,854	98·0	4,739,000	2·0	239,255,854
1870† ...	201,163,000	90·3	21,658,000	9·7	222,821,000
1861† ...	81,743,000	61·1	52,100,000	38·9	133,843,000

† January 1.

In consequence of the difficulty in supplying exchange in sufficient quantity to pay for Russia's imports with her exports so greatly reduced, the sterling value of the rouble has greatly declined. Normally it stands at 95½ roubles per £10, and in August last it rose to 147½, from which it has now declined to 139½ in consequence of the credits that have been granted by England and France.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Central Office: Constantinople.
London Office: 26 Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 500,000 Shares of £20 each £10,000,000
Paid up, £10 per Share... 5,000,000
Price per Share in Paris, Fr 450.

Although the head office of this Bank is in Constantinople it is a Franco-British Bank. Consequently its business in England is going on as usual, but it is not allowed to carry on business with Turkey. The official announcement authorising it to continue its business in England was as follows:—

"Sir William Plender announces that the Secretary of State for Home Affairs has granted an amended licence dated the 30th of November, 1914, in the subjoined terms, to the Imperial Ottoman Bank and the National Bank of Turkey in substitution of the restricted licence issued on the 5th of November.

"In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by the Aliens' Restriction (Consolidation) Order, 1914,

Liabilities of The Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Statutory Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Deposits for Fixed Terms (Turkey & Egypt.) Amount. £	% of Total. %	Current Accounts of Sundries. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Payable Amount. £	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1913 ...	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000	26·0	1,069,241	4·4	1,222,097	5·0	13,452,122	55·7	1,765,757	7·3	384,467	1·6	24,143,684
1912 ...	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000	29·0	1,116,755	5·1	1,152,887	5·4	10,935,643	50·8	1,703,248	7·9	383,522	1·8	21,542,055
1911 ...	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000	24·5	1,021,850	4·0	1,035,105	4·0	14,157,461	55·5	2,534,370	10·0	494,521	2·0	25,493,307
1910 ...	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000	25·3	916,868	3·7	1,094,116	4·4	14,417,175	58·3	1,548,673	6·3	494,822	2·0	24,721,654
1909 ...	5,000,000	1,049,700	6,049,700	26·2	844,683	3·7	1,198,598	5·2	13,224,406	57·4	1,244,272	5·4	492,991	2·1	23,054,650
1908 ...	5,000,000	998,193	5,998,193	30·7	840,041	4·3	1,226,550	6·3	9,855,341	50·4	1,101,204	5·6	532,055	2·7	19,553,384
1907 ...	5,000,000	946,200	5,946,200	28·3	1,090,764	5·2	1,359,376	6·4	10,382,329	49·4	1,704,232	8·1	540,768	2·6	21,023,669
1906 ...	5,000,000	893,871	5,893,871	26·3	1,181,760	5·3	1,353,028	6·0	10,518,809	47·0	2,904,610	13·0	545,266	2·4	22,397,344
1905 ...	5,000,000	847,451	5,847,451	29·5	1,142,003	5·8	1,270,664	6·5	9,184,280	46·4	1,863,456	9·4	485,177	2·4	19,793,031
1900 ...	5,000,000	672,595	5,672,595	36·0	846,176	5·4	959,779	6·0	6,323,622	40·2	1,632,119	10·4	310,482	2·0	15,744,773
1895 ...	5,000,000	526,040	5,526,040	29·5	625,785	3·3	1,072,912	5·8	9,813,961	52·3	1,374,935	7·3	345,498	1·8	18,759,131
1890 ...	5,000,000	318,846	5,318,846	38·1	665,017	4·8	1,019,993	7·3	5,011,560	35·9	1,526,397	10·9	420,786	3·0	13,962,599
1880 ...	5,000,000	3,671,002*	8,671,002	76·0	123,468	1·1	251,482	2·2	1,752,809	15·4	258,919	2·3	342,391	3·0	11,403,071
1870 ...	2,025,000	186,118	2,211,118	32·1	62,301	·9	163,497	2·3	3,733,147	54·2	484,010	7·0	239,170	3·5	6,893,243
1864 ...	1,350,000	18,568	1,368,568	30·7	6,760	·1	408,151	9·2	1,542,336	34·6	885,849	19·9	242,665	5·5	4,454,329
1856 ...	361,550	-	361,550	49·3	—	—	—	—	340,315	46·4	—	—	31,480	4·3	733,345

* Sundry reserves.

Assets of The Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand at Constantinople and at Branches. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. £	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1913 ...	4,327,606	17·9	2,881,979	12·0	2,006,906	8·3	4,223,213	17·5	10,392,439	43·0	311,741	1·3	24,143,684
1912 ...	5,256,959	24·4	3,316,570	15·4	1,346,883	6·3	2,690,292	12·5	8,633,934*	40·0	297,417	1·4	21,542,055
1911 ...	5,391,026	21·1	3,913,544	15·3	1,358,070	5·3	3,482,317	13·7	11,055,869*	43·4	292,481	1·2	25,493,307
1910 ...	3,296,764	13·3	4,826,577	19·5	3,146,103	12·7	3,063,311	12·4	10,099,327	40·9	289,572	1·2	24,721,654
1909 ...	3,246,100	14·1	3,693,458	16·0	5,545,468	24·0	3,003,727	13·0	7,293,492	31·7	272,405	1·2	23,054,650
1908 ...	3,621,093	18·5	3,195,079	16·3	1,623,622	8·3	3,203,443	16·4	7,643,592	39·1	266,555	1·4	19,553,384
1907 ...	3,467,959	16·5	3,165,328	15·0	1,555,442	7·4	3,084,873	14·7	9,491,039	45·1	259,028	1·3	21,023,669
1906 ...	2,310,417	10·3	4,369,944	19·5	1,824,254	8·2	3,386,968	15·1	10,257,845	45·8	247,915	1·1	22,397,344
1905 ...	2,709,369	13·7	4,344,763	21·9	1,910,248	9·7	2,177,581	11·0	8,418,728	42·5	232,342	1·2	19,793,031
1900 ...	2,064,742	13·1	3,078,980	19·6	588,719	3·7	1,012,957	6·4	8,774,495	55·7	224,880	1·5	15,744,773
1895 ...	1,327,555	7·0	4,665,236	24·9	225,231	1·2	1,173,379	6·3	11,242,695	59·9	125,035	·7	18,759,131
1890 ...	1,105,279	7·9	4,149,492	29·7	658,734	4·8	1,402,828	10·0	6,568,935	47·0	77,331	·6	13,962,599
1880 ...	481,492	4·2	623,318	5·5	998,425	8·8	694,368	6·1	8,544,636	74·9	60,832	·5	11,403,071
1870 ...	849,452	12·3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,012,974†	87·3	30,817	·4	6,893,243
1864 ...	416,885	9·4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,030,972*	90·5	6,472	·1	4,454,329
1856 ...	112,898	15·4	—	—	325,639	44·4	—	—	283,746	37·7	11,032	1·5	733,345

* Including participations in advances to the Government, £896,413, 1911; £335,551, 1912, and statutory advance to the Government £1,389,504, 1912.
† Including Bills Receivable.

made on the 9th day of September, 1914, under the Aliens' Restriction Act, 1914, I hereby permit the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the National Bank of Turkey, to carry on banking business at all their establishments situated within the United Kingdom, subject to the following limitations, conditions, and supervision:—

"(1) No transactions shall take place, directly or indirectly, with the establishments of the said Banks situated in enemy territory, or with any persons resident in enemy territory.

"(2) All transactions carried out under this permission shall be subject to the supervision and control of a person to be appointed for the purpose by the Treasury, who shall have absolute discretion to refuse to permit any payment or transaction that may appear to him to be contrary to the interests of the nation.

"This permission may be modified or revoked at any time by the Secretary of State.

"The permission granted by me on the 5th day of November, 1914, is hereby revoked as from the date hereof."

The early financial history of Turkey is a story of chaos and confusion, for which the customs and laws of the Turkish people are largely responsible. The effects of Oriental profusion have, moreover, been accentuated from time to time by a number of unsuccessful wars which seriously impoverished the country. Until the Crimean war the other nations of Europe had no special interest in the finances of Turkey, the involved condition of which effectively stopped the investment of foreign money in the country. But the desire of Russia to annex the country entirely changed the situation both politically and financially—and at the commencement of the Crimean war in 1854 a Turkish loan for £3,000,000 was floated in London with the guarantee of Great Britain and France. This was followed in 1855 by a second guaranteed loan of £5,000,000. The interest of the British people in Turkey thus became financial as well as political, and in 1856, at the close of the Crimean war, a British bank with the title of the Ottoman Bank was opened in Constantinople with a capital of £500,000, fully paid up, in £20 shares. With the Money markets of England and of France thus opened to her, Turkey began to borrow on a great scale, and new loans were issued in quick succession up to 1877. The increasing financial interest thus created caused the Turkish Government to accept proposals for the creation of a State bank, and accordingly, in 1863, a national bank was formed by an Anglo-French group with the title of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. In this Bank the business of the Ottoman Bank was merged on the basis of one £20 share for two shares of £10. The authorised capital of the new institution was £2,700,000, and its paid-up capital £1,350,000. Its charter was for a period of 30 years to 1893. The administration of the new Bank was placed in the charge of a Council in Constantinople, the members of which were selected by a general committee composed of French and English directors resident in Paris and in London. The three administrators in Constantinople were to be approved by the Ottoman Government. The office of the Director-General is in Constantinople, but the annual meetings of the Bank are held in London. Beyond the head office in Constantinople the Bank has always had branches both in Paris and in London. The duties of the Bank include all those appertaining to a national institution. It is authorised to issue notes which are legal tender throughout the Ottoman Empire, to receive the revenues of the Government, to manage the Debt, and to carry on a general banking business. The duties of the Bank have been by no means easy. The opening of the London and Paris markets to Turkish loans caused the Ottoman Government to borrow very large sums of money, and, in consequence of the heavy expenditures incurred during its war with Russia in 1877-79, and the loss of some of its provinces, it was for a time unable to meet the interest on its obligations; and although arrangements were made for the collection of the assigned revenues by the Caisse de la

Dette, only a part of the interest has been forthcoming. Hence, ever since 1879 the Bank has had to deal with an impecunious Government. When one considers the difficulties, one has to recognise that the administration of the Bank has been wonderfully successful, both in earning profits and in building up its existing extensive business.

In 1875 the Austro-Ottoman Bank was acquired, and the nominal capital of the Imperial Ottoman was increased from £4,050,000 to £10,000,000, its paid-up capital was raised from £2,025,000 to £5,000,000, and several Austrian members were added to its general committee. In making this agreement the directors decided to distribute the whole of the reserves in dividend, and in consequence of this the Bank fell upon troublous times during the Russo-Turkish war, and for three years had to suspend its dividends. After that, however, it built up its reserve steadily until in 1910 it rose to the statutory sum of £1,250,000. In 1895 the Government extended its charter for 12 years from 1913 to 1925. The development of Asia Minor in progress in recent years has induced the Bank to open various branches, and at the present time it has seventy-four branches throughout the country, as well as four in Cyprus and five in Egypt. Three years ago a branch was opened in Manchester.

Its business showed substantial expansion until the Russo-Turkish war, but the set-back then given to the country brought about a serious contraction of deposits. During the eighties there was substantial recovery, and the deposits grew from £2,000,000 in 1880 to over £6,000,000 in 1890. In the next few years there was fresh expansion, and by 1895 its deposits were nearly £11,000,000. The Bank then suffered an exceptional misfortune, and in 1900 its deposits were no more than £7,000,000, from which they rose to over £15,000,000 in the years immediately preceding the invasion of Tripoli by Italy. At the end of 1912 the deposits had dropped to £12,000,000, and at the end of 1913 they had recovered to nearly £15,000,000 in spite of the war between Turkey and the Balkan Powers. The report for the year 1914 has not yet been issued, and exactly what effect the present war will have upon the Bank cannot be determined until peace is concluded and a settlement reached.

Since 1879 the rate of dividend has never been less than 5 per cent., and in the six years to 1911 it was 9 per cent. In 1912 and 1913 it was 7 per cent. Since the war began with Turkey no distribution has been made. The dividends paid by the Bank since 1863 have been as follows:—

Dividends Paid by Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Year.	%	Year.	%	Year	%	Year.	%	Year.	%
1913...	7	1902	6½	1892	7	1882	15	1872	14
1912...	7	1901	5	1891	7	1881	15	1871	13½
1911...	9	1900	5	1890	7	1880	5	1870	10
1910...	9	1899	5	1889	5	1879	5	1869	13
1909...	9	1898	5	1888	5	1878	nil	1868	12½
1908...	9	1897	5	1887	5	1877	nil	1867	11
1907...	9	1896	5	1886	5	1876	nil	1866	9
1906...	9	1895	6	1885	6	1875	5	1865	10
1905...	8	1894	5	1884	5	1874	56½*	1864	15
1904...	7	1893	7	1883	10	1873	10	1863	16
1903...	6½								

* Div. per £10 share of £5 12*s.* 8*d.* (including £1 14*s.* 6*d.*, the asset of reserve fund distributions).

Beyond the Ordinary shares there are 216 Founders' shares. Its statutes provide that after 10 per cent. of the net profit has been added to the reserve fund, and provision made for a dividend of 5 per cent. to the shareholders, the balance is to be distributed as follows: 5 per cent. to the Founders' shares, 5 per cent. to the administrators of the Bank, and the remaining 90 per cent. to the shareholders. As soon as the statutory reserve is equivalent to one-fourth of the paid-up capital additions to the reserve cease to be obligatory. The reserve attained the statutory amount in 1910. The profits of the Bank and to whom they were paid will be evident from the following:—

Profits of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Year ended Dec. 31	Net Profit.	Dividends. Amount.	Rate.	Bonus to Founders and Administrators.	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c.	Carried Forward.
	£	£	%	£	£	£
1913 ...	362,067	350,000	7	11,207	—	[illegible]
1912 ...	361,223	350,000	7	11,122	—	22,400
1911 ...	472,220	450,000	9	22,222	—	22,299
1910 ...	475,211	450,000	9	22,521	—	22,301
1909 ...	483,800	450,000	9	23,380	—	19,611
1908 ...	515,073	450,000	9	21,357	51,507	9,191
1907 ...	519,927	450,000	9	21,793	51,993	16,982
1906 ...	523,287	450,000	9	22,936	52,329	20,841
1905 ...	464,200	400,000	8	16,778	46,420	21,979
1904 ...	397,460	350,000	7	10,771	39,746	20,977

INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, LIMITED.

Head Office: Tokyo.

Capital—

Authorised ... ... Yen 17,500,000
Paid up, 350,000 Shares of Yen 50 each 17,500,000
Price of Share, Yen 55. *Dividend*, 6½ %. *Yield*, £5 1*s.* 2*d.* %.

In addition to its paid-up capital the Bank has made several issues of Debentures bearing interest between 4 per cent. and 6 per cent., amounting in the aggregate to Yen 62,443,300. The Bank is empowered to issue Debentures to the extent of 10 times its paid-up capital.

The Japanese name of the Industrial Bank of Japan is the Nippon Kogyo Ginko. It was established in 1902 by the Government of Japan under the provisions of a special enactment passed by the Imperial Diet. It is incorporated for a period of 50 years from 1902, but is entitled to an extension of the term with the sanction of the Government. It conducts the following transactions:—(1) Makes loans on the security of national loan-bonds, prefectural and municipal loan-bonds, or Debentures and shares of companies; (2) subscribes for, or takes over by transfer, national loan-bonds, prefectural and municipal loans or Debentures of companies; (3) receives deposits of money, and undertakes the custody of goods entrusted to it for safe keeping; (4) undertakes trust business; (5) discounts bills; (6) makes loans on the security of estates. In 1902 the Bank purchased from the Imperial Japanese Government national bonds having a face value of Yen 50,000,000, and sold them to a London syndicate formed in October of that year. In 1905 the law of the Bank was amended in order to enable it to extend its business to Korea, Manchuria, &c. In March 1906 the Bank concluded an agreement with the Government of Korea for a loan of Yen 10,000,000, and in the following July was commissioned by the City of Tokyo to issue a municipal loan amounting to £1,500,000. In 1908 an issue of Debentures was offered for subscription in London and in Paris, the total amount being £2,000,000, one-half being offered in each city, the price in London being fixed at 97 per cent. The growth of the institution may be seen from the statement herewith of the liabilities and assets for each year since its start.

During the first six months of 1915 the state of the Money market in Japan continued unfavourable as a result of the European War, and bankers and financial houses in general experienced a considerable decrease in their earnings on account of the low rate of money and the large amount of funds unemployed. Taking into consideration the generally depressed state of the market, the results of the Industrial Bank of

Liabilities of The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Yen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Yen.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Debentures Issued. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Funds in Trust and Other Sums Due by the Bank. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Yen.
1915 ...	17,500,000	1,850,800	19,350,800	16·5	62,443,300	53·2	20,341,939	17·3	14,445,263	12·3	777,805	·7	117,359,107
1914 ...	17,500,000	1,790,600	19,290,600	19·6	52,38[illegible],200	53·4	17,470,841	17·7	8,295,803	8·5	741,550	·8	98,102,994
1913 ...	17,500,000	1,590,944	19,090,944	20·6	52,158,000	56·3	12,392,857	13·4	8,486,088	9·1	511,635	·6	92,639,524
1912 ...	17,500,000	2,094,000	19,594,000	23·6	53,518,000	64·5	3,966,128	4·8	4,911,973	6·0	944,009	1·1	82,934,110
1911 ...	17,500,000	1,794,000	19,294,000	20·9	41,678,000	45·2	7,622,268	8·2	22,647,427	24·5	944,727	1·2	92,186,422
1910 ...	16,250,000	1,489,000	17,739,000	28·6	33,101,000	53·1	8,842,862	14·2	1,676,491	2·7	921,631	1·4	62,280,984
1905 ...	2,500,000	275,300	2,775,300	17·1	8,805,000	54·1	4,376,150	26·9	191,134	1·1	124,502	·8	16,272,086
1902 ...	2,500,000	—	2,500,000	97·1	—	—	63,494	2·5	—	—	11,478	·4	2,574,972

*Assets of The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited.**

June 30	Cash in Hand & at Bankers. Amt. Yen.	% of Total. %	Japan Govt. Bonds. Amount. Yen.	Local Loan Bonds. Amount. Yen	Treasury Bills. Amount. Yen.	Shares and Debentures. Amount. Yen.	Total Securities. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Loans at Call and at Short Notice. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Loans, Advances, &c. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Differences on Subscription of Debentures. Amount. Yen.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amt. Yen.	% of Total. %
1915 ...	2,743,711	2·3	12,778,272	9,754,300	—	5,818,219	28,350,791	24·1	8,855,[illegible]38	7·6	32,019,964	27·3	43,047,010	36·7	2,019,941	1·7	321,952	·3
1914 ...	309,827	·2	11,487,962	5,809,228	—	5,247,141	22,544,331	23·0	6,931,204	7·1	30,863,677	31·5	35,515,348	36·2	1,841,430	1·9	106,177	·1
1913 ...	665,938	·7	12,370,567	5,786,592	—	5,149,701	23,306,860	25·2	10,[illegible]98,508	11·4	20,685,043	22·3	35,370,531	38·2	1,947,982	2·1	114,662	·1
1912 ...	609,389	·7	11,461,991	6,004,515	1,400,000	4,828,185	23,694,691	28·7	11,192,431	13·5	16,931,632	20·4	28,497,868	34·3	1,894,049	2·3	114,050	·1
1911 ...	976,709	1·0	12,488,999	5,125,158	5,000,000	5,290,539	27,904,696	30·3	2,057,492	2·2	10,793,252	11·7	48,[illegible]1,744	52·5	1,981,500	2·2	121,029	·1
1910 ...	816,283	1·3	10,507,467	6,392,106	2,300,000	6,250,549	25,450,122	40·9	512,901	·8	4,[illegible]1,186	7·6	28,919,579	46·4	1,742,000	2·8	127,913	·2
1905 ...	210,105	1·3	3,411,113	3,514,253	—	3,255,532	10,180,898	62·6	3,169,936	19·4	273,[illegible]25	1·7	2,311,911	14·2	—	—	125,911	·8
1902 ...	13,339	·5	305,375	—	591,000	—	896,375	34·8	494,106	19·2	—	—	1,169,000	45·4	—	—	2,152	·1

* Total assets the same as total liabilities.

Japan may be considered as distinctly satisfactory. As a matter of fact the profits earned by the Bank have risen from Yen 5,490,048 to Yen 5,830,840. Owing to a correspondingly higher increase in expenses, the net profit at Yen 1,289,714, compares with Yen 1,302,294 for the previous year. The dividend, however, is increased from 6¼ per cent. to 6½ per cent. We show herewith the profit record for each year since 1907.

Profits of the Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. Yen.	Expenses. Yen.	Net Profit. Yen.	Dividend. Amt. Yen.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., &c. Yen.	Carried Forward. Yen.
1915 ...	5,830,840	4,541,126	1,289,714	1,137,500	6½	148,700	76,701
1914 ...	5,490,048	4,187,754	1,302,294	1,093,750	6¼	135,356	75,188
1913 ...	5,028,326	4,562,890	465,436	1,137,500	6½	175,000*	—
1912 ...	4,727,754	3,045,458	1,682,296	1,400,000	8	300,000	44,609
1911 ...	4,531,730	2,853,633	1,678,097	1,333,014	8	350,000	61,713
1910 ...	4,334,086	2,676,904	1,657,182	1,300,000	8	355,000	66,630
1909 ...	3,811,897	2,089,309	1,722,588	1,300,000	8	421,000	64,448
1908 ...	3,711,426	2,035,714	1,675,712	1,259,450	7½	414,800	62,860
1907 ...	3,640,423	2,303,798	1,336,625	1,070,900	7½	254,100	61,398

* While allocating this amount to reserve a sum of Yen 893,056 was transferred from special reserve and dividend equalisation reserve.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 7.3 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 6.6 per cent.; and to total working resources, 1.1 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

Head Office: 60 Wall Street, New York.
London Office: 36 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital—
Issued, 32,500 Shares of $100 each ... $3,250,000
Price of Share, 107½. *Dividend,* 6%. *Yield,* £5 11*s.* 7*d.*

THE Corporation was organised in 1901 under the laws of the State of Connecticut, one object being to compete with English banks for Eastern exchange business. It is practically the pioneer of the branch banking system in the United States, and it early established its own offices in San Francisco, Mexico, China, Japan, Philippine Islands, and India, and later in the Canal zone, Panama, the total number of offices open at the present time being 16. In 1904 the goodwill and business in the Orient of the Guarantee Trust Company of New York was acquired, which left the International Banking Corporation the sole American bank conducting business in the Far East. The construction of the Panama Canal opened up a demand for banking facilities in the Isthmus, and this has been met by the three branches of the Corporation in the Canal zone. Under American governance the Philippine Islands are rapidly developing their natural resources, assisted by a liberal programme of railway extension. Though, as the name implies, the operations of the Bank are international in character, it also conducts a local banking business in New York. This was done by the acquisition of a controlling interest in the National Shoe and Leather Bank, while in addition a charter was obtained from the State of New York in 1903, incorporating the International Bank under New York laws, the shares of which are nearly all held by the International Banking Corporation. Though undertaking ordinary banking transactions at those centres where it is established by a branch institution, the main purpose with which the Corporation was founded, namely, the financing of the international movements of merchandise, continues to be the principal object of its activities. In 1902 its deposits practically reached $4,000,000; by 1905 they had increased to $12,500,000, and by 1910 to $17,600,000. They have since been in excess of $20,000,000, amounting at June 30, 1915, to $22,119,875. The progress made by the institution may be seen from the statement herewith of liabilities and assets.

For 1906 and 1907 profits were sufficient to permit of the payment of a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum. But from 1908 to 1912 it was necessary to suspend the dividend. The worst year was 1910, when a debit balance of $229,675 was shown, reducing the surplus from $355,119 to $125,444. More profitable years were secured in 1911 and 1912, which permitted the surplus to be increased to $558,290 at the end of 1912. In 1913 dividends were resumed, and 5 per cent. was paid for the year to June 30, 1913; for the twelve months to June 1914 the dividend was placed on a 6% basis, and this has been maintained for the twelve months to June 30 last, in which period a profit of $339,277 was secured, as compared with $309,312. The profit and dividend figures are appended:—

Profits of the International Banking Corporation since 1906.

Year ended June 30	Net Profit. $	Dividend. Amount. $	Dividend. Rate. %	Balance. $	Carried Forward. $
1915...	339,277	195,000	6	144,277	960,550
1914...	309,312	195,000	6	114,313	816,273
1913...	306,171	162,500	5	143,671	701,961
1912...	242,206	—	Nil	242,206	558,290
1911...	190,640	—	Nil	190,640	316,084
1910...	Dr. 229,675	—	Nil	Dr.229,675	125,444
1909...	10,060	—	Nil	10,060	355,119
1908...	126,814	—	Nil	126,814	345,059
1907...	117,162	65,000	4	52,162	218,246
1906...	148,882	65,000	4	83,882	166,083

The proportion that the shown net profits bear to the paid-up capital is 10.4 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 5.2 per cent., and to the total working resources .9 per cent.

Liabilities of The International Banking Corporation.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation in China. Amt.	% of Total.	Time and Demand Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Commercial Credit Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances, Bills and Accounts Payable. Amount.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	17·3	165,915	1·2	22,119,875	58·8	2,084,960	5·6	5,361,245	14·3	1,058,050	2·8	37,590,045
1914 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	15·7	575,985	1·4	20,559,290	49·7	6,448,580	15·6	6,361,792	15·4	913,773	2·2	41,359,420
1913 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	15·4	593,470	1·4	22,267,705	52·7	5,327,215	12·6	6,777,810	16·0	783,210	1·9	42,249,810
1912 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	17·1	477,760	1·3	20,487,140	53·8	4,140,350	10·9	5,889,940	15·5	558,290	1·4	38,053,480
1911 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	17·5	237,457	·6	20,392,792	54·7	4,624,348	12·4	5,222,000	14·0	316,083	·8	37,293,339
1910 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	20·0	159,306	·5	17,686,019	54·5	2,656,720	8·2	5,324,724	16·4	125,444	·4	32,452,213
1909 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	22·7	124,378	·4	16,047,322	56·2	1,590,505	5·6	3,964,110	13·9	355,120	1·2	28,581,735
1908 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	23·8	136,454	·5	13,048,855	47·8	1,485,572	5·4	5,829,509	21·3	345,059	1·2	27,336,539
1907 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	19·5	202,474	·6	14,769,703	44·3	3,142,741	9·4	8,457,649	25·3	283,244	·9	33,335,811
1906 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	20·9	—	—	10,246,347	32·9	2,881,512	9·2	11,208,429	36·2	231,083	·8	31,157,371
1905 ...	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	20·0	—	—	12,535,696	38·6	3,331,924	10·3	10,022,606	30·9	82,200	·2	32,472,426
1904 ...	3,947,200	3,947,200	7,894,400	29·0	—	—	11,563,027	42·6	2,615,296	9·6	5,087,296	18·7	2,991	·1	27,163,010
1903 ...	3,947,200	3,947,200	7,894,400	38·2	—	—	4,768,525	23·1	1,159,773	5·6	6,740,640	32·6	97,773	·5	20,661,111
1902* ...	3,391,500	3,391,500	6,783,000	41·3	—	—	3,990,596	24·3	—	—	5,561,311	33·9	84,797	·5	16,419,737

Assets of The International Banking Corporation.

June 30	Cash in Hand and at Local Depositories. Amount.	% of Total.	Securities, Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Time Loans and Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Demand Loans and Advances. Amount.	% of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills and Remittances and Sundry Accounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	8,098,410	21·5	4,629,500	12·3	5,576,190	14·8	6,053,790	16·1	2,084,960	5·6	11,147,195	29·7	37,590,045
1914 ...	7,665,425	18·5	4,692,300	11·3	5,488,346	13·3	6,647,191	16·1	6,448,580	15·6	10,417,578	25·2	41,359,420
1913 ...	6,765,670	16·0	5,547,525	13·1	6,332,380	15·0	5,596,375	13·3	5,327,215	12·6	12,680,245	30·0	42,249,410
1912 ...	5,643,105	14·8	5,742,630	15·1	6,289,475	16·5	5,934,750	15·6	4,140,350	10·9	10,302,170	27·1	38,053,480
1911 ...	6,054,411	16·2	4,945,186	13·3	10,515,853	28·2	3,816,558	10·2	4,624,348	12·4	7,336,683	19·7	37,293,339
1910 ...	4,037,298	12·4	4,841,285	14·9	8,199,765	25·3	3,889,743	12·0	2,656,719	8·2	8,827,403	27·2	32,452,213
1909 ...	4,395,167	15·4	4,769,564	16·7	7,077,481	24·8	2,832,532	9·9	1,590,505	5·5	7,925,486	27·7	28,581,735
1908 ...	3,724,228	13·6	5,158,479	18·9	6,014,762	22·0	3,491,388	12·8	1,485,572	5·4	7,462,110	27·3	27,336,539
1907 ...	4,440,695	13·3	5,727,401	17·2	5,209,313	15·6	3,854,633	11·6	3,142,741	9·4	10,961,028	32·9	33,335,811
1906 ...	4,578,772	14·7	5,136,324	16·5	6,913,471	22·2	3,511,599	11·3	2,881,512	9·2	8,135,693	26·1	31,157,371
1905 ...	5,169,283	15·9	5,000,344	15·4	5,529,445	17·0	4,103,939	12·6	3,331,924	10·3	9,337,491	28·8	32,472,426
1904 ...	5,405,066	19·9	4,294,044	15·8	5,881,683	21·7	4,321,684	15·9	2,615,296	9·6	4,645,237	17·1	27,163,010
1903 ...	2,862,412	13·9	3,162,007	15·3	4,708,419	22·8	3,282,401	15·6	1,159,773	5·6	5,536,099	26·8	20,661,111
1902* ...	1,913,182	11·6	1,421,979	8·7	1,139,014	7·0	2,010,749	12·2	—	—	9,934,813	60·5	16,419,737

* December 31.

MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK.

Office: 20 Nassau Street, New York City, U.S.A.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 60,000 fully-paid Shares of $100 (no liability) $6,000,000
Price per Share, 247½. *Dividend*, 12%. *Yield*, 4·9%.

In part through absorptions, and in part through the natural growth of its business, the Mechanics and Metals National Bank has now become one of the great banks in New York, with deposits of $153,000,000. Until about the year 1900 its deposits did not exceed $14,000,000, and in 1904 the Leather Manufacturers' National Bank was purchased, and in 1910 the National Copper Bank was taken over. Prior to that time the title of the institution was the Mechanics National, the Bank having been formed as long ago as 1810. In May 1914 the Fourth National Bank was acquired. The result of all these acquisitions has been a vast addition to its business, the deposits having increased over twelvefold in 20 years. To take care of the greater business the capital has been increased since 1900 from $2,000,000 to $6,000,000, and the surplus has also risen from $2,000,000 to $6,000,000, while the undivided profits have accumulated from a few hundred thousand dollars to $3,350,000. Hence at the end of June last the total capital, surplus and undivided profit reached $15,350,000, against $4,293,000 in 1900.

The Bank employs most of its money in loans and discounts, but it possesses over $6,000,000 of

Liabilities of The Mechanics and Metals National Bank.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Surplus Fund. Amount.	Undivided Profits. Amount.	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	3,350,737	15,350,737	8·8	4,937,805	2·8	153,543,995	87·5	1,629,709	·9	—	—	175,462,246
1914 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,874,627	14,874,627	10·5	4,420,900	3·1	122,662,819	86·2	—	—	277,837	·2	142,236,183
1913 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	3,112,889	15,112,889	16·1	2,971,700	3·2	75,723,667	80·7	—	—	—	—	93,808,256
1912 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,830,429	14,830,429	16·9	2,999,997	3·4	69,853,779	79·7	—	—	—	—	87,684,205
1911 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,450,307	14,450,307	13·5	2,977,500	2·8	89,300,515	83·7	—	—	—	—	106,728,322
1910 ...	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,095,547	14,095,547	15·4	2,793,000	3·1	74,530,059	81·5	—	—		—	91,418,606
1909 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	701,295	6,701,295	12·0	1,468,600	2·7	47,499,194	85·3	—	—		—	55,669,089
1908 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	705,723	6,705,723	15·3	1,000,000	2·3	36,022,825	82·4	—	—	—	—	43,738,548
1907 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	627,329	6,627,329	16·4	539,500	1·3	33,343,798	82·3	—	—	—	—	40,510,627
1906 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	464,997	6,464,997	16·2	540,300	1·4	32,783,480	82·4	—	—	—	—	39,788,777
1905 ...	3,000,000	3,000,000	384,310	6,384,310	16·3	508,800	1·3	32,323,458	82·4	—	—	—	—	39,216,568
1900 ...	2,000,000	2,000,000	293,042	4,293,042	23·8	—	—	13,706,028	76·2	—	—	—	—	17,999,070
1895 ...	2,000,000	2,000,000	111,326	4,111,326	25·2	—	—	12,202,884	74·8	—	—	—	—	16,314,210

Assets of The Mechanics and Metals National Bank.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders and Bank-Notes. Amount.	% of Total.	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	United States Bonds. Amount.	% of Total.	Other Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Discounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Customers' Liability for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c., & Miscellaneous. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	35,428,737	20·2	43,233,033	24·7	6,445,714	3·7	11,286,518	6·4	72,687,093	41·4	1,629,709	·9	4,751,442	2·7	175,462,246
1914 ...	26,999,756	19·0	21,492,611	15·1	5,049,500	3·6	9,675,011	6·8	74,534,140	52·4	—	—	4,485,165	3·1	142,236,183
1913 ...	12,708,054	13·7	22,466,604	23·9	3,548,937	3·8	5,080,924	5·4	47,824,219	51·0	—	—	2,089,518	2·2	93,808,256
1912 ...	12,465,116	14·2	8,861,128	10·1	3,350,000	3·8	5,340,193	6·1	55,074,272	62·8	—	—	2,593,496	3·0	87,684,205
1911 ...	20,093,981	18·9	21,810,461	20·4	3,150,000	2·0	6,989,460	6·5	52,080,078	48·8	—	—	2,604,342	2·4	106,728,322
1910 ...	12,442,311	13·6	23,372,558	25·6	2,955,000	3·2	7,080,130	7·7	42,842,682	46·9	—	—	2,725,925	3·0	91,418,606
1909 ...	9,029,337	16·2	13,513,015	24·3	1,500,000	2·7	2,530,043	4·6	27,316,270	49·4	—	—	1,580,424	2·8	55,669,089
1908 ...	7,700,667	17·6	9,279,555	21·2	2,000,000	4·6	1,158,614	2·6	22,000,905	50·3	—	—	1,598,807	3·7	43,738,548
1907 ...	6,240,178	15·4	10,603,349	26·1	550,000	1·3	1,056,369	2·6	20,550,730	50·9	—	—	1,510,001	3·7	40,510,627
1906 ...	4,737,285	11·9	13,485,410	33·9	550,000	1·4	982,936	2·5	18,523,058	46·5	—	—	1,510,088	3·8	39,788,777
1905 ...	6,674,871	17·0	8,398,079	21·4	550,000	1·4	2,056,416	5·3	20,038,871	51·1	—	—	1,498,331	3·8	39,216,568
1900 ...	2,908,544	16·1	2,576,083	14·3	50,000	·3	324,029	1·8	11,594,795	64·5	—	—	545,619	3·0	17,999,070
1895 ...	4,871,671	29·9	2,053,615	12·6	50,000	·3	227,067	1·4	8,543,046	52·4	—	—	565,801	3·4	16,314,210

United States Government bonds, as well as $11,000,000 of other investments. Its note circulation is rather under $5,000,000. At the end of June its cash amounted to over $35,000,000, representing a proportion to deposits of 23 per cent. The liabilities and assets of the Bank and the great increase in recent years will be evident from the statement herewith.

With the growth of business in proportion to capital the dividends have steadily increased. From 1880 to 1904 dividends were distributed at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. From July 1904 to 1907 the dividends were at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and since 1907 quarterly dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum have been paid, while since 1910 the undivided profits have risen from $2,095,000 to $3,351,000.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE.

Office: New York City, U.S.A.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 250,000 fully-paid Shares of $100 (no liability) $25,000,000

Price per Share, 159%. *Dividend,* 8%. *Yield,* 5.1%.

THE years immediately preceding 1839 were marked by commercial and financial distress and disaster, and in consequence the laws of the State of New York were subjected to thorough revision, and it was no longer necessary to obtain a special Act of the Legislature in order to found a new banking institution. The general Banking Law, passed by the New York Legislature, became operative April 18, 1838. It established banking in the State of New York upon a sound basis, and furnished a model first for the other States, and finally, during the days of civil war, for the Federal Government. The National Bank Act of 1864 borrowed its main features from the New York general Banking Law of 1838.

Eighteen residents of New York City decided to supply the want for an institution with large capital, and they obtained from the State a charter under the general Banking Law, which was to continue in force for 50 years from January 1, 1839, for the Bank of Commerce in New York. The articles of association provided for the immediate issue of 50,000 shares of $100, constituting a capital stock of $5,000,000, and authorised the directors to increase the capital to any figure up to $20,000,000. In April 1856 the paid-up capital was increased to $10,000,000; in May 1877 it was reduced to $5,000,000; in March 1900 it was again raised to $10,000,000, on consolidation with the National Union Bank; and in August 1903 it was increased to $25,000,000 on merger with the Western National Bank of the United States.

The Bank opened its doors on April 3, 1839, "to receive deposits and commence discounting," with a paid-up capital of $1,003,426, and at the first annual meeting of shareholders, on second Monday of May, the President reported deposits amounting to $674,464, after less than six weeks of banking operations. In 1864 the Bank decided "to accept the Act of Incorporation of the Congress of the United States entitled 'An Act to provide a national currency secured by a pledge of U.S. bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof,' approved June 3, 1864." And in January 1865 it became a National Bank, with a capital of $10,000,000, a surplus of $2,000,000, with individual deposits of $7,314,883, and with deposits of banks and bankers amounting to $3,221,242. At that date its loans were $3,940,063, and it held $13,705,000 of United States Government securities.

It is interesting to recall that the founders of the Bank hoped to create an institution so strong that it would be selected as the fiscal agent of the United

Liabilities of National Bank of Commerce, New York.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. $	Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915 ...	25,000,000	16,864,960	41,864,960	15·6	3,945,000	1·5	214,591,828	79·8	3,645,130	1·3	4,696,758	1·8	268,743,676
1914 ...	25,000,000	16,690,592	41,690,592	19·9	7,707,300	3·7	155,020,776	73·8	4,465,505	2·1	1,120,487	·5	210,004,660
1913 ...	25,000,000	16,821,485	41,821,485	20·4	9,928,800	4·9	152,684,230	74·3	—	—	856,819	·4	205,291,334
1912 ...	25,000,000	15,697,842	40,697,842	20·1	10,900,000	5·4	149,526,353	74·1	—	—	755,587	·4	201,879,782
1911 ...	25,000,000	15,123,572	40,123,572	17·3	12,462,800	5·3	179,295,794	77·0	—	—	996,608	·4	232,878,774
1910 ...	25,000,000	15,893,063	40,893,063	17·3	12,618,600	5·3	182,534,692	77·0	—	—	803,870	·4	236,850,225
1909 ...	25,000,000	15,176,710	40,176,711	15·0	13,119,100	4·8	214,762,870	80·0	—	—	685,259	·2	268,743,940
1908 ...	25,000,000	15,001,065	40,001,065	16·0	13,206,000	5·3	195,239,948	78·4	—	—	766,269	·3	249,213,282
1907 ...	25,000,000	14,350,585	39,350,585	20·6	12,881,000	6·7	138,379,105	72·3	—	—	730,540	·4	191,341,230
1906 ...	25,000,000	13,079,488	38,079,489	19·7	12,663,209	6·6	141,698,033	73·4	—	—	677,936	·3	193,118,708
1905 ...	25,000,000	11,690,375	36,690,376	13·2	12,015,100	4·4	228,830,409	82·2	—	—	692,311	·2	278,228,196
1900 ...	10,000,000	6,604,215	16,604,216	19·1	6,477,250	7·4	63,600,636	73·0	—	—	411,505	·5	87,093,607
1895 ...	5,000,000	3,069,101	8,069,102	26·0	2,166,750	6·9	20,291,434	65·4	—	—	489,989	1·7	31,017,275
1890 ...	5,000,000	2,944,359	7,944,960	24·0	994,560	3·0	23,888,560	71·7	—	—	453,540	1·3	33,281,620
1880 ...	5,000,000	2,503,669	7,503,670	28·7	1,344,350	5·1	16,707,188	63·9	—	—	598,035	2·3	26,153,243
1870 ...	10,000,000	3,629,732	13,629,733	44·9	5,760,000	19·0	10,993,662	36·1	—	—	17,489	—	30,400,884
1860 ...	9,080,400	455,336	9,535,737	56·9	1,975	—	7,222,055	43·0	—	—	20,374	·1	16,780,141
1850 ...	4,220,450	398,928	4,619,378	58·2	20,099	·3	3,280,414	41·4	—	—	12,326	·1	7,932,118
1840 ...	2,097,450	73,154	2,170,605	65·3	151,015	4·6	1,002,834	30·1	—	—	4,380	—	3,328,834
1839* ...	1,199,280	—	1,199,280	63·7	—	—	661,492	35·0	—	—	25,209	1·3	1,885,981

Assets of National Bank of Commerce, New York.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders, and Bank Notes. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Exchanges and Due from Other Banks, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	U.S. Bonds or Other Government Obligations. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Other Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Loans and Discounts. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 ...	30,193,673	11·2	32,624,473	12·1	3,945,000	1·5	27,931,589	10·4	165,701,464	61·6	6,347,477	2·4	2,000,000	·8	268,743,676
1914 ...	25,896,118	12·3	31,946,583	15·2	8,575,000	4·1	17,552,654	8·4	119,114,870	56·7	4,419,435	2·1	2,500,000	1·2	210,004,660
1913 ...	31,295,845	15·3	42,291,181	20·6	10,000,000	4·8	23,433,854	11·4	94,970,454	46·3	—	—	3,300,000	1·6	205,291,334
1912 ...	32,794,882	16·2	22,593,109	11·2	11,490,000	5·7	22,733,103	11·2	108,748,688	53·9	—	—	3,520,000	1·8	201,879,782
1911 ...	32,891,542	14·1	50,625,379	21·7	13,556,000	5·9	24,681,934	10·6	107,603,919	46·2	—	—	3,520,000	1·5	232,878,774
1910 ...	26,266,673	11·1	68,229,959	28·8	13,946,322	5·9	13,248,192	5·5	111,639,079	47·1	—	—	3,520,000	1·6	236,850,225
1909 ...	40,850,564	15·2	52,814,426	19·6	13,983,810	5·2	10,565,868	4·0	146,929,272	54·7	—	—	3,520,000	1·3	268,743,940
1908 ...	44,045,391	17·7	40,429,002	16·2	14,021,298	5·6	12,005,025	4·9	135,192,566	54·2	—	—	3,520,000	1·4	249,213,282
1907 ...	32,543,389	17·0	22,436,330	11·8	14,058 786	7·3	13,784,806	7·2	104,997,919	54·9	—	—	3,520,000	1·8	191,341,230
1906 ...	29,472,561	15·3	28,966,620	15·0	15,136,698	7·8	10,654,040	5·5	105,368,789	54·6	—	—	3,520,000	1·8	193,118,708
1905 ...	40,512,104	14·5	77,549,177	28·0	15,345,509	5·5	10,690,183	3·8	130,611,223	47·0	—	—	3,520,000	1·2	278,228,196
1900 ...	12,002,711	13·8	11,827,981	13·6	9,831,403	11·3	3,942,556	4·5	47,255,951	54·3	—	—	2,233,000	2·6	87,093,607
1895 ...	5,556,768	17·9	3,442,445	11·1	4,565,856	14·7	1,614,440	5·3	15,027,766	48·4	—	—	810,000	2·6	31,017,275
1890 ...	9,855,401	29·6	4,133,761	12·4	1,434,000	4·3	2,046,835	6·1	15,226,623	45·8	—	—	585,000	1·8	33,281,620
1880 ...	9,698,942	37·1	6,667,527	23·2	1,434,000	5·5	160,941	·6	8,291,833	31·8	—	—	500,000	1·8	26,153,243
1870 ...	6,148,526	20·2	2,572,453	8·5	10,393,600	34·2	123,640	·4	10,762,665	35·4	—	—	400,000	1·3	30,400,884
1860 ...	3,416,336	20·4	1,182,899	7·0	2,118,602	12·6	1,233,000	7·4	8,438,185	50·3	—	—	391,119	2·3	16,780,141
1850 ...	691,781	8·7	781,615	9·9	—	—	1,837,866	23·2	4,510,856	56·9	—	—	110,000	1·3	7,932,118
1840 ...	717,857	21·6	186,003	5·6	—	—	453,170	13·6	1,971,804	59·2	—	—	—	—	3,328,834
1839*...	352,869	18·7	154,581	8·2	200,000	10·7	—	—	1,170,505	62·0	—	—	8,026	·4	1,885,981

* May 13, 1839.

States. Indeed, the articles of association authorised an issue of stock not exceeding $30,000,000, to be subscribed for by the United States, or by any State, at such price or upon such terms as the majority of the directors might elect. This issue was to be in addition to any amount of stock which might be held by private parties. No bank in the country, except the Bank of the United States, had been established on so great a scale. In its early days the Bank at various times purchased Treasury notes and bonds from the Government, and received the deposits of the Government. But all official connection between the Government and the Bank ceased by the adoption of the independent Treasury system in 1848. During the Civil War the Bank rendered important assistance to President Lincoln, and it issued letters of credit for £580,000 on Baring Brothers, London, to enable his agent to purchase the firearms that were so badly needed by the Army of the North. Moreover, its President strongly supported the appeal of President Lincoln for a 7 per cent. loan of $250,000,000, or of Treasury notes bearing 7.3 per cent. interest, and his action was largely instrumental in inducing the banks to provide the money. Subsequently it was affirmed in Congress that without the influence of the Bank of Commerce the loan could not have been negotiated. By February 1862 the Bank had subscribed for $9,389,000 of the 7.3 per cent. interest bonds and for $4,702,000 of 6 per cent. bonds, and it made large subscriptions to subsequent issues.

When one considers the smallness of bank accounts in the earlier decades of the Bank's history one realises the substantial progress made by the institution. By 1860 its deposits had grown to over $7,000,000, and decade by decade they have since risen, until in 1900 they reached $64,000,000, while in the next 10 years they grew to the great total of $182,000,000. The deposits at the end of June last amounted to $214,000,000, against $155,000,000 a year earlier. The paid-up capital is now as much as $25,000,000, and its surplus profits amount to nearly $17,000,000, so that its capital and surplus together reach $42,000,000 and represent 15.6 per cent. of its total liabilities. In consequence of the greatness of its capital stock the dividends distributed are of only moderate extent, amounting to 8 per cent. per annum. The course of the profits since 1905 has been as follows:—

Profits of National Bank of Commerce, New York.

Year ended June 30	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Special Appropriations.	Surplus for Year.
	$	$	%	$	$
1915	4,410,081	2,000,000	8	—	2,410,081
1914	4,055,568	2,000,000	8	—	2,055,568
1913	3,224,748	2,000,000	8	101,105	1,123,643
1912	2,576,702	2,000,000	8	2,432	574,270
1911	1,949,310	2,000,000	8	718,800	Dr.769,490
1910	2,797,672	2,000,000	8	81,320	716,352
1909	2,280,045	2,000,000	8	104,399	175,646
1908	3,590,953	2,000,000	8	940,474	650,479
1907	3,868,404	2,000,000	8	597,308	1,271,096
1906	3,405,950	2,000,000	8	16,837	1,389,113
1905	2,330,986	2,000,000	8	57,738	272,348

The great strength of the institution from a capital and reserve point of view, and the large expansion in its business, will be evident from the statement of liabilities and assets given herewith.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY.

Head Office: Constantinople, Turkey.

London Office: 50 Cornhill, London, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed, in £T.11 Shares (£10 English) £T.1,100,000
Paid up £T.2.27 (£2 10s.) per Share ... £T.275,000

THE National Bank of Turkey is a comparatively newcomer among banks, being formed under Turkish law by Sir Ernest Cassel as recently as 1909, with the idea of fostering British trade and interests in Turkey. It may be regarded as a private institution, as the whole of the capital is privately held. The Bank was formed with an authorised capital of £T.1,100,000, or £1,000,000 sterling, and no change has taken place since. Also there are 2,250 Founders' shares of no denomination, which rank for 22½ per cent. dividend out of surplus profits after 5 per cent. dividend on Ordinary and provision made for reserves, directors' fees, &c. The first accounts were made up to December 30, 1909, and those covered a period of only three months. They showed that deposits had been acquired amounting to £T.51,662. At December 31, 1913, the deposits reached £T.826,665. Herewith we set out particulars of the liabilities and assets of the Bank for the years after formation.

For 1912 there was a gross profit of £T.61,819, and a net profit of £T.26,694. In view of the disturbed condition of the country consequent upon the Balkan war, it was not surprising to find that for 1913 the gross profits receded to £T.52,653, the net profit being £T.22,642. Details of the profits are appended herewith:—

Profits of the National Bank of Turkey.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Special Allocations.	Carried Forwrd.
	£T.	£T.	£T.	£T.	%	£T.	£T.
1913 ...	52,653	30,011	22,642	13,750	5	2,380	6,513
1912 ...	61,819	35,125	26,694	13,750	5	12,944	—
1911 ...	53,504	35,984	17,520	13,750	5	17,344	—
1910 ...	48,591	32,198	16,035	—	Nil	—	13,574
1909* ...	1,595	4,114	Dr.2,519	—	Nil	—	Dr.2,519

* Results for short period to Dec. 31, 1909.

No report for 1914 has been issued. The War has, of course, put an end for the time being to the Bank's activities, although the British end of the business is being continued under Treasury licence.

Liabilities of The National Bank of Turkey.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Reserve Funds. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total.	Bills Payable. Amt.	Bills Payable. % of Total.	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. Amount.	Deposits, Current Accounts, &c. % of Total.	Profit Balances. Amount.	Profit Balances. % of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	£T.	£T.	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.
1913	275,000	26,053	301,053	26·1	5,866	·3	826,665	71·6	23,791	2·0	1,155,375
1912	275,000	13,110	288,110	18·9	2,323	·1	1,206,012	79·3	26,694	1·7	1,523,139
1911	275,000	—	275,000	10·8	5,408	·2	2,229,042	87·8	31,094	1·2	2,540,544
1910	275,000	—	275,000	25·9	6,088	·6	765,849	72·2	13,574	1·3	1,060,521
1909	275,000	—	275,000	84·1	—	–	51,661	15·9	—	–	326,661

Assets of The National Bank of Turkey.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. % of Total.	Investments. Amount.	Investments. % of Total.	Bills Receivable. Amount.	Bills Receivable. % of Total.	Advances and Accounts. Amount.	Advances and Accounts. % of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.	%	£T.
1913	146,762	12·7	152,323	13·2	253,570	22·0	599,285	51·9	2,835	·2	1,155,375
1912	39,845	2·6	93,022	6·0	686,404	45·2	698,526	45·9	5,342	·3	1,523,139
1911	130,160	5·1	176,750	6·9	1,005,290	39·7	1,220,351	48·0	7,692	·3	2,540,544
1910	52,796	4·9	—	—	331,905	31·3	671,821	63·8	—	—	1,060,521
1909	256,571	78·5	—	—	—	—	67,517	20·7	2,573	·8	326,661

NATIONAL CITY BANK.

Head Office: Wall Street, New York City, U.S.A.
Office of London Representative: 3 Lombard St., E.C.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 250,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $25,000,000
Further liability of $100 per share $25,000,000
Price, 395%. *Div.* 12·4 per cent.* *Yield,* 3.18%.

* 10% on $25,000,000 of National City Bank Stock and 6% on $10,000,000 of National City Company Stock, are equal, in the aggregate, to a dividend of 12.4% on Bank stock.

The City Bank of New York was incorporated on June 16, 1812, by Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, with an authorised capital of $2,000,000; and when it commenced business its paid-up capital was $800,000. In the whole of the United States at the time of the chartering of the City Bank there were only 88 banks, with an aggregate capital of $42,610,000, a very different state of affairs from that existing at the present time. Throughout its history the Bank has participated in issues of Government bonds and has rendered valuable assistance to the Government of the United States when its credit was not as high as it is to-day. Moreover, it has done all those things which a bank can do to build up the welfare of the country. In 1852 it was reorganised under the general Banking Law of the New York State, and in 1865 was registered under the National Bank Act as the National City Bank of New York. Its capital, which had been raised to $1,000,000, remained at this sum until 1900. The progress of the Bank has, however, only been really noteworthy since the year 1890. Prior to that year its deposits and its business grew but slowly, and in 1890 its total deposits were less than $12,000,000, and the total funds no more than $15,000,000. With the advent of Mr. James Stillman to the Presidency of the Bank in 1891 a complete change came over its affairs, and its policy was brought into line with the new needs of the country. Previously its main business had been to receive deposits from and discount the bills of the mercantile community. While it still continued to take care of its mercantile customers, Mr. Stillman prepared for the advent of the great corporation era, which has so greatly contributed to the progress and welfare of the United States in the last 20 years. Previously business was conducted on a comparatively small scale by small manufacturers in the Eastern States, but the stoppage of the influx of European capital in the nineties, and the severe depression into which the country was then thrown through unsound currency legislation, compelled everyone to reconsider their methods, and brought about the formation of the great producing and manufacturing companies which have since been created, and which have resulted in the economy of so much capital and labour. In the work of reorganising the industries of the United States Mr. Stillman took a leading part. One of the most noteworthy of his achievements was his association with the late Mr. Harriman in the reorganisation and reconstruction of the Union Pacific Railroad, by means of which that great enterprise was raised from inefficiency, poverty, and bankruptcy to a condition of great financial and physical strength and to a state of high efficiency. Mr. Stillman retired from the Presidency of the Bank in 1909, and was succeeded by Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, who has continued to pursue the policy initiated by Mr. Stillman.

The capital of the Bank remained at $1,000,000 until 1900, when it was increased to $10,000,000, and in June 1902 it was further increased to $25,000,000. In 1890 a reserve of $2,309,000 had been accumulated; by 1900 this had been increased to $5,278,000, and it has now been raised to the great sum of $36,933,000. Thus, whereas as recently as 1890 the total capital and reserve was only $3,309,000, their aggregate amount is now $61,933,000. The growth of the deposits has been correspondingly great. In 1890, when Mr. Stillman became President, they were less than $12,000,000, and in 1909, when he handed the Presidency over to Mr. Vanderlip, they were $277,000,000. The trend of events in recent years has somewhat militated against the accumulation of money in the hands of bankers, great cor

Liabilities of The National City Bank of New York.

Date.	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Surplus and Undivided Profits (Net). Amount.	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. Bonds Account. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915, June 23	25,000,000	36,933,465	61,933,465	14·0	3,362,750	·8	361,708,927	82·0	8,498,415	1·9	5,592,150	1·3	441,095,407
1914, June 30	25,000,000	32,916,892	57,916,892	16·4	3,471,250	·9	275,732,535	78·3	9,677,211	2·8	5,646,750	1·6	352,444,638
1913, June 4	25,000,000	30,516,054	55,516,054	20·1	3,445,900	1·3	211,484,269	76·6	—	—	5,653,750	2·0	276,099,973
1912, June 14	25,000,000	28,458,326	53,458,326	17·0	2,243,500	·7	252,465,592	80·5	—	—	5,605,650	1·8	313,773,068
1911, June 7	25,000,000	34,705,859	59,705,859	19·5	2,208,498	·7	239,291,681	78·0	—	—	5,758,150	1·8	306,964,188
1910, June 30	25,000,000	30,741,636	55,741,636	18·0	3,010,597	1·0	244,067,860	79·1	—	—	5,769,250	1·9	308,589,343
1909, June 23	25,000,000	27,811,300	52,811,300	15·6	3,595,498	1·1	277,248,596	81·8	—	—	5,208,150	1·5	338,863,544
1908, July 15	25,000,000	25,065,447	50,065,447	16·6	2,217,497	3·0	237,145,479	78·6	—	—	5,409,650	1·8	301,838,073
1907, May 23	25,000,000	22,275,971	47,275,971	20·0	2,213,497	3·9	172,107,824	72·5	—	—	8,660,650	3·6	237,257,942
1906, June 18	25,000,000	19,400,253	44,400,253	18·2	6,378,497	2·6	185,260,615	76·0	—	—	7,662,550	3·2	243,701,915
1905, May 29	25,000,000	17,480,726	42,480,726	13·4	6,882,200	2·1	255,680,364	80·6	—	—	12,403,200	3·9	317,436,471
1900, June 30	10,000,000	5,278,586	15,278,586	9·9	882,800	·6	130,396,494	84·0	—	—	8,540,000	5·5	155,097,880
1895 June 30	1,000,000	3,042,198	4,042,108	12·0	786,600	2·4	28,696,150	85·6	—	—	—	—	33,524,858
1890, June 30	1,000,000	2,309,568	3,309,568	21·7	—	—	11,918,614	78·3	—	—	—	—	15,228,182
1880, June 30	1,000,000	1,482,954	2,482,954	13·6	—	—	15,754,916	86·4	—	—	—	—	18,237,870

Assets of The National City Bank of New York.

Date.	Specie and Legal Tenders. Amount.	% of Total.	Banks and Exchanges. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. and other Bonds, Stocks, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans and Discounts. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915, June 23	143,781,223	32·6	40,616,066	9·2	46,919,471	10·7	196,359,781	44·5	8,418,866	1·9	5,000,000	1·1	441,095,407
1914, June 30	67,445,419	19·1	51,609,238	14·7	39,801,116	11·3	178,975,176	50·8	9,613,689	2·7	5,000,000	1·4	352,444,638
1913, June 4	55,259,863	20·0	42,846,283	15·5	40,913,099	14·8	132,080,728	47·9	—	—	5,000,000	1·8	276,099,973
1912, June 14	55,823,694	17·8	44,971,754	14·3	44,644,869	14·2	163,332,751	52·1	—	—	5,000,000	1·6	313,773,068
1911, June 7	58,605,454	19·1	59,623,232	19·4	51,215,542	16·7	132,255,184	43·1	—	—	5,264,776	1·7	306,964,188
1910, June 30	53,123,655	17·2	67,212,546	21·8	39,883,692	13·0	143,120,447	46·3	—	—	5,249,003	1·7	308,589,343
1909, June 23	85,173,895	25·1	56,094,264	16·6	44,488,502	13·1	147,993,986	43·7	—	—	5,112,897	1·5	338,863,544
1908, July 15	71,967,305	23·8	40,641,544	13·5	49,848,322	16·5	135,434,946	44·9	—	—	3,945,956	1·3	301,838,073
1907, May 20	35,860,624	15·1	36,998,618	15·6	38,608,301	16·3	125,561,657	52·9	—	—	228,750	·1	237,257,942
1906 June 18	40,485,334	16·6	38,192,166	15·7	36,728,686	15·1	128,095,729	52·5	—	—	200,000	·1	243,701,915
1905, May 29	58,367,180	18·3	35,670,623	11·2	53,004,120	16·9	170,194,548	53·6	—	—	200,000	—	317,436,471
1900, June 30	28,347,882	18·3	18,734,802	12·1	19,011,934	12·2	88,803,262	57·3	—	—	200,000	·1	155,097,880
1895, June 30	10,417,982	31·1	4,359,880	13·0	1,100,000	3·3	17,446,996	52·0	—	—	200,000	·6	33,524,858
1890, June 30	2,365,380	15·5	2,968,382	19·5	50,000	·3	9,641,420	63·4	—	—	203,000	1·3	15,228,182
1880, June 30	5,369,068	29·4	5,553,640	30·4	50,000	·3	7,062,162	38·8	—	—	203,000	1·1	18,237,870

porations and business houses reducing their cash balances to abnormally low figures, and not infrequently obtaining substantial overdrafts in consequence of their temporary inability to raise capital from the public. This explains the decline in the deposits of the Bank in June 1913 to $211,000,000. Since then, however, the deposits have recovered to $361,708,000. Of the $441,000,000 of funds that the Bank now possesses $196,000,000 are employed in loans and discounts, a proportion of 44.5 per cent. No less than $143,781,000 consist of specie and legal tender, and nearly $41,000,000 are due from other banks. Its investments amount to somewhat less than $47,000,000, representing 10 per cent. of its total assets. In consequence of the great accumulation of its funds and of its idle cash, the Bank has recently made active endeavours to build up a foreign business, more particularly in South America, and has opened a number of foreign branches. The great expansion in the business of the undertaking since 1890, and especially in the past two years, will be evident from the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

In July 1911, in common with other banks, the Company formed a subsidiary undertaking with the title of the National City Company, and with a capital of $10,000,000, for the purpose of holding investments which the Bank was not entitled to hold under the National Bank law and for transacting other business which the trust companies were able to transact By means of this Company it obtained a share interest in a large number of banks throughout the country, including a large amount of stock in the National Bank of Commerce. In consequence, however, of discussion as to the legality of its procedure *re* the Bank, shares reported to be of the value of $6,000,000 were resold. The capital of the National City Company is $10,000,000, which was provided by the declaration of a cash dividend of 40 per cent. on the $25,000,000 of National City Bank stock. This dividend, it was announced, was "in order to facilitate stockholders in acquiring a beneficial interest in a security company." No separate certificates, however, were issued to represent the capital of the new organisation, the ownership of stock in the National City Company being certified by means of an endorsement upon the shares of the National City Bank.

The profit of the National City Bank for the year to May 1915 was $5,380,000, equal to a distribution of over 21 per cent. On the combined capital and surplus the profit was equal to 8¾ per cent., and upon the total funds it was equal to just 1¼ per cent. The dividend distributed in the last seven years has been 10 per cent., but beyond this a special distribution of 40 per cent. was made in July 1911 for the purpose of providing the $10,000,000 of capital in respect of the National City Company. The dividends on the shares of the latter have since been 6 per cent. per annum, so that the total rate of dividend on the National City Bank shares at the present time is 12.4 per cent. In considering the value of the stock account must be had of the very large profits which the Bank has earned in recent years over and above the dividend distributed. The profits of the Bank since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the National City Bank, New York.

Year ended May 1	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amount.	Dividend. Rate.	Transfer to Surplus.	Undivided Profits.
	$	$	%	$	$
1915... ...	5,380,006	2,500,000	10	—	2,880,006
1914... ...	4,897,766	2,500,000	10	—	2,397,766
1913... ...	5,350,694	2,500,000	10	—	2,850,694
1912... ...	5,615,655	2,500,000	10*	—	3,115,655
1911... ...	6,259,001	2,500,000	10	—	3,759,001
1910... ...	5,702,768	2,500,000	10	—	3,202,768
1909... ...	4,900,000	2,500,000	10	2,000,000	400,000
1908... ...	4,450 000	2,250,000	9	1,500,000	700,000
1907.. ...	5,300,000	2,000,000	8	—	3,300,000
1906... ...	3,600,000	2,000,000	8	1,100,000	500,000
1905... ...	2,400,000	2,000,000	8	—	400,000
1904... ...	3,000,000	2,000,000	8	—	1,000,000

* In addition a 40 per cent. dividend, calling for $10,000,000, was paid out of surplus on July 10, 1911, in stock of National City Company, upon which dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum have been paid each half-year since July 1, 1912.

NATIONAL SHAWMUT BANK.

Office: Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 100,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $10,000,000
Price of Shares, 196½%. *Dividend,* 8%. *Yield,* 4.1%.

THE National Shawmut Bank is New England's largest banking institution, having a capital of $10,000,000, with a surplus or rest of upwards of $7,317,000 and resources of $121,000,000.

Boston was settled in 1630, and the name Shawmut was given it by the Indians, which translated means "living fountains," on account of the many springs of water existing on a part of the peninsula.

Within a 12-mile radius of Boston there is a population of approximately 1,500,000. This territory is known as Greater Boston. The port of Boston ranks second only to New York, and in the current year its imports and exports will be a long way over $200,000,000.

Boston is in the midst of the most important and extensive textile manufacturing industries in the country, there being in New England more than 500 mills equipped with upwards of 15,000,000 spindles. Boston is likewise the largest wholesale market for fish in the United States. These industries are singled out as of special importance.

In 1836 a State bank was chartered, under the name of "The Shawmut Bank," which continued its name and charter until 1864, when it became a National Bank under the title of the Shawmut National Bank, and did business until 1898. At that time conditions made necessary the liquidating of eight of the Boston banks, and a new National Bank was formed to control the business of this entire group. This Bank is the present National Shawmut Bank.

The National Shawmut Bank typifies perhaps better than any other bank in the United States the modern idea of banking amalgamation. The reasons leading to the various consolidations which have resulted in the present Shawmut Bank are partly local and partly economic.

In the first place, the growth of Boston and New England, comprising an area slightly larger than that of England itself, necessitated constantly larger financial units to keep successfully the financial control at home. Under the National Banking Act it became possible to loan to any one corporation only one-tenth of a bank's capital and surplus, and where the growth of corporate transactions constantly demanded increased lines of credit it became necessary to keep in line with this growth with larger resources, so that the business would not go to New York or to some other large city.

Another reason was the local situation of the banks which were brought together under the name of "Shawmut." It was a well-known fact at the time that competition had forced all of them to adopt financial methods not sufficiently conservative for entire safety. The stocks of these banks were largely held by the savings banks of Massachusetts, and on account of a noticeable depreciation in the value of these stocks the trustees of the savings institutions became seriously alarmed. Through amalgamation these stocks were pooled and prevented from coming on to the open market, resulting in the liquidation of the banks without loss to the savings banks. The wisdom of this principle of amalgamation, due to local conditions, has since been more than proved.

Since the first consolidation in 1898 there have been absorbed into the Shawmut eight other Boston banks, resulting in a large increase in deposits, with a corresponding increase of assets.

Recently the Bank has made connections with various foreign banks, especially Canadian and English, and for this purpose has created a foreign department.

Liabilities of The National Shawmut Bank, Boston, Mass.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount.	Surplus and Profits. Amount.	Total Capital, Surplus and Profits. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. Bond Account. Amount.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous Accounts Reserved for Taxes. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	10,000,000	7,317,143	17,317,143	14·2	3,538,000	2·9	99,215,722	81·6	1,200,000	1·0	311,440	·3	121,572,305
1914 ...	10,000,000	7,346,958	17,346,958	14·4	3,565,000	3·0	98,255,758	81·4	1,227,000	1·0	36,200	·3	120,633,916
1913 ...	10,000,000	7,162,196	17,162,196	16·0	2,204,000	2·1	85,290,758	80·1	1,662,000	1·6	246,081	·2	106,865,616
1912 ...	3,500,000	6,006,443	9,506,443	9·4	822,195	·8	90,667,886	89·1	527,000	·5	151,843	·2	101,613,368
1911 ...	3,500,000	5,655,804	9,155,805	9·0	849,997	·8	92,504,997	89·6	557,000	·5	149,948	·1	103,187,747
1910 ...	3,500,000	5,106,742	8,606,743	9·4	854,000	·9	81,674,791	89·0	527,000	·6	127,955	·1	91,790,489
1909 ...	3,500,000	4,647,250	8,147,250	8·0	1,454,000	1·4	91,430,620	90·0	527,000	·5	117,349	·1	101,676,219
1908 ...	3,500,000	4,328,037	7,828,037	8·7	3,557,248	3·8	76,946,481	85·6	1,613,000	1·8	127,667	·1	89,875,433
1907 ...	3,500,000	4,462,186	7,962,187	11·5	3,361,000	4·8	55,677,015	80·6	1,944,450	2·9	121,226	·2	69,028,081
1906 ...	3,500,000	4,035,971	7,535,972	12·9	3,158,447	5·5	45,358,855	78·0	2,050,450	3·5	117,150	·1	58,452,854
1905 ...	3,500,000	3,582,475	7,082,475	10·2	3,161,248	4·5	57,296,780	82·2	2,025,450	3·0	115,317	·1	69,681,270
1900 ...	3,000,000	1,810,935	4,810,935	12·7	1,529,500	3·5	28,047,197	74·2	3,350,000	9·4	76,242	·2	37,869,874
1899 ...	3,000,000	1,587,683	4,587,683	12·7	731,500	2·0	30,519,429	84·8	160,000	·4	56,211	·1	36,354,823

Assets of The National Shawmut Bank, Boston, Mass.

June 30	Cash in Hand, Specie, Legal Tenders & Bank Notes. Amount.	% of Total.	Exchanges & Due from Other Banks. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. Bond Account. Amount.	% of Total.	Other Investments. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Loans and Discount. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	10,050,198	8·3	30,204,958	24·9	3,818,000	3·1	14,887,080	12·2	59,702,069	49·1	2,850,000	2·4	121,572,305
1914 ...	13,140,147	10·9	28,475,946	23·6	3,845,000	3·2	10,716,925	8·9	61,607,898	51·0	2,850,000	2·4	120,633,916
1913 ...	8,064,774	7·5	26,370,636	24·7	4,280,000	4·0	9,288,904	8·7	56,021,302	52·4	2,850,000	2·7	106,865,616
1912 ...	10,329,970	10·1	25,700,940	25·4	1,077,000	1·0	5,944,856	5·9	55,651,502	54·8	2,850,000	2·8	101,613,368
1911 ...	10,243,047	10·0	26,430,726	25·6	1,054,000	1·0	7,424,709	7·2	55,185,265	53·5	2,850,000	2·7	103,187,747
1910 ...	9,574,525	10·4	26,774,675	29·2	1,054,000	1·1	4,803,519	5·2	46,733,767	51·0	2,850,000	3·1	91,790,489
1909 ...	12,021,889	11·8	26,092,566	25·7	1,754,000	1·7	5,584,515	5·5	53,273,421	52·4	2,916,028	2·9	101,676,219
1908 ...	10,118,252	11·2	30,874,772	34·3	3,839,000	4·3	3,275,764	3·7	38,804,012	43·2	2,963,633	3·3	89,875,433
1907 ...	5,194,257	7·5	17,886,610	26·0	4,061,950	5·8	4,278,796	6·2	34,731,406	50·3	2,875,062	4·2	69,028,081
1906 ...	5,505,064	9·4	12,747,893	21·8	4,011,950	6·9	3,653,865	6·2	30,506,994	52·2	2,027,088	3·5	58,452,854
1905 ...	5,950,988	8·6	20,873,439	29·9	3,986,950	5·7	5,817,103	8·5	31,140,577	44·6	1,912,213	2·7	69,681,270
1900 ...	4,898,448	13·0	6,697,367	17·7	3,870,000	10·2	2,313,773	6·1	20,090,286	53·0	—	—	37,869,874
1899 ...	2,800,527	7·7	13,537,133	37·2	2,204,132	6·1	80,000	·2	17,733,031	48·8	—	—	36,354,823

The capital in 1902 was raised from $3,000,000 to $3,500,000, and in 1913 it was further increased to $10,000,000. The surplus has grown from $1,587,000 in 1899 to $7,317,000, and the total capital resources have thus risen from $4,587,000 in 1899 to $17,317,000 at the present time. Since 1900 the deposits have expanded from $28,000,000 to $99,000,000. Most of the Bank's money is employed in loans and discounts, which represent 49.1 per cent. of its total liabilities. The liabilities and assets of the institution in each year since 1899 are given herewith.

In 1912, when the capital was still only $3,500,000, a dividend of 12 per cent. was paid, but in 1913 the dividend was reduced to 8 per cent. in consequence of the great increase in the capital stock. A marked expansion in deposits will now be possible before another addition to the capital will become necessary. This fact has to be taken into account in considering the probable course of the dividends.

The profits earned and the dividends paid by the institution since 1905 have been as follows:—

Profits of National Shawmut Bank.

Year to June 30	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate.	Carried to Surplus.	Balance Carried Forward
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1915 ...	—	—	770,185	800,000	8	—	2,317,143
1914 ...	—	—	984,762	800,000	8	—	2,346,958
1913 ...	1,918,034	962,281	955,752	800,000*	8	—	2,162,196
1912 ...	1,557,802	787,163	770,639	420,000	12	1,000,000	2,006,444
1911 ...	1,696,356	749,794	946,562	397,500	11½	—	1,655,805
1910 ...	1,511,277	701 785	809,492	350,000	10	—	1,106,743
1909 ...	1,352,827	683,614	669,213	350,000	10	—	647,251
1908 ...	779,807	633,956†	145,851	280,000	8	—	328,037
1907 ...	1,214,380	508,165	706,215	280,000	8	—	462,186
1906 ...	1,169,223	453,227	715,996	262,500	7½	500,000	535,972
1905 ...	918,287	443,630	474,657	210,000	6	1,500,000	1,582,475

* On increased capital stock.
† Includes purchase price in consolidation.

NEDERLANDSCHE BANK.

Head Office: Amsterdam.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, in Shares of Fl. 1,000.

Fl. 500, Fl. 250, and Fl. 125, all fully paid ... Fl. 20,000,000

The Bank of the Netherlands was created by Royal Decree in 1814; that is to say, when the Emperor Napoleon abdicated. It is a joint-stock Company, the capital being provided by the public. Originally part of the capital was furnished by the Government, as there were difficulties in inducing the public to subscribe. Ultimately, however, the Government sold its shares.

The charter granted in 1814 has been renewed several times, and at each renewal it has been modified, more or less. The present charter was granted in 1903, and will remain in force until 1919. If at that date notice of termination is not given, either by the Government or by the Bank, the charter is to go on from year to year indefinitely. For a long time the Bank was slow to establish branches. Its headquarters were at Amsterdam, and it founded a subordinate institution at Rotterdam. For many years it ceased to do more, but ultimately it was compelled to increase the number of branches. There are now 17 agencies and 83 correspondents. The Bank acts gratuitously as receiving and disbursing agent for the Government at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and other places where there are branches. And it has to make advances to the Government on current account, subject to certain conditions. The Bank now has the right to issue notes throughout the European dominions of the Netherlands; but it has not a monopoly. The maximum amount of notes to be issued was in the earlier period of the institution fixed by the Government. But in 1863 the maximum limit was abolished, and it was provided that the percentage of reserve should be fixed by Royal Decree. An Ordinance of 1864 prescribed that there should be a metallic reserve of 40 per cent. against bank-notes and all other demand liabilities, and this reaffirmed by Royal Decree in 1880. The rest of the circulation is covered by bills and collaterals on loans. The notes are redeemable on demand at the main bank, the subsidiary bank at Rotterdam, and the branch offices. The latter, however, are allowed to take as much time as is required to get the coin needed from the main establishment. The notes are accepted in payment of Government dues, and are not subject to the stamp tax. The management of the Bank is carried on by a directorate consisting of the President, five directors, and a Secretary. The President and Secretary are permanent officers, and are appointed and removable by the Sovereign. The five directors are elected, though not at the same time, by the shareholders for a term of five years. The possession of five shares entitles a person to one vote, and every additional 10 shares give an additional vote. The general assembly of shareholders chooses 15 bank commissaries, who constitute a kind of advisory council for a term of five years. One-fifth of the number retire each year.

Liabilities of The Nederlandsche Bank.

Mar. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Florins.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Florins.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Deposits, Current Accounts, etc. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Miscellaneous. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Profit Balance. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Florins.
1915 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	4·3	472,428,385	80·8	84,[illegible],964	14·4	[illegible],351	·1	2,655,342	·4	584,985,225
1914 ...	20,000,000	5,003,039	25,003,039	7·1	312,356,620	88·9	10,[illegible],924	3·1	320,022	·1	2,704,069	·8	351,736,774
1913 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	7·2	310,239,930	89·0	10,362,325	3·0	315,708	·1	2,459,466	·7	348,437,429
1912 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	7·5	298,964,980	89·2	8,905,667	2·7	291,913	--	2,073,583	·6	335,236,083
1911 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	7·8	283,270,075	88·3	10,156,195	3·2	219,996	—	2,359,469	·7	321,005,735
1910 ...	20,000,000	5,239,735	25,239,735	7·9	280,552,730	88·5	9,731,086	3·1	292,371	—	1,683,078	·5	317,499,000
1909 ...	20,000,000	5,231,465	25,231,465	8·2	273,578,470	88·4	8,[illegible],[illegible]	2·8	163,967	—	1,798,498	·6	309,328,993
1908 ...	20,000,000	5,031,908	25,031,908	8·2	265,947,760	87·6	9,688,366	3·2	240,291	—	2,752,970	1·0	303,661,295
1907 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	8·3	259,552,485	86·5	13,038,276	4·3	379,440	·1	2,374,324	·8	300,344,525
1906 ...	20,000,000	5,128,312	25,128,312	8·1	276,514,715	89·0	7,118,295	2·3	243,270	·1	1,635,644	·5	310,640,236
1905 ...	20,000,000	5,197,202	25,197,202	8·5	259,359,510	87·4	10,319,011	3·5	189,711	1	1,579,115	·5	296,644,549
1900 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	10·1	214,415,155	86·5	6,118,235	2·5	90,148	—	2,197,040	·9	247,820,578
1895 ...	20,000,000	5,580,690	25,580,690	10·6	203,682,845	84·8	9,912,181	4·1	94,175	—	1,392,949	·5	240,662,840
1890 ...	20,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000	9·9	204,449,530	82·4	17,580,618	7·0	207,016	·1	1,617,192	·6	252,854,356
1880 ...	16,000,000	4,360,290	20,360,290	8·6	189,606,945	80·3	23,277,122	9·9	190,882	·1	2,665,272	1·1	236,100,511
1870 ...	16,000,000	3,625,599	19,625,599	11·0	126,191,895	70·9	28,[illegible],583	16·1	381,504	·2	3,187,422	1·8	178,085,003
1860 ...	15,000,000	2,229,550	17,229,550		98,505,175		22,435,714						
1850 ...	15,000,000	2,250,000	17,250,000		48,704,700		16,676,426						
1840 ...	10,000,000	1,200,000	11,200,000		23,772,010		14,467,248						
1830 ...	10,000,000	555,000	10,555,000		26,076,360		5,119,369						
1820 ...	10,000,000	500,000	10,500,000		8,739,355		6,783,796						
1815 ...	2,444,000	—	2,444,000		1,804,370		10,866,388						

Assets of The Nederlandsche Bank.

Mar. 31	Cash in Hand and Bullion. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Investments. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Advances. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Current Accounts. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Correspondents. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Florins.	% of Total.	Total Assets Florins.
1915 ...	291,583,232	49·9	8,292,394	1·4	71,626,455	12·2	153,[illegible],140	26·3	48,897,447	8·4	7,[illegible],321	1·3	3,021,256	·5	584,[illegible],225
1914 ...	169,804,090	48·3	9,002,093	2·6	74,639,170	21·2	67,655,825	19·2	27,247,859	7·8	1,111,373	·3	2,[illegible],[illegible]	·6	351,736,774
1913 ...	172,155,672	49·4	8,762,408	2·5	78,547,246	22·6	56,835,450	16·3	25,982,221	7·4	3,715,759	1·1	2,438,673	·7	348,437,429
1912 ...	158,886,037	47·4	8,786,816	2·6	77,559,503	23·1	66,492,900	19·8	18,961,238	5·7	2,607,206	·8	1,942,383	·6	335,236,083
1911 ...	159,364,356	49·6	8,923,930	2·8	57,515,586	18·0	65,126,850	20·3	26,049,903	8·1	2,192,917	·7	1,832,193	·5	321,005,735
1910 ...	138,675,485	43·7	9,227,006	2·9	72,702,743	23·0	65,263,200	20·6	25,951,139	8·1	3,943,187	1·2	1,736,240	·5	317,499,000
1909 ...	163,986,020	53·0	9,184,442	3·0	60,774,669	19·7	49,730,950	16·1	22,584,250	7·3	1,453,862	·4	1,614,800	·5	309,328,993
1908 ...	146,058,316	48·2	8,977,705	2·9	64,431,828	21·2	56,639,900	18·7	24,744,762	8·2	1,057,668	·3	1,751,116	·5	303,661,295
1907 ...	129,990,772	43·3	8,747,059	2·9	66,288,412	22·1	68,219,890	22·7	22,565,450	7·5	2,893,082	1·0	1,639,860	·5	300,344,525
1906 ...	145,762,742	47·0	9,043,637	2·9	78,172,232	25·2	53,548,400	17·2	20,576,122	6·6	2,311,510	·7	1,226,593	·4	310,640,236
1905 ...	149,940,186	50·6	9,146,083	3·4	77,401,242	26·1	38,938,750	13·1	19,008,542	6·4	1,017,337	·3	1,192,409	·4	296,644,549
1900 ...	131,234,958	53·0	8,754,149	3·5	52,912,269	21·4	45,996,925	18·5	7,264,065	3·0	608,495	·2	1,049,717	·4	247,820,578
1895 ...	137,039,722	57·0	9,535,841	4·0	51,607,832	21·5	37,299,565	15·5	1,551,504	·6	2,789,594	1·1	838,782	·3	240,662,840
1890 ...	129,706,756	51·3	8,852,637	3·5	63,461,477	25·1	50,139,759	19·8	Incl. in advances.		33,620	—	660,107	·3	252,854,356
1880 ...	164,605,436	69·7	4 359,895	1·9	30,374,309	12·9	36,254,432	15·3	—	—	—	—	506,439	·2	236,100,511
1870 ...	91,118,316	51·2	3,341,085	1·9	50,446,641	28·3	32,622,145	18·3	—	—	—	—	556,816	·3	178,085,003

The capital of the Bank was originally five million florins (£416,666), but it has been raised at various periods, and is now 20 million florins, or £1,666,666. Although the Government originally received nothing from the Bank except the dividends on the shares taken by it when the Bank was started, it has in recent times changed its policy. The Bank was not altogether successful in its early days, and its position was not improved by the secession of Belgium and the troubles which followed. Therefore, there have been very many changes made in its Constitution. It is, however, unnecessary to specify these various alterations. It will perhaps be enough to say that the success of the National Bank of Belgium made a great impression upon the Dutch and their Government, and that the later reforms have been largely imitations or modifications of what was done in the case of the National Bank of Belgium. As already said, the Government many years ago sold the shares which it subscribed for to enable the Bank to be constituted. More recently, on renewing the charter, it insisted upon sharing in the profits of the Bank, following the example of both Belgium and Germany. At the present time 3½ per cent. is to be paid to the shareholders. Ten per cent. of what remains is to be assigned to the surplus until it is raised to 25 per cent. of the capital. Three per cent. of what then remains is to be allotted to the directors and commissaries. And if anything further remains the amount is to be distributed in the proportion of two-thirds to the State and one-third to the shareholders. In the year 1914-15 the Government's share of the profits was 4,119,000 florins, or £343,000. In case the privilege of note issue is not extended half the amount to which the surplus will have been increased in the period 1889-1919 is to go to the State. The Law of July 18, 1904, made all the notes of the Bank legal tender except in the case of payments made by the Bank itself. Of the total capital, one-fifth may be invested in Dutch Government bonds or other securities listed at the Amsterdam Exchange or other principal European exchanges. The list of such securities is determined by the directors and the Bank commissaries. Since 1863 the Bank has been authorised to issue drafts drawn by one of its offices upon another. It must keep a metallic reserve of 40 per cent. against the aggregate volume of such drafts outstanding. The use of drafts for a long time was confined within narrow limits by a tax. Since 1883 the tax, however, has been reduced. A draft is not permitted to circulate more than eight days.

In consequence of the great injury to credit caused by the outbreak of war in 1914, and the consequent demand for banking accommodation and for currency, the ordinance requiring a metallic reserve of 40 per cent. against bank-notes and other demand liabilities was changed and 20 per cent. substituted. These powers were utilised for a time, and in October 1914 the percentage fell to 32.59 per cent., but recovery soon took place, 40 per cent. being reached in December 1914 and 52 per cent. in March 1915.

The funds of the Bank are provided almost entirely by its note issue. Its total funds are now 591,000,000 florins, of which its note circulation provides 544,000,000 florins. Beyond the capital of 20,000,000 florins there is a reserve fund of 5,000,000 florins. The deposit accounts are less than 16,000,000 florins. It is necessary, of course, for the Bank to keep a large part of its funds in cash against its note circulation, and with cash and bullion in hand of 392,000,000 florins, the note circulation provided it with 152,000,000 florins of money for employment. These funds were used mainly in the discount of bills and in advances. How the Bank has obtained its resources, and the manner in which they are employed, are shown by the statement of liabilities and

assets herewith. The following contrast shows the influence of the war upon the Bank's activities:—

LIABILITIES.	1915 Oct. 9 Florins.	1914 Aug. 1 Florins.	Inc. or Dec. Florins.
Capital	20,000,000	20,000,000	—
Reserve funds	5,000,000	5,003,000—	3,000
	25,000,000	25,003,000—	3,000
Notes in circulation	544,074,000	427,918,000+	116,156,000
Deposits and current accounts ...	15,943,000	19,598,000—	3,655,000
Miscellaneous	5,838,000	3,054,000+	2,784,000
Total Liabilities	590,855,000	475,573,000+	115,282,000
ASSETS.			
Cash in hand	392,484,000	164,937,000+	227,547,000
Investments	8,945,000	8,985,000—	40,000
Bills discounted...	73,259,000	161,085,000—	87,826,000
Current accounts	95,846,000	137,872,000—	42,026,000
Miscellaneous	18,741,000	914,000+	17,827,000
Bank premises	1,600,000	1,800,000—	200,000
Total Assets	590,855,000	475,573,000+	115,282,000

The great increase in the stock of gold held since 1890, and the diminution in the stock of silver, is evident from the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Nederlandsche Bank.

Dec. 31	Gold. Florins.	Gold. % of Total.	Silver. Florins.	Silver. % of Total.	Total. Florins.
1915* ...	390,652,000	99·5	1,832,000	·5	392,484,000
1914 ...	216,648,000	98·8	2,676,000	2·2	219,324,000
1913 ...	151,488,000	94·4	9,012,000	5·6	160,500,000
1912 ...	161,772,000	95·3	8,076,000	4·7	169,848,000
1911 ...	140,364,000	92·2	11,844,000	7·8	152,208,000
1910 ...	124,776,000	83·2	25,260,000	16·8	150,036,000
1905 ...	79,260,000	51·8	73,812,000	48·2	153,072,000
1900 ...	58,536,000	46·4	67,488,000	53·6	126,024,000
1890 ...	39,065,000	37·4	65,498,000	62·6	104,563,000

* October 1915.

The net profit for the year to March 1915 reached 10,935,000 florins, equal to nearly 55 per cent. on the paid-up capital. Upon the paid-up capital and reserve the net profit was equal to nearly 43 per cent. Of this profit nearly 40 per cent. was paid over to the Government, and 2,620,000 florins were distributed in dividends at the rate of 13.1 per cent. The profits fluctuate with the average rate of interest. In the last 11 years the dividend has been as low as 7.8 per cent. and as high as 13.6 per cent. The course of the profits since 1905 will be evident from the statement appended:—

Profits of The Nederlandsche Bank.

Year ended Mar.31	Gross Profits. Florins.	Expenses. Florins.	Net Profit. Florins.	Due to the State. Florins.	Dividend. Amount. Florins.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Apprns. Florins.	Carried Frwrd. Florins.
1915	13,252,561	2,317,184	10,935,377	4,119,629	2,620,000	13·1	4,186,934	16,148
1914	8,950,852	1,906,874	7,043,978	4,117,215	2,680,000	13·4	241,855	7,334
1913	8,055,021	1,653,480	6,401,541	3,583,887	2,440,000	12·2	392,811	2,426
1912	6,716,138	1,578,638	5,137,500	2,819,100	2,040,000	10·2	264,950	17,583
1911	7,425,185	1,553,675	5,871,510	3,390,799	2,340,000	11·7	149,661	4,133
1910	5,038,591	1,368,124	3,670,467	1,988,825	1,660,000	8·3	32,879	13,083
1909	5,387,561	1,338,039	4,049,522	2,220,828	1,760,000	8·8	62,280	24,320
1908	8,640,137	1,474,343	7,165,794	4,154,288	2,720,000	13·6	302,363	17,906
1907	7,603,975	1,364,984	6,138,991	3,397,349	2,320,000	11·6	400,967	28,763
1906	4,736,641	1,210,259	3,526,382	1,893,588	1,600,000	8·0	30,000	8,088
1905	4,617,757	1,245,646	3,372,111	1,796,325	1,560,000	7·8	16,624	5,294

The manner in which the profits fluctuate in accordance with the official minimum will be apparent by contrasting the above dividends with the rate of interest current. Of course the year 1914 was exceptionally profitable, and the Bank will doubtless continue to make great profits during the war, in consequence of the exceptional services it is rendering. The average discount rate in each year since 1864 has been as follows:—

Average Rate of Discount of the Nederlandsche Bank.

Year.	Rate. %	Year.	Rate. %	Year.	Rate. %	Year.	Rate. %	Year.	Rate %
1914 ...	4·44	1903	3·40	1892	2·70	1881	3·26	1870	4·30
1913 ...	4·52	1902	3·00	1891	3·12	1880	3·00	1869	3·48
1912 ...	4·00	1901	3·23	1890	2·78	1879	3·25	1868	2·66
1911 ...	3·45	1900	3·61	1889	2·50	1878	3·45	1867	3·05
1910 ...	4·23	1899	3·58	1888	2·50	1877	3·00	1866	5·91
1909 ...	2·88	1898	2·83	1887	2·50	1876	3·00	1865	3·97
1908 ...	3·38	1897	3·13	1886	2·50	1875	3·33	1864	5·34
1907 ...	5·10	1896	3·04	1885	2·70	1874	3·63		
1906 ...	4·11	1895	2·50	1884	3·18	1873	4·83		
1905 ...	2·68	1894	2·59	1883	4·13	1872	3·21		
1904 ...	3·23	1893	3·41	1882	4·52	1871	3·28		

NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ.

(NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY.)

Head Office: Amsterdam.

Capital:—

Authorised F.75,000,000 (£6,250,000)

Subscribed and Paid up, in Shares of F. 1,000, F. 450 and F. 250, fully paid F.50,000,000 (£4,166,667)

THIS Company was established in 1824 by King William the First of the Netherlands for the avowed purpose of promoting commerce, industry, and navigation in the Netherlands and the Netherlands possessions in the East, and subsequently it had to act as agents for the State for the sale of the produce obtained from the population in Java under the system of compulsory cultivation introduced in 1830. The Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij may therefore be said to be remotely a continuation of the Dutch East India Company, which was dissolved in 1798.

When towards the last quarter of the nineteenth century the *culture* system was gradually abandoned and free agriculture and industry had reached a considerable development in the East Indian possessions, the Society shifted the scope of its business and turned to banking in the widest sense. Its connection with the State, however, remained much the same as before, its president, directors, and secretary being appointed by the reigning sovereign personally, who also nominates her own commissary as president of the board of commissaries.

The Society started with a capital of F. 37,000,000. In December 1913 it was resolved to authorise an increase of the capital to F. 75,000,000 (£6,250,000), and to issue forthwith F. 5,000,000 (£416,667), so that the present paid-up capital amounts to F. 50,000,000 (£4,166,667). These measures were rendered necessary in order to cope with the steadily growing business of the Society, especially abroad, the number of its branches having risen from 17 in 1900 to 30 in 1914. Of these 24 are established in the Dutch dominions and 6 outside Netherlands India —viz. Singapore. Penang, Rangoon, Surinam, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, where the Society has in the course of the last 10 years acquired a prominent position among the banks.

The Society owns several sugar estates in Java, which are reckoned amongst the best on that island and yield very fair profits. Having regard to the moderate amount for which they figure in the books they form a very valuable asset (F. 9,372,686= £781,058), backed as it is by a reserve of F. 2,000,000 (£166,667), which has been provided out of profits. This reserve forms part of the £1,194,763 above stated.

Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets of the Company for each year since 1903.

The gross profits for 1914 have amounted to £721,704, as compared with £758,656. After providing for expenses, &c., there is a net balance of £476,949, as compared with £479,770. The dividend has been reduced from 9½ per cent. to 8 per cent., while a sum of £107,278 has been carried to special reserve, and £35,294 to the statutory reserve. The profit record since 1904 is appended:—

Profits of the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (Netherlands Trading Society.

Year ended Dec. 31	Profits. £	Expenses. £	Stocks and Debentures. £	Bad and Doubtful Debts. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914	721,704	232,398	12,357	—	476,949	356,468	8	147,135	2,941
1913	758,656	229,444	49,442	—	479,770	356,250	9½	105,121	9,595
1912	775,496	210,509	68,796	33,614	462,577	356,250	9½	107,236	1,196
1911	786,755	197,170	36,914	86,679	465,992	356,250	9½	107,978	2,105
1910	652,687	187,911	10,575	20,000	434,201	337,500	9	94,326	341
1909	689,245	181,066	—	67,974	440,205	337,500	9	100,758	2,716
1908	699,935	163,792	—	159,952	376,191	300,000	8	76,833	769
1907	705,155	157,072	126,341	78,196	343,546	300,000	8	43,693	1,411
1906	629,118	165,722	51,327	31,900	380,169	300,000	8	79,157	1,558
1905	863,675	191,413	9,934	26,061	636,267	562,500	15	74,819	546
1904	595,533	155,703	15,178	1,428	423,224	412,500	11	10,328	1,598

Liabilities of The Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (Netherlands Trading Society).

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Fund. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Acceptances. Amount. £	Acceptances. % of Total. %	Deposits and Other Accounts. Amount. £	Deposits and Other Accounts. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	4,166,667	1,194,763	5,361,430	26·0	198,612	1·0	14,665,852	71·3	339,409	1·7	20,564,483
1913 ...	3,750,000	949,012	4,699,012	23·1	456,432	2·2	14,743,958	72·5	422,632	2·2	20,321,734
1912 ...	3,750,000	843,882	4,593,882	22·4	533,173	2·6	14,972,014	73·0	422,718	2·0	20,521,787
1911 ...	3,750,000	752,026	4,502,026	23·3	372,681	1·9	14,058,273	72·6	424,666	2·2	19,357,646
1910 ...	3,750,000	669,353	4,419,353	26·4	241,534	1·4	11,683,156	69·8	395,250	2·4	16,739,273
1909 ...	3,750,000	585,479	4,335,479	29·3	413,325	2·8	9,626,096	65·2	399,307	2·7	14,774,207
1908 ...	3,750,000	512,741	4,262,741	31·1	594,583	4·3	8,488,171	62·1	344,269	2·5	13,689,764
1907 ...	3,750,000	448,198	4,198,198	32·6	483,295	3·8	7,856,360	61·0	345,104	2·6	12,882,957
1906 ...	3,750,000	500,000	4,250,000	34·0	338,309	2·7	7,555,708	60·5	345,702	2·8	12,489,809
1905 ...	3,750,000	475,000	4,225,000	34·2	723,627	5·9	6,812,213	55·2	578,627	4·7	12,339,467
1904 ...	3,750,000	416,666	4,166,666	35·6	678,291	5·8	6,428,427	55·0	423,490	3·6	11,696,874
1903 ...	3,750,000	416,666	4,166,666	43·8	675,925	7·2	4,392,272	46·2	266,814	2·8	9,501,677

Assets of The Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (Netherlands Trading Society).

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. £	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. £	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. £	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Loans and Advances. Amount. £	Loans and Advances. % of Total. %	Estates and Shares in Estates. Amt. £	Estates and Shares in Estates. % of Total. %	Bank Premises and Other Assets. Amt. £	Bank Premises and Other Assets. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914 ...	4,229,524	20·5	3,194,915	15·6	3,555,723	17·2	8,527,276	41·6	859,295	4·1	217,750	1·0	20,564,483
1913 ...	2,288,853	11·3	3,096,001	15·2	5,748,218	28·3	8,103,065	39·9	862,512	4·2	223,285	1·1	20,321,734
1912 ...	2,407,592	11·7	3,335,814	16·2	7,103,665	34·6	6,693,051	32·6	781,058	4·0	200,607	·9	20,521,787
1911 ...	1,810,583	9·4	3,699,091	19·1	5,622,393	29·0	7,384,906	38·2	646,988	3·3	193,685	1·0	19,357,646
1910 ...	1,749,342	10·5	3,082,453	18·4	4,561,011	27·2	6,531,922	39·0	605,410	3·6	209,135	1·3	16,739,273
1909 ...	2,562,055	17·4	3,009,586	20·3	3,004,830	20·3	5,411,144	36·7	623,875	4·2	162,717	1·1	14,774,207
1908 ...	2,002,855	14·6	3,018,913	22·0	3,285,871	24·0	4,722,127	34·5	514,250	3·8	145,748	1·1	13,689,764
1907 ...	1,226,475	9·5	3,260,677	25·3	3,143,027	24·4	4,594,748	35·7	516,750	4·0	141,280	1·1	12,882,957
1906 ...	1,252,486	10·0	2,937,510	23·5	1,872,088	15·0	5,758,672	46·1	519,667	4·2	149,386	1·2	12,489,809
1905 ...	1,396,897	11·3	2,979,897	24·1	2,431,690	19·7	4,853,742	39·4	518,208	4·2	159,033	1·3	12,339,467
1904 ...	917,769	7·9	2,447,146	20·9	2,100,600	18·0	5,622,793	48·0	458,268	3·9	150,298	1·3	11,696,874
1903 ...	1,191,721	12·6	2,113,759	22·3	1,130,740	11·9	4,463,348	46·9	457,847	4·8	144,262	1·5	9,501,677

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital is 11.5 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 8.9 per cent.; and to the total working resources of the Society, 2.3 per cent.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Head Office: Amsterdam.
London Office: 2 Great Winchester Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised, 12,500 Shares of £60 each ... £750,000
Paid up, 4,000 ,, ,, ... 240,000
Price of Share, 55%. *Dividend,* 3%. *Yield,* £51 0s.%.

The Netherlands Bank of South Africa was registered as a limited liability Company in Holland in March 1888, but commenced its operations only in the beginning of 1889. It started by opening an office in Pretoria, which afterwards became the head office for South Africa. In 1890 a branch was opened at Johannesburg, and in the following year another one at Potchefstroom. At its registration the nominal capital was £200,000, consisting of £100 shares, of which £50,000 was issued and fully paid up. In 1889 and 1890 a further £50,000 and £60,000 of fully-paid shares were issued. The Bank continued its operations on this footing until 1895, when the nominal capital was increased to £400,000 with £250,000 issued, and since then its business has gradually extended. In Pretoria and Johannesburg new offices were found necessary and the Bank commenced putting up the large buildings on Church Square, Pretoria, and in Fox Street, Johannesburg, which were occupied in 1897 and 1896 respectively, and are still in use. About the same time a further issue of £50,000 capital was made and another branch established at Brugspruit, in the Middelburg coal district, which has since been transferred to Witbank. The next issue of £100,000 capital, by which the whole nominal capital of £400,000 was issued and paid up, was made soon after the war in 1903. The Bank, which in the past had confined its field of operations to the Transvaal, then established a branch at Cape Town. In 1904 branches were opened at the Premier mine and at Witbank, and in 1905 a branch at Bloemfontein. At about that time the Bank also commenced to extend its European business by establishing an agency in London, which was opened in June 1906. The head office has from the beginning been in Amsterdam. In 1910 the authorised capital was reduced to £750,000, in £60 shares, and the paid-up capital was reduced to £240,000 from £400,000.

Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for each year since 1905.

The Bank has followed a conservative policy, and during the years of depression and stress through which South Africa passed a few years ago in order to insure the safety of its deposits it stopped paying dividends from 1906 to 1909. Moreover, as stated, its capital has been cut down from £400,000 to £240,000. For 1889, 6 per cent. was paid; for 1890, 3 per cent.; for 1891 to 1893 inclusive, 4 per cent.; for 1894, 5 per cent.; for 1895, 6 per cent.; for 1896 and 1897, 5½ per cent.; for 1898, 5 per cent.; for 1902 and 1903, 7 per cent. each; for 1905, 3 per cent. For 1910 the rate was 4 per cent., a rate which was maintained for each of the next three years.

During the whole of 1914 the position of affairs in South Africa was uncertain. In the beginning of the year a general strike broke out, and though it was energetically suppressed by the Government, the fear that it might break out again affected the business and the country generally, and the report of the Bank for the year pointed out: "Owing to the unsatisfactory harvests in previous years we had been very cautious in giving credit, and the strike induced us to exercise even more caution in that direction. Through this policy our cash and liquid assets increased considerably, and when the European war suddenly broke out in the beginning of August the cash position of our institution was, therefore, an exceptionally strong one. The consequence of the War and the subsequent occurrences in the Transvaal and Orange Free State further restricted trade in and exports to South Africa, and, consequently, there was very little demand for money, which circumstance further increased our liquid assets, but also considerably reduced our opportunity for earning profits."

During the first eight months of the year the profits were only slightly less than during the corresponding period of the previous year, but for the whole of 1914 the net profit is shown as £9,972, as compared with £13,172. The dividend has accordingly been reduced from 4 per cent. to 3 per cent., while £2,500 has been carried to the reserve. Here-

Liabilities of The Netherlands Bank of South Africa.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. £	Reserve Fund. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. £	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. £	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Bills for Collection. Amount. £	Bills for Collection. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. £	Deposits. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. £	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. £
1914 ...	240,000	[illegible]	268,400	35·0	21,857	2·9	72,519	9·4	395,244	51·3	10,257	1·4	766,327
1913 ...	240,000	27,000	267,000	32·4	24,147	2·9	88,443	10·7	428,[illegible]6	52·2	13,[illegible]6	1·8	822,[illegible]15
1912 ...	240,000	24,000	264,000	32 5	23,109	2·8	61,147	7·6	448,011	55·1	16,162	2·0	813,023
1911 ...	240,000	20,000	260,000	28·6	22,630	2·3	51,017	5·5	562,363	61·6	16,690	1·8	912,700
1910 ...	240,000	17,000	257,000	28·1	21,434	2·3	50,006	5·5	573,942	62·7	13,287	1·4	915,669
1909 ...	240,000	17,000	257,000	27·7	19,194	2·1	49,050	5·3	590,077	63·6	11,962	1·3	927,283
1908 ...	400,000	45,722	445,722	45·5	18,037	1·8	31,926	3·3	477,714	48·7	6,752	·7	980,151
1907 ...	400,000	44,643	444,643	49·8	17,622	2·0	41,811	4·7	377,580	42·3	11,096	1·2	892,752
1906 ...	400,000	44,605	444,605	40·7	22,577	2·1	48,534	4·4	554,003	50·8	21,395	2·0	1,091,114
1905 ...	400,000	44,331	444,331	41·8	26,045	2·4	54,779	5·1	511,150	48·1	27,409	2·6	1,063,714

Assets of The Netherlands Bank of South Africa.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, with Bankers, and Money at Call. Amount. £	Cash in Hand, with Bankers, and Money at Call. % of Total. %	Investments and Securities. Amount. £	Investments and Securities. % of Total. %	Bills Held for Collection as *per contra*. Amount. £	Bills Held for Collection as *per contra*. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. Amount. £	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Property and Bank Premises Account. Amount. £	Property and Bank Premises Account. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. £
1914...	[illegible]29,260	43·0	52,725	7·0	72,519	9·4	260,376	33·9	51,447	6·7	766,327
1913...	146,[illegible]76	17·8	55,480	6·7	88,443	10 8	474,[illegible]62	57·7	57,[illegible]14	7·0	822,[illegible]15
1912...	133,440	16·4	60,321	7·4	61,741	7 6	488,881	60·1	68,630	8·5	813,023
1911...	219,749	24·1	57,257	6·3	51,017	5·5	524,611	57·5	60,066	6·6	912,700
1910...	189,399	20·7	57,114	6·2	50,006	5·4	533,992	58·4	85,158	9·3	915,669
1909...	186,007	20·1	57,590	6·2	49,050	5·3	544,383	58·7	90,253	9·7	927,283
1908...	160,231	16·3	57,536	5·9	31,926	3·2	689,675	70·4	40,783	4·2	980,151
1907...	120,056	13·4	56,073	6·3	41,811	4·7	632,200	70·8	42,612	4·8	892,752
1906...	163,547	15·0	52,351	4·8	48,534	4·4	782,107	71·7	44,575	4·1	1,091,114
1905...	178,550	16·8	53,630	5·0	54,779	5·2	734,968	69·1	41,787	3·9	1,063,714

with we set out the profit record for each year since 1905:—

Profits of the Netherlands Bank of South Africa.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. £	Salaries and other Expenses. £	Net Profit. £	Dividend. Amt. £	Dividend. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1914...	46,989	37,017	9,972	7,200	3	2,500	557
1913...	53,500	40,328	13,172	9,600	4	3,000	285
1912...	55,503	40,030	15,473	9,600	4	5,950	613
1911...	53,984	37,981	16,003	9,600	4	6,400	690
1910...	51,138	37,851	13,287	9,600	4	3,000	687
1909...	49,161	37,200	11,961	—	—	11,961	—
1908...	46,477	39,724	6,753	—	—	6,753	—
1907...	54,070	42,974	11,096	—	—	11,096	—
1906...	62,035	40,640	21,395	—	—	21,395	—
1905...	62,560	35,151	27,409	12,300	3	15,409	—

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid-up capital for 1914 is 4.1 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 3.8 per cent., and to the total working resources of the Bank 1.3 per cent.

NORGES BANK
(BANK OF NORWAY).

Head Office: Christiania.

Capital—

Authorised and Paid up, in Shares of Kr. 10,000, Kr. 1,000, Kr. 500, Kr. 100, and Kr. 50, all fully paid ... ... Kr. 25,000,000

Price of Shares, 182%. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, 5.5%.

THE Danish Rigsbank, established in 1813, acted for Norway as well as for Denmark. In the following year, however, the new Government of Norway resolved to replace the branch of the Danish bank by an independent Norwegian Rigsbank, and to redeem notes of the former by those of the latter. Within a few years, however, it was found advisable to wind up the new Bank and to establish in its place the Bank of Norway. The funds for the capital of the new Bank were provided by a property tax. The capital was 2,000,000 specie dalers, and a further tax was to be levied of 2,000,000 bank dalers to provide for the retirement of part of the excessive issues. In 1818 the remainder of the notes were redeemed by means of a loan, but at a greatly reduced value—in fact, only $\frac{3}{5}$ths of their face value. The new Bank of Norway was granted a monopoly of note issues. At first the law permitted the issue of notes to double the amount of silver held by the Bank; but this led to so much larger circulation than was needed that it was not until 1842 that the notes became really redeemable. In 1892 the present organisation of the Bank was carried out by a law of that year. The fiduciary issue was fixed at 24 million kroner. Of the gold held against the redeemable notes, one-third may be held abroad, that is to say, foreign credits payable on demand in gold may be treated for the purpose of note issue as gold held at home. In addition, a sum not exceeding 3,000,000 kroner may be held in those countries with which Norway has entered into currency conventions, so that, of the balances held to the credit of the Bank of Norway in the Swedish Rigsbank and the Danish National Bank, the sum of 3,000,000 kroner may be accounted as equivalent to cash in hand. Of the profits of the Bank of Norway 6 per cent. is paid as dividend to the shareholders; one-tenth of the balance must be added to the reserve so long as it is less than 5,000,000 kroner. The remainder is divided equally between the State and the shareholders until the latter have received 10 per cent., beyond which the State takes three-quarters of any excess and the shareholders one-fourth. At present there are 20 branches of the Bank. The control of the Bank is entirely in the hands of the Government. The President of the Managing Committee of five is appointed by the Crown; the other members by the Parliament, which also elects the 15 members of the board of directors. Thus the private shareholders have no influflence, as such, on the affairs of the Bank. The managers of the branches are also appointed by Parliament, their term of office being six years. The accounts of the Bank are required to be submitted to a special Committee of Parliament annually, Parliamentary supervision replacing that of a shareholders' meeting. While the Bank of Norway has a monopoly of note issue, all other branches of banking are open to any person who chooses to enter into it. There are, in fact, nearly 100 banks in existence in the kingdom.

The capital of the Bank from 8,110,000 kroner in 1830 has been gradually increased until it now reaches 25,000,000 kroner, while the reserve fund has steadily risen until it is now 13,362,000 kroner. Thus the total capital and reserve amount to 38,362,000 kroner, or £2,130,000. A large portion of the Bank's funds is, however, provided by the notes in circulation. The note circulation was appreciably increased by the outbreak of war, which created a demand upon the Bank for loans and discounts, which at the end of last year amounted to 114 million kroner. The consequence was that, with notes in circulation of 134 million kroner at the end of December, the cash held both at home and abroad was only 69,604,000 kroner, a proportion of 32 per cent. As the War has progressed, however, it has brought renewed prosperity to Norway,

Liabilities of The Norges Bank (Bank of Norway).

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kroner.	Reserve Fund. Amount. Kroner.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities Amount. Kroner.
1914 ...	25,000,000	13,361,873	[illegible]	17·7	134,181,896	62·0	21,140,216	9·8	[illegible]	8·6	[illegible]	1·9	216,371,040
1913 ...	25,000,000	13,609,132	38,609,132	23·1	107,612,073	64·3	12,582,004	7·5	5,028,449	3·0	3,520,445	2·1	167,402,153
1912 ...	19,000,000	9,187,796	28,187,796	19·3	99,276,193	68·0	10,422,442	7·1	5,055,259	3·5	3,102,803	2·1	146,024,493
1911 ...	19,000,000	9,435,958	28,435,958	20·7	92,872,698	67·6	9,348,060	6·8	4,010,641	3·0	2,668,259	1·9	137,335,616
1910 ...	19,000,000	9,635,416	28,635,416	22·4	84,281,882	65·9	7,862,873	6·1	4,855,054	3·8	2,285,644	1·8	127,921,449
1905 ...	15,000,000	7,502,486	22,502,486	22·0	65,664,540	62·5	9,980,919	9·5	4,709,451	4·5	1,564,613	1·5	105,112,009
1900 ...	11,183,004	7,522,858	18,705,862	19·4	65,611,697	68·1	6,120,665	6·3	4,102,539	4·3	1,763,912	1·9	96,304,675
1895 ...	12,509,909	5,416,245	17,926,155	22·1	50,970,374	63·0	9,345,183	1·5	1,423,701	1·8	1,276,773	1·6	80,942,186
1890 ...	12,509,822	4,933,549	17,443,402	23·2	49,670,703	66·0	6,879,364	9·1	461,090	·6	837,516	1·1	75,292,075
1880 ...	12,500,000	4,888,232	17,397,731	25·5	38,713,675	56·7	10,403,131	15·2	706,550	·9	1,133,331	1·7	68,238,421
1870 ...	12,508,956	2,910,808	15,419,764	30·7	28,337,944	56·4	4,874,908	9·7	325,172	·6	1,323,976	2·6	50,334,764
1860 ...	12,274,556	2,428,188	14,702,744	31·7	25,847,040	55·7	4,385,004	9·4	466,916	1·0	1,024,660	2·2	46,426,364
1850 ...	10,920,028	1,613,228	12,533,256	32·6	19,729,068	51·3	5,280,240	13·7	129,880	·3	824,576	2·1	38,497,020
1840 ...	9,996,080	1,282,900	11,258,980	30·3	22,142,752	59·7	2,635,900	7·1	278,024	·8	774,458	2·1	37,091,014
1830 ...	8,110,968	833,480	8,944,448	30·3	19,305,340	65·4	516,556	1·7	178,536	·6	588,732	2·0	29,533,472
1820 ...	8,204,588	—	8,204,588	38·0	13,303,672	61·5	57,900	·2	6,416	—	74,288	·3	21,646,864

Assets of The Norges Bank (Bank of Norway).

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Advances on Securities. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Bills and Advances Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Kroner.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kroner.
1914	69,604,734	32·2	8,962,725	4·1	8,349,268	3·9	113,616,453	52·5	15,837,860	7·3	216,371,040
1913	74,202,363	44·4	8,823,034	5·3	7,085,878	4·6	68,778,839	41·0	7,914,039	4·7	167,402,153
1912	62,156,895	42·6	9,153,853	6·3	6,748,852	4·6	60,054,531	45·1	7,910,362	5·4	146,024,493
1911	60,385,623	43·9	9,428,375	6·9	4,916,517	3·7	57,036,729	41·5	5,568,372	4·0	137,335,616
1910	54,933,324	42·9	9,650,142	7·5	3,580,712	2·6	49,807,074	39·0	10,150,197	8·0	127,921,449
1905	37,779,045	36·0	7,821,235	7·4	4,597,265	4·4	39,464,222	37·6	15,350,242	14·6	105,112,009
1900	36,502,201	37·9	4,034,185	4·2	5,574,888	5·8	46,851,460	48·6	3,341,651	3·5	96,304,675
1895	36,759,465	45·4	4,877,976	6·0	7,116,595	8·8	30,192,429	37·7	1,695,721	2·1	80,942,186
1890	38,895,523	51·7	—	—	8,237,530	10·9	26,748,706	35·5	1,410,296	1·9	75,292,075
1880	33,721,357	49·4	—	—	12,673,084	18·6	20,276,417	29·7	1,561,763	2·3	68,238,421
1870	16,608,440	33·0	—	—	15,940,112	31·7	17,228,704	34·2	562,508	1·1	50,334,764
1860	14,461,112	31·2	—	—	18,955,128	40·8	12,391,420	26·7	618,704	1·3	46,426,364
1850	9,467,316	24·6	—	—	22,986,216	59·7	5,945,708	15·5	97,780	·2	38,497,020
1840	12,161,028	32·8	—	—	20,708,364	56·1	3,911,896	10·5	219,726	·6	37,091,014
1830	10,277,376	34·8	—	—	16,215,372	55·0	2,833,296	9·6	208,828	·6	29,533,472
1820	8,110,536	37·5	—	—	12,932,232	59·8	491,856	2·2	112,240	·5	21,646,864

and although the note circulation has further risen to about 150,000,000 kroner, the loans and discounts have fallen to 74,556,000 kroner, while the gold and foreign balances have jumped to nearly 130,000,000 kroner, equal to 87 per cent. of the note circulation. The effect of the War on the position of the Bank is reflected by the following comparison:—

Norges Bank (Bank of Norway).

	1915 Oct. 7 Kroner	1914 July 31 Kroner	Inc. or Dec. Kroner
Gold	63,990,000	53,280,000	+10,710,000
Balance abroad and foreign bills	65,826,000	30,204,000	+35,622,000
Government securities	14,058,000	8,874,000	+ 5,184,000
Discounts and loans	74,556,000	87,624,000	−13,068,000
Notes in circulation	149,796,000	121,536,000	+28,260,000
Deposits at notice	23,418,000	14,274,000	+ 9,144,000

The steady expansion in the note circulation of the Bank and in the capital are shown by the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

The profits last year amounted to 4,018,000 kroner, equal to 16 per cent. on the paid-up capital. On the paid-up capital and reserve they were equal to 10.5 per cent. Thirty-eight per cent. of the profits were paid to the State, and the balance was distributed in a dividend of 10 per cent. upon the share capital. The profits earned and the dividends distributed since 1904 have been as follows:—

Profits of the Norges Bank (Bank of Norway).

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Kroner.	Expenses. Kroner.	Net Profit. Kroner.	Proportion Due to the State. Kroner.	Div. Amt. Kroner.	Rate. %	Special Appropriations. Kroner.	Carried Fwd. Kr.
1914	6,166,395	2,148,014	4,018,381	1,618,786	2,500,000	10	4,595	—
1913	5,302,062	1,621,469	3,520,445	1,620,445	1,900,000	10	160,148	—
1912	4,430,127	1,211,113	3,219,014	1,202,803	1,900,000	10	124,470	—
1911	3,609,782	947,167	2,662,615	760,000	1,900,000	10	—	8,259
1910	3,318,428	1,034,327	2,284,101	570,000	1,710,000	9	—	5,644
1909	3,093,191	834,424	2,258,767	570,000	1,710,000	9	—	1,543
1908	3,231,955	1,371,756	2,195,199	465,000	1,395,000	9	335,000	22,776
1907	3,216,052	1,668,403	1,547,649	310,000	1,240,000	8	—	22,577
1906	3,080,721	1,515,406	1,565,315	310,000	1,240,000	8	—	22,928
1905	3,115,231	1,554,128	1,561,103	310,000	1,240,000	8	—	14,613
1904	3,039,911	1,494,159	1,545,752	310,000	1,240,000	8	—	8,510

OESTERREICHISCHE CREDIT-ANSTALT FÜR HANDEL UND GEWERBE.

Head Office: Vienna.

Capital—

Subscribed and Paid up, 468,750 Shares of Kr. 320 (no Liability) ... ... Kr. 150,000,000

Price per Share, 582. *Dividend,* 6⅔ %. *Yield,* 3·75 %.

THE Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt für Handel und Gewerbe was constituted by Royal charter granted by his Apostolic Majesty on October 31, 1855, to a group of the most distinguished men of Austria. This group was headed by Prince zu Fürstenberg, and included Prince von Schwarzenberg, Prince of Auersperg, Counts von Chotek and von Heber, and the houses of Rothschild. Throughout its history the Bank has enjoyed the patronage and goodwill of the governing classes of the country. Indeed, it was formed to assist the Government to improve the economic condition of the country and to rectify the disordered condition of the finances. When one contrasts the economic and financial condition of Austria before the War with the state of its affairs in 1856 one realises how great was the change effected in its welfare in a period of 60 years. At that time credit was almost unknown and rates of interest were exorbitant. The currency was seriously depreciated and economic conditions generally were in a state of chaos. The efforts of the men who controlled the policy of the Bank to restore order into the finances of Austria and to strengthen the economic condition of the country were again and again frustrated by the frequent wars into which the country was plunged or was dragged. Within three years of the constitution of the Bank the country was forced into war by France. In 1864 Austria joined Prussia in her war against Denmark, and in 1866 the country was at war with Prussia. In 1873 came the *Krach* in Vienna, which shook Austrian credit institutions to their foundations. Nevertheless, in spite of all obstacles, the country advanced both financially and economically. What the effect of the present War will be has yet to be discovered.

The economic progress of the country was, however, very slow until the currency was reformed in

Liabilities of The Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt für Handel und Gewerbe.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kronen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kronen.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Kronen.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Acceptances, &c. Amount. Kronen.	Acceptances, &c. % of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts. Amount. Kronen.	Deposits and Current Accounts. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Kronen.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kronen.
1914	150,000,000	101,116,044	251,116,044	18·4	48,429,961	3·5	1,055,534,781	77·3	10,850,770	·8	1,365,931,556
1913	150,000,000	93,616,044	243,616,044	20·6	50,413,850	4·3	864,111,637	73·2	23,031,773	1·9	1,181,173,304
1912	150,000,000	92,616,044	242,616,044	20·3	54,505,526	4·6	877,593,920	73·4	20,391,951	1·7	1,195,107,441
1911	150,000,000	91,616,044	241,616,044	20·7	58,685,002	5·0	846,789,479	72·6	20,195,708	1·7	1,167,286,234
1910	120,000,000	65,677,133	185,677,133	18·8	65,174,151	6·6	719,792,446	73·0	16,133,686	1·6	986,777,416
1909	120,000,000	64,677,133	184,677,133	20·6	67,592,585	7·6	626,020,303	70·0	15,613,221	1·8	893,903,243
1908	120,000,000	63,661,525	183,661,525	21·5	72,670,410	8·5	582,702,475	68·3	14,442,080	1·7	853,476,490
1907	120,000,000	62,451,459	182,451,459	21·6	89,203,274	10·6	556,766,618	66·1	13,968,649	1·7	842,390,000
1906	120,000,000	61,177,133	181,177,133	21·8	68,889,440	8·2	568,892,054	68·3	14,051,371	1·7	833,010,998
1905	100,000,000	42,244,101	142,244,101	21·4	61,464,631	9·3	449,288,382	67·6	10,280,063	1·7	663,277,177
1900	100,000,000	40,000,352	140,000,352	27·8	36,529,820	7·2	316,058,225	62·8	11,297,033	2·2	503,885,430
1895	80,000,000	16,500,000	96,500,000	20·5	42,434,521	9·0	319,044,863	67·9	12,008,919	2·6	469,988,303
1890	80,000,000	12,783,688	92,783,688	28·0	17,751,861	5·4	209,804,806	63·4	10,439,951	3·2	330,780,306
1880	80,000,000	2,937,121	82,937,121	29·1	24,317,070	8·6	166,074,557	58·4	11,199,636	3·9	284,528,384
1870	80,000,000	4,076,190	84,076,190	23·8	30,504,154	8·6	225,384,520	63·9	12,957,970	3·7	352,922,834
1860	120,000,000	1,645,026	121,645,026	60·3	21,643,276	10·7	53,364,731	26·5	5,091,788	2·5	201,744,821
1856	64,031,982	—	64,031,982	38·0	6,495,484	3·9	85,557,190	50·8	12,357,778	7·3	168,442,434

Assets of The Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt für Handel und Gewerbe.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Kronen.	Cash in Hand. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Kronen.	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Kronen.	Bills Discounted. % of Total. %	Advances on Securities. Amount. Kronen.	Advances on Securities. % of Total. %	Sundry Debtors. Amount. Kronen.	Sundry Debtors. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Kronen.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kronen.
1914 ...	72,806,720	5·3	74,689,563	5·5	215,046,463	15·8	42,622,500	3·1	946,655,110	69·3	14,111,200	1·0	1,365,931,55
1913 ...	30,847,482	2·6	46,599,916	4·0	202,364,085	17·2	59,366,825	5·0	830,046,896	70·3	11,948,100	1·0	1,181,173,304
1912 ...	27,111,918	2·3	47,675,835	4·0	221,128,485	18·6	58,094,845	4·8	828,716,828	69·3	12,079,500	1·0	1,195,107,441
1911 ...	24,640,104	2·1	39,763,632	3·4	197,847,114	17·0	81,006,958	7·0	811,868,226	69·5	12,160,200	1·0	1,167,286,234
1910 ...	19,274,408	2·0	40,854,370	4·1	174,374,816	17·7	59,570,140	6·0	681,875,070	69·1	10,828,612	1·1	986,777,416
1909 ...	22,354,441	2·5	44,159,774	5·0	188,985,420	21·0	34,440,313	3·9	596,241,034	66·7	7,722,261	·9	893,903,243
1908 ...	16,542,920	2·0	29,528,438	3·4	163,491,644	19·2	43,930,184	5·1	592,522,705	69·4	7,460,599	·9	853,476,490
1907 ...	13,526,863	1·6	27,056,656	3·2	160,214,125	19·0	54,163,911	6·4	581,019,943	69·0	6,408,502	·8	842,390,000
1906 ...	18,092,633	2·1	22,905,176	2·8	137,787,819	16·6	69,841,082	8·4	578,191,895	69·4	6,192,393	·7	833,010,998
1905 ...	12,666,116	1·9	24,166,620	3·6	124,194,068	18·7	51,339,168	7·7	445,312,569	67·1	5,598,636	1·0	663,277,177
1900 ...	17,648,801	3·5	13,693,058	2·0	102,777,517	21·3	45,082,971	8·9	317,563,730	63·0	7,119,353	1·3	503,885,430
1895 ...	22,565,549	4·8	6,981,186	1·5	69,288,149	14·8	34,883,867	7·4	330,447,110	70·3	5,822,442	1·2	469,988,303
1890 ...	8,676,262	2·6	10,501,480	3·2	43,986,983	13·3	40,835,224	12·3	221,263,671	66·9	5,516,586	1·7	330,780,306
1880 ...	14,436,105	5·1	9,071,588	3·2	75,659,649	26·5	36,347,952	12·8	145,562,890	51·2	3,450,200	1·2	284,528,384
1870 ...	10,998,672	3·1	22,391,298	6·3	90,830,456	25·7	30,541,493	8·7	193,999,551	55·0	4,161,364	1·2	352,922,834
1860 ...	6,219,867	3·1	84,005,370	41·7	30,678,731	15·2	23,250,542	11·5	53,299,472	26·4	4,290,839	2·1	201,744,821
1856 ...	6,062,394	3·6	45,113,980	26·8	47,812,910	28·4	41,656,101	24·7	27,721,366	16·5	75,683	—	168,442,434

1892 and the gold standard introduced. Since then the whole situation has been completely changed, and capital has been obtainable from abroad for investment in Austrian industries of all kinds. In the provision of banking facilities which the expansion of industry demanded the Credit-Anstalt has played a leading part. Throughout its history it has participated in the issue of Government loans, and latterly it has followed the German practice of providing the industrial establishments of the country with the capital they have needed for their development. It has been specially active in providing capital for the expansion of the mineral resources of the whole country. It has also taken a keen interest in the export trade, and has provided a great deal of money for progressive manufacturing firms desirous of extending their businesses both at home and abroad. Moreover, its policy was not actuated by any narrow feelings of jealousy. It realised the need of the country for extensive banking facilities, and not only did it open a large number of branches in the chief towns, but it promoted and assisted to promote a number of other banking and credit institutions to operate both in Austria and in foreign countries. In fact, it has contributed in no small degree to the general progress of the country and of its industries of all kinds and descriptions.

Moreover, notwithstanding all the difficulties with which it was faced, it has been a profitable institution. Only twice, in 1865 and in 1876, have the dividends been under 5 per cent., while in recent years they were over 10 per cent., after substantial allocations have been made to reserves. Last year the dividend was reduced to 6⅞ per cent. by the War. In 1856 the paid-up capital was 64,000,000 kronen, and was shortly after increased to 120,000,000 kronen. It was found, however, that this large amount of capital could not be profitably employed, and it was decided to repay 40,000,000 kronen to the shareholders. In 1899 the capital was raised to 100,000,000 kronen, in 1906 to 120,000,000 kronen, and in 1911 to 150,000,000 kronen, at which figure it still remains. The accumulation of reserves was somewhat slow. In 1870 the reserve fund amounted to over 4,000,000 kronen, but in the following decade it had to be written down substantially in consequence of the severe losses which fell upon everyone. By 1895 it had been raised to 16,500,000 kronen, and with the aid of the additional capital issued at a premium it was increased to 40,000,000 kronen in 1899. At the end of last year it was 101,000,000 kronen. Thus the total capital and reserve of the institution at the end of last year was as much as 251,000,000 kronen, or £10,500,000. In consequence of the wars and difficulties of its earlier years the deposits, which at the end of 1856 amounted to 85,000,000 kronen, were reduced in 1860 to 53,000,000 kronen. In the next 10 years they increased to the large total of 225,000,000 kronen, but owing to the events of the seventies, and the low state of the country's credit at that time, they were seriously reduced, and in 1880 were still no more than 166,000,000 kronen. From that time to this they have shown substantial expansion, amounting in December last to 1,055,000,000 kronen, or £44,000,000. In its earlier days the Bank employed most of its money in loans to the Government, and in 1860, out of its total funds of 201,000,000 kronen, its investments amounted to 84,000,000 kronen. With the industrial development of the country it has employed an increasing proportion of its funds in loans to manufacturers and traders and in the discount of bills, and at the end of 1914 its sundry debtors amounted to 946,000,000 kronen, and it had bills in its portfolio amounting to 215,000,000 kronen. Its advances on securities were no more than 43,000,000 kronen.

While the War has not interfered with the rapid growth of the institution it has seriously affected its profits. The deposits last year in consequene of the War increased nearly 200,000,000 kronen, and most of this money was employed in loans to manufacturers and others. Nevertheless, its net profit declined from 19,664,000 kronen to 13,473,000 kronen. The dividend was reduced from 10⅝ per cent. to 6⅞ per cent. The profits and dividends in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Oesterreichische Credit-Anstalt für Handel und Gewerbe.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Kronen.	Expenses,* &c. Kronen.	Net Profit. Kronen.	Dividend.— Amount. Kronen.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Kronen.	Carried Forward. Kronen.
1914	30,914,056	17,440,570	13,473,486	10,312,500	6¾	5,000,000	522,411
1913	36,621,273	16,956,846	19,664,427	15,937,500	10⅜	3,700,000	2,361,426
1912	32,338,271	15,066,907	17,271,464	15,468,750	10⅛	1,600,000	2,334,499
1911	31,396,178	14,078,538	17,317,640	15,468,750	10⅛	1,600,000	2,131,786
1910	25,763,530	12,266,721	13,496,809	12,000,000	10	1,400,000	1,882,895
1909	24,719,905	11,423,251	13,296,654	12,000,000	10	1,000,000	1,786,086
1908	23,966,383	10,885,898	13,080,485	11,250,000	9¾	1,015,608	1,489,433
1907	22,861,227	10,144,920	12,716,307	11,250,000	9¾	1,460,067	674,555
1906	22,365,217	9,353,321	13,011,896	11,250,000	9¾	1,524,325	668,315
1905	17,429,637	7,935,763	9,493,874	8,750,000	8¾	600,000	430,744
1904	16,696,712	7,161,039	9,435,673	8,750,000	8¾	600,000	286,870

* Includes taxes as follows:—1914, Kr. 3,226,711; 1913, Kr. 4,632,017; 1912, Kr. 3,915,621; 1911, Kr. 3,864,881; 1910, Kr. 3,066,617; 1909, Kr. 2,912,662; 1908, Kr. 2,521,489; 1907, Kr. 2,447,038; 1906, Kr. 2,610,794; 1905, Kr. 2,052,212; 1904, Kr. 1,957,311.

The great expansion in the deposits of the institution, both last year and since the Bank was started, is shown in the statement of assets and liabilities herewith.

OESTERREICHISCHE LANDERBANK.

Head Office: Vienna.
London Office: 9 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised, 400,000 Shares of Kr. 400 ... Kr. 160,000,000
Issued, 325,000 Shares of Kr. 400, fully paid Kr. 130,000,000
Price per Share, 437. *Dividend*, Nil. *Yield*, Nil.

The Kais. Kön. Privilegirte Osterreichische Länderbank was established in 1880 as a general banking business, with power to participate in the founding, financing, and managing of other banking concerns or industrial, agricultural, commercial, and municipal undertakings of any kind. The original authorised capital was 100,000,000 francs, equal to Fl. 40,000,000 gold, in 400,000 shares of Frs. 250 each, of which Frs. 125 were paid up, and this was changed in 1886 into 200,000 shares of Frs. 250, fully paid. In 1905 the capital was raised to Kr. 100,000,000 by the issue of 50,000 new shares of Kr. 400, and again in 1910 to Kr. 130,000,000 by the issue of 75,000 new shares of Kr. 400; there being now in existence 325,000 shares of Kr. 400. There is, moreover, power to increase the capital to a total of Kr. 160,000,000 by the issue of another 75,000 shares. The Bank has branches in Paris, Prague, London, Graz, Reichenberg, Pilsen, and Teplitz, besides 30 sub-branches.

A leading part was taken by the institution in the creation of the Banque de Crédit Serbe, the Banque de Crédit Roumain, the Banque Populaire de Galicie pour L'Agriculture et le Commerce, and holds the greater part of the shares of these institutions. The Bank is also largely interested in the Ungarische Escompte und Wechslerbank, Budapest, and the Deutsche Effecten und Wechsler Bank, Frankfort-on-Main.

The institution, starting with 36,000,000 kronen of current accounts and deposits in 1880, in December last had 600,000,000 kronen, its progress since 1900 having been specially rapid. Its reserve fund has been strengthened mainly out of profits, and starting with 14,500,000 kronen in 1880, it has since been raised to 26,000,000 kronen. The total capital and reserve at the close of 1914 was 156,000,000 kronen, or £6,500,000, representing a proportion of 18.8 per cent. to its total liabilities.

The funds of the Bank are employed mainly in "Current accounts and in other liabilities." At the end of last year the sum employed in this manner was 475,000,000 kronen. Its bills receivable were 167,000,000, advances stood at 30,000,000 kronen, syndicate participations amounted to 48,000,000 kronen, while investments were nearly 74,000,000 kronen. The funds placed with the institution and the manner in which they were invested are shown by the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

The War, by cutting off the foreign trade of Austria, has appreciably affected the Bank. On the one hand, it caused its deposits and current accounts largely to increase, and, on the other, reduced its bills payable by nearly one-half, the bills payable at the end of last year having been only 56,000,000 crowns, against 109,000,000 crowns a year previously. The Bank has found it desirable to increase its cash balance, though the proportion of cash to the total liabilities is still no more than 4 per cent. The gross profit of the institution was last year greatly reduced, while its expenses increased. Hence the net profit fell from 13,209,000 crowns to 8,023,000 crows, and the directors decided to pay no dividend whatever, whereas in the previous year a distribution of 7½ per cent. was made. The sum allocated to reserve, &c., was 8,700,000 crowns. The serious drop in the profits last year is shown by the following statement:—

Profits of the Oesterreichische Landerbank.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Crowns.	Expenses.* Crowns.	Net Profit. Crowns.	Dividend. Amount. Crowns.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Crowns.	Carried Forward. Crowns.
1914	20,891,356	12,868,442	8,022,914	—	nil	8,700,000	935,151
1913	24,984,916	11,775,546	13,209,370	9,750,000	7½	3,051,087	1,612,236
1912	24,138,800	11,353,979	12,784,821	9,750,000	7½	2,938,179	2,203,949
1911	23,023,132	10,466,138	12,556,994	9,750,000	7½	2,702,272	1,107,307
1910	20,537,146	8,911,784	11,625,362	9,100,000	7	2,256,800	1,002,585
1909	15,949,847	7,968,531	7,981,316	6,500,000	6½	1,360,657	734,023
1908	15,415,191	7,862,547	7,552,644	6,000,000	6	1,428,164	613,364
1907	16,552,231	6,838,116	9,714,115	4,000,000	4	5,881,090	488,884
1906	14,743,465	6,436,382	8,307,083	6,500,000	6½	1,805,987	655,859
1905	13,527,866	5,553,874	7,973,992	6,000,000	6	1,945,951	654,763
1904	10,349,533	4,929,083	5,420,450	4,800,000	6	660,678	626,722

* Includes taxes as follows, expressed in crowns:—1914, 2,970,880; 1913, 2,933,170; 1912, 2,715,547; 1911, 2,305,486; 1910, 1,760,604; 1909, 1,527,165; 1908, 1,662,442; 1907, 1,562,570; 1906, 1,485,175; 1905, 1,169,030; 1904, 1,066,836.

As the manner in which enemy banks in London are permitted to carry on banking business, subject to certain specified limitations and conditions, is of interest to bankers in all parts of the world, we give herewith the text of the amended permission under which the London branch of the Länderbank is worked:—

"In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by the Aliens Restriction (No. 2) Order in Council, 1914, made on the 10th day of August under the Aliens Restriction Act, 1914, I hereby permit the Oesterreichische Laenderbank and the Anglo-Austrian Bank to carry on banking business in the United Kingdom, subject to the following limitations, conditions, supervisions, and requirement as to the deposit of money and securities:—

"1. The permission shall extend only to the completion of the transactions of a banking character entered into before the 13th day of August, 1914, so far as those transactions would, in ordinary course, have been carried out through or with the London establishments. The permission does not extend to any operations for the purposes of making available assets which would ordinarily be collected by, or of discharging liabilities which would ordinarily be discharged by, establishments of the banks other than the London establishments. No new transaction of any kind, save such as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of the completion of the first-mentioned transactions, shall be entered into by or on behalf of the London establishments of the banks.

"2. The business to be transacted under this permission shall be limited to such operations as may be necessary for making the realisable assets of the banks available for meeting their liabilities, and for discharging these liabilities as far as may be practicable.

"3. All transactions carried out under this permission shall be subject to the supervision and control of a person to be appointed for the purpose by the Treasury, who shall have absolute discretion—

"(*a*) To refuse to permit any payment that may appear to him to be contrary to the interests of the nation.

Liabilities of The Oesterreichische Länderbank.

Dec. 31	Capita Part up. Amount. Crowns.*	Reserve Funds. Amount. Crowns.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Deposits at Short Notice. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts and Other Liabilities. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Pension Fund. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Crowns.
1914...	130,000,000	26,096,440	156,096,440	18·8	56,650,612	6·8	133,128,631	16·0	466,701,912	56·3	7,772,366	·9	9,635,151	1·2	830,025,172
1913...	130,000,000	24,089,054	154,089,054	18·8	109,495,565	13·3	126,603,368	15·4	409,563,861	49·9	7,250,434	·9	14,413,323	1·7	821,415,405
1912...	130,000,000	26,153,282	156,153,282	19·9	108,157,089	13·8	106,295,670	13·6	393,603,816	50·1	6,865,812	·9	13,687,811	1·7	784,763,480
1911...	130,000,000	24,223,915	154,223,915	20·1	112,849,238	14·7	97,785,976	12·7	383,879,129	49·9	6,294,750	·8	13,556,014	1·8	768,589,002
1910...	130,000,000	22,612,764	152,612,764	21·6	98,833,698	13·9	70,745,378	10·0	367,431,810	51·9	5,720,318	·8	12,397,307	1·8	707,742,275
1909...	100,000,000	17,714,018	117,714,018	19·8	81,587,981	13·7	60,662,204	10·2	321,487,156	54·0	5,198,853	·9	8,514,187	1·4	595,164,379
1908...	100,000,000	16,682,134	116,682,134	20·9	74,745,494	13·4	47,758,469	8·5	307,393,617	55·0	4,695,913	·8	7,769,484	1·4	559,045,111
1907...	100,000,000	16,398,766	116,398,766	20·4	80,071,239	14·0	42,944,729	7·5	323,957,597	56·6	4,414,234	·7	4,588,884	·8	572,375,449
1906...	100,000,000	17,700,378	117,700,378	19·9	97,499,539	16·5	35,234,187	6·0	326,783,957	55·4	4,165,753	·7	8,968,633	1·5	590,352,447
1905...	100,000,000	17,310,129	117,310,129	21·9	77,155,270	14·4	30,051,536	5·6	300,854,820	56·1	3,883,854	·7	7,036,774	1·3	536,290,383
1900...	80,000,000	18,580,965	98,580,965	29·3	59,312,761	17·8	24,330,064	7·2	144,531,870	42·9	2,391,145	·8	7,015,539	2·1	336,771,344
1895...	80,000,000	21,494,336	101,494,336	34·9	65,860,234	22·6	12,244,747	4·2	102,753,518	35·3	1,442,503	·5	7,271,029	2·5	291,066,197
1890...	80,000,000	15,783,847	95,783,847	41·7	32,078,123	13·9	5,877,917	2·5	87,210,084	38·0	683,399	·3	7,940,960	3·6	229,574,330
1880...	93,650,000	14,547,500	108,197,500	66·4	13,864,563	8·5	—	—	36,519,153	22·4	—	—	4,430,088	2·7	163,011,304

Assets of The Oesterreichische Länderbank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Crowns.*	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Syndicates. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts and Sundry Debtors. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Crowns.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Crowns.
1914 ...	33,142,913	4·0	73,701,454	8·9	48,009,015	5·8	167,021,641	20·1	30,341,436	3·6	474,505,079	57·2	3,300,634	·4	830,025,172
1913 ...	20,575,740	2·5	54,664,812	6·8	43,814,269	5·3	173,323,073	21·1	74,710,774	9·1	450,934,793	54·8	3,391,944	·4	821,415,405
1912 ...	19,789,216	2·5	49,075,000	6·3	49,412,450	6·3	160,024,824	20·4	72,576,621	9·2	430,463,977	54·9	3,421,393	·4	784,763,480
1911 ...	19,571,056	2·6	46,857,914	6·1	43,715,547	5·6	153,311,959	20·0	77,847,681	10·2	424,037,690	55·1	3,247,155	·4	768,589,002
1910 ...	18,096,931	2·5	42,475,262	6·0	37,586,525	5·3	139,671,545	19·7	82,473,007	11·7	384,133,548	54·3	3,305,457	·5	707,742,275
1909 ...	15,410,906	2·6	36,757,154	6·2	26,724,560	4·5	121,683,561	20·4	64,152,944	10·8	329,097,108	55·3	1,338,166	·2	595,164,379
1908 ...	17,956,242	3·2	28,657,058	5·1	30,312,255	5·4	107,959,148	19·3	56,877,168	10·2	315,829,800	56·5	1,453,440	·3	559,045,111
1907 ...	18,868,066	3·3	26,016,094	4·5	20,645,484	3·6	105,847,029	18·5	69,590,063	12·2	329,858,307	57·6	1,550,406	·3	572,375,449
1906 ...	14,776,419	2·5	25,894,843	4·4	19,022,814	3·2	90,219,349	15·3	97,184,774	16·5	341,640,342	57·8	1,613,906	·3	590,352,447
1905 ...	12,646,974	2·4	23,789,223	4·4	17,801,153	3·3	89,959,607	16·8	82,510,042	15·4	307,895,252	57·4	1,688,132		536,290,383
1900 ...	12,917,407	3·9	27,358,390	8·1	29,602,255	8·8	47,373,338	14·1	12,621,848	3·7	195,784,694	58·1	11,113,412	3·3	336,771,344
1895 ...	10,653,841	3·7	32,316,966	11·1	18,369,830	6·3	37,972,844	13·0	12,995,058	4·5	167,724,456	57·6	11,033,202	3·8	291,066,197
1890 ...	6,337,189	2·8	16,388,594	7·1	25,123,107	11·0	37,064,233	16·1	15,102,773	6·6	118,819,496	51·8	10,739,028	4·6	229,574,330
1880 ...	2,401,997	1·4	20,945,926	12·8	22,374,451	13·7	17,774,305	11·0	40,923,757	25·1	58,439,556	36·0	151,312	—	163,011,304

* Crown=Krone=10*d.* 24 to £1.

'(*b*) To permit any such new transactions as are in his opinion necessary or desirable for the purpose of the completion of the transactions first mentioned in paragraph 1.

"(*c*) To permit or to refuse to permit the completion of any particular transaction whatsoever.

"4. Any assets of the banks which may remain undistributed after their liabilities have, so far as possible in the circumstances, been discharged shall be deposited with the Bank of England to the order of the Treasury. The permission granted by me on the 13th day of August, 1914, is hereby revoked.

(Signed) "R. McKENNA,
"One of His Majesty's Principal
"Secretaries of State."

OESTERREICHISCH UNGARISCHEN BANK.

(AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN BANK.)

Head Office: Vienna.

Capital—
Authorised and Subscribed, 150,000 Shares of Kr. 1,400, fully paid ... ... Kr. 210,000,000
Price of Shares, 2,000%.

ON the declaration of war the Austro-Hungarian Bank suspended the publication of its weekly statements and, therefore, no information is available as to its operations since July 1914. There is a report that the gold held by the Bank has been transferred to Berlin to enable the note circulation of Germany to be largely increased. Whether or not this report is well founded cannot be decided in the absence of information. We would point out, however, that the great Austrian banks which normally have no cash in their possession have substantially increased their cash reserves since the War began, and appear to be relying to a much greater extent than usual on their cash resources. This would seem to indicate greater difficulty in obtaining cash from the State Bank, and the need of these banks, therefore, to be more self-contained than usual. Normally the joint-stock banks do not need to hold cash as they are able to obtain whatever supplies they require at a moment's notice. Probably what has happened is that the note circulation of the State Bank has been so greatly increased that it is considered to be undesirable to publish the amount either of the notes in circulation or of the gold held against them. We set out below a comparison of the last statement issued by the Bank with that of a year previously, from which it will be seen that during the twelve months the Bank somewhat strengthened its position:—

	1914. July 23. £	1914. July 23. Kronen.	1913. July 23. £	1913. July 23. Kronen.
Gold	51,578,000	1,237,879,000	50,579,000	1,213,896,000
Silver	12,141,000	291,368,000	10,794,000	259,056,000
Total	63,719,000	1,529,247,000	61,373,000	1,472,952,000
Loans	7,772,000	186,526,000	9,305,000	223,320,000
Circulation	88,740,000	2,129,759,000	90,527,000	2,172,648,000
Above (−) or below (+) legal maximum ...	+2,479,000	+59,490,000	−1,655,000	−39,720,000
Other securities ...	31,993,000	767,831,000	32,720,000	785,280,000

After 1866 it became indispensable that Austria and Hungary should work amicably together, and for that purpose it became necessary that great reforms should be introduced. Accordingly it was arranged that the Monarchy should call in all the irredeemable paper money, and for that purpose should establish a common bank, which should be charged with the task of substituting bank-notes for Government notes, of accumulating a specie reserve, and of regulating, as far as was possible, the foreign exchanges. Hence it was thought requisite to wind up the National Bank, to put in its place the Austro-Hungarian Bank, and, at the same time, to give the whole Monarchy one single currency. The old monetary system was, therefore, abolished, and the unit was declared to be the crown. For convenience sake the crown is usually said to be worth 10*d.* in English money, and for most practical purposes that is near enough to the reality. The charter granted to the Bank was for 10 years, and, practically speaking, it has been renewed again and again every 10 years with considerable changes. However, it would be tedious and not instructive for the general reader to enter into minute details of these changes. It will be sufficient, therefore, if we give the existing constitution. The capital amounts to 210 million crowns, or 8¾ millions sterling. It is provided by the public. And the profits earned are distributed, first, in a divi-

Liabilities of The Oesterreichisch-Ungarischen Bank (or Austro-Hungarian Bank).

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kronen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kronen.	Total Capital and Reserve.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Notes in Circulation.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Mortgage Bonds in Circulation.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Current and Other Accounts.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kronen.
1913 ...	210,000,000	45,795,964	255,795,964	7·7	2,493,641,100	75·3	291,349,000	8·8	257,508,358	7·8	15,166,474	·4	3,313,460,896
1912 ...	210,000,000	41,660,117	251,660,117	6·7	2,815,797,400	75·4	292,964,000	7·9	359,938,300	9·6	13,808,150	·4	3,734,167,967
1911 ...	210,000,000	38,545,321	248,545,321	7·2	2,540,960,650	73·2	290,869,400	8·4	378,217,901	10·9	11,473,632	·3	3,470,066,904
1910 ...	210,000,000	36,120,188	246,120,188	7·6	2,375,938,120	73·7	293,054,600	9·1	300,705,732	9·3	9,346,211	·3	3,225,164,851
1909 ...	210,000,000	32,506,654	242,506,654	8·0	2,188,040,520	72·4	293,593,800	9·7	290,479,139	9·6	8,018,134	·3	3,022,638,247
1908 ...	210,000,000	28,654,876	238,654,876	8·2	2,112,907,050	73·0	293,988,000	10·2	238,344,640	8·3	9,490,510	·3	2,893,385,076
1907 ...	210,000,000	27,329,335	237,329,335	8·3	2,028,024,110	71·3	292,671,800	10·3	276,047,290	9·7	11,919,640	·4	2,845,992,175
1906 ...	210,000,000	25,033,757	235,033,757	8·2	1,982,037,740	69·2	293,644,400	10·2	345,653,449	12·1	9,365,482	·3	2,865,734,828
1905 ...	210,000,000	23,413,159	233,413,159	8·8	1,846,991,600	69·9	273,655,400	10·4	282,587,759	10·7	6,344,022	·2	2,642,991,940
1900 ...	210,000,000	21,854,147	231,854,147	9·9	1,584,934,140	67·4	294,654,800	12·5	233,341,363	9·9	6,102,893	·3	2,350,887,343
1895 ...	180,000,000	75,472,416	255,472,416	14·0	1,239,708,280	67·7	257,082,600	14·0	69,874,392	3·8	8,786,904	·5	1,830,924,592
1890 ...	180,000,000	47,031,752	227,031,752	16·5	891,668,420	64·9	212,144,200	15·4	34,260,600	2·5	9,693,777	·7	1,374,798,749
1878 ...	180,000,000	41,971,857	221,971,857	21·5	577,598,000	55·8	210,528,940	20·3	17,611,967	1·7	6,900,000	·7	1,034,610,764

Assets of The Oesterreichisch-Ungarischen Bank (or Austro-Hungarian Bank).

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Investments.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted.*— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Advances. Debt of the State. Amount. Kronen.	Mortgages. Amount. Kronen.	Other Advances. Amount. Kronen.	Total. Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Sundry Assets.— Amount. Kronen.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c.— Amount. Kronen.	% o Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kronen.
1913	1,502,517,552	45·4	20,650,665	·6	985,998,293	29·8	60,000,000	299,885,310	310,618,800	670,504,110	20·2	86,951,887	2·6	46,838,409	1·4	3,313,460,896
1912	1,447,575,383	38·8	25,762,317	·7	1,401,107,022	37·5	60,000,000	299,454,868	355,014,100	714,468,968	19·1	102,115,754	2·8	43,138,523	1·1	3,734,167,967
1911	1,575,701,038	45·4	21,132,606	·6	1,201,833,457	34·7	60,000,000	297,805,769	186,760,200	544,565,969	15·7	90,595,402	2·6	36,238,432	1·0	3,470,066,904
1910	1,603,168,020	49·9	20,613,290	·6	949,087,778	29·4	60,000,000	298,346,768	148,908,100	507,254,868	15·7	105,023,379	3·3	34,017,516	1·1	3,225,164,851
1909	1,653,018,596	54·7	18,556,642	·6	747,784,395	24·7	60,000,000	299,983,795	89,863,200	449,846,995	14·9	121,651,430	4·0	31,780,189	1·1	3,022,638,247
1908	1,475,785,940	51·0	22,059,964	·8	745,532,718	25·8	60,000,000	298,898,724	99,165,000	458,063,724	15·8	159,308,112	5·5	32,634,618	1·1	2,893,385,076
1907	1,380,878,621	48·5	29,660,482	1·0	808,068,094	28·4	60,000,000	299,993,895	125,340,400	485,334,395	17·1	110,665,755	3·9	31,384,928	1·1	2,845,992,175
1906	1,394,322,429	48·7	35,058,637	1·2	830,943,620	29·9	60,000,000	299,955,434	98,988,500	458,943,934	16·0	116,292,415	4·1	30,173,793	1·0	2,865,734,828
1905	1,365,076,002	57·6	26,797,173	1·0	701,273,430	26·5	60,000,000	283,085,539	68,242,960	411,328,499	15·6	110,451,833	4·2	28,065,003	1·1	2,642,991,940
1900	1,454,333,960	61·9	18,893,736	·8	335,055,148	14·3	60,000,000	299,830,049	66,346,860	426,176,909	18·1	96,876,882	4·1	19,550,708	·8	2,350,887,343
1895	741,388,196	40·5	65,507,902	3·6	452,603,457	24·7	152,644,919	268,580,468	92,549,020	513,774,407	28·0	47,877,788	2·6	9,772,842	·6	1,830,924,592
1890	439,047,011	32·0	53,827,276	3·9	383,171,535	27·8	156,340,123	228,545,067	82,795,180	467,680,370	34·0	25,272,557	1·8	5,800,000	·4	1,374,798,749
1878	307,720,744	29·7	39,875,255	3·8	241,462,691	23·4	159,497,838	212,020,984	64,037,400	435,556,222	42·1	4,205,029	·4	5,790,823	·6	1,034,610,764

* Including bills on foreign places payable in gold, 1900 to 1913, K.60,000,000.

Profits of the Oesterreichisch-Ungarischen Bank (or Austro-Hungarian Bank).

Year to Dec. 31	Aver. Rate of Discount %	Gross Profit. Kr.	Expenses. Kr.	Tax to Government on Excess Note Issue. Kr.	Net Profit. Kr.	Proportion due to States. Kr.	Dividend.— Amount. Kr.	Rate %	Special Allocations. Kr.	Carried Forward. Kr.
1913 ...	5·95	79,554,763	22,269,372	11,006,648	46,278,743	22,374,970	19,365,000	9·221	4,545,449	1,474
1912 ...	5·16	65,626,400	19,201,562	6,345,210	40,079,628	18,283,554	18,000,000	8·571	3,801,556	8,150
1911 ...	4·40	49,024,408	17,179,144	2,320,622	29,524,642	11,317,264	15,660,000	7·457	2,534,957	13,632
1910 ...	4·19	38,566,486	14,629,341	2,793,701	21,143,444	6,076,154	13,545,000	6·450	1,529,313	1,211
1909 ...	4·00	31,388,016	14,019,752	314,602	17,053,691	3,807,624	12,210,000	5·814	1,038,443	8,134
1908 ...	4·25	36,762,879	14,104,903	1,027,739	21,630,237	6,361,739	13,680,000	6·514	1,587,628	10,510
1907 ...	4·05	46,295,426	14,483,428	1,886,461	29,925,537	11,228,315	16,110,000	7·671	2,583,064	9,640
1906 ...	4·33	34,302,746	12,643,042	470,634	21,189,070	6,102,921	13,560,000	6·457	1,534,688	5,483
1905 ...	3·70	24,553,349	11,253,499	33,241	13,266,609	2,141,308	10,530,000	5·014	583,993	14,022
1904 ...	3·50	23,231,059	10,743,875	—	12,487,184	1,798,361	10,200,000	4·857	490,462	2,714
1903 ...	—	20,177,448	10,356,078	—	9,821,370	625,403	9,030,000	4·300	170,563	4 354

dend equal to 4 per cent. to the shareholders. If there is a surplus 10 per cent. is added to the reserve and 2 per cent. allocated to the pension fund. If there is still a surplus another 2 per cent. dividend is paid to the shareholders and an equal amount paid to the States; if a surplus remains another 1 per cent. dividend is paid to the shareholders and twice the amount accrues to the States. If there is still a surplus after 7 per cent. dividend is paid to the shareholders one-fourth of the balance accrues to the shareholders and three-fourths to the States. The profits of 1913 were 46,279,000 kronen, and out of this sum 22,374,000 kronen, or rather less than one-half, accrued to the States and under 24,000,000 kronen accrued to the Bank. Out of the latter sum a dividend of 9.221 per cent. was paid, calling for 19,365,000 kronen, and there were special allocations amounting to 4,545,000 kronen as provided by the charter. As Austria contributed to the redemption of the Government paper money 70 per cent. and Hungary only 30 per cent. it was further agreed that the distributions from the Bank's profits to the States should be in the proportion of 70 per cent. to Austria and 30 per cent. to Hungary. Nevertheless, Hungary insisted that she should have an equal voice with Austria in the management of the Bank. Therefore, the supreme authority is vested in a Governor appointed by the Emperor; two Deputy-Governors, one appointed by the Austrian Finance Minister, the other by the Hungarian Finance Minister; and two assistants to the Deputy-Governors, appointed in the same way. Furthermore, there is a council of twelve, selected by the two Governments. Six of these must be Austrian citizens, and the remaining six Hungarian. Lastly, it is provided that the general meetings of shareholders are to be held, if possible, alternately, but, at all events, as nearly alternately as possible, in Vienna and in Buda-Pesth. In addition to all this, two Government Commissaries are empowered to take part in the deliberations of the Executive Committees and of the Standing Committees. Each one of them may protest against any resolution which to him seems injurious to the half of the Monarchy he represents, and it must be dropped in consequence. The Commissaries, moreover, are permitted to acquaint themselves with the details of the management of the Bank. Practically, it will be seen that the Governments have absolute control over the management of the Bank.

As part of the financial reform thus entered upon it was determined to adopt the single gold standard. The Bank was commissioned, in the first place, to accumulate gold, and for that purpose the Government handed over to it the gold it held. It had borrowed largely to redeem the Government's irredeemable paper, and it enabled the Bank to replace that paper with its own notes by giving to it a considerable portion of the moneys so borrowed. The Bank is required to buy gold, just like the Bank of England is, at specified rates, and to deliver gold to all requiring it. And it is further required to pay special attention to the foreign exchanges. In fact, the task undertaken in some respects resembles the change of standard in India in the nineties. Austria was a debtor country. It was very improbable, therefore, that she would be able to maintain a gold currency and a gold standard except extraordinary precautions were taken. One of these precautions was to authorise the Bank to reckon amongst its gold foreign gold bills. Holding large amounts of such bills, watching the course of the exchanges, and incessantly dealing in them, the Bank has acquired

exceptional skill and experience, and it really has succeeded to a surprising degree in maintaining the gold standard. At the same time, it is to be borne in mind that the Bank is to all intents and purposes a Government institution. For the time being its shareholders are private citizens. But there is an agreement between the two Governments and the Bank that at the end of any 10 years the private citizens may be bought out. In any case, the whole management is vested exclusively in Government officials. Therefore, it is well understood that to withdraw gold from the Bank when it is not desirable that it should be withdrawn is to incur the displeasure both of the Bank and of the Government. It will, then, be clearly understood that one of the purposes for which the Austro-Hungarian Bank was created was to watch over and protect the exchanges. The other purpose, of course, was to perform the offices of a great central bank. To attain the end aimed at the Bank is given the exclusive right of note issue. It is bound to hold up to 200 million crowns in gold, gold bills being reckoned, without paying any duty to the Government. But if it issues beyond that sum without possessing the metal it has to pay, as the German Reichsbank has also to do, a duty to the Government at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. In this way it was hoped that the Bank would not flood the country with unnecessary paper. This provision is probably suspended at the present time.

The note circulation of the Bank, which in 1878 was only 578,000,000 kronen, and in 1890 amounted to no more than 891,000,000 kronen, rose to 1,585,000,000 kronen in 1900 and to 2,494,000,000 kronen at the end of 1913. This increase in the notes was attended by an expansion in the cash held from 307,000,000 kronen to 1,502,000,000 kronen. Whereas in 1878 the note circulation exceeded the cash held by 270,000,000 kronen, at the end of 1913 the excess was nearly 1,000,000,000 kronen, after in the previous year having been much as 1,368,000,000 kronen. The great excess of notes over the cash held at the end of 1912 caused the Bank to pay a large sum to the Government in tax on its excess issue. But the retirement of notes and the increase of cash that afterwards took place caused the excess note issue almost to disappear. By means of this great note circulation the Bank obtained cash resources for banking purposes amounting to £57,000,000 at the end of 1912, and to £41,000,000 at the end of 1913. In July last the difference between the cash and the note circulation was about £25,000,000. The capital and reserve of the Bank have shown no great increase for many years. In 1878 they amounted to 222,000,000 kronen, and at the present time are still only 256,000,000 kronen. At the end of 1913 the Bank had issued 291,000,000 kronen of Mortgage bonds, and its total resources of all kinds thus reached 3,313,000,000 kronen. Of this money, it retained 45 per cent. in cash, and it placed nearly 30 per cent. in bills and 20 per cent. in advances. Investments were very small, amounting to only 20,000,000 kronen. The sources from which the Bank derives its funds, and the manner in which they are employed, are shown by the statements of assets and liabilities herewith.

In 1890, prior to the introduction of the gold standard in 1892, its stock of gold was only 108,000,000 kronen. By 1900 the amount had been increased to 920,000,000 kronen, and in July 1914 the gold held was 1,240,000,000 kronen. The stock of silver in 1890 was as much as 330,000,000 kronen, and in July last the amount was 291,000,000 kronen. The amount of gold accumulated by the Bank since the reform of the currency in 1892 is shown by the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Oesterreichisch-Ungarischen Bank (Austro-Hungarian Bank).

Dec. 31	Gold. Kronen.	% of Total.	Silver. Kronen.	% of Total.	Total.
1914* ...	1,237,879,000	81·0	291,368,000	19·0	1,529,247,000
1913 ...	1,239,995,000	82·7	258,820,000	17·3	1,498,815,000
1912 ...	1,209,836,000	83·6	237,738,000	16·4	1,447,574,000
1911 ...	1,291,865,000	82·0	283,836,000	18·0	1,575,701,000
1910 ...	1,320,550,000	82·1	288,618,000	17·9	1,609,168,000
1909 ...	1,354,027,000	81·9	298,991,000	18·1	1,653,018,000
1908 ...	1,182,372,000	80·1	293,414,000	19·9	1,475,786,000
1907 ...	1,099,393,000	79·6	281,485,000	20·4	1,380,878,000
1906 ...	1,112,263,000	79·8	282,056,000	20·2	1,394,319,000
1905 ...	1,074,125,000	78·7	290,944,000	21·3	1,365,069,000
1900 ...	919,606,000	79·4	238,501,000	20·6	1,158,107,000
1895 ...	488,183,000	65·8	253,205,000	34·2	741,388,000
1890 ...	108,095,000	24·6	330,952,000	75·4	439,047,000
1878 ...	134,749,000	43·8	172,972,000	56·2	307,721,000

* July 25; Last return published.

OLD COLONY TRUST COMPANY.

Office: Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Capital—
Authorised and Subscribed 60,000 Shares of $100, fully paid $6,000,000
Price of Shares, 259%. *Dividend*, 10%. *Yield*, 3.875%.

THE Old Colony Trust Company of Boston commenced business in June 1890 with a capital of $1,000,000. This was increased in 1903 to $1,500,000 and in 1910 to $2,500,000. In 1911 it was further increased to $5,000,000 by the declaration of a dividend of 100 per cent. This extra dividend, it was announced, was not payable out of the accumulated earnings, but out of the sums received by the Company as premiums from the previous issues of stock. In 1912 the capital was raised to $6,000,000, at which figure it now stands. The reserve, after increasing to $10,000,000 in 1910 and being reduced to $7,500,000 by transfer to capital, was increased to $8,000,000, and in the current year has been reduced to $5,000,000. Including undivided profits the capital and reserves amount to $12,414,000, equal to 10.7 per cent. of the total liabilities. The deposits between 1900 and 1911 grew from $19,000,000 to over $90,000,000, partly in consequence of the absorption in 1909 of the City Trust Company. The monetary pressure of the last two years tended to reduce the deposits, and in 1913 they were $75,550,000; they have now risen to $103,057,000. Most of its funds are employed in loans and in the discount of bills.

Prior to the stock distribution in 1910 the dividends were at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, but since the capital was so substantially increased the dividends have been 10 per cent. The profits of the Company since 1904 have been as follows:—

Net Profits of Old Colony Trust Company.

Year to Oct. 31	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amount.	Rate	Transferred to Surplus Fund	Undivided Balance.
	$	$	%	$	$
1914... ...	—	600,000	10		
1913... ...	817,653	600,000	10	—	217,653
1912... ...	899,045	500,000	10	—	399,045
1911... ...	759,413	500,000	10*a*	—	259,413
1910... ...	4,534,002*b*	400,000	20*	4,000,000	134,002
1903... ...	678,172	300,000	20	500,000	Dr. 121,828
1908... ...	368,932	300,000	20	—	68,932
1907... ...	564,119	300,000	20	—	264,119
1906... ...	430,958	165,000	†	500,000	Dr. 184,042
1905... ...	215,178	180,000	12	—	35,178
1904... ...	344,612	180,000	12	—	164,612

(*a*) In addition a dividend of 100 per cent. was paid Sept. 20, 1911, from surplus arising from stock issues at a premium.
(*b*) Including premium on new issue of Stock.
* 1910 dividend, 20 per cent. per annum on $1,500,000 capital (for 6 mos.).
" 20 per cent. per annum on $2,500,000 capital (for 6 mos.).
† August 15, 1906, stock on 20 per cent. per annum dividend basis.
1906 dividends: one semi-annual at 6 per cent. (basis 12 per cent. per annum).
one quarterly at 5 per cent. (basis 20 per cent. per annum).

Liabilities of The Old Colony Trust Company, Boston.

Oct. 31	Capital. Amount. $	Surplus. Amount. $	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Outstanding Treasurer's Cheques. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Reserve for Taxes and Interest. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Profit and Loss Balance. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. $
1915(Sept 2)	6,000,000	5,000,000	11,000,000	9·5	—	—	103,057,719	88·8	654,050	·5	1,414,549	1·2	116,126,318
1914(Dec.31)	6,000,000	8,000,000	14,000,000	14·1	—	—	83,482,771	84·3	287,127	·3	1,354,476	1·3	99,124,374
1913 ...	6,000,000	8,000,000	14,000,000	15·3	464,783	·5	75,549,770	82·7	73,179	·1	1,286,226	1·4	91,373,958
1912 ...	6,000,000	8,000,000	14,000,000	14·7	197,439	·2	79,617,602	83·8	50,082	·1	1,129,834	1·2	94,994,957
1911 ...	5,000,000	7,500,000	12,500,000	12·0	292,186	·3	90,544,389	86·8	—	—	920,126	·9	104,256,701
1910 ...	2,500,000	10,000,000	12,500,000	15·6	123,236	·2	66,997,959	83·6	—	—	522,009	·6	80,143,202
1909 ...	1,500,000	6,000,000	7,500,000	15·0	45,264	·1	42,012,833	84·1	—	—	387,786	·8	49,945,883
1908 ...	1,500,000	5,500,000	7,000,000	14·1	368,181	·8	41,653,967	84·1	—	—	509,834	1·0	49,531,982
1907 ...	1,500,000	5,500,000	7,000,000	16·9	37,950	·1	33,935,270	81·9	—	—	440,902	1·1	41,414,122
1906 ...	1,500,000	5,500,000	7,000,000	16·7	38,231	·1	34,634,208	82·8	—	—	176,784	·4	41,849,223
1905 ...	1,500,000	5,000,000	6,500,000	14·9	125,364	·3	36,497,865	83·8	—	—	450,826	1·0	43,574,055
1900 ...	1,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	13·2	—	—	19,296,195	84·7	—	—	489,114	2·1	22,785,309
1895 ...	1,000,000	750,000	1,750,000	12·4	—	—	12,219,732	86·5	—	—	155,688	1·1	14,125,420
1890 ...	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	29·5	—	—	3,512,060	69·2	—	—	67,810	1·3	5,079,870

Assets of The Old Colony Trust Company, Boston.

Oct. 31	Cash on Hand and in Banks. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Loans and Bills Purchased. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Real Estate and Banking Offices. Amount. $	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. $
1915 (Sept. 2)	32,967,312	28·4	9,553,105	8·2	70,970,901	61·1	2,635,000	2·3	116,126,318
1914 (Dec. 31)	23,544,332	23·7	10,396,949	10·5	62,548,093	63·2	2,635,000	2·6	99,124,374
1913	20,620,950	22·6	12,746,115	13·9	55,806,893	61·0	2,200,000	2·5	91,373,958
1912	19,823,111	20·9	12,141,738	12·8	61,240,108	64·4	1,790,000	1·9	94,994,957
1911	23,910,266	22·9	11,854,549	11·4	66,651,886	63·9	1,840,000	1·8	104,256,701
1910	17,806,944	22·2	10,341,156	12·9	50,155,102	62·6	1,840,000	2·3	80,143,202
1909	13,220,038	26·5	10,070,371	20·1	24,720,590	49·5	1,934,824	3·9	49,945,883
1908	13,623,274	27·5	10,395,358	21·0	24,005,600	48·5	1,507,750	3·0	49,531,982
1907	10,816,232	26·1	11,324,303	27·4	17,768,037	42·7	1,505,550	3·8	41,414,122
1906	8,706,499	20·8	12,210,566	29·2	19,443,158	46·5	1,489,000	3·5	41,849,223
1905	8,912,057	20·4	8,557,582	19·6	24,729,416	56·8	1,375,000	3·2	43,574,055
1900	4,868,524	21·4	2,426,625	10·6	15,490,160	68·0	—	—	22,785,309
1895	3,948,030	28·0	666,600	4·7	9,510,790	67·3	—	—	14,125,420
1890	1,070,779	21·0	63,345	1·3	3,945,746	77·7	—	—	5,079,870

PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK.

Office: Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 15;000 fully-paid Shares of $100 each (no liability) $1,500.000

Price of Share, 441%. *Dividend;* 16%. *Yield,* 3.64%.

THE Philadelphia National Bank is now among the great banks of the world, its deposits having reached $88,000,000, or £18,000,000. Its growth indicates the steady progress of the Quaker city, founded over 300 years ago by William Penn. It was in Philadelphia that the first continental Congress assembled, the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Constitution of the United States was drawn up, and the first President of the United States resided. From the day the city was founded it has made steady and solid progress, until at the present time its population numbers 1,700,000, who find employment in the manufacture of machinery, locomotives, ironware, ships, carpets, woollen and cotton goods, leather, sugar, drugs, chemicals, and other products; while it is the headquarters of the two principal railways of the State of Pennsylvania—the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading.

Banking in Philadelphia commenced at a very early stage in its history, and among the earliest institutions was the Philadelphia National Bank, which was formed in 1803 for the purpose of promoting and assisting the industries of the city. In no small measure has the expansion of Philadelphia as a port and as a manufacturing centre been due to the banking accommodation it has enjoyed, and the progress of the Philadelphia National Bank gives a very fair idea of the progress of the city. In the early days of last century the population was small and the volume of business correspondingly light; but with the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad business grew much more rapidly, and since the country recovered from the effects of the Civil War the progress has been rapid. In 1816 the deposits of the Bank were only $859,000, business still being affected by the injury to commerce and to the trade of Philadelphia of the European wars. By 1875 the deposits had grown to nearly $5,000,000, and in 1900 they reached $25,000,000. From that time to this the expansion has been phenomenal, and in 15 years the deposits have grown to $72,050,000, an expansion of $47,000,000, or 188 per cent. From its earliest days the Bank has been in a position of great strength. In 1816, with liabilities of only $1,300,000 for deposits and notes in circulation, the capital and reserve amounted to over $2,000,000. Subsequently the capital was reduced from $1,800,000 to $1,500,000, at which it has stood for many years.

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66 & 67 Cornhill, LONDON, E.C.

W. ÆNEAS MACKAY, General Manager.

Liabilities of The Philadelphia National Bank.

June.	Capital Paid in. Amount.	Surplus and Undivided Profits (Net). Amount.	Total Capital and Surplus. Amount.	% of Total.	Notes in Circulation. Amount.	% of Total.	Deposits. Amount.	% of Total.	Letters of Credit and Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Liabilities. Amount.
	$	$	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915 ...	1,500,000	5,043,000	6,543,000	7·9	649,000	·8	72,050,000	87·0	3,578,000	4·3	82,820,000
1914 ...	1,500,000	4,796,000	6,296,000	9·8	643,000	1·0	56,994,000	89·2	—	—	63,933,000
1913 ...	1,500,000	4,491,000	5,991,000	10·8	645,000	1·2	48,957,000	88·0	—	—	55,593,000
1912 ...	1,500,000	4,145,000	5,645,000	10·1	644,000	1·1	50,014,000	88·8	—	—	56,303,000
1911 ...	1,500,000	3,967,000	5,467,000	9·3	649,000	1·1	52,436,000	89·6	—	—	58,552,000
1910 ...	1,500,000	3,807,000	5,307,000	10·5	1,440,000	2·8	44,059,000	86·7	—	—	50,806,000
1909 ...	1,500,000	3,316,000	5,116,000	8·7	1,197,000	2·1	52,217,000	89·2	—	—	58,530,000
1908 ...	1,500,000	3,461,000	4,961,000	10·9	1,483,000	3·3	39,028,000	85·8	—	—	45,472,000
1907 ...	1,500,000	3,163,000	4,663,000	11·2	1,042,000	2·5	36,018,000	86·3	—	—	41,723,000
1906 ...	1,500,000	2,828,000	4,328,000	10·2	1,040,000	2·5	37,032,000	87·3	—	—	42,400,000
1905 ...	1,500,000	2,573,000	4,073,000	9·4	1,038,000	2·4	38,064,000	88·2	—	—	43,175,000
1900 ...	1,500,000	1,586,000	3,086,000	10·7	300,000	1·0	25,531,000	88·3	—	—	28,917,000
1895 ...	1,500,000	1,145,000	2,645,000	20·5	540,000	4·2	9,706,000	75·3	—	—	12,891,000
1890 ...	1,000,000	1,037,000	2,537,000	25·9	46,000	·5	7,214,000	73·6	—	—	9,797,000
1880 ...	1,500,000	786,000	2,286,000	26·0	996,000	11·4	5,499,000	62·6	—	—	8,781,000
1875 ...	1,500,000	820,000	2,320,000	28·9	1,000,000	12·5	4,714,000	58·6	—	—	8,034,000
1816 ...	1,800,000	211,000	2,011,000	60·5	456,000	13·7	859,000	25·8	—	—	3,326,000

Assets of The Philadelphia National Bank.

June.	Cash on Hand, Bank Notes, Legal Tenders, Specie. Amount.	% of Total.	Banks and Exchanges. Amount.	% of Total.	U.S. and Other Bonds, Stocks, &c. Amount.	% of Total.	Bills Discounted. Amount.	% of Total.	Loans. Amount.	% of Total.	Liability of Customers for Acceptances. Amount.	% of Total.	Bank Premises. Amount.	% of Total.	Total Assets. Amount.
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%	$
1915...	4,438,000	5·3	30,860,000	37·3	4,878,000	5·9	29,733,000	35·9	8,758,000	10·6	3,553,000	4·3	600,000	·7	82,820,000
1914...	5,661,000	8·8	20,340,000	31·8	2,929,000	4·6	24,030,000	37·7	10,373,000	16·2	—	—	600,000	·9	63,933,000
1913...	5,600,000	10·1	16,816,000	30·2	3,566,000	6·4	20,896,000	37·6	8,115,000	14·6	—	—	600,000	1·1	55,593,000
1912...	5,457,000	9·7	15,900,000	28·2	4,506,000	8·0	22,120,000	39·3	7,670,000	13·6	—	—	650,000	1·2	56,303,000
1911...	7,486,000	12·8	19,386,000	33·1	4,335,000	7·4	21,658,000	37·0	5,037,000	8·6	—	—	650,000	1·1	58,552,000
1910...	4,221,000	8·3	16,235,000	32·0	2,973,000	5·8	19,252,900	37·9	7,455,000	14·7	—	—	670,000	1·3	50,806,000
1909...	6,790,000	11·6	14,023,000	24·0	5,192,000	8·9	23,082,000	39·4	8,843,000	15·1	—	—	600,000	1·0	58,530,000
1908...	4,649,000	10·2	15,008,000	33·0	4,636,000	10·2	16,120,000	35·5	4,459,000	9·8	—	—	600,000	1·3	45,472,000
1907...	2,991,000	7·2	13,562,000	32·5	3,200,000	7·7	15,282,000	36·6	6,088,000	14·6	—	—	600,000	1·4	41,723,000
1906...	3,826,000	9·0	15,379,000	36·3	3,137,000	7·4	13,421,000	31·7	6,037,000	14·2	—	—	600,000	1·4	42,400,000
1905...	3,688,000	8·6	12,126,000	28·1	4,740,000	11·0	17,150,000	39·7	4,829,000	11·2	—	—	600,000	1·4	43,175,000
1900...	3,026,000	10·4	7,859,000	27·2	1,430,000	5·0	11,995,000	41·5	4,007,000	13·8	—	—	600,000	2·1	28,917,000
1895...	1,347,000	10·5	2,813,000	21·8	1,525,000	11·8	4,764,000	36·9	1,842,000	14·3	—	—	600,000	4·7	12,891,000
1890...	885,000	9·0	2,545,000	26·0	105,000	1·1	4,412,000	45·0	1,600,000	16·3	—	—	250,000	2·6	9,797,000
1880...	1,050,000	12·0	1,514,000	17·2	1,605,000	18·3	3,184,000	36·2	1,178,000	13·5	—	—	250,000	2·8	8,781,000
1875...	1,943,000	24·2	725,000	9·0	220,000	2·7	3,558,000	44·4	1,312,000	16·3	—	—	276,000	3·4	8,034,000
1816...	333,000	10·0	190,000	5·7	170,000	5·1	2,372,000	71·3	207,000	6·3	—	—	54,000	1·6	3,326,000

But the reserve fund was gradually built up, until at the end of June last it was over $5,000,000, so that the total capital and reserve now amounts to $6,543,000. The rapid growth in the business is inducing the directors to devote a large part of the profits to reserves, and in the last three years the surplus has increased about $900,000. The steady growth in the business of the undertaking will be evident from the statement herewith.

A large part of the Bank's money is employed in the discount of bills, and now that the Bank is prepared to go into foreign business its letters of credit and acceptances are increasing. The amount of these at the end of June last was $3,578,000. In the last 10 years the rate of dividend has been raised from 10 per cent. to 16 per cent., while the profit in proportion to capital has increased to a much greater extent, the appropriations now being much greater than they were 10 years ago. Indeed, the Bank could largely increase its capital without needing to reduce its dividend. Doubtless in this period of war a very conservative dividend policy will be pursued, and great additions made to the reserve funds. The profits and dividends of the Bank are as follows:—

Profits of the Philadelphia National Bank.

Year to May 1	Gross Profits.	Expenses.	Net Profits.	Dividend. Amt.	Rate.	Special Apprns.	Undivided Surplus.
	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
1915 ...	2,106,875	1,428,300	678,575	240,000	16	300,000	4,931,020
1914 ...	1,944,150	1,227,880	716,270	240,000	16	150,000	4,781,940
1913 ...	1,888,405	1,182,335	706,070	240,000	16	110,000	4,461,265
1912 ...	1,662,155	1,208,370	453,785	240,000	16	35,000	4,106,700
1911 ...	1,611,475	1,119,185	492,290	240,000	16	50,000	3,927,870
1910 ...	1,590,525	1,150,550	439,975	202,500	13½	65,000	3,727,865
1909 ...	1,430,300	1,085,385	344,915	180,000	12	40,000	3,554,565
1908 ...	1,408,665	853,445	555,220	180,000	12	70,000	3,432,600
1907 ...	1,365,725	784,705	581,020	180,000	12	30,000	3,128,925
1906 ...	1,158,025	766,515	391,510	150,000	10	30,000	2,756,330
1905 ...	1,164,445	840,255	324,190	150,000	10	20,000	2,544,700

RUSSIAN BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

Head Office: Petrograd.
London Office: 61 and 62 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Capital—
Authorised, and Issued, 240,000 Shares, of Roubles Rbls. 250, fully paid (no further Liability)... 60,000,000
Price per Share, 285. *Dividend,* 1914, 6%. *Yield,* 5.26%.

The Russian Bank for Foreign Trade was established by Imperial sanction in 1871 for the purpose of developing the foreign commerce of the country, and it is playing an important part in the agricultural development of Siberia. The Bank was founded in co-operation with a number of well-known English bankers, including Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, and Messrs. Matheson and Company, Limited. Its success was a very limited one until the recovery in the prices of agricultural produce brought great prosperity to the agricultural countries. From 1872 to the later 'nineties its expansion was, indeed, very slow, but since 1900 its development has been of a striking character, and has called for a constantly increasing capital. In 1872 its capital was 3,000,000 roubles; in 1880 it was 7,500,000 roubles; in 1890 it was increased to 20,000,000 roubles; in 1907 to 30,000,000 roubles; in 1910 to 40,000,000 roubles; in 1911 to 50,000,000 roubles; and in 1914 was increased to 60,000,000 roubles.

The new issues of shares at substantial premiums have largely assisted in building up the reserve fund, and whereas in 1895 the reserve was only 1,387,000 roubles, it was 21,970,000 roubles on December 31 last. The capital and reserve fund are now about 82,000,000 roubles. The deposits and current accounts of the Bank are increasing rapidly, and from about 11,000,000 roubles in 1895 have now grown to 397,000,000 roubles. The Bank is also liable in respect to correspondents for 119,000,000 roubles, and on account of acceptances and outstanding cheques for a further 29,000,000 roubles. Its total funds reach the great sum of 631,000,000 roubles, or £63,000,000. Inasmuch as the Bank of Russia is entrusted with the duty of providing the country with as much currency as it needs this Bank does not require to keep idle any appreciable amount of cash, and its cash holding is no more than is needed to meet its everyday requirements. The funds of the Bank are employed mainly in advances and in the discount of bills. The great expansion in the business of the Bank in recent years will be appreciated from the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

The outbreak of war in the summer of 1914 has had no great effect upon the position of the Bank. By stopping imports and exports it has compelled the Russian people to be more self-contained, and has thus stimulated industrial expansion.

The net profit of the institution for 1914 reached 4,234,000 roubles, equal to a dividend of over 7 per cent. The dividend paid was 6 per cent. The profit would have been much larger but for the action of the

Liabilities of The Russian Bank for Foreign Trade.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rbls.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rbls.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Current and Branch Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Acceptances and Cheques Outstanding. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rbls.
1914 ...	60,000,000	21,969,599	81,969,599	13·0	270,334,046	42·7	126,422,926	20·0	119,941,757	19·0	29,297,087	4·6	3,779,855	·6	631,745,270
1913 ...	50,000,000	16,801,888	66,801,888	10·7	227,292,140	36·5	179,567,627	28·8	108,141,042	17·3	35,530 095	5·7	6,257,420	1·0	623,590,212
1912 ...	50,000,000	16,391,009	66,391,009	11·3	199,516,990	33·9	105,853,690	18·1	176,138,541	30·0	33,845,177	5·8	5,724,987	·9	587,470,394
1911 ...	50,000,000	15,507,642	65,507,642	11·5	168,763,704	29·7	145,539,256	25·5	149,394,337	26·2	35,211,014	6·2	5,123,757	·9	569,539,710
1910 ...	40,000,000	10,864,462	50,864,462	9·6	162,328,711	30·5	114,504,000	21·6	165,146,805	31·1	34,143,176	6·4	4,150,891	·8	531,138,045
1909 ...	30,000,000	6,639,433	36,639,433	9·1	132,130,895	33·0	73,194,954	18·3	130,082,017	32·5	24,694,646	6·2	3,633,574	·9	400,375,519
1908 ...	30,000,000	6,225,428	36,225,428	12·3	92,787,937	30·8	54,240,488	18·0	87,482,114	29·0	26,588,134	8·8	3,624,618	1·1	300,948,719
1907 ...	30,000,000	5,835,079	35,835,079	12·5	74,790,142	25·9	58,905,144	20·5	87,802,105	30·4	27,760,458	9·7	3,186,022	1·0	288,278,950
1906 ...	20,000,000	3,316 096	23,316,096	9·2	67,341,259	26·7	50,188,408	19·8	87,770,899	34·8	21,180,980	8·4	2,635,450	1·0	252,433,092
1905 ...	20,000,000	3,072,805	23,072,805	9·0	57,637,802	22·4	74,566,982	29·0	73,759,632	28·7	25,825,799	10·0	2,272,669	·9	257,135,689
1900 ...	20,000,000	2,198,381	22,198,381	15·6	34,248,416	24·0	28,717,583	20·1	28,606,116	20·0	27,411,041	19·2	1,612,082	1·1	142,793,619
1895 ...	20,000,000	1,387,962	21,387,962	39·7	8,491,601	15·8	2,984,455	5·5	17,943,449	33·2	58,507	·1	3,071,778	5·7	53,937,752
1890 ...	20,000,000	643,482	20,643,482	59·0	6,917,847	19·8	117,859	·3	5,414,562	15·5	216,166	·7	1,650,717	4·7	34,960,633
1880 ...	7,500,000	309,867	7,809,867	49·1	2,032,548	12·8	22,792	·1	5,006,719	31·5	264,382	1·7	767,985	4·8	15,904,293
1872 ...	3,000,000	13,249	3,013,249	56·0	—	—	387,525	7·2	538,083	10·0	1,203,269	22·3	246,000	4·5	5,388,126

Assets of The Russian Bank for Foreign Trade.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Banks. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Current and Branch Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rbls.
1914 ...	37,183,060	5·9	42,566,648	6·7	118,489,995	18·8	146,030,058	23·1	94,168,924	14·9	185,214,730	29·4	8,091,855	1·2	631,745,270
1913 ...	16,445,766	2·6	27,664,082	4·4	115,276,461	18·5	126,608,072	20·3	146,793,804	23·5	181,997,038	29·3	8,804,989	1·4	623,590,212
1912 ...	16,120,483	2·8	29,845,492	5·1	96,995,427	16·5	132,580,430	22·6	134,884,390	23·0	169,069,272	28·7	7,974,900	1·3	587,470,394
1911 ...	15,153,252	2·6	28,802,943	5·1	94,543,216	16·6	117,558,807	20·7	167,307,067	29·4	139,466,163	24·5	6,708,262	1·1	569,539,710
1910 ...	15,548,291	3·0	21,287,710	4·0	100,180,976	18·8	112,523,483	21·2	145,306,424	27·3	130,067,526	24·5	6,223,635	1·2	531,138,045
1909 ...	20,849,433	5·2	12,555,603	3·1	70,582,108	17·6	93,498,961	23·4	101,142,092	25·3	98,135,989	24·5	3,611,333	·9	400,375,519
1908 ...	11,703,050	3·9	8,364,165	2·8	45,275,753	15·0	71,263,930	23·7	76,082,270	25·3	84,902,763	28·2	3,376,788	1·1	300,948,719
1907 ...	12,072,385	4·2	7,682,481	2·7	40,383,486	14·0	65,260,290	22·6	80,258,171	27·9	79,926,913	27·7	2,695,224	·9	288,278,950
1906 ...	11,216,745	4·4	8,017,977	3·1	33,510,180	13·3	62,679,963	24·9	63,119,146	25·0	72,175,311	28·6	1,713,770	·7	252,433,092
1905 ...	11,339,542	4·4	10,151,177	4·0	30,511,391	11·9	53,945,483	21·0	80,010,584	31·1	69,865,949	27·1	1,311,563	·5	257,135,689
1900 ...	6,813,348	4·8	6,098,565	4·2	16,609,099	11·7	28,698,214	20·1	28,768,624	20·1	55,197,932	38·7	607,837	·4	142,793,619
1895 ...	2,194,594	4·1	1,908,937	3·6	15,252,815	28·3	4,732,749	8·8	57,187	—	29,371,422	54·4	420,048	·8	53,937,752
1890 ...	2,772,855	7·9	4,218,781	12·1	2,661,546	7·6	7,987,407	22·8	967,859	2·8	15,932,137	45·6	420,048	1·2	34,960,633
1880 ...	3,742,383	23·5	2,540,801	16·0	—	—	3,496,842	22·0	717,454	4·5	5,406,813	34·0	—	—	15,904,293
1872 ...	376,895	7·0	405,500	7·6	—	—	2,002,465	37·2	1,923,677	35·8	679,589	12·4	—	—	5,388,126

Bank in appropriating 4,259,000 roubles for doubtful debts The course of the profits since 1904 has been as follows:—

Profits of the Russian Bank for Foreign Trade.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Roubles.	Expenses. Roubles.	Net Profit. Roubles.	Dividend. Amount. Roubles.	Dividend. Rate %	Special Appropriations. Roubles.	Carried Forw'd. Roubles.
1914 ...	16,341,302	12,107,266	4,234,036	3,300,000	6	1,102,710	295,357
1913 ...	16,442,594	9,681,530	6,761,064	5,700,000	11·4	1,018,362	462,032
1912 ...	14,513,324	9,108,017	5,405,307	5,000,000	10	569,734	419,330
1911 ...	13,170,936	8,426,839	4,744,097	4,500,000	10	266,231	613,757
1910 ...	11,446,951	7,712,203	3,734,748	3,500,000	10	217,432	635,890
1909 ...	9,714,521	6,457,145	3,257,376	3,000,000	10	192,468	618,574
1908 ...	8,455,804	5,324,592	3,131,212	3,000,000	10	249,598	553,636
1907 ...	7,976,816	5,215,073	2,761,743	2,500,000	10	175,171	662,022
1906 ...	7,199,259	4,909,954	2,289,305	1,600,000	10	186,524	575,450
1905 ...	6,100,739	4,201,535	1,899,204	1,800,000	9	99,245	472,669
1904 ...	5,316,390	3,332,155	1,984,235	1,800,000	9	105,192	472,710

The Bank is rapidly extending its branches throughout Russia, and now possesses agencies in a number of the more important European centres with which Russian merchants have special business connections.

RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

Head Office: Petrograd.

London Office: 24 and 28 Lombard Street, E.C.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 140,000 Shares of Rbls. 250, fully paid Rbls.35,000,000

Price per Share, £27½. *Dividend*, 3.6%. *Yield*, 3.06%.

The great prosperity and progress of Russia since 1900, largely in consequence of the prosperity which all agricultural countries have enjoyed by reason of the great demand for foodstuffs and the profitable prices that have ruled, have brought a great expansion of banking in Russia, and the deposits of the banks have shown remarkable growth. The outbreak of war in the summer of 1914 has not hitherto had any appreciable influence on the economic condition of Russia. Owing to the closing of the Baltic and the Dardanelles it has, it is true, cut down Russian foreign trade to a low level for the time being, and has interfered with Russia's ability to make foreign remittances to pay for munitions purchased abroad, but on the other hand it has greatly stimulated industrial activity. An institution in which British investors have taken a substantial interest is the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank, founded in 1890 by the authorisation of the Minister of Finance. Its original capital was 5,000,000 roubles, but the growth of its business soon called for more, and in 1895 the paid-up capital was increased to 6,250,000 roubles. In 1896 a third issue was made, and by 1900 the paid-up capital had increased to 10,000,000 roubles. In 1908 the capital was further increased to 15,000,000 roubles, in 1910 to 25,000,000 roubles, and in 1912 to 35,000,000 roubles. The issue of shares in recent years at a premium has helped to build up a reserve fund, which at the end of 1914 amounted to 9,765,000 roubles. The total capital and reserve at that date amounted to 44,766,000

THE
CONSOLIDATED
Assurance Company
LIMITED.
ESTABLISHED 1903.

Subscribed Capital - - £500,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £75,875
Accumulated Funds - - £203,970
Total Funds at Dec. 31, 1914 £279,845

FOR REINSURANCE BUSINESS
BY TREATY OR OTHERWISE.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT.

Fire Department.
St. Swithin's House, St. Swithin's Lane, LONDON, E.C.
Fire Manager: J. HERBERT E. LANE.

Life and Accident Department.
9 Fleet Street, LONDON, E.C.
Actuary and Secretary: CHAS. WINDETT.

Liabilities of The Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rbls.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rbls.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Deposits and Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Branches. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Rbls.
1914...	35,000,000	9,765,720	44,765,720	10·2	20,645,167	4·7	207,272,362	47·2	124,521,513	28·4	36,087,342	8·2	3,750,185	·9	1,705,239	·4	438,747,528
1913...	35,000,000	9,354,958	44,354,958	8·8	26,607,014	5·3	235,340,189	47·0	142,686,399	28·4	45,011,794	9·0	3,009,260	·6	4,724,600	·9	501,734,214
1912...	35,000,000	9,067,229	44,067,229	10·2	31,840,108	7·4	217,842,504	50·7	98,470,363	23·0	31,746,094	7·4	2,423,781	·6	3,307,642	·7	429,697,721
1911...	25,000,000	6,205,135	31,205,135	10·6	3,261,929	1·1	160,581,374	54·6	60,210,051	20·4	34,189,909	11·6	1,972,164	·7	2,976,763	1·0	294,397,325
1910...	25,000,000	6,021,744	31,021,744	14·6	2,734,459	1·3	121,122,236	57·0	26,109,457	12·2	28,390,683	13·3	1,397,658	·6	2,202,659	1·0	212,978,896
1909...	15,000,000	2,849,108	17,849,108	12·1	728,361	·5	87,717,686	59·7	20,101,645	13·7	14,536,170	10·0	4,014,749	2·7	1,962,049	1·3	146,909,768
1908...	15,000,000	2,546,317	17,546,317	14·8	791,930	·6	58,705,732	49·3	22,189,852	18·6	14,530,249	12·2	3,511,816	3·0	1,694,599	1·5	118,970,495
1907...	11,447,600	2,120,842	13,568,442	13·9	1,496,236	1·5	53,994,302	55·2	15,323,863	15·6	10,360,030	10·6	1,761,860	1·8	1,375,887	1·4	97,880,620
1906...	10,000,000	1,965,298	11,965,298	14·6	430,116	·5	43,248,857	52·9	12,796,646	15·6	9,244,837	11·3	2,948,095	3·6	1,193,867	1·5	81,827,716
1905...	10,000,000	2,010,033	12,010,033	13·8	1,690,868	1·9	38,223,606	43·9	14,258,747	16·4	17,272,886	20·0	2,636,883	3.0	903,137	1·0	86,996,160
1900...	10,000,000	2,012,472	12,012,472	21·8	2,322,826	4·2	21,934,293	39·7	9,287,737	16·9	7,689,552	13·9	1,447,899	2·6	510,403	·9	55,205,182
1895...	6,250,000	536,560	6,786,560	18·8	1,791,937	4·9	7,602,564	21·1	12,926,855	35·9	5,573,606	15·4	863,873	2·4	533,661	1·5	36,079,056
1890...	5,000,000	—	5,000,000	79·3	—	—	302,489	4·8	733,709	11·6	—	—	237,564	3·8	33,434	·5	6,307,196

Assets of The Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rbls.	% o Total. %	Bills. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Loans, &c. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Branches. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Miscellaneous. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Rbls.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rbls.
1914...	15,298,112	3·5	27,525,799	6·3	98,325,633	22·4	107,880,216	24·6	147,580,183	33·6	36,372,094	8·3	474,210	·1	5,291,251	1·2	438,747,528
1913...	19,977,115	4·0	20,450,691	4·1	129,762,540	25·9	133,752,873	26·7	149,709,238	29·8	44,301,257	8·8	361,505	—	3,418,995	·7	501,734,214
1912...	18,155,013	4·2	19,524,873	4·6	135,174,369	31·5	129,349,626	30·1	92,415,393	21·5	31,693,146	7·4	315,703	—	3,069,598	·7	429,697,721
1911...	14,153,456	4·8	12,462,983	4·3	93,661,928	31·9	98,875,504	33·6	35,089,042	11·9	37,083,088	12·6	351,109	—	2,720,210	·9	294,397,325
1910...	8,320,541	4·0	9,581,418	4·5	67,731,651	31·8	75,400,732	35·4	18,586,158	8·8	30,521,219	14·3	265,194	—	2,571,983	1·2	212,978,896
1909...	6,462,369	4·4	7,638,571	5·2	47,565,937	32·3	53,797,345	37·0	16,621,396	11·3	12,268,489	8·3	371,844	—	2,183,817	1·5	146,909,768
1908...	5,515,638	4·7	5,614,993	4·7	41,985,018	35·3	38,097,224	32·0	9,192,640	7·7	15,729,511	13·2	889,952	·8	1,945,519	1·6	118,970,425
1907...	5,424,727	5·5	4,283,063	4·3	33,538,556	34·3	33,864,972	34·7	8,519,780	8·7	10,583,585	10·8	589,847	·6	1,076,090	1·1	97,880,620
1906...	5,509,929	6·7	3,782,049	4·6	26,106,344	32·0	28,325,906	34·6	7,204,489	8·8	9,352,745	11·4	594,967	·8	951,287	1·1	81,827,716
1905...	6,590,655	7·6	3,390,272	3·9	23,652,246	27·2	26,988,359	31·0	7,829,923	9·0	17,272,886	19·9	644,220	·7	627,599	·7	86,996,160
1900...	2,518,889	4·6	3,697,470	6·7	19,185,385	34·8	11,354,555	20·5	9,951,438	18·0	7,778,644	14·6	318,559	·6	400,242	·7	55,205,182
1895...	2,092,886	5·8	542,173	1·5	7,073,451	19·6	12,824,685	35·6	7,648,433	21·2	5,674,126	15·7	223,302	·6	—	—	36,079,056
1890...	617,288	9·8	139,561	2·3	2,786,755	44·2	1,101,721	17·4	1,538,680	24·4	—	—	123.191	1·9	—	—	6,307,196

roubles. This increase of reserve was called for in consequence of the rapid growth of deposits and other liabilities. In the first 10 years of its existence the deposits increased to 22,000,000 roubles, and then they grew to 235,000,000 roubles in 1913. In consequence of the disturbance to business caused by the outbreak of war they declined to 207,000,000 roubles at the end of 1914. This withdrawal of money was met without difficulty by loans from the Imperial Bank, and these loans have now been repaid. At the end of last year the correspondents of the Bank involved a liability of 125,000,000 roubles, and the total liabilities amounted to 439,000,000 roubles. The resources thus obtained are employed in the discount of bills and in loans, while correspondents figure in the assets for an amount equal to the liability incurred in respect of them. The rapid growth in the liabilities and assets of the institution is shown by the statement herewith.

The Bank has a very large number of branches in all parts of Russia, in the Central Provinces, in the South-Eastern region, in the Northern region, in the Northern Caucasus, as well as in Siberia and Turkestan, and, beyond the offices in Petrograd and Moscow, has branch offices in London and in Paris. Its net profit has risen with its growing business and capital, and in 1913 amounted to 3,838,000 roubles, equal to about 11 per cent. upon the stock. In 1914 its profit declined to 2,680,000 roubles, owing mainly to the absence of profit on stock and bonds and on exchange transactions. The course of the profits, the dividend paid, and the sums devoted to reserve in each year since 1904 are set out below:—

Profits of the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank.

Year to Dec. 31.	Gross Profit. Rbls.	Expenses & Taxes. Rbls.	Net Profit. Rbls.	Dividend. Amount. Rbls.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Rbls.	Carried Forward. Rbls.
1914...	10,980,160	8,299,663	2,680,497	1,260,000	3·6	1,528,050	30,456
1913...	11,737,168	7,898,601	3,838,567	3,360,000	9·6	410,763	138,009
1912...	9,168,555	6,420,133	2,748,422	2,430,000	9	287,729	70,205
1911...	7,461,343	4,948,060	2,513,283	2,250,000	9	262,094	39,512
1910...	6,193,902	4,405,150	1,788,752	1,687,500	9	183,391	38,323
1909...	5,050,298	3,430,054	1,620,244	1,350,000	9	172,636	120,462
1908...	4,392,238	2,962,314	1,429,924	1,294,000	9	148,620	22,854
1907...	3,727,905	2,611,693	1,116,212	975,000	9·6	119,515	35,550
1906...	3,713,701	2,721,759	991,942	900,000	9	104,073	13,853
1905...	2,907,132	2,121,032	786,100	700,000	7	78,610	25,984
1904...	2,465,719	1,689,425	776,294	700,000	7	77,630	18,494

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIE-BOLAGET.

Head Office: Gothenburg.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 319,930 Shares of 142 Kronor, fully paid ... ... Kr. 45,430,060
Price of Shares, 375.* *Dividend*, 14·8%. *Yield*, 5·61%.

* Shares can only be held by persons of Swedish nationality and transactions can only be effected in Sweden.

In the spring of the year 1863 there was held a meeting in Gothenburg, numerously attended by national economists from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, and before the narrow circle of members at this meeting the Danish financier, C. F. Tietgen, brought a plan concerning the foundation of a great credit establishment on a broad international basis; it was his intention that the capital should be 25,000,000 kronor, and the Bank should have its head office in Copenhagen, with branches in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Christiania, London, Paris, and Amsterdam. The plan met with sympathy, but there arose difficulties over the foreign participation. Consequently the Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget was constituted with solely Swedish capital. According to the articles of association the aim of the Bank was to co-operate in the issue of loans for Governments, municipalities, and corporations; to participate in such loans, to buy and sell shares and bonds issued by legally constituted associations, to lend upon mortgage and to industrial enterprises; to advance money for the furtherance of enterprises of the latter or similar kinds; to receive money on deposit; and to buy and sell bills of exchange. The Bank commenced business on April 1, 1864, with a subscribed capital of 5,147,500 kronor, of which 1,029,500 kronor is paid up.

The Bank increased its capital:—

	Kr.
In 1865 to	7,495,115
„ 1873 „	7,500,156
„ 1891 „	10,000,208
„ 1902 „	12,500,260
„ 1904 „	17,000,240
„ 1906 „	22,000,000
„ 1909 „	45,430,000

In 1907 the Bank took over the Industrikreditaktiebolaget of Stockholm, a concern which had a capital of 7,000,000 kronor and reserve funds of 4,707,520 kronor; and in 1910 the Skanes Enskilda Bank, which had a capital paid up of 30,000,000 kronor and reserve funds of 23,519,500 kronor.

Liabilities of The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kr.*	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kr.	Total Capital —and Reserve.— Amount. Kr.	% of Total. %	Current —Accounts, &c.— Amount. Kr.	% of Total. %	—Deposits— Amount. Kr	% of Total. %	—Guarantees. Amount. Kr.	% of Total. %	Drafts, &c., Due to Other —Banks.— Amount. Kr	% of Total. %	Pension and Building —Funds.— Amount. Kr.	% of Total. %	Profit —Balance. Amount. Kr.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kr.
1914 ...	45,430,060	47,500,000	92,930,060	22·2	65,828,827	15·7	[illegible]	48·0	7,584,600	1·8	41,493,416	9·9	2,460,000	·6	7,662,191	1·8	418,826,097
1913 ...	45,430,060	47,500,000	92,930,060	24·9	51,520,720	13·8	190,563,074	51·0	6,649,700	1·8	21,486,474	5·8	2,157,000	·6	7,664,472	2·1	372,971,500
1912 ...	45,430,060	47,500,000	92,930,060	25·2	56,096,461	15·2	183,673,920	49·8	5,497,300	1·5	20,837,571	5·7	1,860,000	·5	7,605,261	2·1	368,550,573
1911 ...	45,430,060	47,500,000	92,930,060	25·3	49,841,254	13·6	187,782,665	51·1	3,870,900	1·0	24,209,878	6·6	1,856,000	·5	7,076,143	1·9	367,566,900
1910 ...	45,430,060	47,500,000	92,930,060	25·4	39,768,882	10·9	190,771,740	52·2	—	—	33,082,472	9·1	1,854,000	·5	7,051,395	1·9	365,458,549
1909 ...	22,000,060	23,000,000	45,000,060	24·4	13,450,476	7·3	94,324,205	51·0	—	—	27,255,280	14·8	800,000	·4	3,848,064	2·1	184,678,085
1908 ...	22,000,060	23,000,000	45,000,060	22·3	16,687,397	8·3	97,412,020	48·3	—	—	37,687,932	18·7	720,000	·4	4,029,524	2·0	201,536,933
1907 ...	22,000,060	23,000,000	45,000,060	23·4	15,954,486	8·3	90,135,315	46·8	—	—	37,119,555	19·3	620,000	·3	3,636,763	1·9	192,466,179
1906 ...	17,000,240	17,000,240	34,000,480	24·7	11,186,017	8·1	71,714,815	52·2	—	—	16,961,653	12·4	400,000	·3	3,156,255	2·3	137,419,220
1905 ...	17,000,240	16,972,574	33,972,814	27·7	12,483,553	10·2	57,495,509	46·9	—	—	15,317,369	12·5	350,000	·3	3,010,871	2·4	122,630,116
1900 ...	10,000,208	7,000,000	17,000,208	18·1	12,362,109	13·2	46,324,878	49·4	—	—	16,468,886	17·5	—	—	1,583,569	1·7	93,709,650
1895 ...	10,000,208	7,000,000	17,000,208	21·9	16,963,483	21·9	32,836,500	42·4	—	—	9,299,697	14·0	—	—	1,279,660	1·6	77,579,688
1890 ...	7,500,156	4,000,000	11,500,156	19·1	10,657,727	17·7	25,877,782	43·0	—	—	11,019,971	18·3	—	—	1,120,627	1·8	60,176,263
1880 ...	7,500,156	3,900,052	11,400,208	24·3	15,117,335	32·2	17,190,889	36·7	—	—	2,258,590	4·8	—	—	845,488	1·8	46,812,510
1870 ...	5,000,104	1,075,000	6,075,104	25·2	9,745,588	40·5	3,661,327	15·2	—	—	3,873,272	15·9	—	—	676,711	2·8	24,032,002
1865 ...	2,998,046	201,043	3,199,089	30·4	2,778,758	26·4	2,470,193	23·4	—	—	1,788,800	17·0	—	—	277,190	2·6	10,514,120

Assets of The Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget.

Dec. 31	Cash —in Hand.— Amt. Kr.*	% of Total. %	Invest-ments.— Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Current —Accounts, &c.— Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Bills —Discounted. Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Advances on Securities. Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	—Guarantees. Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Due by other —Banks.— Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Demand Bills and Foreign —Money.— Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Bank —Premises, &c.— Amt. Kr.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kr.
1914...	7,939,683	1·9	32,829,169	7·9	105749395	25·2	71,690,257	17·1	150,144,460	35·9	7,584,600	1·8	27,353,587	6·5	4,487,591	1·1	11,047,355	2·6	418,826,097
1913...	9,679,117	2·6	26,255,035	7·0	95,795,107	25·7	68,928,767	18·5	144,996 680	33·9	6,649,700	1·8	5,902,984	1·6	4,014,255	1·0	10,750,705	2·9	372.971.500
1912...	7,578,747	2·1	34,152,661	9·2	75,094,886	20·3	81,117,161	22·0	145,441,180	39·5	5,497,300	1·5	4,632,567	1·3	4,120,141	1·1	10,915,930	3·0	368,550,573
1911...	7,959,144	2·2	28,746,555	7·8	80,795,380	22·0	95,273,883	25·9	132,297,115	36·0	3,870,900	1·1	4,836,811	1·3	3,790,448	1·0	9,996,664	2·7	367,566,900
1910...	6,935,501	1·6	30,270,812	8·3	84,508,111	23·3	100,472,614	27·5	125,543,992	34·4	—	—	6,514,482	1·8	3,585,788	1·0	7,627,249	2·1	365,458,549
1909...	4,361,164	2·4	14,467,214	7·8	30,283,367	16·4	38,833,064	21·0	71,438,285	38·7	—	—	19,758,730	10·7	1,523,308	·8	4,012,953	2·2	184.678.085
1908...	4,086,772	2·0	12,397,738	6·2	33,087,982	16·4	40,477,724	20·1	72,586,184	36·0	—	—	33,843,245	16·8	2,072,893	1·0	2,984,395	1·5	201.536.933
1907...	4,702,938	2·5	13,486,487	7·0	31,629,845	16·4	46,691,852	24·3	64,953,097	33·7	—	—	26,400,521	13·7	2,076,073	1·1	2,525,366	1·3	192.466.179
1906...	4,982,458	3·6	12,177,669	8·9	13,555,312	9·9	34,809,583	25·3	51,916,315	37·8	—	—	16,482,625	12·0	1,533,046	1·1	1,962,210	1·4	137.419.220
1905...	4,134,880	3·4	11,766,349	9·6	10,371,125	8·4	27,668,825	22·6	44,187,817	36·0	—	—	21,173,714	17·3	1,457,942	1·2	1,869,464	1·5	122.630.116
1900...	3,174,017	3·4	6,938,083	7·4	8,530,174	9·1	25,980,534	27·7	30,295,973	32·3	—	—	16,712,859	17·8	1,273,010	1·3	805,000	·8	93,709,650
1895...	5,302,343	6·8	7,442,133	9·6	4,886,335	6·3	20,284,325	26·2	19,886,151	25·6	—	—	18,465,010	23·8	376,341	·4	737,000	·9	77,379,638
1890...	4,780,897	7·9	3,653,645	6·0	5,023,123	8·3	19,988,727	33·2	17,994,422	29·9	—	—	7,901,487	13·1	128,962	·4	705,000	1·1	60,176,263
1880...	5,744,504	12·2	4,311,356	9·2	4,460,965	9·5	17,628,433	37·6	7,625,135	16·2	—	—	6,637,117	14·1	—	—	405,000	·8	46,812,510
1870...	4,191,004	17·4	642,106	4·6	3,711,493	15·4	9,664,840	40·2	5,822,539	24·2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24,032,002
1865...	700,776	6·6	844,845	8·0	1,104,930	10·5	1,994,294	18·9	5,781,790	55·2	—	—	87,485	·8	—	—	—	—	10,514,120

* 1 Krona = 1*s.* 1¼*d.* (18 to the £).

Through these two amalgamations its capital was increased to 45,430,000 kronor and its reserve fund to 47,500,000 kronor.

The Bank now has three head offices, in Gothenburg, Stockholm, and Malmö respectively and has branches in the chief towns of Sweden.

The Bank has made substantial progress throughout its history, thanks very largely to the long period of peace which Sweden has enjoyed. By 1880 its deposits and current accounts had grown to 32,000,000 kronor, or nearly £1,800,000, and by 1900 they had increased to 58,000,000 kronor. In 1909 they were 107,000,000 kronor, and at the end of last year had risen to 267,000,000 kronor, or £14,800,000, in consequence mainly of the amalgamations to which we have referred. The Bank does not need to keep any appreciable amount of cash idle, as it is able to draw whatever currency it requires from the State bank. The great European War now raging has brought advantage to the neutral countries as it enables them to sell their produce to the belligerents at high prices, and the business of this Bank has participated in the advantage. The strength of the Bank will be appreciated from the statement of assets and liabilities herewith.

The net profits of the institution in 1914 reached 7,213,000 kronor, equal to 16 per cent. upon the stock. The dividend distributed for the last five years has been 14.8 per cent. The course of the profits since 1904 has been as follows:—

Profits of the Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Kr.	Expenses. Kr.	Net Profit. Kr.	—Dividend.— Amount. Kr.	Rate. %	Special Allocations. Kr.	Carried Forw'd. Kr.
1914...	11,158,642	3,945,393	7,213,249	6,718,530	14·80	630,755	480,[illegible]6
1913...	11,437,960	4,191,054	7,246,906	6,718,530	14·80	330,000	615,942
1912...	10,855,255	3,457,607	7,397,648	6,718,530	14·80	469,166	417,565
1911...	10,154,225	3,410,948	6,743,277	6,718,530	14·80	150,000	207,613
1910...	10,364,579	3,637,787	6,726,792	6,718,530	14·80	—	332,866
1909...	5,436,574	2,095,179	3,341,395	3,408,460	15·49	115,000	324,604
1908...	5,894,508	1,972,921	3,921,587	3,408,460	15·49	114,395	506,669
1907...	5,516,483	2,135,423	3,381,060	3,408,460	15·49	313,460	107,937
1906...	3,806,658	1,069,489	2,737,169	2,514,120	14.80	193,337	448,797
1905...	3,631,579	1,077,740	2,553,839	2,514,120	14·80	77,666	419,085
1904...	2,993,369	966,226	2,027,143	1,936,660	15·49	100,000	457,032

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE POUR FAVORISER LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DU COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE EN FRANCE.

Head Office: 54 and 56 Rue de Provence, Paris.

London Offices: 53 Old Broad Street, E.C., and 65-67 Regent Street, W.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 1,000,000 Shares of Frs. 500 ... ...Frs. 500,000,000
Paid up, Frs. 250 per Share 250,000,000
Price per Share, Frs. 550 (net). *Div.*, 8% net. *Yield*, 3.636%

As its name implies, the Société Générale was founded to foster commerce and industry in France, and throughout its history it has successfully carried out these objects, for not only has it built up a great banking business and placed a vast sum of banking money at the service of French trade, but it has been instrumental in raising from French investors hundreds of millions of francs of capital for the extension of French industry and commerce and for loans to foreign countries. Some idea can be obtained of the quantity of securities which the Bank has placed with its clients from the fact that in 1913 it cashed coupons for its customers to the extent of 1,733,000,000 francs, or nearly £70,000,000. To render the Bank still more useful to its clients the directors have recently constructed a magnificent set of vaults and strong-rooms in the most central section of Paris, capable of holding an unlimited quantity of securities, and these new facilities have already caused a large addition to its *clientèle*.

When it was founded the authorised capital of the institution was 120,000,000 francs and the paid-up capital was 30,000,000 francs. In the course of a few years the paid-up capital was increased to 60,000,000 francs, at which it remained until 1899, when it was increased to 80,000,000 francs by the issue of additional shares with 250 francs paid. In 1903 the paid-up capital was increased to 100,000,000 francs, in

Liabilities of Société Générale pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Frs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills Payable. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Fixed Deposits. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Frs.
1914 ...	250,000,000	127,247,506	377,247,506	24·0	102,387,123	6·5	238,480,300	15·2	843,059,711	53·6	10,750,386	·7	1,571,925,026
1913 ...	250,000,000	124,516,430	374,516,430	15·9	175,734,616	7·4	207,193,000	8·8	1,585,523,974	67·1	18,747,265	·8	2,361,715,285
1912 ...	250,000,000	121,907,639	371,907,639	17·1	212,632,181	9·8	147,814,200	6·8	1,426,725,493	65·5	17,566,239	·8	2,176,645,752
1911 ...	200,000,000	66,986,761	266,986,761	13·0	174,055,693	8·4	118,496,800	5·8	1,488,450,930	72·2	13,619,301	·6	2,061,619,485
1910 ...	200,000,000	64,076,673	264,076,673	13·7	150,953,442	7·8	145,432,500	7·5	1,358,786,127	70·4	11,094,376	·6	1,930,343,118
1909 ...	200,000,000	63,322,985	263,322,985	14·7	140,338,940	7·8	158,069,000	8·8	1,222,221,991	68·1	10,264,378	·6	1,794,217,294
1908 ...	150,000,000	37,772,284	187,772,284	12·0	111,247,924	7·1	168,095,100	10·6	1,098,337,304	69·8	7,443,893	·5	1,572,896,505
1907 ...	150,000,000	37,249,166	187,249,166	13·9	136,946,128	10·2	154,056,300	11·4	860,672,692	64·0	6,884,423	·5	1,345,808,709
1906 ...	150,000,000	36,727,985	186,727,985	13·9	115,395,894	8·6	128,938,100	9·6	904,169,559	67·4	6,853,703	·5	1,342,085,241
1905 ...	125,000,000	26,303,501	151,303,501	13·5	103,348,234	9·2	126,016,100	11·3	731,642,188	65·5	5,454,040	·5	1,117,764,063
1900 ...	80,000,000	18,750,229	98,750,229	12·8	69,839,742	9·1	114,983,000	15·0	482,231,581	62·7	3,080,552	·4	768,885,104
1895 ...	60,000,000	13,726,253	73,726,253	13·9	54,753,120	10·3	99,012,700	18·6	302,328,273	56·9	1,595,327	·3	531,415,673
1890 ...	60,000,000	13,027,768	73,027,768	15·8	29,467,268	6·4	94,740,400	20·5	262,977,002	56·9	2,082,405	·4	462,294,843
1880 ...	60,000,000	13,390,502	73,390,502	16·9	23,383,509	5·4	114,064,300	26·2	219,752,243	50·6	4,246,973	·9	434,837,527
1870 ...	59,933,250	5,922,085	65,855,335	44·5	22,394,659	15·1	36,799,200	24·8	19,356,762	13·0	3,933,010	2·6	148,338,966
1864 ...	30,000,000	—	30,000,000	49·6	158,445	·2	2,717,057	4·5	25,964,913	42·9	1,697,632	2·8	60,538,047

Assets of Société Générale pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and Coupons Payable. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Short Loans on Stocks. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Frs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Frs.
1914...	118,304,047	7·5	117,476,524	7·5	56,539,828	3·6	299,899,867	19·1	318,228,773	20·2	608,019,791	38·7	53,456,196	3·4	1,571,925,026
1913...	214,874,600	9·1	116,593,899	4·9	119,436,189	5·1	971,249,641	41·1	328,250,523	14·0	560,741,503	23·7	50,568,930	2·1	2,361,715,285
1912...	198,069,242	9·0	112,743,552	5·2	119,580,580	5·5	936,039,825	43·0	257,444,208	11·9	502,821,395	23·1	49,946,950	2·3	2,176,645,752
1911...	248,372,710	12·0	110,990,371	5·4	73,092,365	3·6	929,362,979	45·1	225,353,712	10·9	425,405,398	20·6	49,041,950	2·4	2,061,619,485
1910...	147,289,601	7·6	113,388,941	5·9	92,503,334	4·8	851,554,093	44·1	232,691,667	12·1	448,715,151	23·2	44,200,331	2·3	1,930,343,118
1909...	154,897,866	8·6	114,563,247	6·4	105,846,838	5·9	826,846,062	46·1	197,007,125	11·0	362,713,709	20·2	32,342,447	1·8	1,794,217,294
1908...	151,954,117	9·7	112,389,091	7·1	87,172,898	5·5	720,263,081	45·8	164,511,390	10·5	307,995,797	19·6	28,610,131	1·8	1,572,896,505
1907...	103,104,772	7·7	116,738,293	8·7	76,645,843	5·7	532,637,715	39·6	172,537,169	12·8	318,187,749	23·6	25,957,168	1·9	1,345,808,709
1906...	117,817,045	8·8	112,642,621	8·4	64,139,654	4·8	570,310,585	42·5	150,455,166	11·2	302,780,445	22·5	23,939,725	1·8	1,342,085,241
1905...	112,326,432	10·0	111,634,500	10·0	47,532,974	4·3	416,491,450	37·3	153,510,790	13·7	259,393,070	23·2	16,874,847	1·5	1,117,764,063
1900...	83,465,214	10·8	110,171,693	14·3	12,408,219	1·6	305,146,142	39·7	110,956,970	14·4	141,674,745	18·5	5,062,121	·7	768,885,104
1895...	49,625,728	9·3	121,188,110	22·8	19,458,601	3·7	136,588,012	25·7	85,565,934	16·1	114,737,733	21·6	4,251,555	·8	531,415,673
1890...	44,279,631	9·6	106,108,236	23·0	36,502,891	7·9	146,956,930	31·8	50,237,630	10·8	74,482,943	16·1	3,726,582	·8	462,294,843
1880...	35,746,614	8·2	119,197,072	27·4	68,654,738	15·8	108,312,255	24·9	15,148,711	3·5	84,297,722	19·4	3,480,415	·8	434,837,527
1870...	2,422,334	1·6	40,881,740	27·6	7,142,099	4·8	813,628	·5	8,814,768	5·9	85,351,563	57·6	2,912,834	2·0	148,338,966
1864...	10,837,998	18·0	15,908,352	26·5	2,464,533	4·1	19,292,873	32·1	6,462,089	10·1	4,407,446	7·3	1,164,756	1·9	60,538,047

Profits of Société Générale pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profits. Frs.	Expenses. Frs.	Taxes. Frs.	Net Profits. Frs.	Dividend. Amount. Frs.	Dividend. Net Rate. %	Reserve Fund, &c. Frs.	Carried Forward. Frs.
1914 ...	—	—	- -	10,256,574	10,000,000	3·84	Nil	750,386*
1913 ...	37,394,386	9,369,475	4,342,434	23,682,477	20,833,333	8·0	2,731,076	493,812
1912 ...	36,594,205	11,674,066	3,576,023	21,344,116	18,750,000	7·7	2,608,791	375,745
1911 ...	30,744,005	9,676,205	3,249,901	17,817,899	15,208,333	7·3	2,420,878	390,420
1910 ...	26,646,751	8,178,004	3,055,459	15,413,288	14,583,333	7·0	796,315	201,732
1909 ...	25,320,325	7,684,113	2,994,453	14,641,759	13,910,590	6·7	753,689	168,092
1908 ...	19,991,040	6,752,681	2,520,678	10,717,681	10,156,250	6·5	550,701	190,612
1907 ...	18,993,259	6,409,776	2,365,051	10,218,432	9,687,500	6·2	523,118	179,882
1906 ...	18,433,533	6,126,431	2,123,715	10,183,387	9,670,208	6·2	521,182	172,068
1905 ...	15,923,663	5,695,887	1,919,631	8,308,145	7,792,969	6·25	424,483	180,071
1904 ...	13,885,478	5,515,061	1,786,733	6,583,684	6,250,000	6·24	336,115	89,378

* Exclusive of 10,000,000 francs appropriated from reserve to pay the dividend in consequence of the provisional character of the profit and loss account.

1905 to 125,000,000 francs, in 1906 to 150,000,000 francs, in 1909 to 200,000,000 francs, and in 1912 to 250,000,000 francs, at which it still remains. The existing authorised capital consists of 1,000,000 shares of 500 francs each, with 250 francs paid. The reserves of the Bank have also been steadily increased, partly by means of the premiums obtained upon the new issues of shares. At the present time the reserve fund amounts to 127,000,000 francs, so that the total paid-up capital and reserve is 377,000,000 francs, or £15,000,000. The deposits and current accounts have shown rapid expansion throughout the history of the Bank. At the end of 1864 they were already 29,000,000 francs, and by 1880 they totalled 334,000,000 francs. The progress during the eighties were comparatively slow, but since 1900 it has been enormous. In that year the total deposits and current accounts were 598,000,000 francs, whereas at the end of 1913 they reached 1,793,000,000 francs or, £75,000,000.

In consequence of the War and the need of many people to withdraw deposits to meet current expenditures the deposits of the Bank have shown heavy reduction, and at the end of 1914 were less than 1,100,000,000 francs, a reduction of over 700,000,000 francs, or nearly 40 per cent. This loss of funds was attended by a reduction in the bills held from 971,000,000 francs to 300,000,000 francs. The short loans on stock were also reduced by about one-half. In fact, the normal discount and stock exchange business largely disappeared in Paris, as in London. The great expansion in the business of the Bank up to the end of 1913, and the shrinkage that occurred in consequence of war conditions in the later months of 1914, will be evident from the statement herewith.

In recent years the Society was prosperous, and in 1913 it distributed a dividend of 8 per cent., free of all taxes. In 1914, however, it was not possible to arrive at the real profits, but a provisional statement showed that the profit was over 10,000,000 francs. Consequently the dividend was on a 4 per cent. basis, less tax. The profits earned in recent years are shown in the statement herewith.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE BELGIQUE.

Head Office: Brussels.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 31,000 Shares of 500 florins, fully paid (15,000,000 florins) ... ... Fr. 32,804,233

THIS important Belgian institution was founded in 1821. Up to the year 1850 it was the State bank, with a large note circulation, and had not only to conduct the banking business of the Government, but had to provide the currency of the country, and consequently it had a considerable note circulation. With the creation of the National Bank of Belgium, however, its State functions came to an end, and it de-

Liabilities of The Société Générale de Belgique.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Frs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Frs.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Frs.	Bills. % of Total. %	Current Deposits and Other Accounts. Amount. Frs.	Current Deposits and Other Accounts. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Frs.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Frs.
1914	32,804,233	74,475,568	107,279,801	16·8	58,626,500	9·2	473,240,867	74·0	—	—	639,147,168
1913	32,804,233	67,161,008	99,965,241	20·4	56,855,500	11·6	325,453,597	66·2	8,763,733	1·8	491,038,071
1912	32,804,233	65,902,271	98,706,504	20·6	57,769,500	12·1	314,471,604	65·6	8,391,585	1·7	479,339,193
1911	32,804,233	64,727,266	97,531,499	20·0	60,375,500	12·4	320,776,120	66·0	7,833,361	1·6	486,516,480
1910	32,804,233	63,608,084	96,412,317	21·5	60,128,600	13·4	284,229,565	63·4	7,461,212	1·7	448,231,094
1909	32,804,233	62,544,725	95,348,958	23·1	58,354,500	14·1	252,104,462	61·1	7,089,064	1·7	412,896,984
1908	32,804,233	61,565,099	94,369,332	18·0	57,621,500	10·9	368,598,254	69·3	6,530,840	1·2	527,119,926
1907	32,804,233	60,669,206	93,473,439	26·3	53,467,500	15·0	202,799,502	57·0	5,972,617	1·7	355,713,058
1906	32,804,233	59,829,136	92,633,369	22·0	55,796,500	13·2	267,829,522	63·5	5,600,468	1·3	421,859,859
1905	32,804,233	59,072,799	91,877,032	25·7	56,281,000	15·7	204,530,767	57·2	5,057,935	1·4	357,746,734
1900	32,804,233	55,737,888	88,542,121	33·1	35,912,500	13·5	138,494,988	51·9	4,111,511	1·5	267,061,120
1895	32,804,233	53,547,320	86,351,553	41·7	38,855,000	18·7	79,987,628	38·5	2,251,079	1·1	207,445,260
1890	32,804,233	53,979,885	86,784,118	41·0	39,313,000	18·6	82,588,451	39·0	2,995,383	1·4	211,680,952
1880	32,804,233	49,514,776	82,319,009	43·1	37,607,500	19·7	67,389,746	35·3	3,739,701	1·9	191,055,956
1870	32,804,233	41,690,959	74,495,192	50·8	33,356,500	22·8	35,720,966	24·4	2,971,069	2·0	146,543,727
1850	32,625,291	31,213,243	63,838,534	38·4	31,058,397	18·7	69,810,230	42·0	1,559,578	·9	166,266,739

Assets of The Société Générale de Belgique.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Frs.	Cash in Hand. % of Total. %	Government Securities. Amount. Frs.	Other Securities. Amount. Frs.	Total Investments. Amount. Frs.	Total Investments. % of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Frs.	Bills. % of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Frs.	Current Accounts, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises. Amount. Frs.	Bank Premises. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Frs.
1914 ...	16,258,991	2·6	56,272,211	238,365,101	294,637,312	46·1	57,665,618	9·0	268,585,247	42·0	2,000,000	·3	639,147,168
1913 ...	11,924,029	2·4	52,534,660	229,332,728	281,867,388	57·4	63,095,510	12·8	132,151,144	27·0	2,000,000	·4	491,038,071
1912 ...	9,051,745	1·9	90,654,142	231,134,265	301,788,407	63·0	62,015,524	12·9	104,483,517	21·8	2,000,000	·4	479,339,193
1911 ...	13,764,975	2·9	63,734,217	220,953,375	284,687,592	58·5	75,092,277	15·4	110,971,636	22·8	2,000,000	·4	486,516,480
1910 ...	10,375,401	2·3	59,481,621	209.405,293	268,886,914	60·0	68,671,121	15·4	98,297,658	21·9	2,000,000	·4	448,231,094
1909 ...	16,075,197	3·9	63,540,950	174,454,646	237,995,596	57·6	57,254,557	13·9	99,571,634	24·1	2,000,000	·5	412,896,984
1908 ...	15,829,785	3·0	59,133,400	167,135,136	226,268,536	42·9	63,682,010	12·1	219,339,595	41·6	2,000,000	·4	527,119,926
1907 ...	12,032,095	3·4	48,014,750	163,571,022	211,585,772	59·4	54,421,897	15·3	75,673,294	21·3	2,000,000	·6	355,713,058
1906 ...	16,205,982	3·8	39,094,920	161,741,550	200,836,470	47·6	69,981,242	16·6	132,836,165	31·5	2,000,000	·5	421,859,859
1905 ...	15,595,395	4·4	34,136,270	157,924,487	192,060,757	53·6	61,203,120	17·1	86,887,462	24·3	2,000,000	·6	357,746,734
1900 ...	6,482,187	2·4	13,481,400	130,095,778	143,577,178	53·8	48,475,475	18·2	66,526,280	24·9	2,000,000	·7	267,061,120
1895 ...	5,902,207	2·8	13,555,555	118,139,800	131,695,355	63·5	30,651,768	14·8	37,208,674	18·0	1,987,256	·9	207,445,260
1890 ...	5,260,663	2·5	30,538,239	102,632,554	133,170,793	62·8	28,212,221	13·4	44,042,024	20·8	995,251	·5	211,680,952
1880 ...	2,916,948	1·5	21,984,032	80,973,120	102,957,152	53·9	20,456,146	10·7	63,825,710	33·4	900,000	·5	191,055,956
1870 ...	4,249,791	2·9	11,667,473	83,508,408	95,175,881	65·0	14,309,255	9·8	32,062,789	21·8	746,011	·5	146,543,727
1850 ...	17,391,229	10·4	18,805,204	54,838,248	73,643,452	44·3	9,880,980	6·0	60,281,433	36·3	5,069,645	3·0	166,266,739

voted itself to the work of developing the industries of the country and to providing the Belgian people with an outlet for their investments. Its policy has always been an enlightened one, and in order to provide for the banking needs of almost the whole country it has founded a large number of provincial banks. These it controls by the ownership of a majority of the stock. These banks are, however, autonomous, each having its own local directors in touch with local needs. The president of each of these banks is, however, a director of the Société Générale and directs the policy. The deposits controlled by the Bank are, therefore, much larger than the amount which appears in its balance sheet. The capital of these local banks, of which control is thus owned, is about 100,000,000 francs. Not only has the Société Générale provided banking facilities for a large part of the country, it has supplied the Belgian people with an immense amount of securities into which to place their investments. It also takes care of the securities belonging to its customers, and at the end of last year the securities placed with it on deposit amounted to 1,737 million francs. The institution also possesses an important interest in the shares of a number of foreign banks working in various parts of the world. Since 1850, when it lost the right to issue notes, its funds have been obtained entirely from subscriptions of capital and from deposits, and whereas in that year the deposits amounted to only 12,000,000 francs, they have since grown to 483,000,000 francs, or £19,000,000. The greatest expansion in the business of the Bank has occurred since 1895. In that year the deposits and current accounts were only 80,000,000 francs. Ever since 1850 the paid-up capital has remained practically unchanged at somewhat under 33,000,000 francs, while its reserve has been increased from 31,000,000 francs to 74,000,000 francs. Its capital and reserve now amount to 107,000,000 francs. In the balance sheet the securities deposited for safe custody, amounting to 1,737,000,000 francs, are included, but these, of course, are held in its vaults on account of depositors and the Bank is only liable for their safe custody. In calculating the margin of capital and reserve to the total liabilities these should be excluded. The bills of the Bank outstanding amount to 58,000,000 francs. The outbreak of the great European war in the summer of 1914, and the occupation of almost the whole of Belgium by the German Army, have had serious consequences for Belgium, and great numbers of Belgians have sought safety abroad. As far as the Société Générale de Belgique is concerned, however, the War does not seem to have had any serious consequences other than to reduce its net profits substantially. Its business has, in fact, shown noteworthy expansion. Moreover, the Bank has undertaken the duty of supplying the country with bank-notes. The reason for this is explained in the following passage contained in the Society's report issued in February:—

"As we have had the honour to inform you at our meeting in November last, in consequence of the withdrawal by the German Government of the privilege of issue from the National Bank, the Société Générale de Belgique, wishing to save our country, already so severely tried, from a financial and economic catastrophe, has accepted the task of issuing bank-notes temporarily. For this object we have created a special department, completely distinct from our other services, which will be responsible for the issue of bank-notes, discount operations and advances. All these operations will be effected for the sole profit of the National Bank, which at the end of the War, and in conformity with our agreement with it, will take over our Issue Department.

"In assuming in this way a heavy task and a very great responsibility, without any profit for the Société Générale de Belgique, we have considered in the present grave circumstances only the higher interests of the country, and, sure of your approval, we have accepted this mission from our desire to serve the nation."

In 1914 the deposits grew from 325 million francs to 473 million francs, while the Bank's advances increased from 132 million francs to 268 million francs. Its investments were somewhat higher at 294 million francs. The liabilities of the Bank are shown in the statement herewith.

The profit earned is substantial. In 1913 it reached 10,239,000 francs, equal to a dividend of 31 per cent. Last year it was 6,000,000 francs, the gross income having declined and the expenses increased. In 1913 a dividend of 27.21 per cent. was distributed, but on account of last year it was decided to make no distribution. The profits have been as follows:—

Profits of the Société Générale de Belgique.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Frs.	Expenses. Frs.	Net Profit. Frs.	—Dividend.— Amount. Frs.	Rate. %	Reserve Fund. Frs.
1914 ...	20,612,447	14,612,447	6,000,000	—	Nil	6,000,000
1913 ...	23,031,772	12,792,312	10,239,460	8,924,900	27·21	1,314,560
1912 ...	22,056,677	12,183,039	9,873,638	8,614,900	26·26	1,258,738
1911 ...	20,700,804	11,375,900	9,324,904	8,149,900	24·84	1,175,004
1910 ...	18,912,779	9,953,697	8,959,082	7,839,900	23·90	1,119,182
1909 ...	17,365,033	8,771,773	8,593,260	7,529,900	22·95	1,063,360
1908 ...	16,603,955	8,559,429	8,044,526	7,064,900	21·54	979,626
1907 ...	15,545,317	8,049,524	7,495,793	6,599,900	20·12	895,893
1906 ...	14,375,220	7,245,250	7,129,970	6,289,900	19·17	840,070
1905 ...	13,092,632	6,511,395	6,581,237	5,824,900	17·76	756,337
1904 ...	11,906,471	5,691,056	6,215,415	5,514,900	16·81	700,515

SVERIGES RIKSBANK.

Head Office: Stockholm, Sweden.

Capital—

All owned by the State ... ... Kr. 50,000,000

BANKING began unusually early in Sweden—earlier by several years, in fact, than the establishment of the Bank of England. In 1656 a charter was granted to John Palmstruch and his associates authorising a Bank to deal in exchange and grant loans for the advantage of commercial enterprise. The offices were to be in Stockholm and other towns in the kingdom, the banks of Amsterdam and Hamburg serving as prototypes in framing the regulations for the Swedish institution. Advances were made by the Bank on the security of bullion or other valuables, merchandise, and also real estate. Interest was charged at the rate of 6 per cent. And the charter provided that the King, like all other borrowers, should give security for advances made, and should be under obligation to make repayment within a year and six weeks. In 1668 the Bank was declared to be the Bank of the estates of the realm, and the authority and responsibility of Parliament for it became absolute. The original name, Rikets Ständers Bank, was subsequently shortened into Riksbank. The Bank was guaranteed the privilege of being custodian of the revenue received from Customs and other State revenues, the funds of various public institutions, the revenue of the City of Stockholm, bequests and other funds; while the King undertook not to exact from the Bank overdrafts on his deposit account. The regulations for the conduct of business and the classes of business undertaken remained unchanged. The Bank got into difficulties in 1700.

As a result of the excessive issues of credit notes which were payable in copper, silver, which was the standard of value, reached a premium in 1760 of 100 per cent. In 1776 the difficulties became so great that it was decreed that the notes should be redeemed at half the amount in silver represented by the rating of 1717 on their face value in copper. The transfer notes representing copper currency were succeeded by notes representing gold and silver, and the currency was once more regularised. The Riksbank was authorised in 1800 to establish a national discount business with a capital of 600,000 dalers, of which, during the 15 years for which the charter was granted, one-third of the capital might be subscribed by private persons. These persons were to subscribe in metallic silver, and, further, to lend the Bank an equal sum in silver. Of the six directors, two were to be shareholders elected by the body of shareholders and four appointed by the Riksbank. In addition, arrangements were made in 1800 for the establishment of discounting businesses in other towns, where, however, private capital alone was employed.

In 1817 the difficulties of the country, together with mismanagement, brought about the failure of several of these private concerns. The total loss to the Riksbank amounted to 1,343,000 dalers. Parliament, in consequence, resolved that the Riksbank's discount agency should alone be permitted in future to conduct the business of discounting throughout the kingdom. But the management of the discount business by the Riksbank was not more fortunate. The depreciation of the Bank's notes became such that in March 1830 a new redemption of the notes was decreed at the rate of 37½ per cent. of the face value of the notes. In other words, 2⅔ dalers in bank-notes were declared to be the equivalent of one daler in silver. This relation was maintained from 1834, when the change became possible, till the establishment of the gold standard. From 1834 the redeemability of the notes of the Bank was maintained in silver till 1873. Since that year it has been in gold. In 1834, when specie payments were resumed, it was found possible to provide a metallic capital for the Riksbank. That capital has been increased several times since. It was fixed by the law of 1897 at 50 million kronor, or nearly 2¾ millions sterling. Without going further into details of the many changes made in the constitution of the Bank, it may be stated that an Act of Parliament, instead of the Royal Decree formerly issued, settled the matter in 1897. The notes of the Riksbank retain the legal-tender character, but they must be redeemed on demand in gold coin at the Bank's head office. The metallic reserve is defined as consisting of all the domestic and foreign gold coin and gold bullion, the property of the Bank, within the country, and must not at any time be less than 25 million kronor.

The note issue is partly fiduciary and partly covered by cash. As cash may be reckoned the metallic reserve, as just defined; gold coin or bullion deposited abroad, or in transit to Sweden, and covered by insurance; and, lastly, the current account credit balances of the Bank with banks and mercantile houses abroad. The fiduciary issue must be covered by easily realisable foreign Government bonds; bonds of the Swedish Government, of the General Mortgage Bank, and of other Swedish enterprises which are quoted on foreign stock exchanges; and bills of exchange, whether domestic or foreign. In 1901 the cash covering the note issue, so far as it consists of foreign credits, was defined as the amount of such credits after deducting corresponding debits—in other words, of the net instead of the gross credit balances. Further, the words "mercantile houses" were replaced by "banking houses." Moreover, the minimum metallic reserve was raised to 40 million kronor. And, lastly, the fiduciary issue was allowed to be increased above 100 million kronor by the amount by which the metallic reserve should exceed the minimum of 40 million kronor. In addition to these various arrangements respecting note issues, the capital of the Bank was raised by setting aside a sum of 12½ million kronor as a special fund for loans repayable by instalments at fixed intervals. As these loans can be called in to meet an emergency they are hardly suited for a note-issuing bank. The difficulty was got over in 1903 by separating the fund from which they are made from the general fund of the Bank. As the right of issuing notes was taken away from the other banks, the number of branches of those banks was required to be increased, so that there might be at least one in each of the 24 districts into which Sweden is divided for Government purposes. On the other hand, the other banks, to compensate them for the withdrawal of the right of issue, were assured financial support from the Riksbank on condition that they maintained all the offices in operation at the opening of the year 1896. Furthermore, there were some restrictions imposed upon the kinds of business the Bank might engage in. Particularly, it was forbidden to pay interest on deposits, to own land except such as was needed for the transaction of its regular business; and though it was permitted to buy

Liabilities of The Sveriges Riksbank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Kr.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Kr.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Kr.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Kr.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Deposits, &c. Amount. Kr.	Deposits, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Kr.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Kr.
1914 ...	50,000,000	12,500,000	62,500,000	12·4	304,057,553	60·4	119,468,818	23·7	17,563,683	3·5	503,590,054
1913 ...	50,000,000	12,500,000	62,500,000	14·6	234,471,580	54·5	117,465,309	27·2	15,859,792	3·7	430,296,681
1912 ...	50,000,000	12,500,000	62,500,000	15·2	228,431,809	55·3	108,810,630	26·3	13,369,708	3·2	413,112,147
1911 ...	50,000,000	12,500,000	62,500,000	17·4	218,101,403	60·6	66,386,473	18·4	12,710,815	3·6	359,698,691
1910 ...	50,000,000	12,500,000	62,500,000	17·9	206,490,699	59·0	68,454,945	19·5	12,655,685	3·6	350,101,329
1905 ...	50,000,000	8,110,000	58,110,000	18·3	183,712,573	57·8	63,041,120	19·9	12,719,695	4·0	317,583,388
1900 ...	50,000,000	6,000,000	56,000,000	25·2	71,991,608	32·4	78,100,601	35·1	16,296,063	7·3	222,388,272
1895 ...	50,000,000	5,000,000	55,000,000	36·8	56,737,254	37·9	30,528,635	20·4	7,269,533	4·9	149,535,422
1890 ...	45,000,000	5,000,000	50,000,000	35·5	45,398,621	32·3	37,280,604	26·5	7,963,481	5·7	140,642,706
1880 ...	30,000,000	5,000,000	35,000,000	30·1	39,403,746	34·0	34,795,232	30·0	6,822,663	5·9	116,021,641
1870 ...	45,000,000	—	45,000,000	34·3	25,903,376	35·6	18,197,952	25·0	3,733,313	5·1	72,834,641
1860 ...	15,000,000	—	15,000,000	18·8	37,889,232	47·5	16,393,986	20·5	10,515,563	13·2	79,798,781
1850 ...	15,000,000	—	15,090,000	24·2	33,345,108	53·9	9,134,138	14·8	4,366,777	7·1	61,846,023
1829 ...	6,600,000	—	6,600,000	11·0	36,893,842	61·6	16,442,671	27·4	—	—	59,936,513

Assets of The Sveriges Riksbank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand. Amount. Kr.	Cash in Hand. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Kr.	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills. Amount. Kr.	Bills. % of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Kr.	Current Accounts. % of Total. %	Advances, &c. Amount. Kr.	Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Kr.
1914 ...	110,425,285	21·9	27,575,386	5·5	218,338,563	43·4	30,078,936	5·9	117,171,884	23·3	503,590,054
1913 ...	107,335,559	24·9	30,900,881	7·2	227,071,575	52·8	41,500,630	9·6	23,488,036	5·5	430,296,681
1912 ...	105,126,280	25·5	20,776,133	5·0	214,773,933	52·0	40,242,243	9·7	32,193,558	7·8	413,112,147
1911 ...	89,887,717	25·0	16,696,830	4·7	158,541,499	44·0	63,058,911	17·5	31,513,734	8·8	359,698,691
1910 ...	85,642,024	24·5	12,964,293	3·7	146,749,946	41·9	60,054,821	17·1	44,690,245	12·8	350,101,329
1905 ...	71,657,460	22·6	12,354,667	3·9	129,307,556	40·7	42,567,630	13·4	61,796,075	19·4	317,583,388
1900 ...	45,016,138	20·2	18,164,133	8·4	84,923,195	38·2	22,243,377	10·0	52,041,429	23·4	222,388,272
1895 ...	26,940,743	18·0	21,224,182	14·2	31,441,875	41·0	22,315,081	14·9	47,613,536	31·9	149,535,422
1890 ...	19,649,240	14·0	22,987,084	16·4	40,819,674	29·0	6,953,270	4·9	50,233,438	35·7	140,642,706
1880 ...	16,977,157	14·6	20,166,811	17·4	22,130,399	19·1	10,810,014	9·3	45,937,240	39·6	116,021,641
1870 ...	10,580,046	14·5	10,155,523	14·0	9,826,625	13·5	8,457,793	11·6	33,814,654	46·4	72,834,641
1860 ...	15,007,072	18·8	9,457,865	11·9	—	—	8,236,054	10·3	47,097,790	59·0	79,798,781
1850 ...	17,566,983	28·4	9,219,520	14·9	—	—	763,068	1·2	34,296,452	55·5	61,846,023
1829 ...	25,342,313	42·3	4,602,148	11·0	—	—	—	—	27,992,052	46·7	59,936,513

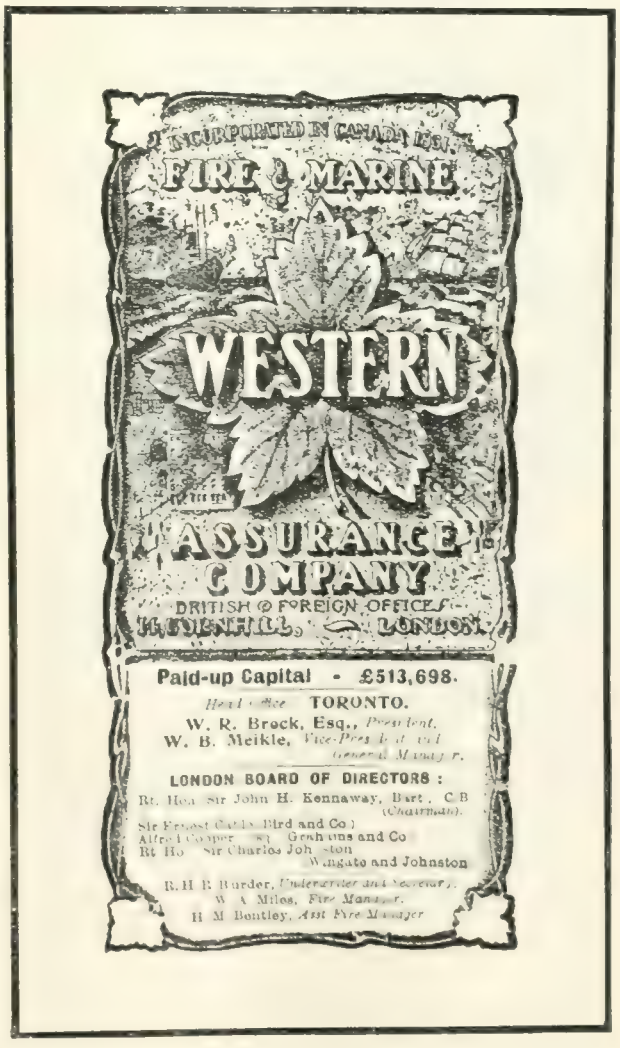
real estate, it was required to sell it again as soon as possible. Previously the Bank had been under the sole control of Parliament. This was changed by the Act of 1897. The Crown appoints a Chairman and Parliament appoints six representatives. The seven constitute the governing body of the Bank.

The capital of the Bank is now 50,000,000 kronor; its reserve is 12,500,000 kronor, and its total capital and reserve are 62,500,000 kronor. Its note circulation is 312,000,000 kronor. Inasmuch as the Bank holds against its note circulation only 113,000,000 kronor of cash the note circulation provides 199,000,000 kronor of money for banking and currency purposes. The greater part of the Bank's resources are invested in bills. The great European War now raging has brought advantage to Sweden, which is experiencing a great demand for her produce at high prices. The demand for currency is reflected by an increase in the Bank's note circulation from 242 million kronor before the War to 312 million kronor at the present time. Apparently cash payments are being made more extensively as the loans and discounts of the banks have declined. On the other hand, the Bank has substantially increased its cash, foreign balances, and its investments. The following contrast discloses the effects of the War on its position:—

	1915, Oct. 2 Kr.	1914, Aug. 1 Kr.	Inc. or Dec. Kr.
LIABILITIES.			
Notes in circulation	312,120,000	241,776,000	+70,344,000
Deposits	60,426,000	70,254,000	— 9,828,000
ASSETS.			
Gold	113,400,000	102,906,000	+10,494,000
Balance abroad and foreign bills ...	119,052,000	110,700,000	+ 8,352,000
Swedish and foreign Government securities	55,188,000	27,990,000	+27,198,000
Discounts and loans	94,464,000	134,910,000	—40,446,000

The expansion in the business of the Bank will be appreciated from the statement of assets and liabilities herewith.

Almost the whole of the cash in hand now consists of gold, whereas in the old days its cash balances were almost entirely of silver. The amounts of gold and



silver now held in comparison with the past are shown by the following statement:—

Gold and Silver Holdings of the Sveriges Riksbank.

Dec. 31	Gold. Kr.	Gold. % of Total. %	Silver. Kr.	Silver. % of Total. %	Total. Kr.
1914 ...	108,537,245	98·3	1,888,040	1·7	110,425,285
1913 ...	102,133,022	95·2	5,202,537	4·8	107,335,559
1912 ...	100,059,421	95·2	5,066,859	4·8	105,126,280
1911 ...	84,918,979	94·4	4,968,738	5·6	89,887,717
1910 ...	80,355,841	93·8	5,286,183	6·2	85,642,024
1905 ...	68,211,534	95·2	3,445,926	4·8	71,657,460
1900 ...	36,854,698	81·9	8,161,440	18·1	45,016,138
1895 ...	24,217,603	89·9	2,723,145	10·1	26,940,748
1890 ...	17,139,729	87·2	2,509,511	12·8	19,649,240
1880 ...	11,839,079	69·7	5,138,078	30·3	16,977,157
1870 ...	958,352	9·1	9,621,694	90·9	10,580,046
1860 ...	519,446	3·5	14,487,626	96·5	15,007,072
1850 ...	615,268	3·5	16,951,715	96·5	17,566,983
1829 ...	60,504	·2	25,281,809	99·8	25,342,313

The profits of the institution in proportion to its capital are substantial. Last year the net profit was 8,761,000 kronor, equal to 17.5 per cent. on its capital stock, and this was also the rate of dividend. Upon its capital and reserve the profit was equal to 14 per cent. The substantial growth in the profits in recent years will be seen from the statement appended:—

Profits of the Sveriges Riksbank.

Year ended Dec. 31	Gross Profits. Kr.	Expenses. Kr.	Net Profit. Kr.	Proportion to the State. Kr.	Proportion to the State. % on Capital. %	Reserve. Kr.
1914 ...	12,997,969	4,236,077	8,761,892	8,762,000	17·52	—
1913 ...	13,123,779	4,322,695	8,801,084	8,801,000	17·60	—
1912 ...	11,012,960	3,955,067	7,057,893	7,058,000	14·12	—
1911 ...	9,844,377	3,533,248	6,311,129	6,311,000	12·62	—
1910 ...	9,982,324	3,583,282	6,399,042	6,398,000	12·80	—
1909 ...	9,634,501	3,378,566	6,255,935	6,256,000	12·51	—
1908 ...	14,582,897	5,636,303	8,946,594	8,323,000	16·65	622,885
1907 ...	13,535,595	3,896,572	9,639,023	8,675,000	17·35	964,000
1906 ...	10,310,254	3,176,858	7,133,396	6,400,000	12·80	720,000
1905 ...	8,869,084	2,462,824	6,206,260	5,350,000	10·70	625,000
1904 ...	8,391,196	2,685,852	5,705,345	5,100,000	10·20	575,000

SWISS BANKVEREIN.

Head Office: Basle.
London Offices: 43 Lothbury, E.C.; 11c Regent Street, S.W.

Capital—
Authorised and Issued, 164,000 Shares of 500 Frs. each, fully paid... ... Frs. 82,000,000
Price per Share, 590 frs. *Dividend*, 6%. *Yield*, 5.08%.

One of the noteworthy developments of modern times has been the growth of the income and of the wealth of the Swiss people. Not many years ago the income of the Swiss was sufficient to give them no more than enough to take care of their own needs and to develop their own industries. But the immense growth in the income and wealth of so many countries have enabled an ever-increasing number of tourists to visit the beautiful lakes, valleys, and mountains of their country both in winter and in summer, at the same time that the introduction of electricity has given them an unlimited quantity of cheap power for their industries. The influx of money that has taken place in consequence of these developments was rapidly converting Switzerland from a relatively poor to a very rich country, and the amount of money which the Swiss had for investment in the course of the year reached large sums. This condition of affairs brought about the opening in London of a branch of the Swiss Bankverein, whose managers never fail to obtain an important share in attractive new issues for the Swiss people. Indeed, the Swiss Bankverein has become an important issuing bank on its own account, and each year places with Swiss investors large amounts of securities both home and foreign, for which it is entirely responsible or for which it shares responsibility with other firms. The Swiss Bankverein really dates from 1872, when the Basler Bankverein was formed.

This important institution in 1895 amalgamated with the Zürcher Bankverein of Zurich, and in 1896-97 with the Schweiz Unionbank of St. Gall and the Basler Depositenbank. It then changed its name into the Schweizerischer Bankverein, known in English as the Swiss Bankverein. In 1906 it absorbed the Banque de Bâle, and Messrs. d'Espine, Fatio and Co., of Geneva; in 1908 the Bank für Appenzell; and in 1912 Messrs. S. A. von Speyr and Co., of Bale, and the Banque d'Escompte et de Dépôts of Lausanne. In 1872 the paid-up capital of the institution was 6,000,000 francs. The earlier amalgamation brought the paid-up capital to 40,000,000 francs, and the amount has since been raised to 82,000,000 francs. The reserve fund has been steadily built up until it is now 27,750,000 francs. The total capital and reserve is thus 109,750,000 francs. The deposits, which in 1872 were only 4,000,000 francs and which after the first consolidations amounted to about 80,000,000 francs in 1900, have since increased to as much as 340,000,000 francs. The Bank transacts a relatively large bill business and its bills payable and acceptances at the end of 1913 amounted to nearly 150,000,000 francs, or £6,000,000. In consequence of the War they were reduced last year to 61,000,000 francs. Over 50 per cent., or 261,000,000 francs, of its resources are employed on current account. The following extract from the Bank's report for 1914 describes clearly the effect of the War on Switzerland in general, and upon the Bank itself:—

"Business during the first half-year (1914) was only moderately active. The reaction which had become evident in trade and industry made further progress, and was also reflected in banking business. Short-term money was fairly plentiful, but the comparatively low interest rates failed to stimulate economic activity; on the contrary, they were only symptomatic of the general hesitation evinced by the investing public. However, crises in international politics had occurred so frequently, without leading to a rupture between the Great Powers, that the business community had gradually become inured to this state of uncertainty. Recent years had witnessed so marked an improvement in international relations, especially in the domain of economics and finance, that it seemed almost incredible that any Government would risk incurring the awful responsibility of a general conflagration which would endanger and partly annihilate the material progress achieved during 40 years of peace.

"Switzerland, like other countries, stood appalled when suddenly confronted with a war of this unprecedented magnitude.

"Situated in the heart of Europe, with industries having their principal markets beyond our boundaries, dependent to a considerable extent on a large influx of tourists in summer and winter, it was inevitable that our whole economic structure would be severely affected by the conflict which raged in Europe. Hence it is not surprising that the declarations of war, which at the beginning of August followed one another with dramatic rapidity, created a profound impression here.

"However, it was not long before calmer feelings prevailed. The able measures adopted by the Federal Council for the protection of our military and economic position, the perfect order in which the mobilisation of our army was carried through, the general recognition of our neutrality, and also the salutary action of the Swiss National Bank, soon led to the establishment of a more hopeful feeling. The public gradually adapted itself to the modified conditions brought about by the War, and all efforts were directed towards limiting the ravages caused by the European crisis. The great success obtained by the two Federal Mobilisation Loans furnished a striking proof of the people's confidence in the future of our country.

"No branch of our national activity is more intimately connected with foreign countries than our banking business. Just as with our trade and industries we are forced to look for our markets to fields outside our frontiers, so, as regards finance, it is

Liabilities of The Swiss Bankverein.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Fr.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Fr.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Fixed Deposits. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bills Payable and Acceptances. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Pension Fund. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Fr.
1914...	82,000,000	27,750,000	109,750,000	21·1	65,006,350	12·5	275,407,165	53·1	61,679,925	11·9	2,168,787	·4	5,237,375	1·0	519,249,602
1913...	82,000,000	27,750,000	109,750,000	18·7	66,090,650	11·2	253,674,530	43·1	149,636,594	25·4	2,121,594	·4	6,972,253	1·2	588,245,531
1912...	82,000,000	26,750,000	108,750,000	18·3	64,593,800	10·9	276,394,554	46·6	134,182,336	22·7	1,893,687	·3	7,107,013	1·2	592,921,390
1911...	75,000,000	24,500,000	99,500,000	18·6	59,525,250	11·1	250,141,884	46·5	119,786,768	22·3	1,616,463	·3	6,490,609	1·2	537,060,974
1910...	75,000,000	23,500,000	98,500,000	19·1	58,039,800	11·3	233,034,549	45·3	117,986,932	23·0	1,402,650	·2	5,878,804	1·1	514,842,735
1909...	62,800,000	17,330,000	80,130,000	16·7	55,502,100	11·6	232,575,251	48·4	104,955,666	22·0	1,198,957	·2	5,346,297	1·1	479,708,271
1908...	62,800,000	16,330,000	79,130,000	20·6	49,087,200	12·8	161,727,884	42·0	89,036,026	23·1	1,002,388	·2	5,314,714	1·3	385,298,212
1907...	62,800,000	16,330,000	79,130,000	21·7	48,015,650	13·2	144,351,652	39·5	87,331,233	23·9	1,000,000	·3	5,293,009	1·4	365,121,544
1906...	62,800,000	14,282,327	77,082,327	22·6	48,228,250	14·1	135,946,092	40·0	73,531,416	21·6	602,950	·2	5,294,533	1·5	340,685,568
1905...	50,000,000	13,002,302	63,002,302	20·8	38,282,330	12·6	134,471,344	44·3	63,647,692	21·0	403,587	·2	3,467,832	1·1	303,275,087
1900...	40,000,000	11,712,002	51,712,002	32·0	16,228,430	10·0	63,453,551	39·3	27,983,971	17·3	—	—	2,108,100	1·4	161,886,054
1895...	15,000,000	3,900,625	18,900,625	59·5	—	—	11,231,214	35·4	605,547	1·9	—	—	1,006,221	3·2	31,743,607
1890...	15,000,000	3,900,000	18,900,000	53·3	—	—	13,253,221	37·4	1,851,306	5·2	—	—	1,464,637	4·1	35,469,164
1880...	8,000,000	640,390	8,640,390	23·3	—	—	25,902,088	69·8	1,752,002	4·7	—	—	814,025	2·2	37,108,505
1872...	6,000,000	82,364	6,082,364	53·8	—	—	4,262,215	37·7	718,177	6·4	—	—	242,055	2·1	11,304,811

Assets of The Swiss Bankverein.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand, and at Banks, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Loans at Short Notice. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bills Receivable. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Syndicates. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises and Other Property. Amount. Fr.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Fr.
1914...	58,433,379	11·3	38,492,280	7·4	64,200,764	12·4	72,129,789	13·9	261,672,289	50·4	17,338,100	3·3	6,974,001	1·3	519,249,602
1913...	38,779,930	6·6	37,808,255	6·4	82,871,738	14·1	107,207,302	18·2	297,006,804	50·5	18,147,501	3·1	6,424,001	1·1	588,245,531
1912...	45,524,071	7·7	42,374,061	7·1	106,744,173	18·0	104,128,373	17·6	268,554,509	45·3	19,061,202	3·2	6,535,001	1·1	592,921,390
1911...	42,598,803	8·0	40,481,841	7·6	109,749,953	20·4	109,317,932	20·3	218,999,681	40·8	11,102,763	2·0	4,810,001	·9	537,060,974
1910...	30,081,454	5·8	41,245,974	8·0	107,468,494	20·9	105,481,598	20·5	215,728,530	41·9	10,046,684	2·0	4,790,001	·9	514,842,735
1909...	30,029,212	6·2	31,041,536	6·5	115,202,001	24·0	99,182,764	27·0	192,249,399	40·1	7,363,358	1·5	4,640,001	1·0	479,708,271
1908...	30,174,589	7·8	34,035,561	8·8	67,811,141	17·6	76,168,760	19·7	167,815,071	43·8	5,698,089	1·3	3,595,001	1·0	385,298,212
1907...	25,662,378	7·0	30,091,191	8·2	62,233,742	17·0	69,667,837	19·1	163,991,006	45·0	9,880,389	2·8	3,595,001	·9	365,121,544
1906...	22,199,391	6·5	34,769,016	10·2	59,446,014	17·5	60,202,984	17·7	146,863,272	43·1	13,609,890	4·0	3,595,001	1·0	340,685,568
1905...	28,727,883	9·5	12,325,913	4·0	64,471,719	21·4	46,939,254	15·4	137,217,942	45·2	9,997,375	3·3	3,595,001	1·2	303,275,087
1900...	35,712,875	22·0	11,998,225	7·4	13,359,929	8·2	20,234,765	12·5	72,673,223	45·0	2,742,109	1·7	5,164,908	3·2	161,886,054
1895...	553,648	1·7	6,804,798	21·4	10,903,849	34·4	4,399,894	13·9	6,961,572	22·0	1,761,845	5·5	358,001	1·1	31,743,607
1890...	695,072	1·9	4,891,195	13·8	12,900,056	36·4	5,233,590	14·7	9,896,227	28·0	1,469,023	4·1	384,001	1·0	35,469,164
1880...	677,731	1·8	5,868,921	15·8	8,111,688	21·9	7,953,786	21·4	13,891,705	37·5	445,803	1·2	158,871	·4	37,108,505
1872...	225,709	2·0	2,260,894	20·0	—	—	2,986,747	26·4	4,069,179	36·0	1,596,049	14·1	166,233	1·5	11,304,811

impossible to restrict business to the narrow limits of our territory.

"The first problem to be solved at the outbreak of hostilities was the repatriation of our credit balances abroad. The moratoria proclaimed by most of the European Governments, and the breakdown of the foreign exchanges, rendered this operation exceedingly difficult, and for a time retarded its execution.

"In order to strengthen our resources in Switzerland, and notwithstanding the serious loss in exchange, we called in, as soon as it became practicable, the bulk of our credit balances in adjacent countries, and by December 31 these were reduced to the amounts requisite for the conduct of our current banking transactions.

"Current business, especially in the third quarter, suffered a considerable reduction, which is reflected in the decrease of our turnover from 47,551,634,300 francs to 34,310,699,922 francs last year.

"In view of the general situation, and in order to be prepared for any possible contingencies, we deemed it advisable, notwithstanding the loss of interest thereby incurred, to maintain larger cash balances than usual. Our cash position on December 31, 1914, showed an increase of about thirteen million francs over that at the end of 1913. Profit on discounts was somewhat higher than last year, due to the advance in rates since the beginning of August. This also applies to profit from interest. On the other hand, commission accounts show a falling-off by nearly 400,000 francs, attributable to the decrease in the turnover and the stagnation in investment business since the closing of the stock exchanges in August.

"Whilst, in the absence of official quotations for December 31, 1914, we have valued our securities and holdings on syndicate account on the basis of the prices ruling prior to the outbreak of the War, we have, thereagainst, made such provision by way of writing off and reserves as the situation in general, and the intrinsic merits of the securities in particular, appeared to demand. It will be observed that the decrease in our total net profit, as compared with previous years, is almost entirely due to this substantial provision for depreciation, made from the year's results.

"Up to the present the positions of our debtors, which have our close and unremitting attention, have

How to create
CAPITAL

WHEN Investments have depreciated in value, fresh capital can be at once created by means of Life Assurance. This and other points are clearly explained in the pamphlet entitled "WHERE AND HOW TO ASSURE," issued by the

Scottish Amicable
Life Assurance Society

MUTUAL OFFICE, ESTABLISHED 1826.
PROFITS BELONG EXCLUSIVELY TO POLICYHOLDERS.
FUNDS EXCEED £6,200,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
35 ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW.

LONDON OFFICE:
1 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

Liabilities of The Volga-Kama Commercial Bank.

Dec. 31	Capital Paid up. Amount. Rs.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Rs.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Current Accounts, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Branches. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Sundry Liabilities. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Liabilities Amount. Rs.
1914 ...	18,000,000	21,035,852	39,035,852	7·2	372,034,361	69·0	33,000,502	6·1	72,226,022	13·4	18,839,380	3·5	4,318,975	·8	539,455,092
1913 ...	18,000,000	20,126,608	38,126,608	9·2	256,575,025	62·2	32,116,364	7·8	66,184,379	16·0	14,191,151	3·5	5,357,653	1·3	412,551,180
1912 ...	18,000,000	20,919,197	33,919,197	10·0	253,306,183	65·0	29,400,577	7·5	51,547,940	13·2	12,839,911	3·3	3,701,178	1·0	389,714,986
1911 ...	18,000,000	20,460,000	38,460,000	11·3	220,050,231	64·7	17,835,045	5·2	46,654,297	13·8	13,701,403	4·0	3,412,345	1·0	340,163,326
1910 ...	15,000,000	15,332,838	30,332,838	9·1	211,032,328	63·4	21,732,046	6·6	54,961,328	16·5	9,323,792	2·9	4,842,690	1·5	332,725,072
1909 ...	15,000,000	15,328,681	30,328,681	11·9	167,886,704	65·8	16,378,730	6·4	27,930,899	11·0	9,094,237	3·5	3,659,201	1·4	255,088,542
1908 ...	12,000,000	11,787,603	23,787,603	10·3	143,494,850	61·9	17,411,000	7·5	34,242,489	14·8	8,101,700	3·5	4,526,989	2·0	231,564,636
1907 ...	12,000,000	10,476,048	22,476,048	11·1	131,043,474	64·8	13,479,581	6·7	22,451,553	11·1	8,714,472	4·3	3,988,562	2·0	202,153,690
1906 ...	12,000,000	9,919,858	21,919,858	11·4	121,260,006	63·3	14,383,318	7·6	21,656,088	11·3	8,595,806	4·5	3,685,440	1·9	191,500,516
1905 ...	12,000,000	9,801,161	21,801,161	11·2	126,542,827	65·2	8,748,265	4·5	24,555,736	12·7	9,343,249	4·8	2,963,549	1·6	193,954,787
1900 ...	10,000,000	7,263,440	17,263,440	10·0	111,164,708	64·2	7,331,097	4·2	25,060,193	14·5	8,796,621	5·1	3,636,080	2·1	173,252,139
1895 ...	10,000,000	6,126,316	16,126,316	11·9	78,581,981	58·0	4,774,076	3·5	18,701,553	13·8	13,212,540	9·8	4,009,474	3·0	135,405,940
1890 ...	10,000,000	4,891,188	14,891,188	14·7	65,185,428	64·5	4,860,573	4·8	8,037,067	8·0	5,252,925	5·2	2,985,619	2·8	101,112,800
1880 ...	8,350,000	844,290	9,194,290	12·8	39,817,209	55·5	775,049	1·1	8,276,775	11·5	11,260,715	15·7	2,406,899	3·4	71,730,937
1870 ...	6,000,000	—	6,000,000	12·0	31,663,696	63·2	191,512	·4	4,072,992	8·0	7,449,437	14·8	835,054	1·6	50,212,691

Assets of The Volga-Kama Commercial Bank.

Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Banks. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bills Discounted. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Advances. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Correspondents. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Branches. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Rs.	% of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Rs.
1914 ...	56,197,884	10·4	23,385,104	4·4	192,604,222	35·7	145,773,447	27·0	35,722,233	6·6	72,226,022	13·4	13,546,180	2·5	539,455,092
1913 ...	15,653,075	3·8	19,122,264	4·6	131,984,681	32·0	142,702,507	34·6	25,890,945	6·3	66,184,379	16·0	11,013,329	2·7	412,551,180
1912 ...	16,743,266	4·3	19,564,612	5·0	138,859,162	35·7	134,177,520	34·4	17,264,298	4·4	51,547,940	13·2	11,558,188	3·0	389,714,986
1911 ...	12,923,162	3·8	18,528,923	5·4	121,947,157	35·9	119,977,916	35·3	14,704,818	4·3	46,654,297	13·7	5,427,053	1·6	340,163,326
1910 ...	13,162,308	3·9	16,414,813	4·9	116,880,396	35·1	106,810,699	32·1	19,348,976	5·9	54,961,328	16·5	5,146,552	1·6	332,725,072
1909 ...	18,070,722	7·1	14,430,310	5·6	92,855,681	36·4	80,191,211	31·4	16,804,107	6·6	27,830,890	11·0	4,905,621	1·9	255,088,542
1908 ...	11,656,173	5·4	9,052,013	3·9	83,914,849	36·3	64,776,657	27·6	23,016,077	9·9	34,242,489	14·8	4,906,378	2·1	231,564,636
1907 ...	7,782,370	3·8	9,615,880	4·8	79,019,952	39·1	66,015,191	32·7	13,042,435	6·4	22,451,553	11·1	4,226,309	2·1	202,153,690
1906 ...	13,220,996	6·9	10,618,932	5·5	65,598,778	34·2	61,933,875	32·4	15,104,821	7·9	21,656,088	11·3	3,367,026	1·8	191,500,516
1905 ...	6,819,339	3·5	8,617,613	4·5	74,467,292	38·4	64,096,553	33·1	12,042,889	6·2	24,555,736	12·7	3,355,365	1·6	193,954,787
1900 ...	8,438,900	4·9	7,022,714	4·1	62,258,056	35·9	59,676,025	34·5	7,908,034	4·5	25,060,193	14·5	2,888,217	1·6	173,252,139
1895 ...	6,034,613	4·5	9,674,978	7·1	42,764,090	31·6	49,888,614	36·9	5,468,400	4·0	18,717,699	13·9	2,857,550	2·0	135,405,940
1890 ...	6,732,044	6·7	9,542,640	9·4	32,960,320	32·6	36,978,960	36·6	4,805,085	4·7	8,037,067	8·0	2,056,684	2·0	101,112,800
1880 ...	3,874,641	5·4	3,894,820	5·4	29,495,297	41·1	23,299,163	32·5	1,106,435	1·6	8,276,775	11·5	1,783,806	2·5	71,730,937
1870 ...	775,420	1·5	681,215	1·3	22,568,190	45·1	21,897,740	43·8	38,185	—	4,072,992	8·0	178,949	·3	50,212,691

not given cause for misgivings. The total amount of our engagements under this heading, compared with previous years, has considerably decreased. In connection therewith our acceptance account shows a reduction of about 80,000,000 francs, acceptances given against reimbursement credits having suffered a considerable reduction as the result of the war."

The great expansion in the deposits and business of the Bank will be evident from the statement of assets and liabilities herewith.

The net profit last year was 8,127,000 francs, but of this sum 3,302,000 francs was reserved against loss by depreciation, and the dividend was reduced from 8 to 6 per cent. The profits since 1903 are set out below:—

Profits of The Swiss Bankverein.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profit. Fr.	Expenses. Fr.	Net Profit. Fr.	Dividend. Amount. Fr.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Allocations. Fr.	Carried Forw'd. Fr.
1914 ...	14,590,113	6,462,869	8,127,244	4,920,000	6	3,302,122	317,375
1913 ...	14,517,740	7,092,499	7,425,241	6,560,000	8	1,000,000	412,253
1912 ...	15,067,273	7,490,433	7,576,840	6,560,000	8	1,000,000	547,013
1911 ...	13,248,516	6,085,147	7,163,369	6,000,000	8	1,000,000	530,173
1910 ...	12,447,880	5,891,372	6,556,508	5,512,000	8	1,000,000	366,804
1909 ...	11,379,035	5,323,453	6,055,582	5,024,000	8	1,000,000	322,296
1908 ...	9,453,743	4,408,038	5,045,705	5,024,000	8	—	290,714
1907 ...	9,413,447	4,390,971	5,022,476	5,024,000	8	—	269,009
1906 ...	9,697,468	4,670,760	5,026,708	5,024,000	8	—	270,533
1905 ...	8,490,601	5,285,341	3,205,260	3,200,000	8	—	267,825
1904 ...	5,972,037	3,108,757	2,863,280	2,800,000	7	—	262,565
1903 ...	5,050,717	2,646,061	2,404,656	2,400,000	6	—	199,285

VOLGA-KAMA COMMERCIAL BANK.

Head Office: Petrograd.

Capital—

Authorised and Issued, 72,000 Shares of 250 Roubles, fully paid ... ... Rbls. 18,000,000

The Volga-Kama Bank was established in 1870 for the purpose of pursuing general banking business as conducted in Continental countries, and has met with great success. Starting with deposits of about 31,000,000 roubles, its current accounts and deposits now reach a total of 372,000,000 roubles. This amount compares with 127,000,000 roubles in 1903. The capital of the institution has been increased as its business has grown. Commencing with a paid-up capital of 6,000,000 roubles, it repeatedly increased until in 1911 it amounted to 18,000,000 roubles. At the same time its reserve funds have been built up in part by premiums received on the new issues of capital and partly by profits until they reach a total of 21,036,000 roubles. Its total capital and reserve is thus 39,000,000 roubles. This amount bears a proportion of 7.2 per cent. to its total liabilities. It has made advances to customers amounting to about 145,000,000 roubles, and it holds bills for 192,000,000 roubles. The War greatly increased the demand for banking accommodation, and at the same time added largely to the Bank's deposits. This will be seen from the statement of liabilities and assets herewith.

The net profits of the undertaking are very substantial, and, in spite of the difficulties created by war, last year amounted to 3,435,000 roubles, a sum equal to 19 per cent. upon the capital and to nearly 9 per cent. upon the capital and reserve. In 1914 the dividend paid was still as high as 19 per cent. Profits and dividends in recent years have been as follows:—

Profits of the Volga-Kama Commercial Bank.

Year to Dec. 31	Gross Profits. Rs.	Interest & Expenses. Rs.	Net Profits. Rs.	Dividend. Amount. Rs.	Dividend. Rate. %	Special Allocations, Rs.	Carried Forw'd. Rs.
1914 ...	24,896,507	21,461,741	3,434,766	3,420,000	19	—	14,766
1913 ...	22,405,124	18,033,139	4,371,685	3,960,000	22	411,685	—
1912 ...	19,074,422	15,998,101	3,076,321	3,960,000	22	Dr. 883,679	—
1911 ...	17,405,786	14,594,323	2,811,463	3,690,000	24	Dr. 868,961	—
1910 ...	16,385,133	12,784,301	3,600,832	3,600,000	24	—	9,577
1909 ...	14,796,296	11,830,166	2,966,130	2,970,000	24	—	8,745
1908 ...	14,372,398	10,722,294	3,650,104	2,880,000	24	760,000	12,615
1907 ...	12,463,234	9,234,178	3,229,056	2,640,000	22	586,544	2,511
1906 ...	12,633,918	9,664,817	2,969,101	2,400,000	20	572,596	—
1905 ...	10,753,513	8,350,018	2,403,495	2,400,000	20	—	3,495
1904 ...	10,009,783	8,091,666	1,918,117	2,640,000	22	Dr. 713,592	—

An interesting feature with regard to this Bank is the substantial participation it gives in its profits to its employees. Before calculating the profit available for division it sets aside 5 per cent. to reserve until the sum reaches one-third of the share capital, and 2 per cent. until it reaches one-half of the share capital. Thereafter 5 per cent. to the managers, 2 per cent. to the board, 1 per cent. to the Stock Exchange

Committee of Rybinsk, and 40,000 roubles to the compensation and provident fund. The remainder, as long as it does not exceed 8 per cent. of the share capital, is paid in full to the shareholders. Of the surplus above 8 per cent. 15 per cent. goes to the employees, and the remainder is at the disposal of the shareholders.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: Yokohama.

London Office: 7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital—

Subscribed ... ... Yen 48,000,000

Paid up { 240,000 Shares of Yen 100, fully paid ... ... / 240,000 Shares of Yen 25 ... } 30,000,000

Price of Share, 214% *Div,* 12%. *Yield,* £5 12*s.* 3*d.*%

THIS important banking institution was formed and started business in February 1880 with the object of affording financial facilities in respect of the foreign trade of Japan. It also conducts a general banking business and the various matters relating to the financial affairs of the Imperial Government, both in Japan and other countries. The Bank was originally conducted under the provisions of the National Banking Law, but a special Imperial Ordinance entitled the Yokohama Specie Bank Regulations was promulgated in July 1887, which provides for a strict supervision by the Government over the affairs of the Bank, and business is now conducted under the provisions of this Ordinance. The Bank was formed with a capital of Yen 3,000,000, but with the very great expansion that has occurred in the business it has been necessary to increase the capital on various occasions, the last being in 1911, when the paid-up amount rose from Yen 24,000,000 to Yen 30,000,000. The business is to a large extent of an international character, as may be gathered from the fact that, in addition to the head office at Yokohama and a very important branch in London, the Bank has offices in Lyons, while it also does business in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles in the United States. There are likewise offices at Bombay and Calcutta. In China the Bank conducts business at Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, and Hong Kong. Altogether the branches and agencies reach a total of 27. The growth has been of a very rapid character. In June 1895 the deposits were Yen 11,800,000; by 1900 they had increased practically fivefold, amounting to Yen 54,700,000; by 1905 they rose to Yen 99,700,000; and by 1907 to Yen 150,600,000. A falling-off then occurred, until by June 30, 1910, the deposits dropped to Yen 114,400,000.

The high-water mark was touched in June 1913, when the deposits reached a total of Yen 205,708,482. At December 31, 1914, they amounted to Yen 186,027,935. Herewith we set out the liabilities and assets for various years from 1881.

For the twelve months to June 30, 1914, the gross profit amounted to Yen 43,981,867, as compared with Yen 35,720,385 for the previous year. A practically equal growth occurred in the expenses, so that the increase in net profit was only about Yen 54,000, the amount being Yen 4,385,638, as compared with Yen 4,331,010. Since the second half of 1902 the dividend has been maintained at the steady rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and large sums have been set aside to reserve, &c., the reserve fund rising from Yen 9,639,169 in 1902 to Yen 20,322,446 in June 1914. Herewith we set out the profit record for each year since 1904:—

Profits of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.

Year ended June 30	Gross Profit. Yen	Expenses. Yen.	Net Profit. Yen.	Dividend. Amt. Yen.	Dividend. Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn.,&c. Yen.	Carried Forward. Yen.
1914 ...	43,981,867	39,596,229	4,385,638	3,600,000	12	700,000	1,315,406
1913 ...	35,720,385	31,389,375	4,331,010	3,600,000	12	700,000	1,229,768
1912 ...	23,881,825	19,636,394	4,245,431	3,540,000	12	700,000	1,198,759
1911 ...	20,031,670	16,581,519	3,450,151	2,880,000	12	550,000	1,193,328
1910 ...	22,472,656	18,475,320	3,597,336	2,880,000	12	700,000	1,173,177
1909 ...	20,533,433	16,811,097	3,722,336	2,880,000	12	800,000	1,155,841
1908 ...	25,388,688	21,400,242	3,988,446	2,880,000	12	1,050,000	1,113,505
1907 ...	20,923,310	16,702,159	4,221,151	2,610,000	12	1,300,000	1,055,959
1906 ...	22,394,081	16,999,894	5,394,187	2,250,000	12	2,960,000	793,908
1905 ...	15,199,287	12,236,567	2,962,720	2,160,000	12	720,000	609,721
1904 ...	12,721,724	10,179,969	2,541,755	2,160,000	12	410,000	527,001

The proportion that the shown net profits for the year ended June 30, 1914, bear to the paid-up capital is 14.6 per cent.; to capital and reserve combined, 8.5 per cent.; and to the total working resources, 1.1 per cent.

Liabilities of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.

June 30	Capital Paid up. Amount. Yen.	Reserve Funds. Amount. Yen.	Total Capital and Reserve. Amount. Yen.	Total Capital and Reserve. % of Total. %	Notes in Circulation. Amount. Yen.	Notes in Circulation. % of Total. %	Deposits. Amount. Yen.	Deposits. % of Total. %	Bills Payable and Rediscounted, Acceptances, &c. Amount. Yen.	Bills Payable and Rediscounted, Acceptances, &c. % of Total. %	Profit Balance. Amount. Yen.	Profit Balance. % of Total. %	Total Liabilities. Amount. Yen.
1914 ...	30,000,000	20,322,446	50,322,446	12·7	7,587,469	1·9	187,241,218	47·5	145,231,297	37·0	3,465,406	·9	391,847,836
1913 ...	30,000,000	19,050,287	49,050,287	12·3	6,720,315	1·7	205,708,482	51·7	132,660,497	33·4	3,379,769	·9	397,519,350
1912 ...	30,000,000	17,881,949	47,881,949	15·5	6,741,565	2·2	149,379,097	48·4	101,039,955	32·8	3,348,760	1·1	308,421,326
1911 ...	24,000,000	17,243,010	41,243,010	15·6	5,455,807	2·0	135,967,940	51·2	79,829,472	30·1	2,933,329	1·1	265,429,558
1910 ...	24,000,000	16,856,636	40,856,636	17·9	3,612,748	1·6	114,430,170	50·0	66,711,166	29·2	2,963,179	1·3	228,573,899
1905 ...	18,000,000	10,580,455	28,580,455	11·4	—	—	99,701,863	39·8	120,276,692	48·0	2,109,722	·8	250,668,732
1900 ...	18,000,000	8,526,661	26,526,661	15·4	—	—	54,719,985	31·7	90,072,291	52·2	1,278,847	·7	172,597,784
1895 ...	4,500,000	4,224,634	8,724,634	25·4	—	—	11,863,623	34·6	13,175,787	38·4	535,869	1·6	34,303,913
1890 ...	4,500,000	3,948,510	8,448,510	33·3	—	—	7,777,061	30·7	8,729,912	34·5	375,612	1·5	25,331,095
1881 ...	3,000,000	23,900	3,023,900	44·4	—	—	3,184,686	46·7	455,147	6·4	166,756	2·5	6,814,489

Assets of The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.

June 30	Bullion and Foreign Money, Cash in Hand and at Bankers. Amount. Yen.	Bullion and Foreign Money, Cash in Hand and at Bankers. % of Total. %	Investments. Amount. Yen.	Investments. % of Total. %	Bills Receivable, &c. Amount. Yen.	Bills Receivable, &c. % of Total. %	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. Amount. Yen.	Bills Discounted, Advances, &c. % of Total. %	Bank Premises, &c. Amount. Yen.	Bank Premises, &c. % of Total. %	Total Assets. Amount. Yen.
1914 ...	45,408,783	11·5	21,647,224	5·5	195,445,370	49·5	128,097,716	32·5	3,948,743	1·0	391,847,836
1913 ...	38,080,503	9·6	21,878,414	5·5	219,833,611	55·3	113,772,357	28·6	3,954,460	1·0	397,519,350
1912 ...	29,567,533	9·6	21,613,987	7·0	153,704,784	49·9	99,413,310	32·2	4,121,712	1·3	308,421,326
1911 ...	26,635,764	10·0	23,772,282	9·0	120,441,557	43·8	81,915,447	30·8	3,664,508	1·4	265,429,558
1910 ...	24,479,261	10·7	14,269,190	6·3	121,195,742	53·0	65,245,413	28·5	3,384,295	1·5	228,573,899
1905 ...	22,138,359	8·8	18,378,448	7·3	131,237,941	52·4	77,235,045	30·8	1,678,939	·7	250,668,732
1900 ...	9,782,426	5·7	25,025,224	14·5	83,704,200	48·5	53,515,888	31·0	570,046	3	172,597,784
1895 ...	5,203,877	15·2	5,594,137	16·3	15,361,207	44·8	8,060,257	23·5	69,435	·2	34,303,913
1890 ...	6,935,607	27·8	1,915,675	7·5	11,134,641	43·9	5,276,385	20·8	18,787	—	25,331,095
1881 ...	1,857,221	27·0	1,030,650	15·1	808,632	11·9	3,086,312	45·3	31,674	·4	6,814,489

Guaranty Trust Company
of
New York

Head Office
140 Broadway
New York

5th Avenue Office
5th Avenue & 43rd Street
New York

Chartered 1864

Paid-up Capital and Surplus
£6,000,000

STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 25th 1915

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Real Estate	£581,899	Capital	£2,000,000
Bonds and Mortgages ...	56,070	Surplus Fund	4,000,000
Public Securities	2,966,873	Undivided Profits ...	637,258
Other Securities	9,332,439	Outstanding Treasurer's Cheques	875,007
Loans and Bills Purchased	32,024,263	Accrued Interest Payable	360,858
Cash—on Hand and in Banks	16,635,538	Reserve for Taxes and Expenses	12,307
Exchanges for Clearing House	1,180,568	Foreign Accounts ...	863,388
Foreign Exchange ...	10,064,575	Domestic and Foreign Acceptances	5,269,127
Credit granted on Domestic and Foreign Acceptances	5,269,127	Deposits	64,473,437
Accrued Interest and Accounts Receivable ...	380,030		
	£78,491,382		£78,491,382

LONDON OFFICE
33 34 35 LOMBARD STREET E C

Telegraphic Address
GARRITUS STOCK
LONDON

London Committee
ARTHUR JOHN FRASER *Chairman*
CECIL FRANCIS PARR
ROBERT CALLANDER WYSE

Telephone No
7020 AVENUE
5 Lines

Banking Department

Current Accounts opened on the usual terms of London Bankers and Interest allowed on Deposit Accounts at rates of Interest that may be ascertained upon application

Travellers Letters of Credit issued.

Issues Commercial Letters of Credit to finance the importation of merchandise.

Exchange Department

Banking and Exchange Business of every description transacted with the United States of America and Canada

American and Canadian Drafts Bills Bonds and Coupons purchased and collected

Cable Transfers made and Drafts issued payable in United States of America and Canada

U S Railroad and Industrial Shares sent for transfer to the other side

ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1915.

To the Stockholders:

Your [illegible] submit the following report for the fiscal year July 1, 1914, to June 30, 1915, inclusive.

The lines [illegible] the following companies, the operations of which are embraced in the following statements, are as follows:—

	June 30, 1915.	June 30, 1914
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway ...	[illegible] miles.	8,339·72 miles.
Rio Grande, El Paso & Santa Fe Railroad ...	20·22 „	20·22 „
Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway ...	1,937·71 „	1,595·89 „
Pecos & Northern Texas Railway	— „	569·79 „
Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway	665·02 „	179·16 „
Texas and Gulf Railway	„	125·49 „
Gulf & Interstate Railway of Texas	— „	71·33 „
Concho, San Saba & Llano Valley Railroad ...	„	59·63 „
	11,136·45 „	10,961·23 „

Increase during the year, 175.20 miles.

The average mileage operated during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, was 11,114.52 miles, being an increase of 206.00 miles as compared with the average mileage operated during the preceding fiscal year.

Under leases effective July 1, 1914, the lines of the Pecos and Northern Texas Railway north of Sweetwater, Texas, were operated by the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway, and the lines of the Texas and Gulf Railway, Gulf and Interstate Railway of Texas, Concho, San Saba and Llano Valley Railroad and Pecos and Northern Texas Railway south of Sweetwater by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway.

In addition to lines covered by this report, there were completed on June 30, 1915, 25.70 miles of additional line, all of which will be ready for operation in the near future.

The Company also controls, through ownership of stocks and bonds, other lines aggregating 228.92 miles, and is interested jointly with other companies in 606.08 miles.

For detailed statement of present mileage and of changes in mileage see last annual report.

INCOME STATEMENT.

The following is a summary of the transactions of the system for the years ending June 30, 1914 and 1915:—

	1914.	1915.
Operating revenues	$111,109,769 86	$117,665,587 46
Operating expenses	73,469,333 68	76,091,553 69
Net operating revenue	$37,640,436 18	$41,574,033 77
Taxes	5,526,585 30	6,497,316 77
Uncollectible railway revenues	—	25,316 43
Operating income	$32,114,850 88	$36,051,400 57
Other income	2,174,353 12	2,997,150 47
Gross corporate income	$34,289,204 00	$39,048,551 04
Rentals and other charges (see note) ...	1,218,827 03	2,131,942 03
	$33,070,376 92	$36,916,609 01
Interest on Bonds, including accrued interest on Adjustment bonds	12,885,412 23	12,785,747 10
Net corporate income (representing amount available for dividends and surplus and for necessary but unproductive or only partially productive expenditures)	$20,183,964 69	$24,130,861 91
From the net corporate income for the year the following sums have been deducted:—		
Dividends on 5% Preferred Stock ...	$5,706,966 50	
Dividends on 6% Common Stock ...	11,841,330 00	
Appropriation for Fuel Reserve Fund ...	64,962 75	
California-Arizona Lines Bonds Sinking Fund	12,945 67	
Appropriated for Additions and Betterments	6,513,396 96	
		$24,130,861 91
Surplus to credit of Profit and Loss June 30, 1914		$20,569,800 81
Additions to Profit and Loss Account (net) ...		11,421 10
Surplus to credit of Profit and Loss June 30, 1915		$20,581,221 91

NOTE. The increase of $913,114·98 in "Rentals and Other Charges" is chiefly in the item "Hire of Equipment," due to the increased number of cars the necessity for leasing [illegible] and the increased mileage of foreign cars handling it.

Income from sources other than earnings from operation consisted of interest on cash in banks and sums collected as interest and dividends upon bonds and stocks of companies, the operations of which are not included in the system accounts.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND REDUCTION OF BOOK VALUES.

The total charges to capital account, as shown by the general balance sheet at June 30, 1915, aggregated $683,855,314.09 as compared with $671,814,299.94 at June 30, 1914, an increase during the year of $12,041,014.15, which analyses as follows:

Construction and acquisition of new mileage, including the acquisition of bonds and stocks of other railway and terminal companies:—Boise City & Cimarron Valley Ry., $11,430·34; Eastern Ry. of New Mexico, $5,242·[illegible]; Grand Canyon R. ... $[illegible]; Mc Farland-Hughes Ry., $[illegible]; Old Pueblo & Santa Fe Ry., $[illegible]; [illegible] R.R., $[illegible]; Quanah, Acme & Pacific Ry., $[illegible]; Texas Pacific Terminal Ry., $4,000·00; Texas Passenger Depot Co. of Galveston, $292,565.87; Verde Valley Ry., $24,000.00. Total, $4,248,405.53.

Additions and Betterments to Road. Land. Track Elevation, $[illegible]; Additional Equipment, $2,464,431·34; Betterments to Equipment, $21,231·15. Total, $7,40[illegible]·51.

Fuel Lands and other Property. Real Estate held for future use, $14,[illegible]·72; Tie and timber lands, $[illegible]; Mine Plants, $12,[illegible]·67. Total, $26,[illegible]·39. Other Investments, [illegible]. Total Charges, $[illegible]

Reduction of Book Values. [illegible] Atchison & Santa Fe Ry., $[illegible]; San [illegible] Terminal Property, $[illegible]; Western [illegible] Ry., $[illegible]; [illegible] Plant, Berth, $12,[illegible]; [illegible]. Total, $[illegible]. Santa Fe Building, Tie & Timber, $7[illegible]; Coal Lands, $[illegible]. Total, $318,926.83.

Net increase in Capital Account during the year, $12,041,014.15.

For details of additions and betterments by accounts see statement on page 34 of annual report.

The item of $2,464,431.34 for "additional equipment" analyses as follows:—

727 Freight-train cars, $[illegible]; 15 Passenger-train cars, $2,45[illegible]; 1,927 Miscellaneous Work cars, $[illegible]; 5 Miscellaneous equipment, $2,793·97—$3,615,976.72. *Less*—Value of equipment retired during the year as follows: 47 Locomotives, $[illegible]; 2,789 Freight-train cars, $[illegible]; 10 Passenger-train cars, $30,259.48; 107 Miscellaneous Work cars, $37,381.97; Adjustment of charges [illegible] prior years, $[illegible]—$1,151,545.38. Total, $2,464,431.34.

The 1,927 miscellaneous work cars included in equipment added, and the 2,789 freight-train cars reported as retired include 1,925 cars, which, being permanently assigned to work service, were relettered in work service equipment series during the year and transferred from freight equipment to work service equipment at their depreciated value at time of relettering.

In addition to the equipment reported retired as above, thirty-three freight-train cars leased from the Oklahoma Central Railroad Company were also retired during the year, and liability therefore included in Other Unadjusted Credits [illegible].

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The following statement shows the sums charged to operating [illegible] for [illegible] each year since July 1, 1896:—

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Expenditure—Total.	Expenditure—Per Mile.
		$	$
1897...	6,443·81	3,443,884 82	534 45
1898...	6,936·02	4,659,277 99	671 75
1899...	7,032·62	4,810,795 64	684 07
1900...	7,341·34	5,267,832 40	717 56
1901...	7,807·31	6,[illegible]426 57	801 49
1902...	7,855·38	7,864,951 25	1,001 22
1903...	7,965·13	8,510,543 09	1,068 48
1904...	8,179·59	10,006,135 41	1,223 31
1905...	8,305·40	10,914,864 47	1,314 19
1906...	8,433·99	10,720,040 43	1,271 05
1907...	9,273·15	11,779,846 64	1,270 32
1908...	9,415·01	14,246,621 44	1,513 18
1909...	9,794·86	13,903,897 37	1,419 51
1910...	9,916·33	15,560,047 44	1,569 13
1911...	10,350·13	16,686,145 45	1,612 17
1912...	10,627·92	16,521,231 41	1,554 51
1913...	10,750·31	19,415,224 63	1,806 02
1914...	10,908·52	19,[illegible]00,724 51	1,750 99
1915...	11,114·2	19,764,535 40	1,778 26

For the year ending June 30, 1915, maintenance charges, including renewals and depreciation, averaged as follows:—

Per locomotive, $4,600 26; per locomotive mile, $0 1674; per freight car $ [illegible]; per freight car mile, $[illegible]; per passenger car, including mail and express, $[illegible]; per passenger car mile, $[illegible].

[illegible] proportion of unlocated expenditures for maintenance of equipment charged to superintendence, shop machinery, injuries to persons, insurance, stationery and printing, other expenses, and maintaining joint equipment at terminals. Refrigerator cars are not taken into consideration in arriving at freight-car averages, such cars being operated by the Santa Fe Refrigerator Despatch Company, which bears the expense of their maintenance.

[illegible] tractive power will be found on page 42 of annual report.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

The following statement shows the sums charged to operating expenses for maintenance of way and structures during each year since July 1, 1896:—

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Expenditure—Total.	Expenditure—Per Mile.
		$	$
1897...	6,443·81	[illegible]	[illegible]
1898...	6,936·02	8,281,397 88	1,193 97
1899...	7,032·62	7,672,107 62	1,090 93
1900...	7,341·34	6,354,372 10	865 56
1901...	7,807·31	6,433,810 36	824 08
1902...	7,855·38	6,[illegible]·38 39	781 82
1903...	7,965·13	9,304,892 04	1,168 20
1904...	8,179·59	9,170,234 07	1,121 11
1905...	8,305·40	11,385,418 33	1,370 85
1906...	8,433·99	12,475,407 97	1,479 18
1907...	9,273·15	15,286,062 66	1,648 42
1908...	9,415·01	14,120,828 02	1,499 82
1909...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1910...	9,916·33	17,807,136 20	1,795 74
1911...	10,350·13	16,[illegible]86 90	1,551 65
1912...	10,627·92	16,076,8[illegible] 75	1,512 70
1913...	10,750·31	18,054,313 03	1,679 43
1914...	10,908·52	15,3[illegible]8,780 15	1,403 38
1915...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND RATE OF RETURN.

The development of the Company's business and of its efficiency has been due principally to the very large expenditures (over $308,000,000) which have been made in the extension and improvement of the property since January 1, 1896. In order to make such expenditures your Company has raised since 1896 over $218,000,000 of "new money" by the sale of bonds which are now outstanding or which (in the case of many of the Convertible Bonds sold) are represented by Common stock now outstanding.

The following statement shows, for each year, the amount of investment, the amount of net income applicable to bond interest, dividends, improvement of property and strengthening of credit, and the rate of return which such net income represents on the amount of the investment.

Year to June 30	Property Investment.*	Income Applicable to Bond Interest, Divs., Improvement of Property & strengthening of Credit.† Total.	% of Prop. Investment.
	$	$	
1896 (6 months)	372,104,262 77	2,432,870 06	·65
1897	387,957,477 68	6,070,364 45	1·57
1898	392,169,842 02	8,871,947 26	2·26
1899	399,527,444 30	11,409,315 36	2·86
1900	407,187,811 22	17,034,950 91	4·19
1901	419,541,440 17	21,195,714 38	5·05
1902	439,911,035 33	23,921,018 14	5·44
1903	454,290,057 89	23,032,814 51	5 07
1904	466,275,134 34	24,778,541 31	5·31
1905	475,020,998 79	21,353 856 15	4 51
1906	496,782,342 35	28,355,393 34	5·71
1907	519,004,129 48	32,724,274 07	6 31
1908	541,727,328 96	25,633,5 0 34	4·73
1909	548,251,270 97	33,523,437 28	6·11
1910	585,948,031 56	32,387,712 39	5·53
1911	620,833,307 37	34,102,511 86	5·49
1912	635,182,282 35	33,321,100 75	5·25
1913	657,128,078 35	33,078,744 55	5 49
1914	671,814,299 94	33,070,376 92	4·92
1915	683,855,314 09	36,928,030 11	5 40
Annual average	$508,625,494 75	$24,936,276 11	$4·90

* The amounts above shown as "Property Investment" do not include anything for necessary working capital, such as materials and supplies and cash. Ordinarily such necessary working capital considerably exceeds $35,000,000. In the years 1901 to 1908 the "Property Investment" was reduced by "writing off" sums aggregating $21,066,685.78, which sums are excluded from the "Property Investment" as above stated. The figures for the years 1910 to 1914, inclusive, are not the same as shown in the corresponding table of annual report for the previous year, but are revised to conform to the Interstate Commerce Commission's classification of "General Balance Sheet Accounts," effective July 1, 1914.

† The "Income" shown above is determined after allowing for adjustments made through profit and loss.

The striking fact emphasised by the foregoing statement is that the earnings on the entire investment are now not much more than 5% per annum, and it must be borne in mind that of these earnings it is necessary to appropriate a considerable amount each year for additions and betterments to preserve the Company's credit.

The ability of your Company, under the conditions which this statement exhibits, to pay 6% on the Common stock, is due to the fact that it pays an average of only slightly more than 4% on its bonded debt, much of the bonded debt having been created when money could be obtained at or near 4%.

COMPARISON OF OPERATING RESULTS.

The following is a statement of revenues and expenses of the system for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, in comparison with the previous year :—

	Year to June 30— 1915.	1914.	Inc. or Dec.
OPERATING REVENUES:	$	$	$
Freight	80,504 393 33	73,638,388 01	+ 6,866,005 32
Passenger	27,823,033 87	28 497,232 68	— 674,198 81
Mail, Express, and Misc.	9,338,130 26	8,974,149 17	+ 363,981 09
Total Oper. Revenues	117,665,587 46	111,109,769 86	+ 6,555,817 60
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Maintenance of Way and Structures	16,514,467 89	15,425,729 81	+ 1,088,738 08
Maint. of Equipment ...	19,764,535 40	19,213,342 69	+ 551,192 71
Traffic	2,649,174 86	2,521 773 79	+ 127 401 07
Transportation—Rail Line	34,827,705 34	33,899,108 43	+ 928,596 91
General ..	2,476,556 20	2,409,378 96	+ 67,216 24
Transportation for Investment—Cr.	140,925 00	—	— 140,925 00
Total Oper. Expenses	76,091,553 69	73,469,333 63	+ 2,622 220 01
Net Operating Revenue	41,574,033 77	37,640,435 18	+ 3,933,597 59
Ratio of Oper Expenses to Oper. Revenues	64·67	66·12	—1·45

NOTE.—The Operating Expenses by general accounts used for comparative purposes are not the same as shown in the last annual report, but are revised in accordance with Classification of Operating Expenses as prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914.

The following averages are deduced from tables set forth on pages 37 and 40 of annual report.

The average tons of freight (revenue and company) per loaded car mile increased from 18.75 to 19.71, or 5.12 per cent. The average tons of freight (revenue and company) carried per freight-train mile (freight and mixed) increased from 420.45 to 442.04, or 5.13 per cent. The average freight revenue per freight-train mile increased from $3.47 to $3.55, or 2.31 per cent. The average passenger revenue per passenger-train mile decreased from $1.17 to $1.09, or 6.84 per cent. The average passenger train revenue per passenger-train mile decreased from $1.45 to $1.37, or 5.52 per cent.

The tons of freight carried one mile (revenue and company) increased 1,099,152,546, or 12.33 per cent., while miles run by freight cars (loaded and empty) in freight and mixed trains increased 66,620,201, or 9.82 per cent., and the mileage of such trains increased 1,450,807, or 6.84 per cent.

The number of passengers carried one mile increased 31,618,391, or 2.41 per cent., while miles run by passenger cars in passenger and mixed trains increased 10,362,341, or 7.41 per cent., and the mileage of such trains increased 1,213,955, or 4.98 per cent.

While freight operating revenues increased 9.32 per cent., the freight service rendered, as measured by tons transported one mile, increased 12.33 per cent.; and while earnings from passengers carried decreased 2.37 per cent., the passenger service rendered, as measured by passengers carried one mile, increased 2.41 per cent.

The following is a consolidated statement of the business of the System for each fiscal year during the period since January 1, 1895 :—

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles Oper.	Gross Revenues.*	Expenses †	Interest on Bonds.	Net Corporate Income.
		$	$	$	$
1897‡ ...	6,443	44,532 623	36,038,455	8,440.387	53,785
1898 ...	6,936	39,396,126	30,513,553	7,045.988	1.836.584
1899 ...	7,032	40,782,933	29.332,964	7,241.972	4,187,997
1900 ...	7,341	46,498,899	29,414,427	7,345,166	9.739,304
1901 ...	7,807	54,807,379	34 502.039	7,830,810	12,474.529
1902 ...	7,855	60,275,944	36 272.432	8,439,985	15,564,526
1903 ...	7,965	63,563 490	40.635,576	9,134,485	13 898.329
1904 ...	8,179	69,419,975	44 641.434	9,418,770	15,359,771
1905 ...	8.305	69.189,733	47,835,833	9,611,510	11.742,346
1906 ...	8.433	79,330,749	51.035.355	10,622.184	17,733.209
1907 ...	9.273	94,433,574	61,719,916	11,487,934	21,168,723
1908 ...	9,415	91,289,770	65.031,582	12,579,301	13.678,886
1909 ...	9,794	96.424,031	61,458,019	13,548,081	20,417,990
19 0 ...	9,916	107,543,250	75.133,314	11,9-4,151	20,425.784
1911 ...	10,350	109,772,481	75,689.094	12,712 319	21,371,067
1912 ...	10 627	110.322,328	77,001,227	13,660.859	19,660,241
1913 ...	10,750	119,411 875	83,432.816	13,825,325	22,153,734
1914 ...	10,908	1'3.284,122	80,213,746	12,886,412	20,183,964
1915 ...	11,114	120,682,737	83,746,128	12,785,747	24,130,861

* Including income from other sources. † Including taxes, rentals, and other charges. ‡ Eighteen months.

The following statement shows the freight and passenger revenues and the gross operating revenues of the System (exclusive of income from other sources) per mile of road operated for each fiscal year since July 1, 1896 :—

Year to June 30	Freight Revenue.	Passenger Revenue.	Gross Oper. Revenues	Aver. per Mile of Road.
	$	$	$	$
1897 ...	22,067,683 77	5,574.258 31	30,621,230 10	4,752 04
1898 ...	28,588,716 76	7,347,361 59	39,214,099 24	5,653 69
1899 ...	29,492,586 65	8,126,141 85	40,513,498 63	5,760 80
1900 ...	33,729,332 83	9,334,661 57	46,232,078 23	6.297 49
1901 ...	39,052,557 43	11,678.017 25	54,474,822 61	6,977 41
1902 ...	41,815,607 05	13,439,384 57	59,135,085 53	7,527 97
1903 ..	44,622,438 71	13,469,985 78	62,350,397 28	7,827 92
1904 ...	47,762,653 23	15,433,773 63	68,171,200 18	8,334 31
1905 ...	47.403,982 36	16.045,380 27	68,375,837 25	8.232 70
1906 ...	54,598,902 82	18,013,988 56	78,044,347 25	9 253 55
1907 ...	65.500,309 42	21,171,629 08	93.683,406 91	10,102 65
1908 ...	61,848,638 51	21,643,427 49	90,617,796 38	9,624 82
1909 ...	64,212,638 10	22,734,505 32	94,265,716 87	9,624 00
1910 ...	71,194,055 59	25,437,181 98	104,993,194 67	10,587 91
1911 ...	71 787,200 89	27,204.867 66	107,565,115 62	10,392 63
1912 ...	71,529 574 67	27.453,525 41	107..52,359 91	10,138 61
1913 ...	78,190.923 18	29,425,922 44	116,886,251 98	10,873 75
1914 ...	73,633,388 01	28 497,232 68	111,109,769 86	10,185 60
1915 ...	80.504,393 33	27,823,063 87	117,665.587 46	10,586 65

CAPITAL STOCK AND FUNDED DEBT.

The outstanding Capital Stock (deducting stock in treasury) on June 30, 1914, consisted of :

Common	$195,811,500	
Preferred	114,173,730	
		$309,985,230 00
Issued during the year—		
Common stock issued in exchange for Convertible bonds retired		4,678,000 00
Capital stock outstanding June 30, 1915—		
Common	$200,489,500	
Preferred	114,173,730	
		$314 663,230 00

The outstanding Funded Debt of the System (deducting bonds in the treasury) amounted on June 30, 1914, to $313,193 648 50

The following changes in the Funded Debt occurred during the year :—

Obligations Issued—Convertible 4 % Bonds $977,000; Rocky Mountain Division 4 % Bonds, $3,000,000; California-Arizona Lines First and Refunding Mortgage 4½ % Bonds, $3,0 86 90 ...	$3,987,866 90
Obligations Purchased or Retired—Serial Debenture 4 % Bonds, $5,000; Convertible 4 % Bonds, $4,678,000; California-Arizona Lines First and Refunding Mortgage 4½ % Bonds, $9,733; Chicago and St. Louis Railway Co. First Mortgage 6 % Bonds, 1,498,000; Funded Debt Matured Unpaid included in General Balance Sheet under "Current Liabilities," $15,500	6,206,233 00
Decrease of Funded Debt	2,218 366 10
Total System Funded Debt outstanding June 30, 1915 ...	...$310,975,282 40

Interest charges for year ending June 30, 1916, will be about $1,056,570. In making this approximation, exchanges of Convertible Bonds for Common Stock made since June 30, 1915, aggregating $2,007,000, are considered.

TREASURY.

Neither this Company nor any of its auxiliaries has any notes or bills outstanding.

The Company held in its treasury on June 30, 1915, $21,186,791.95 cash, and had available $5,278,000 General Mortgage Bonds, including bonds not yet certified by the Trustee. The Company also has in the treasury unpledged a large amount of stocks and bonds of other companies, of which part are carried in the balance sheet as investments and part are included under railroads, franchises, and other property.

During the year $977,000 of Convertible 4% Bonds, which formed part of the Company's treasury assets, were sold for cash, realising $997,702.50.

MINKLER SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

This Line, from Minkler to Exeter, California, aggregating, with two short branches, 43.71 miles, was completed and opened for traffic on October 1, 1914. An extension, from Exeter to Lindsay, a distance of 6.95 miles, has since been constructed and will be placed in operation October 1, 1915.

OKLAHOMA CENTRAL RAILROAD.

This Line, extending from Chickasha, Oklahoma, to Lehigh, Oklahoma, a distance of 133 miles, crossing your main line at Pursell and Byars, was leased by your Company effective August 1, 1914, for a term of five years, and has since that date been operated as a part of its system. The line serves a fairly good agricultural country, but the main purpose in leasing it was to secure coal from the Lehigh fields for use on the system and the prospect of supplying the demand for coal at points in northern Texas.

OIL FIELDS AND SANTA FE RAILWAY.

This Company was formed to acquire certain lines extending from Cushing to Pemeta, Oklahoma, and from Jennings to Oilton, Oklahoma, tapping the so-called Cushing Oilfield, which is an important source of supply for fuel oil. A line from Pemeta to Oilton, connecting the railroads purchased, and an extension from Pemeta to Drumright are now under construction. The lines acquired, together with those now being built, will aggregate about 27 miles of railway, which, upon the completion of construction, will be operated, under lease, by your Company as a part of its system, and will, it is believed, make a valuable feeder to your main lines, with which it connects at Cushing.

OAKLAND WHARF PROPERTY.

The facilities on your Company's water frontage at Oakland, California, referred to under the above caption in the last annual report, were placed in operation July 1, 1915, though not fully completed.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY.

Reference was made in the last annual report to an agreement with the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Company, under which your Company took possession of this line (then known as the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Railway) on August 1, 1915, under a certain contract of purchase. The conditions of the purchase contract have been met and $3,000,000 of 4% Rocky Mountain Division Bonds have been issued in acquisition of the stock and indebtedness of the Rocky Mountain and Santa Fe Railway Company, which owns this line; and the line has been leased to your Company.

NORTH-WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

Track laying on the line of this Company (whose capital stock is owned one-half by your Company and one-half by the Southern Pacific Company) from Willets to Shively, a distance of 105.64 miles, has been completed, and the line was placed in operation on July 1, 1915. This construction closes the gap in the mileage and has made possible the establishment of through train service between Eureka on the north and San Francisco Bay on the south.

UNION PASSENGER STATION, KANSAS CITY.

The new passenger station and appurtenant facilities at Kansas City, which have been in process of construction since August 1911, were placed in operation November 1, 1914. The new facilities constitute one of the largest and most complete passenger terminals in the country and represent a very large investment. The heavy fixed charge which this investment entails and the maintenance and operation of these extensive facilities place a large expense upon the Kansas City railroads, all of whom are using the new station; however, the new facilities are a great accommodation to the public and, of course, materially improve operating conditions at Kansas City.

TAXES.

Instead of showing the customary large increase, the fiscal year just closed shows a decrease in taxes of $28,268.55. The tax accruals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, were $5,525,585.50, while the accruals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, were but $5,497,316.77. However, information so far received pertaining to assessments and rates for the present fiscal year indicates the decrease was temporary only and that we will this year show another substantial increase.

In the report of last year your attention was called to the alarming growth of public expenditures, and the fear was expressed that expenditures for good roads were likely to assume large proportions. States are vying with States, and counties with counties, and the worst fears of a year ago are being realised. Road improvement and construction projects are approved and bond issues voted with but little regard to the ability of the taxpayers to bear the burden and with even less consideration of the utility and permanency of the roads. Yuma County, Arizona, well illustrates the recklessness with which people are now spending money. This county, with a population of but 7,730 and but little wealth other than railroad property, and having a bonded indebtedness of $173,751, has just approved a bond issue of $500,000 for the improvement of its highways.

Your officials are doing everything in their power to check the unwise and improper expenditure of public funds by arousing the taxpayers and by encouraging associations of taxpayers to fight for efficiency and economy. Their efforts have generally borne good fruit and encourage them to carry on the struggle.

REVISED ACCOUNTING RULES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1907, established classifications pursuant to the Act to Regulate Commerce, as amended, with the purpose of establishing a uniform system of accounts for steam roads. These classifications related to operating revenues and expenses, expenditures for road and equipment, and locomotive, car, and train miles; later these were followed by instructions pertaining to income, profit and loss, and balance sheet accounts. These classifications, which had been under review for a considerable period, were revised and reissued, effective July 1, 1914. Certain expenditures which formerly at the option of the carriers were chargeable to operating expenses, are, under the revised classifications, obligatory charges to capital account. As a result of these changes the operating expenses of your Company for the year covered by this report were relieved of charges aggregating upwards of $600,000, with corresponding increase in the charges to additions and betterments as compared with what they would otherwise have been. The greater part of this amount represents transportation charges on men employed and material used in improvement work, increased weight of second-hand rail, and necessary fastenings and appurtenances applied during the year in track renewals. The revised classifications also account for the change in the form of the General Balance Sheet as shown herewith.

GENERAL.

The year has been the largest as to earnings, both gross and net, in the history of the Company. Two reasons contributed mainly to this result, viz. the unprecedented wheat crop of Kansas and the largely increased yield of agricultural products of all kinds in the so-called "Plains Country" in Western Texas and Western Oklahoma. These two items were more than sufficient to overcome a falling off of $1,304,472.05 in net revenue of the lines west of Albuquerque.

The wheat of Kansas and Oklahoma was largely exported *via* Galveston, thus giving your properties the longest possible haul and the largest possible earnings, and this has created so marked an improvement in business of your Texas lines as to make their net earnings much more than ever before.

The Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco and the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego have created some passenger business, but at such low rates as to afford little, if any, profit.

Relations with the general public, especially that portion residing along the line, are quite satisfactory, but contest is being made as to rates in various States before both commissions and courts. There is little demur to the proposition that the railroads need more money, but each class of shippers is firm in the view that the increase should not come from it.

The general merchandise rates all over the country (now lower than anywhere else in the world) could be doubled, and the ordinary living expense of each family would be so little increased that the head of the family would not know of this advance unless somebody told him. A large part of the trouble about rates comes from certain classes of middle men who contribute little to the prosperity of the country, but who are well organised, and consequently influential.

It is too early to measure accurately the effect of the Panama Canal. But it is evident that the loss of revenue on that account is very substantial, and already it probably is considerably in excess of $1,000,000 per year.

EDWARD P. RIPLEY, *President.*

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915.

Balances June 30, 1914.	ASSETS.	Balances June 30, 1915.
$		$
631,761,174 75	Railroads, Franchises and other Property, including Stocks, Bonds, &c (Exhibit A) ...	647,575,518 00
15,814,343 25	Expenditures for Additions and Betterments, Construction, and other Capital Purposes during Current Fiscal Year (Exhibit B) ...	11,617,950 14
647,575,518 00		659,193,468 14
1 . 83.12 95	Investments, New Acquisitions (Exhibit C) ...	11,383,437 62
13.0.8,668 99	Other Investments	13,278,358 33
671,814,299 94		683,855,314 09
48,635,421 44	Balance from Capital Account	53,216,801 69
	Current Assets:	
19,396,758 99	Cash	20,520,791 95
6.6, 00 .0	Time Deposits	6.6,000 00
148.4 72	Loans & Bills Receivable	146,443 88
1,516 990 48	Traffic and Car Service Balances	1,554,199 18
706 850 61	Agents and Conductors	789,503 85
4 445,612 53	Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable	4,258 591 81
16,423.460 85	Materials and Supplies	15,870,460 48
80.7.5 32	Interest and Dividends Receivable	74,796 56
8,180 40	Other Current Assets	9,669 88
43,396,184 88		43,895,457 57
	Deferred Assets:	
20,249 50	Working Fund Advances	20,645 60
	Guaranty Trust Company of New York:	
1,778,332 02	Cash Deposit for Fuel Reserve Fund ...	1,832,834 80
80,024 60	Other Deferred Assets	198 424 98
1,879.6.6 12		2,051,905 38
	Unadjusted Debits:	
	Rents and Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	360,711 26
650,665 72	Other Unadjusted Debits	880,478 13
1,033,632 09		1,241,189 39
94 944,844 53		105,405 354 03
	LIABILITIES.	
	Capital Stock:	
309,935,230 00	Outstanding (Exhibit D)	314,683,230 00
	Funded Debt:	
313,193,643 50	Bonds Outstanding (Exhibit E)	310,975,282 40
48,635,421 44	*Balance carried down*	53,216,801 69
671,814,299 94		683 855,314 09
	Current Liabilities:	
1,0 .1,643 20	Traffic and Car Service Balances	845,307 44
8,334,530 76	Audited Accounts and Wages Payable ...	8,181,153 32
479,928 14	Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	525 205 64
664,.45 50	Interest Matured Unpaid	794,764 95
40,.45 50	Dividends Matured Unpaid	46,765 00
2,854,345 00	Unmatured Dividends Declared	2,884,343 25
3,646,00. 90	Unmatured Interest Accrued	3,595,.00 26
52,168 45	Unmatured Rents Accrued	65,343 43
—	Other Current Liabilities	15 500 00
17, 53 537 45		16 923 883 29
97,575 50	Deferred Liabilities	217,219 82
	Unadjusted Credits:	
2,038,521 56	Tax Liability	2,097,632 50
1, 37 522 63	Operating Reserves	273,540 71
19,790,186 11	Accrued Depreciation—Equipment	23,953 467 69
2 .53,249 82	Other Unadjusted Credits	3,101,091 85
25,447,479 92		29,425,732 75
	Corporate Surplus:	
29,874,672 14	Additions to Property through Income ...	36,338,069 10
23,446 69	California-Arizona Lines Bonds—Sinking Fund Reserve	36,392 36
1,778,332 02	Reserve for Fuel Land	1,832,834 80
31,676 450 85		38,257,296 25
20,569,800 81	Profit and Loss—Balance	20,581,221 91
52,246 251 66		58,838,518 17
94 944,844 53		105,405 354 03

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 1915.

Operating Revenues:		
Freight	$80,504,393 33	
Passenger	27,823,063 87	
Mail, Express, and Miscellaneous ...	9,338,430 26	
		$117,665,887 46
Operating Expenses:		
Maintenance of Way and Structures ...	$16,514,467 89	
Maintenance of Equipment	19.764,535 40	
Traffic	2 649,174 86	
Transportation—Rail Lines	34 .27 7 5 31	
General Expenses	2,476,595 20	
Transportation for Investment—Cr....	140 925 00	
		$76,091,553 66
Taxes		5,497,316 77
Uncollectible Railway Revenues		25.316 45
Operating Income		$36,051,400 57
Interest and Discount		688,477 80
Income from Investments		1,321,381 37
Rental of Tracks and Terminals		693,235 93
Miscellaneous Income Credits		294.055 37
		$39,048,551 04
Interest on Bonds		$12,785,747 10
Rental of Tracks and Terminals		1,.72,169 73
Hire of Equipment—Debit Balance		819.721 87
Miscellaneous Income Deducts		240,350 43
Divs. 33 and 34 on Preferred Stock...		5,703,686 50
Divs. 37, 38, 39 and 40 on Common Stock...		11,841,350 00
Appropriation for Fuel Reserve Fund		54.502 78
California-Arizona Lines Bonds Sinking Fund		12 945 67
Appropriated for Additions and Betterments		6,513,396 96
		$39,948,551 04

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Dr. Sundry Adjustments—Net	$9,281 40
Balance carried to General Balance Sheet	$20,581,221 91
	$20,590,503 31
Cr. *Balance brought forward from June 30, 1914*	$20,569,800 81
Premium on Bonds (offsetting in part discounts written off in prior years)	20,702 50
	$20,590,503 31

EXHIBIT A.—RAILROADS, FRANCHISES & OTHER PROPERTY.

Amount June 30, 1914, as published in Annual Report ...	$631,761,174 75
Expenditures for Additions and Betterments, Construction and Other Capital Purposes during fiscal year ending June 30, 1914	15,814,343 25
	$647,575,518 00

EXHIBIT B.—EXPENDITURES FOR ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER CAPITAL PURPOSES, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1915.

	Additions and Betterments.	Construction.	Other Expenditures.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
Atch., Top. & Santa Fe Ry. ...	1,550,539	—	Cr. 2,704	1,547,835
Ditto (Coast Lines)	1,878,389	—	-	1,878,389
Cali., Ariz. & Santa Fe Ry. ...	263,292	—	Cr. 4.299	258,99
Cane Belt RR.	26,082	—	—	26,082
Concho, San Saba & Llano Valley R.R.	110	—	-	110
Dodge City & Cimarron Valley Ry....	20	11,430	--	11,457
East. Div. of New Mex. System ...	121,952	5,243		127,195
Gar.an. City, Gulf & N. R.R. ...	1,490	—	—	1,490
Gulf & Interstate Ry. of Texas ...	15,.82	—	—	15,532
Ditto, Santa Fe Dock & Channel Co.	1,.08	—	—	1,308
Gulf, Beaumont & Gt. N. Ry. ...	13,518	--	-	13,518
Gulf, B. & Kansas City Ry. ...	39,090	—		39,090
Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Ry. ...	378,.2.	—	-	378,923
Jasper & Eastern R.R.	14,512	—	—	14,512
Middle Southern Div.	—	370,888	—	370,888
Orange & Northw. Ext.	—	370,072	--	370,072
Panh. & Santa Fe Ry.	132,101	—	—	132,101
Rio Gr., El Paso & Santa Fe RR....	7,604	—	—	7,604
[illegible] ...	—	-	3,000,000	3,000,000
[illegible]		—	Cr. 6,000	Cr. 6,000
Santa Fe Pacific RR.	—	—	50	50
Santa Fe Land Imp. Co.	3,239,285	—	—	3,239,285
Texas & Gulf Ry.	17,597	—		17,597
Union Pass. Depot Co. of Galveston	—	—	292,566	292,566
Verde Valley Ry.	--	—	24,000	24,000
Western [illegible] Ry.	—	44,645	—	44,645
	7,601,348	712,988	3,303,612	11,617,950

EXHIBIT C.—INVESTMENTS—NEW ACQUISITIONS.

Expenditures to June 30, 1914, as shown in Annual Report ...	$11,180,112 95
Expenditures during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1915:—Grand Canyon Ry., $18,405.75; North-Western Pacific RR., $[illegible]; Santa Fe Land Improvement Co., $[illegible]; Rails and Fastenings leased to various parties, $115,411.91; Real Estate held for future use, $33,915.64; Tie and Timber Lands, $23,700.91...	$167,357 29
Deductions: Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Co., $155,000; Ice Plant, Belen, $12,000; Ice Plant, San Bernardino, $59.792.89; Santa Fe Pacific Fuel & Ice Co., $[illegible]	$203,382 62
	$11,0.3,374 67
	$11,5[illegible],487 62

EXHIBIT D.—CAPITAL STOCK, JUNE 30, 1915.

	Issued.*	In Treasury.	Outstanding.
	$	$	$
Common	$[illegible]	$44,500	$[illegible],500
Preferred	114,199,530	25,800	114,173,730
	$[illegible],530	$70,300	$314,[illegible],230

* Not including $17,286,470 Preferred Stock placed in special trust for certain purposes by the Reorganisation Committee and not yet used.

EXHIBIT E.—FUNDED DEBT JUNE 30, 1915.

Class of Bond.	Rate of Interest.	Issued.	In Treasury.	Outstanding.
	%	$	$	$
Gen. Mort.—Due Oct. 1, 1995 ...	4	$152,562,500	$1,928,000	$150,634,500
Adjust. Mort.—Due July 1, 1995	4	51,728,000	382,000	51,346,000
Convertible—Due June 1, 1955 ...	4	15,284,000	—	15,284,000
Convertible—Due June 1, 1960 ...	4	2[illegible]	—	20,146,000
Convertible—Due June 1, 1917 ...	5	8,747,000	—	8,747,000
Transcontinental Short Line—Due July 1, 1958	4	17,000,000	—	17,000,000
California-Arizona Lines — Due March 1, 1962	4½	18,310,562	[illegible]	18,295,[illegible]
Eastern Oklahoma Div. — Due March 1, 1928	4	9,603,000	—	9,603,000
[illegible] 1, 1958	4	3,000,000	—	3,000,000
San Francisco & San Joaquin Valley Ry.—Due Oct. 1, 1940 ...	5	6,000,000	—	6,000,000
Santa Fe, Prescott & Phœnix Ry. —Due Sept. 1, 1942	5	4,940,000	—	4,940,000
Chic., Santa Fe & California Ry.— Due Jan. 1, 1937	5	560,000	—	560,000
Hutchinson and Southern Ry.— Due Jan. 1, 1928	5	192,000	-	192,000
Prescott & Eastern RR.— Due April 1, 1928	5	224,000	--	224,000
Misc. Bonds	-	3,850	1,030	2,820
		$313,300,912	$2,325,630	$310,975,282

* Not including Funded Debt Matured Unpaid amounting at June 30, 1915, to $15,500, which under the rules of the Interstate Commerce Commission is included in the General Balance Sheet under "Current Liabilities."

Copies of the full Pamphlet Report may be obtained on application to Messrs. Baring Bros. and Co., Limited, 8 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

THE twenty-seventh annual general meeting of this Company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on October 20, under the presidency of Sir Robert Harvey, the Chairman of the Company.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Albert K. Raphael) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen. I have now the pleasure to move the resolution: "That the report and balance sheet as distributed be adopted, and that a final dividend at the rate of 4*s.* per share, less income tax, be and is hereby declared payable on the 27th instant."

When we last met I was able to inform you that our Belgian colleagues were safe and well, and I am happy to be able to repeat that statement to-day, although Mr. Edward Bunge has remained in Antwerp practically the whole time since we had the pleasure of seeing him with us at our last meeting. As regards our staff, I regret to tell you that the English members of our Hamburg staff have been interned by the German Government, and we have done all we can to mitigate the inconvenience under which they are suffering by supplementing the supplies of necessaries and comforts of life as far as is permissible. The total number of our staff who have now joined His Majesty's Forces is 120, of whom about one-half came from South America for that purpose. It is with much regret that I tell you that no less than six of them have been killed in battle, and we feel sure that the devotion to their country which resulted in their sacrifice, in common with so many others, will be as highly appreciated by you as it is by the board and their colleagues.

Financing the War.

The financial arrangements which had been made by the English Government with so much efficacy a year ago have since been supplemented from time to time as became needful in order to meet the changing circumstances, and I am sure you will all have regarded with admiration their effectiveness. So far as they have affected trade they have been ample, and, in respect of the Argentine, have resulted in our receiving from that country all the foodstuffs that we required, at prices which, while naturally higher than former values, have yet represented by no means so great an increase as might otherwise have been expected. In regard to the financial arrangements, I should like to refer especially to two points. Firstly, the issue of the War Loans, so enthusiastically received by the public, and in which I may mention we have taken altogether £200,000—an operation which, with all confidence, we submit to you for your approval. Secondly, the Loan recently arranged in New York for the purpose of adjusting the American exchange, which has already had a marked effect.

The United States and South America.

The War has brought about many changes in business methods, and in particular caused important developments in the trade between the United States and the South American countries, resulting in an extension of direct financial operations between the two parts of the Western Continent, in which we have, by means of our New York office, the opportunity to take our part, and we are closely watching the trend of events with a view to securing our proportionate participation in that direction.

Crop Prospects in Argentina.

A year ago I was able to indicate to you that there were good prospects for the crops in the Argentine. This outlook has become an accomplished fact, and I may tell you that the export of wheat during the year has been 2,500,000 tons, as compared with 900,000 tons in the previous year, and there is available for export 5,000,000 tons of maize, of which only 3,000,000 tons up to now have been shipped, as against total shipments of 1,800,000 tons for the former year. It is not only in the quantity that the Republic has benefited, but in the price, which has been considerably higher. Wool has been shipped in about the equal quantity of last year, but here again the value has been favourably affected to the extent of probably 50%. The actual value of the exportation of meat shipped exceeds that of the previous year by reason of the improvement in price, although the quantity shipped is somewhat less. The benefit of all this exportation to the agriculturists and graziers cannot fail to show its effect in a little time by enabling the payment of mortgage and other debts, for which they were in many cases being somewhat urgently pressed. Even already the effect is being felt, and the general position of the whole community has very much improved. The importers have had a very bad year, the quantity of goods bought by the Argentine being small in comparison with former years, but should the coming crops prove up to expectation there will no doubt be a tendency to develop in the importation. The prospects of the coming crops are probably not equal to what they were last year, as, at the critical time of sowing, rains were badly wanted, and although this has been in part modified quite recently, the rainfall is still under the average. We have a telegram from our Buenos Aires Manager, received to-day, which states:—"Crop prospects: Wheat in general excellent. Oats very good owing to further rains. Linseed average. Maize too early to report, but expect some damage from locusts. Local financial position steadily improving."

The province of Mendoza, which, as you know, depends almost entirely upon wine production, has not been in a favourable condition for a year or two past, owing to overproduction and low prices. This has now, to a certain extent, improved, partly by certain effective local measures taken by the Government of the Province, and partly by the ability of the producers to raise the selling price of the wine to a point at which it shows a moderate profit.

The Chilean Nitrate Trade.

In Chile, the falling off in the demand for nitrate for agricultural purposes by the belligerent countries, who, as you will probably remember, formerly took about 60% of the supply, has been, in some measure, counter-balanced by the demand for nitrate for making explosives, and it is anticipated that the total consumption during this year will be about 40,000,000 quintals as compared with 60,000,000 quintals previously. The price of the commodity has improved very considerably, and is now 9*s.* 3*d.* per quintal, as compared with 6*s.* 6*d.* last year. The Companies have to face a considerable increase in the cost of manufacture, but we believe that in a great many cases this leaves, at present prices, quite a reasonable profit. The mineral resources of Chile are being increasingly developed, whilst in agriculture and cattle the country has had the benefit of improved prices. Magallanes, in Chile, and the corresponding district of Patagonia, in the Argentine, which depend chiefly on sheep farming, have derived great benefit from the improved prices of wool and meat, and our branches in that district have rendered us excellent service during the year.

The Fall in the Chilean Exchange.

You will observe that at the date of making up our balance sheet the Chile exchange had fallen to 7$\frac{15}{16}$*d.* per dollar. It is now 9*d.*, and, as you are aware, our capital in that country has already been written down to 10*d.*, which leaves only a moderate difference, with which we do not, on this occasion, propose to deal.

The Accounts.

I will now direct your attention to a few items in the accounts, and before doing so, I wish to remind you that we are making comparison with the period up to June 30, 1914, when we were not in any way affected by the War. In these circumstances, we are very glad to see that profits are reduced only by £10,000, from £279,000 to £269,000, which is more than accounted for by an increase of £12,000 in income tax. Expenses show a reduction of £23,000, part of which is due to the enforced exclusion of the figures at Hamburg office, and a further part to the lower rate of exchange at which the charges in Chile were converted into sterling. There is, however, outside these two items, a certain reduction in our expenses, and although it is very difficult to do much more in this direction, the point will continue to receive our very close attention, more especially during the time when our earning-power remains at the present level.

Current Year's Prospects.

I am afraid that I cannot hazard a forecast as to what our profits may be in the current year. Conditions of business have so entirely changed that it is unusually difficult to see far ahead; but I am pleased to tell you that the results for the quarter ended September 30 are very encouraging, and we, therefore, indulge the hope that we may, when we have the pleasure to meet again, have figures to submit to you which will be deemed satisfactory. Our earning-power has been affected considerably by the large surpluses of cash held by our branches in South America, who were unable to find the usual employment for them in the discounting of trade bills, owing to the great shrinkage in imports, and the result is evidenced by the fact that our cash in hand had increased by over £500,000 in the year.

Depreciation of Investments

You will observe that our investments in first-class securities have increased by £260,000, and I have already explained to you in what way this chiefly arises. I am sorry to say

that we have to deal with a depreciation in the general value of securities, which will indeed, I expect, not surprise you, and we have thought it best to write down the book prices out of the profits to those current at the date on which we make up our accounts, because, in present circumstances, it is impossible to foresee if the values will eventually reach their former level. Personally, I think that with the great wastage of capital that is involved in the War they will not do so, although there may, and probably will be, a certain amount of recovery, of which, if it should come to pass, we shall feel the benefit in future years. I may mention that the values at the present date are fully equal to those at June 30, so that you can rest assured that at the present moment the item of £1,850,000, at which our investments figure, is the actual value to-day. Our bills payable and bills receivable show a large shrinkage, due to the smaller turnover in exports and imports. Our deposits show a slight increase, which, in the circumstances, is very gratifying.

Dividend Maintained.

Regarding the distribution of our profits, we have decided to propose the same dividend as in April last—viz., 4*s.* per share—making 8% for the year. We make the usual contribution to the staff pension fund, write down the investments, and have to carry forward £133,000, or £23,000 more than was brought in. We consider that the correct and prudent policy at present is not to exceed this percentage of dividend until conditions have become more normal, and in the meantime to steadily increase the amount carried forward, so that an appreciable amount may be available to meet any contingencies which may arise, although at present we have no definite indications thereof.

I cannot conclude without specially mentioning the services of the staff abroad and at home. They have served us loyally and well in a time of undue anxiety, and it gives me special pleasure to mention the fact in a year of such stirring events requiring exceptional and strenuous effort.

I now beg to move the resolution which I have read, and when this is seconded I shall invite any comments which you may have to make in reference to the report now submitted.

Mr. Thomas Woodsend: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

No questions being asked, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now beg to move: "That Mr. Auguste de Lantsheere and Mr. Thomas Woodsend, two of the retiring directors in accordance with the articles of association, be and hereby are re-elected."

Mr. Alfred Naylor seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. J. Russell Gubbins, seconded by Mr. Urquhart, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Company were re-elected auditors for the year ending June 1916.

Vote of Thanks to Directors.

Mr. M. B. Snell: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I should like to say a few words before we part if you will allow me to do so. I was very pleased indeed to hear the remarks made by the Chairman with reference to the staff. His words that "they have served us loyally and well in a time of undue anxiety" were very apt. I am sure that we all agree with your remarks, Sir, but I should like to add that I am certain it is the wish of the shareholders present to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the directors for the way in which they have carried on our business during the past twelve months. We all know—people in the City more particularly—the very anxious times we experienced a year ago; and what, therefore, must it have been for the directors of a large Bank like this? They must have had a very trying and anxious time. I think that we cannot be too thankful for the mercies which have been vouchsafed to us up to the present, and we hope that before the year is over peace may be re-established, and that we may again go ahead and make improved profits. In that case I cannot help thinking that North America and South America will prove to be among the most prosperous parts of the world.

Mr. J. Wentworth Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman: I thank you very much indeed, ladies and gentlemen, for your most kind and complimentary vote of thanks, which I am sure we all appreciate very much. In my speech I made no remarks with regard to any particular members of the staff, but now I have much pleasure in saying that the heat and burden of the day has fallen chiefly on the shoulders of the Managing Director, who has met the difficulties of the situation in the most admirable way. He and the managers abroad and at home, with their staffs, are as much to be thanked as the directors, and probably more so. I very much appreciate your kind vote of thanks, and I hope that we shall have an equally good, if not a better, showing when we next meet.

The proceedings then terminated.

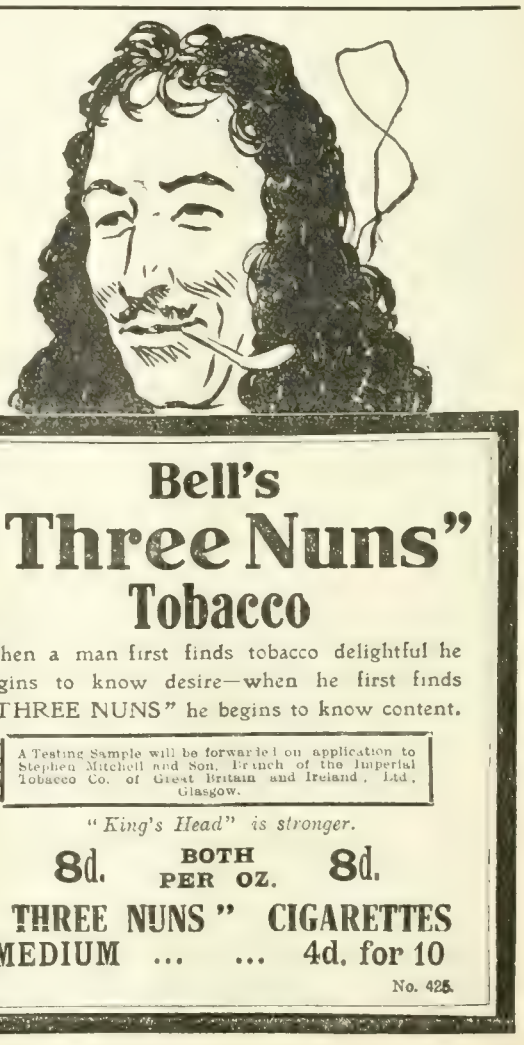
NORTH ANANTAPUR GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

THE eighth ordinary general meeting was held on October 20 at 6 Queen Street Place, E.C., Mr. John Taylor, M.Inst.C.E., Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The Company has now been producing gold for five years. In the twelve months to June 30, 1911, the return was of a value of £18,629, and each succeeding year has shown a steady increase, the value of the gold obtained during the period under review being £62,945. As compared with the previous year, we have thus an increase of £16,057, which is attributable to the fact that the ore milled has been of a higher average grade. Our acting superintendent, Mr. Vivian, deals especially with this in his report, and points out that, for the reasons he gives, we must expect a decrease in the average value of the ore to be treated during the current year; but, as an increased quantity will be obtainable, the output of gold should not be affected. The position in this respect we may, therefore, I think, consider satisfactory. The revenue costs for the year amounted to £38,142, and the receipts (after making due allowance for royalty payable), to £62,785, a profit therefore remaining of £24,643. This compares very favourably with the preceding year, when the profit was £11,932. From the profit and loss account you will observe that a credit balance of £731 was brought forward from the 1914 account. Interest amounting to £55 and the profit for the year of £24,643 are also credited, the total on this side of the account being £25,429. Against this various items are debited, amounting to £16,604, leaving a credit of £8,825. There is one item here which, perhaps, requires a word of explanation—the £8,500 carried to suspense account. The amount has been thus dealt with in order to meet any contingent liability which may arise through the introduction of new taxes in the Budget now under consideration. In the event of the £8,500, or any part of it, not being required to meet additional taxation, the directors propose to apply it to writing down the value of the buildings, machinery, and plant account in the balance sheet. The additions to these items of buildings, machinery, and plant at the mines during the year amounted to £8,690, the particulars of which are set out in the acting superintendent's report, a copy of which accompanies that of the directors.

Increased Dividends.

The distribution of dividend out of the year's profits amounted to 5*s.* per share on the Preference shares and 1*s.* per share on the Ordinary shares, both less income tax, these payments comparing with 4*s.* 6*d.* on the Preference and 6*d.* on the Ordinary shares for the twelve months ended June 30, 1914. Since the date of our last annual report a



further 2,005 Ordinary shares of £1 each have been allotted, so that the present issued capital is 76,253 Ordinary and 25,000 Preference shares of £1 each, all fully paid. The financial position of the Company is quite satisfactory, the assets amounting to £30,724 and the liabilities to £6,747, leaving a balance of assets of £23,977, in addition to which the materials and stores at the mines were valued at £7,342 and the machinery and goods in transit at £614. I will not occupy your time in speaking of the mining operations, as Mr. Henry Taylor will address you on this subject and give you particulars of the work carried out underground during the year. I may, however, mention that the reserves of ore at the close of the year were computed at 54,000 tons, as compared with 52,000 tons at the corresponding date of 1914.

Mr. [illegible] C. Ellis seconded the resolution.

Mining Operations Described.

Mr. Henry Taylor: Our principal shaft, called No. 5 shaft, was sunk 157 feet during the year, and at the date of the most recent advices from the mines its total depth was 971 feet. The crosscut east to the reef at the 950-foot level has been started and driven 25 feet. At the 850-foot level driving was started during the year from the main winze, which is 350 feet north of the shaft. The present length of this level is 200 feet, and for 35 feet the lode has averaged 5 feet in width and assayed 11 dwt. per ton. Stripping at a point 160 feet distant from the winze in this level has proved a width of 14½ feet of solid quartz, which assayed 1 oz. 5 dwt. per ton, and north of this the western or footwall of the reef diverges rapidly, and apparently its width increases. The level is now in proximity to the east and west dyke, some 40 feet wide, and a great deal will depend on what is found on the further, or north, side of this. The 750-foot level above was driven 430 feet during the year, and passed through a length of 223 feet of quartz from 3¼ to 15 feet in width, the assays ranging from 2 dwt. to over 2 oz. per ton. For 170 feet the lode proved from 3 feet 6 inches to 5 feet in width, with a value of from 2 oz. 1 dwt. to 1 oz. 7 dwt. per ton. This level is also near the east and west dyke I have just mentioned, and has been suspended until the deeper level has been driven through it. The ore stoped during the year has shown an improvement in grade from 9¾ dwt. to close on 13 dwt. per ton. On a wide lode of this sort a system of "shrinkage" stoping has to be adopted, both for reasons of economy and safety in working, and it is difficult with this system to regulate the grade of ore sent to the mill from month to month. There is no doubt that at a future date we shall see the grade again somewhat reduced.

The Ore Reserves.

After milling 22,860 tons of rock in the past year, the reserves of ore in the mine at the close of the year were estimated at 54,000 tons. In these figures credit has been taken for only a small tonnage below the 750-foot level, because the reef had only been carried in sinking to a depth of 31 feet below that level. A width of 3 feet of quartz was, however, exposed, which averaged 1 oz. 11 dwt. per ton. A considerable amount of exploration has been carried out at the 750-foot level south, but so far no discovery of importance has been made in this direction.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

DICK, KERR AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

The extraordinary general meeting was held on October 21 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Claud T. Cayley (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Just over a year ago, when we last met, I fancy the large majority of us fully anticipated that before we met again the War would be over and we would be in a position of considering our own affairs from a normal point of view. As it is, the position remains much as it was. We are in a state of suspense, living from hand to mouth as it were; all our normal development is stopped, and our energies are transferred to the special requirements of the time. I told you last year that, in the opinion of your directors, the Company would experience some lean years after the War before we could hope for the re-establishment of our standard business, especially in heavy manufacturing, and I have no reason to alter this opinion. The profit on this year's trading is principally derived from orders and contracts taken before the War, and these are gradually falling in to a finish. As can be readily understood, they are not being replaced by others of a similar nature, so that, although we are busy now on abnormal work, there is bound to be a transition period, occupied in re-establishing normal conditions, and it is because of this that your directors cannot see their way to recommend a dividend on the Ordinary shares. They feel that some reserve must be made to bridge over that period. I have mentioned that we are busy now, but not on normal work, and, although your directors are primarily pleased because they believe we, as a Company, are assisting the Government to a material extent, they are also hopeful that some reasonable profit proportionate to the efforts being made will be permitted—sufficient at all events to make it unnecessary next year to put such a large percentage of profit to reserve for contingencies. Clear indications, however, have been given, first, in the Munitions Act, and, secondly, in the Budget, of the Government's intention to absorb excess profits, especially if derived from work due directly to the War. No person can object to this principle, but, at the same time, no one, at all events outside of the Government, can predict to what extent it will be applied, and it therefore behoves us to be ultra-conservative in dealing with our accounts at the present time.

Mr. R. H. Prestwich seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

LEACH'S ARGENTINE ESTATES, LIMITED.

The third ordinary general meeting was held at Winchester House, E.C., on October 22, Mr. W. E. Leach presiding.

The Chairman first dealt in detail with the figures appearing in the balance sheet and profit and loss account, and stated that the net profit in the Argentine amounted to £110,198. Proceeding, he said that the consideration of the figures presented must necessarily leave a sense of great disappointment, following as they did on those of the previous unsatisfactory season. In the season under review the climatic influences were again abnormally favourable to the growth of cane. In order to meet the situation created by the over-production and to avoid an absolute disaster to the industry, an agreement was arrived at by which nearly all the factories producing their class of sugar agreed to export at least one-third of their respective output. Owing to the reduced spending power resulting from the general crisis, the local sales were considerably less than in previous years, though the price was still fairly profitable. Unfortunately, the excess of production over requirements was so large that, of this Company's crop of over 26,000 tons, they were finally only able to realise in the country some 9,000 odd tons, the balance of about 17,000 tons having to be exported. At the date of the last general meeting a fairly successful season was anticipated, as, at that time, they expected to realise at least one-half of their production locally at remunerative prices, and the balance in England. The prices then ruling in England for this Company's classes of sugar, viz., £24 per ton, were sufficient to leave a very fair margin of profit after allowing for maritime freight of about 24*s.* per ton, and all other expenses, including duty. Unfortunately they had only about 4,000 tons shipped to Europe when the British Government prohibited further imports into this country. Several months elapsed before the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply itself came into the market for Argentine sugar. By that time freights from the River Plate had risen to 65*s.* per ton, and, the price obtainable from the Royal Commission for the Company's sugar being an average of £19 c.i.f., without duty, against the former market price of £24, with duty, the whole margin of profit, viz., about £4 per ton, disappeared. In the intermediate period the Company's local sales continued to be small, so that they deemed it expedient to make a sale of 7,000 tons to the Royal Commission at the price mentioned. The balance of their exports to Europe went to France, and the price realised was also greatly affected by high freights. The present financial position of the Company showed a gratifying improvement. They had no overdrafts in Argentina; their loans from bankers were reduced from £158,140 to £14,820, and all they now owed, in addition to current trade debts, was £134,364, due to the vendors. A no less gratifying improvement had taken place in the Argentine sugar market. The two successive years of abnormally high production in the Republic had been followed by a crop which, it was estimated, would reach only 147,000 tons, against 335,000 tons last year and 280,000 tons in 1913. The management of this Company anticipated a total crop of 20,000 tons, against 26,461 tons last year and 18,121 in 1913. Prices had gradually risen to their old level, and the prospects with regard to profits were considered amply to justify the payment of an interim dividend of 6% on the Preference shares, for which funds were in hand. He thought they could look forward with genuine confidence to the future.

The report was unanimously adopted.

San Lorenzo Nitrate Co.—Interim dividend of 2*s.* per share, tax free.

Spiers and Co.—Further dividend on Ordinary shares of 7%, less tax, making 10% for the year.

Spillers and Bakers.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 5% per annum, less tax.

Sungei Kedah Rubber Estate.—Interim dividend of 6 on Ordinary.

Sungei Kapar Rubber Co.—Interim dividend of 12½%, less tax.

Travancore Tea Estates Co.—Interim dividend of 25%, less tax, on Ordinary.

Trust and Agency Company of Australasia.—Interim dividend of 6*d.* per share, tax free, on Ordinary.

OROVILLE DREDGING.

THIS Company's year ended on September 30, and, though the annual report does not usually make its appearance until December, it is possible, now that the dredge returns of its chief subsidiary—the Pato Mines (Colombia)—for the 12 months to end September have been published, to arrive at a good idea of the Oroville's earnings and at the same time gauge its future prospects. The English Oroville Company, which has an issued capital of £668,000, in £1 shares, is a purely parent undertaking. It holds about 95½% of the share capital of an American concern, the Oroville Dredging, Limited, which conducts dredging operations in California, but only a small profit is earned in this connection. The American concern, however, has a much more important interest. At September 30, 1914, it held 70,000 out of 100,000 £1 shares of the Pato Mines (Colombia), Limited, and also the whole of an issued £226,000 of Pato Mine's 8% Income notes, which are redeemable at par before any Ordinary dividends can be paid by the Pato.

As the English Oroville Company holds 95½% of the capital of the American Company it follows that its interest in the Pato is nearly 69% of the Pato's Ordinary capital and 95½% of the Income notes. In addition the English Company holds a large direct interest in the Nechi Mines (Columbia), Limited, another gold-dredging undertaking in the vicinity of the Pato area. The Nechi capital consists of 140,000 Ordinary 10*s.* shares and 140,000 Preference 10*s.* shares, which are first entitled to receive 100% and thereafter 25% annual dividends. The Preference shares have 9*s.* per share called up. Of the Nechi 140,000 Ordinary shares the English Company holds 126,000, and the balance of 14,000 shares is held by the Pato Company. Altogether, therefore, the English Oroville Company is interested to the extent of 95½% in the Nechi's Ordinary capital, but has no interest in the Preference. The following summary of the interests makes the position clear:—

OROVILLE DREDGING CO., LTD. (ENGLISH).—Capital, £668,000, in £1 shares.
Holds 667,993 (out of 697,936) $5 shares of Oroville Dredging, Ltd. (American);
126,000 (out of 140,000) Ordinary 10*s.* shares of Nechi Mines (Colombian).

OROVILLE DREDGING, LTD. (AMERICAN).—Capital, 697,936 $5 shares.
Holds capital of four Californian Dredging Companies.
70,000 (out of 100,000) £1 Ordinary shares of Pato Mines (Colombia), Ltd.
£226,000 8% Income Notes of the Pato Mines (Colombia), Ltd.

PATO MINES (COLOMBIA), LTD.—Capital, 100,000 Ordinary £1 shares;
8% Income Notes, £226,000.
Holds 14,000 Ordinary shares of Nechi Mines.

NECHI MINES (COLOMBIA), LTD.—Capital, 140,000 Ordinary 10*s.* shares:
*140,000 Preference 10*s.* shares.

* Entitled to first receive 100%, and thereafter 25% dividend.

In view of the approaching exhaustion of the Californian properties, the future of the Oroville depends upon its large interests in the two Colombian dredging undertakings. Of these the Pato holds 40,000 acres of ground, and at October 1, 1914, 529 acres tested and proved were estimated to contain 22,419,000 cubic yards of a gross value of $7,092,000, equal to an average yield of 31½ cents per cubic yard. The Pato Company has one dredge in operation, which commenced work on December 24, 1912, but did not reach the tested area until August 1913. To date the gold yield of the ground dredged has been considerably in excess of the estimated average of the whole area. This will be seen from the following table of the dredging results since commencement to end September last:—

Pato Operations.

Year to Sept. 30	Cubic Yards Dredged	Value of Gold Yield	Cubic Yards' Cents.
		$	
1913*	645,920	151,255	23·4
1914	921,188	598,000	64·9
1915†	1,421,679	617,200	43·5

* Dredge commenced work December 24, 1912, and for first 7 months worked out side of tested area.
† For 2 months dredge operated in ground of very low value outside the tested area.

It will be noted that mainly on account of the dredge operating for two months outside the tested area, the yield in respect of the financial year ended September 30, 1915, was considerably lower than in the preceding twelve months. The effect of this, however, should be offset by the much larger quantity of material treated and the consequent reduction in working expenses. For the first complete year of operations ended September 30, 1914, the costs amounted to 18.4 cents per cubic yard dredged, but general and office expenses brought up the total expenditure to 23.2 cents per cubic yard, the net profit of the twelve months amounting to $383,595, or £78,975, equal to 41.7 cents per cubic yard dredged, as follows:—

Pato Results, Year to September 30, 1914.

(921,488 cubic yards dredged.)

	$	Per Cubic Yard. Cents	£*	Per Yard. *d.*
Value of gold	598,000	64·9	123,045	32·4
Expenditure—				
Operating costs	169,805	18·4	34,962	4·2
General and office expenses	35,721	3·9	7,352	2·0
Interest, depreciation	8,816	·9	1,814	1
Total expenditure	214,405	23·2	44,078	5·6
Net profit	383,595	41·7	78,975	10·8

* Exchange $4.86.5.

The Pato Company paid no dividend on its Ordinary shares in respect of the 1914 period, the large net profit of £78,975 being devoted to paying interest on the Income notes, liquidating existing indebtedness, and greatly strengthening the financial position in the following manner:—

Pato Company, Year to September 30, 1914.

Net profit	£78,975
Sundry Revenue	770
	79,744
Income tax, stamp duty and preliminary expenses	1,725
Surplus profit	78,019
Interest on Income Notes	18,080
Balance from previous account	3,932
Amount carried forward	23,871
Surplus brought forward*	32,957
Less Capital Expenditure	7,000
Net Revenue	25,957
Amount applied in reduction of Overdraft	2,086

* Before payment of Australian Income Tax on Oroville Income.

It will be noted that in respect of the year to September 30, 1914, the only revenue the Oroville Company received from its Pato interest was represented by the £18,080 interest on the Income notes. In addition, however, the large sum used for liquidating the Pato's indebtedness enabled the Oroville Company to pay off a loan of £24,260 which it had contracted for the purpose of lending money to the Pato. Thus the Oroville's financial decks have been cleared also. The Pato entered the year just ended with surplus liquid assets amounting to £20,958, against which it owed £32,197 by way of accrued interest on Income notes. As above shown, during the year to September 30, 1915, the Pato's revenue from the dredging of 1,421,679 cubic yards of ground was $617,200, equal to 43.5 cents per cubic yard. The Company's consulting engineer estimated that, with one dredge in full operation, operating costs should not exceed 12 cents per cubic yard, which is much lower than the 18¾ cents per cubic yard in the year to September 30, 1914, when the dredge worked to about two-thirds of full capacity. Then, too, general and office expenses per cubic yard would be much less on a

greatly increased quantity of material handled. In the circumstances an estimated total working cost of 16 cents per cubic yard for the year ended September 30, 1915, should be well within the mark. Assuming it is, and allowing a rate of exchange of, say, $4.80, against $4.86 in the previous year, the estimated earnings, expenses, and profits of the Pato, based on the dredge returns of the financial year just completed, should be as under:—

Estimated Pato Results, Year to September 30, 1915.

(1,421,679 cubic yards treated.)

		Total Value	Per Cubic Yard
	$	£*	s.
Value of gold	681,[illegible]	135	1.9[illegible]
Total expenditure	225,[illegible]	1[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

*Taken at $4.80.

Assuming the above calculation to be approximately correct, it remains to be seen how an estimated net profit for the Pato for the past financial year of £81,000 would affect the Oroville. Adding in £23,781 credit balance from 1914, the total available would be £104,871. Accrued and current Income Note interest would require [illegible], and of the balance of £64,800, £60,000 could be applied to the redemption of Income notes, reducing the amount outstanding at September 30, 1915, to £162,000. The English Oroville's 95½% share of this disbursement of £100,000 would be £95,500, and addition of a small revenue of, say, £5,000 from the Californian operations would make its total revenue, say, £100,000, with no necessity to deduct office and general expenses, which are about balanced by sundry revenue. So far on account of the current year the Oroville has paid three quarterly dividends aggregating 7½%, which absorb about £49,000 out of the £100,000 we have assumed to be available as the figures above set out. Consequently it looks as if the Oroville Company's receipts on account of the year to September 30, 1915, very largely exceeded the dividend payments so far made, and it would seem that a final dividend, making at least 10% for the year, will be declared when the report is issued. Whether the distribution will actually exceed 10% depends upon whether or not the directors decide to use surplus funds for the purpose of providing a second dredge for the Pato. At the full rate of output of the present dredge the estimated [illegible] in the 529 acres of tested area would last about 15½ years from October 1, 1914—[illegible] The provision of a second dredge would halve the life but more than double the profit to be earned, owing to considerable reduction in working costs.

Turning now to the second important string to the Oroville Company's bow. The new dredge of the Nechi Mines (Colombia) commenced working pay ground in the middle of last month. The dredgable [illegible] taining 6,855,900 cubic yards of a gross value of [illegible] 71 [illegible] ing from the experience of the Pato, actual working may show the Nechi's ground to have an even better value than is estimated. However, on the basis of an average yield of only 70 cents per cubic yard, the Nechi's new dredge, of a capacity equal to the Pato's, should deal with at least 1,200,000 cubic yards per annum, in which case the gold yield would be about £170,000. Allowing 16 cents per cubic yard for total working costs, as we have done with the Pato—the Engineer expects considerably less than this—the total expenditure would absorb £40,000, leaving £130,000 net profit per annum. If this rate of profit is earned it would enable the 100% on the Preference shares and also their 25% interest, together requiring £87,500, to be paid and leave £42,500 for distribution on the Nechi's Ordinary capital of £70,000 in the first year. The Oroville's 95½% share of the Nechi's Ordinary distribution would be £40,000. This is for the first year. In subsequent years, after the satisfaction of the 100% on the Preference, the Oroville's shares of Nechi's profit of, say, £130,000 per annum would be £112,000.

In the current financial year it may be conservatively estimated that the Oroville will receive £65,000 from the Pato, plus £40,000 from the Nechi, together, say, £105,000, representing about 15% on its issued capital. In subsequent years, assuming the Pato's recent average rate of earnings is maintained, and Nechi's results come up to anticipations, the Oroville's receipts from the two shareholdings should be sufficient, until the Nechi is exhausted, to pay between 20% and 30% on its capital, according to the yield obtained by the Pato. The life of the Pato is, say, 14 years from now and the Nechi's about 5½ years on the dredging of 1,200,000 cubic yards per annum. From the Pato in 14 years the Oroville should receive at least 120% on its capital, and from the Nechi about 90% in, say, 5½ years, making altogether over 200%. In view of these calculations, which may be considered conservatively based on Engineer's estimates and results already shown, Oroville £1 shares, priced in the market at 14*s.*—a discount of 30%—offer to the investor the prospect of a very good return in a short period of time.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

(Continued from p. 174.)

Modderfontein.—Capital, £1,400,000, in £4 shares. Six tube mills in use. Present capacity of plant, 52,500 tons per month. Additional plant of capacity of 40,000 tons monthly arranged for, to raise total capacity to about 1,100,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	180	510,750	44	994,362	38/9	437,673	17/1	552,689	21/8	13⅞
1914-15	180	611,500	17	1,[illegible]9,691	38/3	486,241	15/11	683,450	22/4	14½
1915-16.										
July ...	180	52,500	19½	10[illegible],792	39/6	44,430	16/11	59,362	22/7	14⅝
Aug. ...	180	52,500	19	1[illegible]1,225	38/6	44,991	17/1	5[illegible],239	21/5	15
Sept. ...	—	51,000	—	1[illegible],253	4[illegible]	44,491	17/5	57,762	22/3	15⅝

Returns include profit from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 16¼ per cent.

Modderfontein B.—Issued capital £700,000, in £1 shares. Plant of capacity to deal with 540,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	84½	440,000	12	790,132	36/11	342,328	15/7	447,804	20/4	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	96	123,700	12	231,021	38/3	93,922	15/7	137,[illegible]99	22/8	4[illegible]
June qr.	96	124,[illegible]00	17½	241,979	38/5	9[illegible],978	15/2	142,[illegible]1	23/1	5[illegible]
July ...	96	42,[illegible]0	17½	[illegible]6	[illegible]	34,[illegible]3	16/2	[illegible],9[illegible]	24/3	5[illegible]
Aug. ...	96	43,[illegible]0	17½	[illegible]9	[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]	15/2	62,[illegible]9	28/11	5[illegible]
Sept....	—	45,000	—	91,712	42/1	33,552	14/11	61,160	27/2	5[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 25; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 32½ per cent.

Nourse Mines.—Issued capital £827,821, in £1 shares. Mill, 260 stamps, 7 tube mills, making capacity about 58,000 tons for the month.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	2[illegible]	53[illegible],0	1[illegible]	7[illegible],[illegible]	28/4	5[illegible],381	21/3	1[illegible],226	7/1	1[illegible]
1914-[illegible]	2[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]0	14	7[illegible],[illegible]	[illegible]/5	6[illegible],438	21[illegible]	1[illegible],[illegible]5	5/5	1[illegible]
1915-16.										
July ...	[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]0	13[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]	24/7	[illegible],93	20/5	12,[illegible]7	4/4	1[illegible]
Aug. ...	[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]	11[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]	23/8	57,[illegible]3	19/9	11,4[illegible]7	3/11	1[illegible]
Sept. ...	—	[illegible],[illegible]	—	[illegible],[illegible]	2[illegible]	57,[illegible]	19/1	11,[illegible]5	3/11	1[illegible]

Monthly profits include revenue from accumulated slimes.

Year ends—1914, June, 8½; Dec., 8½ per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Primrose.—£325,000, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, say £390 per month, included in 1915 figures. Two tubes since December 1912. No sorting done.

Year to Dec 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...[illegible]av.	[illegible],[illegible]		Nil	[illegible],[illegible]2	32/5	17[illegible],[illegible]8	12/3	184,[illegible]4	9/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	140	[illegible],[illegible]	Nil	[illegible]4	19/7	[illegible],[illegible]7	12/7	16,[illegible]7	6/[illegible]	13/6
June qr.	140	[illegible],[illegible]	—	6[illegible],[illegible]9	1[illegible]/5	2[illegible],[illegible]5	11/0	2,[illegible]4	0/7	8
July ...	140	21,[illegible]	—	1[illegible],[illegible]3	17/5	1[illegible],[illegible]8	11/4	[illegible]81	5/1	11/3
Aug. ...	—	2[illegible],[illegible]	—	1[illegible],[illegible]8	16/3	13,[illegible]7	11/6	[illegible],[illegible]1	4/2	[illegible]
Sept. ...	—	[illegible],[illegible]	—	1[illegible],[illegible]3	16/5	13,[illegible]2	11/[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]7	4/2	5/5

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 20 per cent.
1915, June, 20 per cent.

Randfontein Central.—Capital, £4,500,000; issued, £4,193,700, in £1 shares. £2,918,400 of 6% Debentures, repayable at rate of £150,000 per annum. Plant: 1,000 stamps, 29 tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			£		£		£		
1914	907	av. 2,493,584	2,885,599	23/2	2,071,825	16/7	815,774	6/6	—
1915.									
6 mos.*	902	av. 1,200,939	1,365,419	22/9	1,063,142	17/8	302,347	5/1	11/6
July ...	945	213,546	244,141	22/9	187,109	17/5	57,032	5/4	11/3
Aug. ...	955	202,734	234,785	23/2	185,280	18/1	61,505	6/1	10/9x
Sept....	970	206,173	246,730	23/11	187,944	18/3	58,786	5/8	11/9

* Mining operations considerably hampered by flooding of several of principal shafts, due to abnormally heavy rains.
† Monthly value estimated at £1 5s. per fine oz.

Dividends—1912, Dec., 5 per cent. 1913. June, 7½ per cent.; Dec., 2½ per cent. 1914, June, nil, Dec., nil. 1915, June, 2½ per cent.

Robinson Deep. — £1,000,000, in £1 shares; 200 stamps and 10 tube mills, capacity 65,000 tons.

Year ends Mar. 31	Stps	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914-15	119	av. 585,730	8½	av. 827,214	28/3	510,155	17/5	317,059	10/10	1⅝
1915-16.										
June qr.	130	162,000	6½	224,683	27/8	146,269	18/3	76,394	9/5	1½
July ...	160	55,700	6½	74,650	26/9	49,046	17/10	25,604	9/11	1½xd
Aug. ...	160	53,100	7	73,941	27/7	49,946	18/10	23,995	9/9	1⅜
Sept. ...	—	52,400	—	73,675	28/1	49,402	18/10	24,273	9/3	1⅜

Reserve gold: Sept., 2,230 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Robinson G.M.—£2,750,000, in £5 shares. Six tube mills. Sundry revenue and accumulated slimes profit not included in yearly figures.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914	250	632,000	6	1,027,092	32/2	454,906	14/3	572,186	17/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	250	173,400	4½	247,178	28/0	115,464	13/7	131,715	15/5	1⅛
June qr.	250	175,900	4½	256,636	29/2	117,076	13/4	139,560	15/10	1⅛
July ...	250	55,000	3½	80,176	29/1	39,706	14/2	41,070	14/11	1⅛
Aug. ...	250	55,000	4	80,864	29/1	39,774	14/1	41,090	15/0	1⅛
Sept. ...	—	55,300	—	72,181	26/3	39,788	14/4	32,393	11/11	1⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 9 per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent.
Dec., 9 per cent.
1915, June, 8 per cent.

Rose Deep.—Capital, £700,000, in £1 shares, all issued. Seven tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914	300	735,122	14½	895,976	24/4	610,562	16/7	285,414	7/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	179,300	13¾	221,848	24/9	154,870	17/3	66,978	7/6	1⅝
June qr.	300	186,400	14½	244,615	24/3	166,232	16/9	78,383	7/11	1⅝
July ...	300	65,000	14½	82,196	25/3	57,714	17/10	25,482	7/10	1⅝
Aug. ...	300	69,700	15	85,778	24/6	57,376	16/5	28,402	8/1	1⅝
Sept. ...	—	68,300	—	78,572	22/6	56,847	16/11	18,833*	5/7	1⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

* Decreased profit due to temporary drop in grade and smaller tonnage crushed.

Simmer and Jack.—£3,000,000, in £1 shares; 320 stamps and seven tube mills; monthly and quarterly results include sundry revenue.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1913-14	320	769,600	2½	798,339	20/9	475,660	12/4	322,678	8/5	1⅛
[Plus £34,126 additional rental and interest revenue for 1914-15.]										
1914-15	320	808,300	2	839,117	21/6	518,821	12/10	350,296	8/8	11/0
1915-16.										
July ...	320	70,100	3½	78,956	22/6	46,291	13/2	32,665	9/3	9/9
Aug. ...	320	70,200	3	76,731	21/6	45,559	12/11	30,132	8/7	8/6
Sept. ...	—	68,900	—	74,194	21/6	46,680	13/3	28,514	8/5	8/5

Gold reserve Sept., 6,800 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Simmer Deep.—Capital issued, £1,650,000 in £1 shares. There are £583,400 of Five-and-a-Half per Cent. First and £237,500 of Five per Cent. Second Debentures. Nine tube mills. Profits include sundry revenue.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton.	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	180	643,000	1½	534,062	16/7	495,024	15/5	39,037	1/2	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	180	190,300	3	154,786	16/3	140,324	14/9	14,363	1/6	1 1⅛
June qr.	180	193,300	3½	158,659	16/5	142,131	14/8	16,528	1/9	1/3
July ...	180	61,800	3	48,654	15/9	43,654	14/1	5,000	1/8	1 1⅛
Aug. ...	—	59,700	3	[illegible]	17/0	45,157	15/6	4,543	1/6	1/3
Sept....	—	61,000	—	53,991	17/7	49,949	16/4	4,042	1/3	2/0

Gold reserve: Sept., 297 oz.

Sub Nigel.—Capital £475,000 in £1 shares. Issued, £431,580.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	25	57,665	3½	109,226	37/6	89,024	30/10	19,202	6/8	—
1915 ...	25	58,470	2½	116,680	40/0	104,970	36/0	11,710	4/0	8/6
1915-16.										
July ...	25	6,750	2½	12,614	37/4	10,575	31/4	2,039	6/0	10/-
Aug. ...	30	6,950	2½	13,309	38/5	10,808	31/2	2,501	7/3	1[illegible]
Sept....	—	7,240	—	14,182	39/2	11,056	30/6	3,126	8/8	10/-

Gold reserve: Sept., 645 oz.

Dividends—1912-13, 7½ per cent. 1913-14, 5 per cent. 1914-15, Dec., 2½ per cent.; June, nil.

Transvaal G. M. Estates.—£604,225 in £1 shares; £77,992 of 5% Debentures. Three tube mills.

Year ends Mar. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			£		£		£		
1914-15 ...	75	161,910	408,497	50/5	184,751	22/9	223,746	27/8	1⅞
1915-16.									
June qr.	75	38,845	85,847	46/7	41,568	22/7	44,279	24/0	1[illegible]
July ...	75	12,925	31,740	49/1	16,195	25/0	15,547	24/1	1[illegible]
Aug. ...	—	13,150	30,155	45/6	15,[illegible]	22/8	[illegible]	22/10	1
Sept. ...	—	12,810	29,325	45/9	15,679	24/6	13,646	21/3	1[illegible]

Dividends—1914, March, 17½; Sept., 17½ per cent.
1915, March, 12½; Sept., 10 per cent.

Unified Main Reef. — £250,000, in £1 shares. Tube-mill plant has been erected.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	60	155,540	15	169,450	21/9	108,122	13/11	61,328	7/10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	39,800	13½	41,688	20/8	26,786	12/11	14,902	7/9	[illegible]
June qr.	60	39,700	14½	39,979	20/2	25,114	12/6	14,[illegible]	7/6	[illegible]
July ...	60	14,[illegible]	14½	14,081	20/3	8,853	13/0	5,[illegible]	7/8	[illegible]
Aug. ...	—	15,[illegible]	—	14,[illegible]	20/3	8,932	13/0	5,[illegible]	7/3	[illegible]
Sept. ...	—	15,[illegible]	—	14,092	20/10	9,[illegible]	13/7	5,[illegible]	7/3	[illegible]

Dividends—1913, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Van Ryn.—£500,000, in £1 shares. Batteries, 180 stamps. Six tube mills. Present capacity about rate of 450,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1913-14	150	av. 439,400	9¼	594,123	26/10	351,143	16/0	238,906	10/10	6[illegible]
1914-15	140	462,420	7½	592,014	25/1	332,845	14/4	248,[illegible]	10/9	5[illegible]
1915-16.										
July*	140	37,750	8½	48,253	22/11	27,[illegible]	14/4	18,244	8/7	9/[illegible]
Aug. ...	140	38,[illegible]	7½	49,[illegible]	25/7	29,[illegible]	15/7	19,442	10/-	9/[illegible]
Sept. ...	—	37,[illegible]	—	47,103	24/7	27,504	14/4	19,599	10/3	9/4

* "Decreased profit for July is due to temporary falling off in [illegible] values."

Dividends—1914, June, 22½; Dec., 22½ per cent.
1915, June, 22½ per cent.

Van Ryn Deep.—Capital, £1,196,892, in £1 shares. 80 stamps, 8 tube mills, started July 14, 1913. This plant has attained a capacity of about the rate of 530,000 tons a year.

	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	77½	483,090	11¼	805,9[illegible]	33/4	394,912	16/4	411,036	17/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	138,530	13½	234,938	37/2	103,193	16/3	131,745	20/11	2[illegible]
June qr.	80	126,100	13½	234,676	37/2	104,695	16/7	129,981	20/7	2[illegible]
July ...	80	44,250	12½	[illegible],206	36/3	35,699	16/5	44,507	19/10	2[illegible]
Aug. ...	80	42,250	—	79,148	37/6	35,518	17/2	43,630	20/4	2[illegible]
Sept. ...	-	42,[illegible]	-	78,664	37/5	35,545	17/3	43,119	20/2	2[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

Village Deep.—£1,060,671, in £1 shares. 180 stamps; seven tube mills.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	180	601,454	11	839,397	27/10	530,584	17/7	308,813	10/3	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	180	150,100	12½	205,173	27/4	139,008	18/6	66,165	8/10	1[illegible]
June qr.	180	155,900	14½	226,773	29/1	146,881	18/10	79,892	10/3	1[illegible]
July ...	180	52,000	10½	78,183	30/1	48,979	18/10	29,184	11/3	1[illegible]
Aug. ...	180	53,200	14	78,062	29/4	51,484	19/4	26,598	10/0	1[illegible]
Sept....	—	52,400	4	76,084	29/3	50,913	19/5	25,771	9/10	1[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 11½ per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Village Main Reef.—£472,000, in £1 shares. Six tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	190	376,500	17	666,519	35/5	349,274	18/3	339,245	18/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	140	87,900	17	143,667	32/8	83,391	19/0	60,276	13/8	—
June qr.	160	92,450	15½	155,711	33/6	87,917	19/0	67,834	14/8	—
July ...	—	31,562	15½	51,704	34/0	29,607	18/9	24,097	15/3	1½
Aug. ...	160	32,500	14½	54,480	33/6	28,471	17/6	26,009	16/0	1½
Sept....	—	31,000	—	52,852	35/3	27,944	18/7	25,668	17/1	1½

Dividends—1914, June, 35; Dec., 35 per cent.
1915, June, 20 per cent.

Severe fall of earth September 28. Later advice reported further shock September 30, and added as regards October that crushing "will probably pay all mine expenses."

West Rand Consolidated.—£2,025,000, in 2,000,000 Ordinary shares of £1 and 25,000 Deferred shares of £1 each. £469,730 Convertible Six per Cent. Debentures in issue. Plant capacity about 33,000 tons per month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	310,750	15	377,253	24/3	368,943	19/10	8,248	0/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr....	100	90,000	13	102,769	22/9	87,149	19/3	15,620	3/6	6/0
June qr....	100	92,200	13½	102,221	23/11	87,195	19/1	15,026	3/3	5/6
July ...	100	31,000	13½	35,000	24/3	29,700	19/1	5,300	3/5	5/9
Aug. ...	100	30,500	11	33,955	25/6	29,402	19/8	10,553	6/11	6/5
Sept. ...	—	31,000	11	35,287	24/9	25,469	19/2	10,287	6/7	6/0

Witwatersrand Deep.—£550,000, in £1 shares, £32,200 of Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures now in issue. Four tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	245	517,975	10	677,884	26/2	426,388	16/6	251,268	9/8	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	245	125,114	10½	161,965	25/10	107,687	17/3	54,078	8/7	1½
June qr.	245	136,778	10½	176,479	25/11	114,241	16/11	62,238	9/1	1½
July...	—	42,290	9½	55,460	26/0	36,678	17/5	18,782	8/7	1½
Aug....	245	42,700	9½	54,955	25/9	35,767	16/9	19,188	9/0	1½
Sept....	—	41,730	—	52,751	25/3	36,267	17/7	16,484	7/8	1½

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

Witwatersrand (Knight's).—£469,625, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, say £2,000 a month, included in profits below. Mill 225 stamps; five tubes added October 1913; total capacity about 45,000 tons per month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914...	211½av.	523,150	14	607,225	24/1	323,212	12/10	284,13	11/3	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	210	121,550	19¾	162,028	26/8	86,625	14/3	75,403	12/5	2⅝
June qr.	210	127,010	14½	159,580	25/1	84,781	13/3	75,199	11/10	2¼
July ...	210	43,510	15½	54,673	25/1	29,651	14/6	24,822	11/7	3¼
Aug....	245	42,760	15½	57,004	26/9	28,185	14/9	28,819	13/4	3½
Sept ...	—	41,900	—	53,137	25/4	29,182	14/3	23,956	11/1	2⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 25; Dec., 25 per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

Wolhuter.—£860,000, in £1 shares. Four tubes.

Year ends Oct. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14...	120	382,700	14	478,645	25/0	325,137	17/0	153,508	8/0	—
1914-15.										
Jan. qr.	120	95,400	17	116,528	24/2	81,610	17/0	34,918	7/2	⅛
Apr. qr.	120	96,350	16¾	119,914	24/11	84,985	17/8	34,929	7/3	14/0
July qr.	120	107,000	14	128,347	24/0	86,798	16/3	41,549	7/9	11/3
Aug. ...	120	35,900	13	43,355	24/1	29,334	16/4	14,021	7/9	12/0
Sept. ...	—	34,000	—	42,982	24/3	29,310	16/7	13,672	7/10	11/0

Dividends—1914, April, 6½; Oct., 6½ per cent.
1915, April, 6½; Oct., 6½ per cent.

ABBONTIAKOON.—Issued capital, £625,457 10*s.*, in 10*s.* shares. Loans remaining to be cleared off, about £20,000.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Gold Value £	Gold Value Per Ton	Total Expenses £	Total Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912 (9 mos.)	48,410	78,264	32/4	71,479	29/4	6,785	2/8	6/6
1913 ...	126,[illegible]	235,[illegible]	37/6	146,687	23/3	88,941	16/5	7/6
1914 ...	131,762	255,757	38/6	169,229	25/9	84,528	12/9	—
1915.								
Mar. qr....	32,489	56,497*	34/1	42,819	26/4	16,673	10/1	8/9
June qr.	33,[illegible]	[illegible]*	42/[illegible]	43,646	26/9	24,596	15/3	8/0
July ...	10,[illegible]	21,[illegible]†	41/[illegible]	14,929	28/4	7,019	13/0	7/9
Aug. ...	11,[illegible]	24,[illegible]	43/3	14,982	29/7	3,384	6/8	8/0
Sept. ...	12,[illegible]	25,[illegible]	45/6	16,132	27/11	2,745	4/8	8/0

* Includes £[illegible] from tube mills.
† Includes £[illegible] from tube mills.
‡ Includes £[illegible] from tube mills.
§ Includes £5,507 from tube mills.

Dividends—Account 1914, May, 6*d.*; Nov., 6*d.*; Dec., 6*d.*; June, 6*d.* Total, 2*s.*

ALASKA TREADWELL.—Capital $5,000,000, in $25 shares. Mining results have been as follows:—

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Gold Yield £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working* Costs £	Total Working* Costs Per Ton	Net Mining Profit £	Net Mining Profit Per Ton	London Price of Share end of Period
1912 ...	832,182	441,177	9/10	214,461	4/9	226,716	5/1	8⅞
1913 ...	886,057	471,684	10/7	226,997	5/1	244,687	5/5	7¾xd
1914 ...	968,794	497,124	10/1	222,034	4/11	275,090	5/2	—
1915.								
Mar. qr.	221,500	84,160	7/11	57,440	5/2	26,720	2/9	7½
June qr.	205,[illegible]*	82,[illegible]	8/7	51,[illegible]3	5/6	31,[illegible]98	3/1	7⅝
July ...	78,7[illegible]	26,040	7/7	23,040	6/9	2,700	0/10	7
Aug. ...	7[illegible],[illegible]	30,340	7/8	24,[illegible]40	6/3	5,[illegible]00	1/5	6¾xd
Sept. ...	89,5[illegible]	2[illegible],6[illegible]	7/4	19,240	4/9	1[illegible],[illegible]20	2/7	6½

* Smaller tonnage due to breakdown of central hoist on June 19.
† Including construction expenditure.

Dividends per cent.—1912, total 13. 1913, Feb., 4; May, 4; Aug., 4; Nov., 4; Dec., 4 (bonus). 1914, Feb., 4; May, 4; June (bonus), 3; Aug., 4; Sept. (bonus), 3; Nov., 4. 1915, Feb., 4; May, 4; Aug., 3.

TANGGA BATU RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax.

THIRD MILE (F.M.S.) RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax.

UNITED [illegible] PLATE TELEPHONE CO.—Interim dividend of 3% on Ordinary shares, tax free.

[illegible] TRAMWAYS AND PARING CO.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum (6*d.* per share), less tax.

YATIYANTOTA CEYLON TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 6%, less tax.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the lookout for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unrivalled medium for the announcements of Banks, Bond Houses, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Mining Equipment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

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Through Booking to
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Twin sc. steamers.	Tons.	London.	Toulon.	Naples.
OMRAH	8,130		Oct. 31	Nov. 1
OSTERLEY	12,129	Nov. 20	Nov. 28	Nov. 29

Managers—F. Green & Co. and Anderson, Anderson & Co.
For passage apply to the latter firm at 5 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., or to the Branch Office, 28 Cockspur Street, S.W.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
Head Office: Yokohama.
London Office: 7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital Subscribed - Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up - - Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund - - Yen 20,000,000

The Seventy-first Half-Yearly General Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on the 10th September, 1915, when the Directors submitted the following Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank, and the Profit and Loss Account for the Half-Year ended 30th June, 1915, which was duly approved.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1915.

LIABILITIES.

	Y.
Capital (paid up)	30,000,000.00
Reserve Fund	19,600,000.00
Reserve for Doubtful Debts	1,175,281.28
Notes in Circulation	5,583,901.31
Deposits (Current, Fixed, &c.)	163,455,607.40
Bills Payable, Bills Rediscounted, Acceptances, and other Sums due by the Bank	101,034,821.01
Dividends Unclaimed	10,554.77
Amount brought forward from last Account	1,335,248.27
Net Profit for the past Half-year	2,203,375.94
	Yen 324,378,789.98

ASSETS.

	Y.	Y.
Cash Account—		
In Hand	22,461,003.89	
At Bankers	12,484,927.01	
		34,885,930.90
Investments in Public Securities		20,643,803.50
Bills Discounted, Loans, Advances, &c.		103,882,792.38
Bills Receivable and other Sums due to the Bank		155,437,683.31
Bullion and Foreign Money		5,124,358.48
Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, &c.		4,359,221.41
		Yen 324,378,789.98

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Y.
To Interests, Taxes, Current Expenses, Rebate on Bills Current, Bad and Doubtful Debts, Bonus for Officers and Clerks, &c.	16,346,420.57
To Reserve Fund	400,000.00
To Dividend— (Yen 6.00 per Old Share for 240,000 Shs.) (Yen 1.50 per New Share " " ")	1,800,000.00
To Balance carried forward to next Account	1,338,624.21
	Yen 19,885,044.78

	Y.
By Balance brought forward 31st December, 1914	1,335,248.27
By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1915	18,549,796.51
	Yen 19,885,044.78

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

The organ of the wealthy classes of the North-Western Counties and of North Wales. Its influence is wide and far reaching.

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The Liverpool Courier

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

PERRY'S
TRADE PROTECTION OFFICES
(Established 1776),
Bush Lane House, Bush Lane, Cannon St., LONDON.
Status Inquiries made as to the position and standing of Traders and others.
PERRY'S GAZETTE & LIST OF CREDITORS are published Weekly, and are valuable to everyone in business.
Debts recovered and paid over promptly.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE B. HART, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

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The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

THE TOMBOY GOLD MINES CO. LIMITED.

The Annual Ordinary General Meeting will be hld at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Thursday, the 28th day of October, 1915, at 2.30 p.m. precisely.

REPORT.

The Directors beg to submit their Report and audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1915, which show a realised profit of £79,705 0 11
To this must be added Balance brought forward from the last Account 47,792 0 0

Making a total of £127,497 0 11

This amount has been dealt with as follows:—

Dividend No. 27, 2s. per Share, 30th December, 1914	£31,000	0	0	
Dividend No. 28, 1s. per Share, 30th June, 1915	15,500	0	0	
Written off Plant and Machinery ...	49,486	8	10	
Amount written off cost of holding in the Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Company	2,732	4	9	
Income Tax paid and reserved	8,000	0	0	
Balance carried forward	20,778	7	4	
				£127,497 0 11

THE ACCOUNTS.—It will be seen from the foregoing tabular Statement that an exceptional amount has been written off Plant and Machinery. Following the precedent of previous years, the whole expenditure on new Plant has thus been dealt with, while on this occasion the Directors have considered it advisable to write off an additional £18,000, raising the total written off to £49,486 8s. 10*d*. The Profit and Loss Account is thereby brought into harmony with the actual financial position of the Company.

MILLING.—A table is appended giving the Milling results for the period under review. From this it will be seen that 145,857 tons of ore have been milled, from which bullion to the value of $1,027,524 has been realised, at a cost of $654,647, resulting in a profit of $372,877. If to this profit be added Dividends from the Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Company, $10,000, and receipts from other sources, $13,345, the total surplus on the year's working will be found to correspond with the figure given in Mr. D. A. Herron's Report, namely, $396,222. The average working costs for the year, including all expenses in America and London, were $4.58 per ton.

THE MINES.—A plan and section of the Company's properties are annexed hereto.

ORE RESERVES.—In his Report Mr. Herron gives the following estimate of the ore reserves exposed by present developments:—

In the Argentine Group of Mines	185,000	tons
In the Montana property	350,000	,,
Total	535,000	,,

THE ARGENTINE GROUP.—The development work in this Section has again been on a small scale, vigorous opening up of the Montana Group having been the main object of the year's operations.

THE MONTANA GROUP.—Good progress has been made during the year in developments in this Section, particulars of which will be found in Mr. Herron's Report. Ventilation of the Mine has already been greatly improved; and still further improvement is being made in this direction, which will materially facilitate future operations.

The programme of development foreshadowed in the last Report has been successfully carried out, and although Mr. Herron states that the exceptionally favourable results of the previous year's operations have not been quite equalled during the period under review, the net results have been encouraging, and, as will be seen from the figures given above, the reserves of ore have been substantially increased.

PLANT AND MACHINERY.—The Mill and Concentrating Plants have been operated satisfactorily during the year, on the same lines as before, and have been maintained in full efficiency.

The Cyanide Plant commenced running about the middle of December last. The extraction having been found to be below that indicated by the preliminary experiments, Mr. Betty, the Company's Metallurgical Adviser, visited the property last June to consult with Mr. Herron as to the best way of rectifying the deficiency. After experiments made on a practical scale in the whole plant, it was decided to add three Dorr thickening tanks. Mr. Herron informs the Board that these additions to the plant came into operation on the 20th of last month, and were running quite satisfactorily.

THE AERIAL TRAMWAY.—The exceptionally severe snowstorms of last winter inflicted considerable damage upon this installation, and led to a suspension of its operation for ninety-six hours. Two of the supporting towers were carried away, but the prompt measures taken by Mr. Herron to repair the injury reduced the loss to a minimum, and he has adopted effective means to prevent, as far as possible, a recurrence of similar accidents. The whole cost of this installation has now been written off.

MANAGEMENT.—The Directors desire again to record their warm appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Herron in his able management of the property during the past year, and of the loyalty with which he has been supported by the staff.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Marquis d'Hautpoul, the Director retiring by rotation in accordance with the Articles of Association, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., of 5 London Wall Buildings, E.C., Chartered Accountants, offer themselves for election as the Company's Auditors for the current year.

ARTHUR BUTLER, }
J. H. M. SHAW, } Directors.
T. DUNDAS PILLANS, Secretary.

24 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
19th October, 1915.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1915.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital Authorised 350,000 Shares of £1 each	350,000	0	0				By Mining Property, Plant and Machinery, as per last Balance Sheet	328,643	1	7			
,, Capital Issued— 310,000 Shares of £1 each				310,000	0	0	,, Additions during year ending 30th June, 1915	31,486	8	10			
,, Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances				21,937	3	2		360,129	10	5			
,, Outstanding Dividends				9,732	2	6	*Less* written off as *per contra*	49,486	8	10			
,, Profit and Loss Account— Balance brought forward from last Account	47,792	0	0								310,643	1	7
Add Profit for year ending 30th June, 1915, as per Profit and Loss Account	79,705	0	11				,, Stores on Hand and in transit				10,114	13	9
	127,497	0	11				,, Investment— The Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Co.— 400 Shares of $100 each at cost	8,196	14	5			
Less Dividends paid— No. 27, 2s. 0d. per Share, 30th Dec., 1914 ... £71,000 0 0							*Less* written off in 1913 and 1914 ... ... £5,464 9 8						
No. 28, 1s. 0d. per Share, 30th June, 1915 ... 15,500 0 0							Balance written off ... 2,732 4 9						
Written off Plant and Machinery 49,486 8 10								8,196	14	5			
Amount written off cost of holding in The Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Co. 2,732 4 9							,, Sundry Debtors ...				1,175	11	6
Income Tax paid and reserved 8,000 0 0							,, Bullion and Concentrates in transit				2,197	15	6
	106,718	13	7				,, Cash at Bankers, in London and America ...				38,326	10	2
				20,778	7	4							
				£[illegible]	13	0					£[illegible]	15	6

24 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
19th October, 1915.

ARTHUR BUTLER, }
J. H. M. SHAW, } Directors.
T. DUNDAS PILLANS, Secretary.

To the Shareholders of THE TOMBOY GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet, dated 30th June, 1915, with the Books and Vouchers in London, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given us, and as shown by the Books of the Company and the Returns from the Mine, certified by the Manager and Accountant.

5 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.,
19th October, 1915.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS AND CO., } Auditors.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for Year ending 30th June, 1915.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Mining, Milling and General Expenses in America...	1[illegible]	7[illegible]	6	By Bullion and Concentrates realised ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	5
,, Directors' Fees	700	0	0	,, Dividends on Shares in Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Co.	[illegible]	[illegible]	2
,, Agency and Consultants' Engineer's Fees, Legal Expenses, Cables, Postages, and General Expenses in London	2,224	10	5	,, Interest and Sundry Receipts ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	1
,, Balance carried to Balance Sheet, subject to Income Tax and Depreciation	79,705	0	11				
	£215,705	17	11		£215,705	17	11

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
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London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland, the United States and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised	-	$25,000,000
Capital Paid up	-	$11,560,000
Reserve Funds	-	$13,000,000
Aggregate Assets	-	$180,000,000

Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, President. E. L. PEASE, Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
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Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Established 1864.

Paid-up Capital ($7,000,000) £1,438,356
Reserve Fund & Undivided Profits ($7,245,140) £1,488,727

Head Office: Montreal.

PRESIDENT—SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, C.V.O.
VICE-PRESIDENT—K. W. BLACKWELL.
GENERAL MANAGER—E. F. HEBDEN.

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Every facility offered to the business of immigrants; Savings Department at all Branches, where interest is allowed at 3 per cent. per annum.
Drafts sold available in any city or banking town in the United Kingdom or United States.

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The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
The Royal Bank of Scotland.
They issue Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers available at any banking point in Canada.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.
Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES,
£2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.
CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000
THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,950,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,100,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.
DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£3,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	750,000
RESERVE FUND	675,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	1,500,000

Receives Deposits of £50 and upwards, for 1, 2 or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum.
Drafts, Letters of Credit and Wire Remittances granted, and Bills on New Zealand purchased or sent for collection.
H. FRESHWATER, Secretary and London Manager.
17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.

Authorised Capital	£1,500,000
Called up	£600,000
Reserve Fund	£55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart., EMILE FRANÇOIS, Esq., J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq., J. S. HASKELL, Esq., G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq., J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking and Agency business in connection with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	$8,808,891.79
Assets - - -	$39,077,630.77

$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	$6,880,000

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
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The Statist,

A Journal of Practical Finance and Trade.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

VOL. LXXXVI.—No. 1,966.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1915. [PRICE 6d., POST FREE (U.K.)

SALES BY AUCTION.

JOHN HOARE AND CO. will Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE Coleman Street, E.C., on Saturday, 30th October, Tuesday, 9th November, Wednesday, 17th November,
5,750 Bales AUSTRALASIAN WOOL
5,500 ,, PUNTA ARENAS WOOL
750 ,, ENGLISH WOOL, Specially Classed.
Catalogues in due course of JOHN HOARE and CO., 73 Basinghall Street London, E.C.

JACOMB, SON and CO. will OFFER by AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on Thursday, 28th October, Thursday, 4th, Saturday, 13th, and Thursday, 18th November,
WOOL—10,500 BALES COLONIAL.
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BANCO DE CHILE.
London Agency
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$42,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
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The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

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Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
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Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.
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HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS.		
STERLING RESERVE, held in London at Exchange of 2s. per $ = £1,500,000 Sterling, invested in Consols and other Sterling Securities ...	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG.
LONDON COMMITTEE.
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Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bt
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H. D. C. JONES } in London.
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THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,033,410

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Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL		£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...		£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND		2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL		4,645,575
		£8,194,100

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THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
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PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
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EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.
HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C. / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,809.
Manager E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zucchi.
Branches in Italy: Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
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Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED
71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	329,317 13 6
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.300,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued: Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Osiren (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
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Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

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TERMS from £1 1s. upwards, according to requirements. PROSPECTUS and further particulars on application

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HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
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Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.
ESTABLISHED 1841. INCORPORATED 1914.
Principal Office ... BIRMINGHAM.
London Branch Office:
HALTON HOUSE, 20-23 HOLBORN, E.C.

Accumulated Funds Exceed £2,400,000. | Claims Paid Exceed £7,500,000.

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Copies of the Annual and Valuation Reports, New Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained on application.

A. L. HUNT.
General Manager.

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"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of Banks, Bond Houses, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Mining Equipment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

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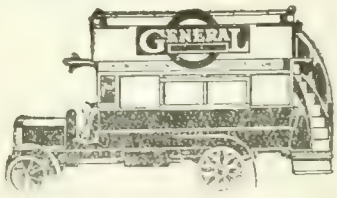
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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN LONDON.

No. 2 MAYFAIR.

Whitehorse St., in the middle of Piccadilly, leads down past the Naval and Military Club (formerly Lord Palmerston's town house) into Shepherd Market with its quaint courts and shops, a little-known backwater. Here the May Fair, after which the district is named, was held in its closing years. Beyond, in Curzon St., stands Crewe House in its garden, like a country mansion lost in London. Chesterfield House, where Dr Johnson, in bad humour, waited upon Lord Chesterfield, is at the western end, and opposite is the house (No 19) where Lord Beaconsfield died. At the eastern end a leafy passage runs between Lansdowne House and Devonshire House into Berkeley St. The iron bars at either end were put up after a mounted highwayman had escaped through the passage. No. 45, Berkeley Square was the house of Lord Clive, where the founder of our Indian Empire died by his own hand, in 1774. Nearly every street around has houses bearing tablets commemorating famous residents

By ROUTES Nos 9, 14, 14A, 15, 19, 22, 25, 25A, 33, 38, 38A, 95A, 9[illegible] about it at Whitehorse St.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
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NEW ZEALAND.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

NEW ZEALAND is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD and SILVER.

Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of Interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,
13 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF £[illegible] SOUTH AUSTRALIAN 4 PER CENT BONDS DUE 1st JANUARY, 1916, AND £[illegible] DUE 1st APRIL, 1916.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is authorised by the Government of South Australia to offer to Holders of above Bonds conversion into an equal amount of South Australian 5 per cent. Bonds on the following terms:

Holders of Bonds due 1st January, 1916, to receive in exchange for each £100 of 4 per cent. Bonds converted £1 10s. 0d. per cent. on the difference between the par value of the Bonds and the issue price of the new Bonds, together with 10s. 0d. per cent. on the amount of interest at 4 per cent. from the date of last payment of interest to 1st April, 1916, less coupon for Interest payable 1st April, 1916.

Holders of Bonds due 1st April, 1916, to receive in exchange for each £100 of 4 per cent. Bonds converted £1 0s. 0d. per cent. on the difference between the par value of the maturing Bonds and the issue price of the new Bonds, together with interest at 4 per cent. from the date of last payment of interest to 1st April, 1916, less coupon for Interest payable 1st April, 1916.

The half-year's coupons, due 1st January, 1916, and 1st April, 1916, respectively, on the Bonds converted, to be retained by the holders for payment in due course.

Principal repayable at par on the 1st April, 1923, the Government of South Australia having the option of redeeming at par on or after 1st April, 1916, on giving three calendar months' notice.

Holders of 4 per cent. Bonds exercising the option to convert must lodge their Bonds and the prescribed form of assent with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 36-38 New Broad Street, London Any Bonds not converted will be paid off at maturity.

The Lists for conversion will be open until Close on Thursday, 4th November, 1915.

Forms for conversion can be obtained at the Offices of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 36-38 New Broad Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. R. Nivison & Co., Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, E.C.; and the Agent-General for South Australia, 59 Gresham Street, London, E.C.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nineteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED, will be held at the Company's Offices, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, London Wall in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 10th day of November 1915, at [illegible] o'clock, to receive and consider the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts to be presented to the Meeting, and to declare a Dividend and to transact such other ordinary general business of the Company.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 25th to the 30th November, 1915, both days inclusive.

Dated this [illegible] day of October, 1915.

By Order,
F. HAINES, Secretary.

1 London Wall Buildings,
London Wall, London, E.C.

N.B. Holders of Share Warrants desiring to attend and vote at the Meeting should deposit their Share Warrants at the Registered Office of the Company, 1 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London, E.C., on or before Saturday, the 30th day of October, 1915.

CONSUMERS' POWER COMPANY
FIRST MORTGAGE 6 PER CENT. TWENTY-YEAR GOLD BONDS.

The Coupons due November 1st, 1915, on the above Bonds will be paid on and after that date at the Counting House of Messrs. P. Bunbury and Co., Bankers, 54 Lombard Street, Mansion House, E.C.

ARIZONA POWER COMPANY
FIRST MORTGAGE SIX PER CENT. TWENTY-FIVE YEAR GOLD BONDS.

The Coupons due November 1st, 1915, on the above Bonds will be paid on and after that date at the Counting House of Messrs. P. Bunbury and Co., Bankers, 54 Lombard Street, Mansion House, E.C.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK Limited.
Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0 0
Paid-up Capital	£[illegible]	10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10 0
Reserve Fund	[illegible]	0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Ordinary Shares of the Company will be closed on the 21st instant until the 19th November next, both days inclusive, for payment of the Half-yearly dividend.

By Order,
ROBERT CARMICHAEL, Secretary.

61 Threadneedle Street,
11th October, 1915.

THE PHILADELPHIA COMPANY.

PITTSBURGH, PA., October 23rd, 1915.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Company has called a SPECIAL MEETING of the Stockholders, to be held at the General Office of the Company at Number 434 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., on Tuesday, December 28, 1915, at Two o'clock P.M., for the purpose of voting for or against the increase of the Authorised Capital Stock of the Company from the present Authorised Capital Stock of $[illegible] to an Authorised Capital Stock of $71,963,400 such authorised increase to be in the Common Shares of the Company.

Stockholders of record at the close of business, Thursday, October 28th, 1915, will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

The question of the disposition of the said increased stock will be submitted to the Stockholders at the said Special Meeting.

W. E. CARSON, Secretary.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

CHARTERED BANK of INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.
38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.
Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Capital, £1,200,000. Reserve Fund, £1,[illegible]

Court of Directors.
Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Chairman.
Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, K.C.I.E.
Thomas Gillespie, Esq.
Sir Alfred Lyall, K.C.M.G.
William Henry Neville Goschen, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I
William Foot Mitchell, Esq.
Lewis Alexander Wallace, Esq.
Managers, T. H. Whitehead and T. Fraser.
Sub-Manager, W. E. Preston.

BANKERS.—The Bank of England; The London City and Midland Bank, Limited; The London, County and Westminster Bank, Limited; The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; The National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange and Drafts, and transact General Banking business connected with the East.

Deposits of money are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application; interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LTD.
HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO, CANADA.
BRANCHES:
Montreal, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton.

Paid-up Capital - $1,500,000.
Reserve Fund - $1,500,000.

Acts as Executor and Trustee and, as Agent for clients and corporations, invests funds in carefully selected First Mortgages on farms and improved city properties in Canada—Exceptional facilities offered for investing British Capital Also Guaranteed Trust Investments.

Correspondence invited

28 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. A. L. NUNNS, London Representative.
References:
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

TENDERS.

THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, [illegible] are prepared to receive Tenders for the supply of:

1. STEEL RAILS 30 [illegible] Foot [illegible] and [illegible] Tons.
2. SCREW SPIKES, [illegible] Tons.
3. FISH PLATES, [illegible] Tons.
4. BRIDGE WORK [illegible] Tons.
5. IRON WIRE FENCING.

[illegible] Tenders [illegible] November.

The Company [illegible] the lowest or any Tender.

[illegible] Robert White, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., Consulting [illegible] S.W.

91 [illegible] Street, [illegible]
[illegible] October, 191[illegible]

THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (Limited).

Established 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000	
Paid up Capital	1,[illegible]	
Reserve Fund	2,000,000	

BRANCHES.

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Sante Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires).

URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency).

BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curityba, Manaos Agency).

CHILI.—Valparaiso.

FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halévy).

BELGIUM.—Antwerp (22 Place de Meir).

Agency in New York and Agents throughout the World.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued.

Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

7 Princes Street, E.C.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.
Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000	
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	3,600,000	
Total Assets over	[illegible]	

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal CITIES in AMERICA.

LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel, P. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

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INTERNATIONAL BANKING NUMBER OF 'The Statist'

Published October 23, 1915.
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CANADA.

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, October 29, 1915.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 16s. 0½d.	£97 11s. 1½d.	£96 4s. 11½d.	£95
Discount Rate	4½ %	4½ %	5 %	5 %

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4½	4½	4½	5
Trade Bills	—	5¼-⅜	5½	5½-6

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates. Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses. Call.	Discount Houses. Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3⅛	3⅜
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2⅛
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1⅝	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1⅝	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

MONEY.

CHEAPER TREASURIES.

A CHANGE in the rates at which Treasury bills are on sale was, as generally expected, at last announced on Wednesday, the new rates being 4¾% for three months', 4⅞% for four months', and 5% for nine or twelve months'. The rates, like the movement, were just as expected; but now that the change has happened, the market is still as puzzled as ever to know why it should have been brought about. As far as the home demand is concerned, the lower price of Treasuries will, it is contended, make little or no difference to the extent of the market's absorbing power. There was already a keen demand for the replacement of maturities when it was checked by hints and rumours to the effect that those who waited would get bills cheaper. Before the change was made the rates for Treasury bills compared favourably with the yield to be earned by an investment in War Loan, and any surplus that the market possessed could have been relied on by the Government. If still heavier applications were required, a little judicious advertisement and a lowering of the denomination of the bills offered would have brought in plenty of funds from investors, many of whom are accumulating balances ready for the next War Loan, and would gladly have taken Treasury bills for the time being.

It is understood, however, that the powers that be are hoping, by this rise in rates, to induce American money-dealers to place their surplus funds in yearling bills to a considerable extent, and so to stimulate a demand for sterling in New York. If this hope is realised, something will have been gained, but it is suggested that a little ingenuity might have avoided the necessity for paying higher rates to English buyers, who were already feeding freely at the old rates, in order to attract the appetite of the more fastidious Americans. For it is objected by market critics that it is not only the home buyers of Treasuries who are being demoralised by this unwholesome and unnecessary process, but also the prospective applicants to the next War Loan. If a yearling Treasury can be bought to pay over 5¼%, with the certainty of one's capital back intact, what sort of rate, it is asked, will the Government have to offer when it wants a few hundred millions of money, repayable years ahead? There is a good deal of ground for the market's bewilderment, and it is certainly difficult to account for the Government's action in thus deliberately depreciating its own credit. Nevertheless, the New York Exchange has actually been a little firmer in the last few days, and it is just possible that this has happened because the Americans are buying long Treasuries.

No pressure on the market was produced by the payment of the last instalment on the War Loan. Money can only be wanted nowadays when either the Government or the Bank of England is sitting on so much of it that all the effects of inflation are for the time being obliterated. At the present moment the Government balances are low, and the Bank, though it is doing something to relieve the weight of artificially created money, has not yet carried its operations far enough to make a very material difference, and so there is enough, and more than enough, to go round. Gold goes abroad steadily in large amounts, but owing to the activity of the printing press, this export of gold has little or no effect in producing the stringency which used in normal times to be its corrective and cure, and even now would have some influence in that direction if it were not counteracted. But as long as the Treasury issues uncovered notes, as fast as gold leaves the country, and as long as paper money does just as well as gold, gold shipments cannot be expected to have any direct effect on the market.

Perhaps it is rather academic nowadays to write about gold as if it were a matter of considerable moment. Certainly we have not the least intention or desire to suggest that we ought to hoard our gold. We have always held that the purpose of a gold reserve is its usefulness at a time of need through being used boldly and freely, and we hope that this policy will be maintained. But as we are convinced that the two things most necessary for our financial salvation are the reduction of consumption and the reduction of inflation, and that these two desirable objects are closely connected, we therefore think it is a pity that the Government, which has set a lamentably bad example in extravagance and which has done much to defeat the efforts of those who have worked on the side of private saving, should always, by continually pouring out a stream of paper money, defeat the effect of the exports of gold. These exports ought to reduce the basis of credit, and so reduce the fabric of credit, and so reduce unnecessary production and trading (of which there is still far too much in certain lines), and so reduce inflation and reduce prices. As it is inflation continues and the prices of necessaries are a cruel hardship to those with small incomes, while the costliness of the war is directly increased by this inflationist policy.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

THIS week's statement shows further considerable loss in both specie and reserve, but owing to the heavy Government disbursements, which have reduced the public deposits in four weeks from over £116 millions to below £40 millions, the market is richer. The Bank lost fully £3½ millions in gold for export, making the eighth consecutive week in which gold has been taken out of the Bank, and during which period the total bullion has fallen from nearly £68½ millions to below £56¼ millions. This loss of gold for export was offset by a return of £394,139 from the country, against which there is an increase of £221,515 in the note circulation. Besides the £2,876,376 taken from the reserve the market also lost £2,053,000 through a further reduction in the "other securities," which, by the way, have in eight weeks run down from £145,230,000 to £96,565,000. Against this big demand upon the market's resources the bankers' balances were more than replenished by the Government disbursements, to which we have referred.

POSITION IN NEW YORK.

THE return of the New York Banks and Trust companies, published on Saturday last, shows an addition of £26,912,000 to the loans and a corresponding increase of £29,616,000 in the deposits, which now stand at £643,674,000, or nearly £200,000,000 higher than they were at the beginning of the year. At the same time there has been a further addition of £5,384,000 to the reserve, and the total at £144,728,000 compares with under £92,500,000 early in the year. The surplus reserve is slightly higher. Money has remained plentiful at 1¾ to 2%, but exchange has been weak, cable transfers having

dropped to 4.62, from which there has been a recovery to 4.65½.

The following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—			Rate Oct. 28	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London	...	sight	$4 6⅝	4 86½ dollars for £1	1⅝
,,	...	cables	$4 64		
,,	...	60 days	$4 60		
Amsterdam	...	sight	41 c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 2
Berlin	...	sight	81 c.	95 cents for 4 marks	14 2
Paris	...	sight	5 95 fr.	5.18 francs for $1	14 9
Mexico	...	Mex. silver $	37½c. U.S.	50c. U.S. for 1 Mex. $	24 5

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Oct. 28, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ...	2%
Oct. 29, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	6-6½%	,, ,, ...	6-6½%

POSITION IN INDIA.

On Wednesday last the reduced amount of 40 lacs of drafts upon India was offered by the India Council, but the demand was exceedingly heavy. Against the total applications for 207 lacs the previous week the applications amounted to nearly 345 lacs. The allotment was made at an advance of $\frac{1}{32}d.$, both bills and deferred telegraphic transfers being sold at 1s. $4\frac{1}{32}d.$, and applicants at this rate only got 71% of the amount applied for. Consequent upon this good demand, the Council decided to increase the amount next week to 50 lacs. Periodical returns of the Indian Currency Department show that the contraction in the note circulation is still proceeding. Early in August the outstanding notes exceeded 69½ crores. The last return, made up to October 22, shows a further reduction of 21 lacs, the total having been reduced to about 62½ crores. The week's reduction in the note circulation was accompanied by a loss of 22 lacs in the silver reserve, which has fallen to 3,650 lacs, a total which compares with 4,015 lacs early in August, while the gold in India is 1 lac higher at 592 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 5 per cent. (June 2, '15) Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, October 27, are:—

	Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers		
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4 3/32	1,15,000	82,000	71	1 4 1/32	50,00,000*	35,62,000	71
1 4	12,10,000	—	—	1 4	1,97,00,000*	—	
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	6,35,000	3,56,000	71
—	—	—	—	1 4 3/32	78,00,000	—	—
Total ...	13,25,000	82,000	—	Total ...	3,31,35,000	39,18,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 40,00,000 ...	Rs. 3,44,60,000 ...	Rs. 40,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	7,000	1/4.031	1/4	Def. 17,12,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32
Bombay ...	14,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32	(Def. 16,50,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32
				(Imm. 1,42,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16
Madras ...	61,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32	(Def. 2,00,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32
				(Imm. 2,14,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Transfers on Calcutta (Immediate)	1,35,000	1/4 1/32

From **April 1** to **October 26** inclusive the Council granted remittances for **Rs. 6,97,95,268**, realising **£4,65,2,637**. Up to **October 27** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs. 5,98,74,881**, realising **£3,994,576**. The total sales for the week ended **October 26** amounted to **Rs. 5,99,000**, realising **£400,305**. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will be increased to **50** lacs.

SILVER.

The drop of $\frac{3}{16}d.$ in the London price of silver last week was of short duration. This week offerings from abroad have been on a smaller scale, whilst there has been continued mintage buying on both Continental and home account. The recovery has also been assisted by good monsoon advices from India. The price rose to 24⅛$d.$, the highest quotation since March 16 last, and has dropped back $\frac{1}{16}d.$ According to the views expressed by bullion brokers there is a disposition to look forward to a very steady Silver market in the future.

	Oct. 22	23	25	26	27	28	29
London ...	23 7/8	23¾	23 5/8	23½	24	24⅛	24 1/8
India ...Rs.	60 1/8	60 1/8	61½	61½	61½	61	61
Exchange	1/4-3/32	1/4-1/32	1/4-1/32	1/4-	1/4-1/32	1/4 3/32	1/4-1/32

Stock Exchange.

In the last week of ability to effect conversion of Consols, &c., and old War Loan into the new War Loan there has been a spasm of active dealings, and a rise in price for a time occurred to a fair extent in War Loan, with reaction late in the week from the best. At one time there was a very sharp demand for War Loan *cum* rights for the purpose of effecting a conversion of old issues, and the difference in price between War Loan *cum* and *ex* rights was for a period as high as ½, or even a shade more.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday night, Mr. McKenna, replying to numerous questions upon the subject, gave definite assurance that companies where special conditions operate—as, for instance, mining and rubber undertakings—will be fairly treated under the Excess Profits Tax, and all factors considered. Mr. McKenna pointed out that while in the Bill 6% is given "as the normal rate anybody is entitled to," it is also provided in clause 38 for an increase of the percentage standard. Referring to rubber companies, the Chancellor said: "If I were a Referee I should look upon it as ridiculous to suggest that 6% is an appropriate rate of interest, seeing that these companies do not pay under five or six years."

He made similar observations regarding mining companies, but mentioned that these special cases are for the Official Referees to decide; and "the Referees are a business body, well qualified to judge of these points, and will take a fair view of what the allowance ought to be."

Though complaints are rife at the absence of business in the general stock markets, an examination of the general features presented during the week leads to the conclusion that the strength shown denotes an undercurrent of resolution on the part of investors to hold on. In the first place, at current prices they are indisposed to effect realisations, and the occasional signs of a disposition to buy is only checked by the influence of war news. At the moment the ugly situation in the Balkans is a great deterrent to any idea of expansion of investments, but, on the other hand, persons who should have the ability to see ahead have no hesitation in pronouncing for the eventual success of the *Entente* Allies against the Central Powers. Briefly, their grounds are that the Central Powers are bleeding to death, while the *Entente* Powers possess the ability to steadily augment their forces. It is not the time to anticipate events, but were the circumstances less acute undoubtedly a good many people who share that view would come into evidence in making purchases on the stock markets.

Towards the end of the week a slight set-back was noticeable in New York after the continued spell of advancing prices—in some cases rapidly advancing—that has continued for some while. In the circumstances London has not been able to share either directly or through arbitrage the activity so noticeable on the New York Stock Exchange.

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Mining Topics.

Much the same characteristics [illegible] week in the Mining department [illegible] In general the tone [illegible] particularly as to [illegible] and Eastern shares especially. Among the prominent features [illegible] tion re Modder Deep [illegible] quoted [illegible] which [illegible] We [illegible] tion and prospects of the Modder Deep in THE STATIST of October 16, and this week refer in subsequent remarks to the recent history and outlook of the City Deep Company. We also this week deal with the Government Areas Company, whose shares have recently come into prominence through the progress [illegible] quoted [illegible]

Diamond descriptions retain their strength and have made a further advance, more particularly as to De Beers [illegible] Preferred to 13¾.

Among base metal shares, copper shares have continued in demand, a feature being a further rise in Utahs to 17¾, and Anacondas [illegible] the region of 17, ex the 8½ dividend of the quarter. Rio Tinto Proprietary shares have been steadily inquired for and have appreciated to about 44s.

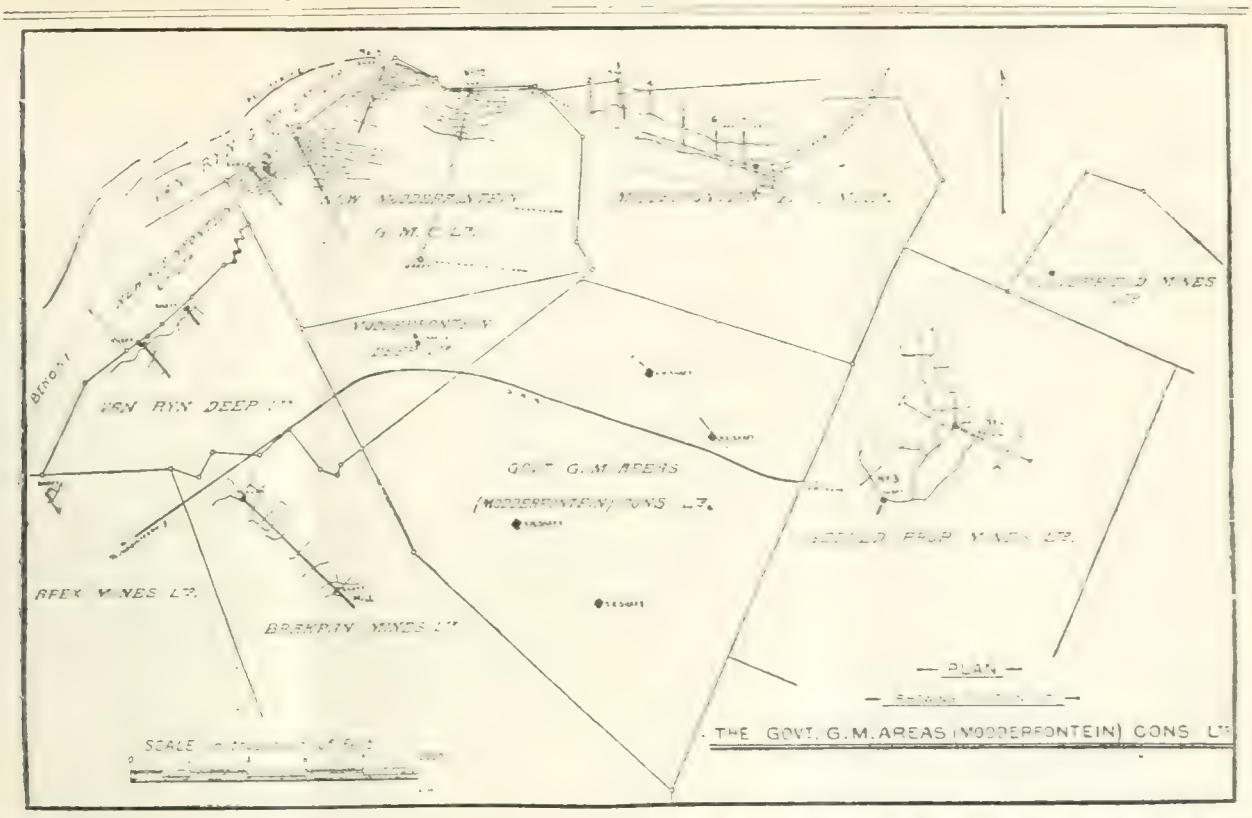
The Mexican group of gold mines have further improved, but have slightly receded from the best. The assertions made [illegible] differences have been made in respect of taxes on Mexican mining properties appear to be correct, but it is explained by a correspondent of our contemporary, the New York *Engineering and Mining Journal* that the new taxation is neither onerous or inequitable. Formerly the annual tax on mining properties had been $3 per hectare (2½ acres). The Carranza decree raises this to an annual tax of $6 per hectare on a property not over 10 hectares; $7.50 per hectare on what exceeds 10 hectares and is less than 20; $9 per hectare on that from 20 to 50; and $12 per hectare on all above 50. But perhaps the market talk regarding heavier taxes was by some people confused with effect of the Mexican export duty on gold, or even our own Excess Profits Tax. It, of course, is possible that English-registered companies owning property in Mexico will come under this impost, and it will be peculiarly unfortunate if, after three or four years of acute discomfort, a return to prosperity through end of insurrectionary conflicts is handicapped in this way.

* * * We call attention to the advertisement that appears in these columns of publication of a Plan of the Rand gold mining properties. It is an authoritative one, being produced for the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and its appearance is welcome.

GOVERNMENT AREAS.

In previous remarks this week, under the heading of "The Eastern Rand: A Retrospect," we call attention to the Government profit-sharing arrangement with lessees of ground under its control in the Modderfontein region. This was effected is February 1910, when a Company under the long-winded title of the Government Gold Mining Areas (Modderfontein) Consolidated, Limited, was formed to put up £1,400,000 of capital, all of which was to be raised in cash, for the purpose of leasing, developing, and equipping the area of 2,633 claims passed over to the Company for the period the ore in such area would last. There were no vendor shares. The whole of the £1,400,000 capital has been issued and is fully paid up. The amount of capital expenditure apparently will be about £500,000 more than was reckoned upon, the Company having come to the decision, with so large an area, to enlarge its plant to about double the initial idea. Even before it had arrived at the stage of crushing at rate of some 600,000 tons a year the Company had incurred floating debt, and the project of extension of plant points to a further expenditure before an annual output of, say, 1,100,000 tons per annum is attained. Some of the necessary expenditure may be taken from profit, and the next annual report will afford a clue as to finance policy.

A very hard bargain was driven by the Government in its profit-sharing arrangements with lessees of the Government Areas. A sliding scale for division of profits was agreed, and its meaning may be briefly summarised. In order to arrive at the respective proportions accruing to the Government and to the Company there is, first, a primary, and, secondly, a supertax based on the proportion of profit to the value of the gross yield of gold—"recovery value." The intricacies of all this are dealt with in our last [illegible] of "Mines and Miners" [illegible] pages 236-8, and are too lengthy to repeat here, but we may forthwith indicate what is the outcome of the sliding scale. Our interpretation of it is that it is more profitable to the Company to employ work a low-grade than a high-grade ore, as by such policy it has to pay the Government a smaller percentage of the profit made and prolongs the life of the mine. The Government policy may have been partly devised in order to insist upon economical management, but when the sliding scale is analysed it will be seen from the facts we give below that the proportions of profits work out disadvantageously to the Company. The terms



made are regarded as being a handicap to capitalists, and the Government has been unsuccessful in its invitations for further tenders to work properties upon like bases. But as at the moment we are dealing with the features of the property, and the Company's record of work done to the present time, we may defer further general remarks upon this subject and give below the figures to show how the Company's profit-sharing arrangements work out upon various bases.

On the assumption of 600,000 tons of ore, value 25*s.* per ton, being milled per annum, and *total* costs of 20*s.*, 17*s.* 6*d.* and 15*s.* per ton respectively, the Government's and Company's approximate shares of the yearly profit, on the basis of the sliding scale, works out as follows:—

Tons Milled	Yield per Ton	Total Costs per Ton	Profit per Ton	Total Profit	Government's Share		Company's Share	
					Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£
600,000	25/0	20/0	5/0	150,000	21¼	32,250	78¾	117,750
600,000	25/0	17/6	7/6	225,000	33	74,250	67	140,570
600,000	25/0	15/0	10/0	300,000	47	141,000	53	159,000

Supposing a yield of 30*s.* per ton were obtained at a cost of 15*s.* per ton the approximate respective shares would be as follows:—

Profit per Ton	Total Profit	Government's Share		Company's Share	
		Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.	£
15/0	450,000	61¼	275,625	38¾	174,375

The percentages the Government gets on recovery value and on profit are indicated below:—

Bases on 600,000 *Tons Milled.*

	Recovery Value, 25/0 per Ton			Recovery Value 30/0 per Ton
	£	£	£	£
Recovery value ...	750,000	750,000	750,000	900,000
Costs per ton ...	(20/0) 600,000	(17/6) 525,000	(15/0) 450,000	(15/0) 450,000
Gross profit	150,000	225,000	300,000	450,000
To Government.				
Primary and Super tax based on Recovery Value	4·5%	9·9%	18·8%	30·625%
Actual percentage of profit	21¼%	33%	47%	61¼%

It is to be noted that the above calculations are based on gross data, and take no account of allowances in respect of "exhaustion of capital," &c. The Company being a lessee pays no Government tax.

All the area over which the Company has mining rights is reef bearing. It comprises 2,633 claims, surrounded by Modderfontein Deep, Modderfontein B, Geduld, and Brakpan areas. Although in the Far Eastern Rand a great number of the companies formed took steps to test their properties by means of boreholes, no tests of such character were applied in the case of the Government Areas and the cost of boring was saved. At the first blush it looks a very bold course to take up area without making any tests; but this Company had the benefit of the work done by other companies all round it, both in respect of bores and actual shafts, which proved continuity of reef north, south, east, and west. Hence directly cash resources were raised the Company, after its formation in February 1910, commenced straightway to open up the property by shafts. There are four shafts, all of large pattern. They are respectively termed the north-west and north-east, south-west and south-east, and are at pretty well equal distances from one another, like the four corners of a square. Simultaneously with shaft sinking there was a good deal of preparation of surface plant for power and hoisting, provision of electrical and water supply, tramways, &c. The policy of working one reduction plant in the vicinity of the south-eastern shaft was decided on, and all work was formulated on thought-out principles.

The intersection of the reef in the different shafts occurred at the depths and dates mentioned in the following particulars:—

Shaft	Reef Intersected	
	Date	Depth Ft.
North-West	June 1912	2,295
North-East	August ,,	2,275
South-East	May 1913	1,580
South-West	Oct. ,,	2,508

It would look as if in the immediate region of the property the inclination of the reef is a flat one. Though there may be wavy forms—what are technically termed syncline and anticline—in the Far East Rand, the undulations in the Government Areas ground will probably range between 8 and 10 degrees.

The reef as to thickness, as to various developments reported, has varied considerably from between 19 and 34 inches in the region of the northern to 24 and 43 inches in the southern shafts. The developments reported in respect of underground work, after intersection of reef by the shafts and for the years 1913 and 1914 are set out below:—

Developments.

Year	Total Feet	Payable				
		%	Feet	Width Inches	Value	Sectional Inches
1913 ...	8,484	46·7	3,964	26·5	48·6	1,275
1914 ...	18,340	71·2	13,060	33·6	47·7	1,599

Although part of the 100 stamps and 10 tube mills were put into commission in the middle of October 1914, the quantity used in the period to the end of the year was less than 100,000 tons, and does not affect the fact that the pay-ore reserves at December 31, 1914, were officially estimated at 2,451,581 stoping tons of an assay value of 24*s.* 7*d.* per ton, based on a stoping width of 60 inches; but as the Consulting Engineer reduces the stoping tons to milling tons by assuming 15% sorting, this would give a net 2,088,443 milling tons, in respect of which a recovery value—not an assay value, be it noted—of about 25*s.* per ton is expected. The quarterly report mentions that the ore reserves at June 30, 1915, were 2,256,349 milling tons. Respecting the nature of the ore reserves, the Consulting Engineer reports that "the good results were not confined to any one section of the mine, but were in all four sections." Apropos of the mill, it is to be noted that the utmost celerity was effected in its erection, the construction work occupying only about a year.

The policy of extension of plant—promptly ordered—was decided upon in April last, and the capacity of the mill will be about doubled, or, as we take it, raised to a rate of 1,100,000 tons a year, by about the end of this year or the beginning of 1916. It may here be convenient to give a record of the results from the start of operations to September 30 this year in the form we usually adopt in announcing the results of Rand companies.

Government Areas.—Capital £1,400,000, in £1 shares. At December 31, 1914, floating debt about £240,000. 100 stamps, 10 tube mills. Plant ordered to be doubled, or total raised to rate of near 1,100,000 tons a year. The returns include sundry revenue.

Year ends	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
Dec. 31 1914.	Stps								
Oct. 16 to Dec. 31 1915.	90	97.7	17½	8,995	16/6	105,433	21/6	23,468*	5/0* —
Mar. qr	97	[illegible]	14¼	45,132	24/8	122,691	17/6	22,441	3/2 21/6
June qr	100	[illegible]	15	17,285	24/0	132,145	18/7	38,850	5/5 1⅝
July	10	45,0	14¾	6[illegible],736	28/9	47,109	21/1	17,567	7/8 1⅝
Aug.	10	[illegible]	14¼	6[illegible],467	27/3	47,527	20/0	17,280	7/5 25/0
Sept.	—	[illegible]	—	16,755	27/2	51,549	21/2	15,216	6/0 28/9

* Loss.

Apparently it is the policy of the Company to keep down the grade, and one can quite understand the sudden large percentage decrease of August in the proportion of ore sorted out on surface; also, one can understand there is no striving to attain as small a stoping width as possible, for with a very flat reef it is necessary to stope to a much greater width than in the case where the inclination is steep.

We have given an indication above of what may be expected roughly as the outcome of operating [illegible] year on different bases, and the most economical basis appears to be that of a recovery value of 25*s.* and 17*s.* 6*d.* costs. If one applies this formula to a quantity increased to 1,100,000 tons the approximate outcome may be set out as under:—

1,[illegible] ... 25/- recovery ... 17/6 costs per ton

	(1) £		(2) £	
Recovery value	1,[illegible],000		1,[illegible],000	
Costs	9[illegible],500		962,500	
Gross profit	41[illegible],500		687,500	
Amount and proportion of profit to go to Government	136,125	33%	*237,078	40%
Remaining for [illegible] property	276,375	67%	350,422	51%

* Premium tax 1[illegible]% of profit, plus supertax of 17½% of primary tax, viz. £286,875 [illegible]

Should the issued capital of the Company in the time of such result stand at, say, £1,900,000, on No. 1 result a dividend of 12½% would call for £237,500 and leave a surplus, and on No. 2 result a dividend of 17½% would absorb £332,500 and leave a surplus. It remains to be seen, however, how accumulating floating debt will be dealt with. There may be Debentures created, some profit may be used for capital purposes, or there may be a further share issue.

For some time to come what will be the dividend is a moot point, and what will be the policy adopted is also subject to modification. We cannot, with any satisfaction, arrive at what is the actual present value of the share, adopting our usual procedure of allowing 10% for income and excess of dividend to be applied to a sinking fund by investment at 5% for redemption of the purchase price at the end of the life.

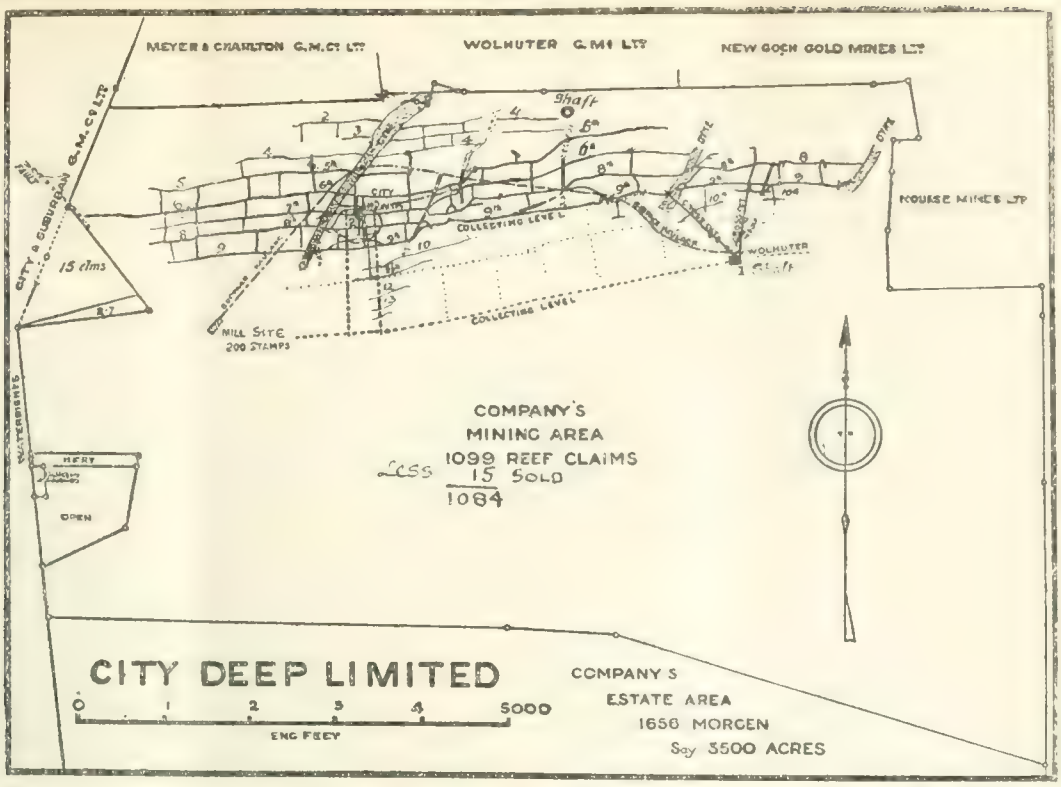
The life consideration from the speculative investor's point of view is not a very great bugbear. With a flat reef and a stoping width adopted of 5 feet we calculate that, were all the area to contain payable reef, some 22,910 mill tons per claim may be averaged. Then, as to the area, it has only been proved to a small extent, and it would be unwise to class the Government Areas in the same category as the Modder Deep, for which we made a 10% allowance for faults, or with so proved a property as the Modderfontein, where we allowed 20% for dyke intrusions, &c. Therefore, it appears to be a conservative course to make an allowance of 25% in respect of the Government Areas. Deducting 25% for faults, &c., from the 2,633 claims, we may assume 2,000 clean claims as reef-bearing, and such a number of claims at 22,910 mill tons per claim would give the total area, on a consumption of 1,100,000 tons annually, a life of about 45 years.

CITY DEEP.

In The Statist of May 8 this year we dealt at some length with the position and prospects of the City Deep mine. Progress was then being made, and certainly has been more than maintained since, and looks like continuing still further. It may be recalled the Company had a very uncomfortable experience during the early days, after its arrival at the stage of production. Mistakes had been made, but in the interval since these have largely been rectified. In respect of the lay-out of the mine there was a great mistake made, with a long period of attendant defective ventilation. The difficulties in connection with ventilation have since been removed by the completion of the circular shaft. More stope faces have been opened, and shaft and drive difficulties have been remedied. An increase has been gradually going on in the number of stamps used out of its total 200-stamp mill initially erected, and in recent months the number in operation has averaged 154.

In 1913 the Company distributed dividends aggregating 17½% on its capital of £1,250,000. In 1914 it increased its dividend to 23¾%, this being provided after the setting aside of approximately £70,000 for capital purposes out of profit. This year, compared with 1914, there has been a further increase in the quantity of ore dealt with, accompanied by a substantial increase in the profit per ton. This double tide of increase in tonnage and gain in profit per ton is very gratifying. Should, as is expected, the profit of the remaining three months of 1915 approximate the average of the months of August and September, we estimate that after making allowance for phthisis, Government and extra war tax, that the net profit for 1915 will be in the region of £560,000, which is about £60,000 more than what would provide 40% on the capital. In June last the Company declared a dividend of 13¾%, so that, whether or not profits be divided up to the hilt in respect of the full year, a further increase in the dividend—and a substantial one at that—is to be looked for when the December announcement is made. A contrast of the actual results of 1914 with those we estimate for 1915 is set out below. In the circumstances one can quite understand the strength of the shares, at the present time the quotation being near to 3¼ for the £1 share.

We would refer our readers to the remarks in The Statist of May 8 on the question of life. We then set out that on an annual consumption of 700,000 tons the life of the mine would be about 39 years.



All things considered the shares are at an attractive figure.

Year to December 31,	Estimate, 1915		Actual, 1914	
	£	Per Ton	£	Per Ton
Revenue ...	(676,700 tons) 1,310,000	38/8	(605,500 tons) 965,740	38 2
Expenses	680,000	20/1	566,933	22 5
Mine profit	630,000	18/7	398,777	15 9
Sundry revenue	20,000		22,727	
	650,000		421,504	
Appropriations				
Claim annuity £6,560		£6,560		
Phthisis, &c. 15,000		13,787		
Taxes 65,000		39,744		
	86,560		60,091	
	563,440		361,413	
Dividend ... ... *(=40%)	500,000	(23¾%)	296,875	
Surplus	63,440		64,538	

* June 1915 dividend of 1½%, absorbing £281,250.

The above shows the estimated appropriation of unappropriated profit balances brought in or carried forward.

City Deep.—Capital £1,250,000, in £1 shares. 200 stamps and tube-mill accessories, to have a capacity of about 800,000 tons per annum when in full operation.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	150	505,340	7¼	965,740	38/2	566,933	22/5	398,777	15/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	144	137,800	12½	261,800	38/0	152,743	22/2	109,145	15/10	2 13/16
June qr.	154	171,000	13¼	325,406	38/0	174,703	20/5	150,703	17/7	3
July ...	154	(est.)	13	(est.)	(est.)	64,425	21/2	82,195	20/7	3¼
Aug. ...	154	62,400	24	121,800	39/0	59,581	19/1	62,227	19/11	3⅜
Sept. ...	—	61,000	—	118,184	38/9	58,098	19/0	60,086	19/9	3 5/32

* "The yield recently has been higher than that called for by the ore reserves."

Dividends—1914, June, 11¼; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 13¾ per cent.

The accompanying map shows the shape of the property, position of the shafts, drives, &c., and is especially noticeable from its revealing how small a part of the Company's large area has been opened upon.

FAR EASTERN RAND.

A RETROSPECT.

The last two or three years the success attending companies formed to deal with Eastern Rand ground has attracted much attention to that region. Hence a brief historical retrospect will be of interest.

It may be recalled that discovery of gold deposit was made in Rand region as far back as nearly 30 years ago. About 1887-88 there were formed the Kleinfontein, Modderfontein, and the Van Ryn companies to acquire mining rights in the region, and all three by 1889, 1890 and 1892, respectively, attained in a small way the stage of production with toy plant worked in a desultory and inefficient manner. After the Welgedacht the next important area to be taken up as a gold proposition and formulated as a company was the Geduld, incorporated in 1899. As an outcome of preliminary testing by the Geduld, three years later, in a similar manner as had been done by the Van Ryn, two subsidiary working companies were formulated, which were furnished with capital resources for shaft sinking, their areas being subsequently—in 1906—transferred back to the parent company. Bore sinking was initiated by the Company prior to the War, and the nature of reef intersected in the deep-level region first attacked caused excitement; all operations, however, were stopped during the period of war. About 1902 another effort was made to develop properties, and company promoters were active. Besides the incorporation in 1902 of the Geduld's subsidiaries, there was the fusion and provision of capital for opening up two areas that now belong to the Van Ryn Deep. The Geduld Deep also came on the scene. Early in 1903 the Cloverfield and the Brakpan came into market prominence.

After a year or two of real work reports of shafts meeting the reef gave renewed interest to the position. The Geduld intersected reef in December 1905 in its No. 2 shaft, and in January 1906 in its No. 3 or western shaft. The Brakpan made but a poor discovery on the intersection of reef in the north shaft in October 1907, but met good reef in its south shaft in July 1908. The fused Van Ryn Deep Company met reef in its western shaft in June 1909 and in its eastern shaft early in 1910. In The Statist of October 2 we dealt fully with the affairs of the Modderfontein B. and the recasting in 1908 of area that in 1895 had been the property of what were termed the Modderfontein Extension Company and others. Part of such property in the middle nineties was prospected by a variety of small shafts, but showings were of discomforting character and the property was allowed to remain fallow. The recast Company—Modderfontein B—acquired additional area in 1908 and capital was provided for effecting developments with a view to the erection of plant. Phenomenal success attended its efforts and production was commenced in October 1911.

This activity all round caused a growth of interest

in the region, and as there were very large areas—a sort of no man's land—under Government control, the Government formulated a project for the letting on lease of some ground in Modderfontein area, the lease being based on a sliding scale as to division of profits between a lessee company formed for providing working capital and the Government as owners of a huge area lying immediately to the south of the Modderfontein B and the New Modderfontein properties. This was in 1910 and there was much heart-burning over the project. After preliminary ideas had been subjected to discussion the Messrs. Barnato put in a tender which was accepted, and in 1910 there was registered the "Government Gold Mining Areas (Modderfontein) Consolidated, Limited," which has ominously been dubbed a sesquipedalian title.

Parenthetically we may here say that in 1910 and 1912 the Government unsuccessfully invited tenders, in a similar way to that of the Modderfontein Government Area, in respect of ground in farm Brakpan, and also contemplated leasing another extension of ground to south of Geduld.

The bargain come to between the Government and the Barnatos in 1910 has been regarded as so stringent and illiberal that to the present the Government's efforts to effect further leases have been unsuccessful. We trust, however, there will be an early modification of the Government's attitude, and that the region will come to be worked, with profit for lessees and Government properly adjusted. All the more does some action appear to be called for as, since the display of unwillingness in 1910 to formulate terms, further important developments have occurred, in especial the intersection of reef in 1912 at the Modder Deep, at the Modder circular shaft, as well as developments in the area the Government leased in 1910. Then consideration has to be given to the features of celerity of development and plant erection of Far Eastern mines in quite recent years, and the proofs being afforded of the value of this important area.

Nigel.—In view of disappointing results of crushing it was suggested by the Manager that the battery should be shut down temporarily while development was extended. The Board, in consultation with their technical advisers, have decided this policy is at present unnecessary, but a cable from the head office states:—

Technical advisers report that the issue depends entirely upon continuance and payability of the large shoot lately exposed in the 11th drive east of No. 3 shaft. Recommend pushing by double shift 14th and 22nd drives to prove shoot in depth. If shoot continues in drives mentioned, should be well into it in about two months, when position of the mine will be reconsidered in light of information gained. Meantime milling will be continued on reduced tonnage of highest grade ore. Expenses will be reduced for the purpose of trying to make both ends meet. Board approves operations being carried on accordingly.

TOMBOY GOLD MINES.

The year ended June 30, 1915, was quite a good one for this Colorado gold-mining Company. A record quantity of ore was milled, probably owing to the coming into operation of a new cyanide plant in December 1914, and as a slightly higher gold yield per ton a little more than offset a small rise in working costs, the working profit earned rose to £77,482, or 10*s.* 8*d.* per ton, in the year to June 30, 1915, in comparison with £72,443 in the previous twelve months. However, sundry tramway and other receipts in the past year brought in only £5,148, against £11,982, so that the working profit, plus sundry receipts, for the year ended June 30, 1915, totalled £82,630, against £84,425 in the previous year. If the amount of the earnings had been the determining factor, therefore, the Company could have maintained its dividend of 20%; but necessity to provide a large sum for expenditure on plant caused the dividend distribution for the past year to be reduced to 15%, in comparison with 20% in the previous year and 17½% in 1912-13. However, the dividends being paid free of tax, the shareholders really received a distribution last year equivalent to about 17½% on their capital. The operating results of the past six years and the manner in which the profits have been distributed will be seen from the following table, which also shows the very satisfactory increase that has occurred in the quantity of the ore reserves in sight:—

	Years ended June 30					
	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Value of yield	210,558	196,528	213,188	183,959	160,107	167,288
Working expenses ...	133,076	124,085	117,002	103,173	104,416	108,938
Working profit	77,482	72,443	96,186	80,786	55,691	58,350
Sundry receipts	5,148	11,982	2,155	8,193	9,715	7,705
Brought forward	47,792	42,208	13,938	51,431	57,318	63,727
Total	130,422	126,633	112,279	140,410	122,724	129,782
Allocations—						
Office, &c. expenses ...	2,925	3,354	2,775	2,571	2,092	2,107
Income tax	8,000	5,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Depreciation, &c. written off	52,219	8,487	8,046	88,901*	5,201	6,357
Dividends	46,500	62,000	54,250	31,000	60,000	60,000
	(15%)	(20%)	(17½%)	(10%)	(20%)	(20%)
Carry-forward	20,778	47,792	42,208	13,938	51,431	57,318
	130,422	126,633	112,279	140,410	122,724	129,782
Issued capital	310,000	310,000	310,000	310,000	300,000	300,000
Tons milled	145,857	137,456	129,618	107,577	116,222	110,560
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Yield per ton	28 10	28 7	32 11	35 1	27 7	30 4
Costs per ton	18 2	18 0	18 1	20 1	18 0	19 9
Profit per ton	10 8	10 7	14 10	15 0	9 7	10 7
Ore reserves (tons) ...	535,000	452,000	426,000	490,000	427,000	444,600
Price of shares end of the Company's year ...	22/0	1⅛xd	1⅛	1¼	⅛	⅛

* Including £82,193, the purchase price of the new Montana property acquired and written off.

The net profit, after payment of office expenses and income tax, for the past year was £71,705, equal to 23% on the Company's capital. The 15% dividends actually paid for the year absorbed £46,500, leaving a balance of £25,205. Expenditure on capital account, largely for the new cyanide plant which came into operation in December 1914, amounted to £31,486, so that, in addition to the balance profit of £25,205, a further sum of £6,281 had to be provided by reducing the Company's net liquid resources at end June 1915 to £10,021, as against £14,034 at the end of the previous year, and the value of stores to £10,115, as against £12,383. It is necessary to note this weakening of the financial position, as it will have to be made good in the current year. Indeed, it is the expressed intention of the directors to build up a strong financial position. However, capital expenditure during the current year should be considerably less than provided for last year, so that on the whole a larger proportion of the profit earned should be available for dividends. In this connection it seems natural, now that the income tax has reached such a high level, that the directors will decide to pay future distributions less such tax. If this were done the rate of dividend would appear at its proper level when contrasted with the distributions of other similar companies.

As regards the underground position of the mines, the General Manager reports that the development indications during the year ended June 30, 1915, while not so exceptionally good as in the previous year, were of encouraging character, and the ore reserves have been considerably added to, the tonnage in sight at June 30, 1915, representing about four years' supply for the mill. No estimate of value of the ore reserves is given, and it is, of course, impossible to predict how much ore beyond that already developed will be found in the future. The Company, however, has paid dividends for the past 15 years without intermission, and the ore reserves are now larger than for many years past.

Moreover, as announced at the meeting this week, the Company has been able for the small sum of £15,000 to acquire the White Cloud group of claims

adjoining the Montana-Bushwacker claims, and protecting for 4,000 feet the continuation of the strike of the Argentine vein, which has, for the 15,000 feet length already opened up, yielded such good results to the Company. The acquisition of the new property was described at the meeting as "a wonderful bargain for the Company," and if it opens up as well as the Montana-Bushwacker claims acquired in 1911 have so far done, the future prosperity of the Tomboy Company will be greatly enhanced. Development of the new property is not expected to entail any capital expenditure beyond the purchase price of £15,000, owing to its situation relative to the present mine workings and surface plant.

The price of the £1 shares is 21s., and in view of the fact that the profit-earned in the past year was much more than sufficient to pay the 15% distribution, they do not appear to be overvalued, having regard to the four years' ore supply in sight.

MEXICAN MINES.—II.

(Continued from October 23.)

CAMP BIRD—SANTA GERTRUDIS.

THE Camp Bird mine, in California, has for some years been considered to be nearing the point of exhaustion, but nevertheless it continues to yield a very considerable yearly profit. In addition the Camp Bird Company has a very large holding in the Santa Gertrudis silver-gold—mostly silver—mine, situated in the district of Pachuca, Mexico. The Santa Gertrudis Company's capital is £1,500,000 in £1 shares, of which the Camp Bird holds 1,122,328 shares, or about 75%. This and other shareholdings of the Camp Bird figured in the Company's last balance sheet at June 30, 1914, as follows:—

	£
Shares in The Santa Gertrudis Company, Ltd.	1,122,328
Shares in [illegible] Mines	1,000
Shares in [illegible] Company, Ltd.	2,250
Shares in [illegible]	540
Shares in [illegible]	2,500
Central American Corporation, Ltd.:	
For 80 shares of [illegible]	
£42,999 17s. [illegible]	47,216
	1,175,792
Less Share Reserve Account	270,608
	905,184

For the year to June 30, 1914, the Camp Bird received no revenue from its Santa Gertrudis holding, and did not, therefore, pay any dividend on its own Ordinary capital. The report for the year to June 30, 1915, is expected to be issued in a few weeks' time, but meantime an idea of the Company's earnings can be obtained from the quarterly reports. In the following table we contrast the revenue, profits, and dividends of the last four financial years:—

	Years to June 30.			
	1915*	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Camp Bird Mine net profit ...	106,511	70,292	41,299	223,160
Dividend on Santa Gertrudis shares held	65,200	Nil	157,225	157,648
Profit on Santa Gertrudis option	-	-	16,875	-
Sundry receipts	-	6,059	6,000	9,758
Brought forward	5,392	56,685	54,654	50,765
	177,103	132,036	278,821	450,331
General office expenses & taxes ...	-	25,746	22,461	40,879
Amounts written off	-	55,398	30,170	82,303
Preference dividend	45,500 (7%)	45,500 (7%)	45,500 (7%)	35,225 (7%)
Ordinary dividend	55,462 (5%)	Nil —	110,005 (10%)	220,010 (20%)
Carry-forward	—	5,392	55,685	51,914
	-	132,036	278,821	450,331
Surplus liquid assets		64,251	125,614	16,965

* According to Quarterly Reports.

The Camp Bird's capital is £1,750,051, as to £650,000 in 7% Cumulative Preference £1 shares, and £1,100,051 in £1 Ordinary shares. The Preference shares are entitled beyond their 7% Cumulative dividend to rank *pari passu* with the Ordinary after the latter have received 20% annual dividend. On account of the year ended June 30, 1915, a dividend of 1s. per share on the Ordinary has just been declared. This is termed an interim declaration. The future of the Company depends to a very large extent upon the earnings and prospects of the Santa Gertrudis mine, to which we refer below.

SANTA GERTRUDIS.

The revenue and profits of the Santa Gertrudis Company in the past three years have heavily declined, as also has the estimated profit-value of the ore reserves. This will be seen from the following:—

Santa Gertrudis (Capital, £1,500,000).

Year to June 30	Tons Treated	Revenue Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Net Working Profit— £	Net Working Profit— Per Ton	Ore Reserves— Tons	Ore Reserves— Est. Profit Value Per Ton
1912 ...	269,850*	[illegible]	20/4	275,498	20/6	1,137,000	26/10
1913 ...	266,554	47/11	28/2	260,859	19/9	1,047,000	18/8
1914 ...	293,836	31/2	18/4†	189,002†	12/10	1,194,000	14/2
1915† ...	211,669	23/7	15/3	87,880	8/4	—	—

* In the last [illegible] months.

† According to [illegible] quarterly report.

Dividends: 1911-12, 15%; 1912-13, 15%; 1913-14, nil; October, 5% (interim).

In addition to the effect on the operations on the disturbed state of the country, it has to be borne in mind that about 85% of the product is silver, and only 15% gold. The price of silver fluctuates considerably, and in recent years has shown a substantial decline, being now quoted in London at 2*s.* 1$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per fine oz. in comparison with about 2*s.* 6*d.* at the end of 1912. This falling-off in the price of the principal product must have contributed very considerably to the decline shown in the revenue per ton, and consequently in the profit. The ore-reserve estimated profit-values shown above, on the other hand, are based on a price for silver of 2*s.* 3*d.* per fine oz. The falling-off in this case is, therefore, due to the poorer quality of the ore developed. As regards developments, recent indications have been distinctly disappointing. In January a new discovery was reported at the 16th level, where 260 feet length of ore assayed 76*s.* 5*d.* over a width of 7$\frac{1}{2}$ feet. On the 14th level above, driving results were not nearly so good, the payable length of the vein being reported as only 118 feet, assaying 40*s.* per ton for a width of 5.8 feet. At the 18th level nothing of importance has been discovered, and it is believed that the limit of the new shoot is "only a relatively short distance below the 16th level."

ABOSSO GOLD.—Issued capital, £400,000, in £1 shares.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Value— £	Value— Per Ton	Estimated Expenses— £	Estimated Expenses— Per Ton	Approximate* Profit— £	Approximate* Profit— Per Ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	39av.	87,752	152,303	34/8	122,109	27/9	26,985	6/11	8½
1914-15	—	107,240	182,267	33/11	144,638	27/0	24,210	4/6	7/6
1915-16.									
July ...	—	9,257	13,996	30/2	10,665	23/1	2,614	5/7	7/6
Aug. ...	—	9,276	16,400†	35/5	10,744	23/2	5,434	10/10	7/6
Sept. ...		9,315	15,229	32/8	—	—	—	—	8/6

Working costs allow 4*s.* per ton for development redemption.

* After allowance for depreciation and taxes.

† Includes £2,[illegible] recovered from slimes brought forward from previous month

Dividends per cent.—1912, Dec., 5; 1913, Oct., 5.

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TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, October 27, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£74,523,815	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	56,073,815
	£74,523,815		£74,523,815

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,502
Rest	3,207,448	Other Securities	96,565,260
Public Deposits	39,886,367	Notes	41,728,655
Other Deposits	99,870,341	Gold and Silver Coin	156,894
Seven-day and other Bills	30,455		
	£157,346,611		£157,346,611

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	28.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Sept. 22	31.8	62.9	108.7	89.6	31.3	135.7	49.7	25·00	5	4⅛
— 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	76.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24 75	—	4⅛
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	81.4	98.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·06	—	4⅛
— 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	—	4⅛
— 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	98.6	44.7	30·97	—	4⅛
— 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.6	41.9	30·01	—	4⅛

*July 30, '14 = to 4 %; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10 %; Aug. 6, 6 %; Aug 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Sept. 29 ...	183,329,702	111,277,377	72 022,325	28,500,000	39.5
Week to Oct. 6 ...	5,982 646	2,768,094	7b 236,887	28,500,000	37·9
" " 13 ...	5,08 ,861	3,883 235	76,443,513	28,500,000	37·3
" " 20 ...	6,141,796	3,270.035	79,315,274	28,500,000	35·9
" " 27 ...	6,055,660	3,519,393	81,851,541	28,500,000	34.8

II.—Balance Sheet, October 27, 1915.

Notes outstanding—	£	Advances	£
One Pound	56,969,178	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	20,062,363	Other Bankers	194,000
Certificates outstanding ..	4,820,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	255,000
Investments Reserve A/c	445,852	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	44,620.563
		Balance at Bank of England...	8,727,830
Total	82,297,393	Total	82,297,393

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Oct. 21, Thursday ...	Nil.	600,000 sovs. Spain. 70,000 Argentina. 20,000 Uruguay.
" 22, Friday ...	Nil.	1,245,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 Japan.
" 23, Saturday ...	Nil.	Nil.
" 25, Monday ...	Nil.	100,000 sovs Egypt.* 175,000 sovs Misc. a/c.*
" 26, Tuesday ...	Nil.	865,000 sovs. U.S.
" 27, Wednesday	756,000 bars.	455,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 sovs. Continent. 75,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.*
Total for week ...	756,000	3,805,000
Net aggregate ...	[3,049,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Oct. 28, Thursday ...	Nil.	50,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.*
" 29, Friday ...	Nil.	175,000 sovs. U.S. 150,000 sovs. Misc. a/c*

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£28.9	£28.6	£28.7	£35,1	£32 8
Public Deposits	13,3	11.7	8,7	25,0	39,9
Other Deposits	40,1	45,2	41,1	126,7	99.7
Government Securities	16,6	15,0	11.8	19,4	18.9
Other Securities	33,1	34,5	28.6	104,9	96.6
Reserve	21.5	27.2	27.1	45,2	41,9
Ratio to Liabilities	40½%	47·70%	54·45%	29 79%	30·01%
Bullion (both Departments)	31,9	37,3	37,4	61,9	56,2
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4⅛%	4⅛-5%	5%	3%	4⅞%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 23½	25 30½	25 20	27 54
Hamburg 8 days	20 46½	20 53½	20 49⅛	—	—
New York 60 days	4 83⅛	4 81·35	4 80·75	4 86·50	4 60
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 1/16	1/4 1/16	1/4 1/16	1/3⅛	1/4 3/32
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88	73¼	72⅛	68½	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 55	89 90	87 02	77 00	65 90
Silver, London spot oz.	-/28 1/16	-/28⅜	-/27⅜	-/22⅜	-/24 1/16
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	27/1	33/1	30 7	37 2	48/2
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/5·81	-/6 50	-/7·70	-/4·85	-/7·10
Iron, Scotch pig ton	58/3	73/0	57/7½	54/1½	73/0

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Sept. 29, 1915 Pesos	234,164,374
Sept. 22, 1915	234,164,220
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4.441	£8.187	£786	£8.893	£47
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6.255	3 806	2.812	11.293	847
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6.209	3.667	3,427	12.248	979
Sept. 30, 1914 ...	3,832	165	3,997	7,350	1,346	11.742	88
Sept. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,227	4,944	965	8.121	67

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Oct. 14 1915...	£185.895	£14,531	£200.426	£10.988	550.086	£2.377	£104.471
Oct. 21, 1915...	187.707	14.532	202.238	10.733	553 280	3,304	102 961
Oct. 28, 1915...	189,199	14.530	203.729	11.211	554.702	1.538	101.834
July 30, 1914†	165.854	25.013	190.867	97.768	267.327	15.302	37.930
Oct. 30, 1913...	138.955	25.462	164.417	67.829	232.228	13.870	25.845

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23,'14†	£87.843	£16.727	£84.570	£5.279	£40.055	£94.545	£47.198
Oct. 15,'15...	121.318	1.809	123.127	42.583	220.208	288.883	83.881
Oct. 23,'15...	121.335	1.987	123.322	57.440	198.914	283.751	80.930
Oct. 23,'14...	91.404	1.504	92 908	38.356	147.789	198.398	77 753
Oct. 23,'13...	60.983	13.731	74.714	4.771	51.315	97.971	35.260

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13.496	£249	£13.745	£13.422	£10.332	£35.660	£1.437
Oct. 16, 1915 ...	32.779	185	32.964	6.388	7.183	45 642	1.568
Oct. 23, 1915 ...	32.793	202	32.995	6.479	7.169	45.958	1.568
Oct. 24, 1914 ...	13.382	324	13.706	15.578	11.129	38 707	1.863
Oct. 25, 1913 ...	12.368	653	13.019	7.563	8.932	26.708	267

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†...	—	—	£48.456		£25.017	£69.904	£3.897
Sept. 20, '15 ...	£45.977	£4.429	50.406	4.750	29.770	111.579	29.689
Sept. 30, '15 ...	45.990	4.445	50.435	4.548	29.643	113.929	27.798
Sept 30, '14 ...	—	—	50.813		41.603	87.081	17 385
Sept. 30, '13 ...	—	—	48.813		23.578	70.012	8.277

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21.867	£1.829	£7.863	£32.722	£13.818	£1.521
Sept. 11, '15...	20.881	577	6.013	29.848	20.938	5.941
Sept. 18, '15	20.847	608	6.070	29.903	21.348	6.139
Sept. 19, '14...	21.472	2,734	7,906	30,593	13,312	3.218
Sept. 20, '13...	21.584	3,565	9.171	32,590	18,137	849

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1,'14†...	—	—	£89.888	£411.238	£387,185	£8.316	£1 720
Oct. 16, '15 ...	£102.634	£36.710	139.344	574.342	614 058	7.128	37.842
Oct. 23, '15 ...	103.710	41.018	144.723	601.254	643.674	7.138	38.126
Oct. 24, '14 ...	—	—	88.378	432.098	381.186	29.038	1,962
Oct. 25, 13	—	—	80.966	380.835	347.374	8.962	2,583

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2.960	£1.678	£493	£4.868	£6.752	£793
Oct. 7, 1915...	3.555	3.857	781	4.142	8.322	1,301
Oct. 15, 1915...	3.684	3.694	781	4.060	8.338	1.354
Oct. 15, 1914...	2.347	1.559	508	6.830	7.295	1.300
Oct. 15, 1913...	2.529	1.782	504	4.149	6.002	509

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21,'14†	£174.509	£7.383	£181.892	£6.589	£76.081	£163.411	£109 911
Oct. 6,'15...	183.024	1.963	184 987	5.316	393.811	478.684	134 548
Oct. 14,'15...	183.258	1.794	185.050	7.677	406.160	489.322	132.881
Oct. 14,'14...	183.274	4.377	187.651	10.252	143.010	289.748	92.533
Oct. 14,'13...	166..95	5.907	172.102	8.411	109.374	171.088	112 698

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1,'14†	£21.804	£29.187	£50.991	£40.572	£13.778	£77.557	£18.956
Oct. 16,'15...	30.944	29.348	60.292	41.592	13,777	82.918	25 417
Oct. 23,'15...	31.186	29.474	60.660	41.552	13.777	82 693	25 310
Oct. 24,'14...	22.064	27.719	49.783	49 678	13.777	79.546	24.340
Oct. 25,'13...	18.817	29.337	48.154	41.420	13.777	77.055	16.468

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† —	£5.717	£6.150	£1.655	£7.495	£13.432	£3.803
Oct. 9, '15 ...	6.300	6 750	3.043	5.040	16.357	4.342
Oct. 16, '15 ...	6.300	6.677	3.050	4,967	16.257	4.664
Oct. 17, '14 ...	5.763	2.803	1.201	8.877	15.263	3 886
Oct. 18, '13 ...	5.698	4.587	1.267	7,162	11.924	3.082

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7.675	£238	£7.913	£10.391	£16.371	£3.128
Oct. 7, 1915...	9.719	2,472	12.191	7.023	17.109	3 112
Oct. 14, 1915...	9.717	2,470	12.187	6.685	16.883	3.197
Oct. 15, 1914...	9.139	569	9.708	10.649	16.854	3.320
Oct. 15, 1913...	6.899	1,170	8.069	5.009	10.163	2,263

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Sept. 24, 1915...	£58.045	£62.629	£8.888	£65.988	£3.070	£83.540	82·2%
Oct. 1, 1915...	56.729	60.028	8.980	64.949	2.859	82.288	82·7%
Oct. 8, 1915...	58.968	61.227	9.073	65.357	3.045	82.876	81·5%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates — %	Current Rates — Date Fixed	A Year Ago — %	A Year Ago — Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	6	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	6	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	6	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, 15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	June 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	6	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	6½	Nov. 10, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	4½	Oct. 26, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-3½	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts — Total Revenue £	Receipts — Total including Loans £	Expenditures — Supply Services £	Expenditures — Int. on Debt £	Expenditures — Sinking Fund, &c. £	Expenditures — Total £	Treasury Balance — Amt. £	Treasury Balance — + or − for Period £	Treasury Bills outstanding £
9 days to Oct. 9	6 167	12.179	31.242	23.534	53.776	22 550	−41.897		235,490
7 „ Oct. 16	5.351	46.666	35.315	19.93	51.226	18.079	− 4,571		229,628
7 „ Oct. 23	6.224	42.522	23.758	16.166	41.904	18437	+ 415		223,218
206 days to Oct. 23 1915	120,569	1,001,454	742,271	324,197	1,066,468	18,437	−65,014*	+145,988*	
207 days to Oct. 24, 1914	88 653	199.343	153.505	40.815	194,320	16,487	+5,022*		—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15	Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 32	11 60	11 64	11 70
—	Cable	11 12	11 38	11 44	11 47
Italy	3 mos.	30 40	30 35	30 40	30 00
—	Cable	29 95	29 95	30 00	29 60
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34⅛	35⅛	35⅛	35
New York	do.	4 65⅛	4 66½	4 68½	4 70½
—	Cheques	4 66½	4 67	4 69	4 71
Paris	3 mos.	27 95	27 95	27 84	27 72
—	Cable	27 53	27 55	27 44	27 32
Petrograd	do.	139½	140½	139½	139
Scandinavia	do.	17 56	17 95	17 90	18 00
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46⅝	46½	46½
—	Cable	24 90	24 85	24 77½	24 75
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 15	25 35	25 40	25 40
—	Cable	24 75	24 95	25 00	24 97½

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15	Oct. 15, '15	Oct. 8, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97¼pi.	97¼pi.	97¼pi.	97¼pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11d. 11c.	11d. 37½c.	11d. 44c.	11d. 49c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 3⅞d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49 6-d.	49½d.	49½d.	48 7-d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4⅞d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s 10d.	1s. 9 ⅞d.	1s 9 ⅞d.	1s. 9½d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 60c.
Lisbon	Sight	35	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛
Madrid	Sight	24p. 90	24p. 85	24p. 80	24p. 75
Montevideo	90 days	53½d.	53½d.	53d.	52½d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 65⅛	$4 66	$4 69½	$4 71
New York	Sight	$4 63½*	$4 65⅜	$4 68⅜	$4 69½
—	60 days	$4 60*	$4 62	$4 65½	$4 66⅝
—	Cables	$4 64*	$4 66	$4 68⅞	$4 70⅝
— on Paris	Sight	5.95f.*	5.91¼f.	5.86f.	5.81f.
— on Berlin	Sight	81c.*	82½c.	82½c.	82½c.
— on Amst'd'm	Sight	41c.*	41c.	40 9-c.	40c
— on Mexico	Silver $	37c. U.S.*	37c. U.S.	38½c. U.S.	38½c. U.S.
Paris	Oneques	27f. 52c.	27f. 53c.	27f. 42½c.	27f 30c.
Petrograd	Sight	139⅜	139	139½	138⅛
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12¼d.	12¼d.	12¼d.	12⅛d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 50	17kr. 90	17kr. 90	18kr. 07½
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4⅛d.	2s 4⅛d.	2s. 4⅛d.	2s. 4⅛d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 80c.	24f. 92½c.	24f 95c.	24f. 95c.
Valparaiso	90 days	8⅜d.	9d.	9⅛d.	9⅛d.

* Previous day's rates.

V.—BANKERS CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
Birmingham	Oct. 23	1,482 834	+ 426.436	71.695.428	+ 8,119,044	+ 12·8
Bristol	„ 23	733 000	+ 86 000	32 613.000	+ 2,131,000	+ 7·0
Dublin	„ 23	3 60 .000	+ 36 600	157 926 000	+15,627 000	+ 10·9
Leeds	„ 23	558.674	+ 112.743	28 71 .997	+ 5 553 974	+ 26·3
Leicester	„ 23	333.755	+ 58.31	16.369 334	+ 4,060.235	+ 32·0
Liverpool	„ 23	5 875.545	+ 2.4 0 327	233.534.736	+43,921,132	+ 23 1
Manchester	„ 23	6.279.428	+ 1 731. 42	231 938 405	+10 757 633	+ 5·9
Newcastle	„ 23	1 438.100	+ 575 300	61 403 100	+13 657. 00	+ 28·8
Nottingham	„ 23	349 289	+ 78 153	15 204 025	− 244 643	− 1·6
Sheffield	„ 23	942.398	+ 76 736	24 915 212	+ 4 143 39.	+ 19·9
LONDON—	1915.		[000's omitted from the London clearings.]			
Town	Oct. 27	212 492	− 7.129	8,957.321	− 1.890 391	− 17·4
Metropolitan	„ 27	15.731	+ 1.431	767.533	+ 54.857	+ 7 7
Country	„ 27	29,449	+ 5.933	1.283 373	+ 157.238	+ 13·9
Total	„ 27	258.682	+ 190	11.011.830	− 1,678,223	− 13·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings:

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	"Fourth" of the Month 1915	£	+ or −*
Sept. 15	45.083	—	Aug. 5	52.168	—	Aug. 4	56.063	− 4.722
Sept. 29	48.353	—	Sept. 1	54 130	—	Sept. 4	33.72	+ 15,393
Oct. 14	45.291	—	Oct. 1	52 016	—	Oct. 4	47.176	+ 8.718
1915 aggr.	793.532	—		436 124	—		459.119	− 83,653

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	31 0	8 6	9 6
Australia to U.K.	95 0	—	31 6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	10 0
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	80/0d.	w.20/9d.	w.17/6
Burmah o.c.	—	30 0	24 3
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	75/0d.	w.30/0d.	w.22/0
Danube to A.R.	—	—	10 0
Odessa to L.H A.R.	—	—	8 6
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	87/6	28 0	12 7½
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	43 9	36 3

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	12/6	2/9	2/0
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O. to U.K. Cont. (c. & gr.)	—	16/6	13/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915	—	49 9	48 0	31 6	32 6
1914	—	—	11/3	11/6	7/8
1913	12 6	12/0	9 0	17/0	9 0

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

OCT. 30.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ...ton	73 0	55/1½	57 7½
— Middlesbro' warrants ...ton	66 4	49 0	51 4½
— Hematite warrants ...ton	100 0	66	66 6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£7	£9
— Common bars ...ton	£11 15	£7 10	£7 6
— Stock, Middlesbro' ...tons	133 535	104.634	180.711
Steel Rails ...ton	£9 2/6	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ...ton	£72 17 6	—	£66 12 6
— Stocks, Europe & afloat ...tons	34.106	34 594	23.819
Tin—English ingots ...ton	£159	£133—£134	£135 10
— Straits ...ton	£160	£134	£132 15
Tinplates—Coke I.C. ...box	19 6—20/0	13/9	18 0
Lead—Soft Foreign ...ton	£24 15	£18 5	£20 15
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ...ton	£78	£13	£20 11 3
Quicksilver—(75lb.) ...bottle	£16 10	£10 5	£7 5
Aluminium ...ton	nom.	£31—£32	£31 —£35
Antimony—Regulus ...ton	nom.	£55—£56	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best Admiralty) ...ton	nom.	21/0—22 0	20.0—20 6
— — (best) Newcastle ...ton	20 0	13 3	14 9
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical ...cwt.	14 4½ −14 7½	11 3	11 3
Soda—Crystals ex ship ...ton	£2 2 6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb.	1 9—1 10	2 1—2 6	1 10—2 0
Copra—Malay & Straits ...ton	£27 5	£22—£24	£30 10—£31
Gambier—Good marks ...cwt.	38 0	19 6	18 6
Indigo—Bengal good to fine ...lb.	14/6—15/0	14/0—15 0	3/0—3 8
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£31	£20 15	£22 15
Linseed—Calcutta, spot ...410lb.	62 0	45 6	44 6
Olive Oil—Spanish ...ton	£50	£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ...ton	£32 10	£30 5	£35 10
Petroleum—American ...gallon	9½	7½	8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£39—£40	£34 15	£32
Soya Oil ...ton	£25 15	£25	£25 15
Tallow—Aust. mixed ...cwt.	39/6	27/8—30 6	33/0—34 9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ...cwt.	39/6	32 0	31 6
Rape Seed—Toria ...416lb.	55 0	51 0	49 0
Rubber—Para, spot ...lb.	2 5½	2 6½	3 2
— Fine plantation (spot or forward)	2 5½	2 3½	2 1½
—World's Visible supplies ...tons	20 000	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ...cwt.	72 0	58 0—57 0	92 0—93 0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland ...lb.	-/7 10	-/4 85	-/7 70
— Egyptian good fair ...lb.	-/9 45	6 75	-/10 05
— Pernambuco, fair ...lb.	-/7 54	5 30	-/7 83
— Mid. Upl. New York ...lb.	11 85	nom.	14.00c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Oct. 22 bales	943.200	760.490	596 490
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol ...ton	£70	£36	£35 10
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£34 10	£22 15	£29 5
— Manila, Fair strips ...ton	£41	£23 10	£30 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ...ton	£28 10	£30	£35
— Red SOC ...ton	£24	£27	£31 10
Silk—Blue Elephant ...lb.	10 3	11 3—11 6	11 3—11 6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed ...lb.	1/0—1/1	11½—1 0½	-/11½—1 0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs ...lb	1 5½	1 2	1 0½—1 0⅝
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb	-/10	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ...lb.	2/1—2 7	2/0—2 6	1 4—1/8
VEG. FOOD. CORN. &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Oct. 25 bus.	24 942.000	64.701.000	58.823.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb ...bushel	122⅛	119⅛	98½c.
— English *Gazette* aver. 450 towns qr	48 2	37 2	30 7
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	47 0	37 0	30/0
Barley—Eng. Gazette aver. 400 towns qr	44 0	28 7	28 7
Oats—Eng. Gazette aver. 312 towns qr	28 1	22 5	18 0
Maize—N.Y. (new) ...56lb	nom.	82½	83½
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ...100lb.	nom.	7 4½	4 7½
— La Plata ...480lb. qr	37 6	28 0	22 9
Potatoes—Kents ...ton	90 0—95 0	70 0	60 0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 ...tons	38 074	23.078	10 527
— Deliveries do. ...tons	25 244	22 .95	12 525
— Stock ...tons	17 805	5.573	5.367
— Price, Bassein ...cwt.	17 6	16 0—16 6	7 10½—8 3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ...cwt.	17 6—21 0	15 0—21 0	15 0—20 0
Hay—Best ...2,016lb. load	120 0—130 0	85 0—90 0	77 6 87 6
Hops—English ...cwt.	£5—£7	£3 5—£6 5	£9 10—£11
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	4⅜—5 2	3⅜—4 2	3/7—3/10
— Scotch sides ...8lb	5 6—5 8	4 8—5 0	4/4—4 10
— English ...8lb	4 10—5 4	4⅜—4 7	3 6—4 0
Mutton—Scotch ...8lb	5 8—6 2	5 0—5 6	5 2—5 8
— English wethers ...8lb	5 6—5 8	4 8—5 0	4 10—5 0
— New Zealand frozen ...8lb	4 8—5 1	3 9—4 1	3 5—3 9
Pork—English ...8lb	6/0—6 4	4 2—4 8	4/4—5/2
Bacon—Irish ...cwt	100 0—105 0	64 0—75 0	66 0—73 0
— Danish ...cwt.	98 0—105 0	60 0—69 0	60 0—71 0
Hams—Amer. long cut ...cwt.	88 0—92 0	66 0—70 0	64/0—74/0
— — short cut ...cwt.	81 0—83 0	63 0—63 0	67 0—70 0
Lard—Amer. pails ...cwt.	59 0—59 6	55 6—57 0	57 0—57 6
Butter—Danish ...cwt.	158 0—164 0	134 0—138 0	133/0—135/0
— Siberian ...cwt.	104 0—134 0	114 0—122 0	88/0—110/0
— French ...cwt.	116 0—158 0	100/0—118 0	90/0—126 0
— New Zealand ...cwt	—	—	—
— Australian ...cwt.	—	116 0—128 0	104/0—126 0
Cheese—Canadian ...cwt.	82 0—88 0	74 0—76 0	83/0—86 0
— New Zealand, white ...cwt.	80 0—82 0	—	—
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	533.393	589 224	701.147
— Deliveries do. ...tons	7 5.101	648 826	687 601
— Stock ...tons	41.836	31.559	69.418
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ...cwt.	20 6	24 0	12 0
— — Muscovado, refining ...cwt.	nom.	27 6—29 0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ...cwt	40 6	31 0	18 6
Coffee—Imports since Jan 1 tons	57.490	41.943	33.378
— Home consumption do. ...tons	16 147	12.647	12 565
— Exports do. ...tons	19.831	20 639	18.486
— Stock ...tons	34.470	19.135	10.729
— Price Costa Rica, fine ...cwt.	69 0—79 0	73 0—85 0	84/0—90 0
— — Brazil (Santos) ...cwt.	38 6	39 0	51 6
Tea—Imports (for 9 months) lb.	300.370 933	235.485.576	230.757.530
— Home consumption do. ...lb.	245.425.357	238.551.357	235.251.371
— Exports do. ...lb.	42 078.719	41.280.172	41.592 675
— Stocks, Sept. 30 ...lb.	119.629.000	83.093.000	99.717 000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Sou. good ...lb.	-/9½	-/9	-/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Sou. fine ...lb.	-/9½	-/9½	-/8½
— — Common ...lb.	-/7½	-/8½	4½—5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine ...cwt.	84 0—88 0	67 0—59 0	87.0—69 0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Oct. 15	80	—	£3,085	− 282	41	153 803	+ 11,194
Cork Ban.&S.C.	Oct. 22	103	—	2,258	+ 169	42	88,650	+ 4,467
Dublin & S.E.	Oct. 22	160	—	5,821	+ 1,075	42	237,344	+ 3,203
Gt. Northern	Oct. 22	561	—	23,635	+ 185	42	984,600	+ 30,600
Gt.S.&Western	Oct. 22	1,130	—	36,458	− 1,760	42	1,403,823	+ 98,595
Mid. Gt. West.	Oct. 22	538	—	13,713	− 1,795	42	542,582	+ 12,880

*** *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Sept. 18	862	+11	1.32.000	+ 2.588	25	31.38.541	+ 54.604
Barsi Light ...	Sept. 30	118	—	24.000	+ 11.400	26	5.46.200	− 26.600
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 18	2.041	+13	2 62.290	− 36.072	25	84.81.853	−14.01.471
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 18	153	—	24.124	− 9.518	25	6.36.618	− 61.463
Beng. Nagpur	Sept. 30	2.886	+ 7	12.07.000	− 9.000	26	1,97.77.000	+ 1.54.000
Bomb. Baroda	Oct. 23	2.859	+32	11.35.000	+ 1.52.000	4	37.80.000	+ 5.48.000
Burma	Sept. 18	1,342	—	3.29.163	+ 46.909	25	89.71.109	−12.21.490
East Indian ...	Oct. 23	2.716	− 2	17.05.000	− 1.34.000	4	64.31.000	+ 1.20.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Oct. 23	3.058½	+ 78½	14.77.300	+ 2,79.300	4	48.14.800	+ 6.67.400
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 30	3.131½	− 1½	13.50.000	+ 2.22.332	26	2.51.62.640	+15.94.404
Nizam's Guar.	Sept. 25	797	—	2.73.212	+ 52.943	26	49.72.036	− 3.72.499
Roh.&Kumaon	Sept. 18	545	+ 1	50.002	+ 4.250	25	17.60.202	+ 13.426
South Indian	Sept. 18	1,763	+10	5.41.209	+ 65 449	25	1,36.80.541	− 81.951
South Punjab	M.of June	923	—	8.92.073	+ 1.10.130	3†	20.25.274	+ 38.370

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Oct. 21	7.280	—	$791.800	+ 292.800	3	2.407.100	+ 536.800
Can. Pacific...	Oct. 21	12.921	+ 694	3.068.000	+1.028.000	16	35.663.000	−2.030.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Oct. 14	916	—	£47.206	+ 26.703	15	267.946	− 23.280
Grand Trunk	Oct. 21	4.008	—	163.080	+ 5.172	42	6.544.114	− 523.287
Grd. Trunk W.	Oct. 21	336	—	37.254	+ 7.665	42	1.228.542	+ 38.927
Det. Grd. Ha.	Oct. 21	189	—	13.999	+ 2.287	42	445.359	+ 30.502
Mashonaland	M.of Aug.	751	—	49.470	− 1.930	11†	448.681	− 240.672
Mid. W. Aust.	M.of Aug.	277	—	5.800	+ 3.082	2†	11.068	− 7.36
New CapeCent.	Sept. 25	205	—	2.073	+ 595	39	69.167	+ 73[1]
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.of Aug.	1,397	—	77.976	− 11.294	11†	714.687	− 240.31[2] 0

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or− *	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Oct. 23	33	—	Ps. 8.000	+ 1.200	43	510.200	− 25.550
Antofagasta ...	Oct. 24	819	—	£ 27.650	+ 10.520	43	1.015.445	− 333.595
Arauco	M.of July	84½	—	£ 6.750	+ 225	7†	44.625	− 10.649
Arg. N. East...	Oct. 23	752	+ 85	£ 7.915	+ 3.915	17	113.309	+ 35.339
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290	− 10	12	2,370	− 1.210
Bolivar	M.ofSept.	110	—	£ 7.750	+ 3.202	3†	22.000	+ 5.081
Brazil	M.of May	3,362	—	M 3.282.000	− 17.244	5†	15.863.000	− 804.584
Paulista.....	M.of May	721	—	M 1.500.000	−238.338	5†	8.850.000	+ 101.324
Mogyana ...	M.of May	1.131	+ 57	M 1.263.000	−256.423	5†	7.833.000	+ 261.381
B.A. & Pacific	Oct. 23	3.535	+ 17	£ 74.000	+ 19.000	17	1.313.000	+ 278.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Oct. 24	3,792	+ 83	£ 95.000	+ 31.000	17	1.388.908	+ 255.967
B.A. Western	Oct. 24	1,867	+ 75	£ 48.000	+ 13.000	17	723 000	+ 124.000
Cent.Argentine	Oct. 23	3.307	+ 45	£ 117.700	+ 16.000	17	1.866.000	+ 230.100
Cent. Uruguay	Oct. 23	271	—	£ 11.887	+ 4.209	17	177.512	+ 36.733
„ (E. Ext.)	Oct. 23	311	—	£ 3.965	+ 1.552	17	57.280	+ 16.609
„ (N. Ext.)	Oct. 23	185	—	£ 2.013	+ 858	17	29.372	+ 7.018
„ (W. Ext.	Oct. 23	211	—	£ 2.333	+ 1.097	17	26.511	+ 6.682
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	86	—	£ 9.612	− 2.928	5†	47.412	− 1.155
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.ofSept.	65½	—	£ 22.209	+ 3.809	3†	65.035	− 8.465
Cord. Central	Oct. 23	1,186	—	£ 27.300	− 5.105	17	541.250	− 87.765
Cuban Central	Oct. 16	354	+ 9	£ 7.438	+ 652	16	118.717	+ 16.008
Dorada Ext....	M.ofSept.	71	—	£ 8.400	+ 1.400	9†	71.300	− 5.300
EgyptianDelta	Oct. 10	819	− 4	£ 6.274	+ 2.076	27	81.440	− 18.877
Entre Rios...	Oct. 23	730	—	£ 11.100	+ 3.600	17	153 300	+ 26.900
Gt. S. of Spain	Oct 2	104	—	Ps. 72.792	+ 11.458	40	2.364.145	− 284.317
Gt. W. Brazil	Oct. 23	1.010	—	£ 10.900	− 1.600	43	399.800	− 103.700
La Guaira&Ca.	M.ofSept.	83	—	£ 6.250	+ 250	9†	61.000	− 22.250
Leopoldina ...	Oct. 23	1.808	+ 33	£ 34.950	+ 5.601	43	1,243.848	− 10.884
Manila North	Oct. 23	315	+ 2	£ 3.190	− 888	43	218.256	− 40.775
„ South	Oct. 23	268	+ 81	£ 3.150	+ 78	43	168.740	+ 16.746
Mid. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	319	—	£ 9.468	+ 2.241	3†	32.234	+ 7.851
Nitrate(2wks.)	Oct. 16	368	—	£ 20.194	+ 9.452	41	261.284	− 227.175
N.W. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	113	—	$ 22.000	+ 7.416	4†	68.500	+ 16.357
ParaguayCent.	Oct. 23	255	—	c 524.000	+326.000	17	7.438.000	+3.359.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.ofSept.	1.059	—	d 755.280	+154.784	3†	2.299.157	+ 56.218
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2.792	+ 837	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Oct. 23	100	—	$ 16.100	+ 2.600	17	324.850	+ 35.794
San Paulo.....	Oct. 17	163½	—	£ 34.100	+ 6.763	16	583.718	+ 163.297
Taltal	M.ofSept.	184	—	£ 21.375	+ 10.245	3†	47.753	− 4.890
U. of Havana	Oct. 23	681	—	£ 25.777	+ 7.417	17	388 193	+ 84.157
Urug.Northern	M.ofSept.	73	—	£ 1.543	+ 572	3†	5.075	+ 1.250
W. of Havana	Oct. 23	147	—	£ 4.209	+ 98	17	79.898	− 6.620
Zafra & Hlva.	M.ofSept.	112	—	£ 10.156	+ 2.614	9†	72.973	− 43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'g	Miles.	+or−	Gross	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 21	369½	+21½	£ 50.754	+ 1.541	42	2,138.068	− 135.887
Auckland(4wks)	Sept. 24	25½	—	£ 20.266	− 727	12	82.295	− 3.055
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Aug.	—	—	M. 8.576.000	+409.900	8†	50.963.110	+1.889.962
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Sept.	30	—	£ 30.360	+ 2.329	9†	276.074	+ 15.216
Bristol.....	Oct. 22	31	—	£ 9.483	+ 1.802	42	403.663	+ 37.793
BritishColumbia	M.of Aug.	242	+ 5½	$ 507.126	−167.686	2†	1.017.849	+ 348.986
Calcutta	Oct. 23	35½	—	R 59.650	+ 4.192	43	27.83.129	− 59.408
Cape Electric...	M.of Sept.	42·3	—	£ 16.237	+ 1.269	3†	51.199	+ 5.275
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Sept.	9	—	£ 1.252	− 923	9†	15.580	− 5.565
Cork Electric...	Oct. 21	9½	—	£ 1.238	− 27	43	46.310	− 201
Dublin United	Oct. 22	54½	—	£ 8.061	+ 298	42	259.042	+ 10.007
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.984.501	− 90.930
Isle of Thanet...	Oct. 23	12†	− 6	£ 287	− 85	3	1.073	− 432
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20½	—	£ 3.185	+ 123	8†	22.119	+ 1.003
Lanarkshire ...	Oct. 21	28½	—	£ 2.318	+ 387	42	83.323	+ 3.689
Madras Electric	Oct. 15	—	—	R 29.529	+ 5 487	41	557.590	+ 16.299
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1.100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Oct. 23	21½	—	£ 2.105	+ 39	3	7.318	+ 537
RangoonEl'tric	M.of Sept.	25	—	£ 4.445	+ 326	9†	43.329	− 2.728
U.of Montevideo	M.of Sept.	90	—	£ 25.070	− 156	11†	303.417	− 31.548
Yorks.W.Riding	Oct. 24	24 1/8	—	£ 1.435	+ 113	43	68.305	+ 5.727

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 243,042 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous years (†) Months. (‡) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net	+ or −*
423 Cos. (000's omitted)	July	(e) $262,948	+ $2,324	$87,885	+ $9,851
12 *mos.*	*to* June	(f) *2,937,516*	− *154,681*	*564,364*	+ *22,816*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Aug.	398.000	− 68.000	128.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*800,000*	− *79,000*	*252,000*	+ *40,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ... a	Sept.	136.000	− 2.000	26.000	+ 8.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*388,000*	− *22,006*	*65.000*	+ *18.000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Sept.	292.000	+ 1.000	68.000	+ 35.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*879,000*	− *63,000*	*208,000*	+ *76.000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Sept.	139.000	+ 11.000	30.000	+ 18.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*379,000*	− *21,000*	*57,000*	+ *12.000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Sept.	10.795.000	+ 158.000	3.639.000	+ 3 000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*32,121,000*	+ *1,707,000*	*10,589,000*	+ *687,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Aug.	2.017.000	− 197.000	89.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,194,000*	− *558,000*	*324,000*	− *91.000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Sept.	9.618.000	+ 835.000	3.194.000	+ 560.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*27,618,000*	+ *2,007,000*	*9,665,000*	+ *1,992,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug.	1.192 800	− 174.900	238 800	− 5.300
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2.399 000*	− *563,000*	*523.900*	− *151.300*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Sept.	10 273.000	− 481.000	4 745.000	+ 378.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*26.970,000*	− *4,184,000*	*10,988,000*	− *521,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... a	Aug.	3.974.000	+ 455 000	709.000	+ 315.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,617,000*	+ *833,000*	*1,202,000*	+ *652,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Aug.	7.937.000	− 441.000	2 391.000	− 285.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,127,000*	− *613,000*	*4,020,000*	− *662,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy.. a	Aug.	8.147.000	− 595.000	2.675.000	− 508.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,521,000*	− *1,082,000*	*4,635,000*	− *965,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Aug.	1.221.000	− 88.000	331.000	− 91.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,350,000*	− *42,000*	*573,000*	− *63,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 98.000	2.510.000	+ 352.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*16,504,000*	+ *490,000*	*5,322,000*	+ *780,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 335.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,051,000*	− *652,000*	*1,931,000*	− *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.499.000	− 209.000	371.000	− 165.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,912,000*	− *367,000*	*737,000*	− *251.000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 186.000	1.095.000	+ 279.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*23,770,000*	+ *671,000*	*4,655,000*	+ *2,665,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1.258.000	+ 67.000	328.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*2,366,000*	+ *62,000*	*542,000*	+ *48,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Aug.	417.000	+ 74.000	197.000	+ 86.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*837,000*	+ *111,000*	*407,000*	+ *114,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Aug.	2.130.000	+ 27.000	827.000	− 31.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*14,957,000*	+ *108,000*	*4,500,000*	+ *558,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Aug.	2.243.000	+ 153.000	744.000	+ 244.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,245,000*	+ *152,000*	*1,273,000*	+ *336,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Aug.	5.946.000	+ 457.000	2.269.000	+ 769.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug	*41,234,000*	+ *1,882,000*	*10,560,000*	+ *2,027,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Sept.	£808.600	− £55 700	£255 100	+ £23 850
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*6,453 450*	− *503.700*	*1,769.350*	+ *74 750*
Grand Trunk Western a	Sept.	137 650	+ 12.050	46.150	+ 34 250
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,170.750*	+ *20.600*	*130 950*	+ *47 300*
Great Northern ..... a	Aug.	$6.162.000	− $754.000	$2.623 000	− $600.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,020,000*	− *1,736,000*	*4,989,000*	− *1,130,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Aug.	650.000	− 61.000	313.000	+ 28.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,193,000*	+ *31,000*	*538,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Sept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	1.327.000	+ 88.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*16,165,000*	− *605,000*	*2,982,000*	− *244,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Sept.	871.000	+ 12.000	318.000	+ 67.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,509,000*	− *180,000*	*927,000*	+ *76,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Sept.	3.944.000	+ 28.000	1.150.000	+ 40.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*11 458,000*	+ *189,000*	*3.269,000*	+ *98,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Aug.	4,628.000	− 77.000	1 332.000	+ 341.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,114,000*	− *395,000*	*2,512,000*	+ *445,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Aug.	3.244.000	+ 222.000	1.019.000	+ 134.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*22,851,000*	+ *729,000*	*6,228,000*	+ *1,018,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,926,000*	− *18,000*	*1,582 000*	+ *211,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Aug.	2.653.000	− 46.000	791.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,170,000*	− *245,000*	*1,262,000*	− *173,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Aug.	5,111.000	− 242.000	1.145.000	− 246.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,874,000*	− *732,000*	*2 092,000*	− *708,000*
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14.458.000	+ 583.000	4.776.000	+ 887.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*103,873,000*	+ *3,317,000*	*27,483,000*	+ *8,373,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	8.263.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,511,000*	− *959,000*	*4,309,000*	+ *1,115,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Aug.	912.000	− 89.000	347.000	− 14.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,874,000*	− *120,000*	*729,000*	+ *6,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4.729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 489.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,196,000*	+ *1,451,000*	*2,885,000*	+ *1,043,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	8.076.000	—	2.408.000	+ 836.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*11,426,000*	− *442,000*	*3,826,000*	+ *408,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.817.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*159,031,000*	− *2,470,000*	*34,056,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 483.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*73,715,000*	− *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,925,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Aug.	3.747.000	+ 162.000	1 084.000	+ 128.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*25,576,000*	− *651,000*	*4,966 000*	+ *175,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Sept.	4.482.000	+ 171.000	986.000	+ 311.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*13,775,000*	+ *533,000*	*3,752,000*	+ *714,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	− 503.000	134.000	+ 106.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,791,000*	− *509,000*	*205,000*	+ *87,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.763 000	− 91.000	1,121.000	− 12.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,303,000*	− *357,000*	*2,108,000*	− *32,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1.676.000	− 114.000	339.000	− 24.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,203,000*	− *320.000*	*715,000*	− *82,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1,341.000	4.738.000	+ 829.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*39,453,000*	+ *4,207,000*	*13,928,000*	+ *3,382,000*
Southern ..... a	Sept.	5.617.000	+ 107.000	1.679.000	+ 841.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*16 141,000*	− *762,000*	*4,386,000*	+ *1,074,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Sept.	9.152,000	+ 11.000	3 928.000	+ 4.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*25,445,000*	− *235,000*	*10 179,000*	+ *124,000*
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 83.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,235,000*	− *206,000*	*1,247,000*	+ *173,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Aug.	722.000	+ 169.000	256 000	+ 181 000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,424,000*	+ *310,000*	*506,000*	+ *317,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Oct. 7	$83.000	+ $5.000	14	$1.259.000	− $ 71.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 21	857.000	+ 31.000	16	13 858.000	+1.334.000
Chicago Great Western	Oct. 21	328.000	− 12.000	16	4.558.000	− 170.000
Colorado & Southern	Oct. 7	286.000	+ 10.000	14	3.845.000	+ 105.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Oct. 21	584.000	+ 46.000	16	8.589 000	+ 502.000
Great Northern	M.ofAug.	6.162.000	− 754.000	3†	12,020.000	−1.73 .000
Illinois Central	M.ofSept.	5,757.000	+ 227.000	3†	16.165.000	− 605.000
Louisville & Nashville	Oct. 21	1,142.000	+ 113.000	16	17.286.000	+ 80.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Oct. 7	822.000	+ 59.000	14	8.786.000	+ 124.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Oct. 21	643.000	− 45.000	16	9.594.000	− 558.000
Missouri Pacific	Oct. 21	1,264 000	+ 2,000	16	18.863.000	− 879.000
Southern Railway	Oct. 21	1,363.000	+ 147.000	16	20.040.000	− 654.000

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W. A. BOWIE, London Manager.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1915.

FINANCING THE WAR.

This week the final instalment on the War Loan has been paid, and the Government and the country have now to consider ways and means of financing the War until the end of next March. Of course, all the money that will be needed will be found, and the duty of the Government is merely to devise the means of raising the sum required in the most advantageous manner. Everyone must admit that our enormous war expenses have so far been financed without the least difficulty. It is true they have caused our imports to show immense expansions and our exports to decline, and that in consequence the foreign exchanges have moved against us; but even this difficulty has been met by the new loan from the United States of £50,000,000, by the export of a substantial amount of gold and by the sale of a considerable quantity of American securities. How the Government proposes to raise the balance of the money required to meet the War expenditures to the end of next March has not yet been disclosed, but presumably well-considered plans will be placed before Parliament and the nation in the not distant future, and there is no doubt that the nation will provide the Government with all the money it requires. Exactly how much the expenditure will be up to the end of March cannot, of course, be calculated. Mr. McKenna's recent statement to Parliament provided for an expenditure for the whole fiscal year of £1,589,706,000, of which £770,526,000 was spent from April 1 to October 23. This leaves an estimated expenditure for the rest of the year of £819,180,000, or at the rate of £5,120,000 per day. It is probable, however, that the actual expenditure may not reach this vast sum.

Already more strenuous efforts have been made to prevent waste in military expenditure. We can scarcely hope that all waste will be prevented, but measures have now been taken to obviate a great deal of the waste that was found to have occurred, and therefore we are not without hope that the expenditures will not reach £5,000,000 per day. However, as matters now stand, the sum to be provided by the end of March amounts to the great total of £819,000,000. Against this figure has to be placed the estimated revenue. The revenue so far received has been £120,569,000, and if the estimates are not exceeded, the revenue yet to be collected before the end of the fiscal year will be £184,445,000. But it is more than probable that the sum realised from taxation will substantially exceed the estimates. Should it not do so, the deficiency still to be provided will reach £634,735,000. The combined effect of an excess of revenue over the estimates and of economies in the estimated expenditure may be to bring the deficiency still to be provided for to well below £600,000,000. Towards this sum has to be placed the last instalment on the War Loan, paid this week. Exactly how much this has amounted to is as yet unknown, but measured by the previous instalments it should be about £30,000,000, bringing the total sum raised by the last Loan to about £600,000,000. Beyond the last instalment on the 4½% War Loan there is the £50,000,000 borrowed in the United States, and a cash balance of £18,000,000. Roughly, therefore, the cash in sight at the end of last week, over and above the revenue, was about £100,000,000. If this amount be deducted from the deficiency the balance remaining to be found is reduced to £537,000,000 if the estimates both of revenue and expenditure are realised, and of somewhat under £500,000,000 if the revenue exceeds the estimates, and there is economy in expenditure. For the purpose of showing how the great sum of money already expended has been raised, we set out below the revenue and expenditure in the period from April 1 to October 23 :—

Actual Receipts and Payments April 1 to October 23, 1915.

	£
Revenue	120,569,000
Expenditure	770,526,000
Deficiency	649,957,000
Repayment to the Bank of England	164,427,000
Repayment of Exchequer Bonds	16,395,000
Repayment of other debt	9,715,000
Total deficiency	836,494,000
War Loan, 1925–28	35,798,000
Exchequer Bonds	242,000
War Loan, 1925–45	571,000,000
Treasury Bills	145,988,000
Ways and Means	19,850,000
Sum borrowed	772,878,000
Paid from cash balance	63,616,000

Further, to indicate how much money has still to be provided, we set out the estimated revenue and expenditure for the remainder of the year:—

Estimated Receipts and Payments October 24, 1915, to March 31, 1916.

	£
Estimated Revenue	184,445,000
Estimated Expenditure	819,180,000
Deficiency	634,735,000
War Loan, say	30,000,000
American Loan	50,000,000
Cash balance	18,000,000
Cash in hand and in sight	98,000,000
Deficiency to be provided	537,000,000

Presumably the Treasury will not appeal to the public for another loan at present, but will obtain all the money needed by the sale to bankers and others of Treasury bills and short-dated obligations. Apparently the amount of money which bankers have at their disposal has been accumulating for some time past, as the Government has used a substantial part of the money raised for the purpose of redeeming debt incurred in anticipation of the loan. Consequently bankers should have no difficulty in providing the Government with another £200,000,000 or £300,000,000 in order to provide for the War expenditures until the savings of the public have accumulated sufficiently to enable another loan to be offered to investors. The amount of Treasury bills outstanding has been reduced since July 10 from £251,813,000 to £223,138,000. To meet the expenditures until the beginning of January the Treasury will need to borrow in one way or another about £250,000,000, and no difficulty is likely to be experienced in raising this money having regard to the very large supply of money in the short-loan market.

The advance in the rates of interest upon Treasury bills to 4⅜% for three months' bills, to 4½% for six months' bills and to 5% for nine and twelve months' maturities will certainly attract very large applications. There is, of course, no finer security in the world than a British Government Treasury bill to be bought to give a return of nearly 5%.

The Anglo-French 5-Year 5% External Loan for

$500,000,000, which will provide the British Government with £45,000,000 of money, is payable as to 50% on October 29 and the balance on December 3. The influence of this loan upon the American exchange will be felt not merely as to the part accruing to this country, but as to the entire loan. Moreover, recently a great sum of gold has been sent to the United States, and it is evident that a very large amount of the indebtedness of Europe to the United States has been already liquidated or is in course of liquidation. The exports of the United States at the present time are, however, enormous, and if they are maintained at anything like the current rate it is obvious that the exchange provided will not last for more than a few weeks. It is reported that in the week to October 23 the exports of the United States were valued at no less than $98,777,000, and the imports were no more than $28,167,000; there was thus an excess of exports over imports in a single week of $70,610,000. Possibly this was exceptional, and in future the exports may not be as great as this; nevertheless, at this time of year exports are normally very large, and inasmuch as at the present time the usual wheat, cotton, and other exports are supplemented by heavy shipments of goods, it is obvious that the trade balance is likely to be unusually heavy. Still, taking everything into account, the money borrowed in America and the gold sent thither, as well as loans made by America to various foreign countries, should take care of the exchange situation into the New Year. That it will entirely take care of the foreign exchanges can scarcely be hoped for, as in consequence of our great purchases from all countries and the vastness of our adverse trade balance other countries than the United States are in a position to draw gold from London. Indeed, no permanent improvement in the exchanges can be expected to take place until the nation becomes much more economical, and there is a substantial curtailment of imports and expansion of exports.

THE WAR.

This is not a time to indulge in carping criticism, as too many of our daily contemporaries are doing. On the contrary, it is for us now to show that we have the resources to put down our enemies, and that we are resolved to use them to the utmost. It is always to be borne in mind that in numbers, in wealth, and in every kind of resource we are immensely superior to the enemy, and that we have merely to organise to trample him underfoot. The country must not be disheartened because there is said to be a split in our own Cabinet, and because the Cabinet of M. Viviani has resigned. As soon as M. Delcassé retired from the latter it was evident that either a resignation or a complete reconstruction was necessary, and, therefore, we need not be alarmed. Above all, we must not allow ourselves to be induced by the enemy to believe that the French are disheartened, or have lost a tittle of their resolution to see the War through to a successful termination. As a matter of fact, the actual condition of things is by no means unfavourable to us. In France and Belgium the enemy are pinned to their trenches. If they were to attempt to retire they know that they would be pursued vigorously, and that they could not hope to regain their own country without terrible losses. In France and Belgium, at all events, we have the initiative. For months we have been gaining ground, very slowly, it is true, but still we have been gaining ground. The very hope of gaining possession of Paris or even of Calais has been given up, and the most the Germans can still boast of is, that we have not been able up to the present to drive them out of the positions in which they entrenched themselves in the first couple of months of the War. We have, then, only to pursue the policy we have followed so far to maintain the initiative, to press the enemy on every possible occasion, and to make sure thereby that he shall not be in a position to withdraw a single man to increase his forces elsewhere.

In the Eastern field of operations some of our readers may think that the advantage is entirely with the enemy. If so, we disagree. It is perfectly true that the Russians were not as well prepared for the War as was generally supposed; that for want of munitions they had to avoid fighting a single decisive battle; and that they everywhere retreated rather than give the enemy an opportunity to break up one of their armies. The result is that the enemy has possession of Russian Poland, and that it is threatening Riga. But it has not succeeded in breaking a single Russian Army, and the Russians now are in a much more favourable position than they have been hitherto, while munitions are being poured in upon them from Japan, the United States, and this country. The winter, moreover, is now setting in, and everybody knows what a Russian winter is. It will be impossible for the Germans to carry out any really successful measures on a great scale, whereas, so soon as the Russians are provided with abundance of munitions they will be better able in their own country to adopt vigorous and decisive measures. In fact, it seems as clear as anything can be that the Germans have failed in their policy in Russia just as completely as they have failed in their policy in France and Belgium, and that they have bribed Bulgaria to join them in the hope that they may be able to relieve Constantinople and to transfer the real theatre of operations from both France and Russia to Turkish Asia and Egypt. It is a very ambitious idea, but if we act with common judgment we shall defeat them. Germany and Austria will suffer terribly during the coming winter. And Turkey has neither the men nor the resources to carry on a great war. Our policy ought to be to do what we can to save Serbia. But on no account to be fooled into weakening our forces either in France or in Belgium, while we should supply Russia as rapidly as we can with munitions so that she may be able to resume the offensive on her own territory. If we do that it is to be recollected that we have all the advantages on our side; that time is fighting for us; and that a little judgment will bring us the means to end the War successfully. Bulgaria has been seduced from her true interests. But neither Greece nor Roumania have proved false to the real welfare of the Balkans; and if we act with common prudence and common judgment there is no reason why England, France, Italy, and Russia should not be able to place such an army in the Balkans as will convince both Greece and Roumania that their true interest is to join the Entente Allies.

THE BALKAN OUTLOOK.

It is very greatly to be feared that our gallant Serbian Ally will be crushed before sufficient assistance can reach her. Many of our contemporaries are abusing the Government because it did not take action long ago. But we fail to see the utility of crying over spilt milk. So far as our own Government alone is concerned it can, we feel sure, put forward a much stronger case in its own defence than the Marquis of Lansdowne made in the House of Lords on Tuesday. We have to recollect that we are acting with a great number of Allies, and that it is of the essence of an Alliance that the several Allied Governments should keep in the closest possible communication one with another, and that none of them should do anything that would be disapproved of by the others. An alliance is impossible unless all work honestly together. Now we are utterly ignorant of the views of the several Allied Governments. We have no means of judging whether the assistance to Serbia was deemed to be necessary, was discussed, or was even suggested. Therefore, as the business concerns a great number of Governments it seems to us unreasonable, as well as unpatriotic, to single out one Government for

criticism. Furthermore, we do not know what negotiations have gone on between the Governments of the *Entente* Powers and the Balkan Governments. That negotiations have gone on is notorious. That it has been known for a very considerable time that the bankers of Berlin made a considerable loan to the Bulgarian Government is also notorious. And we presume no Government was so innocent as to believe that Germany parted with her money without consideration. Furthermore, we know that Germany has been most anxious to keep up free communication with Turkey, and that, in fact, she has put strong pressure upon Roumania to allow her that communication. Lastly, we know that M. Venezelos was ready to act a considerable time ago; that he was practically dismissed from office by the King; that the Greek people returned him to power by a decisive majority; and yet that he has been driven from power once more by the King. Can there be any serious dispute, then, but that there has been constant negotiations going on between the *Entente* Powers and the Balkan Powers on the one hand, and between the Central European Powers and the Balkan Powers on the other hand. But, as we know no more—as we know, in fact, no details, but only the broad fact that negotiations have been going on—it is impossible for us to criticise any of the parties with advantage either to ourselves or to the future proceedings of the *Entente* Powers. We have before us now a series of unquestionable facts. One is that Bulgaria has declared war against Serbia, and is acting with great promptitude and great skill. The second is that Greece has refused to fulfil her treaty obligations towards Serbia. She bound herself to assist Serbia if the latter were attacked by Bulgaria. Serbia has been attacked by Bulgaria, and Greece refuses to fulfil her obligations. Thirdly, we know that Roumania is in a very difficult position; that she is threatened with destruction by the two Central European Powers if she does not obey their behests; and, on the other hand, that she is offered considerable advantages if she helps Serbia, and so joins the *Entente* Powers. The facts being such what is the use of criticising the past until, at all events, we know what has been done in the past, and can form some definite and just opinion as to the conduct of all the parties?

On another point there is a good deal of unjust, and we will add absurd, criticism of our Government. We do not pretend to believe that our Government is exactly the ideal Government we should like to see in power for the purpose of carrying on a great war. But we believe the Government consists of able and honest men, and we think, therefore, that people ought to support it until they have real grounds for believing that a change of administration would be desirable. For ourselves we believe in the thorough wisdom of President Lincoln's famous saying, that "it is ill swapping horses while crossing a stream." To us it seems the duty of all citizens to support the Government, and we think it especially so in the case of Serbia. Serbia was made the excuse for a wicked aggression by the two Central European Powers, and Serbia has shown great heroism and fine qualities of every kind during the past fifteen months. Moreover, while we admit that this concerted attack upon Serbia affects all the *Entente* Powers, we submit that it affects the British Empire more than any other of the Allies. For it is to be recollected that if the Balkans were to be domineered over by the Central European Powers, Constantinople relieved, and a free field opened to an Austro-German expedition, with the assistance of the Turks and the Balkan peoples, we should have to bear the brunt of the following struggle. The road to India lies through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, and the Persian Gulf. We are bound at whatsoever cost to defend our communications with India. And if it were possible that the Central European Powers could relieve Constantinople, and made an attempt upon Egypt, the brunt of the conflict would have to be borne by ourselves. It seems to us, then, not to be a time for either criticising or grumbling. It is a time for bracing ourselves up to a most vigorous effort, and for making up our minds that Prussian militarism must be destroyed, let the ultimate consequences be what they may. While we say this we do not mean to imply in the least that we have any doubts respecting the results of the present rash move of the Austro-Germans. As we have observed on more than one occasion in the past, whoever controls the strategy of the Central European Powers has lost his head and has no real plan of any kind. He began with the assumption that he could overrun France and occupy Paris in five or six weeks, and that then he would have time enough to deal with his other opponents. He not only has not succeeded in occupying Paris, but he has given up even the attempt to occupy it or to occupy Calais either; and yard by yard he is being pushed back, slowly we admit, but still successively. Then he persuaded himself that Russia being, according to her own confession, without sufficient munitions, he had an excellent opportunity to crush Russia. His success was greater than was generally expected, because it turned out that while Russia had been reorganising her Army since the close of the Manchurian War she had not provided herself with sufficient munitions of war, and, put the blame on whomsoever you like, the Dardanelles were closed against her, and she could neither sell her exports nor receive what she desired to be her imports. Being unprovided with proper munitions she felt that she was not in a position to fight a decisive battle. She has wisely, therefore, withdrawn from Russian Poland. The result is that Germany now sees herself faced with all the dangers of a Russian winter, and without the means of compelling a decisive action. For a third time she has changed her plans, and she thinks that as she has failed both against France and against Russia she may be more successful against the British Empire. Once relieve Constantinople, call out millions of ardent Turks, and it may be possible, with the aid of the Bagdad Railway, not only to seize the Suez Canal but to endanger the British hold upon India.

Such being the actual situation, it is perfectly plain that it is our duty to take off the gloves and to go in seriously for the struggle that is before us. We and our Allies have complete control of the Mediterranean. Are we going to allow Germany to use her German puppets on Balkan thrones to prolong the fighting, with all its mortality, and to increase our debt simply out of chivalrous courtesy? Is it not, on the contrary, our plain duty to declare that he who is not with us is against us; and to make sure, therefore, that we shall not only relieve Serbia while there is yet time, but that we shall be able to march upon Buda-Pesth and Vienna before many weeks are over? The taking of Constantinople will be of minor importance if we can assure ourselves of the assistance of Greece and Roumania, depose Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and split up once for all the Hapsburg Monarchy. When that is done we shall be able to take Constantinople and to dispose of those fabled millions of Turks who are so eager to plunder India. And we shall also have time to deal with Germany, who, when everything is said, is the arch-enemy. The splitting up of the Dual Monarchy means in reality nothing more than rewarding Serbia for her present great sacrifices by the acquisition of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other mainly Serbian territory; the increase of Roumania by about three millions of Roumans; and the granting to the Magyars and the Germans of Austria independence. It must be different in the case of Germany. Without provocation of any kind—in a spirit of mere lust of territory and lust of money—she has brought this calamitous war upon Europe; and she ought to be made to pay in such a manner that centuries will pass before she risks incurring the same dangers.

INDIA.

It will surprise nobody to find that the imports of gold into India during the past year show a falling off compared with former years. Yet the imports were larger than under the circumstances might have been expected. It will be recollected that just previous to the War there had been numerous failures of native banks throughout India, which shook the confidence of the native community, especially in the Bombay Presidency, and disorganised business. Furthermore, there had been a somewhat wild speculation in cotton piece goods. Partly, perhaps, because of those failures and the disorganisation of trade generally there was not the consumption that had been looked for. Moreover, the sudden outbreak of war closed against India the German and the Austrian markets, which were large importers of Indian goods, both cotton and seeds. In addition to this the failure of the wheat crop in Australia disorganised the trade with that Continent; and whereas a considerable import of sovereigns was expected from Australia there was, in fact, a considerable export. Lastly, it will be recollected that the outbreak of war was quite unexpected, and that it disorganised the trade of every country in the world. Naturally India shared in the general apprehensions. And the antics of the *Emden*, by spreading fears of destruction by German commerce destroyers, increased the general malaise. In the last place it may be pointed out that the exchanges everywhere were thrown into disorder, and that India suffered like other countries; while, of course, the immense amount of tonnage that had to be chartered by the British Government lessened materially the means of exportation from India. Still, the imports of sovereigns amounted to a very considerable sum, the total being 682 lakhs of rupees. From all this it seems to be evident that India has made up her mind that she shall have a gold currency, and that as soon as matters settle down the demand for gold will spring up again. Mr. Howard, the Controller of Currency, in his report for the year 1914-15, does not enter into the same fulness of detail that made the reports of several of his predecessors highly valuable. Perhaps he supposes that in the presence of war it is impossible to form any very definite opinion as to the general drift of affairs. If so, we think he is mistaken, for the influence of a great war is a very severe test, and if the demand for gold currency continues in spite of war it is a matter which deserves the most careful consideration, and should be fully discussed for the information both of India and of the United Kingdom. For example, we ought to know to what extent in the year under review gold was used in the different districts of India by actual buyers and sellers; whether it was used only by the comparatively wealthy; or whether the general body of agriculturists asked for gold in their operations. It will be recollected that the British Government bought up the greater part of the wheat of India early this year, and the Government may have been able to buy more freely without paying gold than private purchasers. But in any case the course of the various markets in the presence of a great war is of the very highest interest, and would be especially instructive just now. In the next report we trust that he will give us a fuller account and enter into more minute details. One thing is very satisfactory, that India has upon the whole borne the strain of the War with singular success, and therefore proves to us that she is making steady progress economically.

THE TREASURY AND THE LATEST BANK FUSION PROJECT.

BARCLAYS AND UNITED COUNTIES BANK.

Some time ago a fusion scheme was projected for the amalgamation of Barclay and Company, Limited, and the United Counties Bank, Limited, but objection was taken by the Treasury, probably on the grounds of a contemplated issue of extra shares for cash. A modification put forward to the effect that only an exchange of shares would be made and further issue of shares postponed was in turn refused assent to. To overcome this bar the announcement has this week been made that a provisional working agreement between the two banks has been arranged to take effect as from January 1, 1915. Under the new scheme, while the banks remain separate institutions, measures are concerted for the provision of dividends *pro rata* as heretofore, and in case of surplus profits as from January 1, 1916, except by mutual consent, such surplus profits are to be retained in reserve till the initial fusion arrangement becomes recognised as permissible.

Barclays' issued capital comprises £4 per share paid up in respect of "B" 450,000 £16 shares, and 450,000 "A" £4 shares are fully paid.

The United Counties issued capital is 298,332 £20 shares with £4 per share paid. The aggregate issued capitals are:—

Barclays	£3,600,000
United Counties	£1,193,328

Those who are directly interested in the companies will be aware of the detail from the official notices sent out, but as detail only affects shareholders we refrain here from commenting thereon.

In consequence of this Treasury action, however, the interchange of shares is prevented. It is true that the shares of Barclays have an official quotation on the London Stock Exchange, while those of the United Counties Bank are only quoted in provincial Stock Exchange official lists. In the existing forms of shares of separate companies, whether quoted on the London or a provincial Exchange, the marketing of the shares is not interfered with. Had permission been given for new Barclay shares to be issued in exchange for shares of the United Counties, doubtless official Stock Exchange sanction would have been given to the quotation of uniform shares in Official Lists both of the London and the provincial Stock Exchanges. Business in the new shares received by United Counties shareholders would mainly have been transacted on the local Stock Exchanges, while the bulk of business would be transacted through the London Stock Exchange by those persons who are residents in the region of the Metropolis. What the public cannot understand about the Treasury action is why a business arrangement of such character should be taken objection to and forbidden. Had there been only a projected new creation of capital and invitations to subscribe thereto, one could perhaps understand the action of the Treasury. But a proposition for a mere exchange of shares, based on the relative market valuations of each, was rejected.

In The Statist of May 22, page 482, we called attention to some remarkable Treasury decisions, and gave three instances. The present instance is yet another. Those who are interested in the matter will perceive a resemblance between the present bank case and that of the third instance we gave in The Statist of May 22, to which we refer our readers.

May we invite the Treasury Committee, presided over by Lord St. Aldwyn, to reconsider its decision? As the Committee will have seen from the Press of every political and non-political shade, its decision has evoked a great deal of comment and criticism, and it is evident that some misunderstanding must have arisen to induce the Committee to veto not merely the issue of new capital by an amalgamated

bank, but even to veto the amalgamation itself. If there is one thing needed at the present time it is an abundance of banking money. A subscription of new capital for banks is entirely different to a subscription of new capital for any other enterprise, as the capital is not locked up, and is available for any purpose for which the country may need it. With regard to a new issue of capital, the Committee is fully within its reference if it considers that an increase in bank capital at the present moment is undesirable. It is, of course, entitled to refuse the application, although we should have thought that trained bankers would realise that an addition to banking capital at the present time was not without advantage to the country. But as to an amalgamation by exchange of shares only with no issue of new capital for cash, surely the Committee has gone beyond its reference. As everyone knows, the Committee was set up for the purpose of regulating new issues of capital in order that no unnecessary capital expenditure should be made during the War, and in order, through the economy thus effected, that the Government should be able to raise all the loans it needed for the War. But the proposed amalgamation did not in any way reduce the amount of money available for the War, and would not have done so even if new capital had been created, as the new capital could and doubtless would have been placed in War Loan or in Treasury bills. Of course, in the hurry of a time such as this a great many decisions are reached which cannot be rectified, but this is not the situation with regard to the proposed amalgamation. Apparently a blunder has been committed by someone in the hurry of the moment which the Committee will doubtless rectify now that the matter has been so fully discussed and opinion in the City is so unanimous that an error has been committed.

THE RHODESIAN MINE DISPUTE.

Mr. Justice Eve, in the Chancery Division of the Royal Courts of Justice, has this week commenced the hearing of the action, Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia (1913), Ltd., *v.* the Globe and Phœnix Gold Mining Company, Limited, and the case is expected to last for a considerable period, possibly two or three weeks. The decision will be an important one when made, and the matter is very technical. In The Statist of October 16 we gave some explanations of the mining law in Rhodesia, and showed by diagrams how the existence of an ore body that outcrops the property of A. can, without the consent of the owner of the adjoining property belonging to C., mine and extract ore from below the surface of C.'s property. A great deal, however, in this important case depends upon the intent and nature of an agreement that appears to have been entered into between the two companies, the Globe and Phœnix having acquired by purchase the John Bull claims—the deep-level ground adjoining the Globe and Phœnix, or what is the equivalent of C.'s property. Under the surface of the John Bull claims there exists continuity, on the dip, of the Discovery reef that has been followed heretofore by the Globe and Phœnix, under Rhodesian law, without any question as to right to mine the ore.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Our attention is called to a statement in the Banking Section of last week concerning the foreign connections of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, and we are asked by the manager to state that there are no members of German or Austrian nationality on the Board of Directors.

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Financial Notes.

It is stated that a unanimous decision that the Carranza faction should be recognised as the *de facto* Government of Mexico was reached at a Conference of Latin-American envoys held at Washington on the 9th inst. Two previous Conferences between the United States Secretary of State and the Diplomatic Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chili, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Guatamela were held, and at the second it was agreed that the Provisional Government in Mexico, "with the material and moral capacity necessary to protect the lives and property of nationals and foreigners," should be recognised. The delegates investigated the Mexican situation, and unanimously agreed that the Carranzista party possessed the essentials for recognition. After the adjournment of the Conference on the 9th inst., Mr. Secretary Lansing announced that "the conferees, after careful consideration of the facts, have found that the Carranzista party is the only party possessing the essentials for recognition as the *de facto* Government of Mexico, and they have so reported to their respective Governments."

It is further stated that Mr. Lansing made a report to President Wilson as to the conclusions reached at the Conference, and that the President had given formal sanction to the plan for the recognition of Carranza. It is said that the Diplomatic representatives in Washington of several South American Governments have received instructions to take the same action as the United States. Neither the time when recognition will be extended nor the form in which it will be made has been announced.

General Carranza is reported to have said, when the news was communicated to him, that the news put an end to all efforts of our enemies to bring about foreign intervention. They will continue, no doubt, their intrigues. But recognition of the Constitutionalist Government naturally will rob them of the fruit of their efforts. When peace is absolutely restored, and tranquillity really established throughout the republic, amnesty will be granted to all these

persons, but not now. To permit them to return at this time would be to endure their machinations within the republic. The immediate effect will be a great moral strengthening of the cause of Constitutionalism, and a corresponding disheartening of opposing factions. General Villa is reported to have said that "the decision reached by the Pan-American conferees means that the American nations recognise the triumph of the revolution begun and led by President Madero and continued by Carranza and Villa. This fact is a source of satisfaction to all who have contributed their efforts in the struggle against 'cientifico' rule."

According to a New York contemporary, there is a temporary substitution of the American dollar for pounds sterling as a basis of credit transactions between the two countries. "It is now proposed that London banks guarantee their customers for definite amounts with American banks, and that exporters draw their drafts on these banks in dollars. The bills run for 90 days, and the London banks would have that length of time in which to settle their obligations, or, if necessary, to purchase gold for shipment. It is believed that under such an arrangement there would be in the American banks from 250 million dollars to 300 million dollars of bills awaiting maturity at all times, so that the exchange market would be relieved of this amount." Sir Edward Holden is represented to have objected, firstly, that the plan would transfer the risks of exchange from the exporter in the United States to the importer in Great Britain; and, secondly, that such a plan might drain England of too much of her store of gold. It is added that the suggestion will be laid before the London joint-stock bankers without delay.

Mr. J. P. Morgan is reported to have said in regard to the safety of the Anglo-French loan: "The taxation revenues of Great Britian and France are, roughly, 2,000 million dollars and 1,000 million dollars respectively. This issue constitutes the only external obligation of these countries. It is the first charge on those nations. A country's external debt must be paid, even if it is necessary to sacrifice internal obligations. These countries cannot fail to pay their external debt because they may need to come to us again. The interest charge is only 25 million dollars a year. But it is absurd to talk about the earning power of a great Government. As to the price. . . . After two weeks of discussion we told them that we could supply them with 500 million dollars, taking 5% bonds at 96, to be sold publicly at 98. They understood that sentiment would not sell the bonds, but that they must meet market conditions. No Government bond since the Civil War in this country has equalled this, except the 10 millions sterling issue by France in 1871. . . . This investment will return nearly 5½%."

In a speech in Indianapolis, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, outlined a plan for a new shipping bill. He desires the creation of a Shipping Board, with power "to organise a corporation or corporations, and to subscribe to the capital thereof in whole or in part." The Board should have authority to vote the stock belonging to the United States for the election of directors. Mr. McAdoo suggested that Congress should appropriate and put into the hands of the Board a fund of 50 million dollars. He wound up by saying "We are paying to foreign steamship lines more than 300 million dollars per year, when, by having our own ships, we could pay them for this service, build up a merchant marine which will profit our people in time of peace, and serve our country in time of war."



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American Topics.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

The year to June last was not a period of prosperity for the Illinois Central, which derives a large traffic from the Southern States, and was therefore affected by the adverse conditions surrounding growers of raw cotton. Following upon the outbreak of war an economic storm swept over the cotton-growing area of the United States, as the price of cotton fell so sharply that for a time it scarcely paid to gather the crop. Although not directly a large carrier of cotton —the quantity conveyed usually representing less than 1% of the tonnage handled—the fortunes of the Illinois Central are associated with the well-being of cotton planters and their employees, and as the low price of cotton greatly reduced the spending power of everyone engaged in the cotton industry, the earning of the Illinois Central were substantially reduced. A set-back in the building industry also occurred in the past year, and this, too, had an adverse effect upon its traffic, as ordinarily the Illinois Central conveys a large amount of lumber from Tennessee and Louisiana. But fortunately the traffic of the road is highly diversified and the Company is not dependent upon any one class of business, and the prosperity of general farming helped to neutralise the effect on its earnings of the depression in cotton.

Moreover, the inability of Great Britain to supply Central and South American countries with as much coal as usual gave a great deal of business to the United States and stimulated the demand for coal

Income Statement of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Other Net. Income.	Total Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Rentals.	Net Corporate Income.	Interest on Funded Debt.	Surplus.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	4,770	62,[illegible]	47,873,000	77·21	14,130,000	6,000	7,635,000*	21,771,000	3,234,000	11,678,000	6,859,000	6·28	5,465,000	1,394,000
1914 ...	4,769	65,873,000	50,775,000	77·08	15,098,000	*18,000*†	7,321,000*	22,401,000	3,341,000	10,921,000*	8,139,000	7·45	5,465,000	2,674,000
1913 ...	4,763	64,281,000	[illegible]	77·86	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,904,000	10,675,000*	6,575,000	6·02	6,558,000	17,000
1912 ...	4,763	58,727,000	48,121,000	81·94	10,606,000	*107,000*†	4,370,000*	14,869,000	2,686,000	8,717,000*	3,466,000	3·18	7,651,000	†4,185,000
1911 ...	4,759	62,089,000	[illegible]	72·00	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23,990,000	2,721,000	9,953,000	11,315,000	10·36	7,651,000	3,664,000
1910 ...	4,551	57,885,000	43,321,000	74·84	14,564,000	*35,000*†	5,285,000	19,814,000	2,525,000	9,456,000	7,833,000	7·17	7,651,000	182,000
1909 ...	4,547	53,672,000	38,416,000	71·58	15,256,000	485,000	3,825,000	19,566,000	2,277,000	9,155,000	8,134,000	7·44	7,651,000	483,000
1908 ...	4,421	52,830,000	37,941,000	71·82	14,889,000	718,000	2,359,000	17,966,000	2,190,000	7,779,000	7,997,000	8·41	6,653,000	1,344,000
1907 ...	4,371	[illegible]	37,937,000	68·34	17,576,000	—	4,006,000	21,582,000	2,218,000	7,677,000	11,687,000	12·29	6,653,000	5,034,000
1906 ...	4,424	51,636,000	34,302,000	66·44	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	20,591,000	2,135,000	7,594,000	10,862,000	11·23	6,653,000	4,209,000
1905 ...	4,374	49,508,000	[illegible]	66·82	16,424,000	—	2,761,000	19,185,000	2,027,000	7,023,000	10,135,000	10·66	6,653,000	3,482,000
1895 ...	2,888	19,057,000	12,295,000	64·51	7,762,000	—	1,643,000	8,405,000	974,000	4,928,000	2,503,000	5·00	2,500,000	3,000

* Income received from and interest paid upon Co.'s holding of its own securities [illegible]

† Deficit.

throughout the country. Hence, in spite of the depression in general industry, the coal traffic of the Illinois Central was somewhat increased. Thus the prosperity of general farming and of coal mining helped the Company to meet the adverse effect on its earnings of the severe depression in cotton and the slackness of industry.

It also possesses an important Western connection from Chicago to Omaha which gives it a large grain traffic, and in addition controls through stock ownership the Central of Georgia, and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railways, two roads that are more or less dependent for their prosperity upon conditions in the cotton States. Thus, while the Company's Western lines enjoyed largely increased earnings and there was only an infinitesimal shrinkage in the receipts of the Northern lines, the decline in traffic on the Southern lines was considerable, and on balance gross revenue fell off $3,870,000, or nearly 6%, of which $2,660,000 occurred in freight and $1,075,000 in passenger receipts. On the other hand, operating expenses were reduced as much as $2,902,000, and the decline in net earnings amounted to $968,000. This was partially offset by the receipt of an additional $338,000 of miscellaneous income and the payment of $110,000 less taxes. Thus the net income available for interest charges was $523,000 lower than for 1913-14. The saving in interest effected by the retirement of Short Term notes was more than neutralised by interest payments upon new bonds issued during the year, and on balance, interest and other charges increased $757,000. Hence there was a decline of $1,280,000 in the net profit available for dividend, which last year amounted to $6,859,000, a sum equal to 6.28% upon the stock. This compares with 7.45% earned in 1913-14. After providing for the 5% dividend, there remained a surplus of about $1,400,000.

It will be seen from the Income Statement herewith that for 1914-15 the gross receipts declined practically to the level of those for 1910-11. This has been due not to any falling off in tonnage in the aggregate, but to a great shrinkage in high-class traffic bearing high freight rates. Indeed, since 1910-11 there has been a growth of over 10% in the quantity of freight traffic handled, as measured by the revenue ton mileage, but this has been accompanied by a drop in the average freight rate obtained, from .609c. in 1910-11 to .548c. in the past year. The heavy decline in high-class traffic last year, due to depression in general and to the crisis in cotton in particular, will be evident from the following contrast:—

Freight Traffic of the Illinois Central RR.

Year to June 30	Products of—Agriculture. Tons.	Animals. Tons.	Mines.—Bituminous Coal. Tons.	Other. Tons.	Forests. Tons.	Manufactures, Merchandise, and Misc. Tons.	Total Fr't Carried. Tons.
1915...	5,948,878	673,652	12,388,969	1,747,342	3,906,472	6,644,038	31,309,351
1914...	5,543,361	688,570	12,145,945	1,697,476	4,804,433	7,462,924	32,342,709
1913...	5,586,534	710,982	10,488,614	1,696,811	4,811,532	7,152,692	30,447,165
1912...	4,990,514	785,305	8,608,659	1,428,171	4,196,128	6,340,372	26,339,149
1911...	5,125,093	788,608	8,189,490	1,520,762	5,193,683	7,148,399	27,966,035
1910...	4,911,062	681,816	8,652,760	1,472,069	4,975,949	6,894,621	27,588,277
1909...	4,257,392	729,397	9,326,068	1,081,977	3,930,932	5,550,900	24,876,666
1908...	4,607,694	708,324	8,588,930	1,211,326	4,348,998	5,581,790	25,047,062
1907...	5,090,408	793,888	8,515,335	1,461,937	4,677,594	6,383,706	26,922,868
1906...	4,961,650	773,811	8,072,727	1,571,144	4,577,602	5,684,232	25,641,146
1905...	4,459,433	766,305	7,749,629	1,335,522	3,930,565	4,906,855	23,148,309

The Company possesses a double-track road of very low grade from Chicago to the Gulf, which permits the traffic to be worked with great economy in heavily loaded trains; and in spite of its large mileage of branch lines, its average total train load in the past year was as high as 523 tons. Few undertakings have a higher reputation than the Illinois Central, which has paid dividends without intermission for the past fifty-three years. When one takes into account the enormous competition which has to be faced from water-carriage on the Mississippi River, and from the trunk lines to the Eastern seaboard, and the low level of the average freight rate obtained, it is obvious that to earn substantial profits it has been essential, first, to provide up-to-date machinery for handling the traffic efficiently, and, secondly, to display the utmost skill in carrying that traffic economically. And this policy is being continually carried out. Every endeavour is being made to eliminate curves, reduce gradients, build cut-offs, construct new terminal and siding facilities, and strengthen the bridges and track in order to permit of the running of heavier trains, and thus enable the increasing traffic to be handled with little or no increase in train mileage.

As each year passes the average power of the locomotives and the capacity of the freight cars are increased. With the object of enabling heavier trains to be hauled, the weight of rail on the track has been steadily raised, and whereas only six or seven years ago the standard rail in use weighed only 85 lb. per yard, it has now been raised to 90 lb. In the past year, according to data we have obtained from the President of the road, no less than 433 miles of track have been laid with 90-lb. rail, most of which has superseded lighter rails, and since 1908 as many as 1,300 miles have been laid with this heavy rail. The stronger condition of the track as indicated by the weight of rail is shown below:—

Weight of Rail on Main Track, Illinois Central Railroad.

June 30	58½-lb. & under. Miles.	66-lb. Miles.	67-lb. Miles.	70-lb. Miles.	75-lb. Miles.	85-lb. Miles.	90-lb. Miles.	100-lb. Miles	Total. Miles.
1915 ...	178·3	726·0	60·3	134·1	1,018·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,555·5
1914 ...	210·2	762·1	64·0	[illegible]	1,065·6	2,530·2	867·9	1·3	5,463·3
1913 ...	248·6	857·8	70·1	140·7	1,172·4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,451·0
1912 ...	260·2	861·4	[illegible]	149·3	1,218·7	2,460·4	420·3	1·3	5,462·8
1911 ...	291·4	859·0	94·8	152·3	1,198·0	2,436·9	330·0	2·4	5,364·8
1910 ...	313·3	822·8	95·1	176·0	1,119·7	2,437·7	195·4	2·4	5,162·4
1909 ...	310·[illegible]	831·0	96·9	200·4	1,173·3	[illegible]	[illegible]	2·4	5,151·7
1908 ..	319·0	888·[illegible]	100·4	[illegible]	1,230·2	2,467·4	—	2·4	5,217·0
1907 ..	326·9	936·5	108·4	234·1	1,345·9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,100·2
1906 ..	355·3	1,031·0	108·4	252·5	1,442·1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5,180·8
1905 ...	405·4	1,027·3	113·3	264·9	1,482·3	1,799·5	—	2·9	5,095·6

Liberal provision has always been made out of income towards the upkeep of the road and equipment, and in view of the high standard to which the property has been raised it was possible without in any way impairing efficiency in some degree to offset the decline in gross receipts by a reduction of $1,000,000 in maintenance outlays. The cost of maintenance of way was, however, higher than in any previous year, apart from the abnormally large figure of 1913-14, and maintenance of road and equipment last year represented 36.66% of the gross receipts, against 34.96% in the previous year, and an average of 33.55% for the past decade. It should, of course, be remembered that the higher scale of wages and the rise in the cost of materials is responsible to some extent for the heavier outlays now being made. The

major portion of the reduced expenses of last year occurred in conducting transportation where a saving of as much as $1,900,000 was effected. The reduction in the volume of traffic in part accounted for this decrease, but important savings were occasioned by the introduction of superheater locomotives and the inauguration of special campaigns for fuel economy and for the curtailment of compensation charges. The ratio of conducting transportation was consequently reduced to 37.96%, against 38.62% for 1913-14 and as much as 42.66% for 1911-12. How expenses last year compared with those for former periods is shown in the following statements:—

Operating Expenses of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	General Expenses	Total Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	62,003,000	8,839,472	13,892,444	23,538,255	1,603,256	47,873,127
1914 ...	65,873,000	9,205,906	14,510,079	25,440,818	1,618,484	50,775,327
1913 ...	64,281,000	8,519,024	13,952,654	26,063,907	1,513,326	50,048,911
1912 ...	58,727,000	7,691,215	13,857,549	25,054,191	1,518,512	48,121,467
1911 ...	62,089,000	7,750,525	12,495,333	23,142,672	1,369,327	44,757,857
1910 ...	57,885,000	7,607,891	13,502,250	20,981,292	1,229,297	43,320,730
1909 ...	53,672,000	6,196,287	11,265,627	19,795,298	1,158,427	38,415,639
1908 ...	52,830,000	6,568,065	9,456,285	20,666,696	1,250,202	37,941,248
1907 ...	55,513,000	7,000,467	9,381,106	20,489,345	1,066,377	37,937,295
1906 ...	51,636,000	6,855,173	7,705,028	18,568,355	1,173,921	34,302,477
1905 ...	49,508,000	6,095,096	7,804,810	18,102,052	1,082,300	33,084,258

Ratio of Operating Expenses to Railway Earnings of Illinois Cent.

	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	General Expenses	Total Expenses.
	%	%	%	%	%
1915...	14·26	22·40	37·96	2·59	77·21
1914...	13·97	22·03	38·62	2·46	77·08
1913...	13·25	21·71	40·55	2·35	77·86
1912...	13·10	23·60	42·66	2·58	81·94
1911...	12·48	20·12	37·28	2·21	71·09
1910...	13·14	23·33	36·24	2·13	74·84
1909...	11·54	20·99	36·88	2·16	71·57
1908...	12·43	17·90	39·12	2·37	71·87
1907...	12·6	16·9	36·9	1·9	68·3
1906...	13·3	14·9	35·9	2·3	66·4
1905...	12·3	15·8	36·5	2·2	66·8

We have referred above to the great efforts made to deal with traffic in an increasingly skilful manner, and to afford a striking example of the successful work accomplished in this direction we set out below a summary of the freight-train results since 1905. From this it will be evident that while there has been an expansion of over 35% in the volume of the freight traffic in the 10 years, the improved loading of the freight cars and the greater number of cars per train have resulted in an addition of 40% to the train load and about 3% fewer train miles have been run. In 1904-5 the revenue train load was not better than 319 tons. In the following year it was raised to 353¼ tons, and it remained at about that figure until 1911-12. The present management then took active steps to improve upon these results, and for 1912-13 the revenue load was raised to 407 tons, in 1913-14 to 417 tons, and for the past year to as much as 444½ tons.

Freight-Train Results of Illinois Central.

Yr. to June 30	Rev. Ton Miles. (000's omitted)	Freight-Train Miles.	Train Load Rev. Tons.	Train Load Total Tons.	Loaded Car Miles.	Car Load. Rev. Tons.	Car Load. Total Tons.	Ton Miles per Mile of Road.
1915	7,522,112	16,919,606	444·58	522·83	367,261,612	20·45	24·09	1,576,953
1914	7,789,174	18,682,591	416·92	487·89	387,428,046	20·08	23·53	1,633,461
1913	7,385,261	18,143,615	407·04	483·18	383,387,960	19·00	22·87	1,550,646
1912	6,210,462	17,440,916	356·09	427·15	346,157,389	17·97	21·52	1,303,979
1911	6,817,236	19,032,612	358·19	430·30	373,820,292	18·23	21·91	1,435,316
1910	6,579,292	18,059,510	364·31	431·99	358,456,190	18·63	21·76	1,445,827
1909	6,042,797	17,017,222	355·10	424·18	327,570,803	18·45	22·04	1,328,844
1908	6,038,542	17,169,185	351·71	419·13	322,235,987	18·74	22·33	1,366,044
1907	6,592,023	18,130,179	363·59	422·21	352,776,730	18·69	21,70	1,508,206
1906	6,230,594	17,639,579	353·21	410·73	353,282,478	17·64	20·51	1,408,403
1905	5,559,139	17,426,682	319·00	366·66	327,325,288	16·98	19·52	1,270,977

With regard to the current year, the expectation is for earnings, both gross and net, to show improvement. For the three months to September a falling off of $605,000 in gross revenue was accompanied by a decline of $244,000 in net receipts. The results for September were, however, better than a year ago in gross and net alike, and for the remaining months not only will the line benefit from the improvement in industrial activity, but from the large shipments of grain to Europe and the greatly improved conditions now ruling in the Southern States.

More than one-half of the miscellaneous income is derived from investments in the Central of Georgia and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railways. In the current year one cannot look for any increasing income from the former, but in the case of the Yazoo line a better return than last year may reasonably be looked for. The Illinois Central owns the whole of the 2nd Mortgage Income Bonds of the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railway, a line which has been merged with the Yazoo. At the present time overdue interest on these bonds amounts to about $7,500,000, and the extent to which this is being paid off depends upon the course of the Yazoo's income account. In 1913-14 the Illinois Central received from this source $1,659,000, and in 1914-15 $1,429,000, and if the improvement in the Yazoo's results so far recorded this year continues as it is likely to do, the sum payable to the Illinois Central should be increased at least sufficiently to pay the somewhat higher interest charges of 1915-16. Therefore, speaking generally, any additional net earnings secured by the Illinois Central this year should be available for increasing the profit available for dividend.

The price of the stock is 115, at which the yield from the 5% dividend is £4 14*s.*%, a return that indicates the confidence of investors in the future of the security. The prices of, together with the yields, afforded by the Company's securities are shown below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Illinois Central RR

Description.	Amount Outstanding.	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div. Rate.	Paid.	Price.	Approx. Yield % per An.†
	$		%			£ *s.* *d.*
4% 1st Mort. Ster. Int.	2,500,000	April 1951	4	A & O	£87‡	4 15 4
3% 1st Mort. Ster.	2,499,000	Mar. 1951	3	M & S	£71½‡	4 14 6
3½% Ext. 1st Mt. Gold	3,000,000	April 1951	3½	A & O	84½†	4 14 10
3½% Sterling bonds	5,266,000	July 1950	3½	J & J	£80½‡	4 14 5
4% Gold bonds	15,000,000	April 1952	4	A & O	90⅜†	4 18 10
Cairo Bridge 4%	3,000,000	Dec. 1950	4	J & D	89†	5 3 11
4% Gold Bonds	24,429,000	Nov. 1953	4	M & N	90¼†	5 1 0
West Lines 4% 1st Mt.	5,425,000	Aug. 1951	4	F & A	84½*	4 18 3
St Louis Div. 3% Gold	4,998,000	July 1951	3	J & J	66½*	4 8 2
Do. Do. 3½% Gold	5,277,000	July 1951	3½	J & J	79*	4 14 10
Louis Div. & Term. 3½%	25,888,000	July 1953	3½	J & J	76½*	4 18 6
Omaha Div. 3% 1951	5,000,000	Aug. 1951	3	F & A	67½*	4 19 3
Purchased Lines 1st Mt.	12,000,000	July 1952	3½	J & J	80¾*	4 12 5
4% Refunding Mort. *a*	37,740,000	Nov. 1955	4	M & N	89†	5 2 8
C., St.L. & N. Or. 5%	10,455,000	June 1951	5	J 15 D	111†	4 18 9
Do. 4% Memp. Div.	3,500,000	Dec. 1951	4	J & D	86†	5 6 8
So. Lines Jnt. Ref. "A"	15,000,000	Dec. 1963	5	J & D	94*	5 1 1
Do. Do. "B"	£1,000,000	Dec. 1963	5	J & D	£102½‡	4 19 6
Guar. Leased Line stk.	9,989,700	—	4	J & J	76¼†	5 15 6
Ill. Cent. Common stk.	109,296,000	—	5	M & S	115†	4 14 0

(*) New York price. (†) London price. (‡) Sterling bonds. (*a*) Callable after Nov. 1, 1918, at 107½ and interest. (*r*) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

U.S. STEEL CORPORATION.

The failure of the board of the Steel Corporation to resume dividends on the Common stock has caused disappointment to many people who had expected a dividend, but, although profits were large enough to permit dividends to be resumed, the directors have apparently considered it desirable to make good the inroads into the profit and loss surplus that took place in the less prosperous period between January 1914 and March 1915, and to postpone dividends for the present. The earnings and profits published this week indicate a return to prosperity. Not merely does activity now prevail in consequence of the huge orders for war materials of all kinds, but, in view of the greater volume of traffic and the necessity to provide facilities for the anticipated growth of business, the railroads of the country are again becoming purchasers of supplies on a liberal scale. Some idea of the great change that has come over the fortunes of the Steel Corporation is evident from the fact that, whereas at the beginning of this year only about one-third of the mill capacity was being utilised, at the present time the mills are being worked at full capacity, and orders on hand are so extensive that a great amount of new business has had to be refused, while in the case of many of the orders already placed

delivery cannot be guaranteed for any given time. Naturally, in consequence of the heavy demands for iron and steel products of all kinds, prices have already risen considerably above the quotations ruling only a few months ago, and there is every indication that the trend of prices will be in favour of the manufacturer. Having regard to these various factors, it will readily be understood how it comes about that whilst for January last the net earnings of the Steel Corporation totalled only $1,687,000 they have mounted up month by month, until for September they reached $13,800,000, with every prospect of unprecedented figures being touched ere many months elapse. The rapid recovery in the earnings of the Corporation is shown below:—

Monthly Net Earnings of U.S. Steel Corporation.

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Jan.	1,687,000	4,941,000	11,312,000	5,243,000	5,869,000	11,316,000
Feb....	3,639,000	5,656,000	10,8[illegible],000	5,427,000	7,181,000	11,617,000
Mar....	7,132,000	7,397,000	12,254,000	7,156,000	10,469,000	14,684,000
Apr....	7,286,000	6,921,000	13,073,000	7,509,000	9,413,000	13,415,000
May	9,321,000	6,846,000	14,555,000	8,847,000	9,590,000	13,229,000
June...	11,343,000	6,691,000	14,[illegible],000	8,746,000	9,106,000	13,527,000
July...	12,048,000	7,476,000	12,937,000	9,322,000	8,750,000	12,132,000
Aug....	12,899,000	7,585,000	12,657,000	10,583,000	10,710,000	13,133,000
Sept...	13,795,000	7,215,000	12,8[illegible],000	10,158,000	10,062,000	12,100,000
Oct....	—	5,581,000	11,430,000	12,485,000	9,159,000	10,512,000
Nov....	—	2,798,000	7,392,000	11,121,000	6,947,000	8,229,000
Dec....	—	2,557,000	4,262,000	11,576,000	7,049,000	7,161,000

For the September quarter of 1915 net earnings amounted to $38,711,000, a larger sum than received for any three-monthly period since the corresponding quarter of 1913. In the June quarter of this year net earnings were just under $28,000,000, and for the December quarter of 1914 were less than $11,000,000. After providing for interest charges, sinking funds and depreciation allowances, and the dividend on the 7% Cumulative Preferred stock, there was a net profit of $18,037,000, equal to a distribution at the rate of 14¼% per annum for the quarter on the Common stock, against 6½% earned in the three months to June last. The undivided profit for the past six months has been $26,300,000, or about $3,000,000 more than sufficient to restore the profit and loss surplus to the level at which it stood prior to December 1913. The recovery that has taken place in the earnings and profits of the Corporation is shown herewith:—

Quarterly Results of U.S Steel Corporation (000's omitted).

3 mos. to	Net Earnings.	Interest.	Sinking Fund & Depreciation	Surplus.	Div. on 7% Cum. Pref.	Balance.	Div. on Common Rate p.a.	Div. on Common Amt.	Balance.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	$	$
Sept. 1915...	38,711	5,704	8,665	24,342	6,305	18,037*	Nil	—	18,037
June ,, ...	27,950	5,759	7,688	14,573	6,305	8,268	Nil	—	8,268
Mar. ,, ...	12,458	5,770	5,774	914	6,305	Dr.5,391	Nil	—	Dr. 5,391
Dec. 1914...	10,936	5,646	4,721	569	6,305	Dr.5,736	Nil	-	Dr. 5,736
Sept. ,, ...	22,276	5,746	7,594	8,936	6,305	2,631	2	2,542	89
June ,, ...	20,458	5,799	7,160	7,499	6,305	1,194	5	6,354	Dr.5,160
Mar. ,, ...	17,994	5,827	5,798	6,369	6,305	64	5	6,354	Dr.6,290
Dec. 1913...	23,084	5,607	5,786	11,691	6,305	5,386	5	6,254	Dr. 967
Sept. ,, ...	38,450	5,614	8,828	24,008	6,305	17,703	5	6,354	11,349
June ,, ...	41,220	5,643	9,299	26,278	6,305	19,973	5	6,354	13,619
Mar. ,, ...	34,426	5,668	8,730	20,028	6,305	13,723	5	6,354	7,369
Dec. 1912...	35,182	5,678	9,422	20,082	6,305	13,777	5	6,354	7,423

* Equal to a quarterly dividend at the rate of 14¼% per annum.

The amount of unfilled orders on hand at the end of September had risen to 5,318,000 tons, against 4,908,000 tons a month before, and only 4,162,000 tons as recently as April 30 last. Further increase is anticipated to be shown at the end of this month, but these figures are only a partial indication of the busy times that are ahead for the Corporation. A good barometer of the change that has come over the iron and steel trades of late is the *Iron Age's* compilation of the production of pig iron, which shows that for September the output was 2,853,000 tons, against only 1,600,000 tons for January last. The daily rate of output in September was 95,085 tons, an unprecedentedly high figure, which compares with the previous highest of 92,369 tons recorded for February 1913.

For the remainder of this year the rate of earnings is likely to be higher than for September, and estimates of net earnings for the quarter, amounting to $50,000,000, have been put forward. But, even assuming the level of earnings is no higher than in September, the net earnings for the whole of 1915 will amount to about $120,000,000, and the profit available for the Common will be about $41,000,000, a sum equal to over 8% on the stock. Even if the rate of net earnings secured for September is not improved upon in the coming year, the net profit would be equal to about 17% on the stock. In view of such results, it may reasonably be expected that dividends will be resumed in the not distant future. How our estimated results for the year 1915 compare with those for the past four years on the assumption that net earnings for each of the last three months of this year are no better than those for September, will be evident from the appended statement:—

Annual Results of U. S. Steel Corporation.

	1915*	1914	1913	1912	1911
	$	$	$	$	$
Net earnings ...	120,500,000	71,664,000	137,181,000	108,175,000	1[illegible],000
Interest ...	22,200,000	22,239,000	22,533,000	22,818,000	23,107,000
Sinking fund and depreciation	31,800,000	26,053,000	32,643,000	31,099,000	25,980,000
Surplus ...	66,500,000	23,372,000	82,005,000	54,258,000	55,218,000
7% on Pfrd. ...	25,200,000	25,220,000	25,220,000	25,220,000	25,220,000
Profit for Com.	41,300,000	Dr.1,848,000	56,785,000	29,038,000	29,998,000
= % on Com.	8.1%	Dr. [illegible]	11.2%	5.7%	5.9%
Div. on Common	?	15,249,000	25,415,000	25,415,000	25,415,000
Do. % ...		3%	5%	5%	5%
Surplus... ...	?	Dr. [illegible]	3,370,000	[illegible],000	4,583,000

* Estimated.

The 7% Preferred stock is quoted about 125, at which the yield afforded is nearly 6%. A considerable advance in the price of the Common has accompanied the improvement in results, and, whereas early in the year the quotation was as low as 40, it is now about 91½.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY

LAST week we gave a cursory survey of the results secured by the Buenos Ayres Western Railway Company in the twelve months to June last. But the position undoubtedly merits a more careful analysis than we were then able to give it, and we make no apology for returning to the subject, especially in the light of Sir Henry Bell's illuminating speech at the meeting of the Company this week. In his address to the shareholders Sir Henry explained that never before in its history had the Company been confronted with such climatic conditions as were experienced last season, and coming as it did on top of a particularly rainy season in 1913-14 caused great havoc to the crops and did enormous damage to the Company's property. When to these internal misfortunes are added what may be termed the external troubles created by the War, the really excellent showing made by the Company is matter for congratulation and reflects great credit on the management in having safely steered the Company through a crisis of such unexampled severity. At first sight the increase of £30,500 in working expenses, notwithstanding the loss of £6,500 in gross receipts, is disappointing, but when it is remembered that the whole of the renewal outlays connected with the floods, amounting to £122,825, have been charged off against revenue, the position becomes much more satisfactory. Eliminating these special outlays, the working expenses of the year are down £105,000 and the ratio to gross receipts comes out at only 54%, as against 58.82% in 1913-14. In some respects the Company has been fortunate, especially in the matter of coal, which actually cost £10,000 less than in the previous year. This is partly due to a reduction of 4.6% in train mileage, and partly to the Company's good fortune in having its bunkers full prior to the advance in prices. The high freights now ruling will tell heavily against the Company this year. When expenses were

reduced and where increased will be seen from the tables appended:—

Working Expenses, B.A. Western Railway.

Year to June 30	Maintenance of Way	Maintenance of Equipment	Cost of Transportation	General Charges	Miscellaneous	Total Expenses
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915...	218,749	231,839	760,982	109,955	183,759*	1,505,284
1914...	268,267	222,944	807,820	117,689	71,032	1,487,752
1913...	342,998	282,690	841,756	112,711	79,380	1,659,515
1912...	194,110	209,080	741,258	118,714	76,366	1,339,517
1911...	275,981	253,577	686,214	109,655	66,891	1,392,318
1910...	244,372	262,525	626,834	95,594	72,892	1,300,317
1909...	292,325	207,278	631,416	84,792	53,802	1,269,613
1908...	281,219	175,044	625,592	83,463	49,051	1,214,569
1907...	352,761	116,531	557,700	75,447	20,139	1,122,578
1906...	305,248	122,626	426,989	67,031	19,560	940,554

Ratios of Expenses to Gross Receipts.

	%	%	%	%	%	%
1915...	8·67	9·19	30·16	4·36	7·29*	59·67
1914...	10·61	8·81	31·94	4·65	2·81	58·82
1913...	11·80	9·73	28·97	3·88	2·73	57·11
1912...	8·00	8·61	30·56	4·90	3·15	55·22
1911...	10·48	9·62	26·06	4·16	2·54	52·86
1910...	10·62	11·41	27·25	4·07	3·17	56·52
1909...	12·73	9·02	27·50	3·69	2·34	55·28
1908...	12·75	7·94	28·38	3·78	2·23	55·08
1907...	17·67	5·85	27·94	3·78	1·01	56·25
1906...	17·14	6·89	23·93	3·77	1·10	52·83

* Including £122,825 extraordinary flood repairs.

Included in the above maintenance expenses is a sum of £88,792 in respect of special renewals. This is nearly £78,000 smaller than the allocations made in 1913-14, but if allowance is made for the charge of £122,825 for extraordinary flood repairs the total appropriation from revenue in respect of renewals is well above the average of recent years. This will be seen from the following statement:—

Renewal Outlays Charged to Expenses.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11
	£	£	£	£	£
Perm. way & works	58,224	97,650	139,633	31,218	137,430
Locomotives ...	7,857	15,243	22,200	6,074	28,743
Carriages	5,515	8,429	11,362	2,913	13,185
Waggons	17,196	24,980	34,171	8,652	38,833
Total	88,792	146,302	207,366	48,857	218,191
% of gross receipts	3·52%	5·80%	7·14%	2·01%	8·28%

The decreases in earnings were chiefly in passenger and general goods traffic. The passenger receipts were reduced by nearly £80,000, mainly on long-distance through booking. The General Manager in his report states that this heavy shrinkage is due to the abnormal conditions prevailing, and also, as has happened elsewhere, to the effects of electric-tramway competition. It is hoped, however, when the Company's electrification scheme is completed and conditions have settled down again, to more than recover the loss in this direction, whilst, with a quick and efficient service, it is anticipated that residents will be attracted to the suburbs and the traffic greatly increased. Parcels, luggage, &c., are naturally affected by the movement of passengers, and consequently show a somewhat heavy decline. The falling off in the coaching traffic in the past twelve months will be seen from the table appended:—

Coaching Traffic.

Year	Passengers	Receipts	Luggage, Parcels, &c.	Total Coaching Receipts
	No.	£	£	£
1914–15	8,830,106	615,023	266,671	881,694
1913–14	11,955,684	694,937	287,728	982,665
1912–13	11,462,842	744,222	276,235	1,020,457
1911–12	9,572,758	670,640	243,756	914,396
1910–11	9,072,163	653,673	242,650	896,323
1909–10	7,489,501	603,396	221,077	824,473
1908–09	6,573,425	559,238	191,786	751,024
1907–08	6,012,250	520,077	172,917	692,994
1906–07	4,873,701	470,497	157,374	627,871
1905–06	3,694,321	402,829	133,639	536,468

The total goods traffic increased about £51,000, but with the exception of wheat the movement of grain was smaller. Wheat was late in coming to maturity, and so escaped damage from the frosts at the beginning of November. The crop was, however, considerably short of what it would have been under normal climatic conditions. Maize, oats, and linseed all show decreases, and the traffic in general goods, which reflects pretty accurately the condition of trade in the Company's district, was smaller by nearly 70,000 tons and produced £31,000 less revenue. The live-stock business was particularly brisk, by reason of the large demand and favourable prices, and with the exception of sheep, which were adversely affected by the floods, substantial increases are shown under all heads. The nature of the freight traffic and the revenue derived therefrom in each of the last three years will be seen from the following:—

Freight Traffic, B.A. Western Railway.

	Quantity			Receipts		
Goods.	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13
	Tons	Tons	Tons	£	£	£
Wheat	785,995	657,160	896,259	426,730	326,808	453,298
Maize	428,522	511,702	796,921	149,549	173,070	284,827
Hay	162,507	156,102	144,396	81,121	74,251	71,807
Oats	59,100	78,918	196,904	27,744	32,340	88,021
Wool	13,506	11,359	11,708	36,716	28,518	27,795
Flour	50,090	51,593	48,074	24,760	24,916	22,870
Linseed	32,456	45,940	35,917	14,526	17,591	13,862
Hides, skins ...	6,523	6,440	8,869	15,762	15,089	19,024
Stone, bricks ...	27,205	64,477	64,011	5,894	8,772	10,048
Fencing posts ...	12,896	15,723	20,824	7,580	8,829	11,216
Bran	15,427	15,326	20,203	6,714	6,547	8,426
Barley	16,723	15,127	10,482	7,300	5,258	3,985
General goods ...	478,025	545,449	641,447	402,010	433,591	513,423
Total goods ...	2,089,975	2,175,316	2,896,015	1,206,406	1,155,580	1,528,602
Live Stock.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
Cattle	2,060,263	1,832,345	1,746,351	341,414	305,282	273,786
Sheep	4,720,350	5,134,277	5,483,544	66,379	68,461	66,881
Horses	43,460	21,141	26,813	13,904	8,916	10,573
Pigs	194,794	125,566	89,137	12,885	8,274	5,709
Total live stock	7,018,867	7,113,329	7,345,845	434,582	390,933	356,949

The net result of the year's operations is a loss of profit amounting to £104,000, and the divisible surplus, apart from the balance brought forward, is about £153,000 short of the sum needed to pay the dividend of 5%. It will be appreciated, however, that but for the unfortunate and unprecedented damage by floods, the cost of which has been entirely met out of revenue, the 5% dividend would have been practically earned. Indeed, if we reckon as profit the betterment outlays charged to expenses, and ignore the extraordinary outlay of nearly £123,000 for repairing flood damage, the real profit-earning capacity of the Company last year was equal to nearly 6% on the share capital, certainly a satisfactory state of affairs having regard to the abnormal conditions prevailing. The transfer of £160,000 from reserve in order to equalise profits merely means that the Company is meeting the exceptional cost of flood repairs, &c., out of accumulated profits, a policy which in the circumstances is fully justified, the fund having been built up in good years for the express purpose of helping matters through in less prosperous times. The income statement of the Company for the last four years is set out beneath:—

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	2,522,782	2,529,178	2,906,008	2,425,682
Expenses	1,505,284	1,487,752	1,659,515	1,339,517
Ratio	(59·67)	(58·82)	(57·11)	(55·22)
Net earnings	1,017,398	1,041,426	1,246,493	1,086,165
Miscellaneous income ...	209,464	194,530	227,285	182,937
Total net income	1,226,862	1,235,956	1,473,778	1,269,102
First charges, bonds, Debentures, &c.	464,598	369,376	347,498	345,550
Net profit for Preference	762,264	866,580	1,126,280	923,552
Div. on 5% Preference ...	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Balance	747,264	851,580	1,111,280	908,552
Div. on 4½% Preference ...	114,855	114,855	114,855	114,855
Balance	632,409	736,725	996,425	793,697
Div. on 4% Exten. shares	144,000	144,000	224,000	175,597
Net profit for Ordinary ...	488,409	592,725	772,425	618,100
Dividend on Ordinary ...	641,558	670,771	794,925	659,592
Per cent.	(5%)	(5%)	(7%)	(7%)
Balance	Dr.153,149	Dr. 78,046	Dr. 22,500	Dr. 41,492
Brought forward ...	47,060	125,105	147,605	189,097
Balance	Dr. 106,089	Dr. 47,059	Dr. 125,105	Dr. 147,605
From reserve fund ...	160,000	—	—	—
Carried forward	53,911	47,059	125,105	147,605

Moreover, the financial position of the undertaking is one of the strongest. According to the last balance-sheet the Company had cash in hand and at the bank in London £674,691, cash in hand and at the banks in Buenos Ayres £57,600, bills receivable £770,000, remittances in transit £70,000, and annuities accrued (which are as good as cash) £35,966—a total of £1,618,255—all liquid assets of the highest class; added to which the reserve and renewal funds still amount to the large total of £1,700,000. With such a strong position there is no doubt that the Company will get through the present trying period with comparative ease, and will, when the War is over and world conditions again become normal, regain its former position of being one of the most progressive and prosperous railways in the Republic.

To show the strong position of the Company prior to the set-back which commenced in 1913, we give herewith a retrospect of the main results of working since 1902-03:—

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.

Year to June 30	Miles Open	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings	Net Profit for Ordinary	Dividend
	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
1914-15	1,867	2,522,000	1,505,000	59·67	1,017,000	488,000	5
1913-14	1,792	2,529,000	1,488,000	58·82	1,041,000	593,000	5
1912-13	1,781	2,906,000	1,660,000	57·11	1,246,000	772,000	7
1911-12	1,659	2,425,000	1,339,000	55·22	1,086,000	618,000	7
1910-11	1,586	2,634,000	1,392,000	52·86	1,242,000	866,000	7½
1909-10	1,365	2,300,000	1,300,000	56·52	1,000,000	670,000	7
1908-09	1,305	2,297,000	1,270,000	55·28	1,027,000	741,000	7
1907-08	1,219	2,205,000	1,214,000	55·08	991,000	741,000	7
1906-07	1,111	1,995,000	1,122,000	56·25	873,000	668,000	7
1905-06	966	1,780,000	940,000	52·83	840,000	689,000	7
1904-05	966	1,514,000	732,000	48·33	782,000	637,000	7
1903-04	816	1,355,000	667,000	49·16	718,000	593,000	7
1902-03	732	1,180,000	562,000	47·63	618,000	495,000	7

With regard to the immediate future the prospects are likewise very encouraging. As already announced, the Argentine railway companies have recently increased their rates by 10% in order to recoup themselves for the constantly growing municipal and other charges at the same time that profits are declining, and consequently since October 1 the Buenos Ayres Western has been collecting these increased rates on some of its principal goods tariffs and on its long-distance first-class passenger fares. This will help it considerably in the current year, and will probably more than offset the increased price of coal which now has to be faced. The crops, too, are shaping well. The following cable from the General Manager was read at the meeting:—

"Recent rains have greatly improved prospects; wheat crop promises well, area estimated 15% more than last year, probable yield in south of Pampa said to have been affected somewhat by drought. Oats seriously affected by drought in Pampa, and only medium crop expected in province of Buenos Ayres, but this item is not of great importance to us. Ploughing and sowing for maize crop progressing favourably. Thus far no locusts have appeared in our districts. Rains have benefited conditions of camps and stock. Outlook as far as can be gauged at present satisfactory."

Since the beginning of July the earnings of the line have increased £124,000, which not only wipes out last year's losses in the same period, but raises the receipts to date to over £4,000 more than those of the corresponding period two years ago. To show the improvement in earnings so far this year and the meagre traffics with which comparison will continue to be made in the next few months, we give the following table:—

Course of Traffic Receipts since July 1, 1912.

Months	Crops Carried	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
		£	£	£	£
July	Maize	147,000	147,000	177,000	182,000
August	,,	164,000	164,000	216,000	187,000
September ...	,,	163,000	143,000	141,000	259,000
3 months ...	,,	534,000	457,000	534,000	628,000
October	,,	189,000	142,000	185,000	200,000
November	,,		226,000	244,000	210,000
December ...	Maize		271,000	211,000	302,000
6 months ...			1,036,000	1,174,000	1,340,000
January	,,		221,000	267,000	233,000
February	,,		243,000	241,000	261,000
March	,,		296,000	220,000	338,000
9 months ...			1,796,000	1,898,000	2,172,000
April	,,		236,000	180,000	269,000
May	Maize		291,000	204,000	218,000
June	,,		226,000	247,000	247,000
12 months ...			2,549,000	2,529,000	2,906,000

The Debenture bonds of the Company are well-secured investments and may be safely commended to the most prudent. The 5% Mortgage bonds of the Western Railway of Buenos Ayres can be bought to yield over £5, allowing for redemption at par in 1925, whilst the 4% Debenture stock and 5% Terminable Debentures; the latter also redeemable in 1925, give yields of well over £5 per cent., and are consequently distinctly attractive investments. The two Preference issues are quite safe purchases, giving a relatively high return at the present time, and are worth attention. The price of the Ordinary stock has further risen to 83½, and on a 5% dividend basis the yield afforded is still as much as £6 3*s.* 5*d.* per cent. The capital of the undertaking is as follows:—

Name	Amount	Dividend	Price	Yield
	£		£	£ *s.* *d.*
Western Ry. of Buenos Ayres 5% Mort. bonds, redeemable 1925	1,000,000	5	100	5 1 4*
4% Debenture stock	7,872,203	4	76½	5 2 11
5% Terminable Debs. (1925) ...	1,000,000	5	100½	5 1 4*
5% Preference (£10)	300,000	5	84½	5 18 8
4½% Preference (£10)	2,552,340	4½	87½	5 12 2
Ordinary stock	17,347,660	5	83½	6 3 5
	30,072,203			

(*) Allowing for redemption at par in 1925.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.

As would naturally be expected, this well-known group of hotels has not experienced a very prosperous time during the twelve months to June 30, 1915. In particular the War has had an adverse effect on the business of the London hotels, both on the ordinary hotel work and also on the number of banquets, receptions, dances, &c., at the Wharncliffe Rooms. Not only has the spending-power of the public generally, and perhaps especially hotel *habitués*, been largely diminished, but doubtless the various air raids have engendered a certain amount of nervousness both in the people who ordinarily live in London, and who are in the habit of spending liberally on hotel life, but also on visitors who ordinarily come up to town and patronise hotels, but who have in consequence of the raids preferred to take their patronage elsewhere. Only two of the hotels controlled by this Company are in London, and the other hotels have done good business. The Company also owns the Hotel Bristol at Beaulieu, and this was taken over by the French Government on the outbreak of war, so that no business has been possible there during the year under review. No payment has yet been received from the French Government, "although negotiations which have taken place lead the directors to believe that a substantial sum will be paid for the accommodation." In the circumstances, however, the directors have thought it best not to include in the accounts any sum in respect of this hotel.

The hotels belonging to the Company consist of the Great Central and the Russell in London, to the former of which are attached the Wharncliffe Rooms and the refreshment rooms of Marylebone Station, together with the Hôtel Majestic at Harrogate, the Royal Pavilion Hotel at Folkestone, the Hôtel Bur-

lington at Dover, the Sackville Hotel at Bexhill-on-Sea, the Hôtel Métropole at Whitby, and the Hôtel Bristol, Beaulieu. When the Company was formed only four hotels were in working order, the Hôtel Russell and the Hôtel Majestic not being completed, while the Sackville Hotel was in process of having extensions made. It was anticipated that when all the hotels were in working order the Ordinary shares would receive a substantial dividend. The whole of these shares were taken by the vendors in part payment of the purchase price. The dividend on the Preference shares was guaranteed by the vendors, and under their guarantee they had to provide over £36,000 for the purpose, while in addition the vendors bore the advertising expenses for the year ended June 30, 1902. The profits made by the Company, however, continued to be small in proportion to the capital, and the distribution policy was scarcely of a conservative enough character, so that finally it became necessary to write off a portion of the share capital, and 12*s.* 6*d.* per share was written off from both the Preferred Ordinary and the Deferred Ordinary shares, reducing each class to the denomination of 7*s.* 6*d.* Subsequently both classes of Ordinary shares were consolidated into one. It may be recalled that beyond the provision that is made for repairs and maintenance apparently no specific provision has yet been made for depreciation beyond writing down the capital, which enabled a sum of £343,750 to be writen off the assets.

The business done during the past year has amounted to £281,794, as compared with £337,922. After adding interest and transfer fees there is a total of £283,030, as compared with £339,549. Some slight saving has been effected in the expenditure, which has fallen from £270,044 to £229,106.

In the following table we set out the income and expenditure for each year since its formation:—

Income.

Year ended June 30	Business done	Interest	Transfer Fees	Total
	£	£	£	£
1915	281,794	1,226	10	283,030
1914	337,922	1,586	41	339,549
1913	346,415	2,138	27	348,580
1912	328,725	1,344	26	330,095
1911	319,715	1,238	19	320,972
1910	302,928	1,201	18	304,147
1909	316,268	1,165	28	317,461
1908	317,289	1,903	23	319,215
1907	348,953	2,024	28	351,005
1906	334,830	1,228	28	336,084
1905	321,103	572	25	321,700
1904	321,815	612	28	322,455
1903	322,617	568	46	323,231
1902	313,798	823	52	314,673
1901	319,952	1,267	56	321,275
1900	183,501	2,284	49	185,834

Expenditure.

Year ended June 30	Wines, Provisions, &c., Consumed	Working Expenses	Repairs and Maintenance	Legal Charges, &c.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
1915	205,436		16,646	7,024	229,106
1914	234,415		27,596	8,033	270,044
1913	238,781		26,606	6,540	271,927
1912	226,992		30,022	7,479	264,493
1911	222,538		24,549	6,631	253,718
1910	210,283		22,871	6,152	239,306
1909	110,176	106,137	21,266	6,398	243,977
1908	109,602	107,354	21,000	5,854	243,810
1907	121,900	112,409	24,309	8,669	267,287
1906	113,773	107,244	23,987	8,022	253,026
1905	114,934	107,553	28,339	5,306	256,132
1904	117,825	110,531	20,880	5,671	254,908
1903	121,417	112,601	16,307	5,041	255,366
1902	123,055	121,825		7,039	251,919
1901	127,995	134,615		4,157	266,767
1900	84,040	69,916		563	154,519

After providing for Debenture interest, which calls for £37,155, there is a balance of £16,769 only, as compared with £31,906. Consequently it is not possible to provide for the full Preferred dividend, and the Company is only able to pay a six months' dividend, covering the half-year to December 31, 1914. There then remains a balance of £3,019, which is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £22,548.

A comparison of the manner of dividing the profits for the last five years is given below:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
	£	£	£	£	£
Total income as above ...	283,030	339,549	348,580	330,095	320,972
Total expenses as above ...	229,106	270,044	271,927	264,493	253,718
	53,924	69,506	76,653	65,602	67,254
Amortisation of leaseholds	—	—	544	669	669
	53,924	69,505	76,109	64,933	66,585
Debenture interest, 4 % ...	37,155	37,599	36,257	36,000	36,000
	16,769	31,906	39,852	28,933	30,585
Preference dividend, 5½ %	13,750*	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500
	3,019	4,406	12,352	1,433	3,085
Ordinary div., 2½ % ...	—	—	5,156	Nil	Nil
	3,019	4,406	7,196	1,433	3,085
To reserve	—	—	Nil	Nil	500
	3,019	4,406	7,196	1,433	2,585
Brought forward	19,529	15,123	7,927	6,494	3,909
Carried forward	22,548	19,529	15,123	7,927	6,494

* Half-year to December 1914.

The total share capital issued is £706,250. In addition there is an issue of £900,000 of Debenture stock, £23,174 of which is held by the Company and included in its investments. There is also a mortgage on Hotel Russell of £30,000. The reserve fund is £20,000. The total assets are valued at £1,725,823, of which the property, goodwill, &c., stand at £1,643,342. We set out herewith a summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital... ...	706,250	Property, goodwill, &c. ...	1,643,342
4% 1st Mort. Debentures ...	900,000	Stocks and sundry debtors...	45,159
Mortgage	30,000	Investments	20,629
Reserve fund	20,000	Cash	16,693
Sundry creditors	47,024		
Profit and loss	22,549		
	1,725,823		1,725,823

The outlook is not, of course, of the best. Business will continue to be adversely affected by war conditions, and the Company must suffer considerably by the very large rise that has occurred in working costs by reason of enhanced prices for provisions, fuel, labour, &c. And altogether the resumption of even the Preferred dividend seems fairly remote.

We recapitulate herewith the capital, prices, distributions, and yields afforded at recent quotations:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Dividend	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
900,000	4% 1st Mt. Perp. Deb. stock ...	100	51⅛	4	7 17 8
500,000	5½% Cum. Pref.	10	5⅛	5½	9 11 3
206,250	Ordinary shares	7/6	—	—	—

PALMER'S SHIPBUILDING AND IRON COMPANY.

THE report of this well-known Company for the year to June 30, 1915, is the fiftieth, so that the Company has attained its jubilee. The late Sir Charles Palmer founded the original firm as far back as 1851, and in 1865 the business was converted into a limited liability company, Sir Charles occupying the position of Chairman until he retired in 1893.

The results secured during the past twelve months are distinctly satisfactory, the profits being the largest for many years past. Included therein are profits accrued on work in progress to June 30 last, which have been estimated, the reason for the inclusion being that the Company has been declared a Controlled Establishment under the Munitions of War Act, 1915, as from July 12 last, involving the transfer of excess profits to the Government from that date.

The good results secured are all the more satisfactory as they come after a series of bad years. For the twelve months to June 1908 a somewhat disastrous result was shown by this Company, and, after payment of Debenture interest, there was a loss of £58,631. The unfavourable result was due partly to trade depression and partly to labour disputes and strikes of the workmen, which resulted in a paralysis

in business in all departments. For the following year a further loss of £79,653 was reported, due to similar causes, and to taking unremunerative contracts in the shipbuilding and engineering departments. Then ensued a turn in the tide, and for the twelve months to June 1910, before providing for Debenture interest, there was shown a profit of £12,552. After deduction of interest charges, therefore, the deficit brought the total debit balance of profit-and-loss account to £138,734. For the year to June 1911 there was a profit, after providing for interest charges, of £41,901, which was devoted to reducing the debit balance. During the year to June 1912 there occurred the coalminers' strike and the railway strike, both of which had a serious effect on the business, and the result was that the trading profit was only £660, and the debit balance was increased by £31,581 to £128,414. A further improvement occurred during the year to June 1913, and the net result was that the debit balance was reduced by £2,267. The Company's career has been varied and not altogether prosperous, for a similar bad time was experienced during the eight years to 1897. But from 1898 to 1907 the Company was fairly prosperous. Since then, as already indicated, chiefly owing to labour disputes, the position has been far from satisfactory.

Thus since 1908 it has not been found possible to distribute any dividend either on the Preference or Ordinary capital. And as a matter of fact, owing to an agreement entered into with Prior Lien Debenture holders when the Debentures were created, no dividend is to be paid on either class of shares until the Prior Lien Debentures are repaid, though the Company has now a balance to the credit of profit-and-loss account sufficient to pay 6% on the total issued share capital.

The profits for the year have amounted to £131,887, as compared with £96,644 for the previous year. Debenture and loan interest have absorbed £28,064, leaving a balance of £103,823. As there was a debit balance of £61,051 brought forward from 1914 the Company is able to show a credit balance carried forward—for the first time since 1907—of £42,772.

The following shows the profits made for each of the last six years, and the distribution of the same:—

Year ended June 30	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Profits	131,887	96,644	34,262	660	66,346	12,552
Debenture and loan interest ...	28,064	31,548	33,995	32,241	24,445	23,906
	103,823	65,096	2,267	−31,581	41,901	−11,354
Preference dividend	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ordinary dividend	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	103,823	65,096	2,267	−31,581	41,901	−11,354
Brought forward	−61,051	−126,147	−128,414	−96,833	−138,734	−127,380
Carried forward...	42,772	−61,051	−126,147	−128,414	−96,833	−138,734

The Company is a builder of war-vessels, and can tackle the largest ship required. Moreover, the engine works have been placed on the Admiralty list for building turbines of the highest power. The Company first of all leased the Hebburn works of Robert Stevenson & Company, Limited, and subsequently exercised an option of purchase, thereby securing control of another important shipyard, boiler-shop, and foundry, together with the largest graving dock on the river Tyne. And, in spite of the bad times through which it has been passing, it has built several new shops and acquired subsidiary plants, in order to meet Admiralty requirements. It is very largely self-contained, as may be seen from the following extract from a speech of the late Chairman: "Here we begin with the crude ore, smelting it in our own blast-furnaces, transforming it again into finished steel, and so on to the completed ship. Forges, foundries, boiler-shops, engine-works, galvanising-works, plumbers' manufacturing shop, and various other subsidiary manufactures completely are at our own command, and available for our own purposes independently of the delays and uncertainties which so often arise in other instances. Two very valuable graving docks—including the largest dock on the East Coast—give the perfection of finish to our equipment. Palmers has seen great days, and your board's energies have been earnestly applied to preparing the way for even greater. You already have results which indicate the wisdom of the policy we have adopted."

At the annual meeting last year it was announced that a scheme of modernising the Iron and Steel Works was under consideration and negotiation. This has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The contemplated arrangements are being carried out, and the first deliveries of the new plant are on the ground. Since June 30 Prior Lien Debentures, amounting to £250,000, have been created and issued as security for a similar amount of cash, which is being advanced as required.

To indicate the position as at June 30 last we give the following summary of the liabilities and assets:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	698,564	Lands, bldgs., plant, &c. ...	[illegible]
Debenture stock	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Working reserve ...	14,939	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	1,671,588		1,671,588

It is distinctly satisfactory that the Company is once more able to carry forward a credit balance. And taking into consideration the fact that the Iron and Steel Works are being modernised, and that the Company is in possession of sufficient funds to carry out the important scheme, it will be evident that its general outlook is quite good, and it may fairly be anticipated that the jubilee report is but the harbinger of other good reports in the future. At present all departments are fully occupied—as indeed has been the case throughout the past twelve months—and there are sufficient orders in hand to keep the works well employed for some time to come. And as, in addition, the Company is a Controlled Establishment, it may be assumed that Government orders will enable it to be very busy right throughout the duration of the War. Hence good profits may be looked for, and the future seems bright.

The capital and prices may be seen from the following:—

Amount	Description			Par	Price	Int.
£				£	£	%
350,000	5%	Debenture stock		100	78	"
134,700	6%	"A" Debentures ...	...	100		6
200,000	5%	Preference ...	...	1	1	Nil
197,569	Ordinary			1	[illegible]	Nil

BOVRIL, LIMITED.

Owing to a heavy rise in the cost of raw materials the year 1913 showed a fairly substantial reduction in profits for this Company, the reduction occurring after a series of increases in profits for some years previously. For 1914 the profits have taken an upward turn once more, showing an increase of £20,000 over those for 1913—a satisfactory result, though it does not bring the figures up to the high level touched for 1911 and 1912. The sales for the year, excluding Government orders, have exceeded all previous records. On the other hand, the high cost of raw materials has continued, and a reduction of £10,000 has occurred in the dividend received on the holding in a subsidiary company. The net result is that the divisible profit is some £18,000 better than it was twelve months ago, and in consequence the Deferred shares receive a dividend of 2½ per cent., as compared with 2 per cent. distributed for 1913. Naturally, in one direction the Company has experienced benefit from the outbreak of war, inasmuch as it received very large Government orders for supplies; not only so, but during the early stages of the war especially private demands were also exceptional. But against the increase in orders there has to be placed heavier expenses, such as insurance and freight rates, this affecting the Company in two ways, both on the raw materials which are imported and the finished article which is exported. Altogether, therefore, it will be

realised that with nearly half the year affected by war conditions the result must be considered satisfactory. The profits available are sufficient to provide for a distribution of 4½ per cent. on the Deferred Ordinary shares, but it will be agreed that the board have acted discreetly in restricting the distribution to 2½ per cent. and carrying the sum of £17,500 to reserve.

In the following table we give a comparison of the division of profits for each of the past six years:—

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profits ...	504,186	284,234	554,905	343,455	286,556	288,626
Transfer fees, interest, &c.	27,668	35,252	4,660	2,279	3,088	1,483
	331,854	319,486	359,565	345,734	289,643	290,109
Sundry expenses, &c.	191,997	197,211	198,671	193,727	171,587	164,072
Depreciation ...	2,273	2,462	2,603	3,684	3,311	3,460
Ded., interest (4½ %)	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
Pref. div. (5½ %) ...	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500
Ordinary div. (7 %)	52,500	52,500	52,500	52,500	52,500	52,500
Balance	35,084	17,313	55,791	45,823	22,245	20,077
Deferred dividend...	20,312	15,000	27,781	22,500	15,000	15,000
	(2½%)	(2%)	(6½%)	(3%)	(2%)	(2%)
	14,772	2,313	28,010	23,323	7,245	5,077
To reserve	17,500	10,000	27,500	22,500	7,500	7,500
	−2,728	−7,687	510	823	−255	−2,423
Brought forward ...	5,637	13,324	12,814	11,991	12,246	14,669
Carried forward ...	2,909	5,637	13,324	12,814	11,991	12,246

The reserve fund is now brought up to £267,500, which, though substantial, is not too large when it is considered that the total share and loan capital in issue is £2,500,000, out of total assets valued at the end of 1914 at £2,999,142. The largest item consists of "goodwill, trade-marks, freehold and leasehold properties, and interests in associated companies, &c.," standing at £2,485,126. We have previously drawn attention to the desirability of splitting this item, and we would once more point out that it would be well that shareholders and investors generally should know the value assigned to goodwill and trade-marks, and also be able to differentiate between the value of the properties and the interests in associated companies. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets at the end of last year:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued Capital:		Goodwill, trade marks, &c.	2,485,126
5½% Cum. Pref.... ...	500,000	Plant and office furniture	12,125
7% Cum. Ord.	750,000	Stock of raw materials ...	278,142
Deferred shares	750,000	Stock of advertising material on hand	4,472
Debenture stock, 4½% ...	500,000	Cash in hand	42,350
Creditors for loans... ...	69,000	Trade debtors	176,926
Trade and sundry creditors	96,758		
Reserve	250,000		
Reserve for doubtful debts, &c.	4,162		
Profit and Loss	88,221		
	2,999,141		2,999,141

There is no doubt that the Company in the current year will secure larger sales than ever before in its history. The Government orders alone will, without doubt, be on a considerable scale, and, consequently, the gross takings of the Company should prove a record in its history. It can scarcely be expected, however, that a corresponding increase will be secured in net profits. We have already referred to the increase that has taken place in working expenses, and there are practically no signs of any reduction in the cost of raw materials. On the whole, however, better results should be shown, and it is not at all improbable that net profits will recover, at any rate, to the 1912 increase figures. There is thus a fair probability of a further increase in the Deferred dividend for the current year. The Debenture stock may be obtained at about 86¾, giving a yield of £5 3*s*. 9*d*. per cent. On the 5½% Preference shares the yield afforded is about 5⅝ per cent. On the Cumulative Ordinary shares the yield is £6 16*s*. 7*d*. per cent., while the Deferred shares on a 2½ per cent. basis return about £7 8*s*. 2*d*. per cent., as may be seen from the following:—

Amount	Description.	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ *s*. *d*.
500,000	4½% Debenture stock	100	86¾×1	4½	5 3 9
500,000	5½% Cum. Preference	1	20/6	5½	5 7 4
750,000	7% Cum. Ordinary	1	20 6	7	6 16 7
750,000	Deferred shares...	1	6 9	2½	7 8 2

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Insurance Notes.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT AND QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION.

LIVERPOOL has reason to be proud of its insurance companies. They are few in number, but their operations are vast, and they are very select in character. Perhaps the most conspicuous feature about them is the consistent carefulness of their finance. The history of the Royal Insurance Company provides one of the finest illustrations of this characteristic. The Company was founded seventy years ago, and its record, save in isolated years when historic conflagrations have occurred, has been one of ever-increasing strength. The dividend policy has been ultra-conservative. Never has the dividend been increased until, so far as could be possibly foreseen, the increase could be maintained in permanence. Never in any year, except in early instances where quinquennial life profits were distributed in a lump sum instead of being annually apportioned over the succeeding quinquennium, has the distribution to shareholders been less than in any previous year. In prosperous years the reserves have been increased, and in bad years exceptional losses have been easily provided from these sources. Thus in 1906 the Company disbursed about one and a quarter millions sterling in settlement of its losses from the San Francisco disaster, by far the largest sum of the kind in the annals of British fire insurance, with promptitude and without question, and in a short time thereafter the Company's reserves were even stronger than they had been before that occurrence. The Company has for many years past taken the lead as a fire insurance company, and it holds a high position in life, accident, and marine insurance. Its subscribed capital amounts to £2,944,680, of which £441,702 is paid up in shares of £10 each, with £1 10*s*. paid. There is also an issue of 4% Debenture stock, made in 1909 on the purchase of the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, amounting on December 31, 1914, to £843,800. The dividend on the Ordinary shares in respect of 1914 is maintained at the rate of 28*s*. per share, as declared in the preceding year (93⅓% on the amount paid up), while an analysis of the account shows that a large proportion of the trading profits has been employed in providing against depreciation and strengthening reserves.

The Company's fire premium income in 1914, amounting to £4,124,063, showed a variation of only

a few hundred pounds from that of 1913, but the fire claims were increased by nearly £200,000. The fire trading profit transferred to profit and loss account was £252,782 (about 6.1% of the premiums), as compared with £462,904 in 1913, the specific fire fund being maintained at £3,300,000. The marine premiums (increased by £4,596) amounted to £684,364, and while £92,809 is transferred from this department to profit and loss account, the marine fund has been increased by £59,736 to £1,030,129.

The premium income in the various sections of the accident department amounted to £1,256,002 (personal accident, increased by £7,775, £108,125; employers' liability within the United Kingdom, increased by £8,380, £223,806; general insurance, relating to employers' liability out of the United Kingdom, fidelity guarantee, burglary, third party, and miscellaneous business, increased by £119,022, £924,071). From the employers' liability section a sum of £50,000 (to which interest earnings contributed £12,136) has been transferred to profit and loss, the surplus of income over outgo in the other sections being added to reserves. At the close of 1914, after this transfer, the relative funds stood as follows:—

Personal accident fund (exclusive of £16,930 reserved for outstanding claims)	**£61,973**
Employers' liability fund (exclusive of £136,000 reserved for outstanding claims)	**182,869**
General insurance fund	**493,185**

The sums transferred to profit and loss account from the fire, marine, and employers' liability account aggregate £395,591, of which £383,455 represents trading profits and £12,136 interest earnings. To this have to be added £278,544, representing net interest and dividends of £318,509 not departmentally credited, less £39,965 being income tax on profits, and also £130,000 representing shareholders' quinquennial life profits, as hereunder referred to, bringing up the total surplus from the operations dealt with in the profit and loss account for 1914 to £804,135, which has been disposed of as follows:—

In provision for full year's dividend at 28s. per share, less income tax	**£380,477**
In payment of interest on Debenture stock	**31,150**
In transfer to general contingencies fund (thereafter standing at £400,000)	**300,000**
In transfer to superannuation fund (thereafter standing at £139,028)	**25,000**
In addition to balance of profit and loss account carried forward	**67,508**
	£804,135

The balance in profit and loss account carried forward to 1915 amounts to £1,117,063, while the reserve fund is maintained at £1,600,000. These sums added to the fire fund aggregate £6,017,063, and as the other departmental funds may be assumed to be ample for the risks to which they are hypothecated, the excess of that sum over £1,649,625, which represents the estimate, at 40% of the relative premiums, for receiving off the unexpired fire risks under normal circumstances, may be looked on as the Company's special conflagration reserve, amounting to the magnificent figure of £4,367,438, exceeding in itself the whole fire premium income of 1914.

The actuary's report on the quinquennial valuation of the life policies accompanies the directors' report for 1914, and the figures relating to the life business as set forth and explained therein may now be alluded to.

During 1914 the Company's new life business amounted to £1,645,204 in sums assured, of which £72,858 was reassured, the net retention at its sole risk being £1,572,346, as compared with £1,753,891 in 1913. The total net life premium income, increased by £28,775, amounted to £836,349, of which expenses of all kinds, inclusive of commission, absorbed about 12.8%. Claims by death (increased by £55,507) amounted to £543,917, and claims by survivance to £178,954. The death claims included £25,000 arising from the War. The net interest yield on the life funds, after deduction of income tax, seems to have amounted to about £3 18*s.* 8*d.* per cent. Before transfer of £100,000 to general contingencies fund and the allocation of £130,000 as shareholders' quinquennial profits, the life assurance fund, increased by £355,735 through the year's operations, amounted to £10,885,580. The annuity account shows that a sum of £52,868 was received as consideration for new contracts, that securities of £70,459 were paid, and that the annuity fund was increased by £10,462 to £790,212. Capital redemption premiums, £8,703; relative fund, £44,974.

The quinquennial valuation, as in 1909, was made for assurance by the O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ tables in certain combinations, the rate of interest assumed for the accumulations in the assurance section being 3%. This basis was, however, strengthened in a number of ways, special reserves being set aside for various purposes, including one against further war claims. The annuity reserves were also strengthened. The total surplus disclosed by the valuation is £1,312,539, of which, as above stated, £130,000 is allocated to the shareholders' proportion and £100,000 is carried to the general contingencies account. The amount allocated to participating policyholders is £964,073, and £118,466 is carried forward as unappropriated. The reversionary bonus on participating policies is maintained at the same rate as for 45 years previously, viz., 30*s.*% per annum, which is a highly satisfactory result in view of the financial depression which has characterised the last quinquennium. The actuary reports as follows: "The divisible surplus has been entirely derived from favourable mortality, from the margin between loading and expenses, and from the excess of interest earned over the rate assumed. The Company has now declared the same rate of bonus unchanged, through many changing conditions, for a period of 50 years; and the policy of increasing the stringency of the reserves which has been steadily pursued by the directors has placed the life department in a position of great strength to meet whatever contingencies the future may have in store."

The total assets of the Company, as shown in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £22,685,829. The assets are reported as having been in the aggregate fully of the value stated, taking the Stock Exchange securities held at December 31, 1913, at or below the mean prices of that date (less accrued interest and dividends) and in the case of securities acquired since that date taking them at cost price or less than cost.

TWO CHEAP RUBBER SHARES.

In The Statist of October 9 we called attention to the shares of two young rubber companies which have reached the stage when rapid progress may be looked for in the matter of increase in output, profits and dividends. The market prices of the shares warranted the assumption that the purchaser could fairly safely anticipate a steady increase in the yield on his money, and substantial advance in the value of his capital. These two companies were the Bekoh and the Batang Malaka, and as shares offering such advantages at a reasonable price are difficult to find we are induced to give particulars of two additional young rubber producers, the Bandar (Sumatra) Rubber Company, the £1 shares of which have a market price of £1⅛, and the Cheviot, whose 2*s.* shares are at present quoted at 2*s.* 8*d.* Of course, a period of wait must ensue before the full reward is reaped, but both companies have commenced paying dividends, and there is present the great desideratum of a very low market capitalisation per planted acre in each case.

BANDAR SUMATRA.

The Bandar Company's rubber output is expanding substantially, as will be seen from the table given

below, and for the first two months of the current financial year its production has been 43,150 lb., or 11,540 lb. more than in the corresponding months of 1914. The report for the financial year ended July 31 will not be issued until next month, but meantime, on a conservative basis, assuming the rubber output reported of 204,512 lb. as being sold at 2*s.* 2½*d.* per lb.—a conservative figure probably—and estimating "all in" costs at 1*s.* 4*d.*, a profit in the region of £10,000 may be looked for. In addition revenue is obtained from coffee, which in the year 1913-14 brought in about £2,000. Consequently the declaration of a dividend of 10% for the year is not unlikely, and if this estimate is confirmed the yield of the shares at their present price would be about 9%. When the total *planted* acreage is in full bearing the crop should be quite 700,000 lb. annually, so that in future years dividends should show further substantial increase. So far only about 770 acres of the planted area of 2,585 acres have reached the tapping stage, but during the next two years a very large additional area will come into bearing. This is evident from the following statement showing the ages of the rubber plantations:—

	Acres		Acres
To 1906	182	1910	990
1907	247	1911	728
1908	238	1912	78
1909	102	1913	20
		Total	2,585

Concluding our remarks with the statement that the balance sheet of the Company at end of July 1914 showed over £10,000 of surplus liquid assets, we give the following table of particulars relating to capital, acreage, and past outputs, costs and profits:—

Bandar Sumatra.

Year ends July 31.

Issued capital			£91,250, in £1 shares
Market price, £1 shares			14
,, capitalisation			£100,050
Total acreage			3,727
Planted ,, ...			2,585
Market capitalisation per planted acre			£41
	1915	**1914**	**1913**
Output (lb.)	204,512	159,114	103,452
Per planted acre (lb.)	78	62	40
"All in" costs	1 1*	1 7	1 10 55
Net profit	£10,000*	£7,568	£3,557
Dividends	10%*	6%	6%

* Estimated.

CHEVIOT.

As to the Cheviot, this is a Malayan undertaking. For the current year to December 31 the rubber crop was officially expected to be 220,000 lb., against 213,685 lb. in 1914, but from the output to date it looks as if the 1915 production will be nearer 240,000 lb. The smallness of the increase is explained by the fact that practically the same acreage is being tapped this year as last. Next year, however, and thereafter, large additional areas will come into bearing, and future annual outputs should consequently increase rapidly. This will be evident from the following statement of the acreage planted with rubber yearly from 1906 to 1913:—

	Acres		Acres
1906	72.1	1911	402.9
1907	421.5	1912	549.1
1908	88.7	1913	548.2
1910	417.6		
		Total	2,500

So far only the 582 acres planted to 1908 have reached the tapping stage. Next year the 417 acres planted in 1910 should be in bearing, and so forth. The market capitalisation per planted acre is only £47 10*s.* For 1914 a net profit of £9,664 was earned, out of which a dividend of 7½% on the capital was paid, absorbing £6,630; £4,000 was transferred to reserve, and the carry-forward was reduced by £1,000 to £3,673. For the current year, having regard to the probability of a somewhat higher price being realised for the rubber, we estimate a net profit of £12,000, and this would permit of the dividend being increased to 10% and about £2,000 added to reserve. The directors may elect, however, to adopt a more cautious policy, inasmuch as capital expenditure on estate upkeep for the current year is estimated to be £7,745. On the other hand, the balance sheet at December 31, 1914, showed surplus liquid assets, after payment of the dividend, amounting to £9,470, and there is the prospect of a large increase in earnings next year, when the area tapped should be 1,000 acres instead of about 600 acres as at present. Eventually, when the whole of the 2,500 acres planted reach maximum production of, say, conservatively, 300 lb. per acre, the annual output should be quite 750,000 lb., which, at a profit of 1*s.* per pound, would give an annual net revenue of £37,000, equal to more than 40% on the issued capital. Details as to capital, acreage, past outputs, costs, and profits are given below:—

Cheviot.

Year ends December 31.

Issued capital			£88,412, in 2*s.* shares
Market price, 2*s.* shares			2*s.* 3*d.*
,, capitalisation			£118,216
Total acreage			3,034
Planted ,, ...			2,500
Market capitalisation per planted acre			£47½
	1915*	**1914**	**1913**
Output (lb.)	240,000†	213,685	156,138
,, Per planted acre (lb.) ...	96	85½	62½
Gross price realised (per lb.) ...	2/3	2/2	2 1 09
"All in" costs	1 2/1	1 1/47	1 10 36
Net profit	£12,500	£9,664	£3,060
Dividends	10%	7½%	Nil
Carried forward	£4,500	£3,673	£4,341

* Estimated. † Actual crop for nine months to September 30, 170,235 lb.

Correspondence.

TAXING CAPITAL.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—I ask you for a little space to protest against the article which appeared first in your last week's issue. So far from being desirable that capital should not be taxed, the true principle is that capital should be taxed heavily. It was all very well for the so-called orthodox economists in the early part of last century to fight against the taxation of capital, because they were either themselves actually engaged in business or they belonged to business families, and, moreover, they were engaged in fighting the landowners and the workpeople. But in the present day their argument will not hold water. There are two kinds of capital. The first is infinitely the larger and the more important. It consists of all the improvements made upon the land, of every kind of buildings upon the land whether for dwelling or business purposes, of railways and roads, of telephone and telegraph systems, of canals and harbours—in short, of everything that ministers to the ordinary work or comfort of the world. Now this vast amount of capital is, and always has been, taxed, and no man in his senses would propose that it should go tax free. But there is another kind of so-called capital. It consists of the present savings of the community—savings which are not yet invested, but which are being temporarily used, though they will be ultimately invested permanently. These savings really belong to Tom, Dick, and Harry—to every person, that is to say, who lives within his or her means and lays by a little for a rainy day. They are usually lodged, while waiting for investment, with bankers. Under the term "bankers" I include every person or body of persons who does any kind of banking business, from the Government down to the smallest loan office. This so-called capital is in real truth debt. You and I and our neighbours in general find it convenient to lodge whatever we save immediately with our bankers, for they render us important services. And the bankers use the money so temporarily lodged with them in lending and discounting. What sensible argument can be put forward to exempt bankers from paying tax upon moneys got so largely and so easily? There might be a colourable argument for excusing the persons who save the money. It might be said that saving is so important that it is worth while remitting taxation on money actually being saved but not yet invested. I do not agree with the argument

in the least, but it would be colourable. When it comes to the bankers it is simply nonsense. They pay either in actual interest or in services rendered for the loans they receive from their depositors, and they make a handsome profit on their employment of those loans. If they did not they would very soon give up deposit banking. In the name of commonsense, why should these gentlemen be allowed to pocket the whole of the profits, while you and I—the persons who have been saving it—are taxed? If there is any ground at all, as already said, for exemption—and I deny that there is—it is the actual persons who save who ought to be rewarded, not those who avail themselves of the savings of others to add to their own wealth. The banks have, it is true, a small amount of subscribed capital and of reserves. But the subscribed capital and the reserves are a mere bagatelle compared with the deposits. It is the deposits that give the banks the enormous influence they exercise, and the deposits do not belong to the banks. They are simply debts.

It is not capital, then, as Ricardo and interested persons like Ricardo have argued, that contributes materially to the prosperity of a country. It is, firstly, invention; secondly, hard work; and, thirdly, intelligence. As a matter of fact, the invested capital —what I may call the permanent investments of every country—are every now and then being destroyed for the express purpose of increasing the wealth of the community. When railways were introduced, for example, they destroyed an immense amount of capital. The whole business of the post roads was brought to an end, and all the inns upon the post roads were either shut up or deprived of most of their value. Before that, the introduction of machinery killed hand-loom weaving, and so ruined some of the most deserving of the population of the United Kingdom. And, if I were free to use more of your space, I could add indefinitely to the deliberate destruction of capital which is brought about every time a really great new invention is put into execution. Capital, then, has no sacred character; is not really of very great value; is a thing which it is often extremely desirable to destroy. I make bold to say that when this War is over, and the public have time to think of their real interests, a tax which would kill inefficient machinery would be one of the most beneficial taxes that could be imposed.

AN ECONOMIST OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

[Our correspondent has fallen into a very common error. He has mistaken banking deposits for savings. Banking deposits are merely the nation's pocket money designed to meet current outgoings, and are roughly sufficient for the nation's everyday expenditures for six months. Savings are reproductive expenditures, and the amount of these in this country is, roughly, ten times greater than the annual addition to bank deposits. It is, of course, necessary to increase bank deposits—the nation's pocket money—as the nation's income increases, but it is essential to increase the nation's machinery of production, which is done by applying income to purposes that will increase the nation's productive power. If the supply of savings—*i.e.* capital—for this purpose stops or is inadequate, then the nation's income ceases to expand or expands but slowly. It is of very great importance that nothing should be done to stop savings, for if it is then the power of the country to expand its income and to provide its population of all classes with greater incomes and spending power will also stop. The matter is as important for wage-earners as for the rest of the community.—Editor, THE STATIST.]

"A Guide to South America." By W. A. Hirst. A book for travellers and all who are interested in South America, including the Panama Canal. Price 6*s*. (London: Methuen and Co.)

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Commercial.

DEARER BREAD.

THE rise in the price of bread projected by London bakers a week or more ago proves difficult of accomplishment, nevertheless, the trade is seemingly bent on that development, and the remarkable prosperity of the industrial classes appears to make the enterprise less hazardous than in an ordinary year. The London area which the rise would affect includes more than seven million inhabitants. Against an equal rise in Australia an entire Commonwealth would be up in arms, yet Australia cannot show a population of seven

millions. The bakers' excuse is not so much the dearness of wheat as the difficulty of delivery, and here we have the cause why statisticians approach the whole bread question with so little confidence. The present price of wheat makes it perfectly practicable to sell a quartern loaf for sevenpence over the counter, and here we have the baker getting eightpence and trying to get eightpence halfpenny, a rise equal to 4*s*. on the sack of flour! What is the explanation?

The first trouble is that of the little luxuries of the consumer. Hoxton, according to the Right Hon. Charles Booth's tables, keeps very few domestic servants; Hampstead keeps more than any other suburb per head of population. But both Hampstead and Hoxton are at one that it would be "derogatory" to fetch their own bread. A little point seemingly, yet it involves the baker in what in a moment of expansion the humble shopkeeper may tell you is the "worry of his life." The public (as we will *not* tell you) is a poor judge of bread, but the public, as he will let you know in detail, is a most particular judge of manners, and if the baker's boy is rude to No. 13 or leaves the account of No. 14 at No. 15, the unhappy vendor may write that customer off his list. Complaints "*re* delivery" are probably ten to every one "*re* bread."

Since the War the troubles of bakers in getting bread delivered at the houses of customers have increased "almost beyond bearing" as local purveyors remark. The manners of a Chesterfield combined with the accuracy of a drill sergeant are what the public expect of the average baker's boy, and this at a time when the latter no longer bears "talking to" by his employer. At a word he speaks darkly of "going to the Front." The younger men, who had some title to the substantive, seem already to have gone, and the baker, reduced to offering what he speaks of as "almost any money" to a steady hand at regular deliveries, turns to an advance in the price of bread itself as the best way out of the difficulty.

The other trouble is a very old one—that of giving credit. It need only be said now that the War has greatly augmented this difficulty. To sue, or even to threaten, in normal times is resented. With war raging it is regarded as more or less of an outrage. There can be little doubt that this addition to bakers' troubles is a substantial one. It may be dismissed as simply the case of a little more capital being required; but the purveying of bread is essentially a small local business, and the purveyors have not the capital, neither would the present emergency be the best time for raising it. Here again, then, we have the weak man's policy obtruded—the policy of putting the extra cost on to the consumer.

The fallacy in this idea of the small baker, from whom we hope we have not withheld our sympathy, is that bread will not as a market commodity bear frequent fluctuations. As we write the new wheat crops of Canada and the United States are much cheaper for December than for current delivery, while close behind them come the new January harvests of Australia and Argentina. The attempt to rush bread prices up to eightpence halfpenny for November delivery with the cheaper wheat of December showing the way to profit at perhaps a penny a loaf less would lead, according to all precedent in the baking trade, to a policy of under-cutting and local rivalry which too often instals men of straw and no credentials in the place of established and respectable vendors. There are few things deadlier in the retailer's business than where the newcomer, denounced for "under-cutting," is in the position to show that he can make a very fair living profit at the sum which he charges, and that being so, under what system of trade economics should he charge more? There may be American speculation this winter, as there was last, but the best judges consider its wings clipped, and the average baker, to do him justice, is not up behind American speculation, or even interested in it. He is in a very temporary emergency, and his flying to a rise in prices would not be a solution, because the necessity to reduce prices recently raised would be yielded to reluctantly, and meanwhile competitors would have come in, with an unanswerable appeal to the producer.

Household bread at Christmas is much more likely to be obtainable at sevenpence halfpenny than to cost eightpence halfpenny, wherefore to inflate values for a brief intervening period appears to have a maximum of risk about it, and for the most transient advantage.

SCOTCH WHISKY TRADE.

Since the War began revolutionary changes have taken place in the Scotch whisky trade. At times—as, for instance, during Mr. Lloyd George's campaign for total prohibition—the industry seemed to be threatened with extermination. The least that could befall the trade appeared to be a substantial restriction of output, and it looks as if laws have been passed with that end in view. Nevertheless, the trade continues to enjoy a very fair degree of activity, and it is still a moot point if the consumption has been reduced to any serious extent. As a matter of fact, the situation created by the steady growth of this enormous industry throughout the years is one of great complexity, and does not admit of such rough-and-ready treatment as many ardent reformers seem to think.

When Mr. Lloyd George put forward his proposal for prohibition, few even in the trade foresaw that the sole result would be the hurried passing of a measure which a large section of the trade itself had advocated for many years. But this proved to be the ultimate outcome, and the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act was passed, providing for the detention in bond of all spirits until they were three years of age, temporary concessions being made as to the release of spirits with from two to three years of age on the payment of an extra duty of 1*s*. per gallon.

Effect of Act.

The immediate effect was to add enormously to the value of the existing stocks of grain whisky, stocks available for immediate use, viz., with three years of age, appreciating by 100 or more per cent. This applied to grain whisky; but although a comparatively small proportion of Highland malt whisky was used with less than three years of age, the measure had a hardening effect upon the quotations for these also, as, with matured grain whisky suddenly doubled in value, and commanding as high a price as equivalent ages of the best Highland malt whisky, there was a distinct inducement to blenders to use a larger proportion of the latter, and as the stocks of these were by no means superabundant, the effect upon quotations was immediate. In the same way Lowland malt whiskies increased substantially in value, partly because a certain proportion had been passed into consumption with less than three years of age, but mainly owing to the fact that blenders were driven to make a larger use of Lowlands owing to the dearness of grain whisky, which had come to be the principal ingredients of their blends. It is easy to see that if the demand is partly satisfied out of the stocks of whisky with less than three years of age—no matter which category—a sudden and unexpected embargo on the utilisation of such whisky, particularly if the production, and, consequently, the stocks had been allowed to run down to bare market requirements, or even less, is bound to cause a hiatus in the supplies, which can only be made good by an increased production, as larger stocks will have to be carried in future, the whisky now being produced not being available until three years hence. The natural operation of the law of supply and demand as outlined above may, of course, be interfered with by any measures which are taken to restrict the con-

sumption, as it is obvious that whatever tends to check the demand also affects the necessity for maintaining the supply. Thus it is that while the existing stocks will be inadequate to meet the demand on the pre-War basis, their deficiency will be reduced in proportion to the diminution in the consumption.

Another new factor which, as a direct consequence of the War, has recently come into operation is the greatly increased cost of production. In the first place, barley, the principal raw material of all malt whisky distillers, and particularly of the Highland distillers, has increased in price from an average of 25*s.* per quarter to approximately 45*s.* per quarter.

Rise in Prime Cost.

The Highland distillers calculate that an increase of 20*s.* from 25*s.* per quarter represents an increase of from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per gallon in the cost of the spirit, according to the varying conditions under which the distilleries operate. In addition, coal, of which a large quantity is used, and all other materials have greatly increased in price, while labour is very much dearer, and in some places almost unobtainable, with the result that another 6*d.* per gallon has been added to the cost of the spirit. It is customary for distillers to fix their prices of the new season's make in October, and on the present occasion the Highland distillers felt that nothing short of an advance of 1*s.* per gallon would justify them in lighting their fires.

For years—indeed, since 1898, when the great boom collapsed—the Highland distillers have experienced a very lean time. Many new distilleries had been built in the immediately preceding two or three years, while others had increased their capacity three or four fold. The production had accordingly been increasing by leaps and bounds, until it greatly exceeded the demand. The stocks in bond had been practically doubled in a comparatively few years, and whisky prices, which had been inflated to an absurd extent, came down with a run. When the bubble of speculation was pricked, many of the companies floated during the boom found themselves heavily handicapped with inflated capitalisation, and being able to dispose of only a tithe of their possible production, have since been quite unable to earn a reasonable return. Through reconstructions and otherwise much of the "water" has since been squeezed out of these over-capitalised concerns, but the fact remains that the hundred or so of Highland distilleries, with their existing capacity, are far and away beyond the needs of the trade.

One result of the boom and its aftermath has been that Highland distillers have been entirely at the mercy of the blenders, who have been able to buy their supplies of raw material, *i.e.*, single whiskies, at practically cost price or little more. This has proved highly advantageous to the big blenders, many of whom have built up huge distributing businesses on this copious supply of cheap material. Naturally, the blenders are loth to pay large increases for new malt whisky, particularly with the values of matured whiskies, suddenly advanced, and they have been loudly asseverating that the very most that the Highland distillers could hope for was an advance of 6*d.* per gallon. The Highland distillers, on the other hand, felt that they were more favourably situated than for a good many years, as the effect of the detention in bond enactment had been, as already explained, to reduce the available supplies of matured whisky, so that the maintenance of a moderate output during the coming season was absolutely essential if a famine in usable whiskies a few years hence was to be avoided. The distillers accordingly met under the auspices of their association and decided that prices all round be advanced by 1*s.* per bulk gallon, distillers reserving to themselves the right to further advance prices as the season progressed, or, alternatively, to enforce a sliding scale whereby the price of whisky would be increased or reduced by 1*d.* per gallon in accordance with every rise or fall of 1*s.* 6*d.* per quarter above or below 45*s.* per quarter in the price of barley. It was also proposed that the distillers should inaugurate the long-discussed reform of charging warehouse rent for whisky stored at the distillery, in accordance with the practice adopted by the grain whisky distillers many years ago; but a decision on this point was postponed, the feeling being that it would be unwise for distillers to push their advantage too far for the time being. The producers of other malt whiskies—Islays, Campbeltowns and Lowlands—are also advancing their prices by a similar amount. Barley is now changing hands at from 45*s.* to 48*s.* per quarter, and with the home supply restricted, and the virtual impossibility of eking out supplies as in previous years by foreign imports, looks like going higher rather than lower.

AMERICAN COTTON.

Liverpool, Thursday.

Our market since our last report has developed a reactionary tendency, and to-night values for American show a decline of 25 points on the fortnight, while Egyptian has declined fully 50 points. Closing quotations are: January-February delivery American 6.85*d.*, January delivery Egyptian 9.67*d.*

For the time being it would appear that the American speculative effort had exhausted itself, and without new stimulus it will be difficult to sustain prices. We hear that the leading "bull" interest in America have quietly liquidated their holdings and have left the public, as usual, to carry the baby. All over the South people have been buying and holding actual cotton, and the operation seemed very promising as long as the market was advancing, but now, if the decline goes further, we may witness a scramble to sell. Recent crop news has been of a more favourable character, and if the crop escapes the danger of frost for a little longer it may be that the crop will promise a good deal larger yield than it did early this month. We fancy that the coming crop will pretty nearly balance consumption, and that at the end of the season there will be a substantial balance to carry over. The decline to-day was accentuated by the political situation in France. If a new Cabinet there is formed which commands the confidence of the French Parliament this temporary depressing influence will be removed from the market.

On Monday the third ginners' report for the season was issued by the United States Government. The quantity ginned up to October 25 was returned as 5,713,000 bales, against 2,900,000 last report and 7,622,000 for the corresponding period last year. It is too early in the season for the report to be taken as a safe indication of the size of the crop, but so far as it goes it supports ideas round about 12,000,000 bales.

On the spot the demand continues on an active scale, without any change in the selling basis. There is a good general demand for all qualities, and in view of the disappearance of any premium on distant futures, merchants are willing to meet buyers, and prefer to sell rather than hold for too exacting terms. The local stock is now beginning to increase, and as new imports arrive there will be greater competition to sell, so that holders are acting wisely in disposing of their stocks at the present remunerative prices.

COAL AND STEEL.

The tendency towards firmness in the Scottish coal market observable a fortnight ago has assumed increased strength and in both the home and export trade there is a good demand. The export business is somewhat handicapped by the still rising freights and increased scarcity of tonnage. Freights have risen

to record heights, and may very well go higher, while tonnage has further decreased on account of war operations. Exporters are, therefore, in the position that orders in hand cannot be fulfilled.

In the home department, trade in Household sorts is quite good and higher prices are being obtained. Coal is moving more freely from the pithead, and the stocks which were accumulated during the recent period of comparative idleness are disappearing. It is not expected that the miners' demand for an extra ninepence per day will cause serious trouble, and though the negotiations have been adjourned, a friendly and satisfactory settlement is looked for when the representatives of both parties come together again.

The recent announcement of the Scottish steel-makers that they are unable at present to deal with new work was not unexpected. The heavy demand on United States works has resulted, as already stated, in a serious shortage of United States billets on this side of the Atlantic, and the shortage will have more serious effects later on unless something is done at once to provide a supply. Most makers have withdrawn quotations entirely, as they are unable to undertake new work out of their limited supplies. The quotations of £10 15*s.* for ship-plates and £11 for angles are, therefore, merely nominal.

TROPICAL OILCAKE.

Respecting remarks we gave last week on benefit of increased use of tropical products for the feeding of our live stock we may give some additional facts.

The following brief comparison of average prices per food unit will indicate the practical importance of the employment of fattening oil-plant products from the tropics:—

Non-Oil Products.

	Per Food Unit s. d.		Per Food Unit s. d.
Maize	1 7	Maize meal	1 10
Bran	1 8	Rice meal	1 10
Malt culms	1 9	Middlings	1 10

Oil Products.

	Per Food Unit s. d.		Per Food Unit s. d.
Ground-nut cake ...	1 3	Palm nut kernel cake. .	1 9
Coconut cake	1 8	Linseed cake	2 0

Generally speaking, it is dubiously profitable to fatten stock at a cost of over 2*s.* the food unit. This is why the present dearness of beans, peas, oats, barley, and feeding treacle, which are all decidedly above that price to-day, is causing serious apprehension among our farmers.

New Issues.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.

There has this week been offered for subscription by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia £2,000,000 of 5% bonds of the Government of South Australia at the issue price of 99%. In part subscriptions will bring in new money, but a portion of the issue will be applied to redemption of existing 4% bonds. There are £552,000 of 4% bonds falling due for repayment January 1, 1916, and £1,365,300 falling due April 1, 1916. Holders of these bonds can convert, on terms specified in the prospectus, their 4% bonds into the new 5% bonds. Briefly, the terms are that the bonds falling due for repayment January 1 next will be entitled to immediate cash payment of £1 10*s.* 8*d.* per cent., and bonds that are due April 1, 1916, to a cash payment of 9*s.* 4*d.* Bonds not converted will be paid off at maturity. The new form of 5% bonds is convertible into 5% Registered stock at any time up to April 6, 1916. The principal is to be repayable April 1, 1923, or the Government can redeem at par on or after April 1, 1921, on giving three calendar months' notice. Steps have been taken for complying with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, whereby trustees may invest in the stock. Needless to say, yielding as they do over 5% to the purchaser, the bonds are an attractive gilt-edged investment.

TALTAL RAILWAY.

The announcement is made by the Taltal Railway Company of a balance dividend in respect of the past year of 4*s.* per share, making, with the interim dividend already paid, 6*s.* per share, or 6% per annum. This is the same as distributed for 1913-14, and the fact that the Company is maintaining the dividend at this rate, although it has by no means been earned, seems to indicate that the directors take a more hopeful view of the outlook. The disastrous effect of the War upon the Chilean nitrate industry is wholly responsible for the set-back in the Company's prosperity. The falling-off in traffic receipts was as much as £176,000, or 57%, and although every effort has been made to work with economy, the savings effected have been insufficient to prevent a heavy drop in net revenue. Indeed the profit earned for the year amounts to only £30,876, as against £131,797, and inasmuch as it requires £54,000 to pay the dividend the deficit of £23,123 has to be made good out of the balance brought in from the preceding year, and the sum now carried forward is reduced from £50,354 to £27,231. To show the smallness of the profits of the past twelve months, in comparison with those of recent years, we give the following:—

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11	1909–10
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit ...	30,877	131,797	132,872	122,099	93,600	100,392
Ordinary dividend	54,000	54,000	81,000	67,500	67,500	67,500
Rate per cent.	(6%)	(6%)	(9%)	(9%)	(9%)	(9%)
Balance	Dr. 23,123	77,797	51,872	54,599	26,100	32,892
Reserve, &c. ...	...	50,000	52,000	50,000	25,000	25,000
	Dr. 23,123	Cr. 27,797	Dr. 128	Cr. 4,599	Cr. 1,100	7,892
Brought forward	50,354	22,557	22,685	18,086	16,986	9,094
Carried forward ...	27,231	50,354	22,557	22,685	18,086	16,986

The set-back, severe though it has been, is, we believe, quite temporary. The prosperity of the Company depends entirely upon the nitrate industry, and whereas with the outbreak of war twelve months ago the Chilean trade was completely paralysed, at the present time there is a growing demand for the fertiliser, both for agricultural and explosive purposes, and the price has risen appreciably. This means that many oficinas, which were compelled to close down owing to the War, are now restarting operations, with the result that railway transport business is steadily improving and general trade in Chile is on the mend. In the first three months of the current year the traffic receipts of the Taltal Railway show a further decline on balance of £4,890, but the whole of this falling-off occurred in July, since when there has been a marked recovery, the September receipts being no less than £10,245 better than those of September last year. It looks, therefore, as though the corner had been turned, and inasmuch as the earnings of the next few months will compare with even smaller takes a year ago than those of July, August, and September, the rate of recovery as the year progresses should be greatly accelerated. The dividends paid by the Company since 1903-04 are set out below:—

Taltal Railway.

	Dec. Half %	June Half %	Year %		Dec. Half %	June Half %	Year %
1914–15 ...	4	8	6	1908–09 ...	6	10	8
1913–14 ...	6	6	6	1907–08 ...	6	8	7
1912–13 ...	6	12*	9	1906–07 ...	6	8	7
1911–12 ...	6	12	9	1905–06 ...	6	8	7
1910–11 ...	6	12	9	1904–05 ...	6	8	7
1909–10 ...	6	12	9	1903–04 ...	4	7	5¼

* Also bonus of one new £5 share for five old shares.

The price of the £5 share is 5$\frac{1}{16}$, and on a 6% dividend basis the yield afforded is about £6 3*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad Company:

The Board of Directors submit herewith the following Report of the operations and affairs of your Company for the year ended June 30, 1915.

The number of miles of road operated on June 30, 1914, was		4,769.27
Additions for year;		
January 9, 1915—Fredonia and Reeds Railroad—Reeds Junction, Ill., to Fredonia, Ill.		1.77
Mileage added account of trackage rights, revision of line and remeasurements		3.16
		4,774.20
Less: January 9, 1915—Reclassification of first main track, Carbondale Junction, Ill., to Fredonia, Ill., as other main track, due to construction of Fredonia and Reeds RR.	6.64	
May 26, 1915—Reduction due to construction of cut-off between Kuttawa, Ky., and Cumberland, Ky.	.42	
		7.06
The number of miles operated on June 30, 1915, was		4,767.14
The average number of miles of road operated during the year was		4,770.03

INCOME.

The following is a statement of the Company's income for the year compared with the previous year:—

	1915.	1914.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−)
Average miles operated during year	4,770.03	4,768.51	+ 1.52
Railway operating revenues:	$	$	$
Freight	41,212,270 70	43,871,271 70	−2,659,001 00
Bridge tolls and miscellaneous freight	[illegible]	3,464,624 56	− [illegible]
Passenger	12,640,597 28	13,715,979 06	−1,[illegible] 78
Bridge tolls and miscellaneous passenger	[illegible]	247,762 37	− 36,682 27
Mail	1,050,[illegible]	1,042,042 96	+ 8,663 63
Express	1,589,501 31	1,770,646 75	− [illegible] 44
Other passenger train	457,177 96	475,668 53	− 18,490 57
Other transportation	[illegible]	[illegible]	− 50,794 36
Revenue from operations other than transportation	52[illegible]	481,123 21	+ 40,882 81
Total railway operating revenues	[illegible]	65,873,700 02	−4,173,327 54
Railway operating expenses:			
Maintenance of way and structures	8,8[illegible]	9,205,946 38	− 366,474 32
Maintenance of equipment	15,8[illegible]	14,510,079 49	− [illegible] 76
Traffic expenses	1,238,439 64	[illegible]	− [illegible] 34
Transportation expenses	22,299,815 12	[illegible]	−1,950,214 86
General expenses	1,603,255 98	1,618,483 63	− [illegible]
Transportation for investment—Cr.	Cr. [illegible]	—	− 303,278 88
Total railway operating expenses	47,570,147 65	50,775,327 46	−3,205,179 81
Net revenue—rail operations	14,130,224 83	15,098,372 56	− [illegible]
Outside operations:			
Revenues	411,179 77	499,802 61	- [illegible]
Expenses	[illegible]	517,453 45	− 112,404 35
Net revenue—outside operations	6,130 67	*17,650 84	+ 23,781 51
Net railway operating revenue	14,136,355 50	15,080,721 72	− [illegible]
Railway tax accruals	3,233,838 38	3,341,247 07	− [illegible]
Uncollectible railway revenues	24,044 24	—	− [illegible]
Railway operating income	10,878,472 88	11,739,474 65	− 861,001 77
Other income	[illegible]	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Gross income	18,537,900 91	[illegible]	− [illegible]
Deductions from gross income	11,678,739 25	10,921,250 55	+ 757,488 70
Net income	6,859,161 66	8,138,824 43	−1,279,662 77
Disposition of net income:			
Applied to sinking and other reserve funds	107,875 [illegible]	—	+ 107,875 00
Appropriated for additions and betterments	46,027 77	41,642 66	+ 4,385 11
Balance transferred to credit of profit and loss	6,705,258 89	[illegible]	−[illegible]

* Deficit.

REVENUES.

For the current year the operating revenues amounted to $61,700,372.48, as compared with $65,873,700.02 in the previous year, a decrease of $4,173,327.54, or 6.34%.

Freight revenue amounted to $41,212,270.70, a decrease of $2,659,001.00, or 6.06%. The principal portion of the decrease was on the southern lines, the northern lines showing a comparatively small decrease and the western lines an increase. The bituminous coal traffic showed a substantial increase both in tonnage and revenue over last year, and there was also a heavy increase in the movement of grain through the port of New Orleans, which added materially to the revenue for the year. These gains, however, were not sufficient to offset the loss in revenue due to the falling off in lumber traffic and the heavy shrinkage in merchandise and miscellaneous freight business.

The revenue from the transportation of passengers was $12,640,597.28, a decrease as compared with last year of $1,075,381.78, or 7.84%. There was a substantial decrease in the revenue north of the Ohio River; but the greatest falling off in business was in the territory served by the Southern lines.

Statistics as to freight and passenger traffic will be found by reference to Table No. 12 of Pamphlet Report.

EXPENSES.

The operating expenses were $47,570,147.65 this year, as compared with $50,775,327.46 last year, a decrease of $3,205,179.81, or 6.31%.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

Maintenance of way and structures expenditures amounted to $8,839,472.06, being a decrease of $336,474.32, or 3.98%, as compared with the previous year. This decrease was due in part to the smaller quantity of new rail laid in renewals and partially by the fact that the previous year's expenses were increased by substantial charges on account of the construction of the new passenger terminal at Memphis and other additions and betterments work, while the operating expense portion of additions and betterments work was not so large this year.

Included in the renewals, the cost of which was charged to operating expenses, were the following:—

2,087,531 cross ties were renewed, this being equivalent to 672.92 miles of continuous track, or 8.99% of all ties in track, including sidings.

10.21 miles of track were relaid with new steel rail and

5.65 miles with second-hand steel rail, replacing rail of the same weight.

7,428 lineal feet of timber and pile bridges were replaced by embankments.

1,504 lineal feet of iron and 4,136 lineal feet of concrete pipe culverts were put in.

486 miles of ballasted track were repaired or renewed to restore the track to its original standard.

As to work, the cost of which was charged wholly or in part to "Road and Equipment," comments will be found on page 10 of the full report under "Physical Changes."

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The expenditures for maintenance of equipment were $13,892,443.73, a decrease of $617,635.76, or 4.26%, as compared with last year. The decrease is accounted for by a reduction in repairs to freight equipment, both locomotives and cars. Considering the volume of business handled the equipment was well maintained during the year.

Depreciation charges amounted to $2,076,094.24, being an increase over the preceding year of $376,478.28.

246 locomotives received general repairs this year as against 306 in the preceding year, and 404 were given thorough repairs this year as compared with 398 last year.

561 passenger-train cars received medium repairs this year as compared with 459 last year, and 148 were given heavy repairs this year, as against 165 last year.

The average mileage per serviceable locomotive for the year was 27,802.

The average age of locomotives was 12.27 years this year and 12.63 years last year, of revenue freight-train cars 8.93 and 9.49 years for the respective years, and passenger-train cars 14.67 years this year and 15.62 last year.

TRAFFIC EXPENSES.

Traffic expenses amounted to $1,238,439.64 this year, a decrease of $52,338.34, or 4.05%, as compared with last year.

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES.

Transportation expenses were $22,299,815.12 for the year, a decrease as compared with the previous year of $1,850,224.86, or 7.66%. The reduction in the volume of traffic was, in part, responsible for this decrease; but an important saving was occasioned by the substitution on portions of the main lines of superheater locomotives of greater tractive power, resulting in the movement of heavier trains with but slight increase in the expense. In the freight service the increase in the average tons moved per train mile, including Company's freight, was 7.16%.

A special campaign was carried on in connection with fuel economy, resulting in a decrease of 10.16% in the cost of fuel for locomotives, notwithstanding the larger locomotives in service on some parts of the line and a decrease of only 6.01% in engine miles. Special attention was also given to the elimination, as far as possible, of the causes for loss and damage and other claims, the result being that there was a decrease of 27.48 % in the amounts paid for loss and damage to freight, and of 20.69% in the sums paid for all claims and damages during the year as compared with last year.

GENERAL EXPENSES.

General expenses amounted to $1,603,255.98, a decrease of $15,227.65, or .94%.

TAXES.

The amount of taxes for the year was $3,233,838.38, a decrease of $107,408.69, or 3.21% less than the previous year.

There was a substantial decrease in the amount accruing to the State of Illinois on account of the charter tax owing to the decrease in the revenues on the charter lines during the year as compared with last year. There was also a material decrease in the amount of taxes paid on the non-charter lines in Illinois and on the lines in several of the other states due to reductions in the rates of taxation.

FINANCIAL.

The financial condition of the Company at the close of the year as compared with the previous year is set forth in the general balance sheet, which table, together with Table No. 7 in the full Pamphlet Report, "Long Term Debt and Interest," has been stated in somewhat different form from the previous year. These changes were made in accordance with the form of balance sheet prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission to take effect July 1, 1914.

CAPITAL STOCK AND FUNDED DEBT.

There were no changes in the capital stock during the year.

$1,980,000.00 of Illinois Central Equipment Trust Certificates, Series "C," were issued and sold in April 1915.

Illinois Central Railroad Company 4½% Secured Gold Notes, amounting to $10,780,000.00, matured July 1, 1914, and were retired.

Under the terms of the mortgage $2,000,000.00 Illinois Central Railroad Company First Lien Equipment Bonds were delivered to the Trustee and cancelled. An additional $881,000.00 of the same issue of bonds were also turned over to the Trustee for cancellation in connection with the sale to the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company of 105 locomotives released under the mortgage and which were a part of a total of 134 locomotives sold to that company.

There were retired and cancelled under the terms of the respective Trust Agreements $800,000.00 of Illinois Central Equipment Trust Certificates, Series "A," and $350,000.00 of Illinois Central Equipment Trust Certificates, Series "B."

SECURITIES OWNED.

In December 1914 the Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad Company issued under the terms of the Trust Agreement $5,700,000.00 of its Equipment Trust Certificates, Series "A." The Illinois Central Railroad Company purchased $700,000.00 of this issue. Of the latter amount $35,000.00 matured and were redeemed in May 1915.

$2,586,000.00 of The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company 5% Gold Improvement Bonds were acquired as follows: In July 1914 from the Trustees of the Western Lines, Omaha Division, and Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad Sinking Funds, $852,000.00; in September 1914 from The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company for the purchase price of 134 locomotives sold to that Company, $912,000.00; and in the same month that Company also issued and turned over to the Illinois Central Railroad Company, in liquidation of indebtedness for improvements made to its property, $822,000.00.

$2,500.00 par value of Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad Company capital stock was purchased in November 1914.

$10,000.00 par value of the Central Elevator and Warehouse Company stock was purchased in October 1914.

In addition to the above the Company also acquired $3,600.00 par value of miscellaneous stocks.

The Company sold during the year Illinois Central Railroad Company and Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad Company Joint First Refunding Mortgage Bonds as follows: $5,000,000.00 in February 1915, $1,750,000.00 in March 1915, and $3,250,000.00 in April 1915.

There were delivered to the Trustees of the several sinking funds in exchange for The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company 5% Gold Improvement Bonds as above mentioned, $944,000.00 of the Louisville Division, and Terminal 3½% Bonds of 1953.

The Peoria and Pekin Union Railway Company redeemed $12,500.00 par value of its 5% Debenture Bonds, maturing August 1, 1914.

$86,000.00 par value of The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company 5% Gold Improvement Bonds were transferred to the Insurance Fund, and $30,000.00 par value were sold.

$100,800.00 par value Cuban American Sugar Company Preferred stock was sold during the year.

INSURANCE AND OTHER FUNDS.

The changes in the Insurance Fund during the year and the condition of the fund at the close of the year are shown in the following table :—

	Year ending June 30, 1915	Year ending June 30, 1914
Amount at credit of fund July 1	$2,129,835 52	$2,089,844 54
Added through monthly charges to operating expenses	60,000 00	60,000 00
Collected from lessees account of insurance	1,099 92	2,106 68
Interest received on investments of the fund	107,875 00	94,650 00
Fire losses collected	12,604 82	6,941 30
	$2,311,415 26	$2,253,522 52
Losses by fire	$50,711 86	$80,479 61
Premiums paid for reinsurance	45,327 84	43,207 39
	$96,042 70	$123,687 00
Amount at credit of fund June 30 ...	$2,215,372 56	$2,129,835 52

The balances in the sinking funds as of June 30, 1915, and the increases during the year were as follows :—

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Trustee—Cairo Bridge Contingent Fund, $504,180.00.

The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, Trustee—Cairo Bridge Sinking Fund, $344,580.24, an increase of $32,412.97.

United States Trust Company of New York, Trustee—Sinking Fund for Western Lines Bonds, $1,417,887.73, an increase of $100,294.21.

United States Trust Company of New York, Trustee—Sinking Fund for Omaha Division Bonds, $192,921.50, an increase of $17,076.65.

ROAD AND EQUIPMENT.

There was expended during the year for Road and Equipment (including improvements on subsidiary properties) $10,323,622.76. The following is a classified statement of these expenditures :—

			for Companies.
Lines			
Bridges, trestles, and culverts	... ...	434,984 44	819,451 44
Ballast	... ...	19,326 48	149,360 12
Crossings and signs	... ...	112,596 08	20,200 14
Grain elevators	... ...	828 18	11,890 31
Wharves and docks	... ...	09 13	8,416 57
Coal and ore wharves	... ...	—	26,275 88
Telegraph and telephone lines	... ...	29,676 73	18,717 18
Signals and interlockers	... ...	91,828 96	188,489 05
Power-plant buildings	... ...	2,714 30	5,543 24
Power-line poles and fixtures	... ...	—	1,336 00
Miscellaneous structures	... ...	5,084 25	812 74
Paving	... ...	69,866 11	44,542 41
Shop machinery	... ...	33,384 13	23,765 48
Power-plant machinery	... ...	23,761 86	458 86
Equipment :	Series "C"		
Steam locomotives	... ...		*1,719,741 90
Freight-train cars	...	Cr. 50,376 07	
Passenger-train cars	...	168,250 14 Cr. 123,997 17	
Work equipment	... ...	— 452,213 15	
General :			
Organisation expenses		—	241 04
Taxes	... ...	—	1,555 62
Interest during construction		4,619 82	10,618 81
Other expenditures—General		—	—
Less amount transferred to "Miscellaneous physical property," due to change		— 623,969 53	
		$2,502,851 48 $1,726,869 48	$6,093,901 80

* Equipment purchased by the Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Company. Series "A."

The following shows the amount advanced during the year to each of the subsidiary Companies, these amounts being included in total advances shown in Table No. 6 of Pamphlet Report :—

Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans RR.	...$5,676,567 14
Canton, Aberdeen and Nashville RR.	...
South Chicago RR.	... ... Cr. 1,964 85
Blue Island RR.	... ...
Dubuque and Sioux City RR.	
Kenton and Toledo RR.	
Batesville and White River RR.	1,121 58
Bloomington Southern RR.	... ...
Johnston City Southern RR.	
Benton Southern RR.	... ... 72,500 33
Harrisburg Northern RR.	1,358 76
Trenton and Mendota RR.	
Total	$6,093,901 80

PHYSICAL CHANGES.

Substantial improvements were made in the physical condition of the Company's road and equipment during the year.

Below is a statement as to the more important improvements, the cost of which was charged either wholly or in part to Road and Equipment.

ROADWAY AND STRUCTURES.

During the year 90-pound new steel rail was laid on 262.23 miles of track, and second-hand steel rail was relaid on 62.74 miles, all of which replaced rail of lighter pattern.

Ninety-nine new industrial tracks were built or extended, making a net addition of 7.46 miles after allowing for industrial tracks taken up.

Four hundred and one new Company sidings were built or extended; allowing for tracks taken up there was a net addition for the year of 69.54 miles.

The second main track between Fulton, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn., which was referred to as being in the course of construction in last year's report, was completed.

In order to facilitate the handling of coal traffic a double track connection was installed between the junction of the Carbondale and Johnston City Districts, near Cambria, Ill., the length of track constructed being 1.34 miles.

A cut-off was built from Fredonia, Ill., on the Carbondale District to Reeds Junction, Ill., on the Johnston City Branch, a distance of 1.77 miles. This involved the abandonment as first main track of 6.64 miles of line between Fredonia, Ill., and Carbondale Junction, Ill.

The second main track at Parkway, Ill., was extended to Broadview, Ill., a distance of 2.46 miles, and additional side [illegible] for the purpose of handling passenger traffic to and from Speedway, Ill., the site of the new automobile racecourse a short distance east of Broadview, Ill.

At Paducah, Ky., the freight yard was added to by the construction of 6.28 miles of sidings. The freight yard at Fulton, Ky., was increased 6.59 miles.

The reduction of grades between Paducah, Ky., and Princeton, Ky., and the enlargement of yard facilities at the latter point, were continued and were practically completed at the close of the year.

The elevation of the tracks at Memphis, Tenn., as also the construction of the new passenger facilities at that place, referred to in previous reports, were completed. The raising of tracks and relocating of main line in connection with levee improvements being made by the city authorities in North Memphis, Tenn., were undertaken during the year and are about half completed.

The grade crossing elimination work at Grand Crossing, Chicago, Ill., track elevation work between 79th Street and 116th Street, Chicago, Ill., and through Cicero, Ill., also grade revision at Mattoon, Ill., were still in progress at the close of the year.

The work of strengthening the Cairo Bridge so as to be able to operate heavy locomotives over it was performed during the year.

An interlocking plant was installed at Aulon, Tenn.

A viaduct was completed over Nicholas Street, Omaha, Neb., and an overhead bridge constructed at Monticello, Wis.

Work was undertaken and is still in progress on subways at Prairie Avenue, Decatur, Ill., and Phinney Park Boulevard, Ft. Dodge, Ia.

New station buildings were erected at Grand Crossing, Chicago, Ill., Marion, Ill., Buckner, Ill., Toone, Tenn., and Masonville, Ia. and others are in course of construction at Storm Lake, Ia., and Millwood, Ky. A new freight house was erected at Starkville, Miss.

The freight and passenger station at Winona, Miss., was enlarged and improvements made to the station building at La Salle, Ill.

New water plants were installed at Obion, Tenn., and Dyersburg, Tenn. Water stations were improved at Storm Lake, Ia., Rock Rapids, Ia., Sioux City, Ia., De Koven, Ky., Cecilia, Ky., Fulton, Ky., McComb, Miss., and Crystal Springs, Miss. New steel water tanks of 100,000-gallon capacity, replacing wooden tanks, were installed at Dubuque, Ia., Central City, Ky., and Jackson, Miss.

New mechanical coaling plants were erected at Amboy, Ill., and Jackson, Miss. At Harahan, La., new coal-handling facilities were installed for transferring coal from cars to barges.

New mechanical buildings, consisting of car-repair shed, sand house, six-stall roundhouse, power-house, oil and store house, were erected at Princeton, Ky., and a five-stall roundhouse and machine shop, store and oil house, sand house, and car-repair shop and shelter were built at Jackson, Miss. The plant within the city limits at the latter place was abandoned.

New 85-ft. steel turntables were installed at Princeton, Ky., Dyersburg, Tenn., Nonconnah Yard, Memphis, Tenn., and Jackson, Miss. A second-hand 66-ft. turntable was put in at Kenner, La.

One hundred and sixty-two miles of electric automatic block signals were constructed at various points and placed in operation. There were 1,262.4 miles of protected track at the close of the year.

Electric block signals are being installed between Branch Junction and Centralia, Ill., 4 miles; Marine to Glen Carbon, Ill., 13.7 miles; Coleman to Plato Centre, Ill., 11.5 miles; and Mona to Benson, Ia., 10.7 miles; a total of 39.9 miles.

6,063 lineal feet of permanent bridges and trestles were constructed replacing timber and pile bridges, trestles, and embankments.

1,501 lineal feet of permanent bridges and trestles were rebuilt or replaced by embankments.

29,402 lineal feet of timber and pile bridges or trestles were rebuilt or replaced by embankments.

EQUIPMENT.

Fifty Mikado type freight locomotives and 25 switching locomotives were added during the year, and 68 locomotives were disposed of, resulting in an increase of seven locomotives, and an increase in tractive power of all locomotives as compared with the previous year of 1,181.65 tons.

One hundred and one passenger-train cars were acquired and 13 were sold, destroyed, or transferred to other service, making a net increase of 88 cars.

Nine thousand three hundred and thirty-two freight-train cars were added during the year; 6,419 were new cars, and 2,913 were cars purchased from the Central Fruit Despatch; 4,916 cars were sold, destroyed, or transferred to work service, leaving a net increase of 4,416 cars. The average capacity of cars owned at the close of the year was 41.46 tons, as compared with 41.52 tons last year. The total capacity of cars was 2,647,730 tons this year and 2,467,995 tons last year.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Your Company during the past year has suffered from the depression in business prevalent throughout the country, and this has been most pronounced on the lines south of the Ohio River.

The crops in the territory served by your Company's lines were generally good; but the practical discontinuance of lumber exports and the general depression in the building trades seriously affected the lumber business; this, together with the low price received by cotton-growers for their product, not only affected the revenue your Company received from the transportation of lumber, but also, in connection with both commodities, had a depressing effect on the revenues from the transportation of general merchandise and on passenger travel.

The substantial amounts expended by your Company during the past few years in additional facilities, as well as in the upkeep of existing tracks and structures, together with the acquisition of a large number of new locomotives of increased tractive power and cars of greater capacity than those formerly in service, enabled your Company to curtail its expenses in line with the decrease in revenue. As a result, while the total railway operating revenues decreased 6.54 per cent., the ratio of railway operating expenses to railway operating revenues was 77.10% this year, as against 77.08% the previous year.

Under date of December 1, 1914, an equipment trust, known as the "Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Equipment Trust, Series "A.," was made in the amount of $5,700,000.00 with which to provide funds, in part, for the acquisition of 72 locomotives and 6,500 freight cars. The Illinois Central Railroad Company guaranteed the payment of the trust certificates and entered into an agreement with the Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad Company under which your Company became the sub-lessee of the equipment covered by the lease. Under date of April 1, 1915, the Illinois Central Railroad Company issued $1,930,000.00 of equipment trust certificates known as "Illinois Central Equipment Trust, Series C" for the purpose of paying, in part, for 75 locomotives and 1,000 refrigerator cars. The equipment covered by both of these trusts was received and placed in service during the year.

The Company had 10,963 stockholders of record as of June 30, 1915, as compared with 10,840 on the same date last year.

There were 489 pensioners on the pay rolls at the close of the year. The amount of pensions paid during the year was $129,269.33, an increase of $9,843.42 over the previous years.

The Board takes this opportunity of expressing its appreciation to the officers and employees for their loyal and efficient services during the past year.

By order of the Board of Directors,

C. H. MARKHAM, *President.*

Table 5.—Investment Securities Owned—Par Value.

KIND.	Pledged.	Unpledged.	Total.	Dividends and Interest Received.
Stocks:—	$	$	$	$
Illinois Central RR. Co. Stock and Scrip	—	4,283 33	4,283 33	—
Central of Georgia Ry. Co.—Preferred	—	15,000,000 00	15,000,000 00	900,000 00
Central of Georgia Ry. Co.—Common	—	4,998,500 00	4,998,500 00	249,925 00
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co.	—	10,200 00	10,200 00	408 00
Dubuque & Sioux City RR. Co.	—	11,756,000 00	11,756,000 00	521,966 40
Dunleith & Dubuque Bridge Co.	—	1,000,000 00	1,000,000 00	142,130 12
Chicago, Memphis and Gulf RR. Co.—Preferred	—	150,000 00	150,000 00	—
Chicago, Memphis and Gulf RR. Co.—Common	—	520,000 00	520,000 00	—
Belt Railway Company of Chicago	—	240,000 00	240,000 00	14,400 00
Miscellaneous	—	2,388,928 00	2,388,928 00	4,580 00
Total Stocks	—	36,067,911 33	36,067,911 33	1,833,409 52
Bonds:—				
Illinois Central Gold Fours of 1953	—	71,000 00	71,000 00	*e* —
Illinois Central Interim Certificates, Fours, First Lien Equipment	—	17,604,000 00	17,604,000 00	*e* —
I. C. RR. Co. and C. St. L. & N.O. RR. Co. Joint First Refunding Fives of 1963	—	3,348,100 00	3,348,100 00	*e* —
Louisville Division and Terminal Three-and-a-Halfs of 1953	—	156,000 00	156,000 00	*e* —
Cedar Rapids & Chicago RR. Co., First Mortgage Gold Fives of 1935	*a* 830,000 00	—	830,000 00	41,500 00
Cherokee & Dakota RR. Co., First Mortgage Gold Fives of 1935	*a* 3,100,000 00	—	3,100,000 00	155,000 00
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co., Gold Fives of 1951	*b* 5,266,000 00	—	5,266,000 00	263,300 00
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co., Gold Bridge Fives of 1950	*c* 3,000,000 00	—	3,000,000 00	150,000 00
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co., Equipment Trust Certs., Series "A," Fives of 1921	—	665,000 00	665,000 00	*e* —
Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Ry. Co., First Mortgage Fours of 1934	*d* 16,832,000 00	—	16,832,000 00	673,280 00
Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Ry. Co., Second Mortgage Income Fives of 1934	*d* 9,104,000 00	—	9,104,000 00	1,429,399 85
Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Ry. Co., Land Grant Non-cumulative Income Sixes of 1934	*d* 6,553,276 90	—	6,553,276 90	—
Peoria & Pekin Union Ry. Co., Debenture Fives	—	206,500 00	206,500 00	10,377 09
Southern Illinois & Missouri Bridge Co., Fours of 1951	—	600,000 00	600,000 00	24,000 00
Tennessee Central RR. Co., Prior Lien Fours of 1934	—	1,338,000 00	1,338,000 00	53,520 00
Yazoo & Mississippi Valley RR. Co., First Mortgage Gold Fives of 1952	*a* 2,800,000 00	—	2,800,000 00	140,000 00
Yazoo & Mississippi Valley RR. Co., Gold Improvement Fives of 1934	—	6,766,000 00	6,766,000 00	342,400 00
Miscellaneous	—	151,000 00	151,000 00	9,060 00
Total Bonds	47,485,276 90	30,905,600 00	78,390,876 90	3,291,736 94
Other Securities	—	1,113,595 36	1,113,595 36	53,933 61
Grand Total	47,485,276 90	68,087,106 69	115,57[illegible]383 59	5,179,180 07

The book value of the securities listed above is $101,053,132.16 and on the balance sheet is included in the items:

Investments in affiliated companies—Stocks unpledged	$40,634,143 57
Investments in affiliated companies—Bonds unpledged	4,976,200 00
Investments in affiliated companies—Bonds pledged	13,946,000 00
Other investments—Stocks unpledged	5,519 10
Other investments—Bonds unpledged	8,234,650 00
Other investments—Bonds pledged	27,305,679 38
Other investments—Notes, advances, &c.	3,078,777 15
As deductions from liabilities: Under common stock	4,283 33
Under funded debt	17,675,900 00

a Pledged to secure in part Illinois Central Four per Cent. bonds of 1952.

b Pledged to secure Illinois Central Three-and-a-half per Cent. Sterling bonds of 1950.

c Pledged to secure Illinois Central Cairo Bridge bonds of 1950.

d Pledged to secure Illinois Central Four per Cent. bonds of 1953.

e Excludes interest on Company's bonds and issues of Subsidiary Companies guaranteed.

Table 4.—CONDENSED GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915, and Comparison with Previous Year.

ASSET SIDE.	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
Investments:—	$	$	$
Road and equipment to June 30, 1907 ...	95,198,329 47	95,198,329 47	—
Investment in road secs.:			
Stocks—unpledged ...	86,570 54	86,570 54	—
Funded debt—pledged...	15,718,079 67	13,718,079 67	—
Road and equipment since June 30, 1907	46,060,814 43	41,831,093 43	+4,229,720 00
	155,063,793 11	150,834,073 11	+4,229,720 00
Less—Reserve for accrued depreciation	8,920,511 25	7,266,263 21	+1,654,248 04
Net total, road and equip.	146,143,273 86	143,567,800 90	+2,575,472 96
Misc. physical property ...	1,328,029 33	625,550 95	+ 702,478 38
Invests. in affiliated cos.:			
Stocks—unpledged ...	40,634,143 57	40,748,257 19	— 114,093 62
Bonds—unpledged ...	4,976,200 00	15,267,700 00	—10,291,500 00
Bonds—pledged	15,940,000 00	15,940,000 00	
Notes	1,248,000 00	1,248,000 82	
Advances	16,292,150 70	11,265,781 73	+ 5,026,368 97
	77,130,494 27	82,469,739 74	— 5,339,245 47
Other investments:—			
Stocks—unpledged ...	5,519 10	82,559 10	— 77,040 00
Bonds—unpledged ...	8,234,650 00	5,765,344 03	+ 2,469,305 97
Bonds—pledged	27,305,679 38	27,000,679 38	+ 305,000 00
Notes, advances, &c. ...	3,078,777 15	2,888,004 19	+ 190,772 96
	38,624,625 63	36,736,587 00	+ 1,888,038 63
Total investments ...	263,285,026 91	263,498,261 89	— 213,234 98
Current Assets:—			
Cash	2,585,515 08	10,596,048 33	— 8,010,533 25
Special deposits	195,154 46	290,992 31	— 95,837 85
Loans and bills receivable	3,689,770 08	3,564,587 88	+ 125,182 20
Net balance receivable from agents and conductors	2,226,329 68	2,088,128 10	+ 162,098 72
Misc. accounts receivable	4,341,676 02	4,975,150 54	— 633,474 52
Material and supplies ...	5,348,241 73	4,810,900 53	+ 537,341 20
Int. and divs. receivable	2,028,008 89	2,209,086 40	— 181,077 51
Total current assets ...	20,414,695 94	28,835,194 39	— 8,420,498 45
Deferred Assets:—			
Working fund advances ...	12,762 89	12,015 36	+ 747 53
Insurance and other funds	2,465,372 40	2,379,835 52	+ 85,537 04
Other deferred assets ...	219,396 84	150,260 00	+ 69,136 84
Total deferred assets ...	2,697,532 29	2,542,110 88	+ 155,421 41
Unadjusted Debits:—			
Other unadjusted debits ...	845,758 16	806,030 25	+ 39,708 51
Grand total ...	287,242,993 30	295,681,597 41	— 8,438,603 51

LIABILITY SIDE.	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
Stock:—	$	$	$
Common stock	109,296,000 00	109,296,000 00	
Less—Common stock held in treasury	4,283 33	9,883 33	— 5,600 00
Total stock outstanding	109,291,716 67	109,286,116 67	+ 5,600 00
Long-Term Debt:—			
Funded debt	170,886,700 00	172,937,700 00	— 2,051,000 00
Less—Funded debt held in treasury	150,000 00	20,556,000 00	— 2,881,000,00
Total funded debt outstanding	170,211,700 00	152,381,700 00	+ 830,000 00
Non-negotiable debt to affiliated companies ...	725,000 00	725,000 00	— 125,000 00
Total long-term debt ...	170,936,700 00	153,106,700 00	+ 705,000 00
Current Liabilities:—			
Loans and bills payable ...	1,000,000 00		+ 1,000,000 00
Traffic and car service balances payable	321,200 40	420,859 34	— 99,658 94
Audited accounts and wages payable	6,003,344 73	6,718,660 57	— 715,315 84
Misc. accounts payable ...	1,430,803 88	1,652,718 29	— 221,914 53
Interest matured unpaid	781,882 50	996,091 25	— 211,208 75
Dividends matured unpaid	31,764 05	33,183 55	— 1,419 50
Funded debt matured unpaid	6,353 64	10,788,691 97	—10,782,338 33
Unmatured funded debt matured	2,732,400 00	2,732,400 00	—
Unmatured int. accrued ...	897,200 84	824,141 17	+ 73,059 67
Unmatured rents accrued	359,554 78	290,396 45	+ 69,158 33
Other current liabilities ...	700,660 14	752,648 26	— 51,988 12
Total current liabilities	14,265,364 96	25,287,189 55	— 11,021,824 59
Deferred Liabilities:—			
Liability for provident funds	250,000 00	250,000 00	
Other deferred liabilities ...	21,429 54	51,037 75	+ 10,391 79
Total deferred liabilities	271,429 54	250,037 75	+ 10,391 79
Unadjusted Credits:—			
Tax liability	419,757 20	478,456 78	— 58,699 58
Insurance reserve ...	2,215,372 56	2,129,835 52	+ 85,537 04
Operating reserves	127,696 48	360,065 45	— 232,368 97
Other unadjusted credits...	396,760 89	188,673 65	+ 208,087 24
Total unadjusted credits	3,159,587 13	3,157,031 40	+ 2,555 73
Corporate Surplus:—			
Additions to property through income and surplus	590,249 43	535,653 41	+ 54,596 02
Profit and loss ...	4,814,263 17	4,053,574 33	+ 760,688 84
Total corporate surplus	5,404,512 60	4,589,227 74	+ 815,284 86
Grand total	287,242,993 90	295,681,597 41	— 8,438,603 51
Contingent Liabilities—see Table 7 of Pamph. Report	67,692,100 00	67,692,100 00	

CAPITAL ADVANCES TO OTHER COMPANIES.

Kind.	Total.	Interest Received During Year.
Capital advances to other companies:—		
Batesville South-Western RR. Co.	$100,704 42	
Benton Southern RR. Co.	72,500 33	
Bloomington Southern RR. Co.	63,785 97	
Blue Island RR. Co	93,149 78	
Canton, Aberdeen & Nashville RR. Co.	92,966 12	
Chicago, Memphis & Gulf RR. Co.	6,131,779 73	
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co.		
Chicago, St. Louis & New Orleans RR. Co., account C. St. L. & N. O. RR. Co. Equipment Trust Series "A"	1,749,341 90	
Dubuque & Sioux City RR. Co	2,038,227 59	$73,479 20
Fredonia & Reese RR. Co	40,216 83	
Herrin Northern RR. Co	1,358 76	
Johnston City Southern RR. Co	48,679 80	
Kensington & Eastern RR. Co.	1,219,503 17	35,092 51
Kensington & Eastern RR. Co. of Indiana	280 79	
Memphis Refrigerator Co.	113,147 22	
Omaha Bridge & Terminal Ry. Co.	1,750,000 00	87,500 00
South Chicago RR. Co.	249,170 87	
Madison Coal Corporation	1,650,000 00	88,985 26
Mississippi Valley Company	40,990 90	
Mississippi Valley Corporation	526,505 18	26,180 41
Southern Property Company	5,173 89	
	$16,292,150 70	$312,637 38
The Yazoo & Mississippi Valley RR. Co	2,968,050 79	67,560 18
Total Capital Advances to other Co.	$19,260,201 49	$380,197 56

"Moody's Analyses of Investments." Part II. Public Utilities and Industrials. By John Moody. This is a bulky volume containing a comparative analysis of public utility and industrial companies in the United States and Canada, with investment ratings, enabling the banker and investor to ascertain the true values of securities. The price is £3, and copies can be obtained from Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16 Copthall Avenue, E.C. Every subscriber to the book will receive, without extra charge, all through the year a monthly supplement containing latest earnings of all companies reporting.

"Valuations." By Samuel Skrimshire, F.S.I. Price 10*s*. 6*d*. (London: E. and F. N. Spon.)

"Food Economy in War Time." By T. B. Wood, M.A., and F. G. Hopkins, M.A., F.R.C.P., &c. Price 6*d*. (Cambridge University Press.)

With this week's number *The Syren and Shipping* attains its thousandth issue. In honour of the event the proprietors have issued a special double number containing articles from the pens of Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Cowdray, Lord Devonport, Sir Walter Runciman, the Lord Mayor of London, and 45 other eminent public men

SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Richmond, Va., October 12, 1915.

To the Stockholders of Southern Railway Company:

The Board of Directors submits the following report of the affairs of the Company for the year ended June 30, 1915:—

It has been a difficult year. After a period of unexampled prosperity throughout the South, attended by growth and expansion in all forms of industry, business had begun to slow up during the early months of 1914. Although for this reason railway revenues were less during the first six months of 1914 than they had been during the peak load of the corresponding six months of the previous year, nevertheless, the Company entered upon the fiscal year now under review with an actually large traffic and a large turnover of revenue. The flame of war which burst forth all over Europe at the beginning of August, 1914, had a sudden and withering effect upon industry in the South. Preparing to market the largest crop in the history of cotton growing in the United States, the Southern people were looking forward to the profits from the sale of this, their chief staple, as a stimulus to their purchasing power and so of every form of industry in which they were engaged. When overnight they were apparently shut out by the war from the European market, which has always consumed a large part of the American cotton crop, the people of the South were thrown back upon their own resources with a disturbingly large proportion of their chief money crop on their hands and an inadequate market price in prospect. Despite several futile plans of assistance from without, the South practically suspended for a time its industrial activities. The result was a fall, as vertiginous as that of the price of cotton, in the revenues of the railways of the South, and this lean diet was protracted, with the condition which caused it, throughout the year now under review. For this Company the suddenly changed industrial situation of the South meant a loss in revenues for the fiscal year of $8,551,487 22, or 12.09%. The development of the loss was precipitous. July showed a small increase in revenue, August a decrease of 1.20%, September a decrease of 8.33%, while in October, November, December and January the decreases in revenue were, respectively, 18.47%, 20.06%, 19.97%, and 18.93%, with gradually improving conditions during the remainder of the fiscal year, as the South again caught its breath.

It was a situation which demanded radical action on the part of management. When the first symptoms of the loss of revenue were felt plans of retrenchment were made and were thereafter applied progressively. This action could not be brought into full effect for several months, but the effort became both evident and effective in March 1915. The result for the year was a reduction of expenses amounting to $5,585,938 68, and a balance of income over all charges of $1,523,369 32, as compared with the similar balance (but in that case after provision for a dividend) of $2,047,776 69 were carried to the credit of profit and loss at the end of the previous fiscal year. These results and the financial condition of the Company at the close of the year will appear in greater detail by reference to the Income Statement and the General Balance Sheet (given on subsequent pages), as well as the other tables which are part of this report

DIVIDENDS.

One of the unhappy results of the year has been the necessity, once again, of suspending dividends on the Preferred stock. The regular dividend was amply earned for the six months ended June 30, 1914, but consideration of it, coming before the Board in September, was postponed until it should be apparent what was the tendency of the financial condition of the Company in the crisis which had then developed. Later the Board, being confident that the Company's affairs were well in hand, declared a reduced dividend of 2% (making 4½% for the year ended June 30, 1914), but conservatively made it payable in five-year scrip bearing interest at the rate of 4% per annum. No dividend for the current fiscal year was declared, or could be justified during a period of convalescence.

OPERATING CONDITIONS.

The characteristic of operating conditions during the year under review has been retrenchment, both by reducing service and by the practice of greater efficiency. What has been accomplished in both these respects will appear in detail in the subsequent pages of this report. It will suffice here to point out the parallel between the conditions of this year with those of the year ended June 30, 1908. That was the year of the financial panic of 1907. The revenues of the Company were at the high tide of its history up to that time until October 1907, when they fell rapidly and dangerously throughout the remainder of that fiscal year. Then, as during this year, the problem of management was retrenchment, severe and sustained retrenchment, during several months. Attention was called in the annual report for 1908 to what was then done. What is, perhaps, as significant an illustration as can be made of the contemporary tendency of the railway industry, as well as of the increased strength of the Company to-day, as compared with 1908, is found in a comparison of what had to be done and was done then and this year. In considering these comparisons it should be remembered that because of decreases of 1.74% in the average receipts per ton mile, 7.35% in the average receipts per passenger mile, and 9.33% in mail revenues per mile of road, the 1915 revenues are $2,145,093 less than they would have been had the 1908 averages been maintained on the revenue side of the account, while, on the other hand, operating expenses for 1915 carry an increase of approximately $3,881,418 more than those for 1908, due to increased wage scales; therefore, the operations for 1915 were burdened with unavoidable decreases in revenues and increases in expenses approximating together the large sum of $6,026,511. In a comparison of actual results in the two years, 1915 has thus been handicapped to the extent of over six million dollars, which had to be overcome before increased efficiency could be observed. Under these conditions, the causes of which are too well known to all students of contemporary economics in the United States to require explanation here, the hope of the railway industry is that aggregate revenues may increase progressively in greater ratio than aggregate costs. Fortunately for this Company the conditions making for a continued rapid development of the South, despite temporary setbacks as in this year and in 1908, have realised as well as promise such a result; while the intelligent expenditure of new capital for improvement of the plant in the interest of facility, and so of economy, of operation must in the future, as in the past, be made to check, if it cannot altogether control, an abnormal increment of operating costs. A few statistics of 1915, compared with those of 1908, will serve to make the point, viz:—

SOME OPERATING COMPARISONS, 1915-1908.

		Per Mile of Road.	Per Train Mile.
		%	%
Gross Revenues	Inc.	23.06	24.54
Net Revenues	Inc.	29.08	31.35
Revenue Train Miles	Inc.	1.31	-
Maintenance of Way and Structures Expenses	Inc.	26.14	27.48
Maintenance of Equipment Expenses	Inc.	25.05	26.00
Transportation Expenses	Inc.	14.51	16.03
Ton Miles All Freight	Inc.	58.73	67.59
Ton Miles Revenue Freight	Inc.	28.55	57.90
Freight Train Miles	Dec.	18.98	
Freight Train Revenue	Inc.	26.10	55.85
Passenger Train Miles	Inc.	16.15	
Passenger Train Revenue	Dec.	17.09	.78
Revenue from Passengers	Inc.	20.31	5.59
Taxes	Inc.	7.80	

Transportation costs per dollar of revenue were 36.59 cents, or 6.97% less than in 1908. Freight enginemen, trainmen and fuel costs per 100 ton miles decreased 27.29%. Passenger enginemen, trainmen and fuel costs per 100 passenger miles increased 7.76%.

Freight locomotive fuel costs per 100 ton miles decreased 37.19%, and pounds of coal consumed per 100 ton miles were 36.93% less in 1915 than in 1908. While the average cost of coal at coaling stations was the same for both years, the average handling cost at stations was 35.71% less in 1915 than it was in 1908.

Overtime per dollar of wages was 5.20 cents in 1908; in 1915 it was 1.64 cents, an improvement of 68.46%.

Adjusting the 1915 revenues and expenses to the average receipts per ton and per passenger mile, and mail revenue and wage costs to the averages and scales which prevailed in 1908, the following comparisons are found:—

	1915.	1908.	Inc. or Dec. %
Cost Expend. $1.00 of Gross Revenue	65.75c.	75.53c.	Dec. 12.97
Transportation Costs per $1.00 of Revenue	31.09c.	39.53c.	Dec. 19.65
Transportation Costs per Train Mile	66.28c.	63.95c.	Inc. 3.67

The increased train mile fuel cost per train mile fuel cost are due to the [illegible] train loadings, as illustrated by the following figures:—

Enginemen, Trainmen and Fuel Costs Freight

Per Train Mile	50.12c.	55.57c.	Dec. 9.74
Per 100 Ton Miles	7.88c.	14.62c.	Dec. 46.10

MAINTENANCE.

The obvious and easy method of retrenchment on a railroad, in an emergency, is to reduce unduly the appropriations for upkeep of property. During the past year the management has steadfastly sought to avoid this temptation. Public announcement was made that retrenchment was necessary and that it was the policy of the Company to reduce its expenses at the cost of the temporary convenience of the people of the South before reducing maintenance of the railroad to the point of endangering their safety. The public accepted this announcement in good part and it has been due to the co-operation of the State Railroad Commissions and of responsible and enlightened citizens everywhere that the Company was enabled to reduce its passenger service more nearly to the rquirements of current passenger traffic than it had been for several years past. This large item of retrenchment made it possible to spend on upkeep all that was

necessary for the preservation of the integrity of the property. When to this policy was added the splendid response to the emergency by the officers and men charged with maintenance, it resulted that it was possible to say at the close of the year, as it is to-day, that the physical condition of the roadway and structures is better than ever it has been; that the motive power and passenger equipment are in good condition and fully up to normal, and that the only deferred maintenance has been in freight car equipment, where upkeep could economically be deferred because without traffic freight cars must stand idle in any event.

An evidence of the justice of this claim as to the physical condition of the property, as well as of the skilful and careful service of the officers and men immediately charged with the movement of trains, is found in the marked reduction of the number of personal injuries during the year, and the interesting fact that the Company carried this year more than sixteen and a half million passengers, a number equal to the population of the territory served, without fatality in a train accident to more than a single passenger, and he would not have suffered had he not been riding on a car platform in contravention of the rules made for the protection of passengers.

There was, of course, a substantial reduction in maintenance costs, as in other costs, as part of the policy of retrenchment, but, considering only those items of such costs as are included in operating expenses, the total decrease of maintenance costs was 10.61%, compared with a decrease of 12.09% in revenues. For each dollar of revenue earned there was spent in maintenance 30.78 cents in 1915 compared with 30.27 cents in 1914.

GENERAL EXPENSES.

There were substantial reductions during the year in all the normal items of general expenses, but by reason of a charge to this account during the year of $98,191 32, representing the cost to this Company of the preparation prescribed to it for the pending Federal valuation of its property, the total of general expenses is greater this year than last. This statement is made not in criticism of the valuation expense, but in justice to the loyal officers, who, by their sacrifice, made possible the reduction of one of the principal normal items of the account known as General Expenses.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAFFIC DURING A YEAR OF DEPRESSION.

FREIGHT.

The effect on the Company's freight business of the conditions which have obtained during the year is expressed in a decrease of 3,754,044 tons of commercial freight.

This decrease was chiefly in manufactures and in raw materials, the principal items being :—

	Tons
Bituminous coal and coke	1,163,189
Manufactures and miscellaneous	1,151,122
Forest products	939,687

These decreases reflect curtailment of industrial and building operations and economies practised by the people of the South during a period of business depression.

The decrease in manufactures and miscellaneous includes approximately 500,000 tons of fertilizer and fertilizer material, and this decease is directly attributable to the war.

The war in Europe, by narrowing the market for cotton while broadening the demand for many other farm products, has given great impetus to the movement which was already under way for the broader diversification of Southern agriculture. With relatively a small reduction in cotton acreage, the South is now producing a much larger proportion of the grains, forage crops and meat and dairy products that it consumes. While one of the effects of this is to reduce the tonnage of agricultural products carried into the South, it is adding to the economic strength of the section, and the consequent increased purchasing power of its rural population may be expected, under normal business conditions, to result in the increased carriage of all classes of commodities except agricultural products, while the reduced movement of agricultural products into the South will be, in a measure, compensated for by an increased movement of these products between Southern points and from the South to outside markets. This change in the character of the Company's traffic is already noticeable. Thus during the year there was no decrease in the tonnage of agricultural products as a whole, viz. :—

	1915. Tons	1914. Tons
Grain	655,515	756,215
Hay	159,602	169,702
Leaf Tobacco	169,126	158,919
Cotton	744,579	725,859
Cotton Seed	559,734	541,599
Melons	65,684	59,468
Citrus Fruits	60,557	53,686
Other Fruits and Vegetables	291,558	250,582
Peanuts	20,450	24,179
	2,507,812	2,507,289

The maximum grain tonnage handled by the Company in any one year was in 1906-1907, namely 1,012,692 tons. The tonnage for the year just closed represents a shrinkage from this maximum of 35%, and reflects the effort of the Southern farmer to feed himself and emerge from a condition of dependence upon the grain fields of the West. Coincident with this economic change, the South is increasing other classes of agricultural products which find market largely outside the territory of production. Comparing the same years (1906-1907 with 1914-1915) the Company's tonnage of melons, fruits and vegetables increased more than 100%. So that, while rapidly approaching the time when the South will produce grain sufficient to feed itself, and probably have some to sell, the South is now producing fruits and vegetables to feed many of its neighbours as well as itself.

The cotton crop was the largest on record, but there was a decrease in exports in excess of 800,000 bales, yet the Company's tonnage of cotton was not appreciably less than during the previous year, the difference being approximately 5,000 bales, and this was more than compensated for by an increase in tonnage of cotton seed and its products of 168,282 tons, due to a large crop and to a strengthened position with relation to the seed-crushing industry. It is interesting to note that, compared with 1906-1907, the tonnage of cotton seed and its products for the year just closed represents an increase of 168%.

The South has had but a small part in the business of supplying munitions of war for the armies in Europe, but in the latter months of the year the Company handled a substantial movement of horses from the West and Southwest destined to the battlefields. In all some 20,000 horses were so transported for export. Special arrangements were made for the prompt and comfortable movement of these unfortunate animals, and, by preventing loss and damage in transit, this business was profitable to the Company.

The South enters the new year with a much more hopeful outlook, which, it is fairly expected, will be reflected in freight revenues.

PASSENGER.

For the past 20 years, up to the third week in July 1914, the passenger revenues of the Company have shown increases, month after month, over corresponding periods of the previous years, except during the period December 1907 to April 1909, when decreased passenger revenues resulted from a passenger fare reduction in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, along with a general depression in business during the latter part of the year 1907 and the first part of the year 1908.

Since the third week in July 1914 passenger revenues have shown decreases ranging from 2.05% to 34.02%, the greatest decrease occurring during the second week in May 1915, since when the passenger revenues have improved.

The increased use of automobiles, especially for short distance travel, is the only permanent cause contributing to a reduction of railway passenger travel in the South. The use of automobiles has largely increased owing to the great reduction in the cost of the automobile and the material improvement of the highways throughout the Southern territory. The short distance travel is principally affected by the automobile competition, and while it costs more to travel by automobile than it does by train, the automobile affords a convenience of time to which no local railway schedules can be adjusted.

The travel on the Southern Railway is of two kinds, local and competitive. Approximately 70% is local, short distance travel between non-competitive stations, and 30% long distance travel between points where other lines compete.

The local travel, approximately 70% of the total, will increase with the agricultural and manufacturing development of the country, but during times of business depression this short distance local travel is more affected than is the through travel. The farm labourer, as well as the factory employee, travels for the most part for pleasure, and as soon as his wages are affected he quits travelling. The farmer, particularly in the cotton sections, has discontinued during the past year his old-established custom of advancing money to labourers above their actual requirements for living necessities.

The long distance competitive travel in the Southern territory is susceptible of great development, and as train service improves, as the result of double track and other physical facilities, revenues from long distance passenger travel may be expected materially to increase. While the travel from the North and the East to Southern resorts during the winter seasons increases each year, the travel of the Southern people to the mountain resorts of the Carolinas and Virginia and to the resorts in the Northern States increases to a greater extent, and will continue to increase with the prosperity of the Southern people. The mountain sections of Western North Carolina grow more popular, and each year attract a larger number of people for their summer vacations. The importance of this is shown by the fact that the months of July, August and September yield the Company's largest passenger revenues. But the principal development and improvement in through long-distance travel may be expected to come from increased travel of business men between the Southern business communities and the Eastern and Northern commercial and banking centres. The people of the South are given to much travelling, and as their incomes, both from manufacturing industries and from farming developments, improve, that much more will they travel for business and for pleasure.

INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY SERVED.

MANUFACTURING.

Although industrial development was restricted by the prevailing business depression, the ground swell of the prosperity prevailing in the South prior to the war in Europe carried over into this year a substantial addition to the manufacturing plants established on this Company's lines. While

less than in former years, the record is an earnest of what may be expected in the future. The new industrial plants on the Company's lines completed during the year numbered 519 and may be classified as follows :—

Brick, Tile, &c	19
Cotton-Seed Products	17
Fertilizers	7
Flour and Feed	54
Furniture	12
Iron Products	17
Lumber	57
Stone (mineral)	38
Textile	24
Woodworking	47
Miscellaneous	197
Total	519

The capital involved in these new industries is $17,492,850. During the year there were additions made to 219 manufacturing establishments at a reported cost of $8,162,047. Industries reported under construction June 30, 1915, were 57 in number with a capital of $15,456,250. New buildings of all kinds (except those used in manufacturing) and other general improvements represented an expenditure of $66,422,856.

AGRICULTURE.

The September 1, 1915, estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture show increases this year over the 1914 yields of sundry crops, other than cotton, in the Southern States as follows :—

Corn	160,341,000 bushels
Wheat	6,162,000 ,,
Oats	14,253,000 ,,
Irish Potatoes	13,544,000 ,,
Sweet Potatoes	6,705,000 ,,
Hay	1,227,000 tons
Tobacco	97,923,000 pounds

The South may, this year, well quote Virgil's verse : "Gargara is astonished at her own fertility."

In these figures, as well as in the development of the cattle industry, hereafter referred to, lies a promise of an enduring, because a self-contained, prosperity in the South; they indicate, as has already been suggested, that our section may expect in the future to provide the bulk of its own food supplies, with some surplus of such commodities for sale; while it will maintain its leading position as the source of one of the principal staples upon which civilised man depends to clothe himself.

The Company has continued active co-operation with the State and Federal Governments, agricultural colleges and Southern farmers for the advancement of Southern agriculture. A preliminary report of the Agricultural Division of the Company's Industrial and Agricultural Department shows a total of 18,172 acres being cultivated in accordance with the advice of our field agents, embracing 7,882 acres in corn, 3,570 acres in cotton, and 6,720 acres in miscellaneous crops. These figures do not by any means measure the work being done, as they embrace only those fields or parts of fields in which farmers agree to follow the advice of our agricultural field agents. Much larger areas are cultivated substantially in accordance with this advice, and the good results of the agricultural uplift work being done by the Company, and, of course, by the State and Federal Governments, as well as by other intelligent agencies, public and private, are noticeable in almost every agricultural community on the Company's lines. In 1914 the average yields of both cotton and corn per acre on fields in which the advice of the Company's agents was followed were more than double the average yields obtained on similar lands in the same localities where this advice was not followed, and as good results may be expected in 1915 when the figures are available.

The agricultural agent reports 313,000 fruit and nut trees planted during the year.

The live stock industry is making rapid progress in all of the territory contiguous to the Southern Railway. The numbers of beef and dairy cattle and hogs are rapidly increasing and their quality is being improved through the introduction of pure-bred animals. The live stock agent of the Company reports the location of 1,468 pure-bred cattle along the Company's lines during the year, the construction of 1,475 silos, and the organisation of 30 live stock associations. The climate of the South and the large range of forage crops that can be produced are exceptionally favourable to all kinds of live stock, and the United States Department of Agriculture has demonstrated that beef and pork can be produced cheaper in the South than in other parts of the United States. The only obstacle to the development of the beef and dairy industries has been the cattle tick which carries the germ of Texas fever. The agricultural agents of the Company are co-operating with State and Federal agencies in the eradication of this insect. Large areas along the Company's lines have already been released from the cattle tick quarantine and large additional areas will be released in the autumn of this year.

GOOD ROADS.

Recognising the importance of good country highways to the development of the territory traversed by its lines, the Company has at all times co-operated with the Office of Public Roads in the United States Department of Agriculture and other organisations engaged in the promotion of the good roads improvement. The latest figures for road construction are those for the calendar year 1914, which show that during that year there were approximately 5,400 miles of improved roads built in counties traversed by Southern Railway lines, and that in the same year those counties issued bonds for road construction aggregating $5,000,000. The total length of improved country highways in those counties at the end of the calendar year was approximately 50,000 miles.

LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE.

One of the interesting developments of the public service of a private corporation which looks forward, as does this Company, is its educational activities. Attention has been called to the notable work of this kind in behalf of better agriculture. Another work, germane to that in agriculture, has been the stimulation of the people of the South to take advantage of current opportunities for a mutually profitable trade with Latin America. While this Company's South American Agency has been in operation only a short time, it has already laid the foundation of a foreign trade which is entirely new to many manufacturers in the South, and, while the beginnings are necessarily small, they contain the germ of what can become an important factor in the industrial activities of the South and so in the revenues of this Company. One interesting result of this movement is that fifteen thousand school children are now studying Spanish in the schools of the South as a direct result of recommendations to educational authorities by the South American Agency.

THE ADDITIONS TO CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND TO PROPERTY INVESTMENT.

In the matter of additions and betterments the policy of the Company is better railroad, not more railroad. All suggestions of buying or building new railroads into new territory have been laid aside and, in justice to the urgent demands of the existing property in the interests of economy of operation and convenience of the public served, cannot be properly considered at this time.

The Company has been fortunate in its ability to continue and to push forward, during this year of depression, the additions to its plant which will be necessary, before they can be completed, to handle the traffic of the industrial South. The capital for this work was provided during 1914, and its disbursement during the current year, when most other construction work had been suspended in the South, has not only enabled the Company to get more for a dollar invested than ever before, but has contributed substantially to the welfare of many Southern communities, which were refreshed, when they most needed refreshment, by the flow of our money through all the arteries of the commercial body. In this connection special attention is called to the table (page 45, pamphlet report), included for the first time in this report, which sets forth the use and application of all the bonds issued by the Company since its organisation.

During the year the investment in road and equipment increased $11,021.684.56, of which $9.004,934.79 was in roadway and structures, and $2.016.749.77 was in equipment. This increase represents net additions made during the year. (See pages 36 and 37, pamphlet report.)

There was an increase of $1,551,000 in mortgage and collateral trust bonds and miscellaneous obligations, and a decrease of $3,193.000 in equipment trust obligations. (See pages 42 and 43, pamphlet report.)

First Consolidated Mortgage 5% bonds in the total amount of $7,136,000 were sold and the proceeds applied as follows : On July 1, 1914, $2,414,000 to redeem a like amount of matured Western North Carolina 6% bonds; in December 1914, $4,722,000 to redeem a like amount of Richmond and Danville 6% bonds. These transactions resulted in no increase in the funded debt, while the difference in the interest rates borne by the old bonds and the new means a reduction of $71,360 in the annual interest charges.

There were drawn and taken into the treasury $456,000 Development and General Mortgage 4% bonds, representing in part the equipment trust obligations paid during the year and charged to property investment account.

The total amount of Development and General Mortgage 4% bonds available for disposition on June 30, 1915, was $32.579.000, of which $16,667.000 are pledged as collateral under Southern Railway Three-Year 5% Collateral Trust Indenture, dated March 2, 1914, leaving $15,912,000 of such bonds in the treasury.

DOUBLE TRACK.

The double track construction work on the main line north of Charlotte, N.C., carrying with it improved alignment and elimination of heavy grades, has gone forward rapidly on 100 miles of the 142 miles of main line between Washington and Charlotte operated as single track at the beginning of the past fiscal year. Of this mileage, 27 miles, between Pelham and Brown Summit, N.C., were in operation as double track at the close of the year, and it is expected that all of the remaining 73 miles upon which work is now under way will be completed before April 1916. There were 434.03 miles of double track in operation at the close of the year.

Since the close of the fiscal year there has been made available for the provision of double track and other improvements on the main line between Charlotte, N.C., and Atlanta, Ga., the sum of $3,500,000 through the sale of First Mortgage Thirty-Year 5% (Series B) Gold bonds of The Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway Company. The work in immediate contemplation consists of the 56 miles between Spartanburg and Central, S. C., and the 23 miles between New Holland and Cornelia, Ga.

SEPARATION OF GRADE CROSSINGS.

One of the difficulties of [illegible] grade crossings [illegible] These crossings, which [illegible] were usually [illegible] by the early [illegible], have [illegible] the growth of population, a menace to the public, and cause, in deplorable accidents [illegible] drain, and this Company is alive to the advantage of separating [illegible] when, the community recognises its share in the responsibility [illegible] much can be done, has been done, and will continue to be done on our lines. Moreover, on all revision of line undertaken in connection with the policy of constructing double track, this Company has separated important and busy grade crossings wherever physically practicable, and not prevented by [illegible] 100 miles of the main line on which double track has been under construction, 54 out of 73 dangerous grade crossings were eliminated, and this policy will be continued. The [illegible] is, however, an unfortunate assurance that for many years more reliance must be placed, for the prevention of accidents at grade crossings, upon human care than upon physical elimination of risk. This is one of the most serious problems in the south, as in other parts of the United States.

YARDS AND TERMINALS.

In addition to the terminal yards at Richmond, Va., at Spencer and Weston, N. C., at Meridian and at Forest (near Birmingham), Ala., and at Forrest (near Memphis), Tenn., mentioned last year, work upon other important terminal improvements progressed during the past year, including a new yard at Denverside (near East St. Louis), Ill., new facilities for both passenger and freight traffic at Spartanburg, S. C., and the separation of busy grade crossings in several cities. Since the close of the year the modern export coal terminal at Charleston, S. C., has been put into operation. Arrangements have been made to provide a union passenger station at Macon, Ga., to meet the long-continued and insistent demand for improved passenger traffic facilities in that city. New passing, side and spur tracks aggregating 89.27 miles, were constructed.

AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC BLOCK SIGNALS.

These signals were placed in operation on the 130.3 miles of double track between Amherst and Whittle, Va., Danville, Va., and Pelham, N. C., Atlanta and New Holland, Ga., Austell and Howell, Ga., Knoxville and Morristown, Tenn., and Ooltewah and Citico, Tenn. It is the policy [illegible] the year.

SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES.

There has never been a year of the Company's history in which the stockholders have had as much reason for pride in and appreciation of the officers and employees, their work, their spirit, their loyal self-sacrifice. The manner in which a grave emergency was met and dealt with illustrates at its best that discipline which distinguishes a true organisation from a mere co-operative society. Our organisation, which has in recent years been built and cemented by a strict adherence to the principle of promotion for merit and reliance upon men made on the road, who have faithfully stood by during all our vicissitudes, has proven in this year of need the greatest of the Company's assets, for it has fought a losing fight and won.

ACCOUNTS AND STATISTICS.

Statements of the accounts and statistics of the Company in detail will be found in the tables hereto annexed.

The accounts have been examined, as usual, by independent auditors and accountants, Messrs. Patterson, Teele & [illegible]

Appended to this report is a minute of the resolution adopted by the board upon being advised of the death of Alexander Boyd Andrews, for many years a director and first Vice-President of the Company, who died at his home in Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 17, 1915.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the board,
FAIRFAX HARRISON, *President.*

TABLE I.—INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915, COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1914.

1914			1915	
		OPERATING REVENUES—		
$45,632,207 12		[illegible]	$44,[illegible] 85	
19,016,098 50		[illegible]	[illegible] 75	
414,658 31		[illegible]	353,842 55	
[illegible]		[illegible]	1,459,883 47	
[illegible]		[illegible]	1,688,471 19	
988,389 26		[illegible] Transportation	951,630 35	
1,068,364 41		[illegible]	884,531 81	
[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	
	$70,[illegible] 06 75	Total Operating Revenues		$[illegible] 73
		OPERATING EXPENSES—		
$9,282,228 63		[illegible]	$8,452,119 17	
12,133,828 71		[illegible]	[illegible]	
2,244,559 52		[illegible]	2,110,466 58	
5,713,747 03		Transportation	22,757,597 47	
463,598 19		[illegible]	[illegible]	
1,987,879 39		[illegible]	2,019,621 01	
65,993 23		[illegible] Transportation for Investment—Cr.	244,589 87	
	51,[illegible] 27	Total Operating Expenses		[illegible] 59
	$18,990,347 48	Net Revenue from Railway Operations		$16,024,798 94
	2,679,389 67	[illegible]	$2,595,828 27	
		[illegible] Railway Revenue	28,916 09	
				2,624,744 36
	$16,310,957 81	Total Operating Income		$18,[illegible] 58
		NON-OPERATING INCOME—		
$212,112 25		Joint Facility Rent Income	$254,477 24	
65,000 00		Income from Lease of Road	[illegible] 00	
110,291 69		Miscellaneous Rent Income	1,44[illegible] 58	
26,123 51		Net Income from Rail Leased	23,280 85	
1,331,794 24		Dividend Income	1,080,245 80	
1,380,317 26		Income from Funded Securities	1,071,544 35	
131,722 78		Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts	504,761 05	
10,044 53		Miscellaneous Income	84,289 79	
	3,267,406 36	Total Non-Operating Income		3,[illegible] 75
	$19,578,364 17	Total Gross Income		$16,638,972 33
		DEDUCTIONS FROM TOTAL GROSS INCOME—		
$601,713 96		Hire of Equipment—Balance	$857,616 06	
1,052,062 51		Joint Facility Rents	1,046,522 17	
1,790,637 01		Rent for Leased Roads	1,621,040 59	
38,276 45		Miscellaneous Rents	40,837 36	
189,215 84		Separately Operated Properties	183,608 84	
37 93		Interest on Unfunded Debt	2,294 52	
127,118 50		Miscellaneous Income Charges	98,556 26	
	3,799,062 20	Total Deductions		[illegible] 80
	$15,779,301 97	Total Available Income		$13,808,496 53
$10,053,022 78		Interest Accrued on Long Term Debt	$[illegible] 05	
660,565 59		Interest Accrued on Equipment Obligations	737,784 54	
		Interest Accrued on Dividend Certificates	[illegible] 00	
226,008 00		Dividends Accrued on Southern Railway—Mobile & Ohio Stock Trust Certificates	226,008 00	
	10,939,596 37			11,151,814 19
	$4,839,705 60	Balance of Income over Charges		$1,656,682 34
		From which Deduct Dividends on Preferred Stock—		
$1,500,000 00		No. 27 (2½%) paid in April, 1914		
1,200,000 00		No. 28 (Scrip Dividend—2%)		
	2,700,000 00	Total Dividends		
	$2,139,705 60	Balance over Dividends on Preferred Stock		$1,656,682 34
		APPROPRIATION OF INCOME—		
$91,928 91		For Additions and Betterments	$77,187 72	
		For Miscellaneous	[illegible] 90	
	91,928 91			[illegible] 62
	$2,047,776 69	BALANCE CARRIED TO CREDIT OF PROFIT AND LOSS		$1,523,369 32

TABLE 3.—PROFIT AND LOSS, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

Balance at Credit of this Account June 30, 1914		$18,676,904 51
Add—Credit Balance of Income for the Year		1,523,569 32
Net Miscellaneous Credits		72,900 09
		$20,273,189 92
Deduct—Discount on Securities charged off during the Year	$4,[illegible]95 17	
Property Abandoned and not Replaced	[illegible]10 79	
Advances to Proprietary Companies written down	[illegible]23 33	
		521,428 13
Credit Balance June 30, 1915		$19,751,761 79

TABLE 4.—GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915, and June 30, 1914.

June 30, 1914.		ASSETS.	June 30, 1915.	
		INVESTMENTS		
$310,963,668 27		Road and Equipment	$[illegible]0,[illegible]68 27	
66,639,585 49		Investment in Equipment	68,[illegible]1,[illegible]56 26	
	$377,[illegible]3,[illegible]54 76	Total Investment in Road and Equipment		$388,624,738 32
[illegible]6,[illegible]6 11		Cash Deposited for Loans, Mortgages, Reports, Sold		2,[illegible]0,[illegible]4
498,359 17		Physical Property—Coals and Ores Reserved to Company		503,161 93
		INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES—		
$27,3[illegible]5,280 11		Stocks	$27,453,480 11	
31,[illegible]0,[illegible]7 04		Bonds	31,582,577 04	
1,726,831 46		Notes	2,115,080 94	
1,[illegible]7,[illegible]4 50		Advances	2,[illegible]2,[illegible]0 30	
51,455 00		Miscellaneous (Market value $51,455 00)	51,455 00	
62,[illegible]7,[illegible]8 11		Total Investments in Affiliated Companies		63,[illegible]4,[illegible]2
		OTHER INVESTMENTS—		
$2,[illegible]7,[illegible]3 00		Stocks	$[illegible],[illegible]0 00	
1,[illegible]5,[illegible]1 45		Bonds	5,158,913 45	
[illegible]0,[illegible]0 00		Notes	52,625 [illegible]	
[illegible],[illegible]2,[illegible]8 11		Total of Other Investments		5,509,045 27
$451,649,163 [illegible]		Total Investments		$460,115,557 95
		CURRENT ASSETS—		
$2,[illegible]7,[illegible]8 [illegible]		Cash	$2,075,178 [illegible]	
9,649,421 23		Time Deposits	[illegible],[illegible]0 [illegible]	
7,583,393 45		Special Deposits	2,932,371 45	
671,292 30		Loans and Bills Receivable	1,517,048 80	
785,793 91		Traffic and Car Service Balances Receivable	884,055 85	
300,384 25		Interest and Dividends Receivable	191,527 39	
3,384,911 95		Other Current Assets	3,207,412 32	
5,080,699 04		Net Balance Receivable from Agents and Conductors ...	4,[illegible]0,[illegible]6 24	
[illegible],[illegible]1 [illegible]		Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable	612,433 [illegible]	
237,576 13		Material and Supplies	170,327 [illegible]	
31,[illegible]5,[illegible]2 [illegible]		Total Current Assets		19,248,062 69
		DEFERRED DEBITS—		
$232,377 94		Discount on Funded Debt	$146,360 90	
929,208 73		Other Deferred Debits	[illegible],[illegible]9 63	
220,[illegible]2 [illegible]		Sinking Fund Reserves	235,238 19	
1,[illegible]1,[illegible]3 [illegible]		Total Deferred Assets		1,336,568 72
		UNADJUSTED DEBITS—		
$7,217 60		Rents and Insurance Premiums paid in advance	$11,809 10	
190,166 84		Discount on Capital Stock	162,047 57	
1,[illegible]1,[illegible]3 [illegible]		Advances and Interest on Proprietary and Affiliated Companies	2,287,665 64	
		Securities issued or assumed—		
		1914. 1915.		
		$[illegible],[illegible]0 00 $[illegible],[illegible]0 00		
		[illegible],[illegible]0 00 [illegible],[illegible]0 00		
		$34,319,200 00 Totals ... $[illegible],[illegible]0 00		
2,068,983 00		Total Unadjusted Debits		2,[illegible]7,[illegible]2 [illegible]
$486,675,527 81		GRAND TOTAL		$[illegible],[illegible]1 [illegible]
		LIABILITIES.		
		CAPITAL STOCK—		
$12[illegible],[illegible]0 00		Common	$120,000,000 00	
[illegible],[illegible]0 00		Preferred	60,000,000 [illegible]	
$18[illegible],[illegible]0 00		Total Stock Held by Public	$180,000,000 00	
		Southern Ry.-M. & O. Stock Trust Certificates	$5,670,200 00	
		[illegible],[illegible]0 00	[illegible],[illegible]0 00	
[illegible],[illegible]0 00			5,650,200 00	
[illegible],[illegible]0 00	$18[illegible],[illegible]0 [illegible]	Total Stock		$18[illegible],[illegible]0 [illegible]
		NON-CUMULATIVE INCOME—		
$260,048,700 00		Common	$261,599,700 [illegible]	
34,299,200 00		Preferred	34,755,200 00	
$29[illegible],[illegible]8,900 00			$226,844,500 [illegible]	
[illegible],[illegible]1,[illegible]0 [illegible]		Equipment Trust Obligations	15,191,000 [illegible]	
	244,133,500 00	Total Income Debt		242,035,500 00
		CONTINGENT LIABILITIES—		
		Liability on Guaranteed Stocks		13,378 25
	$[illegible],[illegible]3,[illegible]2 [illegible]	Total Capital Liabilities		$427,699,078 25
		CURRENT LIABILITIES—		
		Loans and Bills Payable	$455,000 00	
1,[illegible]4,[illegible]7 [illegible]		Traffic and Car Service Balances	[illegible],[illegible]7 92	
6,798,237 51		Audited Accounts and Wages	5,415,499 79	
891,729 90		Miscellaneous Accounts	633,395 58	
2,[illegible]8,[illegible]0 [illegible]		Interest Matured Unpaid	2,740,952 [illegible]	
4,673 80		Unmatured Interest Accrued	22,673 [illegible]	
56,502 00		Unmatured Rents Accrued	56,502 00	
1,605,437 13		Other Current Liabilities	1,578,496 72	
[illegible],[illegible]6 [illegible]		Taxes Accrued	249,266 69	
[illegible],[illegible]3 81		Other Current Liabilities	376,357 87	
	14,704,162 17	Total Current Liabilities		12,684,711 82
		DEFERRED CREDITS—		
		Income Received on Leased Roads and Equipment		[illegible]
	[illegible],[illegible]5,[illegible]2 [illegible]	Other Deferred Credits		1,385,586 66
$[illegible],[illegible]1,[illegible]1 51		RESERVES—	$1,011,687 [illegible]	
[illegible],[illegible]4,[illegible]4 [illegible]		Depreciation Reserve	954,979 [illegible]	
1,197,071 75		Operating Reserves	1,898,431 [illegible]	
14,[illegible],[illegible]0 [illegible]		Accrued Depreciation—Road and Equipment	15,[illegible]8,[illegible]8 [illegible]	
67,[illegible]9,[illegible]5 [illegible]		Accrued Depreciation—Miscellaneous Physical Property	[illegible],[illegible]1 [illegible]	
1,695,429 12		Profit and Loss—Balance carried to Balance Sheet ...	1,521,825 57	
[illegible],[illegible]8,[illegible]2 [illegible]		Total Reserves		29,[illegible]9,[illegible]2 [illegible]
		CURRENT LIABILITIES—		
$[illegible],[illegible]1 [illegible]		Audited Accounts and Wages Payable	$577,519 [illegible]	
[illegible],[illegible]0 [illegible]		Miscellaneous Accounts Payable	263,370 15	
[illegible],[illegible]5,[illegible]1 [illegible]		Interest Matured Unpaid		[illegible],[illegible]2 [illegible]
[illegible],[illegible]0,[illegible]4 [illegible]		Dividends Matured Unpaid		12,751,[illegible]4 [illegible]
$[illegible],[illegible]5,[illegible]5 [illegible]		GRAND TOTAL		$48[illegible],[illegible]1 [illegible]

ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., October 6, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the
Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company:

The board of directors submits the following report of the affairs of the Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915:—

INCOME STATEMENT.

	1915.	1914.	Inc. or Dec
Miles of road operated	329.41	309.04	—
	$	$	$
Total operating revenues	4,776,629 89	5,426,175 09	−649,545 20
Total operating expenses	3,653,733 63	4,269,410 67	−615,677 04
Net operating revenue	1,122,896 26	1,156,764 42	− 33,868 16
Taxes	177,929 98	189,856 61	− 11,926 63
Uncollectible railway revenue	703 46	—	+ 703 46
Operating income	944,262 82	966,907 81	− 22,644 99
Non-operating income	239,467 79	371,974 05	−132,506 26
Total gross income	1,183,730 61	1,338,881 86	−155,151 25
Deductions from income	217,030 41	230,362 46	− 13,332 05
Total available income	966,700 20	1,108,519 40	−141,819 20
Int. on funded debt and equipment trust obligations	340,525 95	351,332 55	− 10,806 60
Balance of income over charges	626,174 25	757,186 85	−131,012 60
Dividends on Preferred Stock—3 % in Feb., 1914, 3 % in Aug., 1914, 3 % in Feb., 1915, and reserve for 3 % in Aug., 1915	202,821 00	202,821 00	—
Balance carr. to credit of profit & loss	423,353 25	554,365 85	−131,012 60

THE INCOME ACCOUNT.

The reason for the reduction of $649,545.20 (equivalent to 11.97%) in the total operating revenues is found in the loss of traffic, both freight and passenger, caused by the slowing up of business in the territory served, and the economies forced upon its people, which accompanied the disturbance of markets and prices for important commodities of that territory following the commencement of the European War. The comparative income statement (Table 1, page 10 of pamphlet report) shows the part played by each kind of traffic in this loss in revenue.

Operating expenses were reduced by $615,677.04 (equivalent to 14.42%), leaving a loss of only $33,868.16 (2.93%) in net operating revenue, although the amount available for fixed charges, dividends and surplus shows a decrease of $141,819.20, because of smaller receipts of per diem rental for freight cars and reductions in other items of non-operating income. The balance of income over fixed charges is $626,174.25, or $131,012.60 less than in the preceding year, a reduction of $10,806.60 in interest on funded debt and equipment trust obligations being due to the payment of equipment trust obligations which matured during the year. The decrease of $11,926.63 in taxes is the result of a smaller Corporation income tax payment consequent upon reduced earnings.

DIVIDENDS.

The usual dividends, totalling 6%, declared out of income for the year, were paid on the Preferred stock. Dividends totalling 5%, the same as for the preceding year, were declared and paid on the Ordinary stock. The balance of income for the year carried to the credit of the profit and loss account exceeded by $31,853.25 the Ordinary stock dividend requirements.

OPERATING EXPENSES.

Operating expenses required 76.49 cents of each dollar of revenue against 78.63 cents in the preceding year, the reduction of 2.19 cents in the operating ratio being made in spite of the substantial decrease in gross revenues. This result was accomplished only by retrenchment in every class of expenses.

Transportation expenses decreased $149,534.42 (or 8.11%). A saving in this item is in every sense real, and it is disappointing that two particular causes beyond the control of management should have operated to prevent a much greater reduction, viz., the heavy [illegible] movement of empty foreign line freight cars which is an accompaniment of business depression, and the [illegible] by tornadoes on September 29, 1914, at Kinston, Alabama. With a decrease of 5.9 [illegible] the train mileage, the freight train mileage was reduced 10.13%.

Maintenance of way and structures expenses decreased $173,319.02 or 19.99%. The satisfactory [illegible] cut in this item is found in the good physical condition of the property, which made it possible to reduce materially the appropriations for this purpose during a time of depleted revenues without affecting the safety or efficiency of operation. New cross ties laid totalled 159,2[illegible], an average of 517 per main line mile. New 85-lb. steel rail laid totalled 3,744 tons, equivalent to 28 miles. The ballast requirements were much lower than in the previous year, as the main line track had been fully ballasted. Necessary repairs to buildings and structures were made, including the renewal of several bridges and the rebuilding of the coaling station at Attalla, Ala.

Maintenance of equipment expenses decreased $269,519.96 (or 18.99%). The preceding year was a period of unusually liberal appropriations for the maintenance and improvement of rolling stock, and a comparison with the three fiscal years ended June 30, 1913, shows an average annual expenditure for this item less by $63,583.98 than during the past year. A substantial portion of the reduction shown, when compared with the previous year, reflects a real saving because of the reduced locomotive, passenger car and loaded freight car mileage. While there has been an increase in the number of freight cars awaiting repairs, the equipment required for handling the reduced volume of traffic has been maintained in good condition for service, it being the policy of the management to avoid a sacrifice of operating efficiency through a too severe retrenchment in maintenance outlays.

Traffic expenses and general expenses were reduced 3.80% and 5.64% respectively.

The details of operating expenses are shown in Table 8, pages 18 and 19 of pamphlet report.

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS.

The increase of $914,517.94 in property investment in road is mainly the result of the provision of second main track and automatic signals. The decrease of $7,537.89 in property investment in equipment represents the excess of the book value of equipment retired from service over the value of new equipment acquired. The details are stated in Table 4, page 14 of pamphlet report.

The decrease of $385,402.80 in long term debt represents the amount of equipment trust obligations which matured and were paid during the year. (See Table 6, page 16 of pamphlet report.)

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.

Double track mileage in service at the close of the year totalled 22.9 miles, the work having been first commenced and completed between those points where it is most needed—viz.:

	Miles.
York, Ala., to Toomsuba, Miss.	14.5
Russell, Miss., to Meridian, Miss.	5.9
Eleventh St., Birmingham, to West End, Ala.	2.5

The Wauhatchie Extension Railway, being the extension of the Company's main line from the northern terminus at Wauthatchie, Tennessee, 2.97 miles to a connection with the Lookout Mountain line of Southern Railway Company leading to the terminal facilities in Chattanooga, is nearing completion.

There were constructed 5.09 miles of new passing and side tracks.

Automatic electric block signals now protect train operations on the [illegible] between Chattanooga and Meridian, the work of installation having been completed early in the past fiscal year.

The additions to equipment, as well as a statement of the equipment retired, are shown in Table 4, page 14 of pamphlet report. Steel underframes were applied to five wooden passenger cars, and thirty wooden freight-train cars were equipped with steel centre sills.

The [illegible] strengthened by the addition of several new machine-tools.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS AND TRAFFIC.

While the reduction in revenue through the loss of traffic available for transportation over the lines of your Company during the past year has been heavy, and the conditions of [illegible] products of the territory served which have acted as a deterrent to business activities and travel and made for the depression to which the loss has been due still exist, it is believed that the effect of these conditions can be only temporary, and those entrusted with the management of your [illegible] return of normal business. It is gratifying to note that [illegible] come to [illegible] United States.

ACCOUNTS AND STATISTICS.

The accounts of the Company have been audited by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., independent accountants, and their certificate is included in this report.

[illegible] found in the tables which follow.

It has been the sad duty of the board to record the death, which occurred at his home in Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 17, 1915, of Alexander Boyd Andrews, for many years a director and first vice president of your Company.

The board expresses to the officers and employees its appreciation of the faithful discharge of their duties during the year.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Board.

FAIRFAX HARRISON, *President*.

PROFIT AND LOSS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

Balance at credit of this Account, June 30, 1914		$2,893,714 21
Add: Credit balance of income for the year ...	$423,353 25	
Miscellaneous adjustments—net	5,137 56	
		428,490 81
		$3,322,205 02
Deduct: Dividends on ordinary stock—5 per cent.		391,500 00
Credit balance June 30, 1915		$2,930,705 02

TABLE 3.—GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915, AND JUNE 30, 1914.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
June 30, 1914.		June 30, 1915.	June 30, 1914.		June 30, 1915.
	Investments—			Capital Stock—	
$18,174,771 41	Road and Equipment—Cost, June 30, 1907	$18,174,771 41	$7,850,000 00	Common—156,000 shares ($50 each)	$7,850,000 00
	Additions, $3,990,172 [illegible]		3,360,350 00	Preferred—67,207 shares ($50 each)	3,360,350 00
	Retirements, $265,488 80		$11,210,350 00	Total	$11,210,350 00
1,881,416 14	Investment since June 30, 1907	2,788,426 19		Funded Debt—	
	Additions, $1,360,009 82			Funded Debt Unmatured—	
	Retirements, $452,826 77		$8,185,600 00	Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad Co.	$8,185,600 00
$20,056,217 55	Total Road and Equipment	$20,963,197 60	1,000 00	Mortgage Bonds—Held by Company ...	1,000 00
127,993 25	Improvements on Leased Railway Property	180,748 33		Total Mortgage Bonds (see Page 5)	
21,842 72	Miscellaneous Physical Property	21,842 72	$8,186,600 00	Funded Debt	$8,186,600 00
	Investments in Affiliated Companies:		988,307 00	Equipment Trust Obligations (see Page 6)	603,104 20
358,084 63	Stocks ...	359,284 63	$9,175,107 00	Total ...	$8,789,704 20
53,030 62	Notes ...	54,030 92		Current Liabilities—	
15,877 86	Advances ...	350,877 86	$320,659 81	Traffic and Car Service Balances Payable	$98,290 47
$427,553 11	Total	$764,193 41	592 10	Audited Accounts and Wages Payable ...	862,067 39
	Other Investments—		35,451 65	Miscellaneous Accounts Payable ...	40,668 99
$1,532,088 79	Stocks	$1,532,088 79	68,879 80	Interest Matured Unpaid	67,911 20
	Current Assets—		1,264 50	Dividends Matured Unpaid ...	1,488 50
$325,695 73	Cash	$308,070 17	50,000 00	Long Term Debt Matured Unpaid ...	50,000 00
2,463,768 18	Special Deposits	1,272,983 55	5,496 66	Unmatured Interest Accrued	27,921 67
231,743 58	Traffic and Car Service Balances Receivable	311,067 83	9,884 16	Unmatured Rents Accrued	10,299 33
	Net Balance Receivable from Agents and Conductors	76,891 54	82,125 20	Other Current Liabilities	60,004 52
45,516 45	Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable ...	268,226 19	101,410 50	Unmatured Dividends Declared	101,410 50
220,099 65	Materials and Supplies (Table IX of Annual Report)	214,919 83	$1,092,763 76	Total	$1,178,995 57
317,630 26	Interest and Dividends Receivable ...	6,650 00		Deferred Liabilities—	
7,450 63	Rents Receivable	2,286 84		Operating Reserves—Depreciation Equipment and Sundry Items	$17,172 96
2,286 84	Other Current Assets	825 95		Unadjusted Credits—	
6,031 81	Total	$2,431,862 20	$81,227 89	Tax Liability	$79,046 55
$3,720,222 93	Deferred Assets—		8,659 25	Insurance and Casualty Reserve ...	9,395 30
	Working Fund Advances	$1,929 00	96,006 12	Operating Reserves	124,816 43
$21,882 50	Insurance and Other Funds	9,395 30	1,523,470 18	Accrued Depreciation—Equipment ...	1,040,255 54
8,659 25	Other Deferred Assets	9,204 54	1,471 40	Other Unadjusted Credits	65,442 30
7,803 58	Total	$20,528 84	$1,777,837 84	Total	$1,918,956 12
$38,345 33	Unadjusted Debits—		$2,893,714 21	Profit and Loss	$2,930,705 02
$4,975 58	Rents and Insurance Paid in Advance	$3,062 85		Corporate Bonds on Leasehold Estate	
117,800 54	Discount on Funded Debt	113,602 79	324,000 00	Corporate Bonds	324,000 00
116,306 89	Other Unadjusted Debits	156,946 54	$26,488,146 69	Grand Total	$26,518,983 87
1,000 00	Securities Issued or Assumed—Unpledged	1,000 00			
$239,883 01	Total	$274,521 98			
324,000 00	Leasehold Estate—Belt Ry. of Chattanooga (per Contra)	324,000 00			
$26,488,146 69	Grand Total	$26,518,983 87			

INDIAN MINES.

BALAGHAT.—Capital, £212,600 in Ordinary and £95,400 in Ten per Cent. Preference shares of £1 each. The Preference shares after first receiving 10 per cent. entitled to participate *pro rata* with Ordinary for further dividend, but are non-cumulative.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield—Value £	Total Gold Yield—Per Ton	Total Working Costs per Ton	Working Profit*—£	Working Profit*—Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period†
1914 ...	40,440	66,691	33/0	32/6	909	0/6	2/9
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	9,687	16,188‡	33/5	—	—	—	4/3
June qr. ...	9,009	16,465‡	36/6	—	—	—	4/9
July ...	3,136	5,525‡	35/7	—	—	—	5/0
Aug. ...	3,000	5,542‡	36 11	—	—	—	4 3
Sept. ...	3,050	5,516‡	36/2	—	—	—	4/0

* Before deduction of royalty (£3,264 in 1914).
† Price of Ordinary shares.
‡ Estimated at £4 5*s.* per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Account 1907, March, 10 on Pref. Nil since.

CHAMPION REEF.—Capital £260,000, in shares of 2*s.* 6*d.*

Year ends Sept. 30	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield*—£	Total Gold Yield*—Per Ton	Working Costs per Ton	Total Profit†—£	Total Profit†—Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912-13 ...	220,551	510,736	46/3	26/6	218,001	19/7	10/9
1913-14 ...	216,934	527,500	48/7	27/10	225,489	19/7	10/6
1914-15.							
Dec. qr. ...	54,352	134,300*a*	49/4	—	—	—	10/9
March qr. ...	53,113	136,000*a*	51/2	—	—	—	11/6
June qr. ...	51,593	138,885*a*	53/10	—	—	—	11.3
July ...	17,710	46,822*a*	52/11	—	—	—	10/6
Aug. ...	17,575	46,584*a*	52/5	—	—	—	11/0
Sept. ...	17,025	48,098*a*	56/6	—	—	—	11/0
12 mos. ...	211,368	560,689*a*	52 7	—	—	—	11 0

* Includes yield from accumulated slimes.
† Before payment of royalty.
(*a*) Estimated at £4 5*s.* per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Total distribution, account 1911-12, 50. Account 1912-13, April, 13⅓; July, 16⅔; December, 20.—Total, 50. 1913-14, March, 13⅓; July, 16⅔; December, 23⅓.—Total, 53⅓. Account 1914-15, March, 13⅓; July, 16⅔.

NUNDYDROOG.—Capital £283,600, in 10*s.* shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total (*a*) Gold Yield—Value £	Total (*a*) Gold Yield—Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Working Profit*—£	Working Profit*—Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912 ...	100,552	330,937	65/9	27/10	190,778	37/11	27/6
1913 ...	90,650	304,326	67/1	31/9	160,228	35,4	27/0
1914 ...	89,950	303,551	67/5	32/3	158,541	35/2	24/0
1915.							
Mar. qr.	22,800	78,308†	68/10	—	—	—	26/0xd
June qr.	23,200	80,538†	69/4	—	—	—	25/6
July ...	8,000	27,506†	68/9	—	—	—	25/0xd
Aug. ...	8,000	27,544†	68/9	—	—	—	25,0
Sept. ...	8,000	27,166†	67/11	—	—	—	26/0

* Before deduction of royalty (£19,493 in 1914).
† Estimated at £4 5*s.* per fine oz.
(*a*) Including slimes, &c.

Dividends per cent.—Account 1912, total, 41⅔. 1913, total, 35. 1914, total, 35. 1915, June, 10; Oct., 11⅔.

OOREGUM.—Capital issued, 481,544 Ordinary and 240,000 Ten per Cent. Preference shares; all shares of 10*s.* each. Preference shares first get 10 per cent., and, beyond, same dividend as paid on Ordinary.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield—£	Total Gold Yield—Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Working Profit*—£	Working Profit*—Per Ton	Price of Ord. Shares end of Period
1913 ...	153,636	360,888	47/0	22 8	186,613	24/4	21/0
1914 ...	154,898	367,082	47/4	22/10	190,075	24,6	22/0
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	38,411	93,800†	48/10	—	—	—	27/0
June qr. ...	38,505	92,140†	47/10	—	—	—	25/9
July ...	12,820	30,481†	47/7	—	—	—	25/6
Aug. ...	12,830	30,600†	47/8	—	—	—	22/6
Sept. ...	12,550	30,247†	48 2	—	—	—	22/9

* Before deduction of royalty (£21,660 in 1914).
† Estimated at £4 5*s.* per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Total distribution, account 1911 and 1912, 40 on Preference and 30 on Ordinary. Account 1913, 42½ Preference and 32½ Ordinary. Account 1914, June, 17½ Preference and 7½ Ordinary; December, 7½ each; March, 10 each. Account 1915, June, 17½ Preference and 7½ Ordinary.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LTD.

THE twenty third ordinary general meeting was held at Winchester House, E.C., on October 27, Mr. James Jackson presiding.

The Chairman, after expressing regret at the absence of Mr. Hegan through indisposition, said: It is a matter of great satisfaction to the board and I am sure it will be to the shareholders, that the report presented to you clearly shows that, in spite of unprecedented conditions and many difficulties, the business of the Bank has been successfully maintained and that the Bank enjoys an exceptionally strong position. It is true the profits and the carry-over show a slight diminution compared with the figures of 1914, but this reduction, quite inside War calculations, is attributable to the drought which was so acutely felt in so many districts of Australia. But for this the earnings would have exceeded those of the previous year. As it is, they are sufficient, after appropriating £35,000 and the statutory £15,000 to the reserve fund and £2,500 to the officers' guarantee and provident fund, to fully justify the same rate of dividend as usual. The majority of the entries in the balance sheet show no material alteration from the corresponding ones of last year. On the asset side, the advances and other assets at £6,079,185 are, roughly, 6% lower than in 1914, which is far more than counterbalanced by cash and bullion, cash at bankers, and investments, which, showing an aggregate of £3,551,436 in liquid resources, provide 10*s.* in the £ against the liability on current accounts and deposits combined, and of no less than 21*s.* 4*d.* per pound on current account [illegible] figures which indicate a financial strength corresponding with the exceptional requirements of the times. Bank premises show a reduction of £15,076, mainly by the crediting of the sum realised by the purchase of Deferred [illegible] stock under the provisions of the articles of association. The figure now stands at £284,953, and those who, like myself, have had the opportunity of inspecting the great majority of the Bank's buildings throughout the Commonwealth know what an ample value stands behind this figure. The increase of nearly £182,000 in investments is accounted for mainly by subscriptions to the War Loans. The directors are confident that they correctly interpret the wishes of the shareholders in following the patriotic policy of making their contributions to the War Loans as liberal as is consistent with the limits of safety to the Bank. Of the liabilities figures, the only noticeable changes are that the reserve fund, at £365,000, is increased by the appropriation last year of £50,000, and that there is an increase of roughly 9%, amounting to £282,885, in current accounts, reflecting, as might be expected under the circumstances, curtailed business activity throughout the Commonwealth. In the profit and loss account charges show, at £180,813, an increase of nearly £18,000. Of this no less than £12,500 is represented by augmented income and land taxes at home and abroad. Of course, it is scarcely to be expected that this can be otherwise than an increasing charge for the coming year, and possibly for some years to come. The serious effects of the drought, which, happily, is now ended, over the greater area of the Commonwealth have been rather lost sight of in view of other more portentous events, but when it is remembered that the reduction it caused in the production of wheat alone represents a loss of about £15,000,000 as compared with the yield of the previous year, it will be recognised how widespread the evil has been. The drought and war conditions combined have without doubt been greatly prejudicial to the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth, and have naturally interfered with the imports and exports of Australia, with a corresponding influence on the course of exchange. Taking into consideration the unparalleled and adverse conditions to which I have alluded, I think it will be agreed that the Bank has done remarkably well. With regard to the future, in the absence of some unexpected cataclysm or upheaval, I think we are justified in having confidence in the continued prosperity of the Bank.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

A. AND F. PEARS, LIMITED.

THE twenty-third ordinary general meeting was held on October 26 at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., Sir Thomas R. Dewar (Chairman and Managing Director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and gentlemen, The balance sheet which you have before you, your directors trust you find satisfactory. After paying Debenture and Preference shareholders as usual, the Preferred Ordinary shares receive 12%, and the newly-formed Ordinary shares receive 20%. Our investments have been increased by £100,000, and, what is of equal importance, as shown by the official Stock Exchange quotations at September 30 last, our securities were then [illegible] more than they are put at in our accounts. This satisfactory result is owing to the re-adjustment of our securities made when the working arrangement with Messrs. Lever Bros. was completed. We have placed £10,000 to reserve. Creditors could be paid by the debtors more than three times over. Then £30,003 4*s.* 10*d.* is carried forward, and is sufficient to pay Debenture interest, Preference and Preferred Ordinary dividends for the next six months. In the interests of shareholders, a reserve against depreciation of stocks has been created. Also £40,000 War Loan stock has been acquired by the Company. Had it not been for the War our profits would have been considerably larger, because you can readily understand our sales on the Continent have been paralysed, and raw material has increased in price.

A Phenomenal Success.

You may ask the reason of the sound position we find ourselves in. The abnormal times have nothing to do with it, but the contrary. We have benefited by no war profits, although there are no shareholders, I know, who would more willingly pay same over to the Government had such a liability been incurred. A year ago a new policy was adopted, and it has been a phenomenal success. A reorganisation of our system of distribution was established, broadening the field for new channels, and laying a foundation for the future, the development of which should in time, I think, show satisfactory results. This development could never have been accomplished if you had not agreed to our present arrangement with Messrs. Lever Bros. You have to be congratulated upon having consented to that agreement; in fact, it is the opinion of your directors that had you not done so the then Ordinary shareholders would not have had the same dividend as the previous year, and we would not have liked to prophesy when a similar dividend could have been paid if we had continued to work on our old policy. We now find ourselves safe in the zone of a well-organised system of commercial activity, where a large volume of business makes economies possible, thus increasing legitimate profits, whilst allowing the public to get the better value, the employees better pay, merchants a good selling profit, and shareholders respectable dividends. It is my opinion, from practical experience, that the methods of this union could not be more just or generous to our shareholders, to the public, to our customers, and to our employees. This perfect organisation, evolved after years of experience with practical men of business, working in unison to economise and give the public the best service, is worthy of our emulation. We shall bring before you for your acceptance at a later date a profit-sharing scheme for our employees, to encourage them and allow them to benefit by our prosperity. It will be upon a somewhat similar basis to that which is so successfully carried out at Port Sunlight, adapted, of course, to our own requirements. I have to say, on behalf of my colleagues on this board and myself, that it gives us infinite pleasure to work with Sir William Lever and his colleagues, and all those who work under their directions. He and they have always shown a genuine consideration and a most liberal spirit to our employees and all classes of our shareholders in this Company.

New Articles Placed on the Market.

Already we have placed upon the market, through the channels which we now have, and could never have had under any other circumstances at home and abroad, new articles which have been received well by merchants and the public. We expect very soon to be sending from our works every article requisite for the most refined toilet table, from soap and perfumery to bath-salts, all made only from the very finest materials, artistically got up and bearing the hall-mark of the name of Pears as an assurance of the best British manufacture. We shall be quite prepared for any onslaught of foreign competitors in the future, with or without a protective tariff. It is with profound regret that I have to mention the death, four months ago, of our much-respected director, Mr. Edward Byas. He served assiduously at the meetings of this Company from its inception. We are at present extending our works at Isleworth, and have enlarged our offices at New Oxford Street to cope with our increased trade. We have raised the [illegible] of our workers, and have also granted [illegible] loans. I predict under our present policy, when all the properties at the old [illegible] are of Pears are developed, together with all the great variety of [illegible] now [illegible] and as an example of [illegible] British enterprise, whose [illegible] and trade laid in the eighteenth century, as strong and as vigorous after its century and a quarter of active life and as much in its youthful advance

ment as the twentieth century can produce, and that of our products it can be truly said: "Age cannot wither, nor custom stale."

Mr. Retallick seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on October 28 at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Sir Joseph White-Todd, Bart. (Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Chairman said that they were still under the cloud of a terrible war, and since they last met its scope had extended to other nations. Its effects were reflected on neutrals as well as on belligerent States, and its influence, as far as credit and development were concerned, was very discernible in countries as remote from the scene of conflict as Argentina and other States in the Southern Hemisphere. He wished to congratulate the shareholders on the results which had been submitted. Eliminating from the net revenue account the amount of £440,000 brought in from last year and the special allocation of £100,000 to contingencies fund to meet abnormal flood charges during the year, the net result of the year's working showed that, notwithstanding the increase in their interest charges of £50,000 on the terminable notes issued in November 1914 and April 1915, and of £50,000 as Debenture interest, the dividends of 5% on the Ordinary and Deferred stocks of the Company had been amply earned. They carried forward within £95,000 of the amount brought in from last account, in spite of decreased gross receipts of £300,000 for the year, of which no less than £240,000 was due to diminished passenger traffic. The results obtained were in a great measure directly due to the efforts of their officials, but they must not lose sight of the marvellous potentialities of the country in which the railway operated, a country which, in these times of mundial crisis, was yet able to demonstrate that the considerable capital which the shareholders had confided to it still continued to give a fair return on the investment. They had no intention of offering further capital during the continuance of the War. In regard to the new capital works in hand, the electrification of suburban lines, as far as at present undertaken, should be ready for inauguration during 1915. The new Gorton workshops were progressing favourably, and the terminal station in Cordoba was being proceeded with satisfactorily.

The New Terminus.

The first part of their new Retiro terminus in Buenos Aires was officially opened on August 2 last. Their railway had already 3,300 miles in operation, and doubtless in time it would attain 5,000 miles, and that terminus was to deal with the traffic at the present time and in the reasonably near future. The lay-out had been designed to allow for future extensions, and the Company already possessed the necessary land for that purpose. The station, while being the largest in South America, was so up-to-date that they looked not only for increased business, but for considerable economies in the handling of goods and transportation of passengers. Referring to the 10% increase in most of the rates and tariffs put in force on October 1 by the majority of the companies operating out there—which was only done after close friendly conference with the National Government—he said that there, as here, the cost of everything had risen, and, as under a sentence of the Supreme Court—to their minds an unwarranted one under the very clear terms of the Mitre Law—they were now, under protest, paying certain municipal taxes, they officially notified the Government and the public of their intention to raise rates, which they had ample power to do, seeing that they were still a considerable way from attaining that percentage of profit which would enable the Government to intervene in the fixing of their tariffs. Furthermore, there had been indications of a socialistic tendency in recent legislation, which, if carried into practical effect, might be reflected on the revenues of the railway. In regard to the present year's outlook, the Chairman read the following cable which had been received from the local committee, dated the 26th instant:—"Present agricultural prospects in general are satisfactory. The area sown with cereals is greater than last year and the growing crops have been much benefited by recent rains. Locusts, however, have appeared in considerable numbers, and, although the pest is being vigorously dealt with, the ultimate yield of wheat and linseed may be affected. We estimate 650,000 tons of cereals from last harvest awaiting transport." Their aggregate receipts to the 23rd instant of £1,866,000 showed an increase over those of the corresponding period of last year of no less than £230,000, and that, when taken in conjunction with the figure carried forward, gave them, for a third of the present financial year, the substantial sum of £575,800 to the good. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. Campbell P. Ogilvie seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on October 27 at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. David Simson, M.Inst.C.E. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said: The results for the year would have been better than they were had it not been that the War came on the top of nearly two very bad financial years for Argentina, with the result that the country had become impoverished, and the sudden stoppage of credit made the strictest economy the order of the day, and, in consequence, people imported much less foreign goods than usual. They also travelled less, especially first-class, so that in the two items of general goods and passengers alone they had a decrease of £436,500 over the previous year and £781,300 over the year ended June 30, 1913, this notwithstanding the fact that they had an increase in the receipts from wheat and oats of some 20 per cent. With regard to the increases, it was pleasant to note an increase of £43,700 for loose wool, and he hoped that they would have a similar increase for the current year, as the prices of wool were so high at present that every pound of it would be sent to market. The increase in wheat was foreseen, though it was a little disappointing after the high hopes they had of it this time last year, but this was partly explained by the fact that it came to port more slowly than usual. The most disappointing crop was oats. Though the tonnage carried was some 20% over last year the receipts were 8% less owing to a larger proportion of it going to Bahia Blanca than in the previous year, instead of to Buenos Ayres, and the consequent shorter haul. The maize crop was also a great disappointment. The live stock traffic showed slightly better results as a whole than last year. The Manager and his officers had effected a reduction in working expenses of £213,355 during the year, which followed on top of a reduction of £498,903 in the previous year. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to only £584,760, as compared with £1,638,797 in the previous year, and had it not been for unavoidable commitments of previous years for rolling-stock and lands, the amount of capital expenditure during the year would have been reduced still further by at least £200,000. There had been a substantial increase in their gross receipts from July 1 to date. It was the working expenses that constituted the principal element of uncertainty in the situation, and unfortunately in a direction entirely beyond their control. He referred to the high cost of fuel ruling at present, due mainly to the enormous rise in sea freights. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Henry Bell, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY, LIMITED.

THE twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting was held on October 26 at River Plate House, E.C., Sir Henry Bell, Bart. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the results of the year's working, while disappointing to the shareholders, were doubly so to the directors, for they knew how very good the prospects were until the excessive rains set in, which spoiled what otherwise would have been a splendid year, and their chagrin was increased by thinking how important to the Allies a bumper harvest would have been this year. In regard to the report, finance and economy were the important things everyone was now studying, and the directors had gone most thoroughly into that matter. The gross receipts for the year amounted to £2,522,682, and the working expenses to £1,505,284, giving them net receipts of £1,017,398. After adding rentals, interest, &c., and the balance brought forward, and deducting the fixed charges and other payments, there was a balance of £260,515, to which they proposed to add £160,000 from the general reserve fund, making in all £420,515, and out of that amount they recommended a balance dividend of 3%, less tax, on the Ordinary stock, leaving £53,911 to the carried forward. It was to enable them to pay 5% for the year that they had transferred £160,000 to net revenue from the general reserve fund. The working expenses showed an increase of £17,532. The shareholders would, no doubt, be surprised that fuel had actually cost less by £10,000 than in the previous year; that was owing to their beginning the year with an ample stock of cheap coal. He was afraid, however, that the fuel bill would show a different result in the current year, owing to the high freights ruling. As regarded the future, the latest official publications of the Argentine Republic gave satisfactory evidence of the development of that country. As regarded their own Company, it would be seen that they had cash in the bank and in hand in London £674,691, and cash in the bank and in hand at Buenos Aires £57,600, bills receivable £770,000, remittances in transit £80,000, and annuities accrued, which were as good as cash, £35,966—a total of £1,618,257, all liquid assets of the highest class. When they added to that their reserve and renewal funds

of over £1,700,000 it would be seen that the Company was in a financial position which very few companies could show. In addition to that, since October 1 the Company had been collecting an increase of 10% on some of their principal goods tariffs and on their long-distance first-class passenger fares.

The Chairman added that the Company's traffics for last week showed an increase of £13,000, and were now £124,000 in excess of those for the corresponding period of last year.

Sir J. White-Todd, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY COMPANY OF MONTE VIDEO, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on October 26 at River Plate House, E.C., Mr. Frank Henderson (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman said that the Central Uruguay group of railways were worked as one system, and consequently his comments on last year's working applied generally not only to the parent line, but to the Northern and Eastern extensions also. The past year had proved a very unsatisfactory one for the Company, and their misfortunes were directly due to two principal factors, namely, the failure of the wheat crop and the utter stagnation in trade and commercial affairs in Uruguay. The failure of the wheat crop might be attributed to the inclement weather experienced, especially during the first half of the year, and, as regarded the commercial depression, while it was true that the River Plate countries had been suffering from financial stress for a long time, the outbreak of the European war had effectually prevented a recovery which might, under more favourable circumstances, have taken place. The gross earnings of the main line were £575,298, as against £650,997 in the previous year, being a decrease of £75,699, and the working expenses were £354,805, or £28,563 less than last year, the ratio of expenses to earnings being 61.67%, as against 58.89% for the year ended June 30, 1914. The gross earnings of the combined system were £946,767, compared with £1,103,229 for the previous year, a decrease of £156,462, and the expenditure £562,684, as against £622,727, or a decrease of £60,043. Altogether the earnings from the goods traffic on the combined system were down to the extent of £121,256, or 22%, but, on the other hand, owing to the enormous European demand for frozen meat, a larger number of cattle were [illegible] this source of traffic was shown. There was a considerable reduction also in the receipts from passenger traffic. As regarded the working expenses, a saving of £28,562 in the case of the main line and £60,043 in the combined system had been effected, the ratio of expenses to receipts being 61.67% and 59.43% respectively. Their coal bill for the current year [illegible] likely to be greatly increased. In this connection, however, he was pleased to say that they had succeeded in keeping up their stocks of fuel, and he could only express the hope that the high rate of freight now ruling would take a favourable turn before long. Notwithstanding the adverse conditions and the trying period through which the country was passing, there were signs of some improvement in the state of affairs in Uruguay. There had been a great demand for cattle for freezing purposes, and the high prices realised had been unprecedented. Consequently, many of the "estancieros" had done well, and but for the shortage of sheep their profits would have been still greater. Other products, such as wool, hides, and skins, had also realised high prices, and, as expenditure on imported goods had greatly decreased, it would be seen that the country generally must be the gainer, and, consequently, be gradually strengthening its financial position. The Company's relations with the Government had never been more cordial, and they had contracted with the authorities to construct a small branch from Sayago, the junction of the eastern sections, with the main line to the "Tablada," or cattle market. The profit for the year had only slightly exceeded the fixed and other charges, including the dividend on the 5½% Preference shares. In view of that, and the fact that they were indebted to their bankers for a considerable sum, and having regard to the uncertainty as to the future, the board considered that, in the interests of the Company, it would be most unwise to attempt to pay a dividend on the Ordinary stock. They therefore recommended that the balance of £57,922, which included the sum of £54,131 brought in from the previous year, be carried forward. The directors earnestly hoped that the current year would show considerable improvement compared with the results now submitted, and in that connection he might say that the gross earnings of the combined system from July 1 to the 16th instant amounted to £270,497, as against £211,171, an increase of £59,326, equal to 28%. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Henry Bell, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the retiring director and auditors were re-elected.

UNITED COUNTIES BANK LIMITED.

(ESTABLISHED 1836.)

Head Office: 63 COLMORE ROW, BIRMINGHAM.

Nominal Capital	**£10,000,000**
Subscribed Capital	**£5,966,660**
Paid-up Capital	**£1,193,332**
Reserve Fund	**£765,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SIR JAMES SMITH, Chairman. SIR GILBERT H. CLAUGHTON, Bart., Deputy-Chairman,
SIR JOSEPH BRIGHT, HENRY S. CHILDE, Esq., SIR JOHN C. HORSFALL, Bart.,
ERNEST C. KEAY, Esq., GEORGE MACPHERSON, Esq.,
SIR HALLEWELL ROGERS, ROBERT ROWLEY, Esq., RUPERT T. SMITH, Esq.

BRADFORD ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

SIR JOHN C. HORSFALL, Bart., W. B. GORDON, Esq.,
ARTHUR HARRIS, Esq., JAMES HILL, Esq., SIDNEY KELLETT, Esq.

H. J. ROPER, General Manager. R. BROCKLEY, Secretary.

NUMBER OF BRANCHES, 206, including—

Birmingham	**Leeds**	**Potteries** (11 offices)
Bradford	**Leicester**	**Sheffield**
Bristol	**Liverpool**	**Wakefield**
Dudley	**Nottingham**	**Wolverhampton**

&c., &c.

Every description of Banking Business transacted.

BALDWINS, LIMITED.

THE thirteenth annual general meeting of the members of the above-named Company was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on October 28. Colonel J. Roper Wright (Chairman) presided, and the other directors present were: Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P. (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Roger Beck, Mr. S. L. Dore, Mr. John C. Davies, and Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas.

The Chairman: I have to apologise for the absence of Colonel Charles Wright and Colonel Williams, and Mr. Vassar-Smith. The first two are engaged on military duties, and Mr. Vassar-Smith has got such engagements connected with Government work that he cannot be here. Now, it is usual to accept as read the notice convening the meeting, the directors' report and statement of accounts and balance sheet for the year ending last June. May I ask if you will accept them as read?

Agreed.

The Accounts.

The Chairman: Well, now, gentlemen, it is with pleasure your directors place before you their report showing the results of our last year's workings. You will see by the accounts the balance we are able to carry to the balance sheet is £21,010 more than last year, but £48,570 less than the year before, after meeting the heavier charges for income tax and adding a further £15,000 to the depreciation account, which now stands at the round figure of £250,000. After paying the usual dividends, sinking funds, and placing to reserve £50,000, bringing this figure up to £325,000, we have left £127,982, from which we recommend a final dividend of 7½%, making with the interim dividend 10%, free of income tax. I think we may consider this a satisfactory result for the year. I may add we have dealt liberally with the claims of our men on War service, numbering 1,057, of whom, I grieve to say, eight have fallen, and with the various funds for the defence of the country.

Interest in the Port Talbot Steel Works.

In accordance with the resolutions passed at our extraordinary meetings of May 12 and 27 last we have, as shown in our report, taken over the whole of the outstanding shares of the Port Talbot Steel Company, Limited, which, we feel sure, will be a valuable asset to the Company. We had hoped to have been able to announce at this meeting that we had commenced the erection of the intended blast-furnace plant, with its accessories in the way of coking and by-product plant for the extraction of dyes, &c., which hitherto has been one of the chief sources of income for the German industries, and the principal source of British requirements. But the War has stopped all this for the time being.

Helping the Government.

I am glad to say that we are doing all we can to keep up the supply of steel for shell making, for which we are laying down special plant at great outlay and inconvenience to our usual trade, and to which we are giving our whole-hearted attention; and I am sure you will ratify the decision of your directors in handing over to the Minister of Munitions one of our large engineering shops, free of charge, for the manufacture of high-explosive shells, which are now being produced. I think I ought to say that it is the intention of your directors to take a financial interest in the United Tube Corporation for the manufacture of the larger calibre of the high-explosive shells and other Government and trade requirements so urgently wanted, and for which there is a great demand. Your steelworks are exactly suitable for the production of this particular steel, which would be a useful adjunct to your Company. I think, gentlemen, I have given you a fair *résumé* of our position. I will endeavour to answer any questions, which, considering the unsettled state of all industries, will, I hope, be few, as it is, to my mind, dangerous to make forecasts of any sort. I now move: "That the statement of accounts, balance sheet, and the directors' and auditors' reports thereon be entered on the minutes, and that the same, together with the payment of the Preference dividend up to and including August 1, 1915, and of the interim dividend on the Ordinary shares paid on April 7, 1915, and other acts of the directors as thereby disclosed, be approved and adopted."

The Vice-Chairman: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Dividends.

The Chairman: I now move "That, in accordance with the directors' recommendation, a final dividend of 7½%, free of income tax, be paid on the amounts paid up on the Ordinary shares for the half-year ending June 30, 1915, making, with the interim dividend of 2½% paid on April 7, 1915, 10% for the year, free of income tax, and that the same be payable this day."

Mr. Roger Beck: I have much pleasure in seconding that. Resolution carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now move that Mr. Richard Vassar-Smith and Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas, retiring under Article 87, be and are hereby re-elected directors of the Company.

Mr. J. C. Davies: I beg to second that. Resolution carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now move that the retiring directors, Mr. Roger Beck and Colonel D. E. Williams, be and are hereby re-elected directors of the Company.

Mr. S. L. Dore: I second. Resolution carried unanimously.

Mr. Roger Beck: I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. On examination I find I have thanked you in this way for seven years consecutively, and I may say I am now the veteran of the board.

Mr. Dorsett: I beg to move "That Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Company be re-elected auditors of the Company for the current year, at a fee of £525."

Mr. Lambert: I second the resolution. Resolution carried unanimously.

Vote of Thanks to Chairman and Directors.

Mr. C. E. Martineau: I think we ought to pass a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors for their arduous work during the past year, and to Colonel Wright for his conduct of the meeting. I am sure we are all glad to see him so well and so vigorous again after the severe illness he went through about a year ago.

Alderman Sayer: I beg to second the vote. It is a compliment to the directors that so few shareholders are present. The balance sheet is such an excellent one and such a solid one that it must give satisfaction to the whole of the shareholders. Resolution carried unanimously.

The Chairman: On behalf of the directors, I thank you for the confidence expressed in your resolution. May I, on behalf of the directors and the shareholders, thank the staff for their excellent work during the year. We have been well backed up by a staff second to none in the country.

FRASER AND CHALMERS, LIMITED.

THE annual general meeting was held on October 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. A. W. Tait, Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman said, in the course of his address: The net profit, after providing for all expenses and depreciation, was £12,058, as compared with £8,377 for the previous year and £4,604 for the year to June 30, 1913. The progress shown last year has been maintained, and progress has been recorded during a particularly difficult time. The trading has been affected by the War, and difficulties have been experienced in obtaining supplies of raw materials and in maintaining a sufficient labour force. Although the turnover in value was approximately the same as the previous year, in tonnage it was considerably less, the levelling up in money value being largely the necessary result of increased cost of manufacture. The progress in the manufacture and sale of steam turbines and turbo-blowers last year has been fully maintained, and the results from this department show an improvement, and there is every promise that it should continue to grow in importance. The orders in the coal conveying and coal handling department have been very satisfactory, and we are carrying out substantial orders for the French Government and in South Africa and China. This in the near future should be one of the principal departments. A certain amount of business has been secured in Bettington boilers, and inquiries are under consideration, although they may have to be deferred owing to the present regulations which exist for controlled establishments. Considerable progress has been made in the manufacture of dredges, and we have had decided encouragement in the experience of the construction of the last three dredges built. This year we were offered further orders, but, owing to the necessity of providing for Government and other war work, these had to be refused. This is unfortunate, as it will no doubt increase the competition in this class of manufacture when we are again in the market. The business in South Africa has shown some improvement, accounted for by the increase in the demands which sprung up shortly after the outbreak of war for many stamp mill and other supplies, in view of the danger of a shortage and the cutting-off of supplies from Germany. Owing to the pressure of the demand we have had to place some of our orders in the United States, but we hope that in time this position will adjust itself. The progress in these results is after making deductions for South African income tax, which is a new item of expense. The trading in Australia and in Canada shows a falling off, but this was to be looked for in view of the financial conditions ruling in these Colonies. Certain new business has been secured in Australia, and the satisfactory crops in Canada should improve conditions there in the near future. The remaining departments do not call for special comment, except that during the year the Company appointed a representative to look after its interests in Russia. He has established himself in Petrograd and the ground is being prepared for future work. The only other matter I need mention is the erection of a new and larger power station at the works at Erith to meet special conditions. The Company has entered into a contract for a limited period for the supply of electric power to Vickers' works. There has also been a certain amount of expenditure during the year on plant, machinery

and tools to increase the efficiency of manufacture, but this is an expenditure which is always necessary. The concentration at Erith of the sales departments and general accountancy with the manufacturing end of the business has proved a great advantage. Dealing with the balance sheet the Chairman said: Reserve account at June 30 stood at £62,096. The Company has during the year spent a considerable sum in fixed plant and machinery, and the directors considered it advisable to transfer from the profit and loss account the sum of £17,903 to compensate for this, thereby increasing the amount to the credit of reserve account to £80,000. After this transfer has been made from profit and loss account, and the balance of profit for the year added thereto, we get a balance of £13,132, which, after deduction of the dividend on the Preference share capital paid on July 24 last, leaves £8,407, which the directors recommend should be carried forward. The works of the Company were declared [illegible] under the Munitions of War Act, 1915, on August 2 last. All orders and instructions from the Government must receive precedence over any other work, and in consequence there is considerable difficulty in maintaining certain branches of the Company's business, which no doubt will make it somewhat difficult to restore the balance when normal conditions are resumed. The works are at present fully occupied, and, provided there is no extraordinary change in the situation during the next few months, there is reason to hope that the results for the current year should be as favourable, if not more so, as the [illegible]. I move that the report and accounts for the year to June 30, 1915, be received and adopted.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

HOPE BROTHERS, LIMITED.

THE fifteenth annual general meeting was held on October 27 at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. T. E. Goodyear (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman said: In presenting the adoption of the report and accounts I feel justified in expressing satisfaction at the result of the year's trading, having regard to the abnormal conditions under which we have carried on the business. I suppose that no retail businesses have felt more acutely the effects of the war than those dealing in mens wear. Thousands of our customers have been taken from their ordinary occupations, and many of them, I regret, will never return. The lighting regulations, too, have practically reduced our hours of business. Both these conditions have affected the sales at the whole of our branches, and, in addition, our London branches have suffered owing to the absence of visitors from America and the Continent. On the manufacturing side, we have had to contend with the rise in prices and the difficulty in obtaining certain classes of goods for which we depend on Continental sources of supply; and the question of transport in obtaining goods from the manufacturers and in supplying goods to our numerous branches has been a matter of extreme difficulty, delays of weeks having occurred where in normal times we could rely upon the delivery of goods within a few hours, or at most a day or two. The falling off in our regular trade has been in some measure compensated, especially in the earlier portion of the year, by contracts which we were able to obtain for the supply of clothing to the troops, but these naturally have been at a low rate of profit and have only partially replaced the loss of our ordinary customers. I mentioned last year that we had arranged to remodel our branches at Leeds and at [illegible] Road, but that we had deferred for a short time the execution of the work. We considered it prudent to proceed with the alterations at Leeds, and these have now been completed, and have enabled us to sublet a portion of the premises. This has effected a considerable improvement at that branch, and will, in our opinion, be very beneficial to the Company. We shall take in hand the alterations at Bishop's Road at as early a date as possible. Since the close of the year we have acquired premises in a very desirable position in Bradford, and have opened a small branch there, which gives every indication of proving thoroughly satisfactory. Our balance sheet shows [illegible] reduction of £12,500, and the cash an increase of £9,500. The increase of £5,000 in the sundry debtors is a temporary matter, and was due to certain contracts which we had on hand at the date of closing the accounts, and which have since been paid. Our trade, as you know, is conducted on a cash basis, and the debtors chiefly represent work in hand that is paid on delivery or very shortly afterwards. In view of all the circumstances I feel justified in proposing a dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 4% per annum. As regards the future, it is impossible under present conditions to prophesy what may be the result of next year's trading. It is, I think, evident that the difficulties of the past year will not be lessened while the war lasts, and, having regard to the improved organisation of the supply departments of the War Office, I do not think we can rely in the future upon obtaining so much contract work as we did in the early months of the War. I think it possible, therefore, that when the time comes to consider the payment of interim dividend in the spring, we may consider it necessary to defer a decision with regard to the dividend on the Ordinary shares until the result of the year's work can be ascertained. This, however, is a matter for future consideration, and at present I will content myself with proposing that the report and accounts now submitted be adopted and the dividend recommended be declared.

Mr. W. W. Greenslade (Deputy-Chairman) seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

MONTEVIDEO TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting was held on October 27 at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. Charles Lock (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the purchase price of the property was brought into the accounts at the commencement of the year at £180,000, and during the year under review capital outlay to the amount of £5,945 had been added to that item. The capital outlay was slightly less than in the previous year, as they had not had to expend quite so much on new connections. Stores stood at £6,789, against £11,400, while sundry debtors did not show any important variation. Investments at cost stood at £49,289, as against £41,452 in the previous year. During the year they had had considerable remittances from the other side, and the directors had taken advantage of those remittances to increase their investments by taking up good-class Treasury notes and by investing in the War Loan. He would like to point out that, with their investments at £49,000 and their cash, together with bills receivable, at £21,700, they had liquid assets, realisable and available at short notice, of about £71,000. That was against an issued capital of £159,000, and he thought that the Company was, therefore, in an exceptionally strong position. He would further point out that that summary of their financial position took no account of the real estate, which appeared in the balance sheet at £22,000, and of the stores at Monte Video and the sundry debtors. There was a small diminution in the sundry creditors, as compared with last year, and the reserve for renewal of plant, &c., stood at £40,130, as against £35,500.

They had to admit a slight diminution in the profit and loss account as compared with last year, but it would be remembered that a diminution was foreshadowed when he addressed the shareholders at the previous meeting of the Company. He was very glad, however, that business of late in the Uruguayan Republic was looking up, and their last reports were to the effect that subscribers were increasing. The net result of the whole year's operations was that they had secured a net profit of £25,776. That would enable them to make the same appropriations for dividend purposes as they had done for the past seven or eight years, and

THE UNION TRUST COMPANY, Ltd.

(OF CANADA).

Toronto; Winnipeg; London. Capital, **$1,000,000.** Reserve, **$950,000.**

Undertakes the Management of Properties and Estates throughout the Dominion, obtains Probate and Letters of Administration in Canada on the Instructions of English Solicitors. Acts as Executor, Administrator, Trustee, Attorney for non-residents, Transfer Agent, Agent for Investment, and guarantees repayment of principal and interest on [illegible] to 5 per cent.

Inquiries Invited.

Advisory Committee: CHAS. H. HOARE, Esq. (Chairman), THE LORD HINDLIP, MAJOR J. C. BRINTON, D.S.O., T. WILLES CHITTY, Esq.

London Office - - - - 75 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

G. COCKBURN, Manager. Bankers: Messrs. Hoare.

would also enable them to make very substantial appropriations to depreciation and reserve for the renewal of plant. Those appropriations were not quite as large as in the previous year. They applied for the year under review £8,000 to depreciation account, as against £9,500, and they placed to reserve for renewal of plant £9,000, as against £9,500. They carried forward £5,394, as against £5,303 brought in. Shareholders would be pleased to hear that the new switchboard had fulfilled all expectations, and had thoroughly justified the advice of Sir John Gavey.

Mr. J. G. Le Marchant seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

TOMBOY GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The annual meeting was held on October 22 at Winchester House, E.C., Lord Arthur Butler (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The accounts now submitted show a profit for the year of £79,705. Adding to this the net balance brought forward from the last balance sheet, £47,792, the directors have had at their disposal a total sum of £127,497. This amount has been applied as follows:—Two dividends have been paid (both free of income tax), one of 2*s.* per share on December 30, 1914, and the other of 1*s.* per share on June 30 last, together absorbing £46,500. A sum of £49,485 has been written off plant and machinery, made up of £31,486, the equivalent of the amount expended on additions during the year, and £18,000, representing roundly the amount of profits standing to credit of profit and loss account, but not available for distribution. The sum of £2,732 4*s.* 9*d.* shown in the last balance sheet as representing the Company's investment in the Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Company has also been written off, and this item disappears from the balance sheet, while the sum of £8,000 has been set aside to provide for income tax, paid and reserved. These various appropriations together amount to £106,718, leaving £20,778 to be carried forward. The cash in hand at the end of June, in London and America, £38,326 10*s.* 2*d.*, consisted of £15,531 15*s.* 2*d.* in London and £22,794 15*s.* in America. Of the London cash £9,732 2*s.* 6d. represented dividend warrants not then presented for payment, leaving actual cash available £5,799 12*s.* 8*d.* The cash in America represents the usual balance required to meet liabilities at the mine, and these account for £15,291 0*s.* 9*d.* for stores, wages, and American taxes out of the sum of £21,937 3*s.* 2*d.* appearing in the balance sheet as "sundry creditors and credit balances." Turning now to our milling operations, we have treated 145,857 tons of ore, 8,401 tons more than last year. The average yield has been $7.05 per ton, against $6.98, but this increase has been a little more than offset by an increase in costs of 9 cents per ton.

Large Increase in Ore Reserves.

In the year ended June 13, 1913, the reserves were estimated at 426,000 tons; last year they had increased to 452,000 tons; while during the period which I am reviewing they rose to 535,000 tons. Seeing that during the same period 145,857 tons were milled, it follows that we have developed ore during the twelvemonth amounting to 228,857 tons, which is a highly satisfactory result. The Tomboy mine has grown into a big property, and will doubtless continue to expand.

Purchase of New Property.

I am glad to be able to tell you that since the report was issued we have had the definite offer on favourable terms of the "Sidney White Cloud" group of claims, situated to the north of our Bushwhacker claim, and carrying the extension of our Montana vein. Both our General Manager, Mr. D. A. Herron, and our Consulting Engineer in America, Mr. P. L. Foster, strongly recommended the purchase, and, acting on their advice, the board has accepted the offer. The titles are being examined by our legal advisers in the United States, and should everything be found to be in order the purchase will be completed. The price to be paid is $75,000 in cash, in instalments extending from the 15th of next month to June 15, 1916. We feel confident that these claims are a desirable addition to our property, and that we shall have your approval in the course we have taken.

The Development of the Mines.

Mr. J. H. M. Shaw: Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution. It gives me the opportunity to tell you with what great interest I undertook my visit to the Tomboy mine this summer, for after following the development of the mine month after month for seven years in the office I was most anxious to see it all at first hand, and I hope to succeed in interesting shareholders in what I saw. The Argentine mine, although one can easily spend the whole day going through it, needs but a brief description from me. At present very little further development work is being done, and of the 185,000 tons of ore reserves in it, 135,000 tons are already broken and will be drawn from the chutes as and when required. However, when the actual day dawns that sees the end of the Argentine, I believe it will be found to have given us a very much larger tonnage than is actually figured on to-day. The Montana mine can, for practical purposes, be divided into parts—(1) the developed area, which lies practically between raise No. 42 and raise No. 167. Within it are found the 350,000 tons of ore actually in reserve, but this, of course, does not represent all that will come out of it. Further work, as we go along, will develop further large tonnage to take the place of what is now coming out. The most interesting points of development in this part of the mine just now are raise 125, which is now being pushed up to the old Montana workings, and which will enormously improve the ventilation in the whole mine, and the work that is being done below the Ophir tunnel level in levels 1,900 and 2,050, both of which are being pushed north in encouraging ground. The second part of the mine is the almost unexplored ground to the north in the Bushwhacker claim, where we naturally have great hopes that our development will give us ore-bodies similar to those we get on the other side of the valley in the Argentine as we advanced into the higher ground. The present programme is to push the Ophir drift north to the boundary line: to complete, at the meeting of raise 167 and the Fortuna drift, the erection of a hoist and a repairing shop, and then extend the Fortuna drift also to the north boundary line. This brings me to the end of the Bushwhacker claim, where our new property begins, the acquisition of which came up for discussion when I was there. The claims contain about 4,000 feet on the Montana vein, as compared with some 5,400 feet in our Montana property, and they also contain 3,000 feet on the strike of the Sidney vein, which has given, and is still giving, rich ore to the east and west of our purchase, so that their potential value is great. I am satisfied that we have a splendid enterprise, and a thoroughly equipped plant in the able and devoted [illegible] Mr. D. A. Herron.

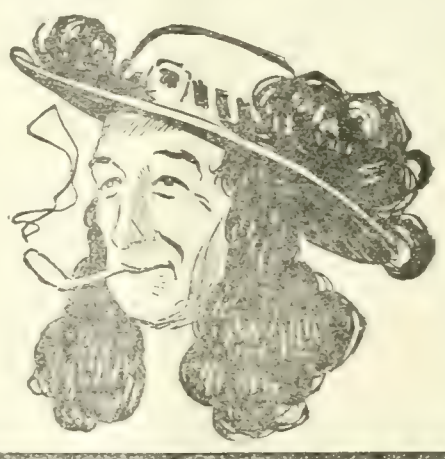
Mr. D. A. Key inquired whether the acquisition of the new property would necessitate the curtailment of the dividend.

[illegible]

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

"A Courageous and Wise Policy."

[illegible] Mr. Chairman, as representing, I believe, the largest shareholding in the Company, I should like to say how completely we are in accord with the courageous and wise policy which the board have pursued during the past three years. I was also particularly pleased to hear your remarks with regard to the purchase of the White Cloud group of claims. I beg



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A good, honest, wholesome tobacco—old-fashioned, but cheerily good. Too good for any but very honest men.

[illegible]

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MEDIUM ... ... 4d. for 10

No. 424

to propose, gentlemen, that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman and Mr. Shaw for their interesting addresses to-day and to the board of directors for their careful management of the Company.

Captain Evans seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman having returned thanks, the meeting terminated.

THE RUSSIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE first ordinary general meeting was held at the offices, 32 Bishopsgate, E.C., on October 29, Mr. A. W. Tew presiding.

The Manager (Mr. A. B. Sowdon) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, at the close of his remarks, alluded to the absence of two of the directors, Mr. N. E. Holden and Mr. L. M. Jacobs, and stated that the former was serving his King and country, while the latter had been in America for some time on business. Continuing, he stated that the account submitted covered the period to September 30, 1915, and while the term covered by the account was approximately 18 months, the Corporation did not have full use of the total amount of the funds until the final instalment upon the shares had been paid up.

The Accounts.

The profit for the period, after providing for all administration charges and other expenses, was £52,660, which was arrived at after making provision for writing down all their investments upon which there was depreciation to market value at the date of the account, and also making provision for the decline in exchange of the roubles held on deposit in Russia at the same date. The object for which the Corporation was formed was the carrying on of the business of an investment and finance company, primarily in connection with Russian securities, and it was the intention that the Corporation should interest itself chiefly in Russian Government guaranteed or Municipal loans and in the financing of railways, harbour works, tramways, light and power concessions, and public works of all kinds. The Corporation started under exceedingly good auspices, not only on this side, but in Russia, and the directorate and management were closely connected with five of the largest Russian banks—an asset which would prove of the greatest value in the future. After referring to and explaining the principal items in the accounts, he said he thought it was a subject for congratulation that they had passed scatheless through a period which had been doubly trying to the Corporation, maintaining their funds in a liquid state and earning a reasonable profit, having regard to the condition of the financial market. Had it not been for the War there was every reason to believe that the results which would have been put before the shareholders would have been much more satisfactory, but until the conclusion of that event they could not look for much activity. The funds of the Corporation were, however, in an extremely liquid condition, and they were therefore in a position to take advantage of favourable opportunities as and when they occurred. During the period under review their manager had paid two lengthy visits to Russia, and had made himself thoroughly conversant with banking and general conditions there, and on two occasions the directors had had the advantage of a visit from two of their Russian colleagues on the board. There was no doubt that the feeling which existed before the War for closer union and relations between the two countries had been and would be more strongly cemented during the present period of trial. Russia was a country of vast resources and enormous capabilities for rapid development, provided it was supplied with the necessary financial facilities and expert advice and assistance.

Germany's Hold on Russian Industry.

The enormous hold which Germany had obtained on the industry of Russia through the assistance and co-operation of its large industrial banks and financial syndicates, backed up with the necessary technical and financial experience in developing and managing enterprise of all classes, particularly railways and public utility and public service corporations, was only too well known. If this country was to render the assistance to Russia after the War which it expected and required, it would be necessary for the financial interests of this country to proceed immediately to put their house in order, so that they could provide that financial and expert assistance for the development of Russian industry; otherwise it would surely slip back into the hands of the Germans, who previously largely controlled the commercial development of Russia. By a proper association of the financial interests of this country, backed up by the technical and commercial experience which they could readily obtain and enlist in their service, this country would be able to forestall the approaches which would undoubtedly be made by the enemy in their own self-interest after the War, and enable Great Britain to obtain the concessions for, and to assist in, the development of large enterprises of a thoroughly sound and public nature. If the financial institutions of this country could only be got together in the manner which he had indicated, and which he strongly advocated they should do without delay, they would be enabled to establish their position and influence in time for the large amount of economic development which was waiting for them in Russia after the War. He concluded by moving a resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a dividend of 4%, less income tax, on the Ordinary share capital, the warrants to be posted on November 1.

Mr. William B. Dunlop seconded the motion.

Lord ffrench testified from personal experience to the control exercised by Germany before the War over Russian industry, and remarked that if this country did not at once proceed to "put its foot down" the Germans would get back into their predominant position in Russia after the War.

The motion was carried unanimously; and resolutions were also passed confirming the election of Mr. Pierce Lacy as a member of the board and re-electing the retiring directors and auditors.

In acknowledging a vote of thanks, the Chairman mentioned that during the period between June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1915, the Government securities of 30 countries showed an average depreciation of 16½% per cent.

Golden Horse-Shoe.—Capital, £1,500,000 (£5 Shares). Debentures £95,800 of Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures outstanding.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons (2,000 lb.) Crushed	Value £	Value Per Ton	Expenses, Development and Capital Outlay £	Expenses, Development and Capital Outlay Per Ton	Net Profit £	Net Profit Per Ton	Price end of Period
1913 ...	314,277	413,351	26/4	384,153	24/5	29,198	1/11	2½
1914 ...	210,249	264,134	25/1	265,479	25/7	24,656	1/6	—
1915.								
Mar. qr. ...	68,301	106,140	31/1	85,948	25/2	20,192	5/11	2¼
June qr.	74,320	114,660	30/7	86,481	23/2	28,181	7/5	2
July ...	34,435	47,[illegible]	27/1	25,709	23/4	9,744	7/9	2¼
Aug. ...	22,458	30,[illegible]	34/5	16,982	25/4	9,534	8/5	2[illegible]
Sept. ...	21,347	29,[illegible]	34/1	20,134	28/7	9,427	8/6	1[illegible]

Dividends—1910, March, 5/0 per share.
1913, Oct., 5/0 per share.
1915, May, 3/0 per share.

Sons of Gwalia.—Issued capital, £325,000, in £1 shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Crushed	Revenue £	Revenue Per Ton	Total Mine* Expenses £	Total Mine* Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912 ...	159,[illegible]3	263,[illegible]20	33/11	205,658	26/5	58,271	7/6	1[illegible]xd
1913 ...	162,101	271,[illegible]50	33/4	211,[illegible]63	26/1	59,187	7/3	22/0xd
1914 ...	160,963	231,113	31/2	201,670	25/1	49,443	6/1	—
1915.								
Mar. qr.	40,961	62,177	31/0	43,425	21/3	18,742	9/4	[illegible]xd
June qr.	41,139	63,109	30/8	45,[illegible]83	22/1	17,626	8/7	17/6
July ...	13,879	20,734	30/0	15,659	22/3	5,075	7/4	15/9
Aug. ...	13,762	20,[illegible]89	30/1	15,533	22/3	5,106	7/5	16/9
Sept. ...	13,320	19,965	29/11	14,624	21/11	5,341	8/0	16/6

* The yearly figures include expenditure on capital account. Monthly expenses include development.

Dividends—1912, 4/3; 1913, 4/0; 1914, 2/6; 1915, Feb., 6*d.* June, 6*d.*; Aug., 6*d.*

MOUNT MORGAN.—Capital £1,000,000 in £1 shares.

Half-year ended	Ore Treated By Smelter Tons	Ore Treated By Concentration Tons	Ore Treated Total Tons	Fine Copper Produced Tons	Fine Copper Produced Yield	Gold Produced Oz.	Gold Produced Per Ton Dwt.
Nov. 3[illegible], 1[illegible]4 ...	1[illegible],959	51,274	210,[illegible]2.5	4,595	2·17	58,[illegible]9	5[illegible]2
May 31, 1915 ...	154,737	57,974	212,711	4,482	2·10	58,196	5·5
4 wks. to June 27	22,8[illegible]	12,894	[illegible],[illegible]2	784	2·13	11,330	6·36
4 wks. to July 25...	21,5[illegible]	11,[illegible]1	[illegible],[illegible]6	680	2·1	9,672	5·8
4 wks. to Aug. 22...	19,4[illegible]	15,[illegible]52	3[illegible]5	7[illegible]5	2·3	9,864	5·6
4 wks. to Sept. 18	23,[illegible]7[illegible]	12,[illegible]0	[illegible],[illegible]20	540	1·6	8,[illegible]36	4·2
4 wks. to Oct. 17	19,[illegible]67	13,[illegible]2	[illegible],[illegible]59	—	1·8	9,[illegible]13	5·1

* Old smelter shut down June 27. Concentrator started trial run June 29, 1915.

Low grade ore mined for period and mishap to converter crane.

Dividends declared—1910-11, total, 4*s.* 1911-12, total, 4*s.* Account for 1912-13, total, 4*s.* Account 1913-14, total, 4*s.*; 1914-15, July, 1*s.*; Oct., nil; Feb., 1*s.*; June, 1*s.*; 1915-16, Sept., 1*s.*; Oct., 1*s.*

"Rubber Companies' Position."—We have received the October issue of this concise and admirably devised book. In it the annual results and the [illegible] progress of over a hundred companies are clearly recorded and analysed, and space provided for the entry of future results. We have also received the publishers of "The World's Rubber Position" for October, containing much valuable information upon the statistical position of the commodity. The price of these books is 3*s.* each for single copies, or an annual subscription to either of one guinea, post free. Messrs. W. H. Rickinson and Son, 3 Great Winchester Street, E.C., are the compilers and publishers.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
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R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
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Manager: George Cockburn Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland, the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised - $25,000,000
Capital Paid up - - $11,560,000
Reserve Funds - - $13,000,000
Aggregate Assets - $180,000,000
Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, K. L. PEASE,
President. Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
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Branches in British Guiana—Georgetown, New Amsterdam.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
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J. MACNAIR, Assistant Manager.

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Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L.
President.
JOHN AIRD, General Manager.
H. V. F. JONES, Assistant General Manager.
Paid-up Capital £3,082,192
Reserve Fund £2,773,972
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This Bank has a branch office at SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., is able to offer special facilities to visitors to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Branches at Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, and other points on the Pacific Coast.
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H. V. F. JONES, Manager.

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CAPITAL PAID UP $7,000,000
RESERVE FUND $7,000,000
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Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.
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Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1840.
PAID-UP CAPITAL £[illegible] RESERVE FUND £[illegible]
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COURT OF DIRECTORS:
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J. H. Brodie. F. Lubbock.
J. H. Maync Campbell. C. W. Tomkinson.
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Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.
Authorised Capital £1,000,000
Called up £500,000
Reserve Fund ... £350,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £900,000
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Sir JACOB L. [illegible]
[illegible]
G. [illegible]
C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Eastern Agency business in connection with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current account [illegible] per annum on the minimum monthly balances when not drawn below £500.
[illegible], Manager.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED [illegible]
Authorised Capital [illegible]
Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Reserve Fund £1,900,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... £2,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve ... £5,900,000
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TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES can also be made.
[illegible]
[illegible] on terms which may be ascertained on application.

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Established 1841.
Paid-up Capital £250,000 0 0
(25,000 shares of £10 each)
Reserve Fund ... £680,000 0 0
Reserved Profits £21,878 0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.
Drafts issued, Remittances [illegible] or otherwise, Deposits received, Interest allowed at rates to be ascertained on application, and all kinds of Banking business transacted. Western Australian Government Securities dealt in.
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$5 equals approx. £1.
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[illegible]	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
[illegible]	Rangoon	Mombasa	
[illegible]	Mandalay	Nairobi	British East Africa
[illegible]	Akyab	Nakuru	
[illegible]	Aden Point	Kisumu	
[illegible]	Colombo	Entebbe	
[illegible]	Kandy	Kampala	Uganda
Tuticorin		Jaffna	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
[illegible] Bankers of England; National [illegible] Bank of Scotland, Limited; National Bank of [illegible] Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern [illegible] business.
[illegible] received for fixed periods at rates to be [illegible] on application. Interest payable June 30 and [illegible]
[illegible] are opened, and provided they do not [illegible] allowed on the minimum monthly balances when not drawn below £[illegible] at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

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Established in the Transvaal.
[illegible] which has absorbed the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
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[illegible] Central Government in South Africa.
[illegible] Head Office, London Wall, E.C., and 1, [illegible] Street, S.W.
Authorised and Paid-up Capital ... £2,788,040
Reserve Fund to increase to ... £[illegible] 0 0
[illegible] 525,000
Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
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Paid-up Capital	£5,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

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JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
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RESERVE FUND 2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL 4,645,575
£8,194,100

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.
HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.
Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD.
Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

BANCO DE CHILE.
London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.
The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK.
Incorporated by Imperial Russian Government Decree.

Capital Authorised	Rbls. 65,000,000
Do. Subscribed	Rbls. 45,000,000
Do. (Subscribed by the Imperial Chinese Government) Kouping	Taels 3,500,000
Reserve Funds	Rbls. 23,398,300
	Rbls. 71,898,300

HEAD OFFICE: AT PETROGRAD.
Branches at all the principal Towns in Russia, Manchuria, Siberia, Central Asia and China; also at Paris, Bombay, Hongkong and Yokohama.
Interest (paid quarterly) allowed on Fixed Deposit Accounts for one year and over at 4 per cent. per annum; for shorter periods, and on current accounts, at rates to be learnt on application.
Banking business transacted of every description.
CHANTREY INCHBALD, London Manager.
64 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	„ 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	„ 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

INDIA BILLS, PAYABLE IN LONDON IN STERLING.

ISSUE OF £3,500,000.

The Treasury has [illegible] to invite tenders for Bills [illegible]

The Secretary of State for India in Council HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that applications will be received at the Office of the Council of the Bank of England, in Westminster, on the Bills [illegible] Act, 1914, and the Act 5 and 6 Geo. V., c. 89, for the amount of £3,500,000 (Three million five hundred thousand pounds) in replacement of Bills for £2,500,000, falling due on the 16th November, 1915, and in partial replacement of Bills paid off temporarily during the current financial year.

The Bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000, or £10,000. They will be dated the 16th day of November, 1915, and will be payable at twelve months after date, viz., on the 15th November, 1916.

The Tenders must be expressed in English currency, and not in fractions of a penny other than half-pence or farthings, and must specify the net amount per cent. which will be given for the amounts applied for; and the Tenders of Private Individuals must be made through [illegible] Bankers.

The Bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England.

The persons whose Tenders are accepted will be informed of the same on Thursday, the 11th November, and payment in full of the amounts of the accepted Tenders must be made to the Bank of England not later than Three o'clock on Tuesday, the 16th November.

Persons tendering for India Bills are hereby notified that, having regard to the provisions of the Acts 22, Geo. III., c. 45, and 41 Geo. III., c. 52, the acceptance of any such Tender is subject to the express condition that no member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or benefit to arise from the contract thereby made for the allotment of such Bills. The statutes do not apply to contracts entered into by incorporated trading companies in their corporate capacity.

The Secretary of State for India in Council reserves the right of rejecting any Tenders.

Tenders should be upon the printed form which can be obtained at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England.

India Office,
4th November, 1915.

THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next Ordinary General Meeting of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Offices of the Company, 91 York Street, Westminster, S.W., on Wednesday, the 17th day of November, 1915, at half-past two o'clock for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1915, and for the transaction of the ordinary general business of the Company. The Transfer Books will be closed from Friday, the 17th, to Friday, the 31st day of December, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the Half-yearly Warrants.

Transfers will not be received at the Office while the Books remain closed.

The Warrants [illegible] 1st January next will be [illegible] to the Proprietors on the 31st December.

By Order,
NEVILLE PRIESTLEY,
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:
91 York Street, Westminster, S.W.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT LOANS.

Lists containing particulars of all the drawings of Russian Government Loans [illegible] 1st January, 1916, December, 1915 [illegible] 1st January, 1916, [illegible] 1st June, 1916, [illegible] 1st June, 1916, [illegible] 1st June

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PROVIDENT CLERKS' AND GENERAL GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT CO.
LIMITED.
Head Office, - **61 Coleman Street, London, E.C.**
West End Office, **199 Piccadilly, W.**
Established 1865.

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Colonial and Foreign Department:
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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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SOME ADVANTAGES
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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, November 5, 1915.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 16s. 0¾d.	£97 11s. 1½d.	£96 4s. 11¼d.	£95
Discount Rate	4¼ %	4⅝ %	5 %	5 %

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	4¾	4⅞	4⅞	5
Trade Bills	—	5¼-½	5½	5⅝-6

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses.—Call.	Discount Houses.—Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2½
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

MONEY.

The supply of money has been reduced this week, and it is evident that a good deal of it has been borrowed by the Government in order to meet its weekly expenditures. During the period in which the great loan of nearly £600,000,000 was in course of payment the Government endeavoured to assist the market as far as possible in making the payments, and was careful not to pile up a great amount of money in the public deposits. Consequently, it made its outlays from week to week with great liberality, thereby setting money free for use in the market as quickly as it was received. The effect of this policy has been a great accumulation of money in the hands of bankers, much of which they have been unable to employ in consequence of the understanding that they should not make loans at less than 4½%. The Colonial and foreign bankers have, of course, not hesitated to lend at less. On the whole, this policy was a wise one, as it helped the market to retain in London large balances which otherwise might have been withdrawn, and has thus tended to restrict the foreign drain of gold. Now that the Government is financing its weekly expenditures by sales of Treasury bills, there will be no difficulty in employing all the money that is available. Indeed, the high rate of discount in London ought to attract here a very large amount of foreign balances, especially as we ourselves are creating these balances by purchasing Colonial and foreign goods so freely. Practically nowhere can money be so well employed as in London, and when one considers that the rate of interest obtainable is 4⅞% upon the very finest security, the inducement to leave money here appears to be irresistible.

No announcement has yet been made as to the policy of the Government in financing its war expenditures. At the end of last week the cash balance had been reduced to £17,500,000. Beyond this amount, of course, is the £48,000,000 standing to our credit in the United States. Therefore it is evident that the Government must borrow nearly all the money it needs for war purposes until it decides again to appeal to the public for a great loan. The revenue is now yielding an average sum of about £5,000,000 a week. Last week the disbursements were £27,000,000, and it is possible that the rate of disbursement in future weeks will be kept down to about £30,000,000, which means that Treasury bills or other borrowings must be effected to the extent of something like £25,000,000 a week.

Reports have been current that negotiations are proceeding for the creation of substantial banking credits in the United States, and that the sum likely to be borrowed temporarily in this manner will be large enough to provide for the great shipments of goods from the United States to this country for some time in conjunction, of course, with the £100,000,000 loan raised by France and Great Britain. No definite information is available as to these operations, but this much seems certain, that if the loan from the United States is not sufficient to maintain the exchange with the assistance of gold exports, the balance will be provided by means of bankers' credits. Hence the prospect of maintenance of the American exchange is distinctly favourable.

In considering the American exchange situation account has, of course, to be taken of the very large quantity of American securities held in this country. An idea has got abroad that the amount is much less than was supposed, but whatever the amount may be it is obvious that the quantity is very large, and that the sale of the securities will permit this country to make any payments that it needs to make to the United States for so long a time that it is not worth calculating how long.

INDIA STERLING BILLS.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Wednesday, November 10, for India bills to the amount of £3,500,000, in replacement of bills for £2,500,000 falling due on November 16, and in partial replacement of bills paid off temporarily during the current financial year. The bills will be dated November 16, 1915, and will be payable at twelve months after date.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The loss of gold on foreign account this week was very small, amounting to only £216,000. On the other hand, £641,000 of gold came in from the country, and there was an addition of £425,000 to the amount of gold held, which has risen to £56,656,000. In consequence of an expansion of £638,000 in the note circulation, bringing the total to £33,433,000, there was a reduction of £213,000 in the reserve, the total now standing at £41,673,000, and bearing a proportion to the liabilities of 29.49%. There was an addition of £5,652,000 to the public deposits, restoring them to £45,537,000. This money was obtained by drawing £3,896,000 out of the "other" deposits and by increasing the "other" securities by £1,975,000. The amount of the "other" securities is now £98,540,000 against rather less than £34,000,000 before the War. The great increase in the "other" securities has been attended by a nearly corresponding increase in the "other" deposits, which now stand at rather less than £96,000,000, against about £42,000,000 before the War. The public deposits in this period have risen from £12,000,000 to £45,000,000. It is interesting to note that the Bank's holding of Government securities is now less than £19,000,000, or only £8,000,000 in excess of the amount held in July 1914.

POSITION IN NEW YORK.

The supply of money in the United States remains superabundant. Indeed, bankers must have great difficulty in making profits at all, and it is rather surprising that gold should continue to be sent from London to New York with such a mass of money unuseable. The sterling exchange which at the end of last week recovered to 4 64¼ broke sharply to 4 62¾, and has again improved to 4 64⅛. It now presents a much firmer appearance, as the work of arranging for the remittance of the proceeds of the recent Loan is now well advanced. Last week the reserves of the Associated Banks increased over £2,000,000, bringing the aggregate amount to nearly £147,000,000. This sum compares with only £92,000,000 at the beginning of the year. The loans last week increased nearly £7,000,000 and the deposits £9,000,000. The amount of the deposits is now £652,000,000, against £418,000,000 at the beginning of the year, while the loans are £608,000,000, against £436,000,000. Notwithstanding this great expansion in deposits the surplus reserve now reaches nearly £39,000,000, against £23,000,000 early in January.

The following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—			Rate	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London	...	sight	$4 [illegible]	4 86¼ dollars for £1	4[illegible]
,,	...	cables	$4 [illegible]		
,,	...	60 days	$4 [illegible]		
Amsterdam	...	sight	[illegible]	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem.[illegible]
Berlin	...	sight	[illegible]	95 cents for 4 marks	14 1
Paris	...	sight	5 [illegible]	5 18 francs for $1	14 2
Mexico	...	Mex. silver $	[illegible]	U.S. 50c. U.S. for 1 Mex. $	2 0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Nov. 4, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ...	2%
Nov. 5, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	6-6½%	,, ,, ...	6%

POSITION IN INDIA.

Exchange remains firm at [illegible], and the India Council has no difficulty in selling the 50 lacs of drafts it is now offering. The demand for money in India is steadily increasing, but the recent efflux of silver from the Currency Department in consequence of the trade revival has not been very great. Last week there was a reduction in the stock of coined silver of only 11 lacs, bringing the total down to 3,639 lacs. At this time last year the stock was only 3,279 lacs. With trade likely to improve in India, the demand for money should steadily increase, and it is not unlikely that the amount of Council bills will have to be increased before very long.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, November 3, are:—

	Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers		
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	%	Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	%
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.		s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	
1 4 3/32	65,000	58,000	89	1 4 3/32	43,00,000*	43,13,000	89
—	—	—	—	1 4	2,50,00,000*	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	7,00,000	6,29,000	89
—	—	—	—	1 4 3/32	35,00,000	—	—
Total ...	65,000	58,000	—	Total ...	3,40,00,000	49,42,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 3,40,65,000	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.			
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.		Rs.	Average	Minimum
Calcutta ...	15,000	1 4 031	1/4 3/32	Def.	15,00,000	1 4 031	1 4 3/32
				Imm.	1,80,000	1 4 062	1 4 1/16
Bombay ...	20,000	1 4 031	1 4 3/32	Def.	5,00,000	1 4 031	1 4 3/32
Madras ...	23,000	1 4 031	1 4 3/32	Def.	25,13,000	1 4 031	1 4 3/32
				Imm.	4,49,000	1 4 062	1 4 1/16

From **April 1** to **November 2** inclusive the Council granted remittances for **Rs. 7,40,36,061**, realising **£4,936,004.** Up to **November 3** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,02,66 861**, realising **£4,020,652.** The total sales for the week ended **November 2** amounted to **Rs. 42,40,793**, realising **£283,367.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

SILVER.

The Silver market has been strong, and from 24 1/16*d.* the price rose to 24 7/16*d.*, with a slight reaction to-day to 24 3/8*d.* The advance was due to the continued shortness of supplies and to a demand from China, as well as from the Continent.

	Oct. 29	30	Nov. 1	2	3	4	5
London ...	24 1/16	24 [illegible]	24 1/2	24 3/8	24 1/2	24 7/16	24 3/8
India ...Rs.	61 1/4	61 1/2	61 [illegible]	61 1/2	61 1/2	62 1/8	62 1/8
Exchange	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4

Stock Exchange.

The contango rates "between member and member" are announced by the Stock Exchange Committee this week. Changes that have been made in the past contrast with the first rates fixed as set out below:—

	Nov. 1914	1915 Feb.	1915 Nov.
	%	%	%
Emergency Rules List Securities with cover deposited ...	6	6	6
,, ,, ,, without deposit of cover...	7	7	7
Others quoted in Stock Exchange Official List with cover deposited	6½	6½	6½
Others quoted in Stock Exchange Official List without deposit of cover	7½	7½	7½
Securities not officially quoted with cover deposited ...	7½	7	7
,, ,, ,, without deposit of cover ...	9	8	8

The general Stock markets have been firm, extraordinarily so in the circumstances, and where changes have occurred in nearly all cases it has been to a higher level of prices.

[illegible] the new 4½% War Loan, the price, now quoted clean of dividend, being 96½. The dividend, it is true, is not due for payment over the counter until December 1, but the usual Stock Exchange procedure with British Government securities is to make deduction of the dividend a month before the date of payment. The old War Loan is now quoted at about 90½.

After a long spell of depression and neglect a change of sentiment is noticeable in the Home Railway market. There has been an accession of strength in the American market, and considerable purchases for the other side have been made in London of the Common stocks of the leading railway companies. During the last week or two there has been an inquiry for low-priced descriptions, which had fallen to a sort of bedrock price. Eries had a rise, then M.K.T.s, and this week there has been a run upon Denver issues. The solid dividend-paying securities which stand at high prices have been freely purchased, special attention this week having been given to Atchisons, the London price of which is in the region of 117. Not only have the Americans been purchasing speculatively and for speculative investment the various kinds of industrial securities so common on the New York and other American exchanges, but they have been backing up their opinions in the market for copper shares. With the current price for the metal copper companies must be making enormous profits, as American companies for a long while have been making every effort to produce on as large a scale as possible, and have been able to sell at high rates of profit. In the direction of some American industrial securities there has recently been a reaction after the extraordinarily big rise that had previously occurred, but the reaction seems to have passed over and buying is again the vogue.

Our Home Industrial market has been firm in tendency, and rubber shares have again been in demand. An impetus has been given to the Share market by the advancing price of the commodity, the leading quality of plantation rubber now being quoted at nearly 2*s.* 7*d.* per pound, in contrast with about 2*s.* at the beginning of the year. We have recently called attention to one or two cheap shares of rubber companies that are either in the initial dividend stage or who have yet to reach it, but whose profit results during the next few years should be increasingly large. Except for the influence of the Excess Profits Tax the outlook for rubber companies is favourable, as properties of young companies are now coming into bearing on a comparatively large scale, and the price of rubber is trending upwards. There has been ability, to an unexpected extent, with most well-managed companies to effect substantial reductions in "all in" costs. Then, from the market point of view, there still is in many cases a low level of prices prevailing. We have had quite two, possibly three, spasms of unhealthy "boominess" and subsequent heavy reactions. In making purchases at the present time one is not on the crest of a boom, but a reasonable range of prices at a time when there is the outlook of further improvement.

The speculative investor in a small way likes shares of low denomination, and hence the normal £1 shares of industrial companies standing at a low price have been run after. The demand for this class of shares has not been confined to companies producing raw material, such as rubber, oil, tea, and so forth, but in connection with catering companies, armament and manufacturing undertakings, and industrial concerns generally.

Reverting to the more solid stocks, there have been a continuance of strength in South Americans and a maintenance of strength in the Mexican group of securities.

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Governor: VIVIAN HUGH SMITH Esq.

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Mining Topics.

For some time past, during a period when the general stock markets were unsteady and in places distinctly weak, the mining markets maintained a comparatively firm appearance, and this week there has been a remarkably firm trend all round, and in the Mining market nearly all prominent shares of mining companies that are regarded as having merits, where any changes in price have occurred, have improved. A market which exceptionally has been inert has been that for Russian descriptions, but even here there is no endeavour to effect sales, notwithstanding the discomfort of the further rise in the exchange rate, about 143 roubles being required to buy a £10 remittance to this country, against a normal average of approximately 95 roubles. Apropos of Russian mining undertakings, though work has been much interfered with through the Government's withdrawal of labourers, work, nevertheless, on a reduced scale is still being pushed forward.

The main activity in the South African department has again been in Far Eastern Rand shares. The reasons for this activity we have intermittently explained, and of late in a series of articles dealing with the position of different companies operating in this interesting district. This week we deal with the position and outlook of the Springs Mines, a Company owning a deep-level property several miles from where the outcrop comes near to surface. The shares have been in request, and have appreciated to over 28*s*. There has also been a strong inquiry for Van Ryn Deeps, which have advanced to 2$\frac{1}{8}$, and Modder B's, which are in the region of 5$\frac{3}{4}$. A little profit-taking has checked the recent rising tendency in Modder Deeps, while the old "Modders," or as they are termed "New" Modderfonteins, remain comparatively inactive. City Deeps have also been a feature of interest during the week. We deal elsewhere with the dividend declaration of the Gold Fields Company.

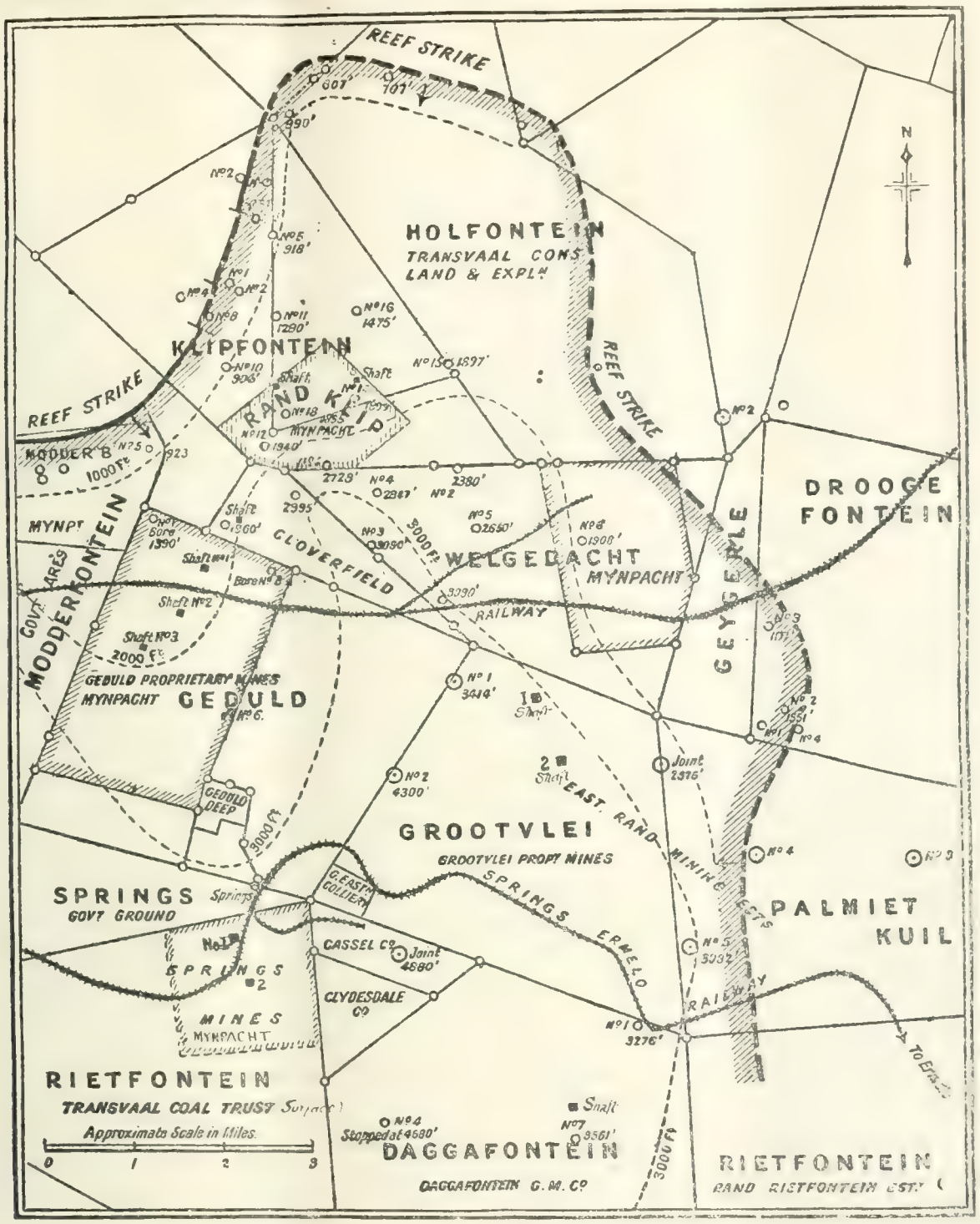
A firmer tone than for a long while past has been noticeable in the West African market, and this is not to be wondered at. One or two companies are making satisfactory progress. Taquahs have been in request on the report, and it will be remembered that the Company recently declared a dividend of 5% on account of the current year; 15% was paid for the financial year ending June 30 last. Abossos have also been in some demand during the week, while Ashanti Goldfields are harder. There has been little doing in Indian shares, and the Rhodesian market, though firmer as to prices, still presents a dragging appearance; the Westralian section remains quiet. Among base metal shares, practically the only feature has been the weakness of Tronohs, which, on the poor return for October, have receded to 25*s*.

The market for copper shares remains hard, and apropos of the state of the base-metal market we call attention to observations elsewhere upon the considerable fluctuations that have occurred in recent months in copper, tin, lead, zinc, and also iron.

Large purchases of diamond shares continue to be made. De Beers Deferred have improved to 11$\frac{3}{4}$ and the Preferred to 13$\frac{3}{4}$. An improvement is also shown in Premiers, where the Deferred has advanced to 4$\frac{7}{8}$ and the Preferred to 7$\frac{1}{2}$.

Among the mining dividends of the week are Golden Horse-shoe, 2*s*. 6*d*. per share free of tax, the last dividend being 3*s*. in May; and Ooregum, 9*d*. per share on both Ordinary and Preferred, the same as for the corresponding period last year. Hampden Cloncurry's dividend of 10% compares with a like distribution for the June half of the year.

*** We call attention to the dividend announcement of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa Company and comparison of results of the last three years at page 465, and to the record of price movements over an extended period of base metals given at page 473.



SPRINGS MINES.

In the early days of the Rand control of a very considerable portion of the Far Eastern Rand was secured by the Transvaal Coal Trust, the land being selected in those days on account of its containing coal formation at shallow depth. Subsequently there came the ascertainment that far below the coal strata there existed gold-bearing deposits. There was much scepticism about the payability of the region from gold getting, but gradually the trend of the reef was ascertained and its nature tested by a variety of boreholes. A great deal has since been ascertained, and the region now enjoys a good reputation.

Two of the large properties of the Transvaal Coal Trust were farms Brakpan and Rietfontein. After preliminary bore tests mynpacht area was selected in respect of farm Brakpan, and later on in respect of Rietfontein. At first the development operations at the Brakpan were of disappointing character; later they substantially improved. In 1909 the Springs Mines, Limited, was formulated as a subsidiary Company, and has the gold rights in respect of the whole of farm Rietfontein, approximately 4,030 morgen, or a little over 8,000 acres, in extent, inclusive of the 1,332 mining claims selected as mynpacht; &c. Six years prior to the formation of the Company the original owner of the property had tested the area by two boreholes, whereby there was ascertainment of the existence of reef at 3,438 feet, and, a little to the south, at 3,692 feet below surface. The mynpacht area selected extends approximately a mile and three-quarters from east to west, and about the same distance from north to south, being almost a perfect square. To the east of the property is the ground of the Daggafontein Company, and to the north-east that of the Grootvlei Proprietary. In both these areas shafts have been located. In the Daggafontein property reef was intersected in the shaft at a depth of 3,580 feet. A commencement of shaft sinking was made at Grootvlei in the autumn of 1909, but shortly afterwards all operations were stopped. To the north of Springs is situated farm Geduld, and the north-western portion of farm Geduld has been selected as the mynpacht area of the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited, where profitable operations are being conducted, and recently the Company has ordered an extension of its reduction plant. Between the Geduld

Proprietary and the Springs Mines mynpachts is land not taken up by any mining proposition, but which will probably, in the not far distant future, be arranged to be worked by agreement between capitalists and the Government. Included in this area there may be included the small property of the (New) Geduld Deep, Limited, with a portion of farm Geduld, also proclaimed "Springs"-Government ground. The large estate area of Springs Mines, Limited, probably will be similarly arranged to be worked by the Springs. In the region there are the unformulated proclaimed estate of farm Brakpan, belonging to the Brakpan Mines, Schapenrust, &c., which also will probably be worked under lease from the Government.

It has to be borne in mind that besides the rights in respect of its 1,332 claims of mynpacht area, the Springs Mines has gold rights over the farm, which the Government intends to proclaim a public digging; and in case the property is taken up for gold mining some compensation will have to be paid to the Springs Mines, in lieu of the old form of right to a moiety of the claim licence payable to the Government.

Having thus set out the position of the Company, we may now consider briefly the history of the Company's formation.

The Springs Mines, Limited, was formed in South Africa in May 1909. The issue of share capital was fixed at £630,000, in £1 shares, and 300,000 shares were passed to the vendor Company, representing about £230 per claim, irrespective, however, of value of estate gold rights, and 330,000 shares were then issued at 1½ per share for the provision of working-capital resources. The work of sinking two shafts was immediately commenced, one to the north and the other to the south, respectively about 4,500 feet apart. Both shafts are of large pattern, 42 feet by 9 feet. A brief historical retrospect may be formulated and is set out below:—

		Width	Assay	
		Inches	Dwt.	s. d.
1903.	Two bore tests			
	(1) 3,477 feet depth indicated...	18.56	28.5	121 2
	(2) 3,616 ,, ,, ...	10.8	21.5	91 5
1909.	May—The SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED, registered.			
..	Two shafts commenced August, September.			
1913.	March—No. 1 (north) shaft struck reef 3,438 ft. depth.			
..	August—No. 2 (south) shaft intersected reef at depth 3,692 feet.			
..	April—Issue of £315,000 6% Debentures.			
1915.	February—Loan arrangement for provision of £315,000			
..	Plant of capacity 30,000 tons per month ordered.			

Developments have been reported as under:—

	Total Footage	On Reef	Footage Stoped	Percentage	%	Width Inches	Assay Value	Sinking Inches
1913... ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	32.71*	39.2*	1,177*
1914... ...	13,411	7,471	8,356	4,425	53	25.4	125.5	2,850
1915.								
Mar. qr. ...	2,424	1,867	1,875	1,406	75	29	110/6	3,204
June qr. ...	2,533	1,843	1,750	1,015	58	28½	91/2	2,619
Sept. qr. ...	2,792	2,755	3,135	1,191	38	22½	112/7	2,503
Total to date†	27,910	14,554	17,820	9,622	54	26/69	99/9	2,662

* Footage sampled. † Official total.

It is to be mentioned that by the early part of 1913 the Company came to the end of its resources, and for effecting the conclusion of shaft sinking and to provide for an era of development more money was required. In April 1913 the Transvaal Coal Trust Company guaranteed, for 5% commission, an issue of £315,000 6% Debentures, and offered, at the issue price of 97½, a portion of the total to its own shareholders *pro rata*—£1 of Debentures for each four shares held—and to Springs Mines, Ltd., shareholders £1 of Debentures for each two shares. Allottees of Debentures received an option whereby till May 1, 1916, they could elect to take up an aggregate of 315,000 £1 shares at par. These option rights are in the form of certificates to bearer, and the present price of the certificates is about 8*s.* per share.

At the beginning of 1915 developments had proceeded so favourably that it was decided to order reduction plant, and the Consolidated Mines Selection and the Transvaal Coal Trust companies came forward to render the required financial assistance. They engaged to lend the Springs Mines, Limited, up to £315,000 at 6½% interest, receiving, as well as a commission of 5%, an option to take 55,000 shares at par to July 1918, or two years after the conclusion of peace, whichever shall be the later date; also, in addition, the right to take up any option shares which owners of certificates did not exercise their rights over on May 1, 1916.

The summary of the position at the moment, therefore, is that the share capital is formulated as £1,000,000, in £1 shares, and the position as to these shares is as under:—

	Shares
Issued to vendors	300,000
Issued for working capital at 1½ per share ...	330,000
Option rights at par, *re* Debentures ...	315,000
Loan guarantee option rights, at par ...	55,000
	1,000,000

The initial unit of the plant, resources to pay for which were provided at the beginning of 1915, is to have a capacity of 30,000 tons per month, and the first delivery of plant is expected by the end of 1915. It is hoped milling will commence within the second half of 1916.

It is to be noted that the Springs has had very much the same experience as the Brakpan—that is, there are zones of payable and unpayable ore. Of the developments that have been effected to September 30, 1915, of the aggregate footage sampled, the Springs' pay ore has represented about 54%, and the balance has shown assays below present payability. In this circumstance it will be wise for those who make calculations as to the life of the property to regard, say, half the claim area as unpayable. The dip in the region of the mine is a very flat one. The distance between the Geduld No. 2 shaft and the northern shaft of the Springs Mines is over three miles, and taking the respective depths where the reefs were intersected in these two shafts the average dip is in the region of six degrees. The ore reserves of the Company, to which we will refer later, are based upon a stoping width of 53½ inches. With a 6 degrees dip and, say, 4½ feet stoping width allowed the gross amount per claim would be 24,165 mine tons. If, to be on the conservative side, we make a further allowance of, say, 15% for underground and overhead sorting, the mill tons per claim would be, say, 20,000.

We may now sum up the position as to life by assuming 50% of the 1,332 mining claims as payable, that is 666 claims.

Mill Tons

666 claims × 20,000 mill tons per claim equals 13,320,000

This, on a use of 360,000 tons per annum, would last the mine about 37 years. With a property of such area, however, there is every probability that, as and when events permit, an extension of plant will be effected, and the life reduced with the benefit of increasing profits over the reduced life.

At June 30, 1915, the ore reserves developed were estimated at 854,000 tons, averaging 45*s.* per stoping ton, and calculated on 53½ inches stoping width.

Data on which to base calculations as to value of the ore appear to be very uncertain, and one has no actual experience, like that afforded when a company is well into the stage of production. Quite early in the year an unofficial estimate was put forward that by May 1915 there would probably be 1,000,000 tons of 36*s.* 6*d.* ore in the ore reserves. This calculation seems to have assumed the inclusion of some quantity of non-pay ore, and was estimated prior to the good showings of 1915. Next we have the fact that at June 30, 1915, the pay-ore reserves were given as 854,000 tons of an average of 45*s.* per ton assay value, this being based on a stoping width of 53½ inches. Reference to the development statements to September 30, 1915, given above, show an aggregate average of 2,662 shilling-inches assay value, which, applied to a stoping width of 53½ inches, equals 49*s.* 9*d.* per ton. Then we have to recollect that with alternations of good and low-grade ore it may be impossible to

avoid sending much low-grade ore to surface with the payable ore. Anyhow, there is the liability to much variation, and one cannot, with any feeling of assurance, fix what will be the probable average recovery value after the mill has been seasoned and a proper recovery value is ascertained. What will be the costs is a moot point, but, having regard to the deep-level propositions of the Far Eastern Rand, some of them working in the region of 15*s.* per ton, it would, we consider, be conservative to allow for the Springs Mines, on commencing, a cost of 20*s.* per ton.

In the circumstances, to conjecture profit results per ton partakes of the nature of a guess, but we may be permitted to say that we look for a minimum profit of 15*s.* per ton, and there are possibilities of much better figures in case of a higher recovery value than the 35*s.* per ton which we assume would give a profit of 15*s.* per ton. We set out below three calculations on different recovery values, by which we arrive at 15*s.*, 20*s.*, and 25*s.* per ton profit, and we show what this would mean in the percentage of net profit to £1,000,000 of share capital:—

	s.	*s.*	*s.*
Recovery value per ton	35	40	45
Costs per ton	20	20	20
Assumed profit per ton	15	20	25
	£	£	£
Gross profit on 360,000 tons	270,000	360,000	450,000
Taxes, &c., and, say, £40,000 interest on Debentures and loan	75,000	85,000	95,000
	195,000	275,000	355,000
Debenture redemption fund to retire at £31,500 per annum	31,500	31,500	31,500
Net profit	163,500	243,500	323,500
On £1,000,000 of capital during period of Debenture redemption	16.35%	24.35%	32.35%

By the time the dividend stage is reached the issued capital of the Company may be raised to £1,000,000. With the outlook and the market price what they are, it may be assumed that all the 315,000 option shares on May 1 next year will be issued, and materially, thereafter, reduce the interest to be paid in respect of loan, so that the calculations we make above as to the amount of interest to be paid in respect of Debentures and loan may turn out to be excessive. By the time the mill has got into its stride, and the profit stage is reached, commencement of provision for retirement of Debentures will have to be considered. This retirement will call for £31,500 a year for 10 years.

All the life calculations are, so far as we can see, based upon conservative data, but none the less they are very conjectural as well as approximate. Assuming that the calculations turn out to be near the mark, and with a life of 37 years, and the first unit of plant only, that is 360,000 tons a year, the present value of the share on these lines is worth presenting. The investor in the shares who desires 10% income on his investment, and utilises excess received for investment at 5% to redeem his capital at the end of life, will find that the present values of the share with dividends mentioned, and altogether disregarding an increase in value after the period of Debenture redemption is expired, varies as under:—

Assumed dividends on £... paid-up capital ...	15%	22½%	30%
Minimum present value per £ share ..	27/6	41/-	54/-

The present price of the shares is a shade over 27*s.* each.

BURMA CORPORATION.

The issue of the Burma Corporation's report for 1914 and the accompanying up-to-date statement of the technical committee enables us again to review the position and prospects of this undertaking. The Corporation holds about 99.8% of the shares and 77% of the Debenture stock of the Burma Mines, Limited, which owns the Bawdwin mines, containing the huge and rich Chinaman silver-lead-zinc ore body. Practically, therefore, the Burma Corporation owns the Bawdwin mines and finances the enterprise, the funds for which purpose it has to a large extent been obtained by the issue of shares taken up under options.

The Corporation's authorised capital is £1,000,000, in £1 shares. In May 1914 the capital issued or contracted to be taken up was £757,410, and a "call" was then given on 200,000 shares at par for periods varying from 11 to 18 months. Since that date the issued capital has increased to £913,749, so that apparently 156,339 of the shares under option have been so far subscribed. Beyond the share capital of the Corporation there has been created £65,000 of 6% First Mortgage Debentures, £14,000 of which have been issued in exchange for Debentures of the Burma Mines, Limited. To date the Corporation has advanced the Burma Mines £132,823. After provision of this sum the Corporation has about £84,000 of cash in hand and about £86,000 of unissued authorised capital, in addition to the £51,000 of unissued Debentures. Thus from the point of view of financial resources the Corporation's position is sound, and the funds in hand, plus the unissued capital, in conjunction with the profit expected to be obtained shortly from lead and silver production, referred to later, may be looked upon as sufficient, so far as can be foreseen, for future requirements.

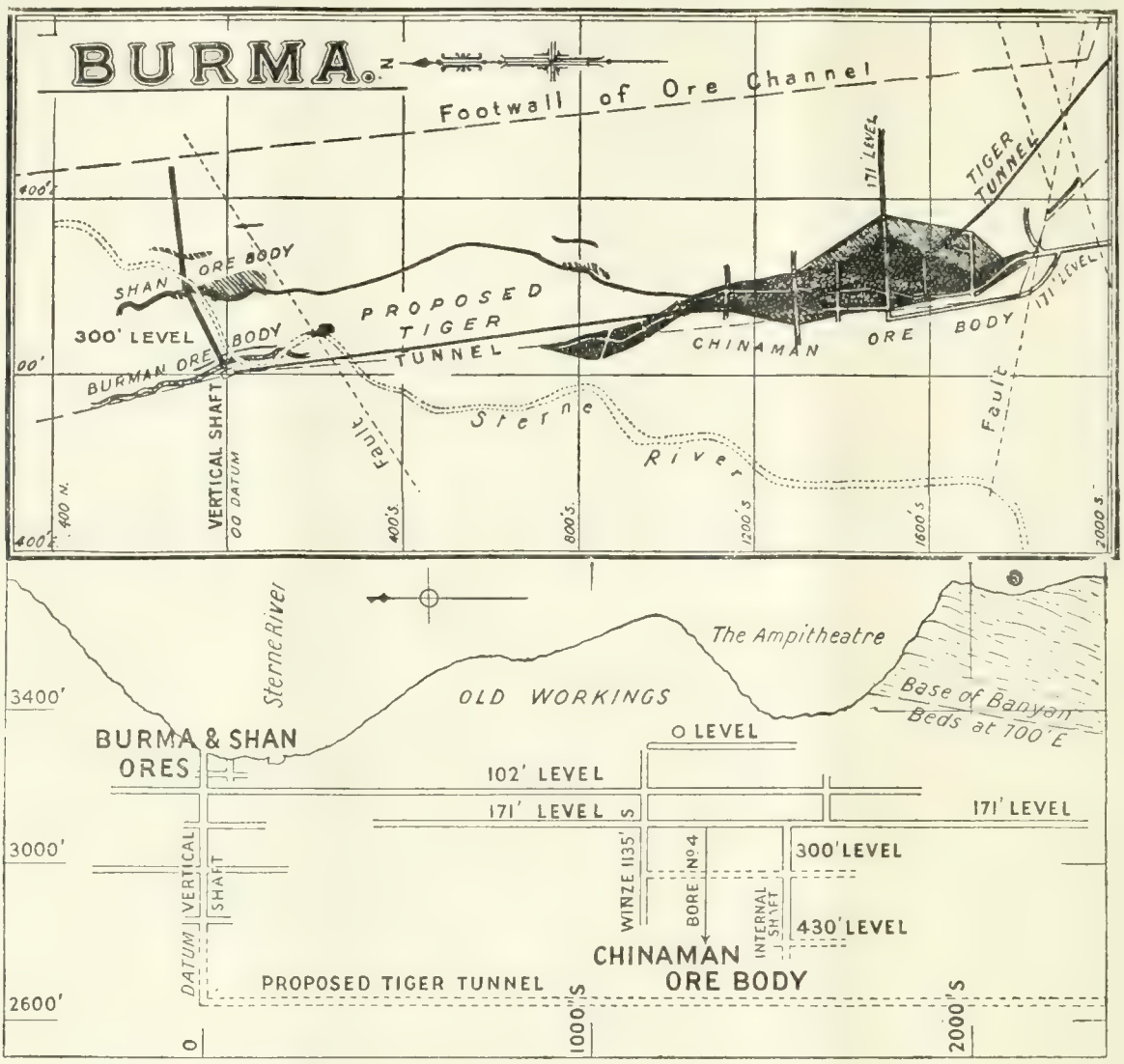
Turning now to the mining position, it may be recalled that in our issue of May 29, in exhaustively reviewing the progress of development work, we estimated that 2,000,000 tons of ore must have been brought into sight. The report of the technical committee now states that at the end of August the proven and probable ore reserves were estimated at 2,000,000 tons, averaging 25 oz. silver, 27% lead, and 22½% zinc. Most of this ore is above the 430-foot level, and only a small proportion is reckoned on between the 430-foot and 540-foot level, as work at this depth has been proceeding for a short time only.

The ore reserves estimate now includes 250,000 tons of high-grade silver-lead ore assaying 44 oz. silver, 45% lead, and 21% zinc. The presence of this large block of rich ore is very important, as, being amenable to *direct* smelting, it has a very high profit value. In December 1914 the ore reserves down to 200 feet below the 171-foot level were estimated at 1,310,000 tons, averaging 19.8 oz. silver, 23.2% lead, and 21.6% zinc. Consequently, in barely nine months the quantity of ore estimated to be proven and probable has been augmented by nearly 700,000 tons, and the average metal contents of the whole mass have greatly increased through the discovery in depth of the large quantity of very high-grade silver-lead ore. A comparison of the recent estimates of ore reserves, showing the rapid progress that has been made with the development of the mine, is given below:—

Ore Reserves.

		Tons	Aver. Values— Silver Oz.	Lead %	Zinc %
April 1914	[illegible] ...	1,154,000	—	—	—
Dec. 1914	Proven [illegible] and 171-foot Levels) ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Reserves [illegible] 200 feet below 171-foot Level	872,000	21.6	24.6	22.1
	Total, Dec. 1914 ...	1,[illegible]	19.8	23.2	21.6
Aug. 31, 1915	[illegible] ...	2[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Total [illegible] and pro- bable	[illegible]	[illegible]	27.0	22.5

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A word now as to the position of development work. At October 21 the internal shaft, the deepest working, had reached a depth of 446 feet below the 171-foot level, or Chinaman tunnel, the ore showing in the shaft at this depth having a value of 15 oz. silver, 17½% lead, and 20% zinc. This internal shaft is now down to within 40 feet of the random of the Tiger tunnel, the intended main-haulage level of the mine, to which, for economy of operation, the ore above will be *dropped* instead of being hauled to surface. The distance of the portal of the Tiger tunnel, on the hillside, to the Chinaman ore body, which it is to cut at about 500 feet below the 171-foot level, is approximately 6,000 feet. Of this distance about 3,000 feet has now been driven from the portal. When the internal shaft is sunk to 500 feet below the 171-foot level, as it very shortly should be, the driving of the Tiger tunnel can be carried on from two ends, resulting in acceleration of progress. The technical committee states that by this time next year the Tiger tunnel is expected to be connected with the Chinaman ore body, thus obviating the necessity of draining, pumping, and hoisting through the internal shaft. By that time it is stated the mine will be in a position to produce, if called upon, 1,000 tons of ore per day through the Tiger tunnel. The great importance of this point lies in its bearing upon future operating costs. Briefly summed up, the mining position is that there is now in sight 2,000,000 tons of very rich silver-lead-zinc-bearing ore, and that in a year's time the mine will be in a position to supply, say, 300,000 tons of ore per annum. Thus from the mining point of view the Corporation is in a very strong position.

We now come to consider surface equipment and production. Up to the end of 1914 the output of the Burma Mines had been achieved from direct smelting of old slags and a small quantity of mined ore, therefrom producing lead bullion, or, as it is termed, hard lead, containing about 95% lead and some silver. Owing to insufficiency of existing refinery capacity only a portion of the lead bullion has been refined locally, and the soft lead thus produced sold in the East. The balance of the lead bullion output has been, and we believe still is, sent to London for refining. This inefficient and uneconomical procedure is to be altogether altered, and the results obtained by the producing methods recently in vogue therefore are no criterion for the future. Nevertheless they serve as a basis for obtaining an idea as to what may be accomplished by alteration and modernisation of the process of production. In the year 1914 the Burma Mines smelted 24,858 tons of old slags and 8,812 tons of mined ore, the result being a production of 8,471 tons of lead bullion, of which about one-half was shipped for refining and the remaining half refined at the Company's own refinery, and the soft

Burma Mines.

					Year to Dec. 31, 1914
					Tons
Slag treated					24,358
Ore treated					8,812
Total material treated					32,170
Lead produced					8,471
Yield of lead per ton treated					26%

	£	£	Per Ton of Ore & Slag	Per Ton of Lead Produced
Value of Production—				
Lead bullion sales and consignments	151,374			
Lead and ore on hand	20,019			
		171,393	106/9	£20 4/6
Operating Expenditure—				
Mining and transport	19,009			
Treatment	81,438			
Freight and realisation	22,976			
Management, general and sundry	13,334			
Development written off	31,563			
		168,320	104/6	£19/17/6
Working profit on ore treatment	—	3,073	2/3	7 6

lead product sold in the East. The lead bullion yield per ton of material smelted worked out at approximately 26%, but, partly owing to the slags containing little silver, and partly owing to the method of treatment, very little, if any, revenue was obtained on account of silver contents. For the lead bullion alone, however, the revenue amounted to approximately £171,000, equal to 106*s.* 9*d.* per ton of material smelted, or about £20 per ton of lead bullion produced. Against this the operating expenditure, including £31,563 charged for development, absorbed £168,000, equal to over £5 per ton of material smelted, or £19 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton of lead bullion produced. Thus, with no silver revenue and an uneconomical method of production, there was a small operating profit for the year notwithstanding the diminutive ore output. The figures are given on preceding page.

We would particularly draw attention to the fact that the above results were obtained from a very small quantity of material smelted, and that material mainly old slags, containing very little silver. With production on a scale commensurate with the size of the mine—that is to say, when there is ability by concentration, smelting, and refining, to deal with the output of over 300,000 tons of ore per annum, which the mine itself will be capable of supplying in a year's time—the operating costs would be vastly different, for then each unit of energy in mining, treatment, transportation, would perform a much greater amount of work at a given cost. However, apart from that, and without any very great increase in the quantity of material treated, there is the outlook almost immediately of a very considerable improvement in the earnings, on account of alteration in the method of treatment and the use of high-grade silver-lead ore instead of slags, resulting in a large output of silver in addition to a much-increased production of lead. This will be better understood if the method of treatment to be adopted is explained. Hitherto the material dealt with has been direct smelted, and the product only partly refined. There has been no concentration of the material before smelting. But now a great number of concentrating tests have been made, and these indicate that the average ore can be concentrated successfully into two products of commercial value, the same as at Broken Hill—namely, lead and zinc concentrates—thus greatly increasing the profit value of the ore. The zinc concentrates, when the stage of producing them is reached, would be shipped. At present we are concerned with lead and silver only. The existing small concentrating mill is to be enlarged so as to treat 100 tons of average-grade ore per day. In this way high-grade lead-silver concentrates will be produced. Then, as the technical committee's report states, steps have been taken to enable a mixture of concentrates and roasted ore (the direct-smelting, high-grade silver-lead ore) to be smelted, and a production of 1,500 tons of refined lead and about 140,000 oz. of silver per month obtained, equivalent to, say, 18,000 tons of soft lead and 1,600,000 oz. of silver per annum. This, we believe, should be the rate of output attained within the next few months, as both smelter and refinery output have already been considerably increased, and the refinery will shortly be able to deal with the whole of the anticipated 1,500 tons of hard lead (lead bullion) output per month. We take it the roasted ore referred to is the direct-smelting, high-grade silver-lead ore, of which there is now 250,000 tons in sight. This ore has an estimated average assay value of 45% lead and 44 oz. silver per ton. Assuming the lead yield of the mixture of average ore concentrated and high-grade ore direct smelted to be 30%, the quantity of ore required to be treated to produce 1,500 tons of lead per month would be 5,000 tons. That is to say, we assume that say about 5,000 tons of ore per month will shortly be treated to produce 1,500 tons of lead and 140,000 oz. of silver. Taking lead at £20 per ton—the present London quotation is £24—and silver at, say, 2*s.* per oz., the value of the product would be £44,000 per month. As regards costs, we have shown that on the small production of 1914 the total operating costs, including development, amounted to about £5 per ton of material treated. Conservatively we will assume an operating cost on the increased production of £5 per ton treated, *excluding* development. On this basis the monthly profit before debiting development expenditure would come out at about £19,000 per month, as shown by the figures given below:—

5,000 Tons of Ore Treated Monthly.

Refined lead produced, 1,500 tons.
Silver produced, 140,000 oz.

	£
Value of lead at £20 per ton	30,000
Value of silver at 2*s.* per oz.	14,000
Total value of output	44,000
Working costs, exclusive of development, at £5 per ton	25,000
Working profit before allowance for development	19,000

The above rate of lead and silver production is expected to be reached very shortly, say next year, and if our assumption as to cost of production is approximately correct—it is probably more above than below the mark—a monthly profit of £19,000, or at the rate of over £200,000 per annum, will remain for the purpose of providing for development outlay, office and general expenses, Debenture interest, and capital expenditure on plant and accessory equipment.

Thus it seems fairly certain that by the aid of the earnings about to be obtained from the treatment of a comparatively small quantity of, say, 60,000 tons of ore per annum, *plus* the financial assistance of the Burma Corporation, the Bawdwin mines will be brought ultimately to the stage of very large production and huge profits, whereby the Corporation will be enabled to pay high dividends on its capital. This is, of course, not in immediate prospect. First of all the outcome of the enlarged scale of operations referred to above, and about to be entered upon, will be closely watched by the engineers, and on the result of, say, six or nine months' working on this scale designs for the large-pattern plants and equipment will be modelled. The mine will be ready to supply 1,000 tons of ore per day, say 300,000 tons of ore per annum, this time next year, and if the scale of operations now to be embarked upon results satisfactorily, as is believed will be the case, the interval of waiting before the completion of the surface equipment necessary to deal with 300,000 tons per annum will not be long. Even on the use of this quantity of ore yearly the present ore reserves would represent many years' supply, and as, according to official estimates, the profit value of the ore averages at least £2 per ton, the annual profit when there is ability to deal with 300,000 tons per annum would be, say, £600,000, in comparison with the Burma Corporation's authorised capital of £1,000,000.

We have made the above calculations with a view to showing the great potentialities of the undertaking. There is, of course, always the possibility of the advent of contingencies impossible to foresee. This is where the speculative character of the undertaking—and, in fact, of all mining concerns—comes in, but, nevertheless, at their present price of under 30*s.* Burma Corporation £1 shares certainly appear to be attractive, on account of the wonderful development results already obtained and the great potentialities in regard to profit-earning capacity.

[We regret that want of space compels us to hold over an article on the position of the Ivanhoe Company. We hope, however, next week to give the remarks we have prepared.]

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, November 3, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£74,949,205	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	56,499,205
	£74,949,205		£74,949,205

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,068
Rest	3,219,219	Other Securities	98,540,591
Public Deposits	45,537,438	Notes	41,515,475
Other Deposits	95,774,394	Gold and Silver Coin	166,513
Seven-day and other Bills	30,986		
	£159,107,947		£159,107,947

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Sept. 29	32.8	62.0	116.2	76.6	31.2	132.3	47.6	24·75	5	4⅞
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	81.4	98.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·06	—	4⅞
" 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	—	4⅝
" 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	98.6	44.7	30·97	—	4⅝
" 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.6	41.9	30·01	—	4⅝
Nov. 3	33.4	58.8	45.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	—	4½

* July 30, '14 ... to 4 %: July 31, 5 %: Aug. 1, 10 %: Aug. 6, 6 %: Aug. 8, 5 %

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Oct. 6 ...	189,312,348	114,075,471	75,236,887	28,500,000	37·9
Week to " 13 ...	5,084,861	3,843,235	76,443,513	28,500,000	37·3
" " 20 ..	6,141,796	3,270,035	79,315,274	28,500,000	35·9
" " 27 ...	6,055,660	3,519,393	81,851,541	28,500,000	34·8
" Nov. 3 ..	6,708,543	3,304,144	84,855,940	28,500,000	33·5

II.—Balance Sheet, November 3, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	59,149,904	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	20,786,036	Other Bankers ...	169,000
Certificates outstanding ..	4,920,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	257,000
Investments Reserve A/c	446,740	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	44,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ..	11,736,117
Total	85,302,680	Total	85,302,680

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	Arrivals. £	Withdrawals. £
Oct. 28, Thursday ...	Nil.	50,000 sovs. Misc.a/c*
" 29, Friday ...	Nil.	175,000 sovs. U.S. 150,000 sovs. Misc.a/c*
" 30, Saturday ...	Nil.	Nil.
Nov. 1, Monday ...	500,000 sovs. Egypt† 25,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.†	350,000 sovs U.S.
" 2, Tuesday ...	64,000 bars.	919,000 sovs. U.S. 20,000 Canada 12,000 Straits*
" 3, Wednesday	869,000 bars. 25,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.†	23,000 sovs. U.S.
Total for week ...	1,483 000	1,699,000
Net aggregate ...	[216,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Nov. 4, Thursday ...	500,000 sovs. Egypt.†	500,000 sovs. U.S. 290,000 S. America. 200,000 Spain. 26,000 Canada
" 5, Friday ...	Nil.	131,000 bars. 748,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 sovs. Japan.

* Set aside. † Released.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£29,2	£28,6	£28,7	£35,5	£33 4
Public Deposits	13,6	10.2	7,1	16,4	45,5
Other Deposits	40,2	45,3	42,4	140,3	95 8
Government Securities	16,8	13,0	11,8	17.2	18.9
Other Securities	34.1	33,9	29 0	104 9	98,5
Reserve	20.8	26,4	26.5	52,4	41,7
Ratio to Liabilities	55½%	47·46%	53·45%	33 42%	29·49%
Bullion (both Departments)	31,5	36,5	36,8	69.5	56,6
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4%	4⅛%	4⅛-4⅛%	2⅝-3%	4⅝%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 14	25 23½	25 30	25 15	27 66
Hamburg 8 days	20 45½	20 53	20 49½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82⅛	4 81·25	4 80 65	4 87·15	4 61
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/3	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88⅜	74⅞	72⅞	68¼	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 80	84 65	86 82	75 50	65 25
Silver, London spot oz.	-/28⅛	-/28⅛	-/27⅛	-/23	-/24⅝
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	27/4	33,4	30 1	37/10	50/3
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/5·85	-/6·78	-/7·63	-/4·55	-/6 92
Iron, Scotch pig ton	57/3	72/10½	56/9	55/1½	73/4

ARGENTINA. Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Oct. 6, 1915	Pesos 234,165,638
Sept. 29, 1915	234,164,374
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25 to Oct. 9, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£786	£8,693	£47
Aug. 31, 1915 ...	5,946	309	6,255	3,806	2,912	11,293	647
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,923	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	979
Sept. 30, 1914 ...	3,832	165	3,997	7,350	1,346	11,742	99
Sept. 30, 1913 ...	—	—	4,227	4,944	965	8,121	87

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits	Private Deposits.
Oct. 21, 1915...	£187,707	£14,532	£202,238	£10,733	£563,280	£3,304	£102 961
Oct. 28, 1915...	189,199	14,530	203 729	11,211	554,702	1,538	101 834
Nov. 4 1915...	190,183	14,496	204 683	12,981	583,142	2,681	100.835
July 30, 1914†	165 854	25.013	190,867	97,768	267,327	15,302	37,930
Nov. 6, 1913	140.084	25.508	165,592	60,044	231 643	10,564	23,680

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23, 14†	£67,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,198
Oct. 23, '15...	121,335	1,987	123,322	57,440	196,914	283,751	80,930
Oct. 30, '15...	121,440	1,902	123,342	57,306	211,272	297,318	81,134
Oct. 31, '14...	92,916	1,601	94 517	44,021	140 457	208,539	65,275
Oct. 31, '13...	59,783	13,340	73,123	2,483	54 844	105 934	28,768

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,496	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35 660	£1 437
Oct. 23, 1915 ...	32,793	202	32 995	6,479	7 169	45,958	1,568
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	33.319	210	33.529	6,852	8,122	47,467	1,124
Oct. 31, 1914 ...	14 262	359	14.621	15 01	11.183	39.915	1,452
Nov. 1, 1913 ...	12.365	617	12,982	8 4 9	7,926	28.417	291

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Discnts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†...	—	—	£48,456	£25,017	£29,704	£69,204	£8 887
Sept. 20, '15 ...	£45,977	£4,429	50,406	4,750	29,770	111,579	29,669
Sept. 30, '15 ...	45,990	4,445	50,436	4,548	29,643	113,929	27,798
Sept 30, '14 ...	—	—	50,813	41,603	87,081	17,385	
Sept. 30, '13 ...	—	—	48,813	23,578	70,112	8,277	

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Sept. 18, '15...	20,847	608	6,070	29,903	21,346	6,139
Sept. 25. '15	20,349	616	7,472	31,761	22,260	7,282
Sept. 26, '14...	21.397	2,863	7,766	31,435	12,688	2,766
Sept. 27, '13...	21,685	4,443	9,322	34,114	18,537	763

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£39,893	£411,238	£337,185	£8,316	£1 720
Oct. 23 '15 .	£103,710	£41,018	144 723	631,254	643 674	7,133	38,126
Oct. 30, '15 ...	104,822	41,986	146 803	637,934	652 472	7,138	38,740
Oct. 31, '14 ..	—	—	89 670	431.450	383 938	28.472	2,982
Nov. 1, 13 ..	—	—	80 198	383.888	349.368	8,974	1,309

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Fr'gn Gov Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Oct. 15, 1915...	3.684	3.694	781	4.060	8,338	1.354
Oct. 22, 1915...	3,655	3.732	781	4.014	8.254	1,369
Oct. 22, 1914...	2.342	1.690	503	6.757	7.228	1.389
Oct. 22, 1913...	2,655	1.787	504	4.154	5.917	788

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Discnts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109 911
Oct. 14, '15...	163,256	1,794	165,050	7,677	408,160	489,322	132,881
Oct. 21, '15...	163 281	1,939	165,220	7,821	415,093	445,079	137,753
Oct. 21, '14...	183,693	4,213	187,911	10,073	146 478	289 927	94,231
Oct. 21, '13...	166,530	5,905	172,435	6,565	167 019	170 935	107,108

SPAIN.	Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1 '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,956
Oct. 23, '15	31,186	29,474	60 660	41,552	13,777	82,693	35 310
Oct. 30, '15...	31,812	29,561	61,373	41,914	13,777	82 962	35 945
Oct. 31, '14	22,091	27,876	49,967	49 856	13,778	79 407	24,214
Oct. 31, '13...	13,871	29,350	48 221	41,848	13,778	77,247	16,447

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Oct. 16, '15 .	6,300	6 677	3,030	4,967	16 257	4 664
Oct. 23, '15 ...	6,300	6 614	3,015	4,897	16 136	4,752
Oct. 24, '14 ...	5,772	2,747	1,481	8,691	15,119	3 628
Oct. 25, '13 ...	5,697	4,501	1,337	7,187	11,845	3 138

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£18,371	£3,128
Oct. 15, 1915...	9,717	2,470	12,187	6,685	16 883	3 197
Oct. 23, 1915...	9,768	2,452	12,220	7,192	16,805	3,492
Oct. 23, 1914...	9 205	618	9,823	10,414	16 646	3 519
Oct. 23, 1913...	6,885	1,190	8,075	4,793	10,489	2,291

U.S. FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. against Net Liabilities
Oct. 1, 1915...	£56,729	£60,028	£8,980	£64,949	£2,859	£82,288	82·7%
Oct. 8, 1915...	56,968	61,227	9,073	65,357	3,045	82,876	81·5%
Oct. 15, 1915...	57,358	61,307	8,792	65,753	2,958	83,174	82·3%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates		A Year Ago	
	%	Date Fixed	%	Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, 15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	8	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne...	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	6	Aug. 3, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	4½	Oct. 26, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-3½	Feb 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts: Revenue	Receipts: Total including Loans	Expenditures: Supply Services	Expenditures: Int. on Debt Advances,&c.	Expenditures: Total	Treasury Balance: Amt.	Treasury Balance: + or − for Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Oct. 16	5,331	46,655	35,313	15913	51,226	18,019	− 4,571	229,025
7 „ Oct. 23	6,204	42,322	23,788	18,166	41,904	18,437	+ 418	223,1 8
7 „ Oct. 30	4,020	37,269	26 793	11,3c0	38,148	17,559	− 878	237,497
213 days to Oct. 30, 1915	124,589	1,038.723	769.069	335,547	1,104,616	17,559	−65,892*	+160,347*
214 days to Oct. 31, 1914	91,521	202,459	163,565	41,154	204,719	8,175	−2,260*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15	Oct. 15, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 25	11 32	11 60	11 64
—	Cable	11 00	11 12	11 38	11 44
Italy	3 mos.	30 35	30 40	30 35	30 40
— ...	Cable	29 92½	29 95	29 95	30 00
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34½	34½	35½	35½
New York	do.	4 65½	4 65½	4 66½	4 63½
—	Cheques	4 66½	4 6⅝	4 67	4 69
Paris	3 mos.	28 05	27 95	27 95	27 84
—	Cable	27 64	27 53	27 55	27 44
Petrograd	do.	143	1·9½	140½	139½
Scandinavia	do.	17 50	17 35	17 95	17 90
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46½	46⅝	46½
—	Cable	24 80	24 80	24 85	24 77½
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 20	26 15	25 35	25 40
—	Cable	24 80	24 75	24 95	25 00

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15	Oct. 15, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97⅜pi.	97¼pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	10fl. 9·½c.	11fl. 11c	11fl. 37½c.	11fl. 44c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4d.	1s 4d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49½d.	49⅝d.	49¾d.	49¾d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10⅛d.	1s 10⅛d.	1s. 9⅛d.	1s 9⅛d.
Italy	Sight	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 90c.	29lr. 95c.
Lisbon	Sight	34	35	35½	35½
Madrid	Sight	24p. 90	24p 90	24p 85	24p. 80
Montevideo	90 days	53½d.	53⅛d.	53⅜d.	53d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 66	$4 65⅛	$4 66	$4 69½
New York	Sight†	$4 64*	$4 65½	$4 65⅜	$4 68⅜
—	60 days†	$4 59½*	$4 61	$4 62	$4 65½
—	Cables†	$4 64⅜*	$4 66	$4 66	$4 68⅝
—	on Paris Sight†	5 95½*	5 91½f.	5 91½f.	5 86f.
—	on Berlin Sight†	81c*	81¼c.	82¼c.	82⅝c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight†	41⅛c*	41¼c.	41c.	40⅞c.
— on Mexico	Silver $	38½c. U.S.*	38⅜ U.S.	37c. U.S.	38½c U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 65c.	27f. 52c.	27f. 53c.	27f. 42½c.
Petrograd	Sight	142⅜	139⅜	139	139⅛
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12½d.	12⅝d.	12⅝d.	12½d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr 45	17kr. 50	17kr. 90	17kr. 90
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4⅛d.	2s. 4⅛d.	2s 4⅛d.	2s. 4⅛d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 75c.	24f. 80c.	24f. 92½c.	24f 95c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9l.	8⅞d.	9d.	9⅛⅛d.

* Previous day's rates † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
BIRMINGHAM	Oct. 30	1,819 087 +	476.423	73,314,495	+ 8,625,457 +	13·3
BRISTOL	„ 30	831 000 +	133 000	33,451,000	+ 2,76 4,000 +	7·2
DUBLIN	„ 30	3 431,900 +	353 400	131 408 200	+15,935 400 +	11·0
LEEDS	„ 30	613,403 +	97.869	27 3 4,100	+ 5 658 817 +	26·2
LEICESTER	„ 30	285.689 +	40.3 6	17,095 0 3	+ 4,100.611 +	31·5
LIVERPOOL	„ 30	5 654,833 +	1,740 94	239 189 6 4	+45,861,376 +	23·6
MANCHESTER	„ 30	6.715 703 +	1 8 8, 53	291,732 103	+12,566 0 6 +	4·5
NEWCASTLE	„ 30	1 234,0 0 0 +	408. 0	62 637.100	+14 065,000 +	29·0
NOTTINGHAM	„ 30	323 732 +	62 1 0	15.525 807	− 182,473 −	1·0
SHEFFIELD	„ 30	60, 3,8 +	95 146	25.418 53)	+ 4,23 1 537 +	20·1
LONDON—	1915.	000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
TOWN	Nov. 3	224 683 +	18.725	9,132,8 4	− 1,871 669 −	16 9
METROPOLITAN	„ 3	18 760 +	1 344	786 293 +	66.251 +	7 7
COUNTRY	„ 3	29,9c0 +	4.444	1,316.353 +	161,742 +14·0	
TOTAL	„ 3	273.423 +	24.553	11,285.253 −	1,653.676 −12·8	

The following special items are included in the London clearings:

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	"Fourth" of the Month. 1915	£	+ or −*
Sept. 29	46.853	—	Aug. 5	52.168	—	Aug. 4	56.063	- 4.722
Oct. 14	45.291	—	Sept. 1	54.180	—	Sept. 4	33.722	+ 15,393
Oct. 28	44,402	—	Oct. 1	52 018	—	Oct. 4	47.178	+ 8,718
1915 sgs.	837.934	—		486.124	—		459.119	− 83,853

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	31/0	8/6	9.6
Australia to U.K. ...	95/0	—	30 6
Azoff to L.H.A.R. ...	—	—	—
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	70/0	d.w.20/9	18/6
Burmah o.c.	30 0		24 3
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	92/6	d.w.30/0	—
Danube to A.R.... ...	—	—	9/6
Odessa to L.H.A.R. ...	—	—	7/9
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	86/3	28 0	11.0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	47/6	36/3

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont (grain)	13/6	4/6	2/0
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	—	16/6	13/0
N.O. to U.K. (cotton&gr.)	—	16/6	13/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to

	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	49.9	48/0	37 6	32/6
1914...	15/6	—	14·6	11/9	—
1913...	12/7½	12/0	8/3	15/0	8/9

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

NOV. 6.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ...ton	73/4½	55/1½	56/9
— Middlesbro' warrants .....ton	87/5	49/0½	50/7
— Hematite warrants .....ton	100/0	62 0	64 6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12	£9	£9
— Common bars .....ton	£11 17/6	£7 10	£7 2/6
— Stock, Middlesbro'... .....tons	130. 79	103.338	153.379
Steel Rails .....ton	£9 2/6	£6 7 6	£6 10
Copper—Standard .....ton	£74 2/6	£56 7	£69 15
— Stock, Europe&afr., Oct. 31 tons	30.003	36 566	25 827
Tin—English ingots.....ton	£161 1	£139—£139	£185 10-186 10
— Straits .....ton	£162 5	£134	£182 2/6
Tinplates—Coke I.C. .....box	19/9—20/0	13/6—20 9	13/9—18 0
Lead—Soft Foreign .....ton	£25 5	£18 5	£20 7/6
Spelter—Ord. Foreign .....ton	£82	£18	£20 12/6
Quicksilver—(75lb.) .....bottle	£16 10	£10 5—£10 10	£7 5
Aluminium .....ton	nom	£81—£82	£281—£285
Antimony—Regulus .....ton	nom	£55	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21 0	20/3
— — (best) Newcastle ... ton	19 9	13/3	15 0
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt	14/4½—14 7½	11/3	11/3
Soda—Crystals ex ship .....ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits .. ton	£28 10	£23—£23 15	£30 12 6-£31 2/6
Gambier—Good marks .....cwt	37 0	19 6	18 0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/6—15 0	14/0—15 0	3/0—3 6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£32	£23	£22 5
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb	62 6	46 9	43 6
Olive Oil—Spanish .....tun	£90	£54	£47 £48
Palm Oil—Lagos .....ton	£34 10	£30 5	£35 10
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/9½	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£41	£34 5	£32
Soya Oil .....ton	£27 15	£25	£25 15
Tallow—Aust. mixed .....cwt	41/0—41/6	27/6—30 6	33/0—34/0
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ..cwt	39 9	32 1½	32/0
Rape Seed—Toria .. ..416lb.	55 0	51 0	47/0
Rubber—Para, spot .. ..lb.	2 5	2/7	3/2
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe)lb	2 7	2 5 —2 6	2 2½
—World's Vis.sup.(silkiness) Auction	20.003	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ..cwt	72 0	57/0—58/0	90/0—91/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	-/6 92	-/4 55	-/7 63
— Egyptian good fair .....lb	-/9 30	/6 75	-/10 05
— Pernambuco, fair .....lb	-/7 35	/5 30	-/7 80
— Mid. Upl. New York .....lb	11 80c	nom	14.00c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Oct. 29 bales	919.500	754.060	547 930
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol .....ton	£70	£36	£35 10
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	—	£22 10	£29 5
— Manila, Fair strips .....ton	—	£23 10	£30 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ... ...ton	£26 10	£28 5	£32 10
— Red SOC .. ..ton	£24 10	£26	£31 10
Silk—Blue Elephant..... .....lb.	10 6	11 3 —11 6	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	-/11½—1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs .. ..lb	1/5½	1/2	1/0⅜—1/0⅝
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	-/9½	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides .....lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD. CORN. &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Nov. 1 bus	30,192,000	87,471,000	61,880.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb ...bushel	127½	123	98c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr	50 3	37 10	30/1
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	47 0	38 6	30/0
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	48 2	28 3	28 2
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ..qr	29 1	23 7	17 9
Maize—N.Y. ..(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	85	79½c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool .100lb	nom	7 3½	4 8
— La Plata .. ..480lb. qr	38 9	27 0 —28 6	28 0
Potatoes—Kents .....ton	90 0	60 0—70 0	60 0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 ...tons	36 840	23 983	10,679
— Deliveries do. .....tons	25.779	22 428	12.628
— Stock .....tons	17.836	6.230	5.416
— Price, Bassein .. ..cwt	17 6	16/0—16 6	7/10½—8/3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ...cwt.	17/8—21 0	15 0 —21/0	14/10½—20/0
Hay—Best .. ..2,016lb. load	120 0—150 0	85 0—90/0	77 6 -87/6
Hops—English .....cwt.	£5 10—£7	£3—£5 5	£9 10—£11
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	5/0—5/4	3/10—4/4	3/7—3/11
- Scotch sides 8lb	5/8—6/0	4 8—5 0	4/4 4 6
— English 8lb	5 0 —5 6	4 2—4 7	3/7 4/2
Mutton—Scotch 8lb	6 0 —6 4	5/2—5 6	5/4 5/8
— English wethers 8lb	5/8—6 0	4 10 —5/2	3 8 -3/10
New Zealand frozen 8lb	4 8 —5/1	3/10—4 1	3 4 3 9
Pork—English .....8lb.	6/0—7 4	4 2—4/10	4 4 -5/4
Bacon -Irish .....cwt	93/0—105 0	64 0—74 0	66 0—73/0
- Danish .....cwt	96/0—105/0	60/0—69 0	60/0—71/0
Hams—Amer. long cut .....cwt	86 0 92 0	66 0—71/0	68/0—74/0
— - short cut .....cwt	81/0—83 0	65/0—69/0	67/0—72/0
Lard—Amer. pails .....cwt	58/9—99 3	53/0 - 67/0	57/6 -67/9
Butter—Danish .....cwt.	158 0 164 0	132/0—138 0	130/0—132/0
- Siberian.....cwt.	100 0—130 0	112/0—120 0	88/0—110/0
- French... .....cwt	112/0 -152 0	100/0—118/0	100/0—198/0
— New Zealand .....cwt	158/0—164 0	—	124 0 —128/0
— Australian .....cwt.	—	116/0—128/0	104/0—124/0
Cheese—Canadian .....cwt.	82/0—88/0	74/0—76/0	83/0—88/0
— New Zealand (white) .....cwt.	—	—	63 0—64/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	544.571	593.014	735.283
— Deliveries do. .....tons	729 546	686 093	718.534
— Stock .. ..tons	38.551	38.131	72.801
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. .....cwt	20 6	24/0	12/0
— — Mauritius, crystals .....cwt	nom	27/0—28 0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 .....cwt	40 6	31 0	18/3
Coffee—Imports since Jan 1 tons	58.001	42.778	34 016
— Home consumption do. ...tons	16 560	12.856	12 824
— Exports do. .....tons	20.810	21.247	19 009
— Stock .....tons	33 852	19.183	10 585
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt	69/0—79 0	73/0—85/0	84/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt	38 0	39 0	49 8
Tea—Imports ..(for 9 months) lb	300.370 933	235.485.576	230.757.590
— Home consumption do. .....lb.	245.405.967	238.551.367	235.251.371
— Exports do. .....lb	42.078.719	41.280.172	41.592 675
— Stock, Sept. 30 .....lb	119.629.000	88.093.000	99,717.000
— Price, Indian, Pek Sou. good lb	9½	9	8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Sou. Ord....lb.	-/9½	-/9½	-/8½
— — Common Congou ... ...lb.	-/7½	- 6½	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	86/0-88/0	57 0—59 0	—

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Oct. 29	80	—	£2.975	− 572	43	159.924	+ 10.306
CorkBan.&S.C.	Oct. 29	103	—	2.264	+ 219	43	90.914	+ 4.686
Dublin & S.E.	Oct. 29	160	—	5.263	+ 697	43	242.607	+ 3.900
Gt. Northern	Oct. 29	561	—	22.790	− 360	43	1.007.390	+ 30.240
Gt.S.&Western	Oct. 29	1,130	—	35.940	− 1.086	43	1.439.783	+ 97.509
Mid. Gt. West.	Oct. 29	538	—	13.197	− 149	43	555.779	+ 12.711

. *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Sept. 18	882	+11	1.32.000	+ 2.588	25	31.38.541	+ 54.604
Bard Light ...	Sept. 30	116	—	24.000	+ 11.400	26	5.46.200	− 26.600
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 18	2.041	+13	2 62.290	− 36.072	25	84.81.853	−14.01.471
Bengal Dooars	Sept. 20	153	—	52.602	+ 2.384	26	6.91.917	− 56.382
Beng. Nagpur	Sept. 30	2.885	+ 7	12.07.000	− 9.000	26	1.97.77.000	+ 1.54.000
Bomb. Baroda	Oct. 30	2.859	+32	11.87.000	+ 2.04.000	5	49.67.000	+ 7.52.000
Burma	Sept. 18	1.342	—	3.29.163	+ 46.939	25	89.71.109	−12.21.490
East Indian ...	Oct. 30	2.716	− 2	19.78.000	− 51.000	5	84.09.000	+ 69.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Oct. 30	3.058½	+78½	14.86.900	+ 1.21.100	5	63.01.700	+ 5.85.489
Madras & S.M.	Sept. 30	3.131½	−1½	13.50.000	+ 2.22.332	26	2.31.62.640	+15.94.404
Nizam's Guar.	Sept. 25	797	—	2.73.212	+ 52.943	26	49.72.036	− 3.72.499
Roh.&Kumaon	Sept. 18	545	+ 1	50.002	+ 4.250	25	17.60.202	+ 13.426
South Indian	Sept. 30	1,763	+10	10.13.232	+ 93.513	26	1.48.06.849	+ 1.24.638
South Punjab	M.ofJune	923	—	8.92.073	+ 1.10.130	3†	20.25.274	+ 38.370

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Oct. 31	7,280	—	$ 1.271.400	+ 564.400	4	3.678.500	+1,100.200
Can. Pacific...	Oct. 31	12.921	+602	4.340.000	+1.727.000	18	40.281.000	− 156.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Oct. 21	918	—	£45.396	+ 23.116	16	313.342	− 164
Grand Trunk	Oct. 31	4.008	—	241.410	+ 10.905	43	6.785.524	− 512.382
Grd. Trunk W.	Oct. 31	336	—	53.023	+ 10.811	43	1.281.585	+ 49.738
Det. Grd. Ha.	Oct. 31	189	—	21.175	+ 3.274	43	466.534	+ 33.776
Mashonaland	M.ofAug.	751	—	49.470	− 1.930	11†	448.681	− 240.672
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofAug.	277	—	5.800	− 3.082	2†	11.068	− 7.361
New CapeCent.	Oct. 2	205	—	1.577	− 369	40	70.743	+ 362
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofAug.	1.397	—	77.976	− 11.294	11†	714.687	− 240.310

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Oct. 30	33	—	Ps. 9.000	+ 1.000	44	519.200	− 24.550
Antofagasta ...	Oct. 31	619	—	£ 28.305	+ 11.740	44	1.043.750	− 321.855
Arauco	M.of July	64½	—	£ 6.750	+ 225	7†	44.625	− 10.849
Arg. N. East...	Oct. 30	752	+ 85	£ 7.260	+ 2.960	18	120.569	+ 38.299
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290	− 10	12	2.370	− 1.210
Bolivar	M.ofSept.	110	—	£ 7.750	+ 3.202	3†	22.000	+ 5.081
Brazil	M.of May	3,362	—	M 3.282.000	− 17.244	5†	15.963.000	− 804.584
Paulista.....	M.of May	721	—	M 1.500.000	−238.338	5†	8.850.000	+ 101.324
Mogyana ...	M.of May	1,131	+ 57	M 1.263.000	−256.423	5†	7.833.000	+ 261.381
B.A. & Pacific	Oct. 30	3.536	+ 17	£ 75.000	+ 15.000	18	1.368.000	+ 293.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Oct. 31	3.792	+ 63	£ 97.000	+ 20.000	18	1.485.908	+ 275.967
B.A. Western	Oct. 31	1.887	+ 75	£ 50.000	+ 9.000	18	773.000	+ 133.000
Cent.Argentine	Oct. 30	3.307	+ 45	£ 108.000	+ 4.000	18	1.974.000	+ 234.100
Cent. Uruguay	Oct. 30	271	—	£ 12.531	+ 4.092	18	190.043	+ 49.825
„ (E. Ext.)	Oct. 30	311	—	£ 4.198	+ 1.898	18	61.478	+ 18.507
„ (N. Ext.)	Oct. 30	185	—	£ 2.013	+ 781	18	31.385	+ 7.799
„ (W. Ext.	Oct. 30	211	—	£ 2.257	+ 548	18	28.768	+ 7.230
Colomb. Nat.	M.of May	86	—	£ 9.512	− 2.928	5†	47.412	− 1.155
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.ofSept.	85½	—	£ 22.209	+ 3.809	3†	65.035	− 6.465
Cord. Central	Oct. 30	1,186	—	£ 25.350	− 8.335	18	591.890	− 100.810
Cuban Central	Oct. 30	354	+ 8	£ 8.679	+ 3.085	18	135.868	+ 20.615
Dorada Ext....	M.ofSept.	71	—	£ 8.400	+ 1.400	9†	71.300	− 5.300
EgyptianDelta	Oct. 10	619	− 4	£ 8.274	+ 2.076	27	81.440	− 18.877
Entre Rios...	Oct. 30	730	—	£ 11.000	+ 3.000	18	164.300	+ 29.900
Gt. S. of Spain	Oct. 2	104	—	Ps. 72.792	+ 11.458	40	2.364.145	− 284.317
Gt. W. Brazil	Oct. 30	1,010	—	£ 11.400	− 1.400	44	411.200	− 105.100
La Guaira&Ca.	M. of Oct.	23	—	£ 6.750	+ 1.500	10†	67.750	− 20.750
Leopoldina ...	Oct. 30	1,806	+ 20	£ 36.903	+ 8.955	44	1.280.761	− 1.929
Manila North	Oct. 30	315	+ 2	£ 3.068	− 993	44	221.324	− 41.768
„ South	Oct. 30	266	+ 91	£ 1.975	− 1.563	44	160.715	+ 15.183
Mid. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	319	—	£ 9.468	+ 2.241	3†	32.234	+ 7.851
Nitrate(2wks.)	Oct. 31	368	—	£ 19.845	+ 7.943	43	281.129	− 219.232
N.W. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	113	—	$ 22.000	+ 7.416	4†	68.500	+ 16.357
ParaguayCent.	Oct. 30	255	—	c 504.000	+292.000	18	7.942.000	+3.651.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.ofSept.	1,059	—	d 755.280	+154.784	3†	2.299.157	+ 56.218
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2.792	+ 837	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Oct. 30	100	—	$ 14.750	+ 1.000	18	339.600	+ 36.784
San Paulo.....	Oct. 24	153½	—	£ 39.967	+ 6.385	17	623.823	+ 169.662
Taltal	M.ofSept.	184	—	£ 21.375	+ 10.245	3†	47.753	− 4.890
U. of Havana	Oct. 30	681	—	£ 26.590	+ 8.798	18	424.783	+ 92.955
Urug.Northern	M.ofSept.	73	—	£ 1.543	+ 5.075	3†	5.076	+ 1.250
W. of Havana	Oct. 30	147	—	£ 4.635	+ 438	18	84.533	− 6.182
Zafra & Hlva.	M.ofSept.	112	—	£ 10.158	+ 2.614	9†	72.973	− 43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'g	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 28	369½	+21½	£ 48.033	− 1.010	43	2,186.099	− 136.897
Auckland(4wks)	Sept. 24	25½	—	£ 20.268	− 727	12	62.295	− 3.055
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	—	M. 8.494.090	+397.060	9†	57.457.110	+2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M.of Sept.	30	—	£ 30.360	+ 2.329	9†	275.074	+ 15.216
Bristol.....	Oct. 29	31	—	£ 8.910	+ 771	43	412.573	+ 38.565
BritishColumbia	M.of Sept.	242	+ 5½	$ 517.022	+133.494	3†	1.534.871	+ 480.480
Calcutta	Oct. 23	35½	—	B 56.550	+ 375	44	28.39.6 9	− 59.033
Cape Electric...	M.of Sept.	42·3	—	£ 16.237	+ 1.269	3†	51.199	+ 5.275
Carth. & Herr...	M. of Sept.	9	—	£ 2.169	+ 626	10†	17.749	− 4.939
Cork Electric...	Oct. 28	9½	—	£ 1.271	+ 13	44	47.580	− 189
Dublin United	Oct. 29	54½	—	£ 5.833	+ 425	43	264.876	+ 10.457
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.984.501	− 90.930
Isle of Thanet...	Oct. 30	12‡	− 6	£ 246	− 115	4	1.319	− 547
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20½	—	£ 3.185	+ 123	8†	22.119	+ 1.003
Lanarkshire ..	Oct. 28	28½	—	£ 2.001	+ 174	43	85.324	+ 3.863
Madras Electric	Oct. 31	—	—	R 31.293	+ 9 047	43	5.88.883	+ 25.346
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1.100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Oct. 30	21½	—	£ 1.996	+ 112	4	9.314	+ 622
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
U.of Montevideo	M.of Oct.	80	—	£ 27.167	+ 667	12†	330.583	− 30.882
Yorks.W.Riding	Oct. 31	24½	—	£ 1.398	+ 20	44	69.704	+ 5.748

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 247.809 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‡) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross.	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
478 Cos. (000's omitted)	Aug.	(e) $279.891	+ $5.273	$99.713	+ $10.039
12 *mos.*	to June	(f) 2,937,516	− 154,681	864,364	+ 23,516
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Aug.	398.000	− 68.000	128.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	800,000	− 79,000	252,000	+ 40,000
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ... a	Sept.	136.000	− 2.000	28.000	+ 5.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	388,000	− 22,000	65,000	+ 18,000
New Orleans & N.E. a	Sept.	292.000	+ 1.000	68.000	+ 35.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	879,000	− 63,000	208,000	+ 76,000
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Sept.	139.000	+ 11.000	30.000	+ 15.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	379,000	− 21,000	57,000	+ 12,000
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Sept.	10,795.000	+ 158.000	3.639.000	+ 3.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	32,121,000	+ 1,707,000	10,589,000	+ 687,000
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Sept.	2.380.000	+ 173.000	410.000	− 349.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	6,554,000	− 385,000	764,000	− 257,000
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Sept.	9.618.000	+ 835.000	3.194.000	+ 560.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	27,618,000	+ 2,007,000	9,666,000	+ 1,992,000
Canadian Northern ... b	Aug.	1,192.800	− 174.900	333.800	− 5.900
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	2,399,000	− 563,000	823,900	− 151,300
Canadian Pacific..... b	Sept.	10.273.000	− 481.000	4.745.000	+ 378.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	26,970,000	− 4,184,000	10,9[illegible],000	− 521,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ... a	Sept.	4.045.000	+ 531.000	1.521.000	+ 398.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	11,602,000	+ 1,344,000	2,733,000	+ 1,059,000
Chicago & N. Western...a	Sept.	8.330.000	+ 300.000	2.758.000	+ 359.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	23,457,000	− 313,000	6,768,000	− 203,000
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...a	Aug.	8.147.000	− 595.000	2.675.000	− 506.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	15,521,000	− 1,082,000	4,636,000	− 965,000
Chicago Great Western b	Sept.	1.284.000	− 83.000	380.000	− 67.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	3,614,000	− 125,000	953,000	− 130,000
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Aug.	8.285.000	+ 98.000	2.510.000	+ 352.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	16,504,000	+ 490,000	6,322,000	+ 780,000
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 336.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	12,051,000	− 652,000	1,931,000	− 687,000
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Aug.	1.499.000	− 209.000	371.000	− 165.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	2,912,000	− 357,000	737,000	− 261,000
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 196.000	1.035.000	+ 279.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	23,770,000	+ 671,000	4,655,000	+ 2,665,000
Colorado & Southern... a	Aug.	1,258.000	+ 67.000	328.000	+ 17.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	2,366,000	+ 62,000	642,000	+ 48,000
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Aug.	417.000	+ 74.000	197.000	+ 66.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	837,000	+ 111,000	407,000	+ 114,000
Delaware & Hudson... a	Aug.	2.130.000	+ 27.000	827.000	− 31.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	14,957,000	+ 108,000	4,500,000	+ 558,000
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Aug.	2.243.000	+ 153.000	744.000	+ 244.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	4,245,000	+ 152,000	1,273,000	+ 336,000
Erie Railroad..... a	Sept.	8.254.000	+ 747.000	2.422.000	+ 968.000
9 *mos.*	to Sept	67,488,000	+ 2,629,000	12,902,000	+ 2,995,000
Grand Trunk Railway a	Sept.	£808.600	− £25.700	£265.100	+ £23.850
9 *mos.*	to Sept.	6,453,450	− 603,700	1,769,350	+ 74,750
Grand Trunk Western a	Sept.	137.650	+ 12.050	46.150	+ 34.250
9 *mos.*	to Sept.	1,120,750	+ 20,600	150,950	+ 97,300
Great Northern ..... a	Aug.	$6.162.000	− $754.000	$2.623.000	− $800.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	12,020,000	− 1,736,000	4,989,000	− 1,130,000
Hocking Valley..... b	Aug.	650.000	− 61.000	313.000	+ 28.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	1,193,000	+ 31,000	638,000	+ 143,000
Illinois Central ..... a	Sept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	1.327.000	+ 68.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	16,165,000	− 605,000	2,982,000	− 244,000
Kansas City Southern a	Sept.	871.000	+ 12.000	318.000	+ 67.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	2,509,000	− 180,000	927,000	+ 76,000
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Sept.	3.944.000	+ 28.000	1.150.000	+ 40.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	11,458,000	+ 189,000	3,269,000	+ 98,000
Louisville & Nashville a	Sept.	4.862.000	+ 260.000	1.488.000	+ 522.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept	13,976,000	− 135,000	4,000,000	+ 967,000
Michigan Central..... a	Aug.	3.244.000	+ 222.000	1.019.000	+ 134.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	22,851,000	+ 729,000	6,228,000	+ 1,018,000
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	4,926,000	− 13,000	1,582,000	+ 211,000
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Aug.	2.653.000	− 46.000	791.000	− 15.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	5,170,000	− 245,000	1,362,000	− 173,000
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Aug.	5.111.000	− 242.000	1.145.000	− 246.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	9,874,000	− 732,000	2,092,000	− 708,000
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14.458.000	+ 583.000	4.776.000	+ 897.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	103,873,000	+ 3,817,000	27,483,000	+ 8,873,000
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	8.263.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	12,511,000	− 999,000	4,309,000	+ 1,115,000
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Sept.	728.000	− 94.000	186.000	− 2.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	2,602,000	− 214,000	915,000	+ 4,000
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4.729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 489.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	9,196,000	+ 1,451,000	2,855,000	+ 1,043,000
Northern Pacific..... a	Aug.	8.076.000	—	2.408.000	+ 636.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	11,426,000	− 442,000	3,526,000	+ 408,000
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 805.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	159,031,000	− 2,470,000	34,056,000	+ 3,328,000
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 483.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	73,715,000	− 1,284,000	15,349,000	+ 1,923,000
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Aug.	3.747.000	+ 162.000	1 084.000	+ 128.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	25,576,000	− 651,000	4,966 000	+ 175,000
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Sept.	4.482.000	+ 171.000	986.000	+ 311.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	12,775,000	+ 533,000	3,752,000	+ 714,000
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Aug.	1.974.000	− 503.000	134.000	+ 108.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	3,791,000	− 509,000	205,000	+ 87,000
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.753 000	− 91.000	1.121.000	− 12.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	7,303,000	− 357,000	2,108,000	− 32,000
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1,676.000	− 114.000	339.000	− 24.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	3,208,000	− 320,000	715,000	− 82,000
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1,341.000	4.738.000	+ 829.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	39,453,000	+ 4,207,000	13,928,000	+ 3,382,000
Southern ..... a	Sept.	5.617.000	+ 107.000	1.679.000	+ 841.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	16,141,000	− 762,000	4,386,000	+ 1,074,000
Union Pacific ..... a	Sept.	9.162.000	+ 11.000	3.928.000	+ 4.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	28,445,000	− 235,000	10,179,000	+ 124,000
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 62.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug.	5,235,000	− 206,000	1,247,000	+ 173,000
Western Pacific..... a	Aug.	722.000	+ 169.000	256 000	+ 161.000
2 *mos.*	to Aug	1,424,000	+ 310,000	506,000	+ 317,000

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Oct. 14	$83.000	+ $5.000	15	$1.342.000	− $ 66.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 21	857.000	+ 31.000	16	14.133.000	+1.510.000
Chicago Great Western	Oct. 21	328.000	− 12.000	16	4.578.000	− 151.000
Colorado & Southern	Oct. 14	316.000	− 13.000	15	4.161.000	+ 118.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Oct. 31	826.000	+ 65.000	17	9.215 000	+ 567.000
Great Northern	M.ofAug.	6.162.000	− 754.000	2†	12.020.000	−1,736.000
Illinois Central	M.ofSept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	3†	16.165.000	− 605.000
Louisville & Nashville	Oct. 21	1,142.000	+ 113.000	16	17.347.000	+ 41.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Oct. 14	741.000	+ 5.000	15	9.527.000	+ 129.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Oct. 21	643 000	− 45.000	16	9.594.000	− 558.000
Missouri Pacific	Oct. 31	1,826.000	+ 71.000	17	20.689.000	− 838.000
Southern Railway	Oct. 21	1,363.000	+ 147.000	16	20.163.000	− 525.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915.

FINANCING THE WAR.

BEFORE we present for the consideration of our readers the important reference to the question of finance which the Prime Minister made in his comprehensive speech on Tuesday last, it may be well to give a brief survey of the financial and economic situation of the country.

Briefly the situation is this: Great Britain possesses great accumulations of wealth which, together with her command of the sea, her great commerce, and the consequent maintenance of her income at a high level, give her great resources and place her credit far beyond question. At the beginning of the War it was necessary to dwell upon the wealth of Great Britain and the strong condition of her finances in order to convince everyone that the serious disturbance to confidence which then occurred was a temporary matter. Subsequent events have shown this view of the matter to have been the sound one. Practically all the effects of the extraordinary situation last August have long since disappeared. The situation needed to be dealt with promptly and comprehensively. This was done effectively and well by Mr. Lloyd George, then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It has been officially announced that only £33,000,000 of uncollectible debts due from enemy countries are held in abeyance until the end of the War, and when one considers that the amount of international bills in the London market at the time that the Government guarantee was given was upwards of £350,000,000, this result is exceedingly satisfactory. Moreover, the whole or practically the whole of the £33,000,000 still due will be recovered when peace is restored.

The ease with which the financial situation of the country was adjusted in the autumn, and the appreciation of the wealth and income of Great Britain have induced the Government to incur great expenditures for defence, and at the same time to make most liberal and generous advances to our Allies. All this is not only in accordance with the letter and spirit of the agreement with our Allies, but is in accordance with the wish of the entire country. The Prime Minister's statement at the Guildhall some few months ago, "We shall fight to the end, to the last farthing of our money, to the last ounce of our strength, to the last drop of our blood," has been applauded and endorsed from one end of the land to the other.

To spend as much money as the Government is now spending, however, necessitates the mobilisation of the entire financial resources of the country. These financial resources consist, in the first place, of the normal savings of the country; secondly, of the additional money that is saved by the transference of men from peaceful to warlike occupations; and thirdly, of the additional profits and income accruing to manufacturers, traders, shipowners, colliery owners, and the working classes in consequence of the War. From the additional income thus available must be deducted the loss of income arising from the curtailment of production in consequence of the withdrawal from productive industry of great numbers of men. In large measure, however, the loss of production resulting from this transfer has been reduced by the employment of women and boys in place of the men enlisted. Nevertheless there is some reduction of income. It is, however, by no means impossible for that reduction to be completely made good by employing more women, by more strenuous work on the part of men not enlisted, and by greater efficiency in the employment of both labour and machinery. We have no doubt that the call to everyone, both men and women, to do their best work at the present time will bring about a further substantial recovery in production. Of course we assume that the Government will not withdraw from industry more men than can be withdrawn without curtailing income. Beyond its great income the country possesses a large quantity of foreign securities which can be sold to other nations that have the power and desire to buy them. Furthermore, at the beginning of the War the country possessed a large quantity of floating capital which it was employing in all parts of the world. Lastly, the credit of the country is equal to that of any other country in the world.

Thus with its income nearly as great as it was before the War, with its savings greater than before the War, and with a substantial amount of floating capital available for meeting exceptional expenses, its position last autumn was wonderfully strong. But Great Britain possesses an additional element of strength which can be brought into play when necessary. It has never been the practice of the British people to stint their expenditures, and every family that possesses the means of spending money freely does not hesitate to provide itself, not only with all the necessaries it requires, but with as many comforts and luxuries as it can reasonably afford. The savings of the British people are made after all these other expenditures are provided for. Hitherto the British people have financed this great war in the same way as they would have financed a new Government building, a new county hall, or a new post office. They have assumed that expenditures for such a purpose would be met after they had supplied themselves with their necessaries, comforts, and luxuries. This is the situation at the present time. The nation is spending just as much upon its necessaries, comforts, and luxuries as it usually does. In fact, expenditure upon these things are greater than they have ever been. Hitherto

the entire cost of the War has been financed out of normal savings and by the consumption of floating capital. The greatest reserve which the country possesses is still untouched—the power to reduce its expenditures upon comforts and luxuries, and by so doing to set free the additional money needed by the nation for war purposes. How much can be set free in this manner is difficult to calculate. We are convinced, however, that without serious difficulty the country can increase the annual sums it has hitherto devoted out of income to the War by about £400,000,000 a year, or over £1,000,000 a day.

Beyond the additional sum that can be provided in this manner out of income over and above existing savings, a substantial sum can be found by selling some of its foreign investments or by borrowing abroad for the purpose of maintaining the exchange.

The current rate of the country's expenditure is £4,500,000 per day. Of this sum taxation next year will take care of about £1,000,000 per day, and the existing rate of the country's savings will provide for another £1,500,000 per day, leaving a gap of £2,000,000 a day to be filled. It will be possible to fill this gap by reducing the country's expenditures upon luxuries and comforts to the extent of £1,000,000 a day, and to finance the remaining £1,000,000 a day by sales of foreign securities and by means of foreign loans.

It is obvious that it is now necessary to invite the country to stop its expenditures upon luxuries and to reduce its expenditures upon comforts; but having regard to the spirit of the British people at the present time and their desire to do everything essential to secure victory, this is not a really serious matter under existing conditions. The problem would, of course, be a very different one if the great mass of the people of the country were not heart and soul behind the Government in prosecuting the present War and if they had not determined to submit to any sacrifice they might be called upon to make. But as this is the attitude of the British people towards the War, all that needs to be done at the present time is for the Government to take the measures for collecting from the country the money it is only too willing to provide. Doubtless Mr. Asquith's statement was intended to indicate to the British people that the time has now come when each one must do his share to secure victory by providing the Government with all the money needed for the War, both by strenuous efforts to maintain and, if possible, to increase the income of the country and by keeping down expenditure through a moderate amount of self-denial. Having regard to the great difficulty which the average Englishmen finds in saving money when he has it in his pocket, we hope the Government will in the early future take measures for mobilising the most important financial reserve that any nation possesses—that part of its income which in times of peace it devotes to expenditures upon comforts and luxuries and which at the present time is greater than usual.

In conclusion, we would point to the very great difference there is between the financial strength of Great Britain and the financial strength of Germany. Here the wealth and income of the country have hitherto been so great that practically no one has yet felt it necessary to reduce his or her expenditures upon the ordinary things of life, whereas Germany, to meet her war expenditures, has been compelled to keep the great mass of the German people in a state of semi-starvation ever since the beginning of the present year. The contrast between the lavish manner in which Great Britain has spent money, not only upon war, but for the purpose of personal enjoyment, and the manner in which money has been husbanded in Germany, indeed, provides a striking commentary upon the great disparity that exists between the financial resources of the two States and gives the measure of their financial power to continue the great conflict in which they are now engaged. Great Britain has not yet begun to put out her full financial strength.

With these introductory remarks we reproduce below Mr. Asquith's important statement, which, it will be evident, is intended to direct the attention of the British people to the situation and to the importance of curtailing their expenditures upon luxuries and comforts to the extent necessary to provide the balance of the money which cannot be found by other methods.

"I am sorry to have kept the House so long with these matters, but I set forth with the object of telling them everything that I could well do; and I now proceed to ask myself and to ask them the further question after this review of the various theatres of operation: What are we doing and what ought we to do, in addition to all that we have done, first, as a community, and then as classes and as individuals? We have, as my right hon. friend the Minister of Munitions said in a speech in May last—which I trust was widely read—as partners with our great Allies, three special co-ordinate functions to discharge. First of all, there is the supply of men, an adequate supply of men, for the Army; then the provision of the munitions of war, not only for our own troops, but for the forces of our Allies; and thirdly, the burden which we have taken upon ourselves, and which to the utmost of our ability we shall endeavour to discharge—the burden of common allied finance. One of the things which we have to consider is how we are to co-ordinate and to adjust the different functions, the object being that we here in the United Kingdom and in the British Empire should contribute most fruitfully and most effectively to the common cause. I would say just one word, first of all, as to the third of those points, namely, the question of finance. The financial position to-day is serious. The extent to which we here in this country are buying goods abroad in excess of our exports is more than £30,000,000 per month, against an average of about £11,000,000 per month before the war; and, at the same time, we are making advances to our Allies and to others which were estimated by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech to amount to a total during the current financial year, to say no more of what is to come, to £423,000,000. We have also, be it remembered, alone amongst the belligerent countries, maintained our free market for gold, and, indeed, have exported a large amount to all parts of the world; and it is certain we are making purchases and undertaking commitments to provide credits abroad to an extent that can only be paid for by the further export of gold, or by the further sale abroad of securities and of our own debts.

"I only bring these facts, which are familiar, in this context to the recollection of the House in order to say once more that this is a burden which, rich as we are, resourceful as we are, we cannot go on discharging unless there is, both on the part of the Government as well as on the part of individuals, the most strict and stringent rule of economy, the avoidance of unnecessary expenditure, and the curtailment of charges which under normal conditions we should think right and necessary, and, if I may use a homely expression, cutting our coat according to the cloth with which we have to make it. I do not think—I am not a pessimist in this matter—our position compares unfavourably with that of the Governments who are opposed to us. The consumption of the German Government and the German nation has been far in excess of what they have been able to produce or import, and their stocks of available commodities are, from all we hear, rapidly diminishing and dwindling. And, further, the standard of life of the greater part of the population of Germany has been depressed to a point at which there is little or no margin of reserve. We in these respects no doubt apparently and ostensibly stand in a

better position, but I would once more say with all the emphasis of which I am capable, we cannot sustain the burden which this great war has laid upon us unless as individuals, as classes, as a community, and as a Government we make, and are prepared to make, far greater sacrifices than we have hitherto done in the direction of retrenchment and economy. There is another point in that connection I should like to mention before I deal with the question of men, and to which for a moment I desire to call the attention of the House, and that is the cost of the Army. The average cost of the Regular Army in peace time, on a very rough and an approximate estimate, used to be reckoned and is reckoned as about £100 per head per annum. I am quite certain that I am using a very moderate and more than moderate figure when I say, in the condition which now prevails, the complete cost per head of the Army, the vastly increased Army which we are now maintaining, is somewhere between £250 and £300 per head. I do not want to go into details. I purposely said it was an approximate and a very rough estimate. That is a fact which everybody ought to bear in mind."

TWO PREMIERS' SPEECHES.

We have had this week speeches from the Prime Ministers of our own country and of France. Each has been well received; but we are bound to add that the French Chamber showed to much greater advantage than the British House of Commons. It is true that the circumstances under which the two Premiers spoke were very different. M. Briand has just assumed office, and his object was to set before the Chamber the policy he intends to pursue. It was exceedingly to the purpose; and those who had the pleasure of listening to it tell us that it was one of the greatest oratorical performances that has been heard in the French chamber for many a day. He spoke amidst repeated cheers; and when the vote was taken there was but one single dissentient amongst between 500 and 600 members present. M. Briand spoke briefly and decisively. In the present condition of things, he said, no true Frenchman could recognise parties amongst the men of France. Every citizen of the country was equally interested in maintaining her independence and her integrity. Therefore, all parties were alike to him; and to all parties, consequently, he appealed for support. He saw only Frenchmen, and he reckoned upon the help of every citizen of France. The response was as nearly unanimous as could be expected. On the other hand, Mr. Asquith dealt largely with the criticisms which have been directed against his Government with increasing pertinacity for several months now. We venture to think that the time for criticism has not come, and that the French Chamber showed an example that it is very desirable indeed the British House of Commons should emulate. That there have been grievous mistakes made in the conduct of the War we do not for a moment dispute. But in every war the same statement could be made with equal justice, often with very much greater justice. The circumstances were new. Nobody except the aggressor was prepared. Nobody even expected war in the immediate future. That Germany was preparing with great vigour and great haste every well-informed man knew. But that she would plunge into one of the greatest conflicts Europe has ever witnessed, in the very middle of 1914, we venture to say that outside the Kaiser's immediate confidants nobody anticipated. Therefore, Germany took her adversaries all by surprise. And as she was as nearly prepared as it is possible for human beings to be, it is neither surprising nor very condemnatory that her opponents showed to a disadvantage during the earlier part of the conflict. We fail to see, then, either the seasonableness or the usefulness of the criticism which is being indulged in, and which even Mr. Asquith's admirable speech has not silenced. The time will come for criticism. But it will not come for just criticism until we have full information before us. At the present time criticism is certain to be unjust, and is highly likely to be [illegible] Minister's speech one illustration of the certainty that criticism just now must be unjust. Everybody is aware that the public, or, at all events, the censorious public, had made up its mind that Mr. Churchill had practically on his own authority begun the attack on the Dardanelles. Disagreement between himself and Lord Fisher was regarded as proof positive of the charge made against him. Yet on Tuesday last the Prime Minister told the House of Commons in the clearest and most forcible language that the expedition to open the Dardanelles had been fully discussed by the Cabinet; that the whole of its members were responsible for it; and that he himself took his own full share of responsibility. Now if such a charge has so widely been believed in this particular case, is it not practically certain that we are grossly mistaken in many other of our assumptions? The censorship has been so strict. All information likely to benefit the enemy has been kept back. In short, we have been living in such complete ignorance that it is impossible that we can judge with fairness. Therefore, the reasonable thing is to abstain from criticism for the moment, and to do as the French Chamber has just pledged itself to do, namely, to support the Government through thick and thin.

With regard to the merits of the Dardanelles expedition, we also think that the best service that can be rendered to the country is to reserve judgment. The Prime Minister told the House of Commons on Tuesday that not only had the case been very fully considered by the Cabinet, but that Lord Kitchener had informed his colleagues that he could not supply a military force; and, lastly, that the British Admiral on the station had given it as his opinion that the Dardanelles could be forced by the Fleet. We do not [illegible] to say that these facts justify the action that has been taken. What we do maintain is that they show that all the Cabinet had full opportunity to judge as to the propriety or impropriety of the policy adopted, and that they had the opinion of an expert upon the spot, that the thing could be done. Therefore, the conclusion we draw is that until still fuller information is before us we had better reserve judgment, holding that the argument in favour of action was very strong. In the first place, we had shown ourselves the friend and protector of Turkey for several generations. We had a right, therefore, to expect from Turkey at least neutrality. Yet, without provocation, the Turkish Government declared war against the Entente Allies. Naturally, having done so, it prepared expeditions against Egypt and against the Persian Gulf; and, therefore, we had the very strongest motive for taking energetic measures to prevent Turkey from doing us exceedingly great damage. In addition to this, we knew that Turkey was doing her best to stir up Mohammedan opinion all the world over against England. Lastly, the price of wheat was exceedingly high. There was a cry at home that the poor were being starved through the inaction of the Government. At the same time, Russia had one of the finest harvests she had ever been favoured with. But she was unable to export that harvest because the Turks had closed the Dardanelles against her. No fair-minded man will for [illegible] strong argument in favour of the policy adopted. But the fair-minded man who wishes to judge everybody according to his deserts will bear in mind, at the same time, that, strong as these arguments were, there were naval and military arguments on the other side which, likewise, were strong. The facts being so, fair-minded men will reserve their judgment until the whole truth is before them.

There is another point of view which should not be left out of account. And it is that the British

Empire is only one of the Entente Allies. All the Allies had pledged themselves to consult carefully; to respect in every way the opinions, susceptibilities, and claims of one another; and, finally, not to make peace without the consent of the Allies. No one Ally was to make peace, that is to say, without the consent of all. Therefore, the question of the Dardanelles, though it touched British interests very closely, was by no means an exclusively British question. The world had before it the clearest demonstration that the freedom of the Straits is of the very utmost importance to Russia. Russia was engaged in reconstituting her Fleet and reorganising her Army. She had openly declared that she had not completed either task. And while she was busy pushing them on she was at the same time unprepared for a great war. Therefore, it was notorious to all the world that she needed immense supplies of munitions, etc., which could be forwarded to her on a sufficient scale only through the Dardanelles. Lastly, she had a magnificent harvest, which practically was thrown upon her hands simply because the Dardanelles were closed against her. There could not be a stronger case, then, than Russia had with regard to the Dardanelles. We do not profess to know what was the policy urged by Russia. When Russia finds it convenient to lay her whole case before her people she will, no doubt, do so. In the meanwhile we are all in the dark as to whether she pressed the attack upon the Dardanelles, or as to whether, not being prepared to send a great expedition herself, she preferred that the matter might be postponed. Clearly, then, it is perfectly obvious that nobody can judge the facts with even a semblance of fairness until he knows who it was that urged most strongly the attack upon the Dardanelles and whether the arrangements brought forward were not so convincing that any one of the Allies would have incurred the gravest possible risks if it had refused to act. We have spoken so far as if the case lay only between ourselves, Russia, and the Turks. But we must not leave out of account that France was equally interested and that she risked her Navy just as we did. He must be either a fanatical partizan or a blind reasoner who maintains that a policy which was supported by France with her Navy, although she had no special interest in it, was absolutely indefensible in regard to our own country.

THE GREEK CRISIS.

On Wednesday M. Zaimis, who had held office only four weeks, resigned in consequence of a vote of want of confidence in the Greek Chamber. The general expectation is that there will be an appeal to the constituencies. But that course would seem to be utterly unconstitutional. It will be in the recollection of our readers that M. Venezelos had adopted a policy which seemed to commit Greece to the Entente Allies and against the two Central European Empires. The King expressed his disapproval of the policy of his Prime Minister, and M. Venezelos resigned. The new Ministry that came in made themselves practically the mouthpieces of the King, and it will further be remembered that the King became seriously ill. During this time there took place a General Election which, one would think, was timed as favourably for the King as was possible. In the first place, the King's illness excited widespread sympathy with him. In the second place, M. Venezelos did not directly take a very active part in the agitation which attended the elections. And, in the third place, the influence of the Crown was used to bend to his wishes the voters in those districts which, in consequence of the late two Balkan wars, had been added to Greece. They, not unnaturally, voted as they were instructed by the Government. Yet, in spite of all these advantages, the majority of the Chamber is in favour of M. Venezelos and against the King and his party. The Vote on Wednesday, which has brought about the crisis, was raised unexpectedly; but there can be no reasonable doubt that M. Venezelos felt that his position was absolutely untenable, and that he must either maintain his own policy or admit that he had been altogether in the wrong during his struggle with the King. Very naturally, and very properly, he defended his own policy, with the result that the King's party was defeated by a majority of 33 in a house of 264 members. Of course, the King has the right to dissolve Parliament. But whether he will gain anything by doing so remains to be seen. Of course, he will give proof to his brother-in-law in Berlin that he has done everything in his power to carry out the conspiracy between them. But that he will be able to change the opinions of his people seems extremely improbable. So far as can be judged at this moment, the large majority of the Greek people are in favour of the Entente Allies and opposed to the King's policy. It seems, therefore, as if the King were courting a grave defeat by the course which it is expected he will follow. M. Venezelos has a very strong argument beyond all the interests of Greece on his side. It is that there is a treaty between Greece and Serbia definitely pledging Greece to help Serbia if the latter is attacked by Bulgaria. Serbia has been attacked by Bulgaria without provocation, and yet Greece refuses to fulfil her treaty obligations. In the face of all this, one can but wonder that public men in Greece should, for the sake of winning the Royal favour, advocate an appeal to the public. But so many strange things happen in the Balkans that perhaps the wisest course for all parties is to wait and see what will be done. The decision of this crisis will, no doubt, exercise a very great influence upon Roumania, for the circumstances would be materially changed if not only the Entente Allies all send contingents to support Serbia, but if, likewise, Greece throws in her lot with the Entente Powers.

THE BALKAN QUESTION.

Mr. Asquith on Tuesday did not give as much information respecting the Balkans as we all wished to receive. But we are quite ready to believe that he told the House as much as it was advisable to tell at present. Much of the unwise criticism which is being directed against our Government relates to the Balkans; and we confess that there is a great deal which in our present ignorance appears to be greatly in want of explanation. But we hold with M. Briand that this is not a time either for criticism or for explanation. Our sole duty at the moment is to do everything possible to beat down the arrogant enemy that sprang a great unprovoked war upon the world. If we are to criticise at all, clearly we have to go back to the time when Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury were in power, and practically allowed Austria-Hungary and Germany to do what they pleased with the Near Eastern Question, as it used to be called. Germany and Austria have pitchforked German princelets on to the thrones of three of the Balkan States. And clearly from that fact most of our present difficulties spring. If, then, we are to criticise bitterly we must go back a long way in the past. But what good such criticism would do we fail utterly to see. There were altogether four Great Powers intimately interested in the Balkan question—interested indeed, so intimately that each one believed it worth its while to fight a great war rather than allow any settlement of that question that would not be favourable to itself. These four Powers were the British Empire and Russia on the one hand, and Germany and Austria-Hungary on the other. We leave Turkey herself and the Balkan States out of the question, because none of these were capable of enforcing a policy of their own. The real policy had to be decided by the four Great Powers who believed themselves to be so imperatively interested. We do not in the least know what the diplomacy

of any of the Powers has been since the War was so suddenly sprung upon the world. We can guess a great deal. But guessing is a very different thing from knowing. We see that the bankers of Berlin lent a large sum of money to Bulgaria, and that Bulgaria ever since has been preparing for the course she has taken. Who allowed this to go on we do not know. Was Russia so certain of her own influence over the Bulgarians that even to the last she refused to do anything in the nature of coercing the Bulgarians? Or was Sir Edward Grey so confiding in the promises of King Ferdinand that he did not think it necessary to move? Outside the diplomats concerned, we doubt whether there is a man in Europe who could answer either question confidently. All we know is that for more than a century Russia has been the patroness of the Slavs; that she has spent blood and treasure on a lavish scale in freeing them; and that, therefore, she had a very good right to expect that her word would carry greater weight than the word of any other Power. But however the facts may be, King Ferdinand has turned upon the deliverer of Bulgaria, and he has been followed by his subjects. The treachery is grave in the extreme. We do not see, however, how it can be mended either by ignorant criticism of the past or by empty fury regarding the present. The real question is, What ought to be done to set right a very entangled situation?

M. Briand was on Wednesday rather explaining the policy he intends to pursue in very general language than indicating any particular step for dealing directly with the Balkans. Mr. Asquith was replying to bitter, ignorant and useless criticism, which has been going on for months, and which had to be dealt with at great length. Therefore he had not very much time for dealing with any of the particular questions he spoke upon. He gave us, nevertheless, a good deal of very important information. He showed us, in the first place, that he and his colleagues are fully alive to the great importance of the questions relating to Constantinople, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf. We have, of all the Powers, the strongest present interest in those regions. Germany hopes to oust us and take our place. Russia, likewise, expects to have even greater interests than she has at present. But, looking at the facts as they stand to-day, the Constantinople, or Balkan, or Egyptian Question, or whatever title is to be given to it, interests the British Empire more than any other State in the world. Our road to India, as we said last week, lies through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, and the Persian Gulf. We must defend India come what may. Therefore, it is a question of life and death to us. Moreover, it is to be recollected that our communications with the great Australian Commonwealth and with New Zealand also lie through the Suez Canal. The very life of the British Empire, therefore, depends upon our decisively crushing the enemy which is aiming at our very existence. It is, consequently, with the very greatest satisfaction that we learn from Mr. Asquith that the Government is determined to do whatever may be necessary to win this War. He even went the length of saying that though he is as strongly opposed to Conscription as any man he would not shrink from Conscription if he were convinced that it is necessary for winning the War. On that point every British subject we suppose will support him. We ourselves, like Mr. Asquith, are opposed to Conscription. But if the War can be won only by Conscription we are prepared to vote for it; and we doubt if there is any loyal British subject living who would not do the same. The War must be won; and, therefore, whatever is necessary to win it must be done. We trust, however, that Mr. Asquith is right; that Conscription will not be necessary; that all the men required will come forward of their own free will; and that, in a short time, what seems now a most formidable question will be seen to be the last flicker of an over-bold adventurer.

British troops have already been forwarded to support the Serbians. The French Government was better prepared than we, and it has been in a position to send forward troops to help the Serbians. As yet we have not heard of any British infantry having reached the Front. But British cavalry have joined, and we make no doubt from Mr. Asquith's language that everything possible is being done to hurry up large reinforcements. The Serbians are showing splendid qualities in defending their country. They have been strengthened in their resolve by the arrival of Allied assistance. How soon a really considerable British force will arrive we have no means of judging. On Tuesday Mr. Asquith told the House of Commons that 13,000 men had been landed. But 13,000 men is a very small force. We want a great deal more. Whether Italy will contribute a contingent is not yet known. Neither is it certain whether Russia will be in a position to act with vigour. It has been stated that the Russians have not confined their action to a mere bombardment of Varna—that they have landed troops. That would be a very important fact indeed, if confirmed, for, ungrateful as the Bulgarians have shown themselves, it is incredible that all memory of the services rendered to Bulgaria by Russia has passed away. Therefore, it is, to say the least, possible that Bulgarian troops might refuse to fight against the Russians if the Russians landed and offered such terms to Bulgaria as might be accepted by a high-spirited people. Meanwhile, we have no knowledge of what is likely to happen either in Greece or in Roumania. That the Greek authorities are very friendly to the Entente Allies appears to be undoubted. And that in allowing us to land at Salonika Greece has risked offending the Central European Empires is likewise evident. But we know nothing of the real facts. There has been a report that Russia has offered Bessarabia to Roumania. If that should be confirmed it would be an exceedingly valuable and important fact, for there are a million of Roumans in Bessarabia, and naturally Roumania has longed for the reunion of Bessarabia since it was taken from her after the Russo-Turkish war. There is, therefore, a possibility that even yet Roumania and Greece may come to the assistance of Serbia. In that case the rash attack upon Serbia would prove to be as wild as it appeared to most well-informed observers when it was begun. The position is complicated by the fresh Greek Government crisis.

CANADA.

The condition of no country in the world presents a more striking contrast to its state a year ago than does that of Canada, and perhaps no country will derive greater economic advantage from the War in proportion to its population than Canada. The first effect of the War was disastrous. For some years previously Canada had been engaged on a policy of active expansion, and, although her programme was nearly finished, she still needed substantial amounts of money for the purpose of completing railways under construction and finishing improvements to towns and cities. The financial paralysis at the outbreak of war, and the difficulty experienced in raising new capital, stopped business from one end of the country to the other; and just at this moment the crops of Canada were deficient. After a time, however, matters began to show some improvement, in consequence of the advance in the price of wheat and the ability of Canadian towns and industries to borrow in the United States. Nevertheless, in spite of all the compensation, the effect of the War was severe for some months, and trade was extremely depressed. Perhaps the best measure of trade contraction was reflected in the gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which for the twelve months to June

last showed a decline of $30,950,000, or 24%. This situation brought about great economies, and as these economies were supplemented by substantial orders for Canadian manufactured goods given by the British Government, the situation began to mend. In 1914 and in previous years the activity of trade in Canada was due for the most part to the importation and expenditure of vast quantities of capital. At the present time the recovery is due to the greatness of Canada's own productions and to the economy of her consumption. The remarkable change brought about in conditions in Canada is reflected by the movements of her foreign trade. In the twelve months to the end of August 1913 the country's imports for consumption were as much as $661,000,000, while her exports were only $370,000,000, and there was an excess of *imports* over exports of $291,000,000. In the past twelve months to August 1915, however, the net imports have been only $372,000,000, while the exports, in spite of bad crops, have been worth $460,000,000, and there has been an excess of *exports* over imports of $89,000,000. The expansion in exports has come from the much higher price obtained for exported food and from the substantial quantity of manufactured goods purchased in Canada by the British Government. The really remarkable change in the financial situation of Canada as indicated by its foreign trade in the past year will be evident from the following contrast:—

Foreign Trade of Canada* (00,000's *omitted*). *Last Four Years.

Year to Aug. 31.	MERCHANDISE. Total Imports.	Pro-Ex-ports.	Net Imports.	Excess of Imp. or Exp.	COIN AND BULLION. Excess of Imp. or Exp.	TOTAL TRADE. Excess of Imp. or Exp.
	$	$	$		$	$
1915 ...	415,8	44,2	371,6	[illegible]	Imp. 27,7	[illegible]
1914 ...	549,6	39,2	510,4	Imp. 81,1	[illegible]	Imp. 75,6
1913 ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	661,1	Imp. 290,6	Exp. 19,5	Imp. 271,1
1912 ...	584,3	[illegible]	[illegible]	Imp. 245,9	Exp. 6,3	Imp. 239,6

But the improvement in the situation thus far shown gives only a faint idea of the further improvement that is likely to take place in the current year, when instead of poor crops the country has gathered a bumper harvest. It is calculated the wheat crop of Canada in the current year will be no less than 336 million bushels, against only 161 million bushels last year; that the oat crop will be 481 million bushels, against 313 million bushels, and that barley will give a yield of nearly 51 million bushels, against 36 million bushels. The crops of this year should yield about twice as much money as last year. For the purpose of showing the rapidity with which the cereal production of Canada is expanding we give the following contrast of the wheat, oat, and barley crops since 1900:—

Wheat, Oat, Barley Crops of Canada.

Yield.	Wheat. Bush.	Oats. Bush.	Barley. Bush.
1915 ..	336,258,000	481,035,000	50,868,000
1914 ..	161,280,000	313,078,000	36,201,000
1913 ..	231,717,000	404,669,000	48,319,000
1912 ..	199,236,000	361,733,000	44,074,000
1911 ..	216,826,000	366,764,000	54,089,000
1910 ..	145,991,000	286,782,000	42,900,000
1909 ..	165,787,000	328,415,000	48,811,000
1908 ..	128,648,000	258,480,000	47,749,000
1907 ..	93,105,000	217,463,000	44,430,000
1906 ..	125,505,000	205,462,000	47,134,000
1905 ..	106,097,000	185,261,000	41,094,000
1900 ..	47,868,000	108,015,000	20,323,000

Although the importance of the size of the crop in a year of good prices is very great, we attach even more importance to the expansion of acreage, for it is acreage that in the long run tells on quantity rather than the weather. Consequently, we note with much satisfaction that in the past year the acreage devoted to wheat has been increased from 10,294,000 acres to 12,986,000 acres, or over 25%, while the area devoted to oats has increased from 10,061,000 acres to 11,365,000 acres, an increase of about 13%. This additional acreage and the still greater increase of acreage that may be expected as the years pass, means a very rapid increase in the food production of Canada, that in years of adverse weather the crops will be much greater than in previous years of bad weather, and that in years of bumper harvests the yields will break new records. The existence of profitable prices for foodstuffs during the War and the probable continuance of profitable prices for some time thereafter are matters of very great importance to Canada. Had it not been for the War the increased acreage devoted to crops in the new countries in consequence of the great extension of railways in recent years would have brought about a substantial fall in prices—a situation which would have greatly increased the burden of the interest which Canada has to pay upon the great sum of British capital invested in the country. But in consequence of the higher prices of foodstuffs which have resulted from the closing of the Dardanelles, as well as from other conditions, the price of food instead of falling has advanced, and this has very greatly lightened Canada's interest burden. As far as can be calculated, there is about £700,000,000 of foreign capital in Canada, mainly British, and the interest burden of this is upwards of £30,000,000 a year. This interest would have been equal to a wheat crop of over 150,000,000 bushels sold at a dollar a bushel, or to a wheat crop of nearly 200,000,000 sold at 80 cents a bushel. The price of wheat, however, has risen, and Manitoba wheat is now quoted at about 114 cents a bushel, which with a crop of 336,000,000 bushels will give Canada an income from this one crop of no less than $383,000,000. Hence the country is able to meet the whole of its interest charges out of its wheat crop alone, with a big surplus. And wheat is only one of the products of Canada. It raises great quantities of oats, moderate amounts of other cereals, and very large amounts of cheese, butter, and eggs, and other dairy products. Moreover, it produces a great quantity of minerals, fish, lumber, and a substantial amount of manufactured goods. The largeness of the country's exports since February has been mainly due to the heaviness of its shipments of manufactured goods to the British Government. It is evident that in the current twelve months Canada's exports of manufactured goods for war purposes will reach a very large total. Having regard to the greatness of the crop, the high prices ruling, as well as to the heavy orders placed in Canada by the British Government for war materials of all kinds and descriptions, we should not be surprised if the value of Canada's exports in the current twelve months were nearly twice as great as they were in the twelve months to the end of August. Moreover, were the country at the same time to maintain the severe economy practised in the past twelve months and to keep down its imports, the excess of exports over imports would be a long way in excess of the $150,000,000 needed to meet interest payments on foreign capital. The extent of the excess of exports over imports will indeeed be governed mainly by the economy practised by the Canadian people. If they recognise that economy in Canada will be of very great value to the Empire in its existing struggle, doubtless they will continue to be economical. If they are economical they may not only be able to pay the whole of the interest upon British capital employed in Canada by means of their exports, but may have a substantial sum of money to lend

to Great Britain or to use in paying back to the Mother Country some of the capital she has supplied. That such a possibility is desirable will, we are sure, be recognised by no one more freely than it will be by the people of Canada. Were it possible for the Canadian people during the War to keep down their home expenditures and to redeem some of the capital previously supplied by Great Britain their position after the War would be greatly strengthened. Of course, no one is able to forecast the situation after the War, but most people anticipate a great emigration to Canada of men who, as soldiers, have led an open-air life, and who are not willing to return to office, mills, or mines. If this expectation is realised, Canada will then need a good deal of new capital to take care of the newcomers. Therefore, if during the War she strengthens her financial position by repaying a part of the great sum of capital obtained prior to the War, her ability to get new capital after the War will be very much increased. Indeed, she will be able to get the capital for herself in some measure by re-selling to the British people the securities she may now be able to buy. There is, moreover, a further reason for economy. It is obvious that the British people cannot continue their present great purchases of goods from abroad unless they are able to pay for some of them, at any rate, in securities. The United States has shown her willingness to take payment in securities for substantial amounts of goods, and the Allies will necessarily purchase goods from those countries which are able and willing to take securities in payment rather than from those countries which demand payment in cash. The securities which Canada could take when it has the large favourable trade balance we expect she will have in the current season with her great crops and large output of manufactured goods, will be her own securities, either Canadian Government, or municipal, or railway, or industrial. Of course, Canada might prefer to subscribe to a British Government loan issued jointly in the United States and Canada, free of income tax. But that is a matter that can be discussed when the trade balance of Canada is large enough to enable her to purchase securities. If her people with renewed prosperity expand their consumption, it is obvious that Canada may not have a trade balance more than sufficient to provide interest on the foreign capital employed by her. Should Canada refrain, however, from further railway construction or town-planning or other works entailing large expenditures, and the Canadian people continue to be economical in their domestic expenditures, it is possible—indeed probable—that during the War Canada may be able to purchase back from Great Britain a large part of the securities which British investors have purchased in recent years.

The improving conditions in Canada are reflected in the pronouncement by the Finance Minister, the Hon. W. T. White, that the Government intends to issue an internal loan for the purpose of providing part of the money needed to meet the country's war expenditure. Of course, such a step will be all to the good, as hitherto the British people have found not only money for themselves and their Allies but for the Colonies, and if Canada can finance her own war expenses it will considerably reduce the burden upon Great Britain. We are not without hope, however, that Canada will not only be able to meet her own internal expenditures, including the money for the War, but will out of her favourable trade balance be able to repurchase a substantial amount of securities from this country.

For the purpose of showing the steady growth in the exports of Canada since February and the very great expansion that will probably be shown in the export trade of Canada in the coming twelve months, in consequence of the greatness of her crops and the largeness of her output of manufactured goods, we give the following:—

Recent Court of Monthly Foreign Trade of Canada (00,000's omitted).

Month	Merchandise		
	Imports.	Exports.	Exc. of Imp. or Exp
	$	$	$
Aug., 1914	44,4	32,0	Imp. 12,4
Sept.	36,5	40,5	Exp. 4,0
Oct.	35,1	51,5	Exp. 16,4
Nov.	31,5	46,2	Exp. 14,7
Dec.	30,4	38,8	Exp. 8,4
Jan., 1915	30,3	30,0	Imp. ,3
Feb	35,9	30,1	Imp. 6,8
Mar.	40,4	47,9	Exp. 7,5
Apr.	28,4	31,2	Exp 2,8
May	34,4	43,5	Exp. 9,1
June	35,3	47,4	Exp. 12,1
July	36,6	48,5	Exp. 11,9
Aug.	40,8	49,0	Exp. 8,2
on Aug., '15 and Aug., '14	3,6	17,0	-20,6

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS.

DRASTIC writings off effected in the two years to June 30, 1913 and 1914, not only absorbed the whole of the £2,000,000 of reserves that this Company had built up, but entailed the absorption of over £660,000 of the profits shown in the two years. In respect of the year to June 30, 1914, that is, before there were any signs of the present huge conflict, an interim dividend of 5%, absorbing £100,000, was declared in the February on the £2,000,000 of Ordinary capital. In the circumstances no final dividend was paid for the year. In respect of the year to June 30, 1915, no February interim dividend was paid, but a final dividend of 7½%, requiring £150,000, has this week been declared, such dividend being, as usual, free of income tax. The actual profit of the year was insufficient by a little over £4,000 to provide for the dividend, and the balance required has had to be taken from the unappropriated profits, there being only £80,088 carried forward, as against £84,472 brought forward. A contrast of the results of 1915 with each of the two previous years ended June 30 is set out below:—

Year to June 30	1915	1914	1913
	£	£	£
Balance of profit for year to June 30, after providing for Debenture interest, Administration, &c. ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Prof. [illegible] Government [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	161,341
Net profit	[illegible]	[illegible]	631,005
Interim div., 5% (1915 Nil; 1914 5%; 1913 5%)	100,000	100,000	200,000
Final Div., Nil; 7½; 15	Nil.	150,000	300,000
	[illegible]	Cr. 150,000	Cr. 431,005
Brought forward	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Taken from reserve		150,000†	*
		[illegible]	[illegible]
Depreciation written off	-	[illegible]	402,201*
Carried forward ...	80,088	[illegible]	[illegible]

For the year to June 30, 1913, £402,201 was allocated to depreciation from the profits of the year. This writing off, marked *, did not figure in the profit and loss account, but was mentioned in the report. In addition £1,000,000 was taken from the reserve fund and applied to depreciation, thus bringing the total writings off for the year to £1,402,201.

The position for the year to June 30, 1914, marked †, gives the profit and loss account showings of the sum of £259,136 allocated to depreciation from the profit of the year, and £150,000 taken from reserve. In addition, a further £850,000 was taken from the reserve fund and applied to depreciation, making the total writings off for the year £1,259,136.

As to the present position of the assets, the notice *re* the dividend announcement calls attention to the policy of the Company in valuations, it stating that

"investments stand in the books at average cost or under, and all shares are taken into account at prices below those current at the date when the accounts were made up." The report and accounts, it is intimated, will be posted to shareholders on the evening of November 6, and the annual general meeting will be held on November 16.

A STOCK EXCHANGE MOVE.

A slip has been issued to members of the Stock Exchange, bearing neither name, date, nor address, setting out that a general meeting of members will be held in the Settling Room on Wednesday, November 10, at 3.15 P.M., when the attendance of members is requested.

Whatever may be the subjects to be considered at such meeting, and by whom the meeting is called, we cannot say; but it is rumoured that one of the subjects to be discussed is the position of naturalised aliens of enemy countries who are members of or who are associated with the "House." To a certain extent this meeting must be regarded as a domestic one, affecting members of the Stock Exchange alone; but if it be true that the naturalised alien's position is to be considered, then it is a matter that interests the general public as well as the Stock Exchange.

When a Stock Exchange member is elected the membership is made for the period of a year, and at the end of each Stock Exchange year application for continuance of membership for a new year has to be made. If any grave transgression of Stock Exchange etiquette has been perpetrated by a member, on the presentation of his application for continuance of membership it is quite within the province of the Stock Exchange Committee not to accede to the request. A Stock Exchange member, as a condition of being so, has to be amenable to the rules and regulations of the Stock Exchange, and a member, so long as he is one, cannot take action in the Courts, even if dissenting from a decision of the Stock Exchange Committee. But if it be the case that the application of a member for renewal of membership is not acceded to, after the year expires, and he is no longer a member, there is the possibility that, being no longer amenable to the law of the Stock Exchange, he would feel himself at liberty to take legal action. In case this matter comes within the discussion on Wednesday next, it would be as well to bear this legal point in mind. It may have to be considered whether a request should not be made for legislation to protect the Stock Exchange from legal action on the part of naturalised aliens of enemy powers who, in case of inability to secure re-election, may resort to appeal to the common law for redress of grievances, damages, or what not.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

We find that in compiling our statements concerning the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank for our recent Banking Number, we inadvertently included among the acceptances of this Bank an item of £11,584,790 in respect of liabilities on bills of exchange rediscounted. The Bank includes in its balance-sheet a statement that it is liable for these bills discounted, but in dealing with the other Eastern banks the amount of the rediscounts was not included in the acceptances. Hence in making comparisons we would specially ask our readers to note the statement we gave showing that the acceptances of the Bank in 1914 amounted to $138,766,000 included the bills rediscounted, and that the acceptances only were $7,120,000.

Compania Sansinena de Carnes Congeladas.—Further dividend of 15%.

Monte Video Gas Co.—Interim dividend of 6s. per share, less tax.

"Silver Bullets" will win the War.

Why send money to Foreign Countries, when you can get equally good value in your own Colonies?

Buy Rhodesian Tobacco and Cigarettes and circulate your money among your own kith and kin.

THINK IMPERIALLY!
SMOKE IMPERIALLY!!
SPEND YOUR MONEY IMPERIALLY!!!

CIGARETTES { Rhodesian Turkish ... 6 - per 100
{ Rhodesian Virginia ... 5 - per 100
TOBACCO—Matabele Mixture. 8/- per lb.
Full, Medium, Mild.

Manufactured by
JOHN WOOD & SON (Cigar and Tobacco Importers), Ltd.
23 & 25 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

Financial Notes.

In the course of his speech on Tuesday Mr. Asquith referred to the great importance of stimulating the export trade of the country. We hope most earnestly that he will not content himself with mere fervent hopes, but that he will carry measures to effect what he admits to be so important. We are not unreasonable enough to ask the Prime Minister in the middle of so formidable a war to give his personal attention to the subject. But we earnestly hope that, just as he formed a Munitions Department when the necessity for a much increased manufacture of munitions became evident, he will appoint somebody who is able to make things go, like Mr. Lloyd George, to look after and to improve the export trade of the country.

It is all very well expressing either a threat or a warning, as Mr. Montagu did a little while ago, that people will somehow or other have to contribute half their incomes to the State. Mr. Montagu ought to remember that contributions to the State can only be made out of income; and if income is allowed to run down, the contributions to the State, whether voluntary or involuntary, will decrease likewise. Furthermore, Mr. Montagu, before threatening the public—and several Ministers are too fond of threatening—ought to have asked himself how he was to set about extracting half their incomes from all the people of the United Kingdom, supposing they are unwilling to pay.

In the morning papers on Thursday last there was reported a meeting of the creditors of a nobleman, and it was stated that the larger part of his debts consisted of taxes which could not be collected. Now, if in this particular case the Government failed to collect the taxes, we would again ask Mr. Montagu how he proposes to collect half the incomes of the whole population of the United Kingdom whether they like it or not. All these threats are foolish in the extreme. And if Mr. Montagu had a little more experience in office, and had a little more control over his tongue, he would avoid making them. That the cost of the war is enormous every well-informed person is aware. That the cost must be covered somehow is equally notorious. The difficulty of compelling unwilling persons to pay, however, is so great that the Law Courts furnish us with evidence from time to time that even the Government itself is unable to extract the moneys. That being so, surely it is the wise course to do what the Government alone can do, namely, to stimulate exports.

Private manufacturers find the bankers in the present condition of things unwilling to lend. Therefore, they are unwilling themselves to engage in anything like large expenditure. Everybody thinks that everybody else ought to work more actively and increase exports. But everybody is equally resolved that he will not do so himself, but will leave it to his neighbours to do what he admits to be the duty of

all, but which he is afraid to engage in himself. The Government, then, is alone able really to stimulate exports, for the Government has the whole credit of the United Kingdom at its command, and it has, moreover, the power to set men working practically as it likes. It can send men to the Front, or send them into the mines, or into the workshops. The Government, therefore, can stimulate exports, and nobody else is in a position to do so.

There seems really to be going on a very considerable improvement in Mexico. The exchange, which at one time was down to 4*d*., has risen to 10*d*., a remarkable change, and it will be recollected that the South American Governments have all decided to recognise General Carranza as the *de facto* President of Mexico. That is a very considerable step in advance. If all the American Governments, including that of the United States, recognise him, and if he is able to maintain his authority, it is possible that Mexico may escape from her difficulties and once more the law may prevail.

Probably the explanation of the improvement that has set in is that the Mexican people are so disillusioned by the long anarchy which has prevailed that they have made up their minds that civil war, at all events, must end. If they have done so, each one will turn to make a livelihood for himself in some way or other; and as soon as industry begins again, and order is maintained, there will be a recovery. The country is rich and naturally ought to be exceedingly prosperous. Whether the people are so utterly disgusted with anarchy and so resolved that peace and the industries of peace alone give a promise of prosperity for the future remains to be seen. But if it is so, the country is at last to be congratulated.

We learn that negotiations are on foot for enabling Salvador to pay the coupons which ought to have been paid last August. Of course, it is impossible at present to judge whether the attempt will succeed. There are many difficulties in the way. But it ought to be evident to all well-informed people that repudiation of debt is one of the costliest things that a nation can do, and, therefore, that it is of the utmost importance that faith should be kept with creditors and that a serious effort should be made to pay the coupons as early as possible.

Banco Popular Argentino.—The balance sheet of the Banco Popular Argentino to September 30 last shows paid-up capital £924,706, increase over the corresponding period last year £6,601; deposits £1,886,549, increase £184,303; reserves £464,284, decrease £36,409.

Royal Bank of Canada.—Dividend of 3%, being at the rate of 12% per annum on the paid-up capital stock for the three months to November 30.

The National Bank of Australasia.—Dividend of 7% per annum declared on both Preference and Ordinary shares; £20,000 placed to reserve fund, £5,000 to reduction of bank premises account, £3,000 to officers' provident fund, and £28,750 carried forward.

THE
LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK
LIMITED.
Head Office - 5 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

The London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company Limited, with a capital of £500,000, undertakes the Executorship and Trusteeship of Wills and Marriage Settlements, and acts as Trustee for Debenture-holders.

FOREIGN BRANCH: 8 FINCH LANE, E.C.

1836
THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: 1 Dale Street, LIVERPOOL.
LONDON: Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS exceed - £14,100,000
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID over - £79,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Annuities, Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Fidelity Guarantee, Motor Car, Plate Glass, Personal Accident, Workmen's Compensation, Sickness, Live Stock, Loss of Profits, &c.

OFFICES IN ALL THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL CENTRES.

American Topics.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The Southern Railway has emerged from the most trying year it has ever experienced in a manner that reflects great credit upon all engaged in operating the road; and, notwithstanding the troubles that had to be contended with, the physical condition of the entire property has been further improved, so that when traffic resumes its normal proportions it will be operated more economically than ever before. No railroad in the United States is more dependent for its prosperity upon cotton than is the Southern. When the War broke out the South was preparing to market the largest crop ever gathered; but in view of the blow to the cotton-growing industry, and the exceedingly low level of price for the staple, business activities in the territory served by the Southern Railway were for a time practically stunned. Not only has the Southern the largest tonnage of cotton and enjoys a longer haul of that commodity than any other road, but when the price obtained for cotton is relatively high and the cotton-growing community is prosperous, the road conveys enormous quantities of miscellaneous goods of all kinds. The set-back that occurred last year to the cotton industry has already passed away, as the new crop of this year is much smaller than a year ago and the demand is greater. Although a considerable quantity of last year's crop remains unsold, no difficulty is likely to be experienced in disposing of all that is available at very profitable prices, and the income of the South from the smaller crop will be much greater than was its income from last year's big crop.

In 1907 the Southern Railway commenced a great scheme of improvements, which unfortunately had to be suspended for a time in consequence of the banking crisis of 1907-8; but with the passing away of that disturbing factor this programme was pushed forward energetically, and is still being continued, money for its prosecution in the past year having been raised shortly before the outbreak of hostilities. By means of the substantial improvements to the system a much greater amount of traffic can be handled without much additional expense. The work has included the building of a second track on congested portions of the main line, the straightening of lines where formerly curvatures existed, the reduction of gradients, the construction of cut-offs, the building of more powerful locomotives and freight cars of greater capacity, the installation of automatic electric signalling, the placing of heavier rails upon the track, the separation of grade crossings and the enlargement of terminal and siding accommodation, not to mention minor improvements. As a consequence, the line is

Income Statement of the Southern Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Int. & Other Charges.	Net Profit.	Div. on 5% Pref. Earn.	Div. on 5% Pref. Paid.	Balance.	Div. Earn on Com.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$	%
1915...	7,031	62,443,000	46,419,000	74·34	16,024,000	3,210,000	19,234,000	2,596,000	14,982,000	1,656,000	2·76	Nil	1,656,000	Nil
1914...	7,033	70,817,000	51,826,000	73·18	18,991,000	3,267,000	22,258,000	2,679,000	14,739,000	4,841,000	5·00	4½*	2,700,000	2,140,000	1·37
1913...	7,036	69,677,000	49,341,000	70·81	20,356,000	3,366,000	23,702,000	2,480,000	14,131,000	7,091,000	5·00	4	3,000,000	4,091,000	3·41
1912...	7,088	64,658,000	44,659,000	69·13	19,959,000	3,580,000	23,539,000	2,452,000	14,204,000	6,883,000	5·00	4½	2,700,000	4,183,000	3·18
1911...	7,042	61,320,000	42,320,000	68·99	19,376,000	3,803,000	23,179,000	2,215,000	14,170,000	6,790,000	5·00	2	1,200,000	5,590,000	3·16
1910...	7,050	58,569,000	39,844,000	68·02	18,725,000	3,181,000	21,906,000	2,027,000	13,855,000	6,024,000	5·00	Nil	—	6,024,000	2·82
1909...	7,170	53,456,000	36,720,000	68·65	16,736,000	2,898,000	19,654,000	1,917,000	13,613,000	4,124,000	5·00	Nil		4,124,000	0·94
1908...	7,189	53,820,000	40,712,000	75·64	13,108,000	2,767,000	15,875,000	2,028,000	13,086,000	761,000	1·27	Nil	—	761,000	Nil
1907...	7,347	56,658,000	43,069,000	76·01	13,589,000	1,788,000	15,377,000	1,631,000	11,456,000	2,290,000	3·82	4	2,400,000	*110,000*	Nil
1906...	7,374	53,641,000	38,271,000	71·35	15,367,000	1,589,000	16,956,000	1,499,000	10,228,000	5,229,000	5·00	5	3,000,000	2,229,000	1·86
1905...	7,199	48,145,000	33,701,000	70·00	14,444,000	1,613,000	16,057,000	1,382,000	9,524,000	5,151,000	5·00	5	3,000,000	2,151,000	1·79
1895...	4,139	17,115,000	11,527,000	67·35	5,588,000	90,000	5,678,000	536,000	4,246,000	896,000	1·65	Nil	—	896,000	Nil

* 2½% paid in cash April, 1914, and 2% in 4% debenture bonds.

better fitted than ever before to cope with the large amount of traffic expected to accrue to it in the not distant future without congestion such as was sometimes experienced in past periods of great trade activity.

The sudden change in the industrial situation of the South last year meant a loss to the Southern Railway of no less than $8,374,000, or nearly 12%, in gross revenue. The development of the loss was precipitous, July 1914 having shown a small increase, August a decrease of 1.2%, while for the four months from October to January the respective shrinkages were 18.47%, 20.02%, 19.97%, and 18.93%, but as the South regained its breath a gradual improvement occurred in the remaining months of the year. Such a situation naturally demanded radical action on the part of the management and a policy of severe retrenchment was inaugurated, the full effect of which could not, of course, be felt immediately; indeed, not until March last did the retrenchment policy manifest itself. However, operating expenses were reduced $5,407,000, or 10.4%, so that the loss in net receipts was brought down to $2,967,000, or 15.6%. After allowing for miscellaneous income, taxes, and interest and other charges, the net profit was reduced about $3,200,000. The amount of the profit remaining was, however, $1,656,000, a sum equal to 2¾% on the 5% Preferred stock, against the dividend on the Preferred and 1.37% earned on the Common stock in 1913-14. The last cash dividend paid was 2½% on the Preferred in April 1914, a further distribution of 2% made in October of last year having been in scrip bearing 4% interest and repayable in 1919. No distribution has since been made. The effect upon the Southern's earnings and profits of the disturbance to economic conditions in the South last year resulting from the war will be evident from the accompanying Income Statement.

Since 1908 a growth of 20.5% in the freight traffic—ton mileage—has been accompanied by an actual saving of 24% in freight-train mileage, the average revenue train load having been raised in the seven years by as much as 58% from 192.27 tons to 304.60 tons, a result which reflects both the improved physical condition of the road and equipment and the great trouble and increased skill of the officers in dealing with the traffic.

The roadway and structures were kept fully up to standard; indeed, their condition was improved during the year, while motive power and passenger equipment were also well maintained. There was, however, a certain amount of deferred maintenance in the case of freight cars which will have to be made good when earnings improve. In the aggregate 30.68% of last year's gross revenue was devoted to maintenance, against 30.24% in 1913-14. The greatest reduction in expenses was in conducting transportation, the cost of which was curtailed by $3,090,000, or over 11%. A factor which brought about a large part of the reduction in conducting transportation was the reduction in freight train mileage rendered possible by initiating a system of increased rating of locomotives, more especially on the branch lines. The Southern possesses a great amount of branch line mileage on which the average load of freight trains in the past has been very light as compared with the larger loads obtained on the main lines, but by means of the new rating the loads on the branches have been appreciably increased. Substantial economies were also effected in the fuel bill by reason of the improved type of locomotive now in use. How the expenditures of last year compared with those for previous periods is shown below:—

Operating Expenses of the Southern Railway.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maint. of Way.	Maint. of Equipment.	Cond. Trans. portation.	Gen. Misc. Expenses.	Total Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915...	62,444,000	8,452,000	10,691,000	21,8 8,000	2,40 ,000	4 ,419,000
1914...	70,817,000	9,283,000	12,1 4,000	27,958,000	2,151,000	51,826,000
1913...	68,529,000	9,276,000	11,290,000	25,699,000	2,009,000	48,274,000
1912...	63,530,000	7,841,000	10,109,000	23,827,000	1,919,000	43,696,000
1911...	60,345,000	7,1 ,000	9,431,000	22,211,000	1,790,000	40,927,000
1910...	57,295,000	8,6 ,000	9,877,000	20,371,000	1,752,000	38,656,000
1909...	52,188,000	6,9 ,000	8,194,000	19,601,000	1,753,000	35,569,000
1908...	52,911,000	7,1 ,000	9,138,000	20,274,000	1,554,000	39,855,000
1907...	56,658,000	7,660,000	9,576,000	23,941,000	1,891,000	43,068,000
1906...	53,641,000	7,122,000	8,589,000	20,811,000	1,752,000	38,274,000
1905...	48,145,000	6,459,000	7,457,000	18,195,000	1,590,000	33,701,000

Ratio of Oper. Expenses to Gross Earnings of Southern Ry.

	%	%	%	%	%
1915	13·54	17·12	34·82	3·83	74·31
1914	13·11	17·13	39·48	3·46	73·18
1913	13·04	16·48	37·51	2·93	70·44
1912	12·33	15·90	37·45	3·02	68·71
1911	12·37	15·68	36·81	2·96	67·82
1910	11·58	17·24	35·56	3·05	67·43
1909	11·53	15·70	37·56	3·37	68·16
1908	13·43	17·26	41·69	2·90	75·28
1907	13·52	16·90	42·25	3·34	76·01
1906	13·28	16·01	38·79	3·27	71·35
1905	13·42	15·49	37·79	3·30	70·00

Now that comparison is being made with the poor results of 1914-15, improved gross receipts are being recorded, and inasmuch as expenses are still being kept well in hand satisfactory gains are occurring in net receipts. For the three months to September net earnings were $783,000 higher than for the corresponding period of 1914. The course of earnings and expenses since the war began, and with which comparison will be made in the coming months, will be evident from the appended statement:—

Course of Earnings and Expenses of Southern Ry since July 1914

Month.	Receipts.	Maint. of Way.	Maint. of Equipment.	Transportation.	Taxes.	Net Receipts.
1914	$	$	$	$	$	$
July ...+	92,000	— 47,000	+ 105,000	+ 1 ,000	+ 2 ,000	58,000
Aug. .. —	69,000	— 16,000	+ 1 ,000	+ 9 ,000	+ 2 ,000	280,000
Sept. ... —	501,000	— 68,000	+ 57,000	— 29,000	— 17,000	— 484,000
Oct. ...—1	,253,000	— 33,000	— 75,000	— 212,000	— 50 ,000	947,000
Nov. ...—1	,263,000	— 7 ,000	— 221,000	— 329,000	— 64 ,000	626,000
Dec. ...—1	,319,000	— 49,000	— 115,000	— 309,000	— 505,000	814,000
1915						
Jan. ...—1	,086,000	— 88,000	— 207,000	— 410,000	— 731,000	— 355,000
Feb. ...—	693,000	— 49,000	— 2 ,000	— 380,000	— 518,000	— 175,000
Mar. ...	774,000	— 54,000	— 15 ,000	— 430,000	— 703,000	— 71,000
Apr. ...—	589,000	— 59,000	— 1 ,000	— 351,000	— 677,000	+ 87,000
May ...—	704,000	— 143,000	— 383,000	— 439,000	— 2 ,000	+ 56 ,000
June ...—	489,000	— 132,000	— 300,000	— 415,000	— 864,000	+ 375,000
Year —8	,551,000	— 831,000	—1,443,000	—3,090,000	—5 ,000	-2,965,000
July ...—	494,000	— 59,000	— 186,000	— 327,000	— 647,000	153,000
Aug. ...—	376,000	—124,000	— 193,000	— 54 ,000	— 671,000	+ 295,000
Sept. ...+	107,000	?	?	?	— 534,000	+ 641,000
Oct. (1st 3 wks.) +	236,000	?	?	?	?	?

In considering the future of the Southern it is necessary to take into account several factors. First, of course, is the recovery likely to be witnessed in the prosperity of the cotton-growing industry, and which should be accompanied by increased spending power, both upon passenger travel and for goods of

all kinds, by the inhabitants of the Southern States. Secondly, there is the probable growth of general traffic. Not only is the South producing year by year larger quantities of agricultural products of a diversified character, thanks to the energies of the officers of the Southern Railway, but those officers have also been responsible for attracting to the South vast numbers of new industries which are making for the steady development of the territory served. In the past year, notwithstanding the adverse conditions, no less than 519 new industrial plants were completed, additions were made to a further 219, and at the end of June last 57 new plants were in course of construction. Further, the bringing into operation of a new and up-to-date coal terminal at Charlestown, S.C., a port served by the Company's lines and expected to become of great importance in the future, should afford to the Southern an increasing share in the bituminous coal traffic. Hence, with a return of the spending power of the people of the South to a more normal level, with the greater output of agricultural products of all kinds, and with the bringing into operation of new industrial plants of various descriptions, the Southern may reasonably be expected to obtain a steadily increasing volume of traffic. The large number of new factories and mills opened for business on the Company's lines in recent years will be evident from the following statement:—

Industrial Developments on Lines of Southern Railway.

	Year to June 30—						
New Industrial Plants completed:	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Brickworks	19	31	37	31	19	28	40
Cotton-seed oil-mills	47	21	20	25	12	21	11
Fertiliser works	7	12	11	30	13	3	7
Flour and feed mills	54	32	26	30	29	21	25
Lumber mills	57	79	93	73	71	69	67
Furniture factories	12	19	14	14	11	7	18
Other wood-working plants	47	28	46	20	20	16	18
Iron industries	17	13	24	24	24	21	23
Stone quarries, coal & other mines	38	40	44	40	29	30	36
Tanneries	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
Textile mills	24	40	37	22	34	36	48
Miscellaneous	197	274	169	195	119	103	189
Total	519	587	523	505	381	355	453*
Industrial plants under construction	57	65	60	73	62	72	65
Plants to which additions were made	219	266	222	197	141	163	123

* At end of June 1909 at least 10,000 manufacturing plants existed on lines of Southern Railway.

Apart from the general expansion likely to take place in industry and to bring additional traffic to the Company, special heed should be paid to the growth of cotton spinning in the South, where for the most part the mills are situated alongside the lines of the Southern Railway. Only a few years ago the number of spindles in the South was very small in comparison with those used in the New England States, but this disparity has now largely disappeared, and at the present time over 40% of the total spindles in the United States are in the South, and about 60% in the North. Moreover, the South, with its 13,000,000 spindles, is actually working up a larger quantity of cotton than is the North with 18,900,000 spindles. The growth in the cotton spinning industry of the South in recent years is shown below:—

Yr. to Aug. 31	U.S. Cotton Consumption. North. Bales.	South. Bales.	Total. Bales.	Comm'l. Crop. Bales.	Cotton spindles in U.S. North. Number.	South. Number.	Total. Number.
1915*	2,618,000	3,163,000	5,781,000	15,108,011	18,900,000	13,018,000	31,918,000
1914*	2,571,000	3,063,000	5,634,000	14,882,493	18,900,000	12,940,240	31,840,240
1913	2,488,377	2,969,559	5,457,936	14,167,115	18,800,000	12,416,592	31,216,592
1912	2,631,432	2,744,067	5,375,499	16,138,426	17,700,000	11,976,929	29,676,929
1911	1,993,576	2,363,616	4,357,192	12,120,095	17,500,000	11,503,253	29,003,253
1910	1,993,904	2,341,303	4,335,207	10,[illegible]	17,400,000	11,236,430	28,636,430
1909	2,680,118	2,559,873	5,239,991	13,825,457	17,000,000	10,780,308	27,780,308
1908	1,896,661	2,193,277	4,089,938	11,571,966	16,300,000	10,[illegible],919	26,761,919
1907	2,526,290	2,439,108	4,968,498	13,510,982	16,200,000	9,924,245	26,124,245
1906	2,349,478	2,374,225	4,723,703	11,345,968	15,800,000	9,181,207	24,781,200
1905	2,282,145	2,163,505	4,445,650	13,565,885	15,325,000	8,747,810	24,072,817

* Crop year to July 31.

Having regard to all the factors in the situation, the profits of the undertaking may be expected to show considerable growth in future, but although it is probable that for the current year the full 5% dividend on the Preferred stock may be earned, it is unlikely that distributions will be resumed until a considerable margin beyond that dividend is secured. However, no long delay is likely to occur before such a state of affairs exists, and at no distant date Preferred stockholders should again be receiving a return upon their investment. The price of the Preferred is now 69, and the Common is quoted 27½. At the end of June the Company had current assets, exclusive of materials and supplies, of $14,717,000, of which over $8,000,000 consisted of cash either in hand or on deposit. Current liabilities at the same date amounted to $12,685,000. In January next a small amount of old underlying bonds fall due, and will be replaced by 5% Consolidated bonds, and in February there will mature $5,000,000 of Short Term notes, which will also be taken care of.

The amounts and prices of the Company's principal securities, together with the yields afforded, are set out below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Southern Ry.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div. Rate. %	Paid	Price.	Yield % per Ann. £ s. d.
South. Ry. 5% 1st Cons. Mt.	66,[illegible],000	July, 1994	5	J. & J.	111½†	4 13 1
Do. Devel. & Gen. "A" Mt.	61,333,000	Apr. 1956	4	A. & O.	78½†	5 14 4
Do. Memphis Div. 1st Mt.	6,883,000	July 1996	5	J. & J.	98⅜*	5 1 7
Do. St. Louis Div. 1st Mt.	12,500,000	Jan. 1951	4	J. & J.	85*	4 18 5
E. Tenn. Vir. & Geo. Cons. Mt.	12,770,000	Nov. 1956	5	M. & N.	103¾*	4 15 9
Georgia Pacific 1st Mort.	5,68[illegible],000	Jan. 1922	6	J. & J.	105*	4 16 5
L. & N.-So. "Monon" Coll. Jt.	5,5[illegible],000	July 1952	4	J. & J.	77*	n5 3 11
So. Ry. Mob. & Ohio Coll. Mt.	8,24[illegible],000	Sept. 1938	4	M. & S.	68½*	n5 16 4
Mob. & O. Stock Trust certs.	5,[illegible]70,200	—	4	A. & O.	62½*	5 8 0
So. Ry. 4½% Eq. Tr. Bonds	9,[illegible],000	Various	4½	Various	—*b	4 15 0
Atl. & Dan. 4% 2n. Mort.	1,52[illegible],000	July 1948	4	J. & J.	82†	n5 7 4
Mob. & Bir. 5% Prior Lien	600,000	July 1945	5	J. & J.	104†	5 5 3
Do. 4% Gold Mt.	1,20[illegible],000	July 1945	4	J. & J.	65½†	n6 12 2
Do. Preferred stock	9,[illegible],000	—	4	J. & J.	6[illegible]†	7 5 6
S. Carolina & Geo. 1st Mort.	6,250,000	May 1919	5	M. & N.	101*	4 13 7
So. Ry. 3-yr. 5% Deb. notes	5,[illegible],000	Feb. 1915	5	F. & A.	100½*	5 19 9
3-Year 5% Notes	10,[illegible],000	Mar. 2, 17	5	M. 2 S.	99*	5 16 0
So. Ry. 5% Non-Cum. Pref.	$50,[illegible],000	—	Nil	—	69	—
Do. Common stock	12[illegible],000,000	—	Nil	—	27½†	—

(*) New York price. (†) London price. (b) Basis. (n) Not allowing for redemption. (r) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

CHICAGO GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD

It is certainly somewhat refreshing in these days to learn that a railway company is in a position to commence the payment of dividends. Such, however, is the case of the Chicago Great Western Railroad, the directors of which have this week announced a dividend of 1% on the Preferred stock. No particulars are available as yet as to the period to which the dividend applies, but presumably it may be regarded as a half-yearly distribution for the current six months. After the thorough reorganisation of the former Chicago Great Western Railway and up to June 30, 1914, the Preferred stock was entitled to 4% non-cumulative dividends, but since July of last year the dividend has been cumulative. A complete change for the better has occurred in the physical condition of the undertaking under the present management, until now the service offered and the weight of the average freight train compare very favourably with those of the larger roads serving the same territory. The net profit for the year to June last amounted to $868,000, a sum equal to almost 2% on the Preferred stock, and little change has so far occurred in the current fiscal year. It follows, therefore, that the net profits must at least double before the full dividend on the Preferred stock is earned, and the prospect of such results being attained has never been brighter since the incorporation of the existing Company, the crops of the North-West in the current year being large and prices profitable. By the end of December arrears of dividend on the Preferred stock will amount to 5%. This stock is quoted in London at about 44, while the Common stands at about 18¼.

Bengal Coal Co.—Dividend at rate of 50%.

Longmorn (Genuine) Distilleries [illegible] of 5% on Ordinary.

Ledbury Rubber Estates—Interim dividend of 7½%, less tax.

Shotts Iron Co.—Dividend of 5*s.* per share, less tax, on Ordinary.

Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust.—Interim dividend of 4%, less tax.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

THE financial and economic crisis in Argentina is mainly responsible for the disappointing results of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company in the past twelve months. As a matter of fact the crops in the southern districts were good, the yield of wheat, barley and oats having been better than in the preceding year; but the restriction of credit and the uncertainty of commercial operations in the Republic owing to the War not only caused a marked reduction in general goods, which in normal times constitutes the Company's largest and most remunerative source of revenue, but also a considerably reduced passenger movement. Fortunately the Company was able to minimise the effect of these adverse conditions by reductions in expenditure; but efforts in this direction were to some extent neutralised by the abnormal rainfall throughout the Republic, which, following as it did an exceptionally wet season in the preceding year, caused serious damage to property and greatly interfered with the normal working of the line. In the circumstances it is surprising how well the Company has come through what may be termed the most eventful and trying period in its history. The decrease in gross earnings was £523,000, or 9.6%, but as this was accompanied by a saving of £213,000, or 6.7%, in working expenses the decline in net earnings comes out at £310,000, or 13.7%. Owing to the conversion of a large amount of Extension share capital into Ordinary stock, fixed interest charges on balance show a slight diminution, and as miscellaneous income was rather better, the loss of profit amounts to £290,000, or about 25%. Such a loss reduces the sum available for dividend from £1,127,000 to £838,000 only, a lower figure than has been recorded since 1901-02, when a profit of only £765,000 was earned. The merging of £5,590,000 of Extension share capital into Ordinary stock has certainly come at an awkward time, especially as up to now interest on a large portion of the new stock has been provided out of capital. The necessity of a further reduction in the dividend is, therefore, apparent, and even at the lower rate of 4% the sum of no less than £258,000 has had to be taken from last year's balance, and the amount now carried forward is lowered from £316,000 to £58,000 only. The income statement of the Company is set out beneath:—

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	4,912,000	5,464,000	6,569,000	5,404,000
Expenses	2,987,000	3,200,000	3,699,000	3,017,000
Ratio	(60·44)	(58·56)	(56·31)	(55·83)
Net earnings	1,955,000	2,264,000	2,870,000	2,387,000
Miscellaneous income ...	165,000	153,000	151,000	119,000
Total net income	2,120,000	2,417,000	3,021,000	2,506,000
4% Debenture stock ...	613,000	557,000	530,000	517,000
4½% Saladillo Deb. stock ...	46,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
Rentals, &c.	115,000	120,000	107,000	99,000
Income tax	108,000	33,000	33,000	24,000
Total charges	882,000	756,000	716,000	686,000
Net profit for Pref. stock ...	1,238,000	1,661,000	2,305,000	1,820,000
5% Preference stock ...	400,000	400,000	356,000	300,000
4% Extension shares (1911 issue)	—	53,000	22,000	100,000
4% Extension shares (1913 issue)	—	81,000	—	—
Total	400,000	534,000	378,000	400,000
Profit for Ordinary	838,000	1,127,000	1,927,000	1,420,000
Dividend on Ordinary ...	1,096,000	1,146,000	1,590,000	1,421,000
Rate per cent.	(1%)	(5%)	(7%)	(7%)
Balance	Dr.258,000	Dr. 19,000	Cr.337,000	Dr. 1,000
Extraordinary flood repairs ...	—	138,000	—	—
Balance	Dr.258,000	Dr.157,000	Cr.337,000	Dr. 1,000
Brought forward	316,000	473,000	136,000	137,000
Carried forward	58,000	316,000	473,000	136,000

As already stated, the falling off in traffic was mainly in passengers and general goods. The number of passengers carried diminished 4,268,178, or 15.5%, and the receipts therefrom declined £258,000, or 14.2%. Including luggage and parcels, which also show a diminution, the coaching traffic alone is responsible for fully one-half of the loss in gross receipts.

The enormous growth in the passenger traffic in recent years and the severity of the set-back in 1914-15 will be appreciated by a glance at the accompanying table:—

Passenger Traffic.

Year to June 30	No. of Passengers	Receipts per Passenger Mile d	Passenger Mileage	Passenger Receipts £
1915 ...	23,323,756	0·897	414,422,431	1,548,189
1914 ...	27,591,934	0·909	476,902,130	1,805,758
1913 ...	27,454,719	0·912	508,000,922	1,968,759
1912 ...	24,069,974	0·915	443,945,798	1,692,942
1911 ...	22,231,112	0·934	411,570,289	1,600,936
1910 ...	18,[illegible]	0·934	379,855,545	1,478,829
1909 ...	16,8[illegible]	0·948	348,947,794	1,378,702
1908 ...	15,879,030	0·929	347,239,410	1,342,674
1907 ...	13,[illegible]	0·920	323,629,579	1,241,129
1906 ...	9,999,203	0·967	269,129,935	1,084,004

With the exception of wheat, barley, and oats, most of the other items of freight traffic show decreases, a decline of nearly 550,000 tons in general goods, representing a loss in revenue of nearly £220,000, being the heaviest. The good wheat corp brought the Company additional receipts of £100,000, and the greater demand for cattle caused a larger volume of this important traffic to pass over the Company's system. To show the nature of the freight traffic and the relative importance of each individual source of revenue we give the following statement:—

Freight Traffic B. A. Gt. Southern Railway.

	Quantity			Receipts		
Goods.	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13
	Tons	Tons	Tons	£	£	£
Wheat	1,259,882	788,914	1,744,572	337,058	231,415	501,674
Barley and oats...	591,004	481,725	878,530	204,066	216,006	375,048
Wool	77,395	87,744	87,358	186,587	150,357	158,634
Stone	465,704	799,507	810,174	125,018	226,696	245,382
Potatoes ...	152,075	224,933	226,417	93,739	142,800	142,184
Maize	338,313	404,397	997,182	79,246	87,821	246,611
Flour	102,[illegible]	101,040	98,497	47,[illegible]	49,282	50,316
Hay	68,312	72,806	81,696	35,[illegible]	32,356	29,390
Skins	14,313	14,184	15,023	24,194	21,676	22,810
Lime	42,115	78,737	111,629	23,769	44,029	57,757
Hides	9,155	11,178	12,415	16,631	16,137	17,657
Linseed	32,656	43,005	44,665	7,324	13,113	17,362
Posts	9,594	14,284	22,681	6,103	8,683	13,088
General goods,&c	1,456,651	2,004,642	2,531,595	904,963	1,121,679	1,331,852
Total ...	4,619,898	5,126,996	7,662,434	2,092,054	2,368,350	3,209,765
Govt.materials,&c.	258,921	212,053	145,488	77,250	62,923	51,710
Western Railway materials, &c.	111,468	151,804	169,741	3,281	4,669	7,744
Grand total	4,990,287	5,490,853	7,977,663	2,172,585	2,435,942	3,269,219
Live Stock.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
Cattle	1,552,333	1,526,123	1,252,251	332,402	313,054	267,012
Sheep	3,650,890	4,542,572	5,207,795	134,635	151,894	156,162
Horses	61,135	42,136	47,056	30,219	23,616	25,722
Pigs	97,013	80,731	55,849	11,206	8,061	5,389
Total live stock...	5,361,371	6,191,562	6,562,951	508,460	496,625	454,285

In two respects the Company was fortunate in the matter of expenditure—viz., an abundance of cheap labour and a drop of 11% in the issue price of coal. Maintenance expenses were less than 1% above those of 1913-14 notwithstanding the great but unavoidable cost of track maintenance due to the persistently recurring rains acting everywhere upon surfaces already saturated by the previous season's floods. Transportation expenses were reduced by about 10%, attributable partly to cheap coal and partly to a curtailment of 13% in train mileage, the latter item being particularly noteworthy as indicating the efforts made by the Company to work with increased economy. The saving of £213,000 in the total expenses is in itself satisfactory, but, coming as it does on top of a reduction of nearly £500,000 in the preceding year, is an achievement reflecting distinct credit on the management. The damage caused by the floods invo'ved an expenditure in repairs and renewals of £200,000, of which £165,453 was incurred during the year. This latter sum, however, has been apportioned between the casualty and reserve funds, the former of which has been entirely absorbed. For the purpose of showing the relatively large sums which the Company last

year spent on maintenance and the savings effected in transportation expenses we give the following statements:—

Working Expenses, B.A. Great Southern Railway.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings	Maint. of Way	Cond. Trans. portation	Other Expenses	Total Expenses
	£	£	£	£	£
1915 ...	1,942,000	547,000	1,613,000	427,000	2,987,000
1914 ...	5,464,000	527,000	1,786,000	468,000	3,200,000
1913 ...	6,569,000	740,000	1,848,000	568,000	3,699,000
1912 ...	5,404,000	525,000	1,595,000	457,000	3,017,000
1911 ...	4,988,000	490,000	1,421,000	373,000	2,694,000
1910 ...	4,602,000	422,000	1,298,000	421,000	2,517,000
1909 ...	4,649,000	399,000	1,325,000	409,000	2,541,000
1908 ...	4,442,000	410,000	1,358,000	357,000	2,471,000
1907 ...	4,254,000	434,000	1,323,000	342,000	2,449,000
1906 ...	3,897,000	512,000	1,061,000	357,000	2,239,000
1905 ...	3,350,000	382,000	752,000	291,000	1,670,000
1904 ...	2,855,000	277,000	731,000	206,000	1,314,000

Ratio of Expenses to Gross Earnings.

	%	%	%	%
1915 ...	11·07	8·20	32·63	40·44
1914 ...	9·64	9·68	8·57	58·56
1913 ...	11·27	8·57	28·13	53·97
1912 ...	9·71	9·51	29·53	55·85
1911 ...	9·83	7·49	28·49	54·01
1910 ...	9·17	8·17	28·20	9·15	74·69
1909 ...	8·58	8·54	28·49	8·81	54·44
1908 ...	9·22	9·15	30·58	8·04	55·69
1907 ...	10·21	8·25	31·09	8·05	57·58
1906 ...	13·13	7·92	27·24	9·18	57·47
1905 ...	11·42	7·31	22·47	8·67	49·87
1904 ...	9·71	7·27	24·86	7·23	46·07

Included in the above maintenance expenditures are the following special charges for renewals:—

Special Renewal Charges.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent way & works	101,057	114,063	226,566	147,895	163,184
Locomotives	17,539	22,604	44,900	29,509	32,339
Carriages	15,138	18,143	36,038	23,524	25,956
Waggons	26,726	32,122	63,805	41,650	45,955
Pumps, &c.	2,297	2,677	5,317	2,657	3,380
Total	162,757	189,609	376,626	245,035	271,264
Percent. of gross receipts	3·3%	3·4%	5·7%	4·5%	5·4%

It will be seen that the Company has again apportioned as much as 3.3% of the gross receipts to special renewals, so that the real profit-earning capacity of the road may be regarded as approximately equal to the dividend of 4% distributed.

With regard to the future several factors have to be taken into account. Until the War is over it cannot be expected that the Company will get back to its normal results. But having regard to the enormous demand for the produce of Argentina and the high prices that are being obtained, the position is such that sooner or later a great wave of activity will pass over the country and renewed prosperity ensue. In his speech at the annual meeting of the Great Southern last week, Mr. David Simson, the Chairman, pointed out that in the first half of 1915 the balance of trade in favour of Argentina amounted to nearly £42,000,000. It will easily be realised, he stated, that if things go on at this rate for another year (and there seems no reason why they should not), the increase in the wealth of Argentina will be very substantial indeed, and she should therefore be in an excellent position the moment peace is declared to enter the world's markets with large orders which she cannot well place at present. When the country begins to make up for lost time by large imports the railway companies will benefit to the full and traffics will then show their old elasticity. At the moment, of course, everything depends on the size of the crops, and here, fortunately, the conditions are very promising. Over 5,000,000 acres are reported to have been sown this year with wheat and oats, or slightly in excess of last year's acreage, and according to latest advices the young crops generally are very flourishing though rather backward. By the law of averages a series of comparatively dry seasons should now be experienced in Argentina, and, as it usually happens that after a spell of wet weather the crops are unusually abundant, the outlook may be regarded as very promising.

A factor which, however, has to be noted is the uncertainty of the working expenses, for with the enormous rise in sea freights the price of coal has risen to a very high level. However, to meet this and other increases in working charges the Company has raised its tariffs as from October 1 by 10% on most classes of traffic. Even with this advance, objected to naturally by traders, tariffs are still well below the maximum the Company has a right to charge, and, as the value of the principal products carried over the system has been greatly enhanced by the War, the increase in freight charges appears to be a reasonable one, and is not likely to meet with any serious opposition.

Partly as a result of these higher rates the traffic receipts of the line continue to show considerable improvement, and since the beginning of July the increase amounts to £276,000, or 23%. The course of earnings monthly so far in the year will be seen from the table appended:—

Course of Traffic Receipts since July 1, 1912.

Month	Principal Crops Carried	1915–16	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13
		£	£	£	£
July	Maize	278,000	293,000	361,000	423,000
August	..	475,000	328,000	433,000	526,000
September ...	..	331,000	241,000	345,000	456,000
3 months ...	..	1,014,000	862,000	1,139,000	1,405,000
October	..	472,000	348,000	383,000	462,000
November ...	..		361,000	547,000	501,000
December ...	..		428,000	507,000	719,000
6 months ...	..		1,999,000	2,576,000	3,087,000
January	Wheat		542,000	529,000	586,000
February ...	..		519,000	558,000	626,000
March	..		465,000	585,000	729,000
9 months ...			3,525,000	4,248,000	5,028,000
April	..		480,000	405,000	533,000
May	..		545,000	449,000	484,000
June	..		392,000	362,000	524,000
Total year ...			4,942,000	5,464,000	6,569,000

The current price of 84xd for the Ordinary stock to some extent reflects the more promising outlook, for on a 4% dividend basis the yield afforded is only £4 15*s.* 3*d.* per cent. Whilst it is not possible yet to tell how soon the Company will be in a position to raise the dividend beyond its present figure, all the evidence goes to show that within a short time a much better return will be forthcoming, and that sooner or later the Company will get back to its former position of being able to pay 7% dividends to its stockholders. The 5% Preference stock can be bought at 91½xd, and a yield of nearly £5½ per cent. is forthcoming. For absolute safety the 4% Debenture stock of the Company may be commended. The total fixed charges were last year covered about two and a half times, and as the combination of adverse conditions then obtaining is not again likely to be experienced the safety of the Debenture stock is unquestionable. The price is 81¼, and the yield exactly £5 per cent.

The capital of the Company is set out beneath:—

Security	Amount	Dividend	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ *s.* *d.*
4% Debenture stock	15,472,560	4	81¼	5 0 0
5% Preference stock	8,000,000	5	91½xd	5 9 7
Ordinary stock	29,090,000	4	84xd	4 15 5
Total	52,562,560			

ARGENTINE SOUTHERN LAND CO.—Dividend at the rate of 9 per annum, less tax.

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENT.—Interim dividend of 7½, tax free.

BRAMPTON BREWERY CO.—Interim dividend on Ordinary of 4 .

CHUBWA TEA CO.—Interim Dividend of 10% on Ordinary, less tax.

ILLINOIS TRACTION CO.—Dividend at the rate of 7 per annum on Common stock for quarter.

PERAK RUBBER PLANTATIONS.—Interim dividend of 1½ per share.

VALLAMBROSA RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 6*d.* per share, less tax.

MONERAKELLE RUBBER ESTATES.—Dividend of 12½, less tax.

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All kinds of insurance business are now transacted by this comprehensive insurance Company. Fire business has always been its leading department, the life business is considerable in amount, and the more recent accident section has latterly become important. The opening of the marine department dates from 1911, when the Thames and Mersey Company (whose title suggests an affinity) was absorbed.

The total premiums shown in the Company's accounts for 1914, embracing all departments, amounted to £4,867,076, exceeding the corresponding figure for 1913 by £109,689. The increase was not all along the line, as the following comparative figures show:—

Department	Premium Income 1914	Premium Income 1913	Increase	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Fire	3,098,721	3,136,588	–	37,867
Marine	337,017	309,196	27,821	–
Personal Accident	136,336	160,710		24,374
Employers' Liability (within the United Kingdom)	128,794	122,893	5,901	–
Miscellaneous	853,615	717,379	136,236	–
Life	286,673	274,220	12,453	–
Annuity	24,506	35,155		10,649
Leasehold	1,414	1,246	168	–
	4,867,076	4,757,387	182,579	72,890

Net increase, £109,689

The trading profit in the fire section, amounting to £83,165, was not as large as usual, representing as it did only about 2.7% of the premium turnover. In 1913 it had amounted to £306,168, or to about 9.7% of the premiums. Interest earnings on the fire fund amounted in 1914 to £88,976, and after the transfer of £172,141, the combined amount of trading profits and interest earnings, to profit and loss account the fire fund amounted to £2,239,488, consisting of reserve for unexpired risks, £1,239,488 (40% of the premiums), and (as in the previous year) an additional reserve of £1,000,000.

The marine account showed better results, the trading profit being £47,950 (about 14.2% of the premiums), which, along with interest earnings of £15,901, was transferred to profit and loss account. The marine fund thereafter amounted at the close of the year to £391,047, consisting of the reserve of £134,807 for unexpired risks, and the same amount of additional reserve as at the close of 1913—viz., £256,240.

The decrease in the personal accident premiums is rather unusual, and the profit shown is smaller than usual in a section which generally gives a larger trading surplus than is the case in other departments. After adjustment of the reserves for unexpired risks the trading profit seems to have amounted to £5,939 (about 4% of the premiums), and the interest earnings to £3,208, the total departmental profit thus being apparently £9,147. The sum of £12,194 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the additional reserve beyond that required for unexpired risks (£54,534) was reduced by £3,047 to £17,042, the personal accident fund at the close of the year amounting to £71,576, apart from £16,425 reserved as provision for outstanding claims.

The employers' liability business within the United Kingdom shows the handsome trading profit of £18,325, or about 14.2% of the premiums. It is evident that this Company, like others, is feeling the benefit of increased premium rates in this section, which used to be one of the least profitable to underwriters. The interest earnings amounted to £3,262, giving a total departmental profit of £21,587, of which £20,407 was transferred to profit and loss account and £1,180 was added to the additional reserve (inclusive thereof amounting to £25,759), beyond the reserve of £51,518 set aside for unexpired risks. At the close of the year the employers' liability fund amounted to £79,276, apart from £57,978 reserved for outstanding losses.

In the miscellaneous insurance account, where, it will be noted, there was a specially large increase in the premium income, the trading profit seems to have amounted to £22,274, or to about 2.6% of the premiums, or about the same proportion as in the fire section. The departmental interest earnings were £18,180, bringing up the total profits in this section to £40,454, of which £33,315 was transferred to profit and loss account, the balance of £7,139 being added to the departmental reserve (thereafter £150,000), apart from that for unexpired risks (£341,446). The relative fund at the close of the

year was £491,446, exclusive of £217,603 reserved for outstanding claims.

To the departmental profits above shown have to be added £19,914 from the members' life profits account, representing the share of the profits to shareholders arising from the last quinquennial valuation on December 31, 1913, appropriate to the year, and also £121,673, being the excess of net interest earnings credited to profit and loss account (£143,995) over income tax and charges (£21,322) debited to that account.

The total profits of the year appear, therefore, to have amounted to £448,768 as follows:—

Department	Profit from Trading	Profit from Interest
Fire	£85,165	£88,976
Marine	47,950	15,902
Personal Accident	5,939	3,208
Employers' Liability (within the United Kingdom)	18,325	3,262
Miscellaneous	22,274	18,180
Life	19,914	—
Profit and Loss	—	121,673
	£197,567	£251,201

£448,768

This has been apportioned as follows:—

1. In dividend at the same rate as for 1913, viz. 24*s.* per share, less tax, on 265,525 shares of £10 each with £1 paid (Subscribed Capital £2,655,250, Paid-up £265,525)	£294,068
2. Interest on 4 per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock of £805,800	30,262
3. Interest on 4 per Cent. Thames and Mersey Debenture stock of £450,696	16,638
4. Added to employers' liability fund	1,180
5. „ to miscellaneous insurance fund	7,139
6. Transferred to investment fluctuation fund (thereafter amounting to £755,000)	73,933
7. Added to staff pension fund (thereafter £79,551)...	15,000
	£438,220
8. Less personal accident fund reduced by	3,047
	£435,173
9. Balance of Profit and Loss Account increased by	13,595
	£448,768

The balance of profit and loss account carried forward to 1915, after provision for the full year's dividend, is £882,465. The general reserve fund is maintained at £1,000,000. Adding these to the fire fund of £2,239,488, we have a total of £4,121,953; and as the specific reserve for unexpired fire risks is £1,239,488 (40% of the premiums), the balance of £2,882,465 may be regarded as the Company's conflagration reserve, which discloses a very strong financial position.

The Company's new life business in 1914 amounted to £575,154, of which £36,500 was reassured, its net retention at its sole risk being thus £538,654. The total life premium income, increased by £12,213, amounted to £286,673, expenses of management, inclusive of commission, being limited by a liberal arrangement to 10% of the premiums. The death claims in 1914 were much lighter in amount than in 1913 (which is a somewhat unusual feature considering the War), having been for £176,907, as compared with £267,315. The interest yield on the life assurance funds, which on December 31, 1914, amounted to £4,048,244 (having been increased by £101,096), seems to have been about £3 15*s.* 8*d.* per cent., after deduction of income tax. This indicates a good profit from interest, as the rate assumed at the valuation was £2 15*s.* per cent. Quinquennial bonuses on participating life policies since the series was opened 40 years ago have been consistently at the rate of 35*s.* per cent. per annum, in reversionary form, which is a high proportionate standard. The Company might well look for a larger new life business, considering its attractions to the public and its low expense ratio.

The annuity fund at the close of 1914 amounted to £905,162, and the leasehold redemption fund to £4,184.

The balance sheet on December 31, 1914, shows total assets of £14,146,852. The directors certify that in their belief the assets as set forth therein were in the aggregate fully of the value stated, after deducting the amount set aside in the investment fluctuation fund.

MOVEMENTS IN METAL PRICES.

The last couple of months have seen a steady appreciation in the prices of the leading commercial metals, as shown in the table below, and compared with the figures ruling in 1914 the rise is in many cases enormous. Standard copper compared with the end of last year has risen £16, but the advance in refined copper is no less than £28. Tin is £12 up for cash and £16 for forward. Lead has risen £5, and spelter prices are about £40 up, while the gain in Cleveland pig iron amounts to about 13*s.* per ton. All the year there has been an uplifting of prices, and the only serious set-back has been in the case of spelter, which on July 30, 1915, stood at £100 a ton, compared with £27 15*s.* on December last, and at the end of October was quoted at £76.

	[illegible]	[illegible]	1914	1915	1915	1915	1915
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Copper, Standard, Spot	[illegible]	[illegible]	56¾	74½	65⅝	72	72⅝
„ 3 months	[illegible]	54¼	57	72⅛	66⅝	73	73⅛
„ electro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	81½	81½	87½	88½
Tin, Standard Spot	132	131	[illegible]	175	146¼	151½	158¾
„ 3 months	[illegible]	[illegible]	142	158	152	158	158¾
Lead, Prompt	[illegible]	17½	19	23½	22½	24½	24½
„ Forward	18	17¾	18 5/16	23¼	22½	23	23
Spelter, Prompt	21½	24	27¾	[illegible]	74	68	76
„ Forward	21½	24	27¾	80	70	62	67
Cleveland Warrants	[illegible]	2 9 1	2 11 1½	[illegible]	[illegible]	3 1½	3/4/8	3 7 4
„ One Month	[illegible]	2 9 4	2/14/8½	3/6/5½	3/5/6	3 5 0	3 7 8½

There had been great hopes entertained that as matters settled down to war conditions more normal conditions would gradually be established; but there seems little hope of this, in fact, each week sees further difficulties placed in the way of the conduct of merchant business of this country. Not the least of those which are now having to be faced, and which is to no small extent responsible for the recent upward move in prices, lies in the extraordinary congestion of shipping facilities from America. It is hard enough as it is to gauge how things are going in America in respect of production, but when the mystery surrounding the output of copper, lead and spelter in North America is combined with the mystery regarding United States domestic consumption, and the impossibility of making shipments from there to Europe except under such conditions that there is no chance of knowing when the metal is likely to arrive here, the confusion becomes confounded, and this is just how the metal trade stands to-day. Even when it is a matter of shipping metal from this country to our sorely pressed Allies we find nothing but obstructions, owing partly to the difficulty in securing vessels to carry it to Russia, and, when this trouble is surmounted, owing to the erratic commandeering of boats in all directions by the authorities. This of itself entails enormous risks of losses upon all merchants handling business for Russia, as there is no knowing, even if the material is bought, whether shipping "permits" will be granted if these are obtained, whether tonnage can be obtained to carry it, and, if tonnage is obtained to carry it, whether the boats at the last moment will not be commandeered. This anomalous situation it seems may be avoided in part in the future by the Russian Government chartering vessels itself, which would at least ensure the prompt despatch to it of the war supplies of which it is urgently in need, and of which thousands of tons have on occasions been left lying in barges on the river owing to the difficulties placed in the way of the shippers. It is certain that Russia can no more wage war successfully if she is not allowed to obtain supplies of material, than we could if the United States Govern-

ment, by fits and starts and without notice, suddenly held up all shipping facilities between that country and the United Kingdom. In the meantime, it may be instructive to give a short table showing the highest and lowest prices of copper, tin and Scotch pig iron during the period covered by the last great European war:—

		1870 £ s. d.	1871 £ s. d.	1872 £ s. d.
Copper	Highest	68 15 0	85 0 0	108 0 0
	Lowest	60 10 0	64 0 0	77 0 0
Tin, Straits	Highest	134 10 0	155 0 0	190 0 0
	Lowest	104 10 0	121 0 0	130 0 0
Scotch pig iron	Highest	3 1 6	5 12 6	6 17 6
	Lowest	2 9 9	2 11 4	3 12 0

Records of other of the commercial metals are not available for the above period, but it may be interesting to follow out the fluctuations during the three years following 1872 in those metals for which there are returns:—

		1873 £ s. d.	1874 £ s. d.	1875 £ s. d.
Copper	Highest	92 0 0	89 0 0	84 0 0
	Lowest	79 0 0	75 0 0	78 15 0
Tin	Highest	113 0 0	124 10 0	96 10 0
	Lowest	104 10 0	87 0 0	76 0 0
Lead	Highest	24 0 0	25 10 0	25 0 0
	Lowest	21 15 0	19 10 0	20 5 0
Silver ...	Highest	59 1/16d.	59 1/2d.	57 1/2d.
	Lowest	57 5/8d.	57 1/4d.	55 1/2d.
Scotch pig iron	Highest	4 5 0	5 9 0	3 14 0
	Lowest	3 1 3	3 11 6	2 17 6

All calculations as to the probable course of movements in prices at the termination of the present War appear to be futile. That ordinary industry in all parts of Europe has been brought to a standstill, and that an enormous amount of leeway will have to be made up subsequently, to say nothing of repairing the devastation wrought by the Huns, goes without saying; but beyond this are financial considerations, and at the rate at which things are going now the wanton and reckless expenditure, waste, muddle, incompetence and extravagance in which this country at least is steeped must leave their mark for many years upon our financial resources. It is upon the financial position, therefore, that it would appear nearly everything depends, and meanwhile America is rapidly becoming financially bilious through the gorging of her system with the gold of the Allies.

SAVOY HOTEL SCHEME.

For years the Savoy Hotel, Limited, has been handicapped in its finances by the huge disproportion between a growing amount of mortgage, Debenture, &c., debt, and its share capital. The total trust and second-charge indebtedness in various forms aggregates nearly £2,100,000, while the Ordinary and Preference capital amounts to close upon £560,000.

In the matter of dividends upon its share capital the Company has acted conservatively, and has year by year set aside to various writings off and reserves. For the five years to 1913 inclusive the dividends upon the Ordinary capital were 5% each year, and the average yearly gross profit, before appropriations for debt charges, for the five years to 1914 inclusive was about £175,000. Fixed charges, interest, and sinking fund in respect of first-charge mortgages and second and other charges now absorb about £122,000 a year.

As a consequence of the War, receipts have fallen off immensely. About 50% of the receipts from lettings of rooms arises from "season" business (May to July) derived from American tourists, and a large proportion of foreign visitors, normally received, has this year been lost. The 1915 "season" is represented to have produced less receipts than the normal poor results for the first three months of any year.

In respect of profit results to December 31, 1914, no dividend was paid on either Ordinary or Preference share capital, and after meeting all fixed charges a balance of £41,475 was set aside to suspense.

The position since has become still more acute, and the directors, in consultation with the holders of securities representing first and second charges, ask consent to a scheme for deferring, until a year after the end of the War, the cash payment of interest on the second charges, calling for £61,100 in round figures for the twelve months. They anticipate a profit during the War period of only about £70,000 a year, as compared with the average of £175,000, and propose to continue meeting in cash only the interest and sinking-fund obligations on the First Charge Debentures, which call annually for about £61,080.

The respective amounts of debt and capital and the annual amount required to satisfy the first and second charges are set out below:—

	Amount £	Interest and Sinking Fund Charges £
First-charge mortgages	1,172,318	61,080
Second and other charges	909,900	61,100
	2,082,218	
Issued Share Capital –		
7% Preference shares	250,000	
Ordinary shares	307,800	

As to second charges it is proposed, in lieu of cash, to issue Deferred Interest Certificates, to carry interest at the rate of 6% per annum, payable, if the circumstances permit, yearly or half-yearly, and to be redeemed after the expiry of the suspension period as to any overdue interest and the face value of the certificates out of the certified annual profits of the Company shown to have been earned. Under the arrangements proposed no dividends on either the Ordinary or Preference shares are to be paid until the Deferred Interest Certificates have been paid in full and the sinking-fund payments, which also are suspended, have been made good. There is an amount of £125,000 5% Debentures, 1893, which are payable July 1, 1918, and it is proposed, and tentatively has been agreed to by the holders, that the date of redemption shall be postponed till July 1, 1921.

The following is a brief record of the amount of profit each year, the amount distributed in dividends on both Ordinary and Preference shares, what the dividend paid on Ordinary shares alone has been, and also the excess profit carried forward after allowance for reserves and writings off at the end of each year to 1913 inclusive. In respect of 1914 the excess profit after meeting all first and second charges was £41,475, which sum was set aside to strengthen the financial position:—

Year	Year's Profit £	Ord. Div. %	Total Dividends £	£	
1914	171,318	Nil	Nil	41,475	All set aside
1913	182,890	5	32,890	9,349	Carried forward
1912	178,287	5	32,890	8,830	,,
1911	177,970	5	32,890	8,910	,,
1910	166,548	5	32,890	8,064	,,
1909	163,475	5	32,890	7,864	,,

TEBRAU RUBBER ESTATES.

We have in two of our recent issues pointed out four rubber plantation companies the shares of which, by reason of the very low market capitalisations per planted area, and their dividend prospects on account of rapid and substantial increase of output, appear exceptionally cheap. These concerns are all more or less in the early stages of production. A company which is a good step nearer maturity than the four referred to is the Tebrau Rubber Estates. Its capital is £125,000 in £1 shares, it has a planted area in Johore, Malaya, of 3,917 acres, and, the market price of the shares being £2, the market capitalisation per planted acre works out at £64—a low figure when the nearness of a high dividend-paying stage, the big increase of output already witnessed, and the soundness of the Company's financial position are considered. For the financial year ended June 30, 1915, the annual report in regard to which will be issued shortly, the rubber output amounted to 646,410 lb. from about half the acreage planted, which compares with a production of 334,440 lb. in the previous twelve months. The ages of the various plantings indicate that there will be a further heavy annual

increase in the output during the next two or three years:—

Acreage Statement.

	Acres
Planted prior to and including 1907	825
1908	737
1909	1,124
1910	1,173
1911	60
	3,917

It will be seen that there is a large area of 1,173 acres planted in 1910 which should have about reached the tapping stage. The effect of this is already reflected in the quantity of rubber produced, for in the first four months of the current financial year the output has been as much as 285,949 lb., in comparison with 165,045 lb. in the corresponding period of last year, an increase in production of very nearly 75% on top of a 90% increase in the past financial year.

As to dividend prospects, the net profit for the financial year to June 30, 1915, at an estimate of 1*s.* per lb., should amount to about £32,000, a sum which would be equal to 25% on the issued capital. However, inasmuch as capital expenditure on estate upkeep for the year was estimated to be £11,279, the actual dividend distribution may be curtailed to 15%, leaving a balance profit of, say, £13,500 undistributed. Seeing that the surplus liquid assets at June 30, 1914, amounted to £15,000, a more liberal dividend distribution than we have allowed for would be justified However, in the past the directors have adopted a very cautious policy. As the estate reaches full maturity capital expenditure should diminish, and a much larger proportion of the profit should consequently be available for dividends. For the current financial year, having regard to the great increase in the rubber production above referred to, we should think the dividend will be nearer 30% than the 15% we have estimated on account of the past financial year, and, subsequently, provided the price of the commodity is maintained in the region of 2*s.* per lb., or about 6*d.* per lb. lower than the present quotation, shareholders could rely upon yearly increases of dividend until, in, say, three or four years' time, the estate is in full bearing, when, reckoning on an output of only 350 lb. per acre—a none too liberal allowance for a very well-kept estate—the production per annum should be 1,370,000 lb., which would yield an annual profit, reckoned at 1*s.* per lb. (price of rubber 2*s.* and "all in" costs 1*s.*), of £68,000, or more than 50% on the issued capital. Consequently the £1 shares at £2 appear distinctly cheap, a view that will be strengthened by a glance at the following information in regard to production, costs, profits, &c.:—

Tebrau Rubber Estates.

Year ends June 30.

	1915*	1914	1913
Capital £125,000, in £1 shares.			
Market price shares			£2
Planted acreage			3,917
Market capitalisation			£250,000
" " per planted acre			£64
Output (lb.)	646,410†	334,440	232,796
" per planted acre (lb. ...	165	85½	59
Average gross price realised	2 2½	2 2½	2 7¾
"All in" costs	1 2½	1 5	2 2¼
Net profit	£32,320	£11,095	£5,828
Dividends	15%	Nil	6 %
Capital expenditure on estates ...	£11,279	£13,682	£16,823
Carry forward		£11,250	£539
Surplus liquid assets	—	£15,127	£9,662

* Estimated results. † Actual output.

"Oil Seeds and Feeding Cakes." With preface by W. R. Dunstan, C.M.G., LL.D., &c. Price 2*s.* 6*d.* This book, published by Messrs. John Murray, is one of a series of Imperial Institute monographs, and reveals how Germany secured a virtual monopoly of some of the most valuable produce of the tropical possessions of Great Britain.

Correspondence.

TAXING CAPITAL.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—I guarded myself, as I thought, last week against your misconception by stating explicitly that in the term "bankers" I included everyone, from the Government down to the smallest loan office, who does any kind of banking business. However, I seem to have failed. I ask you, therefore, to permit me to prove my case by dealing this week with bills of exchange, which play so great a part in the foreign trade of every country—which, indeed, seemed so important to the late Chancellor of the Exchequer that he rushed in haste to protect the bill acceptors at the expense of the whole of the taxpayers of the United Kingdom. Let us suppose, then, that the Messrs. Rothschild authorise a merchant in Brazil to draw upon them to the extent of £20,000, and that the Brazilian merchant draws accordingly, buying produce of any kind you please. In due course the bill is presented and accepted. The produce is sold, and when it falls due the bill is taken up. Now I have chosen the Messrs. Rothschild because of the commanding position they hold in the world's trade. £20,000 to them would be a very small sum, considering the magnitude of their capital. But the Messrs. Rothschild carry on a business of immense extent and most varied character. Amongst other things, they are the financial agents of great Governments, and they hold at times very considerable sums belonging to those Governments. Moreover, they receive deposits from their customers, especially their foreign customers. Therefore the Messrs. Rothschild, in addition to their own capital, have at their disposal from time to time very large sums belonging to Governmental and other customers. The particular £20,000 drawn by the Brazilian merchant may not have affected any of the moneys held on account of others by the Messrs. Rothschild. But equally probable it is that it may have done. To the extent that the Messrs. Rothschild employ moneys held by them on account of others in either accepting bills or doing any other kind of commercial business they are clearly acting just as the bankers are—upon borrowed money. The real truth is that the whole bill of exchange business is based upon credit and nothing else. In the ultimate resort, its security depends upon the willingness of the consuming public to buy and consume the commodities dealt in. Everybody knows how the price of coffee varies in Brazil; how sometimes Brazil does a roaring trade because coffee is dear; and how at other times either the Federal Government or one of the State Governments has to come to the assistance of the coffee growers because of the low prices. It is, then, upon credit, and credit alone, that the whole bill-accepting business is conducted. And its success depends upon the willingness of consumers to go on buying at remunerative prices. That was proved decisively when the War broke out, and when, therefore, the Chancellor of the Exchequer pledged the credit of the United Kingdom to help the bill-acceptors out of their difficulties.

AN ECONOMIST OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

[We now appreciate our correspondent's point. It is not capital he wishes to tax at all, so that we [illegible] bankers in employing a part of the country's floating [illegible]

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.—Interim dividend [illegible] at rate of 10 [illegible] and profit and loss [illegible] of 5 [illegible] capital [illegible] July 1, 1915.

LANADRON RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend [illegible] 7½ [illegible] less tax.

BARRY GRAVING DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO.—Dividend [illegible] at rate of 10 [illegible] less tax, on Ordinary shares [illegible] of 2s. per share [illegible] for year.

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Commercial.

LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

SINCE a fortnight ago rather "bearish" influences have been at work in raw-cotton circles. More favourable news has been received with regard to the American crop, and at the same time there has been a disposition to reduce estimates of consumption. Prices in yarn and cloth, however, in the Manchester market have not shown much change. The outstanding feature of interest at the moment is the question of the supply of labour. The boom in recruiting for the Army is having a marked effect upon this problem. The consequences are being more seriously felt in the spinning districts than in the weaving department. The Master Spinners' Federation has discussed the situation at recent meetings, and a deputation from that body has had an interview with Lord Derby. Although nothing has been made known as to what took place there is not much hope of men being specially released for employment in cotton mills. There is every probability, therefore, of much lessened production in yarn, with a possible scarcity of supplies.

Trade in piece-goods is being greatly hampered by the difficulty of obtaining colours for finishing and dyeing cloths. Many firms are conserving their available supplies of dyes and are refusing to quote for certain descriptions. The range of shades is becoming very limited. Owing to various high charges goods cannot be put down in our outlets abroad except at prices which look very dear in relation to the values ruling in the raw material, and it is quite evident our customers throughout the world are hesitating to replenish stocks at the present time. The larger inquiry for India has continued and further buying has occurred in miscellaneous cloths, chiefly of a light description, and some manufacturers have obtained a little relief. Practicable demand in shirtings, however, continues very disappointing, and although in some cases buyers and sellers are not very far apart, it is extremely difficult to bridge small differences in price. Some Manchester merchants have rather heavy stocks, which they are prepared to sell at a little below market quotations. No development in the demand for China can be recorded, and grey staples are decidedly flat. For Singapore and Java a fair sorting-up trade continues to be done. Rather more activity is reported for Egypt. Several Near Eastern outlets are entirely cut off from a trade point of view. Some producers of heavy goods are not quite so deeply engaged on Government contracts as a few months ago. The home trade continues generally healthy.

A stronger feeling is prevailing in yarn circles. In both American and Egyptian qualities producers are presenting a stiffer front to buyers than for some time back. This attitude is due to the probable lessened output during the next few months as a result of the shortage of operatives. A rather increasing business has recently been done, especially in medium American numbers, and spinners have somewhat strengthened their position. It should be pointed out, however, that when a mill is only partially running the standing charges are the same as when production is at full stretch, and it is necessary for producers to obtain higher prices for yarn if losses are not to be entailed. The export demand keeps up well. Yarns suitable for dyeing for India are being sold fairly freely. A healthy business also continues to come round for Holland and France.

At a joint conference held on Wednesday last in Manchester, between the trade union officials and representatives of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association, it was decided to grant a War bonus of 5% to all operatives engaged in the weaving branch of the industry. The bonus will be paid from the beginning of January next, and will go on for three months after the end of the War. From that time it will not be possible for either side to apply for an advance or a reduction in wages for six months. About 200,000 operatives are affected by this decision, and it is estimated that the additional cost on the trade will amount to about £12,000 per week. In view of the wretched condition of the industry since the beginning of the War, this is a serious extra charge for employers, and it is evident the advance has been given owing to the much increased cost of living.

BANKERS' INVESTMENT TRUST.—Interim dividend at the rate of 4½% per annum on the Preferred stock and 4% per annum on the Deferred stock for half-year.

BRUNNER MOND & Co.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 22½% per annum, less tax.

FINE ART AND GENERAL INSURANCE Co.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share, less tax.

GARTSIDES (BROOKSIDE BREWERY).—Interim dividend of 3% on Ordinary.

ROYAL INSURANCE Co.—Interim dividend of 14*s.* per share, subject to tax.

RUDGE WHITWORTH.—Dividend of 10 on Ordinary, tax free.

UNITED INSURANCE Co.—Dividend of 10% per annum.

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD.

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company: Louisville, Ky.: October 6, 1915.

The Board of Directors of your Company respectfully submits the following Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915:—

MILEAGE.

	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
I.—Lines Owned and Operated.			
(1) Owned—Fee or Leasehold		3,806·32	
(2) Operated but not Owned—			
(a) Operated as owner of entire Capital Stock	830·49		
(b) Operated under lease	18·46		
(c) Operated under contract	3·92		
(d) Operated under trackage arrangements	216·01		
		1,218·88	
(3) Owned, leased to N. C. and St. L. Ry., operated under trackage arrangements		5·46	
(4) Owner of entire Capital Stock, property operated separately—operated by this Co. under trackage arrangements		6·46	
Total operated			5,037·12
Average mileage operated during the year, 5,038·92.			
II.—Lines Operated under their Separate Organisations in which this Company Owns a Majority of the Capital Stock or is Interested as Joint Owner or Lessee.			
Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway (a majority of the Capital Stock owned)		976·32	
Central Transfer Railway & Storage Co., Louisville (one half of the Capital Stock owned)		0·67	
Georgia Railroad and Depot Co., operated as joint lessee		571·00	
Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Railway (a majority of the Capital Stock owned jointly with the Southern Railway Co.)		682·41	
Louisville, Henderson & St. Louis Railway less mileage of Louisville & Nashville Railroad operated under trackage arrangements (a majority of the Capital Stock owned)		181·70	
Woodstock & Blocton Railway (one-half of the Capital Stock owned)		7·73	
		2,360·07	
Less—Mileage used by this Company under trackage arrangements—			
Woodstock & Blocton Railway	7·73		
Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway	51·35		
Louisville, Henderson & St. Louis Railway	·26	59·32	2,300·75
III.—Lines Owned by this Company but Operated by other Companies.			
Paducah & Memphis Division leased to Nash., Chatt. & St. L. Ry. at 5 per cent. on cost of road	254·20		
Less—Mileage operated by this Company under trackage arrangements	5·46		
		248·74	
Clarksville & Princeton Branch—Gracey, Ky., to Princeton, Ky. (leased to Ohio Valley Rail. Co. at $12,039.70 per ann.)		20·71	269·45
Total mileage			7,607·32
Total mileage June 30, 1914			7,506·66
Increase			100·66
Accounted for as follows—Additions—Louisville & Nashville Railroad		79·17	
Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway		14·41	
Sundry net additions		7·08	
			100·66

BONDED DEBT.

Bonded Debt June 30, 1914, total issue			$184,441,339 94
Bonds Issued—Unified Fifty year 4 per Cent. Gold	$1,196,000 00		
Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co., First Mortgage Fifty year 5 per Cent. Gold	9,823,000 00		
	11,019,000 00		
Bonds Drawn for Sinking Funds—Redeemed—Evansville, Henderson & Nashville Division Gold	$105,000		
General Mortgage Gold	560,000		
Pensacola and Atlantic RR. First Mortgage Gold	101,000		
Pensacola Division First Mortgage Gold	25,000		
Newport & Cincinnati Bridge Co. General Mortgage	13,000		
	804,000	789,000 00	
Unredeemed (not Presented for Payment)—Evansville, Henderson & Nash. Div. Gold	5,000		
General Mortgage Gold	73,000		
Henderson Bridge Company First Mortgage Gold	1,000		
	79,000	79,000 00	
		868,000 00	
Bonds Redeemed and Cancelled—Lexington & Eastern Railway Co. General Mortgage	22,000		
Yellow River Railroad First Mortgage	140,000		
	162,000	162,000 00	
Bonds Matured—Redeemed—Equipment, Series "A" 5 per cent. Gold	650,000		
Cash Deposited with Trustee to Retire Bonds—Lexington & Eastern Railway General Mortgage	10,000		
	660,000	660,000 00	
		1,690,000 00	
Net increase over last year			9,329,000 00
Bonded Debt June 30, 1915, total issue. (See Balance Sheet, Table III.)			$193,770,339 94
Less—Bonds Owned by Company		$14,018,339 94	
Deposited in Trust as Collateral		3,500,000 00	
Deposited Account of Georgia Railroad Lease		500,000 00	
Held in Sinking Funds		1,092,000 00	
			19,539,339 94
Total Outstanding Bonded Debt in hands of public June 30, 1915			$174,231,000 00
Total Outstanding Bonded Debt in hands of public June 30, 1914			166,341,000 00
Increase in Bonds outstanding in hands of public			$5,890,000 00
Accounted for as follows—Issue—Lexington & Eastern Railway Co. First Mortgage Fifty-year 5 per cent. Gold		$7,500,000 00	
Deduct—Bonds matured	$650,000 00		
Cash Deposited with Trustee	10,000 00		
Bonds drawn for Sinking Funds, including Redeemed and Unredeemed Bonds	804,000 00		
Bonds Purchased for Sinking Funds	146,000 00		
	1,615,000 00		
Less—Bonds withdrawn from Treasury and cancelled for Sinking Funds	5,000 00		
		1,610,000 00	
Increase as shown above			$5,890,000 00

GENERAL RESULTS.

The General Results, as given in detail in Table No. I., are here summarised:—

Operating Revenues		$51,605,015 39	
Less—Operating Expenses, 76·41 per cent.		39,431,789 01	
Net Operating Revenues, 23·59 per cent.			$12,174,226 38
Taxes		2,133,712 78	
Uncollectible Railway Revenues		6,065 19	
			2,142,777 97
			$10,031,448 41
Other Income: From Rents		$2,507,501 35	
From Separately Operated Properties		129,903 16	
From Investments		2,883,296 37	
From Interest		6,829 79	
From Securities held under Georgia Railroad Lease		73,705 00	3,429,595 65
Total Income			$13,461,044 06
Deductions from Income: Interest on Bonded Debt		$7,475,563 39	
Other Interest		42,436 24	
Rents		879,262 86	
Sinking Funds		146,484 31	
Reserve for Doubtful Accounts		22,057 32	
Taxes on Miscellaneous Personal Property, &c.		36,120 71	8,600,901 83
Net Income carried to Profit and Loss Account			$4,860,142 23

The balance to credit of Profit and Loss Account amounts to $40,998,116·89.

GROWTH OF TRAFFIC.

The growth of traffic for the past 10 years is shown by the following table:—

Years.	Average Miles Operated.	Operating Revenues.	Operating Expenses.	Net Operating Revenues.	Operating Revenues per Mile.	Operating Expenses per Mile.	Net Operating Revenues per Mile.	Percentage of Expenses to Operating Revenues.
1905-1906 ...	4,130·91	$43,008,996 23	$30,933,463 71	$12,075,532 52	$10,411 50	$ 7,488 29	$2,923 21	71·92
1906-1907 ...	4,306·33	48,263,945 20	35,781,302 54	12,482,642 66	11,207 67	8,309 00	2,898 67	74·14
1907-1908 ...	4,347·80	44,620,281 16	*33,594,291 05	11,025,990 11	10,262 72	7,726 73	2,535 99	75·29
1908-1909 ...	4,393·11	45,425,891 45	*29,627,499 48	15,798,391 97	10,340 26	6,744 08	3,596 18	65·22
1909-1910 ...	4,554·30	52,433,381 94	*34,985,578 78	17,447,803 16	11,512 94	7,681 88	3,831 06	66·72
1910-1911 ...	4,598·39	53,993,740 78	*38,479,822 61	15,513,918 17	11,741 88	8,368 11	3,373 77	71·27
1911-1912 ...	4,709 93	56,211,788 30	*39,626,327 44	16,585,460 86	11,934 74	8,413 36	3,521 38	70·49
1912-1913 ...	4,819·86	59,465,699 14	*44,810,880 41	14,654,818 73	12,337 64	9,297 13	3,040 51	75·36
1913-1914 ...	4,936·73	59,682,777 77	*44,782,708 27	14,900,069 50	12,089 54	9,071 33	3,018 21	75·03
1914-1915 ...	5,036·98	51,606,015 39	*39,431,789 01	12,174,226 38	10,245 43	7,828 46	2,416 97	76·41

* Does not include Additions and Betterments heretofore included in Operating Expenses.

RAILS.

The rails in main track operated, except trackage rights, are shown below:—

Steel Rails—Under 58½ pounds per yard	76·14 miles	
58½ pounds per yard	319·80 miles	
60 to 65 pounds per yard	276·74 miles	
68 pounds per yard	56·21 miles	
70 pounds per yard	1,238·62 miles	
80 pounds per yard	1,764·08 miles	
85 pounds per yard	24·87 miles	
90 pounds per yard	1,050·80 miles	
141 pounds per yard	1·32 miles	
		4,808·58 miles
Iron Rails		·61 miles
Total		4,809·19 miles
To which add—Operated under trackage arrangements		227·93 miles
Total mileage owned and operated		5,037·12 miles

The rails in main track owned, operated by other companies, are shown below:—

Steel Rails—56 pounds per yard	1·40 miles	
58 pounds per yard	22·35 miles	
60 pounds per yard	54·04 miles	
68 pounds per yard	·71 miles	
75 pounds per yard	·04 miles	
80 pounds per yard	172·96 miles	
85 pounds per yard	23·21 miles	
90 pounds per yard	·20 miles	
		274·91 miles
Less—Portion of Paducah & Memphis Division used by L. & N. Railroad under trackage arrangements		5·46 miles
Total mileage operated by other companies		269·45 miles

ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS—ROAD.

During the year there were charged to Investment, Road, Expenditures for Additions and Betterments as follows:—

Engineering	$33,599 86	Telegraph and telephone lines	$105,592 16
Land for transportation purposes	225,604 46	Signals and interlockers	331,176 03
Grading	94,193 61	Power-distribution systems	951 99
Tunnels and subways	49,541 52	Miscellaneous structures	2,968 48
Bridges, trestles, and culverts	Cr.26,075 91	Paving	Cr.10,124 74
Ties	37,782 90	Roadway machines	45,333 88
Rails	330,196 12	Roadway small tools	525 68
Other track material	390,436 51	Assessments for public improvements	Cr.15,718 18
Ballast	99,889 01	Revenues and operating expenses during construction	Cr.6,878 32
Track laying and surfacing	109,070 58	Other expenditures—Road	562 35
Right-of-way fences	7,369 21	Shop machinery	102,087 51
Crossings and signs	145,698 91	Taxes	2,664 08
Station and office buildings	391,645 05		
Roadway buildings	32,087 96	Total for the year ended June 30, 1915	$ 2,705,820 51
Water stations	34,058 63	Total for the year ended June 30, 1914	7,098,190 01
Fuel stations	22,058 36		
Shops and engine houses	132,103 23		
Wharves and docks	37,439 58	Decrease	$4,392,369 50

ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS—EQUIPMENT.

The following expenditures for Additions and Betterments, Equipment, were charged to Investment, Equipment, during the year:—

CHARGES: Locomotives—Thirty-five (35) bought or built	$609,683 36		
Equipping twenty-one (21) with smoke-abatement devices (Nashville Terminals)	824 44		
Equipping with glass water-gauges, Chicago flange oilers, automatic fire-box doors, superheaters, electric headlights, steam heating apparatus, and changing safety appliances	38,982 61		
		$649,490 41	
Passenger Train Cars—Forty-five (45) bought or built	614,112 62		
Expenditures on new cars not completed	17,312 84		
Equipping with steam heat and changing safety appliances	1,434 01		
		632,859 47	
Freight Train Cars—Two thousand one hundred and seventy-five (2,175) bought or built	1,819,493 49		
Seven (7) rebuilt	5,611 38		
Applying Farlow draft gears and changing safety appliances	84 374 12		
		1,909,478 99	
Work Equipment—One (1) standard spreader car bought	1,000 00		
Eighty-six (86) released from construction work	106.524 32		
Improvements on derrick car No. 41220	1,006 81		
Applying Farlow draft gears and changing safety appliances	806 36		
Twenty-three (23) freight train cars changed to work equipment	5,199 45		
Thirty (30) passenger train cars changed to work equipment	14,020 22		
		128,557 16	
			$3,320,386 03
CREDITS: Locomotives—Thirteen (13) destroyed or sold		118,895 82	
Passenger Train Cars—Ten (10) destroyed or sold	34,766 25		
Thirty (30) changed to work equipment	121,511 46		
		156,277 71	
Freight Train Cars—One thousand eight hundred and forty-two (1,842) destroyed or sold	923,358 66		
Twenty-three (23) changed to work equipment	10,902 04		
		934.260 70	
Work Equipment—Two hundred and sixty-four (264) destroyed or sold		92,066 53	
			1,301,500 76
Total charges for the year			$2,018,885 27

RESERVE FOR ACCRUED DEPRECIATION—EQUIPMENT.

CREDITS:—Depreciation—			
•Locomotives		$376,570 72	
Passenger Train Cars		103,919 92	
•Freight Train Cars		1,598,625 40	
•Dining Cars		6,157 52	
•Work Equipment		73,827 63	
			$2,159,101 19
CHARGES:—Accrued Depreciation—			
On Equipment destroyed or sold—			
Thirteen (13) Locomotives	$90,983 11		
Ten (10) Passenger Train Cars	19,268 15		
One thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven (1,927) Freight Train Cars	641,479 15		
Two hundred and sixty-seven (267) units of Work Equipment	50,878 48		
		802,608 89	
On Equipment changed to another class—			
Thirty (30) Passenger Train Cars	103,265 50		
Twenty-five (25) Freight Train Cars	8,241 98		
		111,507 48	
Total			914,116 37
Net Credit for fiscal year ended June 30, 1915			$1,244,984 82
Balance to credit of Reserve for Accrued Depreciation—Equipment, June 30, 1914			17,439,335 40
			$18,684,320 22
Balance to Credit of Reserve for Accrued Depreciation Equipment, June 30, 1915—			
For Locomotives		$4,940,935 61	
Passenger Train Cars		1,349,263 30	
Freight Train Cars		11,824,774 39	
Dining Cars		50,504 80	
Work Equipment		518,837 12	
			$18,684,320 22

The above balance, $18,684,320. 22, includes depreciation on equipment of the Lexington & Eastern Railway Company since December 31, 1912.

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE ON ACCOUNT OF SINKING FUNDS, 1915-1916.

Henderson Bridge Co.	August 1, 1915	$8,400
Pensacola Division	September 1, 1915	26,250
Evansville, Henderson & Nashville Division	December 1, 1915	165,000
Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad	February 1, 1916	118,800
General Mortgage	June 1, 1916	718,300
Newport & Cincinnati Bridge Co.	July 1, 1916	13,740
Total		$1,050,490

• The difference between these credits and the charges to Operating Expenses for depreciation shown in Table No. IX. is caused by charges to Investment in Road accounts for equipment used in construction and addition and betterment work and to lessees of equipment of this Company.

GUARANTEES.

The Company has guaranteed, by endorsement or by agreement, the following obligations:—

	Issued.	Annual Charge
Louisville & Nashville Terminal Company First Mortgage Four per Cent. Gold Bonds—		
Endorsement, made jointly and severally with Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, covers principal and interest of bonds issued	$2,535,000	$101,400 00
Louisville & Nashville - Southern, Monon Collateral, Joint Four per Cent. Gold Bonds—		
This Company and the Southern Railway Company are each liable for one half of the principal and interest of bonds issued, $11,827,000. One year's interest, $473,080; this Company's liability one-half. Should either Company default in its obligations to the other in respect of the bonds of this issue, the pledged shares of stock belonging to such Company so in default shall become and be the property of the Company not in default, which thenceforth shall be liable in severalty upon all covenants contained in the bonds	5,913,500	236,540 00
Nashville & Decatur Railroad, Rent Dividend—		
Under lease of this property the payment of 7½ per cent. annual dividend to stockholders is guaranteed as rent. Amount of Capital Stock, $3,553,750		266,531 25
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis—		
One-fifteenth of interest on $23,212,000 General Mortgage Four per Cent. Gold Bonds now outstanding—one year's interest, $928,480; L. & N. RR. Co.'s proportion, one-fifteenth		61,898 67
Georgia Railroad Lease—		
This Company is liable jointly with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company for the yearly rent, under the lease of the Georgia Railroad, amounting to $600,000. This Company's liability, per annum		300,000 00
Memphis Union Station Company First Mortgage Five per Cent. Gold Bonds—		
Endorsement, made jointly and severally with Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, Southern Railway Company, St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Company, and St. Louis South-Western Railway Company, covers principal and interest of the bonds issued	2,500,000	125,000 00

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The average cost per mile for repairs to equipment for the past 10 years has been as follows:—

	1905-06. Cents.	1906-07. Cents.	1907-08. Cents.	1908-09. Cents.	1909-10. Cents.	1910-11. Cents.	1911-12. Cents.	1912-13. Cents.	1913-14. Cents.	1914-15. Cents.
Locomotive repairs, per mile	9·102	7·771	9·090	8·092	7·884	8·482	8·770	8·862	8·957	8·812
Passenger car repairs, per mile	1·646	1·546	1·542	1·190	1·292	1·591	1·531	1·401	1·413	1·165
Freight car repairs, per mile	0·865	1·049	0·918	0·745	0·739	0·835	0·914	1·113	1·154	1·070

All equipment of the System in revenue service is provided with both air brakes and automatic couplers.

EQUIPMENT OWNED.

	Locomotives.	Passenger Cars.	Freight Cars.	Work Equipment.
LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD—				
On hand July 1, 1914	1,055	653	46,174	2,594
Change in classification, effective July 1, 1914	—	1	—	13
Floating pile driver built in 1909-1910, transferred to Work Equipment	—	—	—	1
Bought and built	35	45	2,182	1
Released from construction work	—	—	—	86
Changed	—	—	—	53
	—1,090	—699	—48,356	—2,748
Changed	—	30	23	—
Destroyed or sold	13	10	1,842	264
Change in classification, effective July 1, 1914	1	13	—	—
	—14	—53	—1,865	—264
On hand	1,076	646	46,491	2,484
LEXINGTON & EASTERN RAILWAY:				
On hand July 1, 1914	14	14	306	50
Change in classification, effective July 1, 1914	—	—	—	1
Changed	—	—	—	2
	—14	—14	—306	—53
Changed	—	—	2	—
Destroyed or sold	—	—	85	3
Change in classification, effective July 1, 1914	—	1	—	—
	—	—1	—87	—3
On hand	14	13	219	50

The following table shows the equipment on hand at the close of each of the past 10 fiscal years:—

Louisville and Nashville Railroad and Operated Lines.

	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08.	1908-09.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
Locomotives	745	865	896	899	928	971	998	1,035	1,069	1,090
Passenger Cars	535	559	572	573	590	611	620	655	667	659
Freight Cars	36,633	39,528	40,589	41,720	43,019	44,564	44,727	45,289	46,480	46,710
Work Equipment	1,289	1,452	1,503	1,421	1,429	1,648	1,884	2,495	2,534	2,534

FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Decrease in Operating Revenues, compared with previous year, was $8,300,451 48, equal to 13.85 per cent.

This great shrinkage was due largely to the effect produced by the war in Europe upon the price and consumption of the products and manufactures of the territory served by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company and to the consequent decrease in passenger travel.

An analysis of the tons moved in the two years shows decreases as follows :—

In Products of Agriculture	6.57 per cent.
Animals	13.94 ,,
Mines	12.56 ,,
Forests	20.25 ,,
In Manufactures	15.99 ,,
In General Merchandise	20.54 ,,
In Miscellaneous Freight	41.78 ,,
Average	13.92 per cent.

As a further illustration of the great shrinkage in business throughout the whole territory served by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, freight "forwarded" revenue from principal stations shows by comparison with the previous year the following decreases in per cent :—

Cincinnati	23.93 per cent.
Louisville	23.98 ,,
Owensboro	16.86 ,,
Evansville	25.00 ,,
Henderson	19.32 ,,
St. Louis and East St. Louis	3.35 ,,
New Orleans	6.01 ,,
Mobile	21.04 ,,
Pensacola	16.34 ,,
Selma	25.00 ,,
Montgomery	21.71 ,,
Birmingham	24.86 ,,
Nashville	10.56 ,,
Knoxville	17.55 ,,

Birmingham is now showing some revival, largely due to orders for Europe.

NEW LINE, WINCHESTER TO IRVINE.

Owing to conditions upon this line the construction work has been very badly delayed. While the line has been practically completed, it is not expected that it will be in shape to turn over to the Operating Department until about the middle of September 1915.

For the purpose of handling the coal traffic from Eastern Kentucky for Cincinnati and Louisville through Irvine and Winchester, now moving via Beattyville Junction and the old line of the Lexington and Eastern Railway, it was necessary to construct yard facilities at Irvine. With the exception of the depot buildings, the work is practically completed. It is expected that all of the facilities will be finished and ready for operation by the middle of September 1915.

INCREASED TERMINAL FACILITIES AT LEXINGTON, KY.

Since the operations of the Lexington and Eastern Railway were merged with those of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, it has become necessary to provide more adequate terminal facilities at Lexington. This work was commenced in the spring of 1914 and is now nearing completion.

AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALS.

The installation of automatic block signals, commenced in the summer of 1912, is well under way. This work on the Cincinnati Division, Lagrange to the north end of the Newport and Cincinnati Bridge, 83 miles, and on the Knoxville Division between La Follette and Corbin, 53.2 miles, has been completed and is in operation. This work on the Kentucky Division, undertaken between Covington and Corbin, has been completed between Corbin and Cynthiana, 120.7 miles, and is in operation. It is expected that the remainder will be completed and placed in operation by November 1, 1915.

When the installation authorised at the writing of this report has been completed, there will be in operation on the system automatic electric block signals protecting 336.9 miles of single track and 164.7 miles of double track, making a total of 551.6 miles.

LEWISBURG AND NORTHERN RAILROAD.

This line between Brentwood, Tenn., and the Alabama State Line, 79.17 miles, was placed in operation on July 15, 1914, although the work of placing concrete lining in the double track tunnel at Diana is still in progress. The main tracks on the line between Maplewood and Mayton, Tenn., on which the yard at Radnor is located, were completed in the fall of 1914.

NASHVILLE AND DECATUR DIVISION.

The new line, Athens, Ala., to the Tennessee State Line, mentioned in last year's report, was placed in operation on July 15 1914. During the year a second track was constructed on this division between Vine Hill and Mayton, and the new second track between Mayton and Brentwood was completed, and the whole put in operation during the spring of this year.

SOUTH AND NORTH ALABAMA RAILROAD.

The new double track line on revised location between Bangor and New Castle, Ala., including the Haydon Mountain Tunnel, was completed and put in operation during November 1914.

SALE OF SECURITIES.

The following securities have been sold during this fiscal year :

$7,500,000 00 Lexington and Eastern Railway First Mortgage Fifty-year 5 per cent. Gold Bonds, called for	$7,125,000 00

ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS.

Cash expenditures during the year for additions and betterments, new construction, additional equipment, and advances to subsidiary companies for similar purposes, including $1.557,071.35 expended in connection therewith and charged to Operating Expenses, amounted to $9,731,803.20.

Attention is called to the report of the Comptroller for the results of the year's business.

The Board acknowledges the fidelity and efficiency with which the officers and employees of the Company have served its interests.

For the Board of Directors,
H. WALTERS, *Chairman.*
M. H. SMITH, *President.*

HASKINS & SELLS, *Certified Public Accountants*, 30 Broad Street, New York.

New York, September 28, 1915.

Henry Walters, Esq., Chairman of the Board, Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, 71 Broadway, New York.

We have examined the books and accounts of the Louisville and Nashville Railway Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, have verified all cash and security balances by count or by comparison with receipts and certificates of deposit, and have examined carefully all details of revenues and expenses and all charges to capital accounts and

We hereby certify that the accompanying General Balance Sheet and statements of Income and Profit and Loss are correct, and truthfully set forth, respectively, the financial condition June 30, 1915, and the results from the operation for the period shown.

HASKINS & SELLS, *Certified Public Accountants.*

REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER.

Accounting Department, Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, Louisville, Ky., September 28, 1915.

Mr. M. H. Smith, President.

Dear Sir,—I submit herewith statements showing the financial condition of the Company, and the results from operation for the year ended June 30, 1915, as set forth in the following tables:—

No. I.—Income Account.
No. II.—Profit and Loss Account.
No. III.—General Balance Sheet.
No. IV.*—Bonded Debt and Estimated Interest Charges for 1915-16
No. V.*—Securities Owned.
No. VI.*—Investment in Road and Equipment.
No. VII.*—Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, and Net, by Months.
No. VIII.*—Total Operating Revs., Operating Expenses, and Net.
No. IX.*—Operating Expenses, in Detail.
No. X.*—Passenger and Freight Statistics.

Very respectfully, CHARLES HAYDON, *Comptroller.*

* See full Pamphlet Report.

TABLE No. I.—INCOME ACCOUNT.

June 30, 1914.		$	$	$
$59,06,160 85	Railway Operating Revenues			51,606,051 39
45,012,304 [illegible]	Railway Operating Expenses, 76.41 per cent.			39,431,789 01
14,894,144 [illegible]	Net Income from Railway Operations, 23.59 per cent.			12,174,226 38
2,000,88 [illegible]	Railway Tax Accruals		2,136,712 78	
5,748 64	Uncollectible Railway Revenues		6,065 19	
2,606,007 06				2,142,777 97
12,288,151 85	Total Operating Income			10,031,488 41
	Non-Operating Income			
318,797 88	Hire of Equipment—Credit Balance		[illegible] 60	
11,[illegible]	Joint Facility Income		16,446 79	
69,[illegible]	Rent Income		[illegible]	
68,[illegible]	Revenue from Miscellaneous Sources		21,[illegible]	
269,[illegible]	Miscellaneous Non-Operating Income		[illegible]	
	Income Debits—Credits			
12,039 70	Credit Balance Agency Stations Branch	12,039 70		
206,06[illegible]	Expenses Account Organization	206,506 20		
218,545 90			218,545 90	
28,[illegible]	Miscellaneous Rent Income		[illegible]	
81,96[illegible]	Miscellaneous Income from Physical Property		104,[illegible] 39	
52[illegible]	Separately Operated Properties—Credit		129,909 16	
	Dividends Income			
157,142 00	Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville Railway Stock	77,[illegible] 00		
653,[illegible]	Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway Stock	[illegible]		
37,[illegible]	Southern [illegible]	847 00		
69,[illegible]	From stocks held under Georgia Railroad Lease	[illegible]		
915,313 89			87,[illegible] 00	
	Interest Income from Securities—			
224,160 40	Sinking Fund [illegible] maturing more than one year after date	200,[illegible] 37		
620 00	From Bonds held under Georgia Railroad Lease	620 00		
224,780 40			210,[illegible] 37	
691,101 21	Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts		678,093 01	
48 61	Income [illegible]		336 78	
2,88[illegible]	Total Non-operating Income			3,[illegible] 65
15,176,141 89	Gross Income			15,[illegible] 06
	Deductions from Gross Income			
24,[illegible]	Taxes [illegible]		10,270 48	
72,810 61	Joint Facility Rents		65,162 38	
551 80	Rent [illegible]		[illegible]	
588,247 00	Joint Facility Rents		[illegible]	
	Rent for Leased Roads			
118,709 68	Operation of Nashville & Decatur Railroad stock	119,[illegible] 19		
44,066 59	Rents [illegible]	[illegible]		
16,[illegible]			[illegible]	
17,510 2[illegible]	Miscellaneous Rents		31,[illegible] 10	
	Miscellaneous Items		22,836 42	
7,1[illegible]	Interest on Funded Debt		7,475,562 39	
12,0[illegible]	Interest on Unfunded Debt		41,[illegible] 24	
	Miscellaneous Income Charges			
83,500 00	Accrued premiums on bonds drawn for Sinking Funds	76,900 00		
8,251 76	U. S. Income [illegible] Tax Exempt Bonds	15,[illegible] 29		
16,[illegible]			90,[illegible] 29	
8,126,003 38	Total Deductions from Gross Income			8,[illegible] 20
7,050,138 51	Net Income			4,951,763 86
	Disposition of Net Income			
201,023 17	Income appropriated for Sinking Funds		69,584 31	
204,252 08	Net Income [illegible] Profit and Loss		22,037 32	
405,275 25	Total Appropriations			91,621 63
6,644,863 24	Income Balance transferred to Credit of Profit and Loss			4,860,142 23

* Loss.

NOTE.—Income Account [illegible] for comparative purposes, has been [illegible] with the Classification prescribed by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914, [illegible] which [illegible] to the [illegible].

TABLE No. II.—PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

		$	$	$
	CREDITS.			
	Balance to credit of this account June 30, 1914		39,597,434 00	
	Credit Balance transferred from Income Account		4,860,142 23	
	Donations			
	Estimated value of land donated for transportation purposes		108 40	
	Miscellaneous Credits—			
	Adjustment of Reserve Accounts for Accrued Depreciation on Material Property of the Company in Private Sidings to June 30, 1914	$238,211 58		
	Adjustment of Reserve Accounts for Accrual Depreciation on Ballast, Ties, Rails and certain items of other Track Material to June 30, 1915	78,342 76		
	Amount of entry charging this account in June, 1904 and crediting "Reserve for Company's Proportion of Unadjusted Claims" cancelled	203,323 80		
	Unpaid amounts on Audited Pay-rolls and Vouchers, prior to July 1, 1910, closed off	[illegible] 33		
	Sundry amounts	18,908 96		
			557,702 43	
				45,015,387 06
	DEBITS.			
	Dividend Appropriations of Surplus—			
	Cash Dividend, 2½ %, payable February 10, 1915	1,800,000 00		
	Cash Dividend, 2½ %, payable August 10, 1915	1,800,000 00		
			3,600,000 00	
	Debt Discount Extinguished through Surplus			
	Discount and expenses on bonds issued and sold during the year			
	Lexington & Eastern Railway Company First Mortgage Forty year 5 per cent. Gold Bonds		394,212 39	
	Loss on Retired Road and Equipment			
	Original cost and expense of removal of facilities abandoned and not replaced, less salvage recovered and depreciation accrued		11,940 84	
	Miscellaneous Debits			
	Sundry amounts		11,117 24	
	Balance Credit		40,9[illegible],116 89	
				45,015,387 06

TABLE No. III.—GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.

June 30, 1914.	DR. ASSETS.	$	$	$
	INVESTMENTS—			
188,257,308 65	Investment in Road and Equipment—Road	191,497,680 13		
52,403,031 52	Equipment	54,421,916 79		
240,660,340 17			245,919,596 92	
1,157,887 82	Improvements on Leased Railway Property		1,704,977 51	
1,106 629 86	Sinking Funds—Total Book Assets	1,187,893 16		
1,027,000 00	Bonds, this Company's Issue	1,092,000 00		
79,629 86			95,893 16	
3,220,078 08	Miscellaneous Physical Property		3,508,477 99	
6,385,403 62	Investments in Affiliated Companies—(a) Stocks—In Treasury $6,391,023 44			
14,913,200 85	Pledged 14,913,200 85			
21,298,604 37		21,304,224 29		
3,445,742 74	(b) Bonds	2,273 675 15		
1,400,698 41	(c) Notes	1,371,429 60		
19,840,125 77	(d) Advances	22,960,513 15		
45,985,171 29			47,909,842 19	
933,942 21	Other Investments—(a) Stocks	1,012.967 37		
4,787,320 89	(b) Bonds	4,472,827 35		
463,244 10	(c) Notes	596,754 54		
6,184 507 20			6,082,549 26	
297,287,614 42				305,221,337 03
	CURRENT ASSETS—			
13,710,126 60	Cash		9,894,133 51	
	Time Drafts and Deposits		4,155,767 27	
603,760 00	Special Deposits—Total Book Assets	605,514 25		
500,000 00	Bonds, this Company's Issue	500,000 00		
5 00	Stock $5 00			
103,695 00	Cash 105,509 25			
103,700 00			105,514 25	
169,144 73	Loans and Bills Receivable		253,949 59	
425,385 34	Traffic and Car Service Balances Receivable		355.206 23	
988,523 58	Net Balance Receivable from Agents and Conductors		955.217 25	
2,831,550 22	Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable		2.775 771 19	
7,086,383 22	Material and Supplies		5,879,961 94	
184,406 90	Interest and Dividends Receivable		147,147 39	
23,228 70	Rents Receivable		74,855 25	
25,522,449 29				24,597,523 87
	DEFERRED ASSETS—			
191,417 27	Working Fund Advances		45,007 55	
	Other Deferred Assets—			
5,913,500 00	Southern Railway Company's Proportion of Bonds Issued Jointly	5,913,500 00		
284,019 24	Other Accounts	235,688 54		
6,197.519 24			6,149,188 54	
6,388.936 51				6,194,196 09
	UNADJUSTED DEBITS—			
1,229,886 57	Other Unadjusted Debits			1,408,666 06
10,644,339 94	Securities Issued or Assumed—Unpledged	14,018,339 94		
3,929,000 00	Securities Issued or Assumed—Pledged	3,929,000 00		
	CONTINGENT ASSETS—			
2,500,000 00	L. & N. Terminal Co. Fifty-year 4 per cent. Gold Bonds outstanding, endorsed by Louisville & Nashville RR. Co and Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Ry.		2,500,000 00	
2,500,000 00	Memphis Union Station Co. First Mort. 5 per cent. Gold Bonds, guaranteed by the Louisville & Nashville RR. Co. and other interested Railroad Companies		2,500,000 00	
5,000,000 00				5,000,000 00
335,428,886 79	Grand Total			342,421,723 05

Note.—General Balance Sheet Accounts for previous fiscal year, for comparative purposes, have been revised in conformity with the Classification prescribed by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914. In making this revision the Southern Railway Company's proportion of bonds issued jointly with this Company, amounting to $5,913,500, has been included. All other changes in the accounts and total are occasioned by reclassification.

	CR. LIABILITIES.			
	STOCKS—			
71,917,200 00	Capital Stock—Full Shares Outstanding	71,917,200 00		
720 00	Fractional Shares Outstanding	720 00		
82,080 00	Original Stock and Subsequent Stock Dividends unissued	82,080 00		
72,000,000 00			72,000,000 00	
12,116 76	Premium on Capital Stock		12,116 76	
72,012,116 76				72,012,116 76
	LONG TERM DEBT—			
184,441,339 94	Book Liability—Funded Debt—Unmatured		193,770,339 94	
	Held by or for this Company—			
10,644,339 94	In Treasury	14,018,339 94		
1,027,000 00	In Sinking Funds	1,092,000 00		
3,929,000 00	Deposited as Collateral	3,929,000 00		
500,000 00	Special Deposit	500,000 00		
16,100,339 94			19,539,339 94	
168,341,000 00	Actually outstanding		174,231,000 00	
5,913,500 00	Liability of Southern Railway Company for Bonds issued Jointly with this Company		5,913,500 00	
174,254,500 00			180,144,500 00	
192,061 73	Non-Negotiable Debt to Affiliated Companies—Open Accounts		541,159 90	
174,446,561 73				180,685,659 90
	CURRENT LIABILITIES—			
220,657 14	Traffic and Car Service Balances Payable		221,160 92	
4,849,735 11	Audited Accounts and Wages Payable		3,428,684 20	
298,952 84	Miscellaneous Accounts Payable		219.885 22	
1,815.689 50	Interest Matured, Unpaid		1,848.784 50	
88,859 00	Dividends Matured, Unpaid		94.052 50	
95 000 00	Funded Debt Matured, Unpaid		105 000 00	
2,520,000 00	Unmatured Dividends, Declared		1,800,000 00	
951,112 49	Unmatured Interest Accrued		1,033,785 82	
4,619 39	Unmatured Rents Accrued		4,444 75	
8,700 00	Other Current Liabilities		8,550 00	
10,853,325 47				8,764,347 91
	DEFERRED LIABILITIES—			
485,467 28	Other Deferred Liabilities			190,730 15
	UNADJUSTED CREDITS—			
1,163,167 50	Tax Liability		1,152,436 46	
37,287 38	Operating Reserves		7,859 46	
9,974.264 55	Accrued Depreciation—Road		10,718,123 67	
17,439,535 40	Accrued Depreciation—Equipment		18.684,320 22	
	Accrued Depreciation—Miscellaneous Physical Property		256,513 17	
1,302,121 05	Other Unadjusted Credits		852,957 70	
29,916,175 88				31,672,210 68
	CORPORATE SURPLUS—			
2,356,039 41	Additions to Property through Income and Surplus		2,356,039 41	
471,312 18	Sinking Fund Reserves		540.896 49	
290,454 08	Appropriated Surplus not Specifically Invested		201,604 86	
3,117,805 67	Total Appropriated Surplus		3.098,540 76	
39,597,434 00	Profit and Loss—Balance		40,998,116 89	
42,715,239 67				44,096,657 68
	CONTINGENT LIABILITIES—			
2,500,000 00	L. & N. Terminal Co. Fifty-year 4 per cent. Gold Bonds outstanding, endorsed by Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co. and Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Ry.		2,500,000 00	
2,500,000 00	Memphis Union Station Co. First Mort. 5 per cent. Gold Bonds, guaranteed by Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co. and other interested Railroad Companies		2,500,000 00	
5,000,000 00				5,000,000 00
335,428,886 79	Grand Total			342,421,723 05

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

BARCLAY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

AN extraordinary general meeting of this Company was held on November 5 at the head office, 54 Lombard Street, E.C., for the purpose of submitting resolutions approving a joint working agreement with the United Counties Bank, Limited. Mr. J. Herbert Tritton presided.

In the absence of the Secretary (Mr. Edwin Fisher) on active service, the notice convening the meeting was read by Mr. W. N. Seeley, one of the assistant secretaries.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I have to ask you whether you will take the agreements which are referred to in the notice as read. (Agreed.) A telegram from Birmingham has just been placed in my hands announcing "Resolutions passed unanimously, Roper [illegible] at the extraordinary general meeting of the United Counties Bank this morning. (Applause.) I regret to have to explain to the shareholders that my presence in the chair at this meeting is due to the sudden and, let us hope, quite temporary indisposition of our Chairman, Mr. F. A. Bevan, and to the absence on military duties of our Vice-Chairman, Colonel H. G. Barclay. I may mention that four of our directors are absent serving with the Colours. You have been asked to come here to-day that you may approve of the working agreement between Barclay and Company, Limited, and the United Counties Bank, Limited, the particulars of which are very fully set forth in the letter inviting you to attend this meeting, but which you have taken as read.

Reasons for Amalgamation.

I will now call your attention to the circumstances which have brought it about. As stated in the letter of the 27th ultimo, your directors arranged provisional terms for amalgamation with the United Counties Bank, Limited, several months ago. This Bank was an old client of ours, and it was, therefore, natural that negotiations should be entered into between it and ourselves, and the terms set forth in the letter of 27th ultimo were agreed upon. Great pressure is being put on manufacturers of munitions to turn out work as fast as possible; large contracts are being entered into by the Government for the building of huts and purchase of foodstuffs, and the banks are being called upon by these manufacturers and contractors to finance them pending the period of repayment. I may say that during the War we have endeavoured to give all reasonable assistance to such customers. Looking at the present position of affairs, would it not appear self-evident that our proposals should be welcomed by the Government as adding to our mutual strength and therefore helping the financing of the requirements of the War? Then, looking to the future (to the longed-for day when peace—on terms satisfactory to the Allies—shall be made), it is quite clear that Germany must and will make greater efforts than ever to secure as much of the trade of the world as possible, and that our manufacturers and traders will have to do their very utmost to compete with them successfully. Therefore I say, whether looking to the present or the future, it is of the greatest importance that the banks in this country should be as strong as possible. And, may I not add, are not the Government greatly indebted to the banks for having come forward so splendidly with their very large subscriptions to the War Loan?

The Treasury Committee's Sanction Withheld.

Taking these matters into consideration, would you not have thought that when the Treasury Committee (whose sanction was necessary in order that the shares to be allotted to the United Counties Bank, Limited, should be marketable) was approached they would at once have signified their approval of the scheme? When first we asked their permission to amalgamate, one of the proposed conditions was an increase of capital, but, on being informed that they could not sanction any increase of capital during the War, we waived this part of the scheme and only asked for an exchange of shares, no application being made to the public and no prospectus issued, but we were again met with an absolute refusal. We then offered to go and explain our position to the Committee, but they refused to see us, giving no reason at all for their action. Now, I may inform you, gentlemen, that the highest financial authorities, and also some of the most eminent legal opinions, not only approved of our scheme, but expressed great surprise at the action of the Treasury Committee, and you have doubtless read the comments of the Press, which, I believe, without exception condemned the action of the Committee. What the reason is for their refusal remains a mystery. They have sanctioned many applications for issues of fresh capital in the case of companies and Colonial Governments, and I think the shareholders of the two banks may therefore justly complain that they have been very hardly treated by this Committee, which surely was never created to hinder such a sound business arrangement as this amalgamation. It has been generally understood that the functions of this Committee are purely for the prevention of export of capital from this country for foreign exploitations or for the financing of imports, and that they have no such duty of prohibiting business of a character which is calculated to promote and develop the manufacturing and export trades of this country.

Working Agreement Adopted [illegible].

It may be asked why, instead of waiting until the Committee give their sanction, or the War comes to an end, the Banks have not deferred action, and to this I reply that, having in prospect what both Banks believe to be a good thing, it is thought well to ensure, as far as can be done, the certainty of the scheme being carried out, and this we believe has been done by this working agreement, whereby neither Bank can for a very long period enter into negotiations with any other bank, and whereby each Bank will have some control in the management of the other. There is no amalgamation of capital, but there is a sharing of profits, any surplus of which, after paying the agreed dividends on the shares, will, after depreciation of securities, be divided between the two Banks in certain proportions, but for the present will be held in reserve.

Great Benefit Expected.

The directors of both Banks believe that this arrangement, leading on to amalgamation, will be of great benefit to each other. Barclay and Company, Limited, will have a large field, hitherto untouched, open to them (at present there are only seven places where both Banks have branches), and the United Counties Bank, Limited, will be able to give larger facilities to their customers in the manufacturing and commercial centres in which they already carry on very important business. We consider, therefore, that from a national standpoint this amalgamation should be for the public benefit, both now and in the difficult times which must come upon us when the War has terminated.

Possible Alteration of Financial Year.

There is one other matter to which I should like to refer before putting the resolutions of which you have received notice. It is that possibly, I do not say certainly, we may find it convenient to alter our financial year so that it shall terminate on December 31 in each year instead of on June 30, as hitherto. If this is decided upon we shall, in January next, present to you an account of our doings for a period of six months only. We have always felt it to be somewhat of an inconvenience to have our financial year terminating in June, but that arrangement was made because this Company commenced business as a Company in July 1896. Now seems to be a reasonable opportunity for making what will be a welcome change to our directors, officers, and staff, and it will at the same time make the financial year of this Bank and that of the United Counties Bank coincide.

I do not know whether I am justified in adding one sentence to that, but personally I am not without hope that the Treasury Committee may, after all, see fit to sanction this amalgamation. (Hear, hear.)

I have now to move:—"That the agreement dated October 25, 1915, submitted to this meeting and made between this Company of the one part and the United Counties Bank, Limited, of the other part (hereinafter called 'the joint working agreement') be, and the same is hereby approved, and that the directors of this Company be and they are hereby authorised to take all steps which may be found necessary or desirable in order to carry such agreement into effect, including also the arrangement with the General Manager of the United Counties Bank, Limited, produced to this meeting and for the purpose of identification initialled by the Chairman." I will call upon Mr. Henry Birkbeck to second that resolution.

Mr. Henry Birkbeck: I beg to second the resolution.

The Chairman: Does any gentleman wish to make any observation before I put that resolution to the meeting?

There was no response to the Chairman's invitation, and he thereupon put the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have now to propose the second resolution, namely: "That Sir James Smith, Sir Gilbert Henry Claughton, Bart., Sir John Cousin Horsfall, Bart., and George Macpherson, Esq. (who have been nominated by the United Counties Bank, Limited, under the provisions of the Joint Working Agreement), be and they are hereby appointed additional directors of the Company." I see by the newspapers that Sir Gilbert Claughton is stated to be somewhat seriously ill. I trust that he may have a speedy recovery.

Mr. Seymour P. Beattie seconded this resolution, and it was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I may mention to you—and I am sure you will be interested to hear—that the four directors on this Board who will join the United Counties Board are Mr. C. H. Dent, Mr. E. R. Dodsworth, Mr. H. E. Snagge, and Mr. C. M. Woodbridge. That really concludes our business, and I thank you for your attendance.

Shareholders' Approval.

Mr. Millar Wilkinson: Gentlemen, I am quite sure that every shareholder present will support me with great enthusiasm when I say that I have risen to propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman, Mr. J. Herbert Tritton. It gives me great personal satisfaction to have the opportunity of doing this. At the same time, I should not be quite true to myself were I not to say that that great pleasure is somewhat modified by the remembrance that he is occupying the position, as he has told you, owing to the absence of our esteemed Chairman, Mr. F. A. Bevan, through indisposition. I am quite sure we earnestly hope that that indisposition is trifling, and that his absence is only temporary. I should like to take this opportunity also of saying how very heartily I approve of this amalgamation—or, rather, working agreement. I am a citizen of London of over 50 years' standing, so that I know something about these things. It is not the first success that Barclay and Company have achieved and in which I have been interested, but I think this is one of the best. I do not wish to introduce one word of politics, but at the same time I cannot for the life of me imagine what is the idea of the Treasury Committee in preventing the amalgamation. I have asked several people who, I felt sure, could tell me, but they could not suggest one word of explanation. Of course, this working agreement is tantamount to an amalgamation, and, as Mr. Tritton has told us, the amalgamation is sure to come, because Barclay and Company never take anything lying down. If they do not get a thing at one time they will go on until they do get it. Look at the price of these shares: ever since this has been mooted the shares of the United Counties Bank have risen, and so have those of Barclay and Company, owing to the delight which the proposal has given not only to the shareholders but also to that more importance body, the public, and I think the public are the best judges that I have ever met in the course of my life with regard to stocks and shares. I should like to say a great deal about this matter, because it is very interesting, but I think I have already said enough to show you what my opinion is. I therefore move a vote of thanks to Mr. Tritton for presiding, and I hope he will take steps to send to Mr. Bevan an expression of great regret at his illness, at the same time wishing him a speedy recovery.

Mr. G. Rowland Blades seconded the vote.

The Rev. Charles Leafe: I should like to be allowed to say a word or two. For many years I was a shareholder in the United Counties Bank. I joined in the amalgamation of the Nottingham and District, and I have a very high opinion of the directors of that bank, and am delighted to see them here to-day. I have a very high opinion of Barclay and Co., Limited. I have such confidence in the directors, having known them for so long, that even if I did not know where they were taking me I should be prepared to follow them, because I feel sure they will do what is right, as they always have done. I know they stand very high in the estimation of the public. I support this vote of thanks, and wish to show my appreciation of this working arrangement.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I beg to thank you very heartily and warmly for the vote of thanks which you have passed to me for the insignificant part which I have played to-day. It has given me great pleasure, although the absence of Mr. Bevan is a matter of great regret to me. I will certainly forward to him an expression of the shareholders' regret at his absence, and of their hope that he may be speedily restored to health.

The proceedings then terminated.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting was held at 15 St. James's Square, S.W., on November 5, Mr. John Coles presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: When I had the honour of addressing you in this room a year ago I reminded you that war upsets nearly all the actuarial calculations which govern life assurance. We do not know yet how long the War will last, or what results it may leave behind. I hope peace will come before June next, for the great problem before us, which I dare not attempt to solve to-day, is the value of our assets on June 30, 1916, when our valuation comes to be made. It was somewhat difficult to value our Stock Exchange securities on June 30 last, so the book valuation remains for the present as in 1914. The shrinkage in the value of our Stock Exchange securities is considerable, but not enough to impair our strong position, and fortunately only one-third of our assets (or, say, £2,000,000) is invested in these securities. More than half of these are repayable at par at varying dates. After careful consideration of the whole position I have come to the conclusion that 4% of our total assets—say, £250,000—would be an outside estimate of the depreciation on June 30 last. As regards our mortgages, we cannot find any weakness in any of them, and there is no interest overdue. I must not forget to refer to our investment of £768,000 in the General Reversionary Company. Our General Manager and Mr. Tilt have lately gone carefully into this item, and they find that its value is fully maintained. In view of the remarkable condition of the New York Exchange, we have, since our accounts were closed on June 30, sold a considerable portion of our United States Railroad bonds at about cost price and re-invested the proceeds in the new 4½% Government Loan. After converting our Consols and our first War Loan we now hold £310,000. We have no investment on the Continent of Europe. Amidst the depreciation of assets there is at least one bright spot, and that is the growth in value of these excellent freehold premises. They stand in our books at £18,000, and I am assured that they are worth to-day nearly £50,000. I should like to say a few words as to our bonus prospects. We are, it is true, in a transitionary period, and it is impossible to see far ahead, but our actuary informs me that the first three years of this quinquennium were remarkably prosperous and yielded unusually large profits, so that if peace had continued we should certainly have been able to divide next year a sum greatly in excess of the £750,000 distributed in 1911. Last year yielded nearly the usual profit from surplus interest, and in spite of war claims there was still some mortality profit, and the current year seems likely to give somewhat similar results. The prospects of bonus, therefore, apart from the question of depreciation of assets, are exceptionally good. I observe that a note of alarm has lately been sounded in the Press as to the outlook for with-profit policyholders in British companies which may cause some disquietude. But life assurance in this country is for the most part on firm foundations, and no fear need arise. The worst, I think, that can happen to the with-profit policyholders in any life office making quinquennial valuations is that on one occasion only their bonus may be diminished, followed, however, by much greater strength and earning power due to the writing down of securities and consequent

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THE STATE has shown its approval of Life Assurance as a means to National Thrift by allowing a liberal rebate of Income Tax on Life Assurance Premiums. This concession applies equally to WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCES and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES (within certain limits) on the life of the taxpayer or his wife. No other mode of investing money offers similar advantages.

A SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND

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G. J. LIDSTONE,
Manager & Actuary.

increase in the rate of interest. The Chairman then dealt with the figures in the annual report, and pointed out that the net new business amounted to £672,000. This, he thought, was a very satisfactory total for a year which included eleven months of war.

The report was unanimously adopted.

WESTERN CANADA INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE eighth annual general meeting was held on November 5 at the offices of the Company, 24 Coleman Street, E.C., Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the total revenue for the year was £19,726, as against £20,630 in the preceding year. The slight falling off was explained by the fact that in the year just ended no credit was taken for certain sums earned by the Company, but which were not at present available. The net revenue was £11,710, as against £12,601, and the amount brought forward was £6,364, making the net available balance £18,074. After deducting the Preference dividend there was a surplus of £13,599. It was proposed to utilise that amount by writing £1,000 off preliminary expenses—reducing the item to £2,000, and adding £5,000 to reserve, which would be raised to £9,000. After paying a dividend on the Ordinary shares of 3½% they were able to carry forward to next year the substantial sum of £5,809. There were rather more arrears than usual, but he thought it would be agreed that, in view of the prevailing conditions in almost every part of the world, arising out of the terrible war, the balance sheet was satisfactory. In the opinion of their local advisers in Winnipeg the loan accounts of the Company were generally in a good condition and need not cause any apprehension. It was believed that collections would improve, in spite of the operations of the moratorium in some parts of the country. The encouraging feature in the outlook was the splendid crop which Canada had obtained this year. It was by far the largest on record, and it would give much gratification in the United Kingdom, where, they hoped, most of it would be marketed. It was also causing general jubilation in the Dominion, as it would put a good deal of money into the pockets of the people, and the results would certainly be beneficial to Companies like theirs which had to look forward to payments on account of advances—both principal and interest. A larger dividend could easily have been paid out of the funds at the disposal of the Company, but after careful consideration the directors deemed it wise to conserve their resources, so that the Company might retain the strong position it had always occupied, and be in a better position to meet any emergencies that might arise. Government contracts for munitions and supplies of all kinds had been arranged in the Dominion to the extent of about £100,000,000, and the business activity that would be necessary to execute those contracts must beneficially affect every part of Canada.

Mr. G. W. Currie, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC DIVIDEND.

THE Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company has declared a dividend of £2 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent. on its 5% Second Preference stock in respect of the past twelve months, against the full rate a year ago. This automatically implies a corresponding distribution on the Ordinary stock of the Argentine Great Western Railway Company. The drop in the dividend was generally anticipated, and, having regard to the heavy loss in earnings, it is probable that the Company has only succeeded in making such a distribution by drawing upon the balance brought in from last year. The decline in gross receipts was £321,000, or 6.5%, and although a considerable reduction has doubtless been effected in working expenses, it is not likely to have been sufficient to prevent a fairly heavy drop in profits, especially as higher interest charges have had to be met. However, the Company is now doing very much better, and in the first 18 weeks of the current financial year the improvement in earnings has been as much as £293,000, or within £28,000 of the loss sustained for the whole of 1914-15. The crop outlook, moreover, is very encouraging, and there is little doubt that twelve months hence the Company will have fully regained the position it held prior to the outbreak of war. The price of the Ordinary stock is about 46, and the Second Preference stock is quoted at 64. The Ordinary stock of the Argentine Great Western Company is also quoted round about 64.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF HAVANA.

United Railways of the Havana and the allied companies in the past twelve months. All three undertakings showed satisfactory increases in earnings, and these increases have been accompanied by economies in working. The gross receipts of the United Company expanded £81,000, or about 5%, and the working expenses were reduced by £61,000, or 6.8%, so that notwithstanding some increase in charges the gain in profit comes out at £137,000, or 23.1%. The balance available for distribution amounts to £589,800, a sum equal to about 9% on the Ordinary stock. The payment of a dividend of 5% for the year requires £328,000, and there is thus a surplus of £261,800, of which £260,000 is placed to various reserve and renewal funds and £1,300 added to the balance carried forward, which is raised from £14,217 to £15,549. Twelve months ago the dividend was at a similar rate, but it was paid in the form of 5% Debenture stock, and the reserve and other funds received £140,000. The excellence of the year's results will be appreciated by a glance at the accompanying table:—

Year—	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit	729,858	592,654	620,559	517,908	269,042
Div. on 5% Cum. Pref. stk.	140,000	126,766	114,110	114,028	38,500
Profit for Ordinary ...	589,858	465,888	506,449	403,880	230,542
Dividend on Ordinary ...	328,001	328,001	293,000	263,700	190,400
Rate per cent.	(5%)	(5%)	(5%)	(4½%)	(4%)
Surplus	261,857	137,887	213,449	140,180	40,142
Transferred to—					
Reserve	150,000	50,000	125,000	75,000	15,000
General renewals account	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	25,000
Insurance fund	5,000	—	5,000	10,000	—
Pension account	5,000	—	20,000	—	—
Expenditure on works ...	—	40,000	15,000	—	—
Total to reserve funds ...	260,000	140,000	215,000	135,000	40,000
Balance	Cr. 1,857	Dr. 2,113	Dr. 1,551	5,180	Cr. 142
Brought forward	13,692	16,330	17,881	12,701	12,559
Carried forward	15,549	14,217	16,330	17,881	12,701

The Company is likely to do much better in the current year, having regard to the continued big demand for Cuban sugar and the high prices at which it is being sold. Since the end of June the increase in earnings is as much as £92,955, which goes against a falling-off last year in the same period of only £17,623.

"The flourishing condition of the sugar industry," writes the general manager, "should favourably affect our traffic, as we expect to carry large quantities of heavy machinery, together with other local materials, such as stone, sand, lime, cement, etc., required in its erection. The improvements which are being carried out at the mills will also keep a large number of men employed, resulting in a greater consumption of foodstuffs in the country, and our traffic in this general merchandise from the port to the interior should increase." Regarding the sugar position, he states that there is a considerably larger quantity of cane available for grinding this year, and should be much richer in sugar and give a larger yield. He estimates that the crop will yield 943,317 tons of sugar, equal to 6,309,817 bags, representing an increase of 6% over the 1914-15 figures, which was the largest ever handled by the Company.

The price of the Ordinary stock advanced on the dividend announcement and is now quoted at 78½. As this includes the full year's dividend of 5%, the yield afforded is as much as £6 16*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

Sudan Gold Field.—Capital £63,874, in 10*s.* shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Gold Value £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 ...	16,456	49,898	60/8	36/3	20,047	24/5	3/6
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	—	12,828	—	—	—	—	7/9
June qr ...	4,538	12,143	55/11	—	—	—	8/6
Sept. qr....	4,188	11,426	54/8	—	—	—	8/0
Oct. ...	1,375	3,993	58/8	—	—	—	7/9

Dividends—1915, March, 1/0.

The tonnage milled, it will be noted, shows considerable increase, while the yield is lower.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

For further information please apply:—GRAY, DAWES & Co., 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., and 16 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; or GELLATLY, HANKEY & Co., Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C., and 62, Pall Mall, S.W.

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Under Contract to carry His Majesty's Mails to
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Twin sc. steamers.	Tons.	London.	Toulon.	Naples
OSTERLEY	12,129	Nov. 20	Nov. 25	Nov. 27
ORSOVA	12,036	Jan. 1	Jan. 9	Jan. 11

Managers—F. Green & Co. and Anderson, Anderson & Co.
For passage apply to the latter firm at 5 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., or to the Branch Office, 28 Cockspur Street, S.W.

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ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.
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For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

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An application to the London Manager, 187 Fleet Street, E.C., will bring details of Charges. Private wire to Liverpool is open day and night.

The Liverpool Courier

INTERNATIONAL BANKING NUMBER
OF
'The Statist'
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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ESTABLISHED 1825.
Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.
J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE B. HART, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.
J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.
The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.
The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET OF THE

Commonwealth Bank of Australia,

AT 30th JUNE, 1915.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Deposits, Accrued Interest and Rebate	£8,547,596 11 0	Coin, Bullion and Cash Balances	£4,418,668 2 1
Bills Payable and other Liabilities	750,327 14 9	Australian Commonwealth Notes	[illegible] 10 0
Savings Bank Department—		Money at Short Call in London	2,[illegible]0 0 0
Depositors' Balances (with Interest Accrued)	7,420,647 7 1	Investments—	
Capital Debentures Issued	— — —	British, Colonial and Government Securities (face value, £5,662,593 19s. 1d.)	5,479,480 3 0
Reserve Fund	1,110 15 9	Commonwealth Securities	— — —
Redemption Fund	1,110 15 9	Fixed Deposits of other Banks	[illegible],000 0 0
	£16,720,723 4 4	Bills Receivable in London, Discounted, in Transit	232,613 17 1
Contingent Liabilities—		Bills Discounted, Loans and Advances to Customers and other sums due to the Bank	2,[illegible],838 18 4
Outstanding Credits *per contra*	47,742 10 8	Bank Premises	128,575 13 10
			£16,72[illegible],729 4 4
		Liabilities of Customers and others on Letters of Credit *per contra*	47,742 10 8
	£16,768,465 15 0		£16,768,465 15

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Amount from last Account	£23,[illegible]63 16 11	By Profits for Half-year ended 30th June, 1915	£2[illegible],788 8 5
Reserve Fund	1,110 15 9		
Redemption Fund	1,110 15 9		
	£25,788 8 5		£25,788 8 5

RESERVE FUND.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Balance	£1,110 15 9	By Balance	— — —
		Transfer from Profit and Loss Account of one-half of the Net Profits	£1,110 15 9
	£1,110 15 9		£1,110 15 9

REDEMPTION FUND.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Balance	£1,110 15 9	By Balance	— — —
		Transfer from Profit and Loss Account of one-half of the Net Profits	£1,110 15 9
	£1,110 15 9		£1,110 15 9

GOLD COIN AND BULLION HELD FOR THE TREASURER OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

The Bank also holds in Gold Coin and Bullion for the Treasurer of the Commonwealth ... £5,700,623 18 2

Sydney, 18th August, 1915.

DENISON MILLER, Governor.

We certify that the above Balance Sheet, compiled from Statements furnished by the several offices of the Bank, is true and correct.

H. T. ARMITAGE. D. B. MURDOCH.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Commonwealth Bank Act, 1911, I have to report that the Aggregate Balance Sheet of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for the half-year ended 30th June, 1915, has been examined by officers under my direction, as well as by myself. The several items of the account, as above set forth, have been verified with the books and vouchers, with the securities held by the Bank, and with Statements certified by the respective Managers and Accountants of the Bank.

I have obtained all the information and explanations required by me. The said Balance Sheet has been prepared in the form prescribed by the Regulations under the Act, and, in my opinion, it exhibits a correct view of the affairs of the Bank.

I have also to report that the sum of £5,700,623 18s. 2d. above set forth was held by the Bank in Gold Coin and Bullion for the Treasurer of the Commonwealth.

J. W. ISRAEL, Auditor-General for the Commonwealth.

31st August, 1915.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capital £750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital... £240,000

HEAD OFFICE ... AMSTERDAM.
LONDON AGENCY... 2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
LONDON MANAGER J. COST BUDDE.

All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated 29th July, 1861.
(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)
LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.
Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.
ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ...	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable, Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia

E. M. JANION, Manager.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

7 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000 Shares of £20 each £2,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL 1,250,000
RESERVE FUND 1,100,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre. River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent for collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	3,600,000
Total Assets over	80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—	
Subscribed	£4,500,000
Unissued	500,000
	£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up ...	£2,250,000
Reserve Fund	1,[illegible],000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders ...	2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors	£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places in South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. Purchase and Sale of Bullion, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq. William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised -	$25,000,000
Capital Paid up - -	$11,560,000
Reserve Funds - -	$13,000,000
Aggregate Assets -	$180,000,000

Head Office MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, E. L. PEASE,
President. Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS — Bridgetown; DOMINICA — Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Established 1864.

Paid-up Capital ($7,000,000) £1,438,356
Reserve Fund & Undivided Profits ($7,245,140) £1,488,727

Head Office: Montreal.

PRESIDENT—SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, C.V.O.
VICE-PRESIDENT—K. W. BLACKWELL.
GENERAL MANAGER—E. F. HEBDEN.

This institution has 208 Branches and Agencies extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific (91 being in the Western Provinces).
Every facility offered to the business of immigrants; Savings Department at all Branches, where interest is allowed at 3 per cent. per annum.
Drafts sold available in any city or banking town in the United Kingdom or United States.

Agents in Great Britain:
The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
The Royal Bank of Scotland.
They issue Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers available at any banking point in Canada.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.
Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.
DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	... £3,00 ,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	... 2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL ...	... 750,000
RESERVE FUND	... 685,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL ...	... 1,500,000

Receives Deposits of £50 and upwards, for 1, 2 or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum.
Drafts, Letters of Credit and Wire Remittances granted, and Bills on New Zealand purchased or sent for collection.
H. FRESHWATER, Secretary and London Manager.
17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.

Authorised Capital	£1,500,000
Called up	£600,000
Reserve Fund	£55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking and Agency business in connection with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	$8,808,891.79
Assets - -	$39,077,630.77

$5 equals approx. £1.
41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	$6,880,000

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address—"FOURBANK." London Agents—SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.
Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
London Offices—Circus Place, London Wall, E.C., and 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to ...	4,000,000
Reserve Fund	525,000

Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
Deposits received. Current Accounts opened and all descriptions of Banking business connected with South Africa and the Belgian Congo transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.

Capital Authorised ...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up ...	562,500
Reserve Fund	500,000

Branches:
INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS & CHINA.
The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.
Deposits received for one year at 4 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.
On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)
Authorised Capital, £1,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £625,000

Paid-up Capital ...	£500,000
Reserve Fund ...	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital ...	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.
Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.
Drafts issued and **Remittances** cabled.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, *Manager.*

Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices, 51 Cannon Street, in the City of London, England.—*November 6, 1915.*

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A Journal of Practical Finance and Trade.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

VOL. LXXXVI.—No. 1,968.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1915. [PRICE 6d., POST FREE 8d. U.K.)

SALES BY AUCTION.

JOHN HOARE AND CO.
will Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on Saturday, 30th October, Tuesday, 9th November, Wednesday, 17th November,
5,750 Bales AUSTRALASIAN WOOL
5,500 „ PUNTA ARENAS WOOL
750 „ ENGLISH WOOL, Specially Classed).
Catalogues in due course of JOHN HOARE and CO., 73 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

BANCO DE CHILE.
London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.
The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.
Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits	$3,600,000
Total Assets over	$80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.
London Committee:
J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G.;
Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.
Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to
LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C.
26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT
(Established by Khedival Decree, June 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to bearer.)
Capital, £3,000,000 in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.) Reserve Fund, £1,500,000.
Governor: F. T. Rowlatt, Esq. Head Office: Cairo.
London Committee—
E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G. Hon. Algernon Mills.
Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Hon. Sidney Peel.
LONDON AGENCY:
6 & 7 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager: J. T. Beaty-Pownall.
Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.
Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Circular Notes issued. Every kind of Banking business transacted.
Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-El-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah and Zagazig; and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Said and Suakim.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	„ 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	„ 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Mukden (Fengtien)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,033,410

Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24/28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.
Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.
Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.
Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.
Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.
Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.
SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.
London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK
of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.
HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C.
West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley.
A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.
Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD.
Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

BANCO DEL PERU Y
LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.
71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange 0. 2s. per $ £1,500,000	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.
BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Colombo, Foochow, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.
LONDON COMMITTEE.
Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Chairman.
Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.
Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

CITIES SERVICE COMPANY.

At a Special Meeting held by the Board of Directors of the Cities Service Company the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas dividends were declared on the Preferred stock of the Company on the 1st day of October, 1914, and on the 1st day of January, 1915, each amounting to the sum of One million dollars, and whereas the Company has issued this stock and the proceeds thereof have been used for the purchase of oil and gas producing properties and for the development of oil and gas producing properties and working cash capital. And whereas it is provided that their stock will not be offered to the public at present and purchasers may withdraw their stock from the syndicate, it is agreed that the Preferred stock may not be sold at less than 85 per cent. of par, and Common at not less than 5 per cent.

Holders of Preferred stock of record December 15th will be entitled to receive on January 1st 1916 Convertible Debentures of the Company to 9 per cent. of their holdings as payment for the said deferred dividends to that date, the holders to have a right to convert the Debentures at any time into stock and to receive [illegible] stock and 5 of Common stock for each one hundred dollars in Debentures.

Holders of Common stock will have 9 per cent. in Debentures as aforesaid [illegible] certificates issued to holders of record December 15th, which will entitle them to receive Debentures when all holders of Preferred stock have been paid the said dividend. The Company will issue similar [illegible] dividends in cash on its Preferred stock [illegible] to holders of record January 15th.

E. MACKAY EDGAR, Vice-President.

London,
November 14th, 1915.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend (No. 30) of 5 per cent. [illegible] income tax, has been declared on the Shares of the Corporation and will be payable on December 15th 1915 to shareholders registered on November 15, 1915.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from November 16th to November [illegible] inclusive, for the preparation of Dividend Lists, Warrants being posted on December 9th.

By Order of the Board,
HOBART MORGAN, Secretary.

Registered office:
6 Salisbury Street,
Holborn Bars, E.C.
11th November, 1915.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.

At a Meeting of the Board of Directors held to-day, a dividend of Two and One-half per cent. on the Common Stock for the quarter ended 30th September last, being at the rate of Six per cent. per annum, from Special Income Account, was declared, payable on the 31st December next to Shareholders of record at 3 P.M. on 30th November next.

By Order of the Board,
WALTER R. BAKER,
Secretary.

Montreal, November 8th, 1915.

THE CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 5% (Five per cent.), less tax, has been declared payable to all Shareholders registered on Thursday, the 4th November, 1915, and to the Holders of Coupon No. 24 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The Dividend will be payable after the receipt of Transfer Returns from South Africa.

F. HAINES, Secretary.

1 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.,
11th November, 1915

THE WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

The Preference Share Registers of the Company will be Closed from the 16th to the 30th November, both days inclusive, for the payment of a Dividend to the 31st August 1915.

JOHN T. CHASNEY,
Secretary.

THE METROPOLITAN CARRIAGE, WAGON, AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books relating to the Ordinary and Preference Shares of the Company will be Closed from Tuesday, the 16th day of November, to Tuesday, the 30th day of November, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
LINCOLN CANDLER and
H. E. FARROW, } Secretaries.

Registered Offices—
Saltley, Birmingham.
10th November, 1915.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S
Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.
are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Future Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.
ESTABLISHED 1841. INCORPORATED 1914.
Principal Office ... BIRMINGHAM.
London Branch Office:
HALTON HOUSE, 20-23 HOLBORN, E.C.

Accumulated Funds Exceed	Claims Paid Exceed
£2,400,000.	£7,500,000.

Annual Valuations and Distribution of Profits.

All classes of Life Assurance and Annuity Business transacted.

Copies of the Annual and Valuation Reports, New Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained on application.

A. L. HUNT,
General Manager.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

For further information please apply:—GRAY, DAWES & Co., 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., and 16 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; or GELLATLY, HANKEY & Co., Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C., and 62, Pall Mall, S.W.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canada and Canadian affairs thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their [illegible] should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of [illegible], Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Municipalities, etc., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

THE INVESTORS' INFORMATION BUREAU

will give reliable and [illegible] advice on any matter of investment interest free to subscribers.

Send 2 penny stamps for Specimen Copy.

GREAT BRITAIN and COLONIES 12s. 6d. per annum.
FRANCE and other FOREIGN COUNTRIES 16s. 6d. per annum.

BRITISH OFFICE—88 FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.
HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO, CANADA.

UNION-CASTLE LINE.

South and East Africa
ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.
The Cape, Natal, Transvaal, Rhodesia, East African Ports, Mauritius, etc.

For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor [illegible] E. CAMPBELL, Esq.
and Deputy Governor [illegible] N. GOSCHEN, Esq.
Deputy Governor [illegible] C. GOSCHEN, Esq.
Secretary [illegible] Underwriter—E. E. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary [illegible] MANNING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and transacts also Accident, Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-glass and Annuity Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ORDINARY and INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.
LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bonus Policy [illegible] to meet present conditions, and [illegible] for the [illegible] in case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3,840,000.
Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated in Canada 1851.

Paid-up Capital £513,698. **Total Losses Paid exceed £12,600,000.**

FIRE Consequential Fire Loss **MARINE**

Insurances granted at Current Rates.

British and Foreign Office - 14 CORNHILL, E.C.
W. A. Mills, Fire Manager. [illegible] Bentley, Assistant Fire Manager
R. H. R. Brown, Chief Marine Manager and Secretary.

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Provident Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

Payable in Advance.

Inland.

ONE YEAR, £1 10 0 HALF-YEAR, £0 15 0

(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8

(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

POINTS
from the
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

for the Year ending 20th November, 1914.

Mortality experience... ... 72½%
Expense Ratio 10.2%
Rate of Interest, less Tax ... £4 1 10%

[illegible]

WRITE FOR [illegible] 48 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

ROYAL LONDON
INSURANCE OFFICES.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.
ROYAL LONDON [illegible] INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

LIFE, FIRE, ACCIDENT.

Head Offices:
ROYAL LONDON HOUSE, FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

[illegible]

Provide for Death Duties

Whether your Estate be large or small, it will pay you to take thought of the heavy toll that will be levied on it by the Government at your death. Write to-day for a copy of D 12a. Leaflet "Death Duties and how to provide for them." You will find it both interesting and instructive. A postcard will bring it.

The STANDARD LIFE Assurance Co. Estd. 1825.

Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.
[illegible] Kings, William Street, E.C.,
and 3 Pall Mall East, S.W. [illegible] Lawson Street

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1915.

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[illegible] Wholesale Commodities...	497
VIII. Traffic Receipts	498
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses— Call.	Discount Houses— Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ..	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

MONEY.

HIGHER RATES.

The need of the Government to borrow from bankers, either by the sale of Treasury bills or by short loans, has completely changed the condition of the Money market since the final payment was made upon the War Loan, and ot is obvious that there will not again be any surplus supply of money in the market until the nation becomes more economical and the foreign exchanges are adjusted. Were we a self-contained nation, loans to the Government, followed by disbursements, would cause the money to become available again for further loans. But Great Britain is far from being self-contained, and consequently the great Governmental expenditures, unattended by corresponding economy in the domestic expenditure, must inevitably cause great exports of gold, thus curtailing the power of bankers to lend. Fortunately the Bank of England is able to replace some of the gold exported by gold coming to hand from South Africa and by obtaining gold from the banks of France and of Russia. Nevertheless, the loss of gold is substantial. In the week to Wednesday last the sum of gold shipped was £3,210,000, against which there were arrivals of £1,616,000. The net loss was thus £1,594,000, and yesterday and to-day nearly £3,000,000 of gold has been sent away.

Possibly when the arrangements for creating exchange in America are completed, and the £96,000,000 of money raised by Great Britain and France is fully available for exchange purposes, and the proposed credit in New York on account of British bankers for £40,000,000 is available, the export of gold from London to New York will become smaller. At the present moment, however, in spite of the credits that have been arranged and are in process of arrangement, large amounts of gold are being sent daily to the United States. Moreover, when the American exchange is adjusted the ability of a great many miscellaneous countries to draw gold from London will remain. A statement we give elsewhere shows clearly the really striking change that has occurred in our trade balances with individual countries since the War began. If it be borne in mind that as regards our loans of capital to other lands we are now lending in war more than we did in peace, and that over and above the great balances in favour of other countries as shown by the Government returns, we have to provide great sums in respect of our advances of capital, and in respect of Government stores, less, of course, our income from interest, shipping, &c., one realises that a great drain upon the gold supplies of this country must inevitably continue until steps are taken to curtail our enormous purchases of foreign goods and to increase our exports of British goods. With an adverse trade balance of some £600,000,000 a year, gold will continue to be exported in spite of all the credits we may obtain in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere. If, however, steps were taken to induce or to compel the nation to become more economical in its domestic expenditures there would immediately be a curtailment of imports and an expansion of exports, and a far greater sum would be provided for exchange purposes than can possibly be found out of the nation's gold fund. Of course, the country possesses a large stock of gold which it can export, and beyond the gold it holds there is the daily output from South Africa, while the Banks of France and of Russia can supply considerable sums. But it will be obvious that if we pour out gold upon the world after our present manner we shall create a degree of inflation which will force the prices of commodities up to figures not reached since the days of Napoleon.

Already the situation in the United States gives evidence of this danger. The speculation in securities and in commodities is becoming rampant, and the great boom in trade which seems to be at hand will cause America's consumption of goods of all kinds and descriptions greatly to increase. And it is evident that these conditions will soon spread to other countries. Hence the need to restrict the national expenditures at the earliest possible moment, in order to provide for the adverse trade balance not by shipments of gold, but by shipments of British goods and reduced imports, as well as by sales of securities and by credit operations.

Now that the Government is dependent upon the Money market to finance the War for the time being, it has found it desirable to advance its rates for Treasury Bills to the basis of 5% all round for three, six, nine, and twelve months' bills. In consequence of this advance open market rates of discount to-day have risen to 5⅜% for bills of all maturities from two to six months.

INDIA STERLING BILLS.

Tenders were received at the Bank of England on Wednesday last for India bills to the amount of £3,500,000, in replacement of bills for £2,500,000 falling due on November 16, and in partial replacement of bills paid off temporarily during the current financial year. The bills are dated November 16, 1915, and will run for twelve months. The applications amounted to £6,175,000, those tendering at £94 12*s*. 3*d*. receiving about 78%; above in full. The average price at which the bills were disposed of was £94 12*s*. 11.87*d*., equal to an average discount rate of £5 7*s*. 0.13*d*. per cent.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

On balance for the week ended Wednesday £1,594,000 in gold was withdrawn from the Bank for export, but as £290,000 returned from the country, the net loss of gold was £1,304,000. The note circulation declined £235,000, and the net loss of reserve was thus reduced £1,069,000. The gold now held is £55,351,000, the note circulation is £33,199,000, and the reserve £40,603,000. There was a decline of £5,359,000 in other deposits, due to an addition of £3,421,000 to the public deposits, a reduction of £873,000 in other securities, and the loss of over a million in reserve. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is slightly lower at 29.13%.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

The supply of money in New York is superabundant, and call loans are obtainable at less than 2%. The reserves of the Associated banks steadily increase, and now stand at £147,218,000 in comparison with only £92,000,000 at the beginning of the year. These enormous resources are causing bankers to make loans liberally, and last week the expansion was over £8,000,000, making a total increase of over £100,000,000 since the end of July. The deposits last week increased over £9,000,000, and since the beginning of the year have expanded £243,000,000. The surplus reserves were last week reduced only £440,000 notwithstanding this great increase in the deposits, and still amount to £38,300,000.

A BRITISH CREDIT IN NEW YORK.

An important event of the week has been the formation in New York of a bankers' committee for the purpose of handling a credit reported to be for £40,000,000 for account of London bankers. The Chairman of the committee is Mr. F. A. Vanderlip, the President of the National City Bank, and the committee includes the leading bankers of New York, Chicago, and Montreal. The committee representing British bankers working in co-operation with the New York committee consists of Lord Cunliffe, the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Edward Holden, and Sir Felix Schuster.

The Irving National Bank of New York notify us by cable that the following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

		Rate Nov. 11	Par in each case quoted	Discount %
New York on —				
London ...	sight	$4 76½	4.86½ dollars for £1	4·3
,, ...	cables	$4 66½		
,, ...	bankers	$4 76¾		
Amsterdam	sight	41¼	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Premium 3·7
Berlin ...	sight	81¼	95 cents for 1 marks	14·3
Copenhagen	cheques	26½	26¾ cents for 1 kronen	1·3
Italy ...	sight	6·17½	5·18 lire for $1	24·7
Paris ...	sight	5·20¾	5·18 francs for $1	15·0
Petrograd	sight	52¼	51½ cents for 1 rouble	37·3
Mexico ...	Mex. silver $	50	50c. 1 Mex. $	24·0
Switzerland	sight	5·16¾	5·18¾ francs for $1	3·0
Vienna ...	sight	14 50	24¼ cents for 1 kronen	28·3

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Nov. 11, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3–3½%	Call money ...	1¾	2%
Nov. 13, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	5½–6%	,, ,, ...	4½	6%

MONEY IN INDIA.

Exchange from India remains firm at 1s. 4 3/32d., and the Council has no difficulty in selling the 50 lacs of drafts it is offering for tender. The demand for money in India is increasing. The rates of the banks of both Bengal and Bombay are now 6%. The withdrawal of coined silver from the Currency Department is proceeding, and last week the reduction was 84 lacs, reducing the amount of silver held to 3,555 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, November 10, are:—

Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
	Rs.	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	4,00,000	—	—	1 4	1,75,00,000*	—*	—
1 4 3/32	2,80,000	1,73,000	61	1 4 1/32	70,00,000*	43,32,000	61
—	—	—	—	1 4 2/32	10,00,000	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	8,00,000	4,95,000	61
Total ...	6,80,000	1,73,000	—	Total ...	2,63,00,000	48,27,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 2,69,80,000	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.			
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.		Rs.	Average	Minimum
Calcutta	... 37,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32	Def.	14,05,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32
Bombay	... 12,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32	Def.	20,89,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32
				Imm.	1,95,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16
Madras	...1,24,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32	Def.	8,00,000	1/4.032	1/4 1/32
				Imm.	3,00,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16

The following Special Sale has since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Calcutta	50,000	1/4 1/16

From April 1 to November 9 inclusive the Council granted remittances for Rs. 7,90,36,061, realising £5,270,070. Up to November 10 of the last financial year the total bills and Transfers sold was Rs.6,13,36,861, realising £4,091,751. The total sales for the week ended November 9 amounted to Rs. 50,00,000, realising £334,066. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday was also 50 lacs.

SILVER.

With a fairly strong demand for coinage and for the Continent, and with small arrivals, the Silver market has been firm, and the price has advanced this week from 24 3/4d. to 24 7/16d. Having regard to the increasing prosperity of the East, a further rise in the price of the metal seems probable in the not distant future.

	Nov. 5	6	8	9	10	11	12
London ...	24⅜	24	24	24	24⅜	24 7/16	24
India ...Rs.	62⅞	62	62	62⅝	62⅝	62⅞	62
Exchange	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32	1/4 1/32

Stock Exchange.

All men of German or Austrian parentage, as well as those of other nationalities, before they can become members of the Stock Exchange must, according to long-existing rules of the Stock Exchange, have resided at least seven years in this country, and have taken the position of naturalised Englishmen for at least two years. Some existing members of such character have been such for very long periods, and have given pledges of their loyalty to the country whose naturalisation rights, many years ago, they accepted, they having sons or near relatives fighting for the land of their adoption. There are others who are more than suspected of having become entitled to membership of the Stock Exchange, through naturalisation, not from disposition to permanently become naturalised Englishmen, but as a means to the end of making a fortune in this country and returning to the Fatherland. There are the extremes also of men who had spying and sinister financial designs inimical to this country under their naturalisation cloak, and a position that opened society circles to their use.

It turns out to be correct that the meeting of Stock Exchange members convened for Wednesday last was for the purpose of considering what is termed "the alien question." There were "whole hoggers" at the meeting who wanted the Committee to turn out every such naturalised member of German or Austrian birth or descent. A small minority of those present at the meeting, however, expressed more considerate views, but apparently there was unanimity in the request that in the future no naturalised German or Austrian should be admitted to membership, and that members who in May were warned against possible friction if they put in an appearance in the House should continue absent during the period of war. This is a simple measure, but one, in the circumstances, we quite concur with. In the matter of non-election in March next of existing members, the "whole hog" policy, however, in our opinion, is going too far. Parenthetically, we take exception to the disposition of some of those present at the meeting to consider anyone who did not agree with them as of Germanophile sympathies, and we would point out that the petition submitted for the signatures of members present, and since lying in the Stock Exchange for additional signatures, is worded with the view to strengthening the Committee's powers to exercise discrimination and consideration for men whose loyalty is beyond suspicion.

In most directions the general Stock markets have suffered from profit-taking and reaction. There has been less of this noticeable in the Home Railway department than might probably have been looked for; not but what the rise in this department had been only carried to a slight extent. Armament shares have been somewhat inquired for, the principal feature being the appreciable hardening of price of Thornycrofts. The dividend policy of this Company should shortly be known.

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Mining Topics.

As a whole, movements of the week in mining shares have been somewhat irregular, and business has also been on a smaller scale than previously was noticeable. Changes in Rand shares have been unimportant. Here and there slight fractional reactions have occurred after the recent considerable augmentation of prices, and here and there also small gains have been recorded. In the Eastern Rand section Brakpans have been in favour, and Modders slightly appreciated, though not holding the best price. An active business continues to be done in City Deeps, but the best price has not been held in this case.

Diamond shares have held their ground, and show but slight variation. A feature of the week has been the revival in the market for Russian descriptions. Really the rise was initiated quite at the close of official hours on Friday last week; though the best prices have not been maintained, a fair advance compared with midday prices of Friday last week is shown. The sharpest movement was the recovery in Russo-Asiatics, which at one time touched 4⅜, and Irtysh shares, which have been scarcely mentioned for a long while past, rallied to 1⅛. Kyshtims improved to 2, Tanalyks to 2⅛. These were the best quotations, but are not the closing prices.

Incidentally last week we referred to the hampering of operations at the Ridder Mine after the war declaration by the withdrawal of labour for military purposes and the calling up later of additional men for the Army. We have since learned that as a set-off against this drain of labour there has been a welcome influx of labour derived from the employment of prisoners, chiefly Austrians. Austrian Slavs and Austrians from the Trentino region have been willing labourers, and many of them, having a handicraft at their fingers' ends, have been put to construction work, as well as mining operations, at the Ridder mine and the coal property belonging to the Irtysh Corporation. Railway communication between the Ridder mine and the river is being pushed on, and an extension of concentration plant at Ridder and smelting and furnace plant at Ekibastus is being effected. We look forward to some official statements shortly, as the reports of both the Russo-Asiatic and Irtysh corporations are likely to be issued before the end of the year.

GEDULD.

Of mining claims of individual producing companies in the Far Eastern Rand the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited, owns the second largest area, which is 2,481 reef-bearing claims. Such area is only exceeded by the Government Areas, which possesses 2,633 claims. It may be of interest to mention that the claim areas of the other producing companies in their order of magnitude are the Kleinfontein, 1,567 (intact); Modder B, 1,400; Brakpan, 1,050½; New Modderfontein, 1,050 (intact); Van Ryn Deep, 764½; Modder Deep, 577.

With the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited, there is ownership of the freehold of the whole farm of 8,474 acres, such total freehold including the mynpacht area of 2,481 claims the Company is now developing. The Company is entitled to mine under its own mynpacht, and in case other area of its freehold is taken up for mining it may either receive one-half of the mining dues that are payable to the Government, or, in case the Government comes to an arrangement for the working of the estate area, some other agreement may be come to other than the sharing of the mining dues. Having thus defined the position of the Company as to the area it possesses we may next comprehensively deal with its financial history.

The Company was formulated in March 1899, and of the initial capitalisation 185,000 shares of £1 were the consideration given to the vendor, Geduld Syndicate, which had secured borehole proofs of the existence of payable reef. A first issue of working-capital shares was made at par, but subsequently considerable issues were made at premiums. The best way of disposing of a somewhat intricate subject is to tabulate the history of the Company as below:—

On formation of Company, March 1899, capital fixed at £400,000, in £1 shares.

		Issue of Shares	
Mar. 1899.	Purchase consideration to vendors - Geduld Syndicate	185,000	£400,000
" "	For working capital, subscribed by A. Goerz and others at par	140 000	
Feb. 1901.	Shares issued at £4 5s. each	54,166	
Mar. 1902.	Option exercised at £4 10s. each	20,834	

1902. Two subsidiary companies formed to work the north and central parts of the mynpacht. Each Company with £400,000 capital. These companies started shafts Nos. 1, 2 and 3. December 1905, No. 2 shaft met reef at 1,604 feet depth; June 1906, in No. 3 shaft at 1,839 feet. In October 1906 the properties, as also that of a tentative "A" subsidiary, were reabsorbed by the parent Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited.

Oct. 1906.	Issue at £2 2s. 6d. per share	90,100

Oct. 1907. Capital (authorised) increased to £750,000.

Nov. 1907.	Issue at par (with options at 25s. and 30s. on 50,000 and 50,000 shares) ...	100,000
" 1908.	Option shares taken at 25s.	50,000
" 1909.	Option shares taken at 30s.	50,000
May 1909.	Sale to A. Goerz and Co. at 65s. per share (option to end of year on 29,900 shares at 70s., not exercised)... ...	30,000
Apr. 1910.	Sale to A. Goerz and Co. at 50s. ...	29,900
	Total issued capital	750,000

Aug. 1911. Capital increased to £1,000,000 (authorised).

May 1912.	Issue at par (option to guarantors to June 1914 on 100,000 shares at 25s. per share)	125 000
May 1914.	Option exercised and balance option extended at 25s.	47 500
June 1915.	Option exercised at 25s. per share ...	47,500
		970,000

Issued capital, June 1915, of authorised £1,000,000, £970,000.

In the detail above it will be noticed some of the issues of shares were made at big premiums. The



highest price at which the Company was able to sell working-capital shares was £4 10s. in 1902. The aggregate amount of premiums received by the Company [illegible] was £523,921, and of such amount £415,464 has been applied to writing off costs of shafts, development, buildings, &c., leaving still unappropriated a balance of £108,467 of share premiums.

Note should be taken of the inconsiderable purchase price—£185,000 in shares—given for the freehold and mining rights, and, further, the ability to secure over £520,000 of premiums on issues of shares, enabling the Company to effect very heavy writings off and putting it in a clean position at the present time in respect of its issued capital of £970,000. We may here say that the issued capital puts the Company in funds that will about pay for the increased equipment, which will towards the end of 1916 mean that the Company's mill will have an operating capacity of 40,000 tons a month.

The total cost of shaft sinking, development, power, reduction plant, &c., to the date next year of [illegible] with 180,000 tons a year output may be stated approximately as under:

Par value of shares issued for working capital	...	£785,000
Premiums on " " "	(say)	525,000
		£1,310,000

Of the £1,310,000 total outlay about £415,000 of premiums on shares has been written off.

We may note that the Company's net profits for the time the smaller plant is in operation, and later on when the larger plant is crushing, will be available for dividend purposes. There may be some small amount of profits applied to capital expenditures in case of under-estimation of costs and for effecting developments, but substantially the £970,000 is clean capital, on which dividends will be paid.

We have [illegible] when the property was acquired existence of reef had been secured from borehole tests. Three bores had been sunk in the north-west portion of farm Geduld, and in all three reef was intersected. This was prior to the outbreak of the Boer war. The borehole indications rather fired the imagination, for in two of the bores high assays were shown, in one particularly so. While we would remind our readers that borehole tests are not an infallible guide of what the value of the reef formation is: one bore in a poor zone may show a low assay, and another bore may meet a rich patch, and either would be liable to give misleading ideas. We may emphasise this by pointing out how, in the Brakpan, intersection of reef in the first shaft was in a poor zone, but in the south or second shaft good pay ore was met with. What the actual showings of the three Geduld bores were is worth setting out. Bore No. 1 was at the extreme north-west corner; some 6,000 feet south of the No. 1 the No. 2 bore was sunk, and the No. 3 bore met reef approximately 7,000 feet to the east of the No. 1 bore. The position of the two shafts that were sunk by the subsidiary companies in 1902 and came on reef were selected because of the bore showings, which were as follows:—

No.			
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	1,724	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	2,156	[illegible]	[illegible]

In the sinking of the shafts there was much water trouble in the dolomite formation. After a certain amount of development an initial plant of 50 stamps was erected, and a start therewith was made on November 1, 1908. In February 1909 an influx of water prevented proceeding with milling operations; indeed, so severe was the influx that it flooded the mine. Power for pumping plant had to be obtained, and all mining operations were put an end to for a while. A restart of the mill was effected February 1, 1910.

The progress made in developing ore reserves after reopening of the mine is indicated by the amounts of ore reserves reported in sight at December 31 of each year mentioned below:—

[illegible]			
1911	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1913	... 1,757,000	[illegible]	[illegible]
1914	... 1,900,000	[illegible]	[illegible]

It will further be noticed that year by year since 1912, with an increase in the assumed stoping width there has been an increase in the grade, such

being indicated in the table above, showing the quantity of the ore reserves, the assay values, and what the stoping widths applied to assay values mean as to shilling-inches.

The results of operations are set out below:—

From start of mill, November 1, 1908, to February 10, 1909, about 30,000 tons were dealt with. Mine flooded early in 1909, and mill shut down from February 10, 1909, to February 1, 1910.

Yr. ended Dec. 31	Tons Sold	Yield per Ton	Amt.	Per Ton	Amt.	Per Ton	Amt.	Per Ton Dividend
1909		oz.	£	Ton	£	Ton	£	Ton Dividend
11 mos.	48av. 127,510	16½	149,888	23/6	134,154	21/–	15,734	2,6 ⅞
1911	... 50							1½
1912	... 50	168,760	14½	225,587	26/9	176,248	20/11	49,339 5,10 1⅛
1913								1½
1914								

[Profit irrespective of £10,647 miscellaneous revenue in 1914.]

1915.								
Mar. qr.								
June qr.								
July								
Aug.								
Sept.								
Oct.								

Gold reserve: 4,431 oz. July, August, September, October.

on surface.

In 1913 an extension of mill plant to 60 stamps and five tubes was effected, and consequent on a long period of shortage of labour further extension deferred. A still further extension, however, was decided on in October 1915, such extension designed to bring up the capacity of the reduction plant by late in 1916 to 40,000 tons per month. Consequently recent results are no true criterion of what future results will be, for the effect of extension of plant is to spread the standing charges over a larger tonnage and to generally bring down working costs per ton. To the present operating costs have been high, and there is room for a considerable reduction. It will be of interest to give what the actual results were for 1914 and an estimate of what may be expected to be about the results of 1915. The contrast is set out below:—

Years to Dec. 31.	1914	Per	Estimate for 1915	
	£			£
Revenue (244,585 tons)	395,457	32 4	(306,000 tons)	476,000 31 1
Expenditure				
Mines profit	96,968	7/11		151,000 9,10
Sundry revenue	10,647			10,000
	107,615			
Depreciation, Donations,			£7,000	
Taxes			18,000	
Dividend (5%) ...	46,125			
Surplus	43,014			136,000
	66,260			
	110,474			

The £136,000 estimated surplus of 1915 equals not quite 15% on the £970,000 issued capital. Considering the £110,474 of unappropriated profit, a dividend of 10% could be declared in December, but, with a view to conserving resources to effect developments ahead of mill requirements, the directors may decide to declare only 5%, making, with the June distribution, 10% for 1915.

Estimate on Enlarged Plant.

	£
Revenue, 480,000 tons at	
Expenses, 480,000 tons at	
Mine profit, 480,000 tons at 11s.	
Sundry revenue, say	
Taxes, &c., say	
20% dividend on £970,000=	

So recently as October 9 we formulated in these columns an idea of the future, pointing out that a recovery value of only 30s. per ton, if accompanied by working costs of 19s. per ton, would, on the rate of 480,000 tons per annum, give a net profit, after allowance for taxes, &c., equal to over 20% on the capital, and we would further point out that a combined increase of 1s. per ton in the extraction, and reduction of a like amount in the working costs, would raise the profit on 480,000 tons a year to an amount to return 25% dividend. Each shilling per ton saved in costs, or added to the grade, represents 2½% on the capital. This influence of 1s. per ton on dividend is important.

While we have in these remarks dealt with the estimated amount of ore brought into sight, it will be of interest to give the recent showings of development operations, and these are as set out below:—

	Feet Sampled	s.	d.	Inches	Shilling-Inches
1914 Mar. qr.	1,245	36	1	35.2	1,267
,, June qr.	1,375	35	7	38.1	1,162
,, Sept. qr.	1,565	28	0	30.6	856
,, Dec. qr.	1,175	25	1	39.9	997
1915 Mar. qr.	1,545	29	9	37.4	1,112
,, June qr.	1,795	37	5	39.6	1,481
,, Sept. qr.	2,420	29	9	38.2	1,133

On the point of going to press the September quarter statement has come to hand.

The ore reserves last year were calculated on an average of 30s. 2d. per ton, based on a stoping width of 59.5 inches, but as much rock, broken down with reef, is left underground, it follows that what material is raised is appreciably better as to gold content than the 30s. 2d. per ton indicated above on full 59½ inches assumed stoping width.

Though comparisons are regarded as odious, it may be worth noting what are the details as to Geduld working costs in contrast with a mine of kindred character—the Brakpan. The total working costs of the Geduld for the June quarter, including mine redemption, were almost exactly 21s. 5d. in respect of 74,760 tons milled in the period, and this compares with almost exactly 17s. 10d. for the Brakpan (September quarter) in respect of 190,300 tons milled in the September quarter. The contrast of charges is given below, and it should be noted that the detail of the Geduld is in respect of the June quarter, while that of the Brakpan is for the September quarter:—

Working Expenditure per Ton Milled

	Geduld	Brakpan
	s. d.	s. d.
Mining	11 6·1	11 0·1
Milling	3 9·1	3 2·7
Treatment	3 0·2	1·5
Expenses, Head Office and Rand		
... ...	0 4·8	0 2·5
Mine development redemption ...	2 9	2 6
	21 5·2	17 3·9

In the report of the Geduld's Consulting Engineer dated February 6, 1915, he called attention to development outlays, and we quote his words:—

"The development account stands in the books at £179,505, or 1s. 10.7d. per ton of developed ore, while 3s. 3d. per ton milled (equal to 2s. 10.9d. per ton of mined ore) was written off in 1914 for development redemption. The amount written to working costs for development redemption may now be safely reduced to 2s. 9d. per ton milled."

This amount of 2s. 9d. per ton has been charged as working costs throughout the present year, as against 3s. 3d. per ton previously. With the one Company there is a larger tonnage to spread the cost over than with the other; hence the difference between the aggregate costs of the Geduld and the Brakpan. It remains to be seen how Geduld working costs will be affected when the enlarged plant comes into operation.

In dealing with the question of life it would be wise to make a very large allowance for the proportion of area where reef matter of unpayable character may be encountered, and also for possible faultings, supporting pillars, &c. Though this deduction may look very drastic until something more of the nature of the property is ascertained, we may assume a life based on the payability of only one half of the total claim area, recalling, however, that the whole of the area is reef-bearing. With a dip of eight degrees, each foot stoping width represents 5,400 tons per claim. A proportion of the rock broken down with the ore has to be left underground utilisable for pillars. Also there would be some elimination of waste on surface, which, parenthetically, we note is

now reduced to a very small percentage. What the average of net mill tons after sorting may be depends upon circumstances, but assuming a total under- and above-ground sorting of 15% and 5 feet stoping width as an average, the outcome would be, say, 22,950 mill tons per claim: 5,400×60 inches=27,000 stoping tons, which, less 15% sorting, equals 22,950 mill tons per claim. Then

	Mill Tons
1,240 net payable claims at 22,950 mill tons per claim ...	28,458,000
Used to December 31, 1914	863,000
Remaining at January 1, 1915...	27,595,000

It may therefore be roughly calculated that on the use of 480,000 tons a year it would mean a life of, say, 57 years. With so large a property it will doubtless be the case, if labour proves adequate and times are propitious for effecting the capital outlay, that a further step in the direction of enlargement of plant will be taken, but meanwhile, ignoring the broken period, on the milling of the 40,000 tons per month, and assuming varying dividends, the value of the shares on different dividend bases, on a life of only 50 years, would work out as below, assuming that the investor requires 10% for income, and invests the excess received at 5% compound interest to redeem his capital at the end of the life.

Assumed only 50 *Years' Life on* 480,000 *Tons a Year.*

Assumed average rate of dividend ...	20%	22½%	25%
Present value of £1 share	£1 18s.	£2 2s. 9d.	£2 7s. 3d.

In case by five years hence a policy of doubling the capacity of plant is carried out and thereby dividends are, say, doubled, values would be appreciably modified, and then remain as under:—

Assumed 25 *Years' Life on* 960,000 *Tons a Year.*

Assumed average rate of dividend ...	40%	45%	50%
Then five years hence value of share...	£3 0s.	£3 14s. 6d.	£4 2s. 6d.

The data may not be fallen in with as proper bases by all readers, but they give certain facts that enable calculations to be varied according to individual opinion.

The present market price of Geduld £1 shares is about 34*s*.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

THE gold output and labour return from the Rand for October is of very satisfactory character. Compared with six months ago, the labour roll has increased by about 25,000 boys. The October gold output is a record one. The figures are as follows:

	Tons Milled and Yield per Ton		Value
	Tons	Yield	£
1912	25,488,361	29/0	37,182,746
1913	25,628,432	27 9	35,812,605
1914.			
First half	12,308,282	26 11	16,609,705
Second half	12,793,672	26/3	17,514,729
Year 1914	25,701,954	26/7	34,124,434
1915.			
6 months	13,734,393	26/4	18,066,014
July	2,495,347	26/4	3,153,980
August	2,418,447	25/11	3,183,981
September	—	—	3,182,548
October	—	—	3,289,893

The returns of natives recently employed in gold mining are as follows:—

1915							
Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July	June	May	April	Mar.
210,017	204,833	196,286	190,25	184,75	183,961	186,941	185,259

KNIGHT CENTRAL.

WE recently commented upon the recrudescence of an inquiry—alleged to be on Cape account—for the shares of this Company, and also the rumours of private advices of good discoveries, and mentioned that no official information anent good discoveries had been made public. Apparently, however, at the time we were writing official news had been received, as we have before us an official circular bearing the date October 22—such document did not come into our possession until October 25—but, so far as we know, not till that morning did the information appear in the Press. In THE STATIST of October 9 we mentioned an advice dated October 4, stating that a cross-cut to the south from the 17th level had met South Reef which indicated an average of 35*s*. 3*d*. over 12 inches stoping width The cabled advice published by the circular dated October 22 said: "Upper portion South Reef intersected, assays, four samples, average 12½ dwt. over 60 inches." It will be interesting to know if this intersection of "upper portion" has any connection with the first intersection reported on October 4.

RAND PROFITS.

A CONTRAST of the profits of each of the last four months is given below. It should be noted that sundry revenue is included in the profits:—

	Sept. £	Aug. £	July £	June £
Aurora West	3,122(*a*)	4,039	4,074	4,162
Bantjes	759	1,112	2,701	(*b*)1,304
Brakpan	33,111	31,022	32,812	32,181
City and Suburban ...	20,538	21,183	20,338	20,625
City Deep...	60,501	60,086	62,227	(*c*)62,196
Cons. Langlaagte ...	28,123	29,024	31,531	31,677
Cons. Main Reef... ...	13,934	13,547	12,018	12,322
Crown Mines	97,331	95,515	97,118	101,531
Durb. Rdprt. Deep ...	5,664	5,850	6,212	5,829
East Rand Propy. ...	57,023	55,011	56,049	55,548
Ferreira Deep	43,031†	50,887	42,482	31,490
Geduld	14,195	12,779	12,768	12,645
Geldenhuis Deep ...	13,830	11,484	11,576	10,353
Ginsberg	4,039	4,169	4,193	4,070
Glencairn...	2,656	2,430	2,135	2,387
Glynn's Lydenburg ...	2,754	1,924	2,985	3,001
Goch	8,573	8,035	8,440	8,061
Government Areas ...	16,059	15,216	17,880	17,567
Heriot	9,507	8,815	8,760	9,006
Kleinfontein	23,024	22,339	23,027	24,233
Knight Central	4,053	4,062	3,348	2,596
Knights Deep	16,184	15,232	12,735	14,081
Langlaagte Estate ...	14,035	13,626	13,281	12,803
Luipaard's Vlei	5,105	4,390	5,935	3,042
Main Reef West	3,839	3,671	3,697	4,334
Meyer and Charlton ...	20,831	20,767	20,489	20,037
Modderfontein	58,431	57,762	56,234	59,362
Modderfontein B ...	64,182	61,160	62,889	50,940
Modderfontein Deep ...	34,569	34,746	34,664	34,874
Nourse	13,289	11,095	11,437	12,627
Primrose	5,016	6,077	6,165	5,631
Randfontein Central ...	66,622	58,756	61,305	57,032
Robinson Deep	25,087	24,273	26,001	25,034
Robinson Gold	37,197	38,403	41,610	41,070
Roodepoort United ...	2,067	2,539	943	81
Rose Deep	21,814	18,535	28,402	23,482
Simmer and Jack ...	29,069	28,514	30,132	32,565
Simmer Deep	2,421§	4,042	4,343	5,000
Sub-Nigel	3,536	3,126	2,501	2,039
Transvaal Gold	11,894‡	13,646	15,099	15,547
Unified Main Reef ...	6,006	5,037	5,150	5,208
Van Ryn Deep	43,061	43,119	43,630	44,507
Van Ryn G. M.	19,647	19,599	19,442	16,244
Village Deep	25,197	25,771	26,598	29,184
Village Main Reef ...	4,230*	25,668	26,009	24,097
West Rand Consolidated	13,300(*d*)	10,278	10,473	9,700
Witwatersrand Deep ...	16,050	16,034	16,068	18,352
Witwatersrand Gold ...	25,210	25,035	24,819	24,822
Wolhuter	13,920	13,672	14,021	13,068

(*a*) Operations adversely affected by a breakdown at the end of September of one of the compressors, which was in process of repair at the end of September.

(*b*) Reduced profit due increased costs, owing shortage labour and return to more normal recovery. Grade April and May abnormally high.

(*c*) Return states "yield recently has been higher than that called for by the ore reserves."

(*d*) Increased profit due to what is regarded as a temporary enrichment of the stopes.

* Loss.

† Reduced profit due to exceptional expenditure and decreased recovery.

‡ Decreased profit mainly due to lower grade recovered at central works.

§ Owing to large increase in tonnage, recovery of the gold has been adversely affected. Improvement in grade later on in the month should become apparent in next month's figures.

IVANHOE.

THOUGH years ago the early demise of the leading West Australian gold mines was prognosticated it seems they die very hard. For instance, the Ivanhoe. About the year 1911 it came to be thought that its life could be calculated from its ore reserves. At that time, say at June 30, 1911, the quantity of ore estimated to be in sight was 1,010,297 tons, value 44*s*. 3*d*. per ton. A short time ago cabled advice reported

the General Manager's estimate of ore reserves at the end of June 1915 to be 1,010,243 tons, value 36*s.* 9*d.* per ton. Thus, in the interval of four years, though about 930,000 tons have been put through the mill, the quantity of ore in sight shows no alteration. Despite the fall in the value this is not so bad a record, for the Ivanhoe has been producing gold since 1897, and in the 17¾ years to August 1915, 3,318,000 tons have been milled for a gold yield of about £8,100,000, and dividends paid in the period have aggregated £3,400,000, the capital of the Company being £1,000,000, in £5 shares. The fluctuations that have occurred in the recent estimates of ore reserves will be seen from the following:—

Ore Reserves.

	Tons	Value *s.* *d.*
Dec. 31, 1911	1,088,421	43 7
Dec. 31, 1912	1,080,850	40 7
Dec. 31, 1913	991,417	38 6
Dec. 31, 1914	998,718	37 3
June 30, 1914...	1,010,243	36 9

A very appreciable decline in the gold contents of the ore reserves is shown; but this is not to be wondered at, having regard to the fact that at an average depth of 2,400 feet the gold-bearing "greenstone" is penetrated by porphyry dyke, resulting in the impoverishment of the lodes, and that continuance of payable values beneath the dyke has not yet been found. The search in this direction still continues, and it is to be hoped that perseverance will be rewarded. Meanwhile, naturally the fall in the value of the ore reserves has decreased the profits earned and the dividends paid. This will be seen from the following:—

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons (2,000 lb.)	Value of Gold £	Value of Gold Per Ton Milled	Working Costs, Development and Plant £	Working Costs, Development and Plant Per Ton Milled	Profit* £	Profit* Per Ton Milled	Price end of Period
1912 ...	237,266	471,483	39 9	262,763	22 2	208,720	17 7	3⅛
1913 ...	239,210	453,350	37/11	272,240	22/9	181,110	15/2	2⅛
1914 ...	218,420	364,804	33 5	244,917	22/5	119,887	11 0	—
1915.								
Mar. qr.	58,301	94,799	32/6	64,776	22/2	30,023	10/4	2⅛
June qr.	59,250	93,610	31 7	66,580	22 6	27,030	9.1	2¼
July ...	20,041	32,776	32/8	23,770	23/8	9,006	9/0	2 3/16 xd
Aug. ...	20,114	32,325	32/1	23,320	23/2	9,005	8/11	2⅛
Sept....	20,216	31.425	31/1	22.420	22/2	9.015	8/11	2 5/16
9 mos.	178,022	281,945	32 0	200,866	22/7	84,079	9/5	—

* Miscellaneous expenses averaging £870 per month have to be deducted from profits.

Dividends—1912, 19/0. 1913, 14/0. 1914, June, 2/6; Sept., 2/6; Dec., 2/6; March, 3/0. Total, 10/6. 1915, June, 2/6; Sept., 2/6.

It will be seen above that the recent rate of profit earned has been about 9*s.* per ton. On this basis the 1,010,000 tons of ore reserves in sight have a profit value of about £450,000. The present market price of the £5 shares is 2¼, equal to a market valuation of the undertaking of £450,000, so that the market price of the shares is nearly covered by the profit value of the ore reserves. But in addition the balance sheet at December 31, 1914, showed surplus liquid assets of about £220,000, including £148,000 of investments, a considerable proportion of high-class character. As the market price of 2¼ allows practically nothing for this valuable asset, and there is also the chance that further quantities of payable ore beyond the reserves will be developed, especially beneath the porphyry dyke, the shares do not appear to be overvalued. This would become quickly apparent should further good discoveries follow the cabled advices published recently reporting the encountering by a borehole from the bottom of the main shaft of ore assaying £4 18*s.* 9*d.* per ton for 1 foot width, and further to the east 2½ feet of ore in the porphyry bar assaying 42*s.* 6*d.*

Tati Company.—In 1914 the old Tati Concessions was reconstructed under the title of the Tati Company, Limited, with a nominal capital of £400,000 in £1 shares; 394,132 shares were issued to old shareholders at 15*s.* per share paid, and the balance of 5*s.* per share has since been paid up. Besides certain mining claims and interests, through shareholdings in mining companies, the Company owns a little over a million acres of land. Recently the announcement was made that it has disposed of 237,000 acres—nearly a quarter of its area—to the Barralong tribe of natives, at an average price of 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre, the purchase consideration to be spread over a period of five years. The total sum to be received will amount to about £80,000, mineral and trading rights over the area being retained by the Company. There are provisions, however, in respect of inability to provide instalments falling due, so the full payment is not altogether a certainty.

MALAYAN TIN DREDGING.

But for the further heavy fall that occurred in the price of tin last year the report of this undertaking for the year to June 30, 1915, would have disclosed a much higher profit compared with the previous year than it does. Owing to the coming into operation of two more dredges, making three working for the greater part of the year, the ground treated in the twelve months to June 30, 1915, amounted to 1,967,790 cubic yards, against only 772,798 cubic yards in 1913-14, and the output, despite a small reduction in the grade of the ground, rose to 503½ tons of tin oxide, against 268¼ tons in the previous year. Working expenses per cubic yard dredged showed reduction in the past year, but the fall in the tin yield per cubic yard dredged just about offset this favourable factor, the working costs per ton of tin oxide for the past year working out at £65 15*s.* 10*d.*, against £65 19*s.* in the preceding twelve months. Consequently, had the same price been obtained for the past year's production as the output of the previous year realised the profit for the past year, owing to the largely increased yardage dealt with, would have reached to over £20,000. However, consequent on the fall in the price of tin, the output of the past year realised only £89 6*s.* 9*d.* per ton of tin oxide, against £101 13*s.* 8*d.* per ton in 1913-14, and as a result the profit of the past year, despite the large increase in the scale of operations, only expanded to £13,134, against £8,428 in the previous twelve months. The following table compares the results in detail and shows the much-improved returns obtained in the first four months of the current financial year owing to the better grade of ground treated and the higher price of the metal:—

Year to June 30	Ground Treated Cub. Yards	Tin Oxide Output Tons	Value £	Working Costs £	Working Profit £
1913 (6 mos.) ...	260,353	112½	14,282	6,879	7,403
1914	772,798	236	23,997	15,569	8,428
1915	1,967,790	503½	44,982	33,116	11,866
1915–16 (4 mos. to Oct. 31)	809,000	268¼	24,442	11,308*	13,134*

Year to June 30	Tin Yield per Cub. Yd. Lb.	Working Cost per Cub. Yd. *d.*	Per Ton of Tin Oxide — Value £ *s.* *d.*	Working Costs £ *s.* *d.*	Working Profit £ *s.* *d.*
1913 (6 mos.) ...	0·97	6·3	126 17 10	61 2 4	65 15 6
1914	0·68	4·7	101 13 8	65 19 0	35 14 8
1915	0·57	4·0	89 6 9	65 15 10	23 10 11
1915–16 (4 mos. to Oct. 31) ...	0·74	3·35*	91 2 8	42 3 3*	48 19 5*

* Before provision for London office charges and depreciation.

Out of the profits of the past year the Company has paid a dividend of 5% on the issued capital of £121,000, the same rate of distribution as in the two previous years. This dividend absorbs £6,050; £5,953—nearly equal to another 5% dividend—representing the freight on the new dredges, has been written off, and the carry-forward is maintained at £6,520. The surplus liquid assets at June 30, 1915, amounted to about £5,900 after payment of the dividend.

The Company is now operating four dredges, and the ground treated for the first four months of the current year has amounted to 809,000 cubic yards, equal to about 2,500,000 cubic yards per annum. In addition there has been an increase in the yield of tin per cubic yard, working costs per cubic yard are slightly lower, and a higher average price has been

obtained for the product than in the past year. Consequently the working profit of the first four months of the current financial year has amounted to £11,308, equal to nearly £49 per ton of tin oxide, against £16,365, or £32 9s. 6d. per ton, in the twelve months to June 30, 1915. Should the price of the metal be maintained at its recent level of about £160 it looks as if the Company for the current year will earn a net profit in the neighbourhood of, say, £40,000, in which case dividends equal to 30% on the capital would be forthcoming. We have shown that the price of the metal is the governing factor, and the future in this respect cannot be foretold. Nevertheless, at the present quotation of 1½, in view of the much-improved results of the current year, the shares do not appear to be overvalued. A further rise in the price of tin—at present quoted at £167 10s.—would, of course, very beneficially affect the Company.

TEKKA, LIMITED.

THE tin output of this Malayan concern for the year ended January 31, 1915, was larger than in any previous year in the Company's history, mainly owing to the substantial increase in the tin yield of the ground treated. But the fall in the price of the metal largely neutralised this beneficial factor, and consequently the working profit of the year ended January 31, 1915, amounting to £25,082, was only slightly larger than that earned in the previous financial year. In the first eight months of the current year the output has fallen very far short of the production of the corresponding half of last year. This will be seen from the following table, which gives a comparison of the operating results obtained in recent years:—

Year ended Jan. 31	Tons Milled	Yield of Tin per Cubic Yard	Working Profit	Dividends Paid
		lb.	£	£
1911 ...	822,872	1·18	39,770	[illegible]
1912 ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	46,599	[illegible]
1913 ...	593,493	1·65	52,854	[illegible]
1914* ...	450,000	1·78	38,917	[illegible]
1915 ...	473,100	[illegible]	25,082	51
1915–16 (8 mos.)	[illegible]	—	—	—

* Estimated. † For [illegible] months.

The dividends paid for the past financial year aggregated 30% on the issued capital of £70,000. For the previous year the shareholders received the same distribution in cash, and in addition 20,000 £1 shares of the Tekka Taiping were divided. In view of the reduction in the current year's output, it looks as if the profit and dividends of the current year will show substantial contraction. For the first nine months of the year three dividends have been paid, aggregating 20%, against 22½% for the same period last year. The price of the £1 shares is £2¾, so that the yield afforded on the reduced rate of dividend is not a high one for the risk involved. Of course, a rise in the price of tin, which at present is at a comparatively low level, would increase the Company's earnings.

OROVILLE AND NECHI.

THE first return published of the Nechi dredge does not come up to official expectations. At the meeting of the Nechi Company on August 28 the Chairman said the dredge was to start on September 1. The Manager had stated it would take a fortnight to dig the pond on the other side of the river from where the dredge was being constructed, but he expected in the last fortnight of September to produce £10,000 of gold. That yield indicated the expectation of the Manager that the ground dredged in the second half of September would be rich. There appears to have been some mistake, however, for no returns have been published in regard to the results of dredging for the six weeks to the middle of October. The first return issued this week for the two weeks to November 1. states that 77,322 cubic yards dredged gave $16,715, which is equal to a yield of 21.3 cents per cubic yard. This compares with an average estimated value of the 90 acres of tested ground belonging to the Company of over 70 cents per cubic yard. An office note appended to the return states: "The dredge is still working in ground of medium value, and cabled advices indicate that it will not have worked its way into the rich ground for about a couple of months." We suppose the Manager was mistaken in expecting to reach the rich ground in September.

Brakpan.—Capital issued, 750,000 £1 shares; 160 stamps. Nine tube mills now working.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			%	£		£		£		
1914 ...	140	621,673	13½	[illegible]	27/7	[illegible]	19/6	[illegible]	[illegible]	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	150	167,910	14½	[illegible]	27/8	155,639	18/6	77,2[illegible]	[illegible]	2⅝
June qr.	150	158,[illegible]	13½	[illegible]	21/3	[illegible]	17/[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2½
Sept. qr.	140	190,[illegible]	—	[illegible]	17/11	[illegible]	17/[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3⅛
Oct. ...	—	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	24/1	56,927	17/9	33,111	19/4	3⅛

Dividends—1914. June, 12½; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915. June, 17½ per cent.

City Deep.—Capital £1,250,000, in £1 shares. 200 stamps and tube-mill accessories, to have a capacity of about 800,000 tons per annum when in full operation.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			%	£		£		£		
1914 ...	150	505,300	7½	[illegible]	38/2	386,983	23/5	395,777	15/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	144	137,[illegible]	12½	[illegible]	38/[illegible]	162,744	22/2	[illegible]	15/10	2½
June qr.	154	171,000	13½	325,406	38/0	174,703	20/5	150,703	17/7	3
Sept. qr.	—	183,[illegible]	—	[illegible]	39/7	17[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	63,[illegible]	—	122,[illegible]	38/11	62,[illegible]	19/9	[illegible]	19/2	[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 11¼; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915. June, 13¾ per cent.

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TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, November 10, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£73,642,385	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	55,192,385
	£73,642,385		£73,642,385

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,068
Rest	3,219,928	Other Securities	97,667,484
Public Deposits	48,958,426	Notes	40,443,580
Other Deposits	90,415,018	Gold and Silver Coin	159,289
Seven-day and other Bills	19,059		
	£157,165,431		£157,165,431

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

(In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.)

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	28.9	40·03	4	4½
1915.										
Oct. 6	32.9	61.2	81.4	98.3	31.3	119.3	46.8	26·06	5	4⅛
— 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	—	4⅜
— 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	98.6	44.7	30·97	—	4⅛
— 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.6	41.9	30·01	—	4⅞
Nov. 3	33.4	58.6	46.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	—	4½
— 10	33.2	55.3	48.9	90.4	18.9	97.6	40.6	29·13	—	4½

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 6%; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Oct. 13 ...	194,402,209	117,928,766	76,443,513	28,500,000	37·3
Week to „ 20 ...	6,141,796	3,270,035	79,315,274	28,500,000	35·9
„ „ 27 ...	6,055,660	3,519,393	81,851,541	28,500,000	34·8
„ Nov. 3 ...	6,308,543	3,304,144	84,855,940	28,500,000	33·5
„ „ 10 ...	6,153,447	3,318,998	87,690,389	28,500,000	32·5

II.—Balance Sheet, November 10, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	60,811,784	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	21,138,605	Other Bankers	169,000
Certificates outstanding...	5,740,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	267,000
Investments Reserve A/c	446,969	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	44,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England...	14,560,795
Total ...	88,137,358	Total	88,137,358

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Nov. 4, Thursday	500,000 sovs. Egypt.†	500,000 sovs. U.S. 290,000 S. America. 200,000 Spain. 26,000 Canada.
„ 5, Friday ...	Nil.	131,000 bars. 748,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 sovs. Japan.
„ 6, Saturday ...	Nil.	315,000 Spain. 50,000 Switzerland.*
„ 8, Monday ...	Nil.	150,000 Misc. sovs.*
„ 9, Tuesday ...	Nil.	500,000 sovs. U.S. 200,000 sovs. Continent.
„ 10, Wednesday	1,116,000 bars.	Nil.
Total for week ...	1,616,000	3,210,000
Net aggregate ...	[1,594,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Nov. 11, Thursday...	Nil.	1,035,000 sovs. U.S. 300,000 Spain.
12, Friday ...	12,000 bars.	960,000 sovs. U.S. 450,000 Spain. 180,000 S. America. 34,000 Canada.

* Set aside. † Released.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£28 9	£28,3	£28.5	£35,5	£33.2
Public Deposits	12,1	12.7	9,6	19,2	48,9
Other Deposits	41.3	40,8	38,4	137,3	90.4
Government Securities	17.0	13,0	11,8	17.0	18,9
Other Securities	32 8	31,6	27.3	105 1	97.6
Reserve	21.4	26,8	26.6	52.2	40.6
Ratio to Liabilities	40%	49·95%	55·46%	33 3 %	29·13%
Bullion (both Departments)	31,9	36,6	36,7	69.5	55.3
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4 %	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4 %	4 18/16 %	4 5/16 %	2 13/16 %	5 1/16 %
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 23¼	25 31	25 10	27 89
Hamburg 8 days	20 42½	20 51¼	20 3 0	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 80·65	4 80·95	4 84	4 62
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4	1/4 1/16	1 4 7/8	1 3 7/16	1/4 1/16
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	83 5/8	75 5/8	72 1/2	68 1/4	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 75	90 20	87 15	75 50	65 35
Silver, London spot oz.	27d	28 1/4d	27 1/8d	22 1/8d	24 7/8d
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	27/10	33/1	30 0	38 3	51 6
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	6·07	6·80	7·45	4·53	6·98
Iron Scotch pig ton	57 0	73 6½	55/7½	55 4½	74 4½

ARGENTINA. Gold in Caja de Conversion.		BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.	
Oct. 13, 1915	Pesos 234,165,870	Sept. 25 to Oct. 16, 1915	£5,093,284
Oct. 6, 1915	234,165,638	Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321	Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114	Dec. 31, 1913	13,400,501
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800	Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£786	£9,693	£47
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	979
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,860	1,215
Oct. 31, 1914 ...	3,835	177	4,012	7,673	1,335	12,454	234
Oct. 31, 1913 ...	—	—	4,372	5,078	968	8,575	111

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Oct. 28, 1915...	£189,199	£14,530	£203,729	£11,211	£554,702	£1,538	£101,834
Nov. 4, 1915..	190,188	14,495	204,683	12,981	563,142	2,081	100,835
Nov. 11, 1915...	191,281	14,459	205,740	10,929	567,527	2,367	100,999
July 30, 1914†	165,854	25,013	190,867	97,768	287,327	15,302	37,930
Nov. 13, 1913...	140,929	25,527	166,456	60,366	228,917	10,730	25,894

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23, '14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,198
Oct. 30, '15...	121,440	1,902	123,342	57,308	211,272	297,318	81,134
Nov. 6, '15...	121,624	1,720	123,344	48,681	215,046	295,501	78,727
Nov. 7, '14...	94,271	1,808	96,079	44,123	133,804	204,242	64,103
Nov. 7, '13...	60,769	13,322	74,091	3,104	50,460	100,910	31,163

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	33,319	210	33,529	6,852	8,122	47,487	1,124
Nov. 6, 1915 ...	33,345	206	33,551	,850	8,153	47,399	1,265
Nov. 7, 1914 ...	14,311	408	14,714	15 794	11,031	39,906	1,475
Nov. 8, 1913 ...	12,366	585	12,951	8 236	7,332	27,757	239

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14†...	—	—	£48,456	£25,017	£69,204		£8,887
Sept. 30, '15 ...	£45,990	£4,445	50,435	4,548	29,643	113,929	27,798
Oct. 10, '15 ...	46,598	4,445	50,043	4,024	29,264	114,426	27,452
Oct. 10, '14 ...	—	—	50,458	39,336	87,453		18,268
Oct. 10, '13 ...	—	—	49,659	22,590	70,264		7,530

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Oct. 2, '15...	20,895	691	6,359	32,332	23,281	4,972
Oct. 9, '15	20,893	568	6,051	30,242	23,601	6,319
Oct. 10, '14...	21,868	2,201	7,688	29,863	13,274	3,182
Oct. 11, '13...	21,583	3,014	9,372	32,959	17,930	1,005

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£89,888	£411,238	£387,185	£8,316	£1,720
Oct. 30, '15 ...	£104,822	£41,986	146,808	607,934	652,472	7,138	38,740
Nov. 6, '15 ...	105,230	41,988	147,218	616,360	661,918	7,083	38,300
Nov. 7, '14 ...	—	—	90,008	428,940	384,810	26,052	3,182
Nov. 8, '13 ..	—	—	79,849	381,861	347,666	8,954	1,431

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Oct. 22, 1915...	3,855	3,732	781	4,014	8,254	1,369
Oct. 30, 1915...	3,760	3,738	781	4,198	8,603	1,368
Oct. 31, 1914...	2,251	1,662	503	6,848	7,305	1,280
Oct. 31, 1913...	2,550	1,770	504	4,273	5,988	627

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£76,081	£183,411	£109,911
Oct. 21, '15...	163,281	1,939	165,220	7,921	415,093	499,079	137,763
Oct. 29, '15...	163,385	2,459	165,844	8,417	443,307	501,083	143,413
Oct. 29, '14...	183,842	4,119	187,961	9,372	153,826	270,828	97,845
Oct. 29, '13...	167,358	5,826	173,184	6,187	103,241	171,313	107,153

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Oct. 23, '15..	31,186	29,474	60,660	41,552	13,777	82,693	25 310
Oct. 30, '15...	31,812	29,561	61,373	41,944	13,777	82 962	25 945
Oct. 31, '14...	22,091	27,876	49,967	49 856	13,778	79,407	24,214
Oct. 31, '13...	18,871	29,350	48,221	41,848	13,778	77,247	18,447

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Oct. 23, '15 ..	6,300	6 614	3,016	4,897	16,136	4,752
Oct. 30, '15 ...	6,298	6,590	3,005	5,235	17,151	4,168
Oct. 31, '14 ...	5,774	2,660	1,479	8,966	15,779	3 243
Nov. 1, '13 ...	5,695	4,644	1,337	7,670	12,832	2 833

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Oct. 23, 1915...	9,768	2,452	12,220	7,192	16 805	3,492
Oct. 30, 1915...	9,770	2,384	12,154	7,301	17,724	2,790
Oct. 31, 1914...	9 293	658	9,951	9,134	17,159	2,383
Oct. 31, 1913...	6 856	1,094	7,950	5,517	11,532	1,861

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Oct. 15, 1915...	£57,358	£61,307	£8,792	£65,753	£2,958	£83,174	82·3%
Oct. 22, 1915...	56,577	63,503	8,664	68,089	2,902	85,576	79·3%
Oct. 29, 1915...	58,281	63,693	8,813	68,711	2,784	85,990	77·3%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates		A Year Ago	
	%	Date Fixed	%	Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	4½	Oct. 28, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 6, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3–3½	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts: Revenue	Receipts: Total including Loans	Expenditures: Supply Services	Expenditures: Debt &c.	Expenditures: Total	Treasury Balance: Amt.	Treasury Balance: + or − for Period	Treasury Bills stand'g Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Oct. 23	6,204	42,322	23,738	18,166	41,904	18,437	+ 418	223,138
7 „ Oct. 30	4,020	37,269	26,798	11,350	38,148	17,559	− 878	237,497
7 „ Nov. 6	3,662	44,331	20,424	16,245	36,669	25,230	+ 7,671	255,360
220 days to Nov. 6, 1915	128,251	1,083,054	789,493	351,792	1,141,285	25,220	−58,221*	+178,350*
221 days to Nov. 7, 1914	94,266	220,366	173,115	41,987	215,102	15,699	+4,264*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 26	11 25	11 32	11 60
—	Cable	11 06	11 00	11 12	11 38
Italy	3 mos.	30 60	30 35	30 40	30 35
—	Cable	30 25	29 92½	29 95	29 95
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34	34½	34½	35½
New York	do.	4 66½	4 65½	4 65¼	4 66½
—	Cheques	4 67	4 66½	4 66¾	4 67
Paris	3 mos.	28 30	28 05	27 95	27 95
—	Cable	27 90	27 64	27 53	27 55
Petrograd	do.	143	143	139½	140½
Scandinavia	do.	17 40	17 50	17 55	17 95
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46½	46½	46½
—	Cable	24 95	24 90	24 90	24 85
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 20	25 20	25 15	25 35
—	Cable	24 75	24 80	24 75	24 95

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15	Oct. 22, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97¼pi.	97¼pi.	97¼pi.	97¼pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 10c.	10fl. 93½c.	11fl. 11c.	11fl. 37½c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49¼l.	49¼l.	49¼l.	49¼l.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10½d.	1s. 10¼.	1s 10¼.	1s. 9 3/32d.
Italy	Sight	30lr. 22c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 90c.
Lisbon	Sight	33½	34	35	35½
Madrid	Sight	25p. 02	24p. 90	24p. 90	24p. 85
Montevideo	90 days	54d.	53½d.	53½d.	53 3/4d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 66⅛	$4 66	$4 65½	$4 66
New York	Sight†	$4 65½*	$4 64½	$4 65½	$4 65⅝
—	60 days†	$4 60½*	$4 61½	$4 61	$4 62
—	Cables†	$4 66¼*	$4 65⅝	$4 66	$4 66
—	on Paris	5.93½f.*	5.96f.	5.91½f.	5.91½f.
—	on Berlin	81⅛c.*	81⅛c.	81½c.	82½c.
—	on Amst'd'm	41⅞c.*	42c	41½c.	41c.
—	on Mexico	Silver $	38c. U.S.*	38c. U.S.	38c. U.S.	37c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 92c.	27f. 65c.	27f. 52c.	27f. 53c.
Petrograd	Sight	142½	142½	139½	139
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12 3/32d.	12 3/32d.	12 3/32d.	12 3/32d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 25	17kr. 45	17kr. 50	17kr. 90
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 4 3/32d.	2s. 4 3/32d.	2s. 4 3/32d.	2s. 4 3/32d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 75c.	24f. 75c.	24f. 80c.	24f. 92½c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9d.	9d.	8¾d.	9d.

* Previous day's rates. † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Agg.	Inc. or Dec.*	
1915.		£	£	£	£	%
BIRMINGHAM	Nov. 6	2,659,834	+ 803,284	75,974,329	+ 9,428,751	+ 14·2
BRISTOL	„ 6	749 000	− 3 000	34,250,000	+ 2,260,000	+ 7·1
DUBLIN	„ 6	4,165,800	+ 188,100	165,574,000	+16,173,500	+ 10·8
LEEDS	„ 6	839,686	+ 217,794	28,168,086	+ 5,874,641	+ 26·3
LEICESTER	„ 6	483,028	+ 95,958	17,578,051	+ 4,193,569	+ 31·3
LIVERPOOL	„ 6	6,180,674	+ 2,192,447	245,380,308	+47,853,823	+ 24·2
MANCHESTER	„ 6	8,457,503	+ 2,343,338	300,189,617	+14,953,454	+ 5·2
NEWCASTLE	„ 6	2,343,000	+ 1,031,000	64,980,100	+15,046,000	+ 30·3
NOTTINGHAM	„ 6	460,033	+ 110,944	15,985,848	− 71,519	− 0·4
SHEFFIELD	„ 6	1,137,853	+ 456,447	28,554,388	+ 4,694,984	+ 31·5
LONDON—	1915.	(000's omitted from the London clearings.)				
TOWN	Nov. 10	217,375	− 39,115	9,399,974	− 1,842,254	−16·4
METROPOLITAN	„ 10	16,934	+ 1,971	803,230	+ 57,532	+ 7·8
COUNTRY	„ 10	34,975	+ 8,340	1,351,328	+ 168,082	+14·2
TOTAL	„ 10	269,284	+ 37,026	11,554,537	− 1,616,650	−12·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings:—

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month		
1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*
Sept. 29	46,853	—	Sept. 1	54,130	—	Sept. 4	39,722	+ 15,393
Oct. 14	45,291	—	Oct. 1	52,016	—	Oct. 4	47,176	+ 6,718
Oct. 28	44,402	—	Nov. 5	47,524	—	Nov. 4	48,924	+ 15,593
1915 agg.	837,934	—		533,643	—		503,043	− 63,060

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	32/6	10 0	9/6
Australia to U.K.	95 0	—	30 0
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	10 0
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	77/6	19/6	17/6
Burmah o.o.	85/0nom.	31/3	22/6
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	92/6	—	nom.
Danube to A.R.	—	—	9/6
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	8/3
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	87/6	29/6	10/6
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	55 0	30 0

Homewards—cont.	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont (grain)	13/6	4/3	2/0
N.O. to L.H (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O. to U.K (cotton, Cgr.)	—	22/0	13/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bom-bay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	Red Sea.	St. Vincent.
1915	52/6	—	50/0	39/0	31/0
1914	15/6	—	14/6	14/0	—
1913	12/7½	11/3	8/3	14/6	8/1½

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

NOV. 13.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ton	74 4½	55 4½	55 7½
— Middlesbro' warrants ton	68 5½	49 4½	49 6
— Hematite warrants ton	107 6	82 6	62 6
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£9	£9
— Common bars ton	£12	£7 7 6	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro' tons	128,757	103,014	152,955
Steel Rails ton	£9 2 6	£6 7 6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ton	£77 10	£51 12 6	£63
— Stock, Europe & afloat, Oct. 31 tons	30,003	36,566	25,327
Tin—English ingots ton	£172	£141—£142	£184 10
— Straits ton	£175 10	£149	£180 5
Tinplates—Coke I.C. box	19 9 –20 0	13 6—17 9	13 9—18 0
Lead—Soft Foreign ton	£26 5	£18	£19 10
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ton	£30	£18	£20 12 6
Quicksilver—(75lb.) bottle	£16	£11 5	£7 5
Aluminium ton	nom.	£33—£35	£31—£35
Antimony—Regulus ton	nom.	£50—£55	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best Cardiff) ton	nom. 21 0 –22 0		20 3 –20 9
— — (best) Newcastle ton	20 0	13 3	14 9
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14 4½—14 7½	11 3	11 0
Soda—Crystals ex ship ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver lb.	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/8	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ton	£28 5	£24—£24 5	£30 17/6—£31 5
Gambier—Good marks cwt	38 0	19 0	18 0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine lb.	14/8—15 0	14/0—15 0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£33 3	£23 10	£22 7/6
Linseed—Calcutta, spot 410lb.	65/6	47/6	43 0
Olive Oil—Spanish tun	£50	£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ton	£35 10	£29 10	£38
Petroleum—American gallon	-/9½	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ton	£41 10	£34 5	£32
Soya Oil ton	£29	£25	£28 10
Tallow—Aust. mixed cwt.	41/9	27/6—30 6	33/0—34 6
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit cwt.	43 6	34 6	32 1½
Rape Seed—Toria 416lb.	55 0	51 0	48 0
Rubber—Para, spot lb.	2 7½	2 6	3 3½
— Fine plantation (Ceylon)	2 9 –2 9½	2 3½	2 4½
—World's Visible supply tons	20,009	21,310	13,907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair cwt.	72 6	57 0—59 0	88/0—89 0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland lb.	6 93	-/4 58	-/7 45
— Egyptian good fair lb.	9 35	6 90	-/6 90
— Pernambuco, fair lb.	-/7 67	5 04	-/7 66
— Mid. Upl. New York lb.	11 85c.	nom.	13.60c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Nov. 5 bales	916,010	723,930	582,050
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol ton	£78	£36	£32
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£35 10	£22 10	£28 15
— Manila, Fair strips ton	£42	£23	£29 15
Jute—First Marks, spot ton	£28 10	£24	£34
— Red SCC ton	£24	£21	£30 10
Silk—Blue Elephant lb.	10 6	11 3—11 6	11 3—11 6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av. lb.	1/0—1/1	11½—1 0½	-/11½—1 0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs lb.	1 5½	1 2	1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up lb.	-9	-8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2 6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S., Nov. 8 bush	38,369,000	70,279,000	63,360,000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. bushel	128½c.	124½c.	98c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	51 6	38 6	30/0
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	48 0	38 6	29 6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr.	47 3	28 8	28 1
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. qr.	30/4	23 7	17 9
Maize—N.Y. (new bushel) 56lb.	nom.	84½c.	80c.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool 100lb.	nom	7 4½	4 5½
— La Plata 480lb. qr.	39/3	28/6—30/0	32 9
Potatoes—Kents ton	90 0	72 6	55/0—65 0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	39,078	25,418	10,708
— Deliveries do. tons	26,021	22,837	12,828
— Stock tons	20,034	7,276	5,245
— Price, Bassein cwt.	17 6	17 0	7/10½—8/3
Tapioca—Pearl, medium cwt.	17/6—21/0	15/0—21/0	14/0—17/6
Hay—Best 2,016lb. load	120/0—150/0	85/0—90/0	77/6—87/6
Hops—English cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3—£4 15	£9 10—£11
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen. chilled hndqrs. 81lb.	4/8—5/0	4/2—4/4	3/2—3/8
— Scotch sides 81lb.	5/4—5/6	4/10—5/2	4/2—4/4
— English 81lb.	4/10—5/3	4/2—4/7	3/7—4/2
Mutton—Scotch 8lb.	5/8—6/0	5/2—5/6	5/4—5/8
— English wethers 81lb.	5/6—5/8	4/8—5/2	4/6—5/4
— New Zealand frozen 81lb.	4/4—5/0	3/10—4/1	3/4—3/9
Pork—English 81lb.	5/8—6/4	4/2—4/8	4/4—5/2
Bacon—Irish cwt.	100/0—105/0	70/0—73/0	70/0—77/0
— Danish cwt.	100/0—105/0	65/0—74/0	66/0—75/0
Hams—Amer. long cut cwt.	92/0—96/0	68/0—72/0	68/0—78/0
— — short cut cwt.	83/0—83/0	63/0—72/0	67/0—74/0
Lard—Amer. pails cwt.	58/0—59/6	60/0—62/3	58/6—59/0
Butter—Danish cwt.	168/0—172/0	134/0—139/0	128/0—130/0
— Siberian cwt.	100/0—132/0	112/0—120/0	88/0—110/0
— French cwt.	113/0—154/0	102/0—118/0	100/0—126/0
— New Zealand cwt.	—	122/0—128/0	122/0—126/0
— Australian cwt.	—	116/0—128/0	104/0—120/0
Cheese—Canadian cwt.	84/0—88/0	74/0—76/0	83/0—86/0
— New Zealand (white) cwt.	—	—	62/0—64/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	583,437	614,572	747,331
— Deliveries do. tons	739,247	680,635	733,217
— Stock tons	46,765	45,096	69,988
— Price, Java, 96° Dtch. cwt.	20 6	24 0	12 0
— — Muscovados, refining cwt.	nom.	25/6—26/6	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 cwt.	40/6	31/0	18/3
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	58,294	43,161	34,871
— Home consumption do. tons	16,943	13,189	13,097
— Exports do. tons	21,102	22,175	19,387
— Stock tons	33,260	18,295	10,589
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	89/0—79/0	75/0—85/0	84/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot cwt.	39/9	45/6	49/6
Tea—Imports for Home cons. lb.	344,919,042	254,428,726	279,173,871
— Home cons. do. lb.	270,704,619	263,403,911	253,339,947
— Exports do. lb.	47,943,000	56,203,848	47,946,878
— Stock, Oct. 31 lb.	132,685,000	84,544,000	112,632,000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb.	-/9½	-/9½	-/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Soug. Ord. lb.	-9½	-9½	-8½
— — Congou lb.	-7½	-6½	4½—5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	90/0–92/0	59/0—61/0	67/0—69/0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Nov. 6	80	—	£3,171	− 498	44	163.095	+ 9.808
CorkBan.&S.C.	Nov. 5	103	—	2.275	+ 221	44	93.189	+ 4.907
Dublin & S.E.	Nov. 6	160	—	5.947	+ 140	44	248 554	+ 4.040
Gt. Northern	Nov. 6	581	—	23.035	− 815	44	1,030.425	+ 29.425
Gt.S.&Western	Nov. 5	1,130	—	35.341	− 1.028	44	1,475.104	+ 96.481
Mid. Gt. West.	Nov. 5	538	—	13.518	− 249	44	589.297	+ 12.482

*** *On August* 5, 1914, *Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act*, 1871.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Sept. 30	862	+11	2.16.000 +	34,348	26	33.54.541 +	88.952
Bard Light ...	Oct. 16	118	—	11.800 +	2.000	3	5.70.300 −	26.000
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 18	2.041	+13	2 62.290 −	36.072	25	84.81.853 −	14.01.471
Bengal Dooars	Oct. 9	163	—	40.175 +	10.463	2	40.175 +	10.463
Beng. Nagpur	Oct. 9	2,885	+ 7	9.60.000 +	90.000	2	9.60,000 +	90.000
Bomb. Baroda	Nov. 6	2,859	+32	11.36.000 −	31.000	6	61.03.000 +	7.21.000
Burma	Sept. 30	1,342	—	5.52.332 +	74.145	26	95.29.798 −	11.40.987
East Indian ...	Nov. 6	2,716	− 2	19.62.000 −	1.29.000	6	1.03.71.000 −	60.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Nov. 6	3,058½	+78½	14.67.500 +	1.62.100	6	77.69.200 +	7.47.589
Madras & S.M.	Oct. 16	3,131‡	−1‡	7.80.000 +	65.685	3	17.45.000 +	1.38.868
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 16	797	—	1.69.485 +	28.719	3	3.72.846 +	22.211
Roh.&Kumaon	Sept. 18	545	+ 1	60.002 +	4.250	25	17.60.202 +	13.426
South Indian	Oct. 9	1,783	+10	6.55.035 +	55 282	2	6.55.035 +	55.282
South Punjab	M.ofJune	923	—	8.92.073 +	1.10.130	3†	20.25.274 +	38.370

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Oct. 31	7.280	—	$ 1.271.400 +	564.400	4	3.678.500 +	1.100.200
Can. Pacific...	Nov. 7	12.921	+602	3.015.000 +	1.107.000	18	43.296.000 +	951.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Nov. 7	916	—	£41.232 +	18.028	18	422.886 +	57.261
Grand Trunk	Nov. 7	4.008	—	148.589 +	1.385	44	6.934.113 −	510.997
Grd. Trunk W.	Nov. 7	836	—	40.295 +	12.370	44	1.321.860 +	62.108
Det. Grd. Ha.	Nov. 7	189	—	13.876 +	2.647	44	480.410 +	36.423
Mashonaland	M.ofAug.	751	—	49.470 −	1.930	11†	448.681 −	240.672
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofAug.	277	—	5.800 −	3.082	2†	11.068 −	7.361
New CapeCent.	Oct. 16	205	—	1.702 +	65	42	73.946 +	748
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofAug.	1.397	—	77.976 −	11.294	11†	714.687 −	240.310

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Nov. 6	33	—	Ps. 16.000 −	2.000	45	535.200 −	26.560
Antofagasta ...	Nov. 7	819	—	£ 25.390 +	3.450	45	1.089.140 −	318.405
Arauco	M.of July	64‡	—	£ 6.750 +	225	7†	44.625 −	10.649
Arg. N. East...	Nov. 6	752	+ 85	£ 5.538 +	1.288	19	126.107 +	39.587
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290 −	10	12	2.370 −	1.210
Bolivar	M.ofSept.	110	—	£ 7.750 +	3.202	3†	22.000 +	5.081
Brazil	M.of May	3,362	—	M 3.282.000 −	17.244	5†	15,963.000 −	804.684
Paulista.....	M.of May	721	—	M 1.500.000 −	238.338	5†	8.850.000 +	101.324
Mogyana ...	M.of May	1,131	+ 57	M 1.263.000 −	256.423	5†	7.833.000 +	261.381
B.A. & Pacific	Nov. 6	3.536	+ 17	£ 76.000 +	13.000	19	1.464.000 +	306.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Nov. 7	3.792	+ 63	£ 100.000 +	16.000	19	1.585.900 +	291.967
B.A. Western	Nov. 7	1.867	+ 75	£ 49.000 +	6.000	19	822.000 +	135.000
Cent.Argentine	Nov. 6	3.307	+ 45	£ 107.300 +	6.800	19	2.081.300 +	240.990
Cent. Uruguay	Nov. 6	271	—	£ 13.534 +	3.252	19	203.577 +	44.077
„ (E. Ext.)	Nov. 6	31‡	—	£ 3.621 +	803	19	65.099 +	19.110
„ (N. Ext.)	Nov. 6	186	—	£ 2.038 +	529	19	33.423 +	8 328
„ (W. Ext.	Nov. 6	21‡	—	£ 1.914 +	408	19	30.682 +	7.638
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Oct.	86	—	£ 10.200 −	328	10†	104 242 +	1.131
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.ofSept.	65‡	—	£ 22.209 +	3.809	3†	65.035 −	6.465
Cord. Central	Nov. 6	1.186	—	£ 23.550 −	6.735	19	585.440 −	107.545
Cuban Central	Nov. 6	364	+ 9	£ 7.808 +	1.702	19	143.679 +	22.317
Dorada Ext....	M.ofSept.	71	—	£ 8.400 +	1.400	9†	71.300 −	5.300
EgyptianDelta	Oct. 10	819	− 4	£ 6.274 +	2.078	27	81.440 −	18.877
Entre Rios...	Nov. 6	730	—	£ 9.100 +	400	19	173 400 +	30.300
Gt. S. of Spain	Oct. 2	104	—	Ps. 72.792 +	11.458	40	2.364.145 −	284.317
Gt. W. Brazil	Nov. 6	1.010	—	£ 10.700 −	3.500	45	421.900 −	108.600
La Guaira&Ca.	M. of Oct.	23	—	£ 6.750 +	1.500	10†	67.750 −	20.750
Leopoldina ...	Nov. 6	1.809	+ 20	£ 31.891 +	5.365	45	1.312.642 +	3.436
Manila North	Nov. 6	315	+ 2	£ 2.972 −	1.186	45	224.298 −	42.954
„ South	Nov. 6	269	+ 91	£ 2.691 −	1.208	45	163.406 +	13.977
Mid. Uruguay	M. of Oct.	318	—	£ 9.415 +	2.296	4†	42.020 +	10.518
Nitrate(2wks.)	Oct. 31	366	—	£ 19.845 +	7.943	43	281.129 −	219.232
N.W. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	113	—	$ 22.000 +	7.416	3†	68.500 +	16.357
ParaguayCent.	Nov. 6	255	—	c 497.000 +	265.000	19	8.439.000 +	3.916.000
Peruvian Corp.	M. of Oct.	1.059	—	d 808.900 +	176.180	4†	3.106 057 +	232.398
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2.792 +	637	9†	32.216 −	306
Salvador	Nov. 6	100	—	$ 16.500 +	4.150	19	356.100 +	40.944
San Paulo.....	Oct. 31	163‡	—	£ 38.883 +	4.151	18	682.506 +	173.813
Taltal	M. of Oct.	18‡	—	£ 17.708 +	7.638	4†	65.461 +	2.648
U. of Havana	Nov. 6	881	—	£ 26.603 +	7.511	19	451.446 +	100.466
Urug.Northern	M. of Oct.	73	—	£ 1.617 +	520	4†	6.744 +	1.822
W. of Havana	Nov. 6	147	—	£ 4.752 +	108	19	89.285 −	6.076
Zafra & Hiva.	M.ofSept.	112	—	£ 10.156 +	2.614	9†	72.973 −	43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Nov. 4	389‡	+21‡	£ 54.194 +	1.794	44	2,240.293 −	135.103
Auckland(4wks)	Sept. 24	25‡	—	£ 20.266 −	727	12	62.295 −	3.055
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	M.	6,494.000 +	397.060	9†	57,457.110 +	2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880 +	3.117	10†	306.954 +	18.333
Bristol.....	Nov. 5	31	—	£ 9.651 +	1.388	44	422.224 +	39.953
BritishColumbia	M.of Sept.	242	+ 5‡	$ 517.022 −	133.494	3†	1.534.871 −	480.480
Calcutta	Nov. 6	35‡	—	R 60.188 −	3.498	45	28,89.86 −	62.531
Cape Electric...	M.of Sept.	42·3	—	£ 16.237 +	1.269	3†	51.199 +	5.275
Carth. & Herr...	M. of Oct.	9	—	£ 2.169 +	626	10†	17.749 −	4.939
Cork Electric...	Nov. 4	9‡	—	£ 1.287 −	11	45	48.867 −	200
Dublin United	Nov. 5	54‡	—	£ 5.784 −	107	44	270.660 +	10.403
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765 −	1.184	39	1.984.501 −	90.930
Isle of Thanet...	Nov. 6	12‡	− 6	£ 250 −	107	5	1.569 −	654
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20‡	—	£ 3.165 +	123	8†	22.119 +	1.003
Lanarkshire ...	Nov. 4	28‡	—	£ 2.144 +	435	44	87.468 +	4.298
Madras Electric	Oct. 31	—	—	R 31.293 +	9.047	43	5.88.883 +	25.346
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946 +	7.646	9†	1.100.024 −	114.058
Provincial	Nov. 6	21‡	—	£ 2.036 +	16	5	11.350 +	664
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886 +	286	10†	48.215 −	2.442
U.of Montevideo	M.of Oct.	90	—	£ 27.167 +	667	12†	330.583 −	30.882
Yorks.W.Riding	Nov. 7	24 7/8	—	£ 1.714 +	218	45	71.418 +	5.966

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 247,809 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous years (†) Months. (‖) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross.	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
478 Cos. (000's omitted)	Aug.	(e) $279.891	+ $5.273	$99.713	+ $10,039
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	(f) *542,839*	+ *7,597*	*187,398*	+ *19,890*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Sept.	408.000	—	119.000	+ 50.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,208,000*	− *78,000*	*371,000*	+ *89,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Sept.	136.000	− 2.000	26.000	+ 9.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*388,000*	− *22,000*	*65,000*	+ *18,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Sept.	292.000	+ 1.000	66.000	+ 35.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*879,000*	− *63,000*	*208,000*	+ *76,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Sept.	139.000	+ 11.000	30.000	+ 18.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*379,000*	− *21,000*	*67,000*	+ *12,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Sept.	10,795.000	+ 158.000	3.639.000	+ 3.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*32,121,000*	+ *1,707,000*	*10,589,000*	+ *687,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Sept.	2.380.000	+ 173.000	440.000	+ 349.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*6,554,000*	− *385,000*	*764,000*	+ *255,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Sept.	9.618.000	+ 835.000	3.194.000	+ 560.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*27,618,000*	+ *2,007,000*	*9,666,000*	+ *1,992,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Sept.	2.014.600	− 95.300	682.600	+ 71.900
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*4,413,600*	− *658,300*	*1.186,500*	− *79,400*
Canadian Pacific..... b	Sept.	10.273.000	− 481.000	4.745.000	+ 378.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*26,970,000*	− *4,184,000*	*10,988,000*	− *621,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... a	Sept.	4.045.000	+ 531.000	1.521.000	+ 398.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*11.662,000*	+ *1,364,000*	*2,723,000*	+ *1,059,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Sept.	8.406.000	+ 308.000	2.837.000	+ 389.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*23,534,000*	− *306,000*	*6,847,000*	− *192,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...a	Aug.	8.147.000	− 595.000	2.675.000	− 606.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*15,521,000*	− *1,082,000*	*4,635,000*	− *965,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Sept.	1.264.000	− 83.000	380.000	− 67.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*3,614,000*	− *125,000*	*953,000*	− *130,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Sept.	9.261.000	+ 21.000	3.368.000	+ 159.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*25,766,000*	+ *511,000*	*8,609,000*	+ *939,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 336.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,051,000*	− *652,000*	*1,931,000*	− *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Sept.	1.734.000	+ 13.000	479.000	− 23.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*4,666,000*	− *344,000*	*1.216,000*	− *274,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Aug.	3.564.000	+ 196.000	1.095.000	+ 279.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*23,770,000*	+ *671,000*	*4,655,000*	+ *2,665,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Sept.	1.319.000	+ 100.000	422.000	+ 86.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*3,685,000*	+ *139,000*	*965,000*	+ *136,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Sept.	412.000	+ 98.000	169.000	+ 47.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*1,248,000*	+ *208,000*	*576,000*	+ *161,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Aug.	2.130.000	+ 27.000	827.000	− 31.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*14,957,000*	+ *108,000*	*4,900,000*	+ *558,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Sept.	2.444.000	+ 155.000	1.008.000	+ 290.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*6,650,000*	+ *307,000*	*2,241,000*	+ *626,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Sept.	8.254.000	+ 747.000	2.422.000	+ 968.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*47,488,000*	+ *2,629,000*	*12,982,000*	+ *2,995,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Sept	£808.630	− £25.700	£255.100	+ £23.850
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*6,453,450*	− *503,700*	*1,769,350*	+ *74,750*
Grand Trunk Western a	Sept.	137.650	+ 12.050	46.150	+ 34.250
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,120,750*	+ *20,600*	*130,950*	+ *97,300*
Great Northern ..... a	Sept.	$7.862.000	− $219.000	$4.040.000	− $299.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*19,882,000*	− *1,955,000*	*9,029,000*	− *1,429,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Aug.	650.000	− 61.000	313.000	+ 28.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,193,000*	+ *31,000*	*538,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Sept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	1.327.000	+ 68.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*16,765,000*	− *605,000*	*2,982,000*	− *244,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Sept.	871.000	+ 12.000	318.000	+ 67.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,509,000*	− *180,000*	*927,000*	+ *76,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Sept.	3.944.000	+ 28.000	1.150.000	+ 40.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*11,458,000*	+ *189,000*	*3,269,000*	+ *98,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Sept.	4.862.000	+ 260.000	1.488.000	+ 522.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*13,976,000*	− *135,000*	*4,000,000*	+ *967,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Aug.	3.244.000	+ 222.000	1.019.000	+ 134.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*23,861,000*	+ *729,000*	*6,228,000*	+ *1,018,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Aug.	2.538.000	+ 78.000	833.000	+ 191.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*4,926,000*	− *18,000*	*1,582,000*	+ *211,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Sept.	2.627.000	− 66.000	585.000	− 35.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*7,797,000*	− *311,000*	*1,847,000*	− *208,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Aug.	5.111.000	− 242.000	1.145.000	− 246.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,874,000*	− *732,000*	*2,092,000*	− *708,000*
New York Central..... a	Aug.	14.458.000	+ 583.000	4.776.000	+ 897.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*103,873,000*	+ *3,817,000*	*27,483,000*	+ *8,873,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Aug.	6.263.000	+ 507.000	2.114.000	+ 482.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,511,000*	− *999,000*	*4,309,000*	+ *1,115,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Sept.	728.000	− 94.000	186.000	− 2.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,602,000*	− *214,000*	*916,000*	+ *4,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Aug.	4,729.000	+ 733.000	1.534.000	+ 488.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*9,196,000*	+ *1,461,000*	*2,885,000*	+ *1,043,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Sept.	6.768.000	+ 35.000	3.442.000	+ 548.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*18,194,000*	− *407,000*	*8,008,000*	+ *884,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Aug.	23.617.000	+ 605.000	7.396.000	+ 783.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*159,031,000*	− *2,470,000*	*34,056,000*	+ *3,328,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Aug.	11.153.000	+ 361.000	3.462.000	+ 483.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*73,715,000*	− *1,284,000*	*15,349,000*	+ *1,926,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Sept.	3.889.000	+ 169.000	1.085.000	+ 49.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*29,466,000*	− *481,000*	*6,052,000*	+ *223,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Sept.	4.482.000	+ 171.000	1.766.000	+ 312.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*13,775,000*	+ *533,000*	*4,522,000*	+ *715,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Sept.	2.125.000	− 672.000	Def. 24.000	− 232.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*5,916,000*	− *1,181,000*	Def.*229,000*	− *319,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.753.000	− 91.000	1.121.000	− 12.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,303,000*	− *357,000*	*2,108,000*	− *32,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Aug.	1.576.000	− 114.000	339.000	− 24.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*3,203,000*	− *326,000*	*715,000*	− *82,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1.341.000	4.738.000	+ 828.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*39,453,000*	+ *4,207,000*	*13,928,000*	+ *3,382,000*
Southern ..... a	Sept.	5.617.000	+ 107.000	1.679.000	+ 841.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*16,141,000*	− *762,000*	*4,387,000*	+ *1,075,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Sept.	9.152.000	− 11.000	3.928.000	+ 4.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*25,445,000*	+ *255,000*	*10,179,000*	+ *124,000*
Wabash ..... a	Aug.	2.813.000	+ 21.000	826.000	+ 82.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*5,235,000*	− *206,000*	*1,247,000*	+ *173,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Aug.	722.000	+ 169.000	256.000	+ 161.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*1,424,000*	+ *310,000*	*506,000*	+ *317,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Oct. 21	$116.000 +	$32.000	16	$1.490.000 −	$ 36.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 21	857.000 +	31.000	16	14.133.000 +	1.510.000
Chicago Great Western	Oct. 31	322.000 −	5.000	17	4.900.000 −	148.000
Colorado & Southern	Oct. 21	331.000 +	4.000	16	4.618.000 +	166.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Oct. 31	826.000 +	65.000	17	9.225.000 +	540.000
Great Northern	M.ofSept.	7,862.000 −	219.000	3†	19.882.000 −	1,955.000
Illinois Central	M.ofSept.	5.757.000 +	227.000	3†	16.165.000 −	605.000
Louisville & Nashville	Oct. 21	1,142.000 +	113.000	16	17.347.000 +	41.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Oct. 21	749.000 +	77.000	16	10.276.000 +	206.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Oct. 31	1.007.000 −	78.000	17	10.697.000 −	540.000
Missouri Pacific	Oct. 31	1,826.000 +	71.000	17	20.689.000 −	808.000
Southern Railway	Oct. 31	1,948.000 +	208.000	17	22.116.000 −	317.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1915.

WAR FINANCE.

THE NEW VOTE OF CREDIT.

THE Prime Minister this week has asked Parliament for another vote of credit of £400,000,000, bringing the total votes asked for in the current fiscal year to £1,300,000,000, or to a total since the outbreak of war of £1,662,000,000. The manner in which the Prime Minister moved the vote of credit, the manner in which the House of Commons discussed the matter, and the action of the House of Lords in raising the whole question of Governmental expenditures and national economy indicate a much healthier state of affairs, and a much greater degree of enlightenment than was shown when the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his Budget in September. Indeed, the discussions in Parliament seem to foreshadow a very great and early improvement in the financial situation now that the position is appreciated and understood. The Prime Minister's statement showed clearly that the condition of the national finances has now become a subject of paramount importance with the Government, and that effective steps will be taken by the Cabinet to check the rapid and disturbing growth in expenditure to an impossible aggregate. Moreover, it is obvious from the speeches delivered, both in the Commons and in the Lords, that Parliament is becoming thoroughly awake, and is not likely to give the Government any further rest or peace until adequate measures have been taken (1) to keep expenditure within the limits of safety, (2) to prevent waste, and (3) to rearrange the economy of the nation so that the existing great adverse balance of trade will be rectified. There is no real difficulty to be overcome in bringing about an equilibrium both in the Government's and in the nation's finances if the necessary steps are taken. All that needs to be done is for the Government to see that the nation gets value for its money; that the aggregate Governmental expenditure is within the capacity of the nation to meet; to tell the country how much money it must provide out of its income; and, lastly, to take measures to induce the country to provide the sum needed. If the Government succeeds in limiting the nation's expenditure to a maximum of £4,500,000 per day, no difficulty should be experienced in meeting this expenditure or in adjusting the trade balance. Of course, if the daily expenditure could be reduced to £4,000,000 per day, the financial problem would become still easier. As we pointed out last week, an expenditure of £4,500,000 per day can be provided as to £1,000,000 out of existing taxation, as to £1,500,000 out of existing savings after taxation has been met, as to about £1,000,000 by foreign credits and by the sale of foreign securities, and, as to the remaining £1,000,000 per day, out of the additional money which the country could easily provide if it realised the necessity of cutting off its luxuries and a certain amount of its comforts.

Now that the question of economy in the Governmental expenditures is being faced, a very great reduction in expenditure will, we are convinced, be effected, and funds will thus be found for the maintenance of the still greater Army now being enlisted and for the purchase of a still greater quantity of munitions without any further increase in expenditure. In fact, the Prime Minister's statement as to all the measures that have been taken to secure economy in the Governmental expenditures, if followed by further measures to induce the nation as a whole to become economical in their expenditures, will give Great Britain all the money she will need to maintain not only her great Navy and to supply her Allies with any reasonable sum of money they may require to pay for goods purchased abroad, but also to maintain, equip, and supply with abundance of ammunition an army which will compare not unfavourably with the armies of the Continental nations.

In taking a much more hopeful view of the financial outlook than hitherto we have felt warranted in holding, we are placing implicit reliance on the assurance of the Prime Minister that as far as possible all wasteful expenditure will be eliminated, and that every item of expenditure will be carefully canvassed, to ascertain if full value is being obtained for the money expended.

There is, however, one statement by the Prime Minister which will doubtless cause a certain amount of uneasiness. The Vote of Credit is based upon an expenditure upon the War of no less than £5,000,000 per day for the next two and a half months. If to this sum be added the interest on Debt and the Civil Service and other expenditures, the sum for which provision is made is not far short of £5,500,000 a day. It is obvious that so great a sum ought not to be expended. For the country to make economies of £1,000,000 a day in order to cover a total daily cost of £4,500,000 would not be beyond its powers, but to make an economy of £2,000,000 per diem to meet an expenditure of £5,500,000 would entail a strain upon its resources that ought not to be contemplated. Therefore we would have preferred that the Prime Minister, in moving the new Vote of Credit, had expressed his intention of keeping the national expenditure within £4,500,000 a day. We realise, however, that in asking for a Vote of £5,000,000 per day for war purposes, the Government merely wished to have ample powers to meet any expenditures that might be incurred, but which they do not expect to incur.

In order that our readers may realise and appreciate what the Government has done and is doing to secure ecenomy we give the following extract from the Prime Minister's speech:—

"I now turn to the Vote which is the subject of discussion. It amounts to £400,000,000. The last Vote which I moved in September was prepared on the assumption that the weekly average and total issues, taking everything into account, would not exceed £35,000,000 per week, or £5,000,000 per day. The figures which I have given will show that during the past weeks the expenditure has been well within that limit. As I have already stated, the expenditure in respect of advances to Foreign Powers is expected to increase, and so also, I am certain, for perfectly legitimate reasons, will the expenditure on munitions. Notwithstanding this, and although it becomes increasingly difficult to forecast the rate of expenditure as the total involved expands, we see no reason at present to suppose that during the next two and a half months the total issues from the Vote of Credit which we are now asking will exceed the figure upon which my last estimate was based—namely, £5,000,000 per day. I will not call it a liberal, but I think it is a safe, estimate of the outside figure the expenditure is likely to reach.

"We now propose to the House a sum at the rate of £5,000,000 per day, which, as far as we can judge, will be sufficient to carry on the public services until about the middle of February of next year. Let me say here that I myself would have been quite prepared to propose a

smaller Vote to the House than the one I am actually submitting which exceeds very considerably any of the Votes of Credit to which the House of Commons has already assented—provided, of course, that we proceed upon the calculated basis of an expenditure of £5,000,000 per day. It is really, I think, a matter of parliamentary convenience whether we should take a Vote now, as the Government are proposing, of £400,000,000, which would carry us on, upon that basis, to the middle of February, or whether we should take a Vote of £50,000,000 or £100,000,000 less, to carry us on to some date in January. Having regard, however, to parliamentary exigencies and parliamentary convenience—there being no question of principle involved in the distinction between the two courses—I am disposed to recommend to the House—though I rather tremble at the figure I am asking—to provide the Government, by means of the Vote of Credit, with the sum which upon our estimate will suffice to carry us on until the middle of February.

"Before I bring my statement to a close and I am purposely to-day at this stage of the discussion confining myself in a very large degree to financial and, indeed, statistical matters—I wish to say one word upon these gigantic and unprecedented figures from the point of view of public economy, and of our national capacity to sustain the burden which we have willingly undertaken, and which we are all resolved to the very last to bear. This is a subject which, though perhaps it will hardly be believed, without any external stimulus or any suggestion from our numerous advisers outside, has engaged the closest attention of the Government for weeks and for months past; and we have had sitting a Committee of the Cabinet for a considerable time now to review, to take into account, the whole of these commitments to discover if they can see possibilities not inconsistent with the maintenance of the efficiency of our services and due prosecution of the War, for saving expenditure, and to suggest expedients and remedies, if such can be found, in that direction.

"The Committee was presided over by my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it includes—it has by no means completed its labour—seven Cabinet Ministers and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The House may be quite assured, and I give them the assurance, that this Committee in the course of its investigations has considered, and is considering, the possibility of economy in every branch of our expenditure, particularly the expenditure upon the Army and the Navy. They have already made recommendations in that direction, and there are two or three points particularly connected with the Army I should like to indicate to the House. It has been suggested, as the result of the investigations of this Committee, that money might be saved in regard to the Army by a closer examination of contract prices, by revising the scale of Army rations, and by sending back to civil employment men found unfit for active service, either permanently or for long periods. Action has already been taken, and is being taken in all these directions."

Not the least interesting part of Mr. Asquith's illuminating statement was the information he gave to the House as to the existing composition of the General Staff of the War Office. The head of the General Staff is now Lieut.-Colonel Sir Archibald Murray, who has made a great reputation for himself as Chief of the Staff on General Sir John French's staff.

For the purpose of showing how the daily war expenditures have increased we tabulate the information given by Mr. Asquith:—

Daily War Expenditure.

	£
April 1 to June 30	2,700,000
July 1 to July 17	3,000,000
July 18 to Sept. 11	3,500,000
Sept. 12 to Nov. 6	4,350,000

* Interest, Civil and other Services have averaged £16,000 per day throughout the period.

Below we set out details of the nation's Governmental expenditures from April 1 to November 6, according to the additional information furnished by the Prime Minister:—

April 1 to November 6.

	£
Army, Navy, and Munitions	517,300,000
Bank of England repaid	104,000,000
Loans to Allies	58,900,000
Loans to Dominions	39,400,000
Food Supplies and Miscellaneous Charges ..	23,500,000
Total War Expenditure	743,100,000
Civil Service, &c.	46,393,000
Permanent Charge of Debt	16,560,000
Interest on War Debt	6,140,000
Road Improvement Fund	694,000
Payments to Local Taxation	5,138,000
Other Consolidate Fund Services	1,193,000
Total other than War	76,118,000
Aggregate	819,218,000

THE CABINET AND ITS REFORM.

For some time past a carping criticism has been practised in regard to the Government which goes far beyond what is expedient. It is quite right that Ministers should be criticised when they do anything which seems to call for criticism. But we should all bear in mind, at the same time, that in war it is not possible for Ministers always to justify their actions. They may find, or at all events believe, it to be their duty to take certain action which to their critics may appear injudicious, or even altogether wrong. And yet the Government may feel that it would be a dereliction of duty if they were to state plainly why they took the action complained of. Therefore, in a time of war it clearly is the duty of the public to give support to the Government wherever possible, and when criticism is almost forced upon an organ of public opinion, to express that criticism so judiciously that it shall not make a false impression abroad, or lead to suspicion either at home or abroad that the people are divided amongst themselves. One of the complaints which has been a great deal harped upon is that the Cabinet is altogether too large. The explanation, no doubt, is that in order to establish a Coalition Government it has been found necessary to include many more persons than a careful regard for the speed and the efficiency of Cabinet action would advise. The critics, then, ought to remember that they themselves assisted very largely in bringing about the state of things of which they complain, for they were amongst the loudest to clamour for a Coalition Government. The Coalition Government now being in office, they are just as little satisfied as they were before, and they are crying out loudly that the Coalition Cabinet is too numerous. A Committee of the Cabinet has now been appointed for the express purpose of conducting the War. The five gentlemen composing the Committee are Mr. Asquith, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. McKenna. It seems to us that the step is a wise one, and that it ought to facilitate a more efficient control of the War. Yet if we are wise we will not expect too much from a change of the kind. Everybody who has had experience in administration of any kind by a board of any form have learned that a very numerous body is exceedingly likely to be divided in opinion and to be difficult to induce to come to a decision. Twenty-two gentlemen seated round a table would each of them probably have a view of his own, and if each one is to put forward his view in full it is plain that despatch of business will not be the result. A very small body, then, is much more likely to decide quickly than a large body. But quickness of decision is not by any means the greatest merit on the part of an administrative body. Every person with experience knows that one man sometimes get undue control over a board, and that practically what is done is the

action of one man, but the reasoned decision of a number of able men. Whether the new change will prove to be as beneficial as is expected will depend, then, upon the spirit in which the new Committee takes up its functions. Assuming, as we trust we may, that the Committee undertake their new duties in the right spirit, then they will soon attract to themselves the confidence of the country. For what is really wanted is the knowledge that a few really capable men are entrusted with the control of the War, and will recognise that everything else must be subordinate to that first requisite.

Some of the more crotchety critics have not been satisfied with demanding a much smaller inner Cabinet to conduct the War, but have insisted that even that inner Cabinet should be guided entirely by its expert advisers. We are glad to find that that mischievous suggestion has been rejected. The government of the country is vested in the Cabinet so long as the Cabinet has the confidence of the people. If the Cabinet has lost confidence, let the House of Commons show that it has, and put another Cabinet in its place. But as long as the country desires that the present Cabinet shall continue, then it is clear that the present Cabinet must decide. We have all put our confidence in the existing Government, and to that Government we look for the wise measures which are to bring the enemy to his knees. Of course, every wise Minister will be most anxious to have the best expert advice he can get. It is inconceivable that Ministers should decide, say, upon the attempt to force the Dardanelles, or the action to be taken to defend Serbia, without consulting the very best naval and military authorities. The Prime Minister has exploded the fiction that Mr. Churchill on his own authority ordered the naval attack upon the Dardanelles. How anybody of experience and common sense could have believed such a fiction passes our comprehension. Every Minister, then, whether he is acting in the full Cabinet or in the War Cabinet, will be most eager to get the fullest and the frankest expression of opinion from the naval and military advisers. But our readers need not be told that experts are themselves usually divided on all great questions. It is the general opinion that Lord Fisher disapproved of the attack upon the Dardanelles by the Fleet alone. From what was said by Mr. Asquith, it appears to be certain that Lord Kitchener was in favour of the attack, though at the time he could not afford an Army to support it. There is no question that the Admiral in command on the spot was in favour of a naval attack. We have the certainty, therefore, that some experts of great experience were in favour of what was done, and we have at all events grounds for believing that other experts were opposed to it. That being so, it is clearly impossible to act on the advice of experts alone, even if it were advisable. But it is not advisable. The Ministers, if they are fit for their places, ought to be able to judge, after a full and careful inquiry from their expert advisers, what course they ought to adopt; and they ought to take that course on the strength of their own convictions, and not merely because it is suggested by advisers. Such a course, in fact, as some of the critics of the Government advise, would be mischievous in the extreme. The Cabinet would be supposed by the nation to have decided upon a certain course, whereas in actual fact the Cabinet would have surrendered their own judgment to the majority of their expert advisers. In other words, we should be governed not by those whom Parliament is prepared to support, but by certain experts of whom the great majority of us know practically nothing. In a democratic Government such as ours there are no means consistent with honour and duty of delegating power. A Minister, if he feels strongly upon any point, and is overruled, may very properly resign. But for a whole Cabinet to give up its own opinion because some of its expert advisers hold some other opinion, would be a gross dereliction of duty.

THE AMERICAN NOTE.

The militarist and sensationalist Press is writing at present about the last American Note addressed to this country in a tone that is strongly to be deprecated. It is never to be lost sight of by those who wish to understand the attitude of neutrals and belligerents in the present great struggle that there are rights upon both sides, and that it is desirable that the belligerents should not only understand, but should respect, the rights of neutrals, as it is equally desirable that neutrals should understand and respect the rights of belligerents. In the portion of the Press to which we have just referred this view of the matter is completely ignored, and a spirit is displayed which, if it had as much effect as manifestly is intended, might materially extend the deplorable struggle in which we are engaged. Broadly speaking, in peace time every nation has the right to trade with every other nation; and as, happily, in our own day wars are only occasional misfortunes, while peace prevails for most of the time, peoples come to regard their right to conduct their trade without interference by anybody as indefeasible. Unfortunately, it is not so. As soon as war breaks out the several belligerents naturally desire to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible, and one very effectual way of doing that is to prevent—or, at all events, to restrict—the trade of the enemy as much as they can. As every country may become a belligerent, all countries recognise that this natural desire is one that must be respected. And, therefore, neutrals consent that their own trade shall be more or less inconvenienced so as to permit belligerents to bring the state of war as quickly as possible to an end. A great many rules have been devised and accepted with the object of limiting as much as reasonably can be done the powers of belligerents at sea, while safeguarding the interests of neutrals. But when everything is done it is inevitable that neutrals must suffer more or less from blockades and their accessories. As it happens, the British Empire at the present moment possesses a navy beyond all comparison greater than any other Power in the world. Consequently, the British Government is able to harass the enemy's trade to an unprecedented extent—practically to drive the enemy's ships off the seas, and to make it difficult for even neutrals to trade with the enemy. Under such circumstances it is inevitable that acts should be committed every now and then which give rise to complaints from neutrals. There may be the most honest desire on the part of the most powerful maritime State to do nothing unfair to neutrals. Yet neutrals, finding their business cabined and cribbed, naturally complain. The circumstances being such, it is obviously the duty of belligerents and of neutrals to do everything possible to avoid heated discussions: to settle such matters as arise in a fair and friendly spirit; and to avoid doing anything which manifestly would be injurious to the superior maritime Power. We must always bear in mind that it is the interest of neutrals not to cripple belligerent rights too much, just as it is equally the interest of belligerents not to cripple neutral rights too much. For example, it is a very long time since, before the present conflict, the British Government has been at war with any great Power. During that time it has been a neutral, and it clearly has been its interest that neutral rights should be respected. When this War is over we all earnestly hope that we shall enjoy a still longer period of profound peace. Then we shall be neutrals if wars arise, and it will be our interest that neutral rights of every kind should be respected. On the other hand, such a Power as the United States, for example, may be involved in war quite without any aggressive designs on its part. If such should be the case, it would be desirable for the United States that belligerent rights should not have [illegible] become the interest of England to see neutral rights

fully respected, just as it may become the interest of the United States to see belligerent rights fully acknowledged. The real true interest of all parties, then, is for belligerents to respect the rights of neutrals, and for neutrals not to prevent belligerents from adopting what are acknowledged to be belligerent rights, and so bringing the War to an early conclusion. We trust, then, that the tone of the militarist and sensationalist Press will not be imitated by the rest of the Press of this country; that in all discussions of the American Note the rights of America will be fully recognised; and that we shall all show ourselves anxious to meet in the friendliest spirit the Americans on all points where they are right.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR BY THE ALLIES.

The Government has not given much information respecting the business which has taken Lord Kitchener from the War Office at this critical moment, and we hold that the Government has acted wisely. We believe that a Government ought to give every information which will not assist the enemy, and that in a democratic country like our own it is more important than elsewhere that such information should be given freely and fully. But where a Government believes that information might help the enemy it is its duty not to make public that information. We assume that the Government is convinced that it ought to keep silent at present. Therefore we shall not ourselves even attempt to guess what the duty is upon which Lord Kitchener has been despatched, or how long he will find it necessary to absent himself from London. It is enough that he has been requested by his colleagues in general to go on a mission. We are bound, as long as we have confidence in the Ministry, to believe that they have not sent him from the country without exceedingly good grounds for doing so. Meanwhile, measures are being taken which ought to have been taken long ago, and which, we sincerely trust, will greatly quicken the successful termination of the War. It has always been the objection to war alliances that a thorough understanding between the various Allies is impossible, and, consequently, that really common action is impracticable. In the present war it is often objected that while the Entente Allies have not agreed upon any common course of action, the Central European Empires have, and thereby have possessed a great advantage over their antagonists. In a sense the statement is true. But we are not quite so sure that the benefit to the Central European Powers is as great as it appears. Germany for more than half a century has been preparing for the great struggle into which she plunged fifteen months ago. But Germany was a country which had been prepared by State Socialism, by State Socialism applied to education, and by an exceedingly competent educational system, to make her preparations even though they involved great inconvenience to her people and the expenditure of vast sums of money. Germany, at the same time, was able to get control of Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary, at the time of the Crimean war, mortally wounded Russia, and she feared that she never would be forgiven. Therefore, although in 1866 Austria was driven by Prussia out of the Germanic Confederation, yet Austria deemed it wiser and safer to ally herself with Prussia than with Russia. She made up her mind most deliberately, and as the Hapsburg Monarchy consists of two practically independent parts—Austria and Hungary—Germany knew that she could count upon the Magyars, and, therefore, that whatever hostilities might exist in Austria would be overcome. The result was that an alliance was concluded between Germany and Austria-Hungary which, in effect, bound the hands of the Emperor Francis Joseph and made Germany practically master of the Dual Monarchy. When the War broke out which Germany took so long a time to prepare for, the Emperor Francis Joseph was a very old man, broken by misfortunes of many kinds. His heir had just been murdered, and his new heir was without experience and without authority. Practically, therefore, Austria-Hungary was dependent upon Germany, and whether dependants of that kind are a real advantage to Germany is a question which experience will determine before very long. Whatever the verdict may be, it is certain that Germany was sure of Austria; that she could count thoroughly upon the Magyars; and thoroughly also upon the military clique. But the Hapsburg Monarchy is a mere congeries of warring nationalities, and the first great disaster that befalls Austrian arms will dispel many a fancy that now rules all over the world.

Meanwhile, Germany saw some of her arrangements go awry. She had not only concluded a close treaty with Austria-Hungary, but she had attached Italy also to herself. Yet as soon as Germany declared war Italy refused to draw the sword on her behalf, and Italy now is fighting Austria. If, then, Germany has had the advantage of being able to control at will the land and sea forces of Austria-Hungary, she has, on the other hand, had the disappointment of seeing the third member of the Triple Alliance break away from her and join the Entente Powers. It is said in answer to all this that Germany, at all events, has been able to dispose of the Austrian armies and navies almost as completely as of her own, while the Entente Powers have not acted upon any common policy, and do not seem even to have seriously consulted how best they could support one another. That is a kind of assertion which is exceedingly easy to make, but which it is impossible to prove, and which cannot be effectually disproved until the War is over. As a matter of fact, both parties in the United Kingdom had decided that they would not engage in a great land war with any considerable number of men. Lord Haldane, in accordance with dictates laid down by Mr. Balfour when he was Prime Minister, gave the country an Expeditionary Force of about 150,000 men. But he refused to increase that Force largely, and he based his policy upon the strength of the British Navy. As we were not in a position to send to the assistance of our Allies more than about 150,000 men, it would have been absurd to have asked for any important position in the Alliance. We could, and we did, serve France very effectually in August and September of last year. But we could not claim a potent voice in determining the war policy when our Army was so small. Similarly, we could not expect that Russia would subordinate what seemed to her her greatest interest simply out of regard for our views. We were not in a position to play the part which Germany has played in her sphere. And it is only now that we are coming into the position in which we can aim at such a reconstruction. It is matter of common notoriety that General Joffre last week visited London, and had long and serious consultations with Lord Kitchener. It is also common knowledge that Lord Kitchener immediately after visited Paris, and again had long and important consultations with General Joffre. It is, of course, not certain, for we have not full and definite official explanations. But enough has been said by the Prime Minister to justify us in concluding that, so far at all events as France is concerned, we are making arrangements by which the naval and military policy of the two Powers will be determined by common consent. It is a very remarkable outcome of the fighting of the past fifteen months; and it gives proof of the clearness of judgment of the French authorities and their stern determination to fight the War out until the arrogant enemy is struck down who aimed at destroying France. Already our Government has induced the other Allied Governments not to put up money rates against one another by competing for loans in the world's Money markets. England has undertaken to

borrow the larger part of the moneys, so that everything financially necessary should be provided. That is one of the reasons why our expenditure upon the War is so enormously greater than the expenditure of our Allies. But it is only so temporarily, for the moneys lent by England will become the debts of our Allies, and sooner or later the whole burden will be proportionately borne.

It is better not to speculate as to what Russia and Italy will do. The example set by France and England will, no doubt, bear fruit. But we are content to wait until it suits those Powers to announce the policy they have decided upon. It is a matter for very general congratulation that England and France have come to recognise that in this War their interests are one; that each can best serve its own real interests by acting loyally with the other; by consulting beforehand upon every important subject; and by preferring the common interest to what may seem the more immediately pressing interest of one or other. Meanwhile, there is a general feeling that the less said about the operations in the Balkans the better. That England and France are both giving Serbia assistance is certain. And that other measures are being taken admits of no doubt. But as none of the Governments think it wise to show their hands just at present every good journalist will conclude that the less he speculates the better it will be. Serbia must be helped as far as we can help her. And whatever misfortunes overtake her, she will have to be restored to independence and rewarded for all she has suffered. But what is to be done immediately we do not know, and the Government does not think it wise to tell. Therefore, good subjects will leave it to those concerned to bide their time before they make any announcement. We know that England and France practically have renounced separate action, and have pledged themselves to take counsel with one another on every future step. We hope that something of the same kind, as far as circumstances permit, will be done by both Russia and Italy. But for the time being we must rest content with such knowledge as we have, hoping that now that winter has set in in earnest the Germans will not be in a position to push their adventures very far. Everybody knows what the Russian winter means, and how little, therefore, either the Germans or the Austrians can bear operations in the midst of the winter. Meanwhile, Russia is receiving such a prolongation of time for preparation as ought to put her in a position to deal satisfactorily with the enemy. During the next few months Germany can do little. Russia can receive immense supplies of every kind; and when the spring sets in she ought to be able to give a good account of the enemy within her borders.

THE COST OF LIVING.

OUR INDEX-NUMBER OF PRICES.

At the end of last year and early this year the prices of commodities steadily advanced until from 81.2—the index number for June 1914—107.2 was reached in May 1915. In June and July last there was a setback in prices due to heavy sales by the Government of produce bought in previous months. The Government's purchases were largely responsible for the great rise in prices that took place up to May, and the world's great consumption prevented any appreciable decline in prices when the Government became a seller of foodstuffs instead of a buyer. But since July prices have again risen, and from 106.4 the index-number rose to 107.8 in September, and it has now further advanced to 110, the highest figure reached since 1873, when the number was 111.

The further advance last month to a figure that very nearly approaches the 1873 level is shown by the following statement of The Statist's index-numbers of the prices of 45 commodities, the average for the 11 years 1867-77 being 100:—

Annual Numbers.		*Monthly Numbers.*	
Period	Average	Month	Index No.
1873	111	June 1914	81.2
1878-87	79	July 1914	82.4
1890-99	66	August 1914	87.9
1905-14	79	September 1914 ...	89.3
1880	88	October 1914 ...	89.8
1896	61	November 1914 ...	88.8
1905	72	December 1914 ...	91.6
1906	77	January 1915 ...	96.4
1907	80	February 1915 ...	100.9
1908	73	March 1915	103.7
1909	74	April 1915	105.9
1910	78	May 1915	107.2
1911	80	June and July 1915...	106.4
1912	85	August 1915	107.0
1913	85	September 1915 ...	107.8
1914	86	October 1915 ...	110.0

The advance last month was due to a further rise in prices of cereal foods, of minerals, textiles, and sundry materials. In some measure these advances were counteracted by a substantial fall in animal food and a slight fall in sugar and tea.

Since war began the advance in vegetable food has been 66%, in animal food rather less than 27%, in sugar, coffee and tea 30.7%, in minerals 28%, in textiles 24%, and in sundries 39%.

Comparison of the prices of the various classes last month with previous periods is made below:—

	Veg. Food (Corn, &c.)	Animal Food (Meat & Butter)	Sugar, Coffee & Tea	Minerals	Textiles	Sundries
Year 1873 ...	106	109	106	141	103	106
Aver. 1878–87 ...	79	95	76	73	71	81
„ 1890–99 ...	61	80	63	71	56	66
„ 1905–14 ...	70	92	53	97	75	78
June 1914 ...	66.5	97.5	51.8	96.7	80.6	82.5
May 1915 ...	110·1	134.5	72.0	119.6	86.5	107.5
June „ ...	103.0	127.5	73·4	126.6	90.6	106.2
July „ ...	105.4	130.3	72.9	121.2	89.6	107.1
Aug. „ ...	105.6	131 8	71.4	119.6	92.6	107.7
Sept. „ ...	101.1	129.3	71.5	121.6	98.3	110.2
Oct. „ ...	110.3	123.4	67.7	123.9	100.2	114.7
+or- % Oct. '15	+9.1	− 4.6	−5.3	+1.9	+1.9	+4.1
Do. % since June'14	+66.0	+26.7	+30.7	+28.1	+24.3	+39.0

Combining vegetable food and animal food, we find there was a rise of 1% in prices in October, while the advance in the prices of materials was 2.9%. Since war began the advance in foodstuffs has been 42% and in materials 31.5%.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index-numbers for last month compare thus (1866-77 = 100 in both cases):—

	Food-stuffs	Materials
Year 1873 ...	107	114
Aver. 1878-87 ...	84	76
„ 1890-99 ...	68	64
„ 1905-14 ...	75	82
July 1896 ...	60.0	58.6
May 1907 ...	73.5	88.9
Feb. 1909 ...	70.8	72.6
June 1914 ...	74.8	85 7
May 1915 ...	111.1	104.3

	Food-stuffs	Materials
June 1915 ...	105.8	106.9
July „ ...	107.7	105.5
Aug. „ ...	108.1	106.3
Sept. „ ...	105.2	109.6
Oct „ ...	106.2	112.7
+or− % in Oct.	+1.0	+ 2 9
Rise % 16 mos.	+42.0	+ 31.5

Silver has been firm, and the price rose to 24 1/16*d.* in consequence partly of small supplies and partly of a general demand not only from the Continent but also from the East.

The price and index-number of silver for last month compare as follows (60.84*d.* per oz. being the parity of 1 gold to 15½ silver=100):—

	Price *d.*	Index-No.
Average 1890-99	34	= 55.8
Average 1905-14	26 11/16	= 43.9
Average 1893 ...	35 5/8	= 58.6
Average 1909 ...	23 11/16	= 38.9
Average 1914 ...	25 1/16	= 41.6
Lowest, Nov. 1902	21 11/16	= 35.6

End of	Price *d.*	Index No.
Dec. 1906 ...	32 5/16	= 53.1
June 1914 ...	26	= 42.7
Oct. 1914 ...	22 3/16	= 36.5
Dec. 1914 ...	22 11/16	= 37.3
Sept. 1915 ...	23 1/4	= 39 0
Oct. 1915 ...	24 1/16	= 39.6

Gold has continued to be exported on a great scale, notwithstanding the sale by Great Britain of a large amount of American securities and the creation of an Anglo-French loan in the United States for £100,000,000. This has been due to the adverse trade balance arising from our enormous purchases of foreign goods, the smallness of our exports, and the substantial advances which Great Britain is making to her Allies and Colonies.

OUR GREAT IMPORTS.

A CERTAIN amount of satisfaction has been expressed that the value of our imports in October has been no more than £67,792,000, in comparison with £70,293,000 in September and as much as £76,117,000 in July, and inferences have been made that this decline indicates greater economy in consumption in this country. One wishes that one could take this view of the matter, but unfortunately the facts do not altogether square with the theory. The decline in our imports in October was due in part to the lightness of our imports of wheat and flour, the quantity of wheat imported being only 5,000,000 cwt., against nearly 8,000,000 cwt. two years ago, and the quantity of flour imported being no more than 829,000 cwt., against 1,235,000 cwt. in October 1913. Now, the drop in our wheat and flour imports has not been due to economy. It arises from the fact that American farmers and dealers in wheat expect to sell this year's crops at higher prices than have recently been current, and have been holding back supplies. Last year the financial pressure in all the wheat-growing countries forced wheat upon the market early, but this year there is no financial pressure in those countries; indeed, the prosperity of farmers is so great owing to the high prices at which they have sold their last year's crop and at which they are able to sell this year's crop also, that they are exceptionally well able to hold their crops for a time if they regard prices as unsatisfactory. We notice that the Board of Trade has assumed that the small imports of wheat recently was due to the difficulty of obtaining charters for the carriage of wheat, and that it has commandeered ships to carry wheat. If the Board of Trade will look into the matter more closely we think they will find that the recent small arrivals of wheat here arise not only from the dearth of shipping, the seriousness of which we recognise, but also from the abundance of money in the agricultural countries, and to the consequent ability of the farmers in those countries to hold their wheat for what they now regard as satisfactory prices. The world's grain crops of this year are very large, but after a moderate fall in September prices in October have fully recovered. The small arrivals of wheat in October were in face of the fact that Russia is now exporting goods, including wheat, much more freely than it had done since the Dardanelles were closed. Our purchases of Russian wheat during October have amounted to 242,000 cwt., against only 61,500 cwt. in 1914 and 923,000 cwt. in 1913. The smallness of the arrivals so far in the current crop season will doubtless be made good in later months, but it is evident that the contraction of imports in October was not due to any falling off in the demand or in consumption in this country, but to the fact that supplies were held back for higher prices and to the shortage of shipping.

The shrinkage in imports has unfortunately been attended by some contraction in exports. In October the value of the exports was £31,969,000, in comparison with £32,308,000 in September and £34,721,000 in July. We regard this shrinkage of £3,000,000 in the value of our exports since July as a much more important matter than the contraction in our imports. Having regard to the greatness of our imports, it is of very great importance that our exports should be maintained. The course of our imports and exports in recent months will be evident from the following statement:—

Foreign Trade of United Kingdom (000's omitted).

	—Total Imports—			—Net Imports—		
	1914	1913	+ or −	1914	1913	+ or −
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1st 7 months ...	435,250	440,491	− 5,241	368,148	373,124	− 4,976
August ...	42,562	55,976	−13,614	37,942	47,825	− 9,883
September	45,052	61,356	−16,304	39,778	54,503	−14,725
October ...	51,559	71,730	−20,171	44,379	62,174	−71,795
November	55,987	68,467	−12,480	50,344	60,466	−10,125
December	67,366	71,115	− 3,560	61,684	61,386	+ 298
Year	697,433	768,735	−71,302	601,944	659,160	−57,216
	1915	1914	+ or −	1915	1914	+ or −
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	67,401	68,005	− 604	60,506	58,408	+ 2,098
February ...	65,268	62,053	+ 3,215	58,459	51,824	+ 6,635
March	75,591	66,947	+ 8,644	67,524	57,411	+10,113
April	73,678	61,627	+12,051	63,721	50,838	+12,883
May	71,645	59,099	+12,546	61,402	48,727	+12,675
June	76,118	58,282	+17,836	66,767	49,528	+17,239
July .. .	75,548	59,377	+16,171	66,139	51,551	+14,588
August	69,497	42,343	+27,154	62,173	37,923	+24,250
September	70,293	45,007	+25,286	62,729	39,733	+22,996
October...	67,793	51,379	+16,414	[illegible]	44,259	+16,371
10 months ...	711,634	573,791	+137,843	628,852	489,815	+139,037

	Exports of Produce & Manufactures of the U.K.			Excess of Imports over Exports		
	1914	1913	+ or −	1914	1913	+ or −
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1st 7 months ...	299,863	304,220	− 4,357	68,285	68,904	− 619
August	24,211	44,111	−19,899	13,731	3,715	+10,016
September ...	26,674	42,425	−15,751	13,104	12,078	+ 1,026
October	28,602	46,623	−18,021	15,777	15,551	+ 226
November ...	24,602	44,756	−20,154	25,742	15,710	+10,032
December ...	26,279	43,327	−17,048	35,405	18,059	+17,346
Year	430,231	525,245	−95,014	171,713	133,915	+37,798
	1915	1914	+ or −	1915	1914	+ or −
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	28,248	47,806	−19,558	32,259	10,602	+21,657
February... ...	26,177	41,262	−15,085	32,282	10,562	+21,720
March	30,176	44,519	−14,343	37,348	12,892	+24,456
April	32,170	39,947	− 7,777	31,551	10,891	+20,660
May	33,619	42,051	− 8,432	27,783	6,676	+21,107
June	33,234	39,873	− 6,639	33,533	9,655	+23,878
July	34,722	44,405	− 9,683	31,417	7,106	+24,311
August ...	32,439	24,211	+ 8,228	29,774	13,712	+16,022
September	[illegible]	26,674	+ 5,634	30,421	13,059	[illegible]
October... . .	31,969	28,602	+ 3,367	28,661	15,657	+13,004
7 months ...	[illegible]	374,850	−64,290	315,792	111,465	+204,327

For the 10 months the value of our imports has been nearly £712,000,000. Of this total, £83,000,000 has been re-exported, so that our net imports have reached £629,000,000. Exports of British goods in this period have been £315,000,000. Thus the imports have exceeded the exports by £314,000,000. By the end of the year the excess of imports over exports seems likely to be about £375,000,000.

At the present time there are two matters of great moment concerning our foreign trade demanding attention. The first is how far we are able to pay for our great imports by means of our exports, and the second is from which countries we are buying more freely than we are selling, and how is the difference to be settled. In considering these matters it is essential to note that the value of our foreign trade as given in the Board of Trade Returns is not the total value, as it does not include certain goods which at the time of importation were the property of H.M. Government, and, further, the accounts of goods exported do not include goods taken from British Government stores and depôts, or goods bought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government vessels. It will be realised, of course, that as far as goods are bought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government vessels to the British Forces abroad, these are really goods for home consumption and should be *excluded* from our exports; on the other hand, goods imported by the Government for consumption here or by our armies should be *included* in our imports for consumption. The amount of goods exported from Government stores to Allied nations not for use by the British armies are, of course, an export; but it is obvious that the amount of such goods is not appreciable. Roughly speaking, an item of about £20,000,000 per month should be added to the amount of our imports in respect of goods imported by the Government, or in respect of goods purchased on behalf of the Government in other countries for consumption by the British armies and fleets abroad. In other words, the total value of our imports in October was not £68,000,000, but £88,000,000, and the excess of imports over

exports for the month were £29,000,000, but about £49,000,000. This adjustment is not only necessary when considering the monthly total, but is also essential in considering the amount of money owing by this country to other nations. It is, however, impossible to allocate the £20,000,000 a month of the Government's foreign purchases and foreign payments to individual countries, and in dealing with our balances with individual countries we have been compelled to exclude it.

The following statement shows the value of the goods imported from individual countries in the first nine months of the year, and reveals the greatness of our purchases from the agricultural countries, more especially the United States, Australasia, India, and Argentina:—

Imports of Merchandise by Principal Countries
(000's *omitted*).

Principal Countries Whence Consigned	Nine months to Sept. 30 1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	+ or — 1915 on 1913 £
United States ..	177,097	94,461	93,820	+83,277
Australasia	63,199	49,198	46,167	17,032
India and Ceylon ..	56,291	36,715	39,614	+16,677
Argentina	50,951	25,895	34,175	+16,776
Canada & Newfndld.	28,473	21,429	22,472	+ 6,001
France..	24,193	30,809	35,277	−11,084
Denmark	17,785	18,447	17,333	+ 452
Netherlands	17,609	17,737	17,341	+ 268
Egypt	16,088	13,830	13,541	+ 2,547
Straits Set. & F.M.S...	15,667	11,991	15,223	444
Sweden	14,110	9,143	10,103	+ 4,007
Spain	12,872	9,718	10,317	2,555
Russia	12,177	22,947	28,592	−16,415
Switzerland	11,574	7,539	8,458	+ 3,116
Norway	10,323	5,524	5,709	+ 4,614
South Africa	9,498	9,013	9,062	436
Java	9,238	2,053	1,625	+ 7,613
Italy	8,899	5,999	6,045	+ 2,854
Brit. W. Africa ..	7,598	4,819	3,876	+ 3,722
Chili	7,334	4,370	4,412	+ 2,922
Japan	7,040	3,171	3,236	+ 3,804
Brazil	6,720	6,230	7,790	− 1,070
Cuba	6,719	3,744	3,288	+ 3,431
China	5,514	3,581	3,519	+ 1,995
Uruguay	3,603	2,169	2,363	+ 1,240
Brit. W. Indies ..	3,290	1,880	1,766	1,524
Mauritius	3,246	376	250	+ 2,996
Portugal	3,035	2,282	2,242	+ 793
Greece	1,936	1,100	1,043	+ 893
Belgium	1,170	14,939	17,249	−16,079
Turkey	550	3,083	3,126	− 2,576
Germany	159	46,928	58,646	−58,487
Austria-Hungary ..	35	4,393	5,632	− 5,597
Roumania	2	3,134	1,060	− 998
Other Countries ..	29,893	27,870	23,490	+ 6,403
Total, all countries	643,888	522,517	557,802	+86,086

The comparison of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom for the nine months is very different from the comparison of our imports, and, with the exception of France, to whom we have sent a very large quantity of goods, and of Holland, Norway, and Denmark, to whom we have also sent additional goods, our exports to the world have shown very serious decline. The comparison of our exports in the first nine months of 1915 with the corresponding period of 1913 is as follows:

Exports of Produce and Manufactures of U.K.
(000's *omitted*).

Principal Countries to which Consigned	Nine months to Sept. 30 1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	+ or — 1915 on 1913 £
France	50,593	18,223	21,696	28,897
India and Ceylon ..	36,265	52,934	54,984	− 18,719
Australasia	28,141	33,584	33,886	− 5,745
United States ..	18,593	26,546	20,604	− 2,011
South Africa	14,596	15,285	17,175	2,579
Netherlands ..	13,044	10,525	11,393	1,651
Canada & Newfndlnd	10,118	14,453	18,857	− 8,739
Italy	8,984	10,071	11,127	− 2,143
Russia	8,633	11,843	12,942	− 4,309
Argentina	8,528	12,322	16,899	− 8,371
China	6,376	11,237	11,250	− 4,874
Egypt	6,067	6,903	7,170	1,103
Denmark	5,956	4,189	4,305	1,651
Norway	5,557	4,962	4,765	+ 792
Sweden	5,150	5,538	6,123	− 973
Spain	4,677	5,164	6,108	1,431
Brit. W. Africa ..	4,470	5,488	4,637	167
Java	3,848	4,192	4,632	− 784
Brazil	3,802	5,281	9,705	− 5,903
Japan	3,537	6,908	11,909	− 8,372
Straits Set. & F.M.S.	3,276	4,650	5,323	− 2,047
Switzerland	3,132	2,585	3,163	− 31
Hong Kong	1,582	3,145	3,230	− 1,648
Chili	1,184	3,385	4,610	− 3,426
Roumania	366	1,937	3,140	− 974
Turkey	279	5,807	5,434	− 5,155
Belgium	119	8,040	10,001	− 9,882
Germany		23,075	29,610	− 29,610
Austria-Hungary ..		2,668	3,378	− 3,378
Other Countries ..	26,219	36,711	34,520	− 8,301
Total, all countries	283,092	350,748	390,756	−107,664

In order to make the picture comprehensive, we also set out a comparison of our exports of foreign and colonial goods in 1915 in comparison with 1913, which shows that of the great quantity of goods imported we re-exported rather less than in 1913:—

Exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise
(000's *omitted*).

Principal Countries to which Consigned	1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	+ or — 1915 on 1913 £
United States ..	21,727	24,525	23,139	1,412
Netherlands	10,238	3,787	3,923	6,315
France..	10,185	7,802	8,430	1,755
Russia	8,897	5,419	7,231	1,666
Sweden ..	3,252	631	793	2,459
Denmark	3,153	439	457	2,696
Australasia	2,749	3,666	3,297	548
Italy	2,337	704	683	1,654
Canada & Newfndlnd	2,005	2,406	2,783	778
Norway	1,652	408	388	1,264
South Africa	1,191	1,269	1,467	276
Spain	936	523	582	350
Cuba	802	542	523	+ 279
India and Ceylon ..	797	843	1,144	347
Portugal	602	349	552	50
Argentina	475	415	558	83
Brazil	359	270	389	30
Egypt	364	120	107	257
Switzerland	344	490	673	329
Brit. W. Indies ..	309	301	279	30
Morocco	282	186	191	+ 91
Japan	206	146	230	24
Greece	157	37	40	+ 117
Chili	147	211	290	− 143
Belgium	14	4,881	5,182	5,138
Germany		13,317	15,359	−15,359
Austria-Hungary ..		761	943	− 923
Other Countries	2,506	2,474	2,905	− 399
	[illegible]	76,874	82,454	6,786

In any endeavour to arrive at the extent of our obligations to individual countries it is necessary to take into account, not only the exports of our own goods, but our exports of foreign and colonial goods. It is true that we have to settle for the goods re-exported with the countries from which they are imported; nevertheless, when all countries are taken the matter is adjusted.

In the first nine months of the year our purchases

from the United States were of the value of no less than £137,000,000, in comparison with only £50,000,000 in the corresponding nine months of 1913—an increase of no less than £87,000,000. This is apart from any goods bought from the United States which at the time of importation here were the property of H.M. Government. And with this great expansion in our net imports from the United States our ability to pay for them by services has declined. Normally the large quantity of goods that comes here on balance from America is sent to pay interest on European capital in the United States and to provide for the expenditures of American tourists. This year, however, the number of American tourists visiting Europe has been very small; and consequently we have had to pay for the goods not by supplying tourists with the goods and services they required on this side directly and indirectly, but by remitting gold and selling securities to the United States. Including the payments that have been made for Government stores, Great Britain has sent to the United States in the first nine months of this year a long way over £100,000,000 of money in gold and securities. Of course, normally America sends to this country a substantial amount of securities in addition to the goods she sells to us, in order to pay for the goods she buys from us, the expenditures of its tourists, and the liberal gifts which the American people make to their friends in Europe.

The situation with regard to Argentina also is remarkable. In 1913 our net imports from Argentina were £16,718,000. This sum was not nearly sufficient to provide for the country's foreign payments for interest and services. Normally, of course, Argentina sells a large quantity of goods to London with which to pay for goods purchased in the United States and other countries, and the amount of money that had to be remitted to London for this purpose was not only the sum of about £17,000,000 indicated by the excess of our imports from that country over our exports, but included nearly £20,000,000 of securities sent here to pay for goods and services supplied as capital. In the past year our imports of goods from Argentina have exceeded our exports to that country by no less than £42,000,000, and by means of goods thus sold Argentina has obtained the power to buy a much greater quantity of goods from the United States. Argentina's purchases from this country in consequence of our inability to supply her with coal, iron, and the other things she needs have declined over £8,000,000, while we have bought an additional £17,000,000 of Argentine produce in comparison with 1913.

The situation with regard to Australasia is very similar. In 1913 our excess of imports from over our exports to our great colony was less than £9,000,000; this year it has been over £32,000,000, an expansion of £30,000,000 in our imports having been attended by a decline of £5,000,000 in our exports.

The situation with regard to India is particularly striking. With an expansion of £17,000,000 in our imports our exports have declined no less than £19,000,000, and whereas in 1913 our exports to India exceeded our imports by £16,000,000, in the current year imports exceed exports by £19,000,000, a difference of no less than £35,000,000.

Very much the same conditions are reflected by our trade with Canada. In 1913 our imports just about balanced our exports to Canada, but in the past nine months, in comparison with 1913, our imports have expanded £6,000,000 in spite of Canada's small crop last year, and our exports have declined nearly £9,000,000, so that our net imports from Canada have amounted to over £16,000,000. In the coming year, with a great Canadian wheat crop, the excess of imports from Canada will probably be two or three times this sum.

Space prevents us from referring to our trade balance with every country in the world, but we might point out that as regards Japan our imports this year have exceeded our exports by over £3,000,000, whereas in 1913 our exports exceeded our imports by nearly £9,000,000. With these comments we leave the following instructive comparison of our trade balance with individual countries in the first nine months of this year in comparison with the corresponding period of 1913 to tell its own tale:—

Excess of Imports.

Excess of Imports	Nine months to Sept. 30—1915 £	1913 £	Inc. or Dec. in Balance of Trade against U.K. £
United States	136,777,000	50,077,000	- 86,700,000
Argentina	41,948,000	16,718,000	25,230,000
Australasia ..	32,309,000	8,984,000	+ 23,325,000
India and Ceylon ..	19,229,000	*16,514,000	- 35,743,000
Canada & Newfoundland	16,350,000	832,000	- 15,518,000
Egypt	9,657,000	6,264,000	- 3,393,000
Denmark	8,676,000	12,571,000	- 3,895,000
Switzerland ..	8,098,000	4,622,000	- 3,476,000
Spain	7,259,000	3,627,000	- 3,632,000
Chili	6,003,000	*488,000	- 6,491,000
Sweden	5,708,000	3,187,000	- 2,521,000
Cuba	4,603,000	1,067,000	- 3,536,000
Japan	3,297,000	*8,903,000	- 12,200,000
Norway	3,114,000	556,000	- 2,558,000
Mauritius	2,612,000	*205,000	- 2,817,000
Uruguay	2,476,000	*30,000	- 2,506,000
British W. Indies ..	1,679,000	*69,000	- 1,748,000
Portugal	80,000	*859,000	- 939,000
China	*915,000	*7,865,000	6,950,000
Italy	*2,422,000	*5,765,000	- 3,343,000
Netherlands ..	*5,673,000	1,925,000	- 7,598,000
Other countries ..	*15,689,000	14,909,000	- 30,598,000
Total ...	285,176,000	84,641,000	+200,535,000

* Excess of exports.

CITIES SERVICE COMPANY.—It will be noticed from the advertisement that appears elsewhere that the Cities Service Company has entered into an arrangement for the sale of $5,000,000 of Preferred stock and $2,500,000 of Common stock. For the purpose it has secured the active co-operation of a syndicate of American interests which has purchased the capital necessary to retire the Service Company's floating debt and leave ample cash working capital.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.—Dividend on Deferred stock of 5% for the past six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 5%, both free of tax, making a total distribution on the Deferred stock of 15% for the year.

For over a Century the Claims paid under Whole-life Policies have, on the average, been more than

Doubled

in amount by addition of Bonuses.

EQUITABLE Life Assurance Society,
Mansion House Street, E.C.

There is no finer PIPE TOBACCO than

WOOD'S

Hand Cut Virginia

IN THREE STRENGTHS:
FULL, MEDIUM, MILD.

JOHN WOOD & SON (CIGAR AND TOBACCO IMPORTERS), **Ltd.**
23 & 25 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

Financial Notes.

Mr. J. S. Williams, Comptroller of the United States Currency, has issued a circular letter to the banks directing their attention to the provisions of the law against usury, and requiring that the letter be inscribed upon the minutes of the board of directors of each bank and copies sent to absent directors. In this letter Mr. Williams states: "The real brutality and horror of it develop in the more remote districts, in small communities of agricultural districts, having but one bank, or in which two or three banks combine to maintain rates on money. Some reports from the South and West, the North-West, and the South-West, especially in the wheat and cotton sections of the South-West, are blood-curdling. They are like the stories from darkest Russia, of the oppressions inflicted on the peasantry; like the ghastly history of the wrongs done the French country people by the old nobility."

One authority, commenting upon this letter, does not venture to dispute the accuracy of the charges made by Mr. Williams. But it alleges that they are done only by the very small banks, and that they resemble rather pawnbrokering than actual banking transactions. Mr. Williams, in fact, seems himself to imply as much, for he tells us: "Here is a loan of $109 to a woman for 30 days; charges for interest, $10=120%. Others are, $380 for 90 days, interest $30, or 34%. . . I thought we had reached the limit when we found a National Bank reporting a loan at 360%; but on this paper is a record of a loan by a National Bank of $3.50 to a woman for six days, with an interest charge of $1, which figures out about 6% a day, or 2,400% per annum."

Mr. Williams has also addressed a letter to the institutions under his jurisdiction calling attention to the oath which the directors are required to take binding them against committing any violations of the provisions of the National Bank Act. The letter also sets out the provisions of the Act limiting the rate of interest a bank may charge on loans to the rate allowed by the State.

Mr. Burleson, United States Postmaster-General, has suspended postal money order exchanges between the United States and Greece pending the negotiation of a new postal convention between the two countries. The action has resulted from the refusal of Greece to accept French exchange in payment of money order balances. The money order convention between the United States and Greece provided for payment by exchange on Paris in gold. The Greek Government has demanded strict conformity to this requirement; but French gold cannot be purchased in New York, hence the suspension of the convention.

A world-wide campaign for the development of foreign trade by the United States is indicated in the estimates of the expenditure of the Department of Commerce for the coming fiscal year. It is stated that through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce it is the purpose of the Department to aid American merchants and manufacturers in taking advantage of the opportunities now before them and in preparing for the contest for trade supremacy which is expected to develop on the conclusion of the European war.

In a Financial Note last week we stated that negotiations are on foot for enabling Salvador to pay the coupons which fell due in August last. This was not correct. The negotiations which are now going on are with a view to funding the debt.



National Shawmut Bank
of Boston, Mass.
First Charter 1837

Largest Bank in New England

Total assets over $ 125,000,000

American Topics.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY.

IMPROVED OUTLOOK.

After having passed through several years of relative trade depression, the Southern Pacific seems to have entered upon a fresh period of prosperity. This great system of about 11,000 miles ranks among the strongest railroads of the United States, both from the financial and physical standpoints. Ever since 1907 regular dividends of 6% have been forthcoming. That it was possible to maintain this rate of distribution even in years when a setback in the West curtailed earnings and profits was due in the main to the great wisdom displayed by the late Mr. E. H. Harriman, who, from the time control was purchased by the Union Pacific, devoted his energies to building up a first-class property before giving any thought to the payment of dividends. What the Southern Pacific is to-day is what the Union Pacific has made it, and it is no exaggeration to say that had it not been for the conservative management enjoyed during the *régime* of the Union Pacific, and continued since by Mr. Kruttschnitt, the setback in earnings in the last two years would not have been accompanied by the maintenance of 6% dividends.

The twelve months to June last, with their troubles and trials, followed a year when, owing to a variety of causes, economic conditions in the Pacific States were adverse, and when the traffic and earnings of the Southern Pacific had already appreciably declined. But whereas the falling off in earnings in 1913-14 was accompanied by rising expenses, the decline in receipts in 1914-15 was attended by a considerable reduction in working costs, and the shrinkage in net earnings was not great having regard to all the circumstances. The outbreak of war was keenly felt in the West, and it caused economy by everyone and stopped enterprise. Further, competition became intensified by the opening of the Panama Canal in August 1914, a considerable volume of traffic having been diverted to the new water route that was formerly shipped over transcontinental roads. The Company's lines serve many important copper mines, some of which were entirely closed down for several months, while others were operated at only about 50% of normal capacity. The practical abandonment of new railroad construction work and the depression in the building industry generally resulted in a material decrease in the lumber traffic. Passenger receipts also were down, the reduction here having been assisted by automobile competition, which has been encouraged and rapidly developed by the construction of improved highways by the Western States.

Income Statement of the Southern Pacific System.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Revenue.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Revenue.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Int. & other Charges & Sund. Deb.	Net Income.	Dividend on 7% Pref.	Earned. Com. Stock. %	Paid. Com. Stock. %	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$			$
1915...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	67·65	42,112,000	17,74[illegible]	[illegible]	6,371,000	33,61[illegible]	19,88[illegible]	Con-	7·29	6	[illegible]
1914...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	67·62	44,[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7,163,000	32,925,000	20,307,[illegible]	verted	7·69	6	16,361,000
1913...	10,311	142,775,000	92,870,000	65·05	49,905,000	12,351,000	62,256,000	5,697,000	29,612,000	26,947,000	into	9·88	6	16,361,000
1912...	9,970	131,525,000	86,491,000	65·76	45,034,000	8,852,000	53,886,000	5,621,000	26,541,000	21,724,000	Com-	7·91	6	16,361,000
1911...	9,895	132,620,000	85,005,000	64·10	47,615,000	6,735,000	54,350,000	4,850,000	23,260,000	26,240,000	mon	8·62	6	16,361,000
1910...	9,752	135,023,000	83,265,000	61·67	51,758,000	6,440,000	58,198,000	4,519,000	22,294,000	31,385,000	Stock	11·93	6	16,360,000
1909...	9,626	120,522,000	75,796,000	62·89	44,726,000	5,802,000	50,528,000	3,788,000	19,357,000	27,383,000	4,992,000	10·16	6	13,223,000
1908...	9,506	123,277,000	84 663,000	68·68	38,614,000	4,251,000	42,865,000	3,950,000	18,756,000	20,159,000	5,241,000	7·54	6	11,871,000
1907...	9,401	126,191,000	80,265,000	63·60	45,929,000	4,659,000	50,588,000	2 896,000	19,390,000	28,302,000	2,770,000	12·90	5½	10,387,000
1906...	9,192	105,633,000	68,121,000	64·49	37,512,000	3,324,000	40,836,000	2,464,000	18,942,000	19,430,000	2,770,000	8·41	2½	4,946,000
1905...	9,138	95,515,000	63,664,000	66·65	31,851,000	2,625,000	34,476,000	2,309,000	19,584,000	12,583,000	2,769,000	5·00	Nil	—

Year to June 30	Balance.
	$
Con-	1,508,000
verted	4,596,000
into	10,586,000
Com-	5,363,000
mon	3,879,000
Stock	15,025,000
	9,168,000
	3,047,000
	15,145,000
	11,714,000
	9,814,000

There were, however, two bright spots in the past [illegible]—namely, the advantage derived from the large crops gathered in 1914, and the benefit obtained from the considerable passenger-travel to the West, more particularly in connection with the great Panama-Pacific Exhibition at San Francisco, and the visit to the Pacific States of tourists who would have spent their vacation in Europe but for the War.

In the [illegible] gross receipts declined $8,654,000, or 6.25%; but, inasmuch as there was a decrease of $5,908,000, or 6.31%, in operating expenses, the diminution in the net receipts was $2,797,000 [illegible]. Nearly $800,000 less was needed for taxes, and, after allowing for miscellaneous income and the payment of interest and other charges and sinking fund contributions, the net profit was $1,088,000 lower at $19,869,000. This sum was equal to 7.29% upon the stock, and compares with 7.69% earned for 1913-14 and 9.88% earned two years ago. The net effect of the two years of adversity has been to reduce the profit earned by $7,078,000. In spite of this, however, the surplus profit last year, after paying the usual 6% dividend, was $3,508,000. How the results obtained for last year compare with those for former periods will be evident from the Income Statement given herewith.

But for abnormal expenses, the net receipts would have shown increase, despite the falling-off in gross receipts. Among the additional burdens of operating was included the higher price which the Company paid for fuel, which accounted for an increased outlay of $765,000. Further, almost $1,200,000 of additional expenditure was incurred, in order to comply with a revised classification of the Interstate Commerce Commission by which the Company was required to charge to operating expenses the depreciation portion of rental paid for equipment which previously had been charged to income account.

The policy of the management has always been to spend money liberally out of revenue upon the upkeep of the road and equipment, and this policy was continued in the past year, the ratio of such outlays to gross receipts having been higher than for any year since 1907-8, when, by reason of floods, fires, and wash-outs, it was unduly swollen. Notwithstanding a reduction of almost $2,600,000, in conducting transportation, the ratio to gross receipts was raised to over 36%. It has however to be borne in mind that although gross revenue has diminished, the Company has had to pay higher rates of wages to its employees, and at the same time has been prevented by State regulations from substantially curtailing the passenger-train service. Had it been possible to reduce the passenger-train service, the effect upon conducting transportation would have been marked, as no less than 61% of the train mileage is passenger. That the officers are striving to effect real economies is evident from the satisfactory improvement in the past year in the use of locomotive fuel, each pound of which moved in freight service 6.83%, and in passenger service 2.85%, more gross ton miles than in the previous year. The saving of fuel thereby effected in the past twelve months was $450,000, and for the two years this movement has been in progress the saving has aggregated $1,158,000. Comparison of the expenses in the past 11 years is shown below:—

Railway Expenses of the Southern Pacific System.

Year to June 30	Railway Expenses.	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Conducting Transportation.	Gen. Expenses & Misc. Expenses.	Total Railway Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	130,193,000	15,356,000	19,816,000	46,922,000	5,987,000	88,081,000
1914a...	138,520,000	16,515,000	21,476,000	49,514,000	6,157,000	93,662,000
1914b...	126,614,000	16,065,000	18,934,000	43,826,000	3,975,000	82,800,000
1913 ...	130,354,000	15,589,000	19,296,000	43,524,000	3,726,000	82,135,000
1912 ...	120,433,000	14,464,000	16,318,000	41,472,000	3,398,000	75,652,000
1911 ...	121,911,000	15,889,000	15,312,000	39,472,000	3,849,000	74,522,000
1910 ...	124,524,000	16,099,000	15,808,000	38,139,000	3,468,000	73,514,000
1909 ...	110,846,000	14,533,000	14,380,000	34,916,000	3,363,000	67,192,000
1908 ...	113,546,000	17,083,000	15,439,000	39,965,000	3,518,000	76,005,000
1907 ...	115,630,000	16,011,000	14,884,000	36,896,000	3,344,000	71,135,000
1906 ...	99,124,000	16,320,000	14,286,000	29,684,000	2,463,000	62,753,000
1905 ...	89,404,000	13,732,000	12,990,000	29,691,000	2,117,000	58,530,000

Ratio of Railway Expenses to Earnings, Southern Pac. System.

	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Conducting Transportation.	Gen. Expenses & Misc. Expenses.	Total Railway Expenses.
	%	%	%	%	%
1915	11·78	15.22	[illegible]4	4·[illegible]	67·60
1914a	11·93	15·50	35·75	4·45	67·63
1914b .. .	[illegible]	14·95	34·62	3·14	65·40
1913 .. .	11·96	14·80	33·59	2·85	63·01
1912 ...	12·01	13·56	[illegible]4·4[illegible]	2·82	62·82
1911	13·03	12·56	32·38	3·16	61·13
1910 .. .	12·93	12·69	30·63	2·78	[illegible]·[illegible]
1909	13·11	12·97	31·50	3·03	60·61
1908	[illegible]·45	13·59	35·20	3·10	66·94
1907	13·66	12·80	33·44	2·86	62·75
1906 . .	[illegible]·[illegible]	14·41	29·95	2·48	63·31
1905	11·45	14·53	[illegible]·[illegible]	2·36	65·64

(a) New Basis. (b) Old Basis.

Further progress was made in increasing the physical strength of the property and placing it in a still better position than heretofore to cope with the greater volume of traffic anticipated to accrue to it. As regards locomotives, the average weight has now been raised practically to 85 tons, whereas 10 years ago it was under 64 tons, while the average capacity of the freight cars is now 44.64 tons, against 31½ tons in 1905. The weight of rail upon the track likewise is being rapidly increased. Only 10 years ago there were practically no rails on the track weighing more than 80 lb. per yard; now more than one-fourth of the track is laid with 90-lb. rails, the length of line so laid in the past year having been 285 miles.

When one considers the outlook for the current year, one cannot fail to be struck by the numerous favourable factors that have to be taken into account. In the past year, owing to the disturbed conditions, no great expansion policy has been commenced, attention having been concentrated upon completing extensions and improvements of road in hand. Most of this work has now been completed, and with a revival in business in the West and in the traffic of the Company the vast capital outlays of recent years should become remunerative. No new capital is ranking for interest this year, and therefore it is reasonable to assume that any addition to the net earnings that may be secured may go to swell the net profit available for the stock. The territory served has again been blessed this year with abundant harvests, both of grain and of fruit, and the high prices at which their products can be disposed of should afford to farmers of the West increased spending power. Further, the mining industry has returned to a normal condition, and the demand for metals of all kinds should result in a considerable expansion in ore traffic. Again, the competition felt last year by the opening of the Panama Canal is lessened somewhat in the current year by the stoppage of traffic on the waterway by reason of landslides. On several occasions since

it has been in operation traffic on the Canal has had to be suspended on account of landslides; but this is, of course, an engineering difficulty that must sooner or later be overcome. It has always been recognised that to some extent the opening of the Canal would affect the position of the Western lines, but in the long run its opening will result in a more rapid development of the Pacific States, thereby affording increased traffic to the roads serving those regions, and the Southern Pacific, by reason of the geographical position of many of its lines, which practically parallel the Pacific Coast, should participate in the activity that will eventually arise. Meantime, however, permission has been given to the undertaking, as well as to other Pacific roads, to readjust freight rates to permit of competition with the Canal in the carriage of freight, more particularly of ores, hardware, and heavy commodities. To some extent the various companies will feel the effect of the lower rates, but, on the other hand, they will be in a better position to retain traffic which otherwise might have been lost to them.

So far in the current [illegible] exceptionally favourable results have been announced. There has been an increase of as much as $4,207,000 in gross receipts for the three months to September, and this has been attended by an expansion of no less than $3,382,000 in net receipts, operating expenses and taxes being no more than $825,000 higher. Some of the improvement is due, of course, to the great passenger traffic to the Exhibition; but freight earnings are now on the up grade, and even when the Exhibition receipts are no longer forthcoming, gross earnings are likely to expand. The course of earnings and expenses in recent months is shown below:—

Course of Earnings and Expenses of Southern Pacific since July 1914.

Month.	Gross Receipts.	Maintenance and Ways.	Equipment.	Cost Transportation.	Taxes.	Oper. Exp. and Taxes.	Net Receipts.
1914.	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
July —	128,000 —	33,000 —	92,000 —	67,000 +	7,000	125,000	135,000
Aug. —	582,000 +	121,000 —	143,000 —	18,000 —	125,000	457,000	
Sept. —	807,000 —	21,000 —	[illegible] —	124,000 —	290,000	517,000	
Oct. —	1,508,000 —	116,000 —	176,000 —	327,000 —	655,000	853,000	
Nov. —	1,611,000 —	54,000	363,000	367,000	889,000	755,000	
Dec. —	1,256,000 —	74,000 —	217,000 —	388,000 —	872,000	384,000	
1915.							
Jan. —	1,135,000 —	377,000	[illegible] —	322,000 —	1,027,000 —	108,000	
Feb. —	574,000	331,000	[illegible] —	204,000 —	737,000 +	363,000	
Mar. —	452,000 —	291,000	162,000	257,000	877,000 —	425,000	
Apr. —	796,000 +	54,000 —	112,000 —	255,000 —	503,000	293,000	
May —	391,000 +	106,000	192,000 —	168,000 —	532,000 +	141,000	
June +	419,000 —	142,000 —	109,000 —	154,000 —	149,000 +	568,000	
Yr.	—8,654,000	—1,159,000	—1,660,000	—2,593,000	—6,648,000	—2,006,000	
July	+1,330,000 —	21,000 —	60,000 —	38,000 +	19,000	+1,311,000	
Aug.	+1,536,000 +	67,000 +	56,000 +	82,000 +	294,000	+1,242,000	
Sept.	+1,341,000 +	195,000 +	39,000 +	181,000 +	512,000 +	829,000	

In considering the value of Southern Pacific stock several other factors have to be taken into consideration. In the first place, the Company owns valuable oil lands, which at present are not carried as an asset in the balance sheet. Litigation is now proceeding between the Government and the Company to recover the lands from the Company, but the directors are as confident as they were twelve months ago of the ability of the Company to sustain its title to the lands, and if the case is eventually settled in favour of the Southern Pacific the decision should be advantageous to the stockholders. A second case, also of great importance, concerns the Central Pacific Railway, whose entire Preferred and Common stocks are owned by the Southern Pacific, the Federal Government having instituted a suit to separate the two undertakings, on the ground that their union in one system violates the Sherman Anti-Trust Law. During the past year a great deal of testimony has been taken, and the case is fixed for argument in the Lower Courts on December 1 next. What the result of the argument will be no one can say; but whatever it is, it may be assumed that the losing party will appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, so that a final decision in the matter may not be arrived at for a considerable time. Possession of the Central Pacific is of great value to the Southern Pacific, but, in the event of a decision adverse to the Company being rendered in the end, it must be borne in mind that the proceeds of the sale of the Central Pacific stocks would provide the Southern Pacific with sufficient money for all its capital requirements for several years to come.

Finally, the situation in Mexico, where the Company owns 1,242 miles of railway, seems to be somewhat more promising. About $38,000,000 of capital has been devoted to the extension of the Southern Pacific system down the West Coast of Mexico. The present profits are being secured after the payment of interest on the capital invested in Mexico, and without the receipt of one cent of revenue towards meeting that interest.

The price of the Common is now 109¾ London, and the yield is nearly 6%, allowing for exchange and accrued dividend.

The amounts and prices of the Company's principal securities and the yields afforded thereon are set out in the following statement:—

[illegible] Principal Securities, Southern Pac. Co.

Description.	Outstanding.	Date of Redemption.	Int. Rate.	Last Price.	Yield per Ann.
	$		%		£ s. d
So.P.Co.4% Stock Collateral	34,218,500	Aug. 1949	4	J. & D. 94¼	4 17 4
Do. Ref. Conv. 1st Mt.	1,[illegible]00	Apr. 1960	4	A. & O. 84½†	5 9 3
Cent. Pac. 1st Ref. Gold 4%	98,904,000	Aug. 1949	4	F. & A. 94½†	4 16 0
Do. 3½% Mort. Gold bonds	9,961,825	Aug. 1929	3½	J. & D. 94½	4 17 2
Do. 4% Short Line 1st Mt.	9,640,000	Oct. 1954	4	A. & O. 92½†	4 16 -
Do. 4% French Bonds ...	48,262,548	Mar. 1946	4	M. & S. Fr. 387½	4 10 9
Gal.Har.&S.An. W. Div. Mt.	[illegible]	May 1[illegible]	-	M. & N. 102¾*	4 14 11
Oregon & Calif. 1st Guar. Mt.	17,745,000	July 1927	5	J. & J. 111†	4 17 2
So. P. RR. (of Cal.)Rf. Mt. ...	143,886,300	Jan. 1955	4	J. & J. 97½†	4 12 1
So. Pac. *RR.* Common ...	160,000,000	—	5	(owned by Pac. Co.)	
San Ant.&A. Pass Div. 1st Mt.	[illegible],000	Jan. 1943	4	J. & J. 75*	6 2 6
So. P. Co. 4% Convertible (c)	81,151,910	June 1929	4	M. & S. 96†	4 11 6
S. P. Co. 5% Convertibles (d)	54,531,000	June 1934	5	J. & D. 114½*	4 15 6
S. P. Co. Common stock	[illegible]	-	6	J.A.J.O. 109¾	5 18 0

(*) New York price. (†) London price. (§) Price in Paris. (c) Convertible to June 1919 into Common at 130 at holder's option, and redeemable on any interest day at 165. (d) Convertible to June 1924 into Common at par at holder's option, and subject to call at 105 on 30 days' notice after June 1924. (e) Not allowing for redemption. (f) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

A VERY great change for the better has come over the affairs of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and whereas six months ago, and again three months ago, doubts were entertained in some quarters as to the ability of the Company to maintain its 10% dividend, the announcement of a quarterly distribution at this rate in the past week has passed almost unnoticed. It will be remembered that for 1914-15 the conditions affecting the Company's operations were so abnormal that the net profit available for the Common stock declined to $29,384,000. The 7% dividend paid out of the profits of the railway proper was only slightly more than earned, most of the margin in excess of the 10% dividend being due to the receipt in special income account of additional revenue arising from the War. For the three months to the end of September a further fall of $4,184,000 in gross receipts was accompanied by a shrinkage of $521,000 in net earnings, but since the commencement of October the position has been reversed. For last month there was an improvement of $4,159,000 in gross earnings, which was practically sufficient to wipe out the decline of the previous quarter. Net earnings for October have not yet been reported, but it may reasonably be expected they will afford a very satisfactory showing. For the first week of November gross earnings improved $1,107,000, and in view of the immense shrinkages that occurred in that portion of last fiscal year with which comparison has yet to be made, and the fact that conditions in Canada have now improved so considerably, a continuance of highly favourable earnings may be looked for. For the economic factors responsible for the striking contrast of the condition of Canada at the present time with the existing only a relatively short time ago, we would refer our readers to an article on Canada published in our last issue.

Canadian Pacific stock, which early in the year declined to 145½, and which has just recently touched almost 206, is now 199, at which the yield afforded is £5 8*s.* per cent., allowing for exchange and accrued dividend.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY NOTES.

It is understood that the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada has recently disposed of a further issue of Short-Term notes in New York. The amount stated is $4,000,000 in 5% Two-Year notes, and the whole is reported to have been disposed of, but particulars are not yet available as to the price at which they have been sold. The last issue of notes was made in London in June of this year, when £2,500,000 of 5½% Five-Year notes were sold at the price of 99, which raised the total of Short-Term notes of the Company to £5,500,000. By the issue in New York the amount is thus raised to about £6,300,000, which will mature as to $4,000,000 in November 1917, £1,000,000 in January 1918, £2,000,000 in October 1918, and £2,500,000 in July 1920. Beyond this the Grand Trunk has guaranteed the principal and interest on £2,000,000 of 5% notes of the Grand Trunk Pacific, due in March 1921.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RY.

Like the other Argentine railway companies, the Buenos Ayres and Pacific suffered in the past year from the continued trade depression and the restriction of credit. The crops on the whole were good, wheat and oats being especially satisfactory, whilst a strong movement in the despatch of wine and fruit from the Cuyo Division helped the Company considerably in the latter months of the year. Nevertheless the falling off in gross receipts in the aggregate amounts to £342,700, or 7%, the principal decreases being in the passenger traffic and in general goods, both items being particularly sensitive to the effects of trade stagnation. To some extent the Company's efforts to economise were neutralised by heavy floods in most parts of the system, which in places caused considerable damage to property. Nevertheless the reduction in expenses comes out at £256,770, or 8.3%, and the ratio to gross receipts is lowered from 62.63% to 61.70%. This is a distinctly satisfactory achievement, having regard to all the conditions obtaining, and means that the decrease in net earnings amounts to less than £86,000, of 4.7%. Moreover, thanks to the receipt of an additional £35,000 from miscellaneous sources, the total net income for the year is smaller by only £51,000 than in 1913-14, and still amounts to the relatively large figure of £1,884,000. On the other hand, interest on Debenture stocks calls for an extra sum of £50,000, and miscellaneous charges, which include flood repair expenses (£48,636) and the year's proportion of special renewals (£8,369), absorbed some £41,000 more than in the preceding year. The net result, therefore, is a falling off in profit of about £143,000, and the divisible surplus is reduced from £374,000 to £231,000. This, however, is sufficient to provide the full dividends on the Company's 5% First Preference stock and on the Preferred stock of the Argentine Great Western Railway, and also a distribution of £2 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent. on the Second Preference stock, as well as on the Ordinary stock of the Argentine Great Western, the two stocks ranking for dividend *pari passu*. If we eliminate the flood repair expenses the dividends declared have been fully earned, but as it is there is a deficit of £23,000 to be made good after the dividends have been paid. This is taken from the balance of £341,000 brought in from 1913-14, leaving the large sum of £318,000 to be carried forward to the current year. In the circumstances we are surprised that the directors did not see their way to maintain the full 5% dividend on the Second Preference stock, seeing that the additional sum needed is only £68,000, and a balance of £250,000 would still have remained to be carried forward. However, they doubtless have some good reason for making the reduction, and we shall probably have more light thrown upon the subject at the meeting next week. The income statement of the Company for the last three years is set out beneath:—

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
	£	£	£
Gross earnings	4,539,000	4,881,000	5,591,000
Expenses	2,831,000	3,057,000	3,460,000
Ratio	(61.70)	(62.63)	(61.89)
Net earnings	1,738,000	1,824,000	2,131,000
Misc. income	146,000	111,000	183,000
Total income	1,884,000	1,935,000	2,314,000
Fixed interest charges—	£	£	£
B.A.P. Deb. stocks	757,000	706,000	647,000
A.G.W. ,,	316,000	316,000	316,000
Bahia Blanca stocks	443,000	443,000	436,000
Villa Maria stocks	43,000	43,000	43,000
Miscellaneous	94,000	53,000	52,000
Total fixed charges	1,653,000	1,561,000	1,492,000
Net profit	231,000	374,000	822,000
Preference dividends—			
B.A.P. 1st Pref. 5%	60,000	60,000	60,000
,, 2nd Pref.(£2/16/6)	28,000	50,000	50,000
A.G.W. Prefd. 5%	106,000	106,000	106,000
A.G.W. Ord. (£2.16/6)	60,000	106,000	106,000
Total Pref. dividends	254,000	322,000	322,000
Profit for Ordinary	Dr. 23,000	52,000	500,000
Ordinary dividend	Nil	Nil	300,000
Rate per cent	—	—	(3%)
Balance	Dr. 23,000	Cr. 52,000	Cr. 200,000
Brought forward	341,000	289,000	90,000
Carried forward	318,000	341,000	290,000

The most disappointing feature in the report is the heavy falling off in passenger traffic. The number of passengers carried was 8,935,600, against 11,154,300, and this total is smaller than in any period since 1909. The decline of nearly 20% in numbers resulted in a diminution of no less than £291,000, or 25.6%, in receipts, and as the revenue from parcels, luggage, &c., was also smaller, the total coaching traffic shows a diminution of £310,900, or nearly 23%. The disastrous effect on the Company's passenger traffic of the disturbed state of credit and the depression in trade will be seen from the following comparison:—

Passenger Traffic, B. A. and Pacific Railway.

Year to June 30	No. of Passengers	Passenger Receipts	Parcels, Luggage, &c.	Total Coaching Traffic
		£	£	£
1915	8,935,600	842,900	209,100	1,052,000
1914	11,154,300	1,135,800	229,100	1,362,900
1913	11,600,100	1,174,600	237,100	1,411,700
1912	10,059,800	1,080,500	228,600	1,309,100
1911	9,109,000	1,074,000	187,200	1,261,200
1910	8,114,700	889,300	153,100	1,042,400
1909	7,122,100	742,000	119,600	861,600
1908	5,911,500	642,700	105,000	747,700
1907	4,124,800	552,000	85,300	637,300

The most profitable source of revenue is wine, and here the Company has done well, for with a slightly smaller tonnage handled the receipts therefrom have risen by about £10,000. Wheat gave satisfactory results, producing something like £215,000 more money than in 1913-14. Barley, oats, wool, and one or two other commodities show increases, but in every other direction freight traffic was reduced both in quantity and value, the most conspicuous being a decline of £172,600, or 27.3%, in general goods. On balance the total tonnage handled is up over 9½%, but as the bulk of the increase was in low freight-bearing commodities, whereas general goods, which are the most profitable to handle, were considerably reduced, the total freight revenue shows a decline of £47,000, or 1.6%. The relative importance of the various sources of income will be seen from the fol-

lowing comparison of the freight traffic of the line for the last three years:—

Freight Traffic, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.

Goods.	Quantity			Receipts		
	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	£	£	£
Wine	452,074	483,290	486,114	1,003,174	993,211	997,332
Wheat	1,302,966	754,018	1,474,631	562,229	347,222	679,364
Maize	404,401	444,615	545,348	171,217	181,892	237,219
Grapes	51,606	64,471	54,849	131,011	126,343	87,196
Empty casks ...	88,820	134,408	124,539	77,299	90,377	109,445
Firewood... ...	166,342	169,111	166,103	71,650	78,258	91,465
Linseed, &c. ...	79,765	94,016	111,198	59,716	66,656	72,869
Hay	129,165	162,978	165,489	56,374	67,165	76,947
Barley, oats, &c...	299,828	177,283	283,803	54,418	34,778	48,660
Timber	22,251	44,151	70,948	26,358	51,102	77,872
Wool & hair ...	20,425	22,479	25,552	26,427	22,904	23,110
Posts	59,828	87,766	120,066	25,624	38,411	74,872
Flour & bran ...	104,752	125,621	116,349	57,515	62,427	62,039
Hides & skins, &c.	11,694	13,622	14,635	23,676	25,950	28,089
Lime,bricks,& sand	69,362	115,245	145,525	19,752	29,359	36,807
Wire	7,864	14,375	16,627	15,193	25,236	29,900
Raisins & dried fruit	1,253	1,445	1,366	4,120	4,161	3,917
General goods ...	454,411	533,391	546,556	464,275	632,897	747,031
Total goods ...	3,695,985	3,375,550	4,501,898	2,843,986	2,990,840	3,386,142
Live Stock.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
Cattle	464,573	958,940	1,061,665	261,393	214,124	279,266
Sheep	71,032	1,411,761	1,494,764	36,092	34,941	33,643
Horses	14,150	39,549	43,365	14,365	18,479	21,482
Pigs	5,387	40,897	55,293	6,264	4,556	4,486
Total live stock ...	555,142	2,432,447	2,655,205	318,549	309,300	338,837

The efforts made to curtail expenditure were very successful, not as a result of any parsimonious cheeseparing in maintenance outlays, but in effecting real economy in conducting the traffic by reducing train mileage to the minimum of requirements. The saving in train mileage was as much as 16.4%, and as a result transportation expenses were reduced by £205,000, or 11.3%, and the proportionate cost of conducting transportation to the gross receipts was lowered from 37.15% to 35.44%. A rather smaller sum in the aggregate was spent in maintaining the property, but in proportion to the gross receipts the ratio is 1.09% higher. General charges and miscellaneous expenditures were sensibly curtailed. To show the reduced outlays of the various spending departments, both actually and in proportion to the gross receipts, we give the following statements.—

Working Expenses, Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11
	£	£	£	£	£
Ways and works ...	342,276	394,955	447,930	396,956	349,493
Locomotives	320,190	231,687	320,113	317,120	291,461
Carriages	76,186	87,230	106,512	95,788	73,709
Waggons	101,812	136,278	187,991	162,305	139,618
Total maintenance	840,464	850,150	1,062,546	972,168	854,281
Running expenses ...	984,814	1,159,444	1,291,321	1,199,463	1,065,724
Traffic expenses ...	623,542	654,030	662,544	599,244	549,588
Total transportation	1,608,356	1,813,474	1,953,865	1,798,713	1,615,312
General charges ...	254,101	273,550	284,876	259 371	240,960
Miscellaneous ...	97,779	120.296	158,634	122,745	96,103
Total expenses ...	2,800,700	3,057,470	3,459,921	3,152,997	2,806,656

Proportions of the above Expenses to Gross Receipts.

	%	%	%	%	%
Way and works ...	7·54	8·09	8·01	7·97	7·25
Locomotives	7·05	4·75	5·73	6·37	6·04
Carriages	1·68	1·79	1·90	1·93	1·53
Waggons	2·24	2·79	3·26	3·26	2·90
Total maintenance...	18·51	17·42	19·00	19·53	17·72
Running expenses ...	21·70	23·75	23·10	24·10	22·11
Traffic expenses ...	13·74	13·40	11·85	12·04	11·40
Total transportation	35·44	37·15	34·95	36·14	33·51
General charges ...	5·60	5·60	5·10	5·21	5·00
Miscellaneous... ...	2·15	2·46	2·84	2·47	1·99
Total expenses ...	61·70	62·63	61·89	63·35	58·22

On the whole the prospects are very encouraging, and now that the corner appears to have been turned a rapid recovery in earnings and profits is likely to be experienced. Already this year there has been an advance in receipts of £306,000, or 26.4%. Of course until the War is over there is not likely to be any great expansion in passengers or general goods traffic; but seeing that Argentina is rapidly growing in wealth as a result of the big demand for its produce at the exceedingly high prices now ruling, a great wave of prosperity is certain to pass over the country as soon as peace is restored and things in Europe again become normal. Meanwhile the present position of affairs is stimulating farmers to put more land under the plough, and in the particular districts served by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific this will undoubtedly mean a big development of the new areas recently opened up by railway construction, and upon which the Company has spent such a vast amount of money in recent years. As an earnest of this it is pleasing to note that the area under cultivation in the Company's zone this year shows an increase of 12% compared with 1914-15. The crop outlook, moreover, is very promising, recent abundant rains having greatly benefited the growing cereals. Camps likewise are reported to be in excellent condition, and the vineyards are said to be looking well. Late maize has been sown on a larger scale than last year, and except in the neighbourhood of Villa Mercedes the prospects everywhere are favourable. On the whole, therefore, the position is satisfactory, and just as the set-back in the Company's prosperity has been particularly severe owing to the large amount of undeveloped territory through which its lines radiate, so also is the recovery likely to be particularly pronounced now that a turn in the tide has set in. Indeed, the Company may never again have to face such trying times as it has experienced in the last two years, and it should, therefore, now begin to reap the reward of its enterprising policy of extension so energetically pursued in the last few years.

To show the rapid strides which the Company was making prior to the set-back in trade which commenced with the outbreak of the Balkan wars in 1911 we give the following retrospect of the main results of working for a decade:—

Buenos Ayres and Pacific System.

	Average Miles Operated	Gross Receipts	Working Expenses	Ratio.	Net Earnings	Net Profit*	Ord. Div.
		£	£	%	£	£	%
1914-15 ...	3,536	4,539,000	2,800,000	61·70	1,738,000	231,000	Nil
1913-14 ...	3,473	4,881,665	3,057,470	62·63	1,824,195	374,000	Nil
1912-13 ...	3,404	5,590 613	3,459 921	61·89	2,130,622	822,000	3
1911-12 ...	3,249	4,976,651	3,152 998	63·35	1,823,653†	535,000	2
1910-11 ...	3,186	4,820,841	2,806,656	58·22	2,014,185	807,000	3½
1909-10 ...	3,004	4,294,432	2,465,253	57·40	1,829,179	738,000	3
1908-09 ...	2,505	4,134,487	2,575,943	62·30	1,558,544	679,000	5
1907-08 ...	2,250	3,655,772	2,300,782	62·94	1,354,990	684,000	7
1906-07 ...	1,886	3,063,547	1,892,542	61·78	1,171,005	622,000	7
1905-06 ...	1,098	1,618,365	882,404	54·52	735,961	411,000	7
1904-05 ...	1,030	1,263,636	719,111	56·91	544,525	243,000	7

* Available for Preference and Ordinary.

† Affected by the strike of drivers and firemen.

From the list of securities given below it will be seen that, although prices have recovered somewhat of late, quotations are still at a relatively low level, and with a little discrimination some attractive investments may still be acquired. The Debenture and Guaranteed charges are well covered even in a disastrous year like the past, and as the yields afforded by these securities range from £5⅜ per cent. to well over £6 per cent., there is room for further appreciation in capital value. For the more speculatively inclined there are several good securities to choose from, and we would again draw attention to the 5% Cumulative First Preference stock of the Company at the price of 72¼, and the 5% Cumulative Preferred stock of the Argentine Great Western Railway at 79½, which rank together for dividend, and which should continue to receive their full 5% distributions.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific.

Security	Amount	Interest or Dividend	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ s. d.
1st Debenture stock, 4 %...	... 2,925,000	4	76¼	5 7 5
2nd Debenture stock, 4½ % ...	... 2,075,000	4½	78½	5 15 9
4½ % Consol. Deb. stock, Red.	... 7,942,673	4½	77⅛	5 18 10
5 % Debenture stock (1912)	... 4,000,000	5	83½	6 0 10
5 % Cum. 1st Pref. stock ...	... 1,200,000	5	72½	7 2 10
5 % Second Pref. (non-cum.)	... 1,000,000	£2 16 8	64	4 11 10
Ordinary stock	...10,000,000	Nil	48½	—

Bahia Blanca and North-Western.

Security	Amount £	Interest or Dividend %	Price	Yield £ s. d.
4 % 1st Debenture stock ...	2,450,000	4	68½	5 17 0
4½ % 2nd Debenture stock	3,000,000	4½	70	6 9 6
Guaranteed stock	1,350,000	4(b)	62	(d)6 9 6
4½ % Guaranteed stock ...	1,250,000	4½	64½	7 1 9
Guaranteed £10 shares ...	2,000,000	5(c)	6½	(d)6 17 5

Villa Maria and Rufino.

4 % 1st Debenture stock	673,500	4	67⅛	6 2 7
Guaranteed stock	393,750	4 (b)	85	(d)5 8 9

Argentine Great Western.

1st Debenture stock	1,700,000	4	76⅜	5 7 2
2nd Deb. stock (irredeemable)	1,700,000	4	69⅛	5 17 8
5 % Debenture stock	3,000,000	5	86	5 17 0
5 % Preferred stock (cumulative)	2,125,000	5	79½	6 10 4
Ordinary stock	2,125,000	£2/16 6	68	4 6 6

Argentine Transandine.

4 % "A" Debenture stock ...	310,166	4	75	5 8 6
4 % "B" Debenture stock ...	310,166	4	48	8 11 2
7 % Cum. Preferred Shares (£2	500,000	Nil	10	—

(a) Redeemable at 105 per cent.
(b) 4 % guaranteed for 4 years from July 1, 1913, to June 30, 1917.
4½ % " from July 1, 1917, and thereafter.
(c) Dividends guaranteed by Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum till March 31, 1916, and thereafter at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.
(d) Yield on 4½ % dividend basis.

A. AND F. PEARS, LIMITED.

THE report of this Company twelve months ago was the last of those issued by the Company as an independent concern. It is now no longer such, being controlled by Lever Brothers, Limited, and the report for the year to June 30 is the first under the new arrangement. One result of the change is that fewer details are afforded as to the working of the business. Working independently the Company showed the gross profits, the general expenses and advertising outlay, and the net profit. Now only the net profit is given, and it is evidently not considered necessary to give the previous full details, inasmuch as the control has passed out of the hands of those who were formerly the Ordinary shareholders and into those of Lever Brothers, Limited. In pursuance of the arrangement made the old Ordinary shares were changed to 12% Preferred Ordinary shares, and then there were created and issued to Levers' 150,000 new Ordinary shares, the Company receiving in exchange 15% Cumulative Preferred Ordinary shares of Lever Brothers, Limited, bringing in to A. and F. Pears, Limited, "an additional income on investments of £27,603 per annum." The chief change as regards the former Ordinary shareholders of A. and F. Pears, Limited, is that in place of the steady 10% per annum which they had received they secure an additional 2% per annum.

The new arrangement has evidently been very successful, and the net profits for the past year are the largest secured since the flotation of the Company; though, of course, it must be borne in mind that a larger capital has been employed. Hitherto the most prosperous year was that for 1893, the year immediately after the formation of the Company as a limited liability concern, when the net profit amounted to £74,588. On only three other occasions were the net profits in excess of £70,000. Twelve months ago they were £61,641. For the year to June 30 last they rose to £78,812—a very satisfactory increase; and had it not been for the War the profits would have been "considerably larger," inasmuch as the sales on the Continent have been paralysed and raw materials have increased in price. The more prosperous times experienced have thus not been due to the abnormal times. They are due to the adoption of a new policy, which, in the words of the Chairman, has been "a phenomenal success." A reorganisation of the system of distribution was established, "broadening the field for new channels and laying a foundation for the future the development of which" should in time show satisfactory results. This development could not have been accomplished had it not been for the arrangement with Lever Brothers, Limited; and, in fact, in all probability, had it not been for the new agreement the usual 10% received by the old Ordinary shareholders would not have been forthcoming for the past twelve months. Now "we find ourselves safe in the zone of a well-organised system of commercial activity, where a large volume of business makes economies possible, thus increasing legitimate profits, whilst allowing the public to get better value, the employees better pay, merchants a good selling profit, and shareholders respectable dividends."

It may be recalled that in its present form the Company was registered in 1892 to acquire the century-old business of Pears' Soap. The prospectus set out in detail the amount of the gross profits and advertising expenses for the seven years previous to the flotation. In comparing the results secured since that time with those previously obtained, it should be noted that the average profits secured are shown before making allowance for depreciation, whilst the assumption of the prospectus was net profit after depreciation allowance.

Herewith we show in bird's-eye form the results since 1885:—

Results before Flotation.

	Gross Profits. £	Advertising. £	Net Profit. £	Inc. or Dec. £
1885	96,106	31,160	63,946	—
1886	117,562	58,849	58,713	− 5,253
1887	128,109	82,311	45,798	−12,915
1888	153,756	86,491	67,265	+21,467
1889	149,770	119,904	29,866	−37,399
1890	165,345	126,994	38,351	+ 8,485
1891	175,950	103,956	71,994	+33,643
Estimated future profits per prospectus			63,000	

Results since the Formation of the Company.

	Balance of Trading Account. £	General Expenses, Advertising, &c. £	Net Profit.* £	Inc. or Dec. £
1893	193,352	118,764	74,588	+11,588
1894	175,080	126,073	49,007	−25,581
1895	175,266	106,436	68,830	+19,823
1896	176,819	102,619	74,200	+ 5,370
1897	172,030	106,120	65,910	− 8,290
1898	169,181	106,214	62,967	− 2,943
1899	161,476	103,131	58,345	− 4,622
1900	162,060	97,329	64,731	+ 6,386
1901	165,406	103,319	62,087	− 2,644
1902	157,510	104,270	53,240	− 8,847
1903	158,901	99,707	59,194	+ 5,954
1904	165,777	103,943	61,834	+ 2,640
1905	167,578	109,192	58,388	− 3,448
1906	168,026	103,882	64,144	+ 5,758
1907	174,668	102,640	72,028	+ 7,884
1908	163,221	102,158	61,063	−10,965
1909	166,137	107,373	58,764	− 2,299
1910	172,650	106,225	66,425	+ 7,661
1911	173,027	109,547	63,480	− 2,945
1912	178,603	114,151	64,452	+ 972
1913	189,513	119,181	70,332	+ 5,880
1914	—	—	61,641	− 8,691
1915	—	—	78,812	+17,171

* Before allowance for depreciation.

Each year a steady 10% dividend was distributed on the Ordinary shares. Now, as pointed out, these shares get 12%, calling for £38,400, as compared with 32,000. The new Ordinary shares receive a dividend of 20%, which has required £12,658 for the past year. A sum of £10,000 has been carried to reserve, and the carry-forward is £30,003, as compared with £34,249 brought in.

The manner of distributing the profits for the past six years may be seen from the following:—

Year ended June 30—1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit, &c. ...	—	—	189,513	178,603	173,027	172,650
Sundry expenses	—	—	119,181	114,151	109,547	106,225
Net profit	78,812	61,641	70,332	64,452	63,480	66,425
Depreciation	—	—	849	826	1,365	953
Deb. interest, 5 % ...	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Pref. dividend, 6 % ...	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Prefd. Ordinary dividend...	38,400 (12%)	—	—	—	-	—
Ordinary dividend ...	12,658 (20%)	32,000 (10%)	32,000 (10%)	32,000 (10%)	32,000 (10%)	32,000 (10%)
Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	-	—
Surplus	−4,246	−2,359	5,483	−1,874	8,115	11,472
Brought forward	34,249	36,608	31,125	32,999	24,884	13,412
Carried forward ...	30,003	34,249	36,608	31,125	32,999	24,884

At June 30 last the capital account was as follows:—

Share Capital Authorised and Subscribed.

		£
20,000	6% Cum. Preference shares, £10 each, fully paid	200,000
320,000	Preferred Ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid	320,000
150,000	Ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid	150,000
		670,000
	5% Debenture stock	200,000
		870,000

The whole of the above capital has been issued. The reserve fund, which at June 30 last was £90,000, is now brought up to £100,000. There is a depreciation account of £88,221 and a leasehold redemption fund of £16,596. On the other side of the accounts, freehold works, premises, plant and goodwill are lumped together, standing at £509,908. Of this it appears probable that goodwill is valued at somewhere about £300,000. The investments stand at £370,893, as compared with £220,390 twelve months ago. The total assets are valued at £1,209,287. The following is a summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital	670,000	Investments	370,893
Debenture stock (5%) ...	200,000	Stock-in-trade	169,134
Sundry creditors	31,408	Debtors, &c.	118,793
Reserve	90,000	Freehold works, premises, goodwill, &c.	509,908
Depreciation account... ...	88,221	Cash	40,559
Leasehold redemption fund ...	16,597		
Profit and loss	113,061		
	1,209,287		1,209,287

The Chairman pointed out at the annual meeting some of the results of the new arrangement made with Lever Brothers, from which it will be evident that a more progressive policy is now being energetically carried out. He said that already "we have placed upon the market through the channels which we now have, and could never have had under any other circumstances, at home and abroad new articles, which have been received well by merchants and the public. We expect very soon to be sending from our works every article requisite for the most refined toilet table, from soap and perfumery to bath salts, all made from the very finest materials, artistically got up, and bearing the hall-mark of the name of Pears as an assurance of the best British manufacture. We shall be quite prepared for any onslaught of foreign competitors in the future, with or without a protective tariff." Thus the outlook for the Company is probably brighter than it has ever been. With the large financial resources, the splendid organisation and driving power of Lever Brothers behind it, it seems likely that the business will grow at an ever-increasing rate, and with the world-wide reputation already secured the future profits should be on an ever-ascending scale.

Recent quotations are 99½ for the Debenture stock, giving a yield of about 5⅛%; 11⅞ for the £10 Preference share, yielding £5 3*s*. 11*d*. per cent.; and 38*s*. 6*d*. for the £1 Preferred Ordinary share, which gives a return of practically 6¼%.

The present capital, prices, dividends and yields are as follows:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Dividend	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ *s*. *d*.
200,000	Debenture stock	100	99½	5	5 2 0
200,000	Cumulative Preference shares ...	10	11⅞xd	6	5 3 11
320,000	Preferred Ordinary	1	38/6 xd	12	6 4 7
150,000	Ordinary shares...	1	—	20	—

Aguas Blancas Nitrate Co.—Interim dividend of 5% on Ordinary shares.

Bolands.—Interim dividend at rate of 4% per annum on Ordinary.

Campbell (P. and A.).—Interim dividend of 5%, tax free, on Ordinary.

Indian and General Investment Trust.—Interim dividend on Deferred stock at rate of 6% per annum.

Land Mortgage Bank of Texas.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 10% per annum (less tax).

Western Australian Bank.—Dividend of £1 per share, equal to 20% per annum. The paid up capital now stands at £250, reserve fund £680,000, reserve profits £24,087.

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Insurance Notes.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE.

This is the oldest independent British insurance Company. For 205 years it has transacted fire insurance, and like other institutions of the kind it now cultivates accident and cognate business, whilst it is closely allied for many business purposes with the Sun Life, which is, however, a separate organisation. The annual report for 1914 is satisfactory reading for shareholders. In a year beset by difficulties affecting both business and finance the results allow the maintenance of the rate of dividend declared for 1913, while a large sum has been devoted out of profits to writing off depreciation in investments and to strengthening the reserves.

The Company's fire premium income, amounting to £1,502,340, shows a reduction of £69,197. After adjustment of the reserve for unexpired risks there appears to have been a trading profit of £114,818, or about 7.6% of the premiums (very nearly the same proportion as was shown in 1913), which, together with interest earnings of £68,730, has been transferred to profit and loss account.

The profit results in the three sections of the accident department were as follows in 1914:—

Section	Premium Income	Profit from Interest	Profit or Loss from Trading
	£	£	£
Accident ...	7,589	287	Loss 298
Employers' liability ...	98,774	4,805	Profit 6,180
Burglary and general ...	27,022	815	Profit 5,562
Together ...	133,385	5,907	Profit 11,444

Thus the departmental profits seem to have amounted to £200,899, of which £74,637 arose from interest and £126,262 from trading. To this has to be added the sum of £41,491, representing the excess of interest and other earnings (£56,515) credited to profit and loss account over taxes and charges (£15,024) debited to that account. Thus the total profits of the year from all sources aggregated £242,390.

The amount brought forward in profit and loss account for 1913, after provision for dividends declared in respect of that year, was £342,723, so that the sum available in profit and loss account, before allocations and adjustments, amounted to £585,113, which has been dealt with as follows.

The subscribed capital of the Company amounts to £2,400,000, of which £480,000 is paid up (£360,000 of this amount having been paid up in 1911 and 1912 out of accumulated profits), in shares of £10 with £2 paid on each. The dividend at the declared rate, 14*s.* per share (representing 35% on the paid-up capital), requires £155,050 for distribution, after deduction of income tax. The sum of £10,000 is added to the pension fund (thereafter amounting to £62,642), £10,000 is set aside as a war contingency fund, £75,000 is carried to investment suspense fund, £75,000 is applied in writing down sundry investments, and the balance of profit and loss account thereafter carried forward to 1915 is £260,063.

Apart from capital the total funds carried forward, after deduction of sums reserved for outstanding claims and provision for dividends, and exclusive of pension fund, war contingency fund of £10,000, and investment suspense fund, amount to £2,649,352, as follows:—

	£
Fire fund	2,100,935
Accident fund	8,035
Employers' liability fund	104,510
Burglary and general fund	25,809
Dividend reserve fund	150,000
Balance of profit and loss account	260,063
	2,649,352

This represents about 162% of the combined premium income (£1,635,724) in 1914 in all departments. It is thus more than quadruple the reserve set aside as a specific provision for unexpired risks, at the usual ratio which is employed by this Company, of 40% of the premiums. That reserve amounts to £654,290, so that the additional reserve is £1,995,062. This discloses a remarkably strong position as compared with liabilities, while the shareholders' paid-up and uncalled capital supplies a further powerful line of security to policyholders.

The total assets shown in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £3,772,574. The directors state that in their belief these assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less the investment suspense fund.

CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

Of the many excellent insurance companies whose headquarters are in the City of Edinburgh, the Caledonian is the oldest. It attained its centenary 10 years ago. Its subscribed capital amounts to £537,500, of which £107,500 is paid up, in shares of £25 with £5 paid on each. Dividends have been paid for some years past at the rate of 24%, or 24*s.* per share, and this rate is again declared as the outcome of the operations in 1914. The amount required for its distribution was not quite earned from the ordinary profits taken into the year's account, but the life profits are only computed at quinquennial intervals, and the next does not occur until December 31, 1917. Moreover, last year was one of exceptional difficulties, and as a large balance is carried forward to 1915 in profit and loss account, the maintenance of the dividend seemed quite justifiable under the circumstances.

The Company transacts fire and accident as well as life business. During the last few years its trading profits in the fire department have been considerable, and the greater part thereof has been applied in increasing the reserves, which had been depleted in 1906 through heavy losses arising from the San Francisco conflagration, to a satisfactory standard. In 1914 there seems to have been a small loss from trading in this section. The fire premiums, decreased by £2,883, amounted to £449,704, and after payment of claims and expenses, and adjustment of the reserves for unexpired risks, there was a trading deficit of £6,939, which was more than counterbalanced, however, by interest earnings (after deduction of income tax) of £11,773. The difference, £4,834, was transferred to profit and loss account, and thereafter the fire fund amounted to £352,899.

The various sections of the accident and miscellaneous business showed satisfactory results as follows:—

Section	Premium Income	Profit from Trading	Profit from Interest	Funds, exclusive of Provision for Outstanding Claims
	£	£	£	£
Accident	2,613	847	103	3,154
Employers' liability ...	24,103	2,433	610	15,667
General insurance ...	4,325	761	51	2,379
	31,041	4,041	764	21,200

The profit and loss account shows a profit (apart from the departmental profits already referred to) of £5,446, arising from the excess of interest earnings and fees not departmentally credited (£8,196) over charges of various kinds not departmentally debited (£2,750). Adding thereto the departmental profits, the total net profits taken into the year's account appear to have amounted to £15,086. The dividend, less tax, requires £23,818 for distribution, so that the balance of profit and loss account after provision therefor is reduced by £8,732. Its amount is £79,807, which, added to the fire fund, gives £432,707, or about 96.4% of the fire premiums.

The new life business in 1914 amounted to £921,430 in sums assured, of which £218,450 was reassured. Thus the net sum retained at the Company's sole risk was £702,980, which, although less than reported for 1913, was, with that exception, the largest amount in the Company's long history. The total net life premiums, amounting to £286,104, show an increase of £10,607, apart from a sum of £23,486 received as consideration for new annuities granted. After making a suitable adjustment for the cost of the annuity business, the expense ratio in proportion to premiums seems to have been about 13.6%, which is below the average in British life offices. The death claims, amounting to £150,976, were reported by the Chairman at the annual meeting to have been well within the expectation. Policies for £60,145 matured by survivance. Through the year's operations the life assurance and annuity funds were increased by £165,797 to £3,462,827, and the net interest yield thereon, after deduction of income tax, seems to have been about £4 6*s.* 8*d.* per cent., which indicates a profit of £1 6*s.* 8*d.* per cent., as the rate assumed for valuation purposes is only 3%. In all respects the life account seems very satisfactory, the normal sources of profit arising from interest, economy, and favourable mortality having been productive in each case.

The total assets as shown in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £4,274,672. Stock Exchange securities were taken at the prices of December 31, 1913, and at cost prices for subsequent purchases, and it is reported that when the investment reserve of £11,000 is taken into account the assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated.

Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.—Balance dividend of 4% and a bonus of 5%, less tax, making 13%, less tax, for the year.

KAJANG RUBBER ESTATES.

We have from time to time recently in these columns pointed out some attractive shares of young rubber companies, and we this week deal with another similar undertaking—the Kajang Rubber Estates, Limited. Perhaps the shares of this Company are not so immediately attractive as those to which we have previously referred, but nevertheless the £1 shares, quoted at about 15s.—a discount of 25%—possess considerable merits as a speculative lock-up.

The issued capital is £75,000. The market capitalisation works out at about £42 per planted acre, a low figure for a Malayan undertaking about to reach the dividend-paying stage. The total area owned is 2,569 acres in Selangor, of which 1,325 acres are planted, the years of planting being as follows:—

	Acres		Acres
1906	22	1910	319½
1907	444	1911	619½
1908	35½	1912	15½
1909	87½	1913	20
		Total	1,325

The crop secured last year of 55,258 lb. was obtained from only 175 acres, the yield per planted acre thus working out at 315 lb. For this year the production is estimated at 96,000 lb., and for the nine months to September 30 the amount actually secured was 60,300 lb., an increase of 21,650 lb. over the corresponding period of last year. From the acreage table given above it will be seen that a proportionately large area was planted in 1910 and 1911, and the Company should reap advantage from the 1910 plantings at the close of this or the beginning of next year. Certainly the crop of 1916 should show a substantial increase over that of 1915. In the years following 1916 the crop secured should exhibit still more pronounced expansion, with the accompanying factor of reduced "all in" costs.

No dividend was paid for 1914, but at the annual meeting, held in April last, the Chairman expressed the opinion that "with fair business and no unforeseen trouble it is most likely the directors next year will be in a position to declare a dividend." He added that "the funds in the hands of the Company should be sufficient to bring the area under cultivation to full maturity." The 1914 balance sheet showed nearly £8,000 of surplus liquid assets.

In these circumstances it looks as if the earnings of the current year will permit of the payment of a dividend of 5%. Such a distribution to start with would give a yield of about 7% on the market price, and subsequently the dividend should steadily increase. When full maturity is reached, say in about five years' time, the output should be well over 450,000 lb., which at only 9*d.* per lb. profit would represent over 20% on the capital of the Company. Consequently the shares at their present price of 14*s.* are a good speculative lock-up, offering the chance of considerable capital appreciation. The position of the Company will be gleaned from the following particulars:—

Year ends December 31.			
Capital		£75,000, in £1 shares	
Market price of shares		15/-	
Total acreage		2,569½	
Planted		1,325½	
Market capitalisation		£50,250	
Per Planted Acre		£42	
	1915*.	1914	1913
Output (lb.)	96,000	55,258	42,413
Per planted acre (lb.)	72	42	32
Average net price realised	2/2½	2/1·61	2/0·19
"All in" costs	1/2	1/3·28	1/11·25
Net profit	£5,000	1,799	1,436
Dividends	5%	Nil	Nil
Carry-forward		£1,185	£2,356

* Budget.

Bull (Henry) and Co.—Dividend at rate of 10% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary, making 8½% for the year.

Fullers' Earth Union.—Interim dividend at rate of 8% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Nimmo (James) and Co.—Dividend of 10%, tax free, on Ordinary.

Thomson (J. G.) and Co.—Dividend of 8%, tax free, on Ordinary for the year.

INDIGO.

India, the main producer of indigo, after centuries of growth and steady expansion of output of dye material—at first almost entirely used for home requirements and subsequently increasingly exported, especially to the United Kingdom—attained its maximum production in 1894-95. At that time the indigo crop brought into India three to four millions sterling. About the same time there commenced a keen competition of German synthetic dyes produced from gas residuals. As the German dye came to be used, so it supplanted the hygienic and lasting vegetable indigo dye of India; and indeed in recent years not only has India witnessed its indigo industry all but disappear, but German synthetic dyes have been largely imported into India itself. The substitution has continued notwithstanding synthetic dyed material does not always keep its colour like natural indigo dyed goods do.

To revert to figures. After an allowance for the crop of 1913-14 being an exceptionally poor one, it is noteworthy that India's yield of indigo for the year was the lowest in modern history. The yield for 1894-95—the apex year of production—was 238,000 cwt., equal to 95,202 chests of 280 lb. per chest. The yield of 1913-14 was only 27,000 cwt., equal to 10,800 chests, the bulk of production being used in India.

When the world War came in 1914 the German supply of synthetic dyes was no longer available, and the special colours of khaki and indigo for dyeing cloth, &c., required for armies and navies, not to mention other officials, also general domestic requirements, came into demand consequent on German dyes being no longer available. The outcome of this situation was a phenomenal rise during the autumn of 1914 in the price of dyes, synthetic and otherwise. It was expected that with the German supply cut off the demand for natural indigo would be very keen, but so far there has been little movement in such direction.

Great efforts have been made to probe into the secrets of the Germans in the manipulation of gas-tar products and secure the manufacture in this country of synthetic dyes. In respect of some colours a fair amount of success has attended the efforts. In the matter of producing a blue dye of permanent colouring quality, however, little progress appears to have been made, and the public is told that certain blue shades of serge, cloth, &c., cannot be provided as dyeing material is not available. This is not the case; there is plenty of indigo if the buyers will only pay the price.

Dyers prior to the War readily obtained all their synthetic supplies from Germany. They had become accustomed to using a cheap material in place of the permanent high-grade vegetable indigo dye for blue cloth, &c., that in Government orders used to be stipulated for in the colouring of Army, &c., clothing. For some years past vegetable indigo has been increasingly ignored, and the German stuff used and sold to dyers who could not get it from Germany.

Before the War synthetic indigotin paste was in the region of 9*d.* per lb. for 20% indigotin, and natural indigo about 2*s.* 9*d.* Vegetable indigo dye, when synthetic was at, say, 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb., rose to about 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb.—to get the same amount of colour for clothing material it would take 3 lb. of synthetic paste to give the same dyeing power as 1 lb. of vegetable indigo. To-day 20% indigotin is 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and dearer than natural indigo at 12*s.* 6*d.* And yet the natural product continues to be neglected. But there is nothing else for dyers to use, and it seems evident they must readapt their plant and use the natural article, much to the benefit of the soldiers, sailors, &c., and the public generally, of getting cloth, &c., and everything else dyed with a pure vegetable dye instead of an inferior cheap and less satisfactory article. The properties of natural indigo improve and strengthen any cloth or

[illegible] that is [illegible] with it, which cannot be said of German synthetic.

In the days of German supplies there were loopholes for manipulation, and consumers were tempted by facilities for getting a much greater profit from using indigotin than from the use of genuine indigo. But it seems desirable to check this and take steps for restoring indigo to its proper place in the dye industry, which has been demoralised by German competition, oftentimes on dubious lines. Surely it is far better to support as far as possible our great Indian Dependency, than to go on seeking to use an unhygienic, inefficient compound, inefficient at any rate as to permanency of colour. Last season all the stock available of vegetable indigo itself was absorbed by individuals as well as by the Government. There are no stocks free, and the outlook is that the nations requiring a staying dye like indigo will be unable to again acquire stocks when, in about two or three months' time, the Indian production comes to be ascertained. There will be an all-round world's rush for Indian indigo if it be true, as is alleged by experts, that an efficient indigo dye cannot be produced in this country synthetically, and it is alleged that even an inefficient synthetic dye for indigo will be all but impossible to obtain. The Government has protected the dyers by acquiring all the pure vegetable indigo. The dyers ought to take advantage of this and acquire what they can. It is desirable to encourage an increasing production in India.

LIMA RAILWAYS.

THE report of the Lima Railways Company for the past six months shows that, owing to a decline from 23.90*d.* to 22.22*d.* in the rate of exchange, the results of working come out rather smaller than those for the corresponding half-year. The gross receipts at £6,799 are £539 down, and as expenses in Peru were £11 heavier, the net receipts at £6,198 were £550, or 8.3%, smaller. The net profit amounts to £3,290, against £3,711, a sum equal to a dividend of about 1⅝% per annum on the Ordinary shares. The last annual dividend was 1½%, the payment of which was subject to the receipt of remittances from Peru. No remittances, the directors state, have yet been made, and for this reason the distribution must still remain in abeyance, including the balance for the past half-year. It is clear, however, that the Company is earning more than sufficient to maintain the dividend at 1½%. The income statement for the last six years is appended. The figures for 1915 are based on the actual results for the first six months only:—

Lima Railways.

	1915*	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings ...	14,122	14,583	14,947	15,618	15,453	15,906	11,422
Expenses ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net earnings ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Miscellaneous income ...	482	441	332	91	78	122	61
Total income ...	11,751	12,172	12,561	11,617	11,744	12,461	7,645
Deb. Int. & Sinking Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Miscellaneous charges ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	541	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total charges ...	5,307	5,307	5,465	11,742	6,348	6,650	7,387
Net profit ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Loss125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dividend on Ordinary	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nil
Rate per cent. ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	—
Balance ...	444	865	1,096	Dr. 125	Dr. 604	Dr. 1,189	Cr. 258
Brought forward ...	1,915	1,050	Dr. 46	79	683	1,872	1,614
Carried forward ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Dr. 46	79	[illegible]	1,872

* [illegible]

The last transaction in the shares took place at 25*s.* At the figure they are undoubtedly attractive, seeing that the Company is earning a dividend of more than 1½%, and should as soon as remittances are received from Peru be able to make the cash distributions.

SOMERVILLE, JOHN AND CO. Interim dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* [illegible] to March 31, 1903.

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" (Paid Up) - - - - - - £80,000
Thoroughly bonâ-fide AGENTS WANTED.

COMMERCIAL UNION
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Chief Office - **CORNHILL, LONDON.**
Total Assets (including Life Funds)—£26,774,505.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Total Funds - £20,409,644
FIRE, LOSS OF PROFITS, MOTOR CAR, MARINE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, FIDELITY, BURGLARY, LIVE STOCK, ENGINEERING.
HEAD OFFICES { 1 North John St., LIVERPOOL / 24-28 Lombard Street, LONDON

Commercial.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday.

UNTIL to-day the tendency of our market has been towards a lower level, and the two factors to which we referred in our last report—the improved crop outlook and the prevalence of more moderate estimates of probable consumption—have together discouraged "bull" enthusiasm, and have suggested that 7*d.* and over for American cotton in present circumstances is perhaps a high price. In the middle of the week prices had declined fully 20 points since we wrote, but to-day there has been a sudden rebound, and to-night's closing rates show but little reaction.

There can be no doubt that the open autumn weather throughout the cotton belt, and the absence of any killing frost, has added considerably to the yield, and that calculations regarding price based on

an eleven million bales, or less, crop must now be revised. The indications are that American holders are beginning to find the cost of carrying the unsold balance of the crop a little oppressive, and offers of actual cotton to this market have of late been more plentiful. The basis asked is still very high, and does not present much inducement for our local importers to buy at all freely, but anyone willing to pay the rates demanded can secure good lines of cotton. There has been a little more hedge-selling in the market of late, but merchants, while prepared to buy cautiously and to a limited extent, as a rule do not care to load themselves with a dear stock, which if not sold promptly will involve them in a heavy loss. A fair proportion of this new business negotiated is covering sales made to spinners for forward delivery—that is to say, our importers, while considering prices in America too dear to justify bringing cotton here unsold, have, acting as intermediaries, bought in America in cases where they have been able to secure an outlet for their purchases in this market. While the general outlook is rather bearish, we must remember that the conditions here and those in America are very dissimilar. In America there is a large carry-over from last season and an unusually large proportion of the new crop still to be sold, with a limited foreign offtake. Here we have an active trade demand and a diminishing stock, and to secure the supplies necessary for this country Liverpool must remain relatively stronger than America, and its price go to a parity sufficiently wide to ensure the shipment of our requirements for the remainder of the season. Until our stock and the cotton pointing to this market are adequate for our needs, operations on the short side are dangerous.

The Ginners' report up to October 31 was issued on Monday, and the return showed the quantity ginned to be 7,385,000, against 9,829,000 for the same period last season, and the quantity ginned in October to be 4,485,000, against 6,435,000 in October last year. The report has been taken, as far as it goes, to indicate a crop of at least 12,000,000 bales.

On the spot a very fair business has been done, though in its volume there is a little contraction. Owing to scarcity of labour in some of our manufacturing districts, the spinning machinery cannot be run to its full capacity. Any further calls for recruits for military purposes will increase this difficulty. The restriction of the output has tended to strengthen the position of yarn relative to cotton, and the margin at present existing between the manufactured article and the raw material shows a very exceptional profit to the manufacturer. In consequence spinners have been able to pay good prices for their Liverpool purchases, and better qualities of cotton with good staple have hardened against the buyer.

COAL AND STEEL.

Conditions in the Scottish coal and steel industries have not changed to any appreciable extent during the past fortnight. Coal export is still greatly hampered by the scarcity of tonnage and the high freights. The bulk of the trade is over France and the Mediterranean. Cargoes are going elsewhere, of course, but not by any means to the same extent. While the repression of the export trade is a serious matter as regards the national income, there is compensation at the pit-head in the increasing volume of the home trade, which is now engaging the attention of the coal-masters. The decision not to interfere for recruiting purposes with the supply of labour at the pits is welcome. Without this assurance owners were left in a very uncertain position, as the character of the Derby scheme gave them reason to fear that the supply of pit labour might be further diminished. As it is coal is moving off so freely that extra exertions will require to be made to meet Governmental demands, and maintain supplies for home consumption, apart altogether from the export trade.

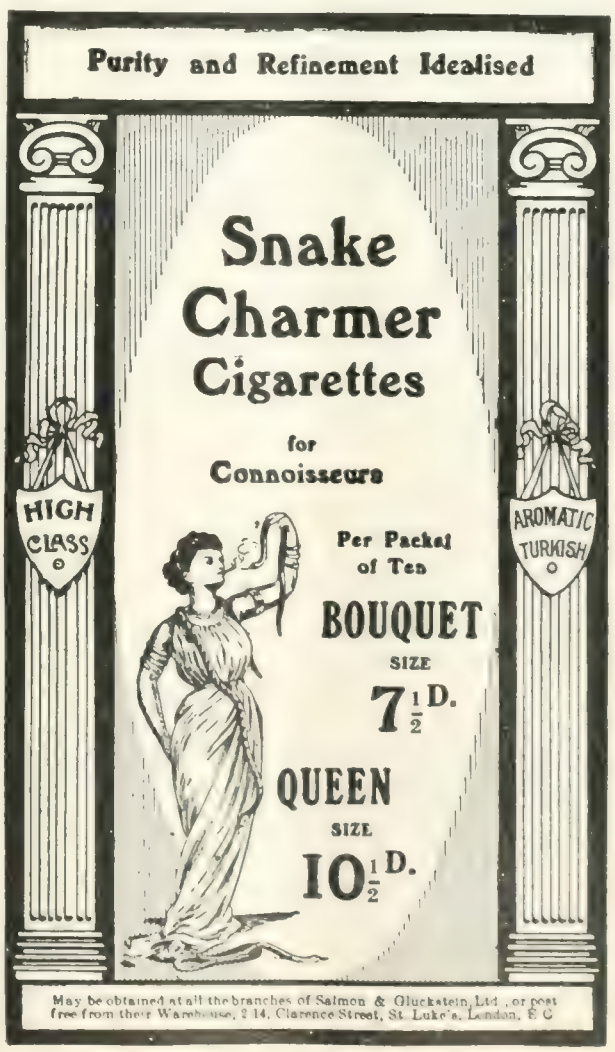
On Monday the Scottish steel and iron works came still more completely under Government control. That does not mean much, except in name, for in every case Governmental orders have had first consideration. American deliveries are coming in more freely now, though still behind in point of time and quantities. Makers have been asked to supply as much for export as possible, but they cannot see how they can do any more, as circumstances are entirely against them. Labour is very scarce, and they cannot promise delivery with any degree of certainty. If, they argue, the Government would follow the example of the French Government and recall from the military ranks skilled men who have joined in such large numbers, something more might be done in the way of export, but with the present supply of skilled labour it is hopeless to expect an increased output or a further development of the export trade. Customers are more and more turning their attention to the American and Canadian makers, who are establishing a trade and connections which will be difficult, if not impossible, to turn in our direction again after the War.

Anglo Malay Rubber Co.—Second interim dividend of 12 *per cent.*

British Automatic Co.—Final dividend of 11*d.* per share, less tax, making 1*s.* 6*d.* per share for the year.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust.—A call of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share has been made upon the partly-paid shares of this Company, payable on December 1, 1915. Such shares will then become 17*s.* 6*d.* per share paid.

Thornycroft (John I.) and Co.—In order to comply with the requirements of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, the accounts of John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., are being made up to July 12, 1915, from which date the Company became a controlled establishment under the Act. A general meeting will be called about the end of the current month to approve the accounts and declare dividends in connection therewith



SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY

AND PROPRIETARY COMPANIES.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

To the Stockholders of the Southern Pacific Company: New York, October 8, 1915.

Your Board of Directors submit this report of the operations of the Southern Pacific Company and of its Proprietary Companies for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.

PROPERTIES AND MILEAGE.

The transportation lines constituting the Southern Pacific System June 30, 1915, were as follows:

Divisions.	First Main Track.	Additional Main Track.	Sidings.	Ferries.	Water Lines.
A.—Mileage of lines belonging to or leased by Companies, the capital stocks of which are principally owned by the Southern Pacific Company:					
(1)—Operated by the Southern Pacific Company under leases:					
Central Pacific Ry.	2,235.68	256.04	870.20	9.90	125
Oregon & California RR.	692.48	2.85	167.87		
Southern Pacific RR.	3,497.31	211.76	1,478.49	3.00	
South Pacific Coast Ry.	106.69	20.46	49.58	3.00	
(2)—Operated by the owning Companies:					
Morgan's Louisiana & Texas Railroad & Steamship Co.	404.53	58.35	228.35	3.00	
Louisiana Western RR.	207.74	—	70.08		
Texas & New Orleans RR.	468.14	3.46	202.49		
Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Ry.	1,351.21	6.59	332.80		
Houston East & West Texas Ry.	190.94	—	56.57		
Houston & Shreveport RR.	40.72	.69	7.35		
Houston & Texas Central RR.	894.63	1.27	258.79		
Southern Pacific Terminal Company	—	—	23.64		
Arizona Eastern RR.	366.80	—	81.67		
Corvallis & Eastern RR.	140.58	—	16 98		
Southern Pacific Company	—	—	—	—	4,683
B.—Mileage of lines belonging to Companies, the capital stocks of which are principally owned by the Morgan's Louisiana & Texas RR. & SS. Co., but which are operated by the owning Cos.:					
Iberia & Vermilion RR.	21.44	—	10.99		
Direct Navigation Co.	—	—	—	—	65
Total	10,618.89	561.47	3,855.85	18.90	4,873
Less operated jointly by Proprietary Companies	31.49	9.97	17.80		
Total miles of road operated June 30, 1915	10,587.40	551.50	3,838.05	18.90	4,873
Total miles of road operated June 30, 1914	10,477.00	506.60	3,788.93	18.90	4,873
Increase	110.40	44.90	49.12	—	—

In addition to the mileage above tabulated, the Southern Pacific Company solely controls through ownership of capital stock 890.46 miles of electric lines and 1,458.09 miles of steam lines, and jointly controls (through ownership of capital stock in equal proportions with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co.) 400.99 miles of the North-western Pacific Railroad and 62.93 miles of the Sunset Railway, an aggregate of 13,399.87 miles.

Since June 30, 1914, railways have been purchased by Proprietary Companies as follows:—

HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Under authority of Chapter 40, Laws of the State of Texas, 1913, the Houston & Texas Central Railroad Company purchased as of July 1, 1914, the railroad and appurtenances of the Hearne & Brazos Valley Railroad Company, extending from Hearne to Stone City, Texas, a distance of 18·61 miles.

TEXAS AND NEW ORLEANS RAILROAD.

Under authority of Chapter 54, Laws of the State of Texas, 1913, the Texas & New Orleans Railroad Company purchased as of July 1, 1914, the railroad and appurtenances of the Burr's Ferry, Browndel & Chester Railway Company, extending from Rockland to Turpentine, Texas, a distance of 11·89 miles.

INCOME FOR THE YEAR.

The income for the year ended June 30, 1915, of the Southern Pacific Company and of its Proprietary Companies, combined, excluding offsetting accounts, compared with last year, is as follows:—

	This Year.	Last Year.	Increase. (+) or Decrease (−).	Per Cent.
Average miles of road operated—				
Lines east of El Paso	3,534.12	3,459.16	+ 74.96	2.17
Lines west of El Paso	7,020.12	6,962.49	+ 57.63	.83
	10,554.24	10,421.65	+ 132.59	1.27
OPERATING INCOME.				
Railway operating revenues	$129,866,675 09	$138,520,258 56	− $8,654,583 47	6.25
Railway operating expenses	87,753,842 31	93,662,266 93	− 5,908,424 62	6.31
Net revenue from railway operations	$42,111,832 78	$44,857,991 63	− $2,746,158 85	6.12
Railway tax accruals	$6,371,272 84	$7,162,624 57	− $791,351 73	11.05
Uncollectible railway revenues	50,946 14	—	+ 50,946 14	—
Total operating income	$35,689,613 80	$37,695,367 06	− $2,005,753 26	5.32
NON-OPERATING INCOME.				
Rent from locomotives	$72,612 74	$239,269 60	− $166,656 86	69.65
Rent from passenger-train cars	282,448 41	212,944 78	+ 69,503 63	32.64
Rent from floating equipment	80,759 03	2,609 58	+ 78,149 45	—
Rent from work equipment	69,565 19	188,542 24	− 118,987 05	63.11
Joint facility rent income	473,475 01	472,424 65	+ 1,050 36	.22
Income from lease of road	94,996 46	94,667 66	+ 328 80	.35
Miscellaneous rent income	444,514 74	366,230 03	+ 78,284 71	21.88
Miscellaneous non-operating physical property	298,358 19	225,476 78	+ 72,881 41	32.32
Dividend income	4,478,280 00	3,656,276 04	+ 821,973 96	22.48
Income from funded securities—Proprietary Companies	3,833,185 82	3,612,450 71	+ 220,735 11	6.11
Income from funded securities—Affiliated and other Companies	3,756,061 84	3,813,144 31	− 57,082 47	1.50
Income from unfunded securities and accounts	2,651,463 91	2,334,382 60	+ 317,081 31	13.58
Income from sinking and other reserve funds	678,550 66	556,873 33	+ 121,677 33	21.85
Miscellaneous income	577,332 14	109,617 42	+ 467,714 72	426.68
Total non-operating income	$17,791,564 14	$15,884,909 73	+ $1,906,654 41	12.00
Gross income	$53,481,177 94	$53,580,276 79	− $99,098 85	.18

INCOME FOR THE YEAR—*continued.*

	This Year	Last Year	Increase (+) or Decrease (−)	Per Cent.
DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME.				
Hire of freight cars—Debit balance	$120,850 99	$177,822 48	− $56,971 49	32.04
Rent for locomotives	24,771 52	30,803 31	− 6,031 79	19.58
Rent for passenger train cars	172,921 37	156,112 16	+ 16,809 21	10.77
Rent for floating equipment	3,613 92	2,750 00	+ 863 92	31.42
Rent for work equipment	6,960 69	9,397 65	− 2,436 96	25.93
Joint facility rents	358,830 75	297,571 04	+ 61,268 71	20.59
Rent for leased roads	717,904 21	707,437 62	+ 10,466 59	1.48
Miscellaneous rents	647,940 60	612,209 59	+ 35,731 01	5.84
Miscellaneous tax accruals	965,387 10	609,457 87	+ 355,929 23	58.40
Interest on funded debt	28,939,034 71	27,415,733 89	+ 1,523,300 82	5.56
Interest on unfunded debt	356,574 07	546,242 06	− 189,667 99	34.72
Amortisation of discount on funded debt	237,540 56	505,476 92	− 267,936 36	53.00
Maintenance of investment organisation	125,981 31	159,056 90	− 33,075 59	20.79
Miscellaneous income charges	232,537 67	1,092,237 48	− 859,749 81	78.71
Total deductions from gross income	$32,910,658 47	$32,322,358 97	+ $588,499 50	1.82
Net Income	$20,570,319 47	$21,257,917 82	− $687,598 35	3.23
DISPOSITION OF NET INCOME.				
Income applied to sinking and other reserve funds	$939,724 57	$805,702 07	+ $134,022 50	16.63
Income balance transferred to credit of Profit and Loss	$19,630,594 90	$20,452,215 75	− $821,620 85	4.02
Per cent. on out-standing capital stock of Southern Pacific Company	7.20	7.50	− .30	4.02

In the foregoing table the income has been classified in accordance with the regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914. This change in the classification has necessitated a restatement of the figures for last year.

The details of Railway Operating Revenues and Railway Operating Expenses are fully dealt with under Transportation Operations.

The $50,946.14 reported against Uncollectible Railway Revenues represents the amount of charges against companies and individuals, for transportation services rendered, which have been determined to be uncollectible, and which are debited to said account in accordance with regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914. Similar charges in previous years were debited to Railway Operating Revenues.

The income for the year from rent of equipment exceeds the payments to other companies for rent of equipment by $176,256.88. This is a decrease, as compared with last year, of $90,223.72.

The principal item of increase in Miscellaneous Rent Income is the rental received from the City of Portland for the use of the Willamette River Bridge, a one-half interest in which was acquired during the year.

Of the $317,081.31 increase in Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts, $177,722.09 represents interest on increased investment advances to Affiliated Companies, and the remaining $139,359.22 represents increased interest received on bank deposits, &c.

The increase of $467,714.72 in Miscellaneous Income is the result, principally, of taking into the year's income the net receipts from the operations of the steamships *Persia* and *Nile* from July 1, 1913, to June 30, 1915; and of crediting to income, in accordance with the regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, interest on the Companies' own funds used for construction.

The increase in Miscellaneous Tax Accruals is the result, principally, of including in this account this year, in accordance with the regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914, certain taxes which were included in Railway Tax Accruals last year.

The increase in Interest on Funded Debt is the result, principally, of the excess of interest accruing this year on the Five per Cent Twenty-Year Convertible Bonds issued in June of last year over the interest accruing last year on the One-Year Five per Cent Secured Gold Notes retired in June of last year.

The decrease in the charge for Amortisation of Discount on Funded Debt is the result, principally, of charging against last year's income the remainder of the discount on the $26,000,000 of Southern Pacific Company One-Year Five per Cent. Notes retired in June of last year.

The amounts reported against Maintenance of Investment Organisation represent expenses of the Southern Pacific Company for other than railway operations, and the expenses of keeping up the corporate organisations of the Proprietary Companies, the properties of which are operated by the Southern Pacific Company under leases.

The decrease in Miscellaneous Income Charges is due to the fact that last year the charge for depreciation on rolling-stock owned by the Southern Pacific Company and leased to other companies was included in this account; while this year the corresponding charge is included in operating expenses, in accordance with the regulations of the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

On June 30, 1915, the principal of advances to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico amounted to $38,993,894.69. Interest accruing on these advances has not been taken into the income of the Southern Pacific Company.

CAPITAL STOCK.

The capital stock of the Southern Pacific Company outstanding at the beginning of the year amounted to		$272,672,405 64
Issued during the year:—		
Common stock issued in exchange for a like amount of Five per Cent Twenty-Year Convertible Gold Bonds surrendered and cancelled		2,000 00
Amount of Southern Pacific Company stock outstanding June 30, 1915		$272,674,405 64

There was no change during the year in the capital stocks of the Proprietary Companies.

The amount outstanding June 30, 1915, was as follows:		
Common stock	$315,800,572 00	
Preferred stock	29,400,000 00	
		$345,200,572 00

Stocks of Proprietary Companies outstanding June 30, 1915, were held as follows:—

Owned by Southern Pacific Company	$344,767,400 00	
Owned by Morgan's Louisiana & Texas RR. & SS. Co.	350,000 00	
In the hands of the public	83,172 00	
Total		$345,200,572 00

FUNDED DEBT.

In December 1914, to provide for the purchase of new equipment, an Equipment Trust, to be known as "Southern Pacific Equipment Trust, Series C," was created, and an issue of $1,170,000, par value, Four and One-Half per Cent. Equipment Trust Certificates authorised, all of which were issued during the year, and, in accordance with the terms of the trust, guaranteed by the Southern Pacific Company.

Under an agreement made in December 1914 between The Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Ry. Co. and the holders of all of the outstanding Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Ry. Co. Mexican and Pacific Extension Second Mortgage Six per Cent. Income Bonds, $3,815,000, par value, of the said bonds were retired; the rate of interest on the remaining $2,539,000, par value, of such bonds still outstanding was reduced to 5 per cent. per annum; the endorsement making such interest conditional was cancelled; all obligation, if any, of the Railway Company in respect to sinking fund payments accruing on or prior to January 1, 1915, was released; and the payment of the principal of and interest on the $2,539,000, par value, of such bonds still outstanding was guaranteed by the Southern Pacific Company.

The funded and other fixed interest-bearing debt of the Southern Pacific Company and of its Proprietary Companies outstanding June 30, 1914, was as follows:—

Southern Pacific Company	$203,226,336 58	
Proprietary Companies	456,106,632 24	
Total outstanding June 30, 1914		$659,332,968 82
Add—		
First Mortgage Six per Cent Bonds of the Burr's Ferry, Brownfield & Chester Ry. Co., the property of which was purchased by the Texas & New Orleans RR. Co., July 1, 1914, subject to the mortgage indebtedness		165,000 00
		$659,497,968 82
Issued during the year:—		
Southern Pacific Company.		
Equipment Trust Certificates Series "C"	$1,170,000 00	
Five per Cent. Twenty-Year Convertible Gold Bonds, balance of subscriptions	3,006,573 42	
	$4,176,573 42	
Southern Pacific Railroad Company.		
First Refunding Mortgage Four per Cent. Bonds—		
Against outstanding bonds retired	$21,000 00	
Against expenditures for additions and betterments	6,585,500 00	
	6,606,500 00	
		10,783,073 42
		$670,281,042 24
Retired during the year:—		
Southern Pacific Company.		
San Francisco Terminal First Mortgage Four per Cent. Bonds:		
Purchased from payments to sinking fund	$12,000 00	
Five per Cent. Twenty-Year Convertible Gold Bonds:		
Retired in exchange for a like amount of Common Stock issued	2,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates Series "A," due March 1, 1915, paid off	1,012,000 00	
Equipment Trust Certificates, Series "B," due September 1, 1914, paid off	201,000 00	
	$1,227,000 00	
Central Pacific Railway Company.		
Three and One-Half per Cent. Mortgage Gold Bonds:		
Purchased from proceeds of sale of lands	$649,500 00	
Purchased from proceeds of sale of securities	916,500 00	
Purchased from payments to sinking fund	46,500 00	
Bond scrip retired from general funds	25 00	
	$1,612,525 00	
First Refunding Mortgage Four per Cent. Bonds: Purchased from payments to sinking fund	$29,000 00	
	1,641,525 00	
Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway Company—		
Second Mortgage Mexican and Pacific Extension Six per Cent. Income Bonds retired	3,815,000 00	
Houston and Texas Central Railroad Company.		
First Mortgage Five per Cent. Bonds:		
Purchased from proceeds of sale of lands	$154,000 00	
Purchased from proceeds of sale of other mortgaged property	22,000 00	
	176,000 00	
South Pacific Coast Railway Company—		
First Mortgage Four per Cent. bonds:		
Purchased from payments to sinking fund	237,000 00	
Southern Pacific Railroad Company—		
First Refunding Mortgage Four per Cent. Gold Bonds:		
Purchased from payments to sinking fund	14,000 00	
Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company—		
Payment to State of Texas on account of School Fund Debt	5,350 80	
		7,115,875 80
Amount of funded and other fixed interest-bearing debt of the Southern Pacific Company and of its Proprietary Companies outstanding June 30, 1915		$663,165,166 44
Net increase during the year		$3,832,197 62

The outstanding funded securities are held as follows:—

In the hands of the public		$582,154,316 91
Owned by Southern Pacific Company	$67,831,849 53	
Owned by Proprietary Companies	3,386,000 00	
Held in Sinking Funds of Proprietary Companies	9,793,000 00	
		81,010,849 53
Total		$663,165,166 44

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Southern Pacific Company relating to the Central Pacific Railway Company and to the Oregon & California Railroad Company, [illegible] during the year, are included in the statements of the assets of the said companies.

The assets and liabilities of the Southern Pacific Company and of its Proprietary Companies, combined, on June 30, 1915, and the increases and decreases during the year, excluding the offsetting accounts between the Companies, summarised, were as follows:—

	Total June 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
INVESTMENTS.			
Investment in road and equipment	$908,712,243 46	$6,080 284 18	
Sinking funds	11,961,803 55	—	$264,256 29
Deposits in lieu of mortgaged property sold	15,997,60	303 36	
Improvements on leased railway property	1,425,925 63	1,069,081 55	
Miscellaneous physical property	17,155,150 60	362,618 80	
Investments in affiliated companies:			
Stocks and bonds	430,739,758 47*	14,908,811 86	
Notes and advances	111,175,191 32	5,650,500 99	
Other investments:			
Stocks and bonds	7,807,367 30	—	452,211 50
Notes, advances and miscellaneous	6,838,655 05	264,803 79	
	1,495,931,932 98	$27,519,936 74	
CURRENT AND DEFERRED ASSETS.			
Cash and demand loans and deposits	$16,307,928 64	—	$2,862,656 15
Special deposits	541,169 50	$453,883 10	
Other cash accounts	10,828,619 23	—	4,262,466 80
Material and supplies	18,859,879 40	177,192 91	
Deferred assets	6,211,521 00	200,459 37	
	$52,750,127 77		$6,293,587 57
UNADJUSTED DEBITS.			
Discount on capital stock	$3,678,600 00		
Discount on funded debt	4,823,011 38	—	$445,139 40
Other unadjusted debits	3,950,807 66	$654,318 68	
	$12,452,419 04	$209,169 28	
Total Assets	1,561,134,479 79	$21,435,518 45	

	Total June 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
STOCK.			
Capital stock of Southern Pacific Company	$272,674,405 64	$2,000 00	
Capital stock of Proprietary Companies	345,20[illegible] 00*		
	$617,874,977 64	$2,000 00	
LONG-TERM DEBT.			
Funded debt of Southern Pacific Company	$2[illegible]6,175,[illegible]16 00	2,949,573 42	
Funded debt of Proprietary Companies	456,989,256 44*	882,624 20	
	$[illegible]63,1[illegible],166 44	$3,832,197 62	
Non-negotiable debt to Affiliated Companies	$6,083,949 92	$4,424,550 89	
	$669,249,116 36	$8,256,748 51	
CURRENT AND DEFERRED LIABILITIES.			
Audited accounts and wages payable	$7,692,791 07	—	$566,561 24
Interest and dividends matured unpaid	8,552,932 24	$478,511 44	
Unmatured dividends declared	4,090,116 08	30 00	
Unmatured interest accrued	5,472,775 07	—	69,047 34
Other cash accounts	2,648,010 66	—	1,728,248 85
Deferred liabilities	3[illegible]4 97	—	248,274 80
	$28,852,130 09	—	$2,133,590 79
UNADJUSTED CREDITS.			
Accrued depreciation	$36,144,227 71	$1,976,065 14	
Other unadjusted credits	31,617,828 45	4,827,675 97	
	$67,762,056 16	$6,803,741 11	
Total Liabilities	1,383,738,280 25	$12,928,898 83	
CORPORATE SURPLUS.			
Appropriated surplus	$30,644,472 20	$1,607,018 14	
Profit and loss	146,751,727 34	6,899,601 48	
Total corporate surplus	$177,396,199 54	$8,506,619 62	
Total	1,561,134,479 79	$21,435,518 45	

* The outstanding capital stock and funded debt include capital stocks and funded debt of Proprietary Companies of the par value of $345,117,400 and $81,010,849.53, respectively, a total of $426,128,249.53, which securities are owned by the Southern Pacific Company or by Proprietary Companies or are held in sinking funds of Proprietary Companies. The cost of these securities is included in the investments shown above. Of the said amount, stocks of the par value of $249,653,161, which stand charged on the books at $232,932,667.41, are pledged against the issue of Southern Pacific Company stocks and bonds.

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS.

The results of the year's transportation operations compared with those of last year are as follows :—

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	Decrease	Per Cent.
Average miles of road operated	10,554.24	10,421.65	132.59	—	1.27
RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES—					
Freight	$80,020,751 38	$85,864,378 75	—	$5,843,627 37	6.81
Passenger	36,864,997 50	40,414,932 05	—	3,549,934 55	8.78
Mail and Express	5,922,171 25	5,207,092 03	$715,079 22	—	13.73
All other transportation	3,055,134 36	2,743,780 82	311,353 54	—	11 35
Incidental	3,941,910 42	4,190,613 25	—	248,702 83	5.93
Joint facility—Credit	76,942 58	134,213 84	—	57,271 26	42.67
Joint facility—Debit	*16,232 40*	*34,752 18*	18,519 78	—	53.29
Total	$129,865,675 09	$138,520,258 56	—	$8,654,583 47	6.25
RAILWAY OPERATING EXPENSES—					
Maintenance of way and structures	$15,356,355 77	$16,515,452 13	—	$1,159,096 36	7.02
Maintenance of equipment	19,815,973 36	21,47[illegible],526 20	—	1,659,552 84	7.73
Traffic	2,915,009 84	3,114,348 10	—	199,338 26	6.40
Transportation	44,006,753 11	46,400,045 47	—	2,393 292 36	5.16
Miscellaneous operations	2,031,856 61	2,292,153 36	—	260,296 75	11.36
General	3,955,027 24	3,864,741 67	$90,285 57	—	2.34
Transportation for investment—Credit	*327,133 62*	—	—	327,133 62	—
Total	$87,753,842 31	$93,662,266 93	—	$5,908,424 62	6.31
Net revenue from railway operations	42,111,832 78	$44,857,991 63	—	$2,746,158 85	6.12
Railway tax accruals	$6,371,272 84	$7,162,624 57	—	$791,351 73	11.05
Uncollectible railway revenues	50,946 14	—	$50,946 14	—	—
Total operating income (Table No. 23, Pamphlet Report)	$35,689,613 80	$37,695,367 06	—	$2,005,753 26	5.32
FREIGHT TRAFFIC—					
Tons revenue freight—total (e)	31,857,039	32,599,138	—	742,099	2.28
Ton miles—revenue freight—total (e)	6,637,345,295	7,108,331,050	—	470,985,755	6.63
Average ton miles per train mile—all freight — East of El Paso	390.24	399.43	—	9.19	2.30
Average ton miles per train mile—all freight — West of El Paso	507.84	510.30	—	2 46	.48
Average ton miles per train mile—all freight — All lines	463.71	471.21	—	7.50	1.59
Average loaded freight car miles per train mile — East of El Paso	18.43	18.95	—	.52	2.74
Average loaded freight car miles per train mile — West of El Paso	24.66	24.10	.56	—	2.32
Average loaded freight car miles per train mile — All lines	22 32	22.28	.04	—	.18
Average ton miles per loaded fr't car mile—all freight — East of El Paso	21 18	21.08	.10	—	.47
Average ton miles per loaded fr't car mile—all freight — West of El Paso	20.60	21.18	—	.58	2.74
Average ton miles per loaded fr't car mile—all freight — All lines	20.78	21.15	—	.37	1.75
Percentage of loaded freight car miles to total — East of El Paso	69.22	70 91	—	1.69	2.38
Percentage of loaded freight car miles to total — West of El Paso	70.13	70 25	—	.12	.17
Percentage of loaded freight car miles to total — All lines	69.84	70.45	—	.61	.87
Average freight revenue per train mile (e)	$4 39	$4 44	—	$0 [illegible]	1.13
Average revenue per ton mile of freight—revenue freight (e)	1.099 cents	1.104 cents	—	.005 cent	.45
Average miles hauled—revenue freight	208.35 miles	218.05 miles	—	9.70 miles	4.45
PASSENGER TRAFFIC—					
Passengers carried—revenue—including ferry suburban	41,708,096	42,744,673	—	1,036,577	2.43
Passenger miles—revenue—including ferry suburban	1,662,556,191	,748,983,080	—	86,426,889	4.94
Average passenger service train revenue per train mile	$1 51	$1 34	$0 17	—	12.69
Average revenue per passenger mile	2.173 cents	2.247 cents		.074 cent	3.29
Average miles carried—revenue passengers—including ferry suburban	39.86 miles	40.92 miles	—	1.06 miles	2.59

(e) Figures in last year's report were for commercial lines only.

Since the opening of the Panama Canal, August 13, 1914, [illegible] of this Company has been [illegible] Atlantic and Gulf [illegible] shipped over transcontinental railroads.

The [illegible] which [illegible] by [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible]

tion. The construction of new buildings was retarded and railroad construction and development almost entirely abandoned, these conditions causing a material decrease in revenue derived from lumber and other construction material. There was, moreover, a widely distributed decrease of earnings upon general merchandise and miscellaneous traffic.

These unfavourable conditions, and consequent general retrenchment in expenditures, have also affected both business and pleasure travel and have brought about a large reduction in passenger and related earnings, the former amounting to 41 per cent. of the total reduction of $8,654,583.47 in operating revenues. This reduction has been increased by serious inroads made upon local railroad travel by automobile competition, which the improvement of highways has encouraged and rapidly developed.

While these losses were offset to some extent by Exposition travel, the increased earnings derived from that source before the close of the year were not sufficient to affect materially the general results. Earnings from express business increased under a new and more favourable contract with the Express Company.

The net decrease in operating revenues of the Company was equivalent to 6.25 per cent., which is less than the average percentage of reduction in earnings of large railroad systems reporting to the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

A readjustment of rates is now being made which is expected to check the diversion of traffic to the Canal steamship lines; a normal condition of the mining industry has been restored; and, as has been previously stated, passenger earnings since the beginning of the new fiscal year have been substantially increased by Exposition travel. The prospect of better earnings during the coming fiscal year is encouraging, but the extent and permanence of the improvement will depend upon the return of general confidence in the business world, the destruction of which, without doubt, has been the most potent influence that has held back a revival of business and investment in new enterprises.

Although railway operating revenues decreased $8,654,583.47, or 6.25 per cent., total operating income decreased only $2,005,753.26, or 5.32 per cent., owing to a decrease of $5,908,424.62 in operating expenses and $791,351.73 in railway tax accruals. This reduction was effected in face of an increase of $765,082.34 in price of locomotive fuel; of an increase of $37,398 through higher wage schedules; of an increase of $75,589.80 in valuation expenses; and of an increase of $1,240,290.62 in charges to operating expenses for equipment depreciation and retirements, caused by including in this year's expenses $1,190,432 to comply with Inter-State Commerce Commission's classification, by which we were required to charge to operating expenses the depreciation portion of rental paid on equipment, which last year was charged to Income Account. But for these abnormal and uncontrollable charges total operating income would have shown an increase despite the large decrease in operating revenues.

These favourable results, attained under the most trying conditions as to new and intense competition, higher wages and fuel costs, increases in expenses due to costs of valuation, and increases in other operating expense items caused by compliance with new laws and rules of regulating bodies, in face of a decrease in volume of 6.63 per cent. in freight and 4.94 per cent. in passenger traffic caused by business depression, reflect great credit on your officers. For instance: Marked improvement was effected during the year in the use of locomotive fuel, each pound of which moved in freight service 6.83 per cent. and in passenger service 2.85 per cent. more gross ton miles than in the previous year. The saving thereby effected amounted to $450,388 as compared with last year and $1,158,015 as compared with two years ago.

As shown by chart below, continued efforts were made to secure safer operation, as a result of which the number of fatalities and injuries was reduced and the payments on account of casualties and damages of all kinds were $234,758.74 less than last year.

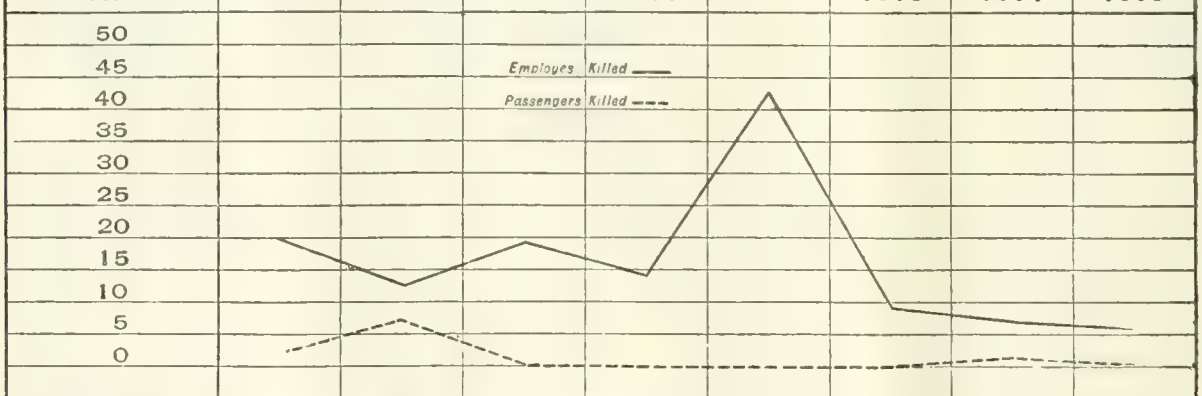
RAILWAY TAX ACCRUALS.

The net operating revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, amounted to $42,111,832.78, whereof $6,371,272.84, or nearly one-sixth, was paid in taxes. With an increase of 179.40 per cent. in the mileage of all tracks operated during the life of the Company, taxes have increased $5,511,767.78, or 641.27 per cent. The decrease in Railway Tax Accruals of $791,351.73, or 11.05 per cent., compared with last year, is the result, principally, of charging to Miscellaneous Tax Accruals this year, in accordance with the new classification of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, certain taxes which heretofore have been charged to Railway Tax Accruals; and to the decrease in such taxes as are based on gross operating revenue.

SAFETY OF OPERATION.

During the past year no passenger lost his life in a train accident, and with but one exception none has been killed in a train accident for *six years and eleven months*, during which period 373,233,119 locomotive miles were run and 282,719,444 passengers were carried an average of 42.61 miles, or 12,045,555,744 passengers carried one mile. During the year 6 employees out of 8,664 lost their lives through train accidents in running 52,127,703 locomotive miles. Out of 38,833 employees engaged in pursuits not involving train movements, 15 lost their lives—an average of one fatality to every 810,300 days or 2,200 years worked.

FATALITIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENTS



	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
TOTAL KILLED								
Employes	20	12	19	14	42	9	7	6
Passengers	2	7	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL KILLED PER MILLION LOCOMOTIVE MILES								
Employes	0.382	0.254	0.360	0.258	0.772	0.156	0.123	0.115
Passengers	0.038	0.148	0	0	0	0	0.018	0
Passengers Carried	41,393,734	39,337,735	40,190,200	39,989,058	40,329,011	42,006,240	42,744,673	41,708,096
Passengers Carried One Mile	1,640,036,373	1,541,212,518	1,805,834,993	1,808,133,603	1,787,640,025	1,834,380,082	1,748,983,030	1,662,556,191
Locomotive Mileage	52,292,012	47,282,374	54,457,917	54,227,433	54,427,530	57,653,935	57,054,594	52,127,703
Number Trainmen in Service	8,481	9,144	9,232	8,605	9,137	9,497	9,418	8,664

GOVERNMENT ATTACK ON RIGHT TO CONTROL CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILWAY.

In February, 1914, the United States, acting through the Attorney-General, brought suit in the United States District Court for the District of Utah, against the Southern Pacific Company and the Central Pacific Railway Company, to separate the two companies, on the ground that their union in one system was in violation of the Federal Anti-Trust Act of 1890, known as the Sherman Law, and also in violation of the Pacific Railroad Acts, meaning the Acts of Congress providing for the construction of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads. Since the last annual report, in which the nature of this litigation was explained, the testimony on both sides has been taken, and the case has been fixed for argument in the Lower Court on December 1, 1915. It may be assumed that an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States will be taken by the losing party. As the case will be submitted to the Court for decision at an early date, it will serve no useful purpose to attempt now to predict the outcome.

GOVERNMENT ATTACK ON TITLE TO OIL LANDS.

The last report contained the following statement :-

"It follows, as a result of the decision in the Burke case, that proven fraud alone can avail to defeat our title to our oil lands. We know there was no fraud in obtaining the patents, and we may consider that the danger of losing the lands is now removed. Moreover, except as to a comparatively small quantity of land, in respect to which suits have already been instituted, the six years period of limitation is believed to be a bar even to a suit alleging fraud."

The Attorney-General of the United States, deeming it his duty not to abandon the pursuit of the Company's lands without a judicial investigation to determine whether or not our patents were fraudulently obtained, has renewed the litigation, specially alleging such fraud; and, in order to avoid the six years period of limitation, it has been further alleged that the Government was prevented from suing within the required time by fraudulent concealments of its acts by the Railroad Company. There has been no final decision in these suits. The fact that they have been instituted does not lessen the confidence expressed in the last annual report as to our ability to sustain our title to the lands in question.

GOVERNMENT ATTACK ON THE TITLE TO THE OREGON AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD'S LAND GRANT.

In 1908 the United States brought suit against the Oregon & California Railroad Company and the Southern Pacific Company to forfeit to the Government the unsold portion of the lands granted by Act of Congress to aid in the construction of the Oregon & California Railroad. The ground of forfeiture mainly relied on was that some of the lands included in the grant had been sold in disregard of the requirements of the granting Act, namely, that the lands should be sold to actual settlers only for not more than $2.50 per acre, and in quantities not exceeding 160 acres. The quantity of land involved amounted to about 2,300,000 acres.

The Lower Court decided in favour of the Government, but in June of this year the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Court below, and declared that the title of the Railroad Company to the unsold lands had not been forfeited and was unimpaired by the alleged grounds of forfeiture. The Supreme Court further decided that the lands were held subject to the original terms of the grant limiting sales to actual settlers, in quantities not exceeding 160 acres to any one purchaser, and at prices not exceeding $2.50 per acre. Recognising that such restrictive covenants were not appropriate to lands of the character of those remaining unsold, the Court practically referred the matter to Congress, by enjoining any disposition of the unsold lands or of the timber thereon "until Congress shall have a reasonable opportunity to provide by legislation for their disposition in accordance with such policy as it may deem fitting under the circumstances * *and at the same time secure to the defendants all the value the granting Acts conferred upon the railroads*"; with the proviso that, if Congress does not act within six months, the Railroad Company may apply to the Lower Court for a modification of so much of the injunction as enjoined any disposition of the land or timber. In other words, if Congress does not act within the time named, the Lower Court should grant relief from the broad injunction against any sales of the lands, and should confine the injunction to sales in violation of the terms of the grant. It will be observed that any legislation which Congress may provide is subject to the condition that it must secure to the Railroad all the value the granting Acts conferred.

It would not be profitable or expedient at this time to speculate upon the possible action of Congress. The Railroad Company will be prepared to co-operate with Congress in securing appropriate modification of the original restriction upon the sales of lands, but it will insist upon observance of the condition that the full value conferred by the granting Acts is secured to it.

* The italics are ours.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION FORCING PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY OUT OF BUSINESS.

The Southern Pacific Company owns 55.40 per cent. of the capital stock of the Pacific Mail, an American steamship Company that has been operating lines of steamships on the Pacific Ocean for the last 67 years.

The Act of Congress approved March 4, 1915, generally known as the La Follette Act, becomes effective as to vessels of the United States November 4, 1915. The Company cannot continue operations under the terms of that Act without incurring heavy losses. Figures prepared by chartered accountants show that the Act would increase the expenses of its trans-Pacific fleet as to wages and feeding crews alone by $640,805 per annum. Other provisions of the Act, relating to lifeboat crews and to the Central America line, would swell this amount. The abnormally large surplus in 1915, due to higher rates following the withdrawal of Canadian Pacific and Japanese steamers in consequence of the European war, would not suffice to meet the increases in wages and feeding expenses only that the Act will demand. The stockholders of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company realised that the Company could not obey this oppressive law and exist, and therefore have authorised the sale of their vessels as a necessary condition precedent to the liquidation of the Company.

GENERAL.

Dividends on the capital stock of your Company were declared during the year, payable as follows :—

1¼ per cent. payable January 2, 1915	$4,090,116 08
1¼ per cent. payable April 1, 1915	4,090,116 08
1¼ per cent. payable July 1, 1915	4,090,116 08
1¼ per cent. payable October, 1 1915	4,090,116 08
Total	$16,360,464 32

The revolutionary disturbances on the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico have continued. It is estimated that from the beginning of the Madero Revolution, in 1910, to June 30, 1915, the cost of property destroyed will approximate 3,124,000 pesos, equivalent to $1,562,000. On account of these losses the Company filed claims with the Madero Government amounting to 287,953 pesos, all of which were approved but have not yet been paid. No further claims for property losses have been filed, owing to the lack of a constitutional central Government to which they could be presented. In addition to the above, the Company has claims for freight and passenger service performed, for rental of road and equipment and for material furnished to or confiscated by the various military authorities, amounting to 5,088,000 pesos. Bills for this amount (less 434,000 pesos received on account) will be filed with the proper authorities as soon as conditions permit. During the year only such maintenance work has been done as was absolutely necessary to render it possible to operate trains over those portions of the line which are open for traffic. The revenues during the year, including those derived from the transportation of troops and munitions of war, were slightly in excess of the expenditures for maintenance and operation.

In addition to the losses during the year from revolutionary causes, the Company suffered heavily from an unprecedented flood along the line in Sonora.

The continued revolutionary disturbances preclude any thought of completing, at the present time, the 99.47 miles of line from Tepic to La Quemada, referred to in last year's report.

In addition to the completed lines of railway reported under Properties and Mileage, and the railway of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico, hereinbefore mentioned, construction is progressing on the lines of the following companies, viz. :—

	Length of Projected Line. Miles.	Track Completed. Miles.	Grading Completed. Miles.	Grading Progressing. Miles.
Central Pacific Railway—				
Colfax to Blue Canon, Cal.—Second track—				
Length of projected line... 25.08				
Less placed in operation... 23.05				
	2.03	1.99	.04	
Colusa and Hamilton Railroad—				
Hamilton to Harrington, Cal.	61.15	46.69	11.99	2.47
Willamette Pacific Railroad—				
Eugene to Marshfield, Ore.	121.50	73.39	43.30	4.81
Texas and New Orleans Railroad -				
Turpentine to Browndel, Texas	17.63	9.13	—	8.50

The Board announces with sorrow the death on May 19, 1915, of General Thomas H. Hubbard, a Director, and on November 14, 1914, of Mr. H. A. Jones, Assistant Treasurer of your Company. General Hubbard served as a Director and as Vice-President for many years prior to 1901, and was again elected a member of the Board shortly before his death. Mr. Jones was in the service from 1885 to the time of his death, serving as General Freight Agent, Freight Traffic Manager and Assistant Treasurer.

Under the pension system put into effect on January 1, 1903, seven hundred and forty-six employees are carried on the pension rolls of the rail and water lines. The payments to them for the year amounted to $326,685.04.

By order of the Board of Directors,

JULIUS KRUTTSCHNITT,

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

BALDWIN'S, LIMITED.

A DISTINCTLY satisfactory showing is made by this well-known South Wales iron and steel Company for the twelve months to June 30 last, the profits indicating an increase of over £51,000 as compared with those of the previous year, and on only one other occasion—viz. for the twelve months to June 30, 1913—have larger profits been secured.

The total amount of share and loan capital in issue at J[illegible] is [illegible]:—

	£
4½ per cent 1st Mortgage Debenture stock	[illegible]
5½ per cent Cumulative Preference shares	[illegible]
Ordinary Shares £1 fully paid	[illegible]
„ „ [illegible] paid	[illegible]
	1,300,000

In May last the authorised share capital was increased from £850,000 to £1,500,000 for the purpose of acquiring the control of the Port Talbot Steel Company, Limited, by exchange of shares, but the effect of this is not shown in the accounts for the past year. The expansion thus decided upon is an important one. Baldwin's Limited is a progressive concern, and recognises that development must take place if it is to keep in the first rank in its business. Such development has been in contemplation for some time, and the plan consists of the construction of blast furnaces at Port Talbot, giving "unique facilities for the production of pig iron at the lowest possible cost." Moreover, the waste gases from the blast furnaces and coke ovens will be used for the generation of electrical power for the works. The estimated cost of this extension is about £500,000. Close to the site of these proposed blast furnaces are the works of the Port Talbot Steel Company, Limited, a Company which requires a large amount of iron for its manufactures, and which is in possession of a works equipped with the most modern furnaces and machinery for the manufacture of steel and of the many requirements of sections and plates in shipbuilding and constructional work. A close connection has taken place between the Port Talbot Company and Baldwin's Limited for some time, and the former was a large customer of the latter for coal; and indeed, "the ramifications are such that your directors look on the blending of the two companies as a necessity." In fact, Baldwin's nominated half the directors and was largely responsible for the management of the Port Talbot Company. The importance of the fusion will thus be readily recognised.

The arrangement has now been carried through, the whole of the outstanding Port Talbot shares having been acquired. The directors had hoped to be able to announce at the meeting of the Baldwin shareholders on October 28 last that they had commenced the erection of the intended blast-furnace plant, with its accessories in the way of coking and by-product plant for the extraction of dyes, &c. But the War has stopped all this for the time being.

The combined profits of the companies forming the original combination of Baldwin's, Limited, showed an average for the four years previous to the amalgamation of £86,400 per annum. On only two occasions since the formation of the amalgamated concern have the profits been smaller than this average sum, while in every other instance they have been substantially in excess of it. The profits made in the period since 1902 have been as follows:—

	Profits on Manufacturing £
Six months to June 30, 1902 ...	[illegible]
Year ended June 30, 1903 ...	[illegible]
„ „ 1904 ...	[illegible]
„ „ 1905 ...	[illegible]
„ „ 1906	110,016
„ „ 1907	148,712
„ „ 1908 ...	[illegible]
„ „ 1909 ...	[illegible]
„ „ 1910	[illegible]
„ „ 1911	[illegible]
„ „ 1912	[illegible]
„ „ 1913	[illegible]
„ „ 1914	[illegible]
„ „ 1915	[illegible]

Since 1905 the dividend distributions have steadily risen, and for the past four years have been 10% per annum. For the past twelve months the profits have reached £260,237, as compared with £209,179. Management expenses have risen from £15,473 to £31,254, and the allowance for depreciations has been increased from £30,000 to £45,000, while the allocation to reserve has risen from £25,000 to £50,000. The carry-forward is £86,733, as compared with £69,889 brought in.

The manner of distributing the profits for each of the past six years may be seen from the following:—

Year ended June 30—	1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £	1910 £
Manufacturing and trading profit, transferred from Acc.	260,237	209,179	275,127	213,997	209,546	149,096
Management expenses ...	31,254	15,473	14,746	11,620	13,852	9,760
Depreciation ...	45,000	30,000	39,000	30,000	16,000	10,000
Debenture interest ...	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	18,181	14,598
Preference dividend	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750	13,750
Ordinary dividend ...	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	41,250	27,500
	(10 %)	(10 %)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Expenditure for alterations and improvements of works and development of mines	14,532	15,284	3,360	10,534	24,009	30,286
Sinking fund premiums	11,357	11,357	11,357	11,358	11,357	11,357
Transferred to ...	50,000	[illegible]	115,186	60,000	60,000	30,000
Balance	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brought forward ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carried forward ...	86,733	69,889	49,054	48,826	49,591	38,444

It will be realised from even a cursory glance at the above that a very conservative financial policy has been consistently carried out, and it is evident that much larger distributions could have been made had it been deemed desirable. Two years ago the whole of the goodwill was eliminated from the accounts. There have been accumulated sinking funds for the redemption of Debentures and depreciation of leaseholds totalling £108,850, which has been paid by way of premiums to the Sun Life Assurance Society for the purpose of providing for the redemption in due course. The reserve fund now amounts to £325,000, and the total sum set aside for depreciation is £250,000. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets as at J[illegible] last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital	800,000	Freehold property, &c. ...	[illegible]
4½ per cent 1st Mort. Deb. stock	500,000	Stocks	[illegible]
Sundry creditors	382,248	Investments	261,447
Sinking funds	[illegible]	Sundry debtors	357,076
Reserve	325,000	Cash and bills	134,222
Profit and loss	[illegible]	Premiums	[illegible]
	2,244,081		2,244,081

The Company is doing all it can to keep up the supply of steel for shell-making, "for which we are laying down special plant at great outlay and inconvenience to our usual trade." The directors have handed over to the Minister of Munitions one of its large engineering shops free of charge for the manufacture of high-explosive shells, which are now being produced. It is the intention of the board to take a financial interest in the United Tube Corporation, "for the manufacture of the larger calibre of the high-explosive shells and other Government and trade requirements so urgently wanted." As regards the outlook, the Chairman thinks it is dangerous to make forecasts of any sorts; but it may fairly be assumed, we think, that for the time being business is likely to be active, though increased and increasing costs will largely, if not entirely, offset larger profits. We append a statement of the yields afforded on the various classes of capital on the basis of the last distributions:—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Dividend %	Yield £ s. d.
500,000	4½ % 1st Mort. Deb. stock ...	100	92½	4½	4 18 4
[illegible]	5½ % Cum. Preference ...	1	19 9	5½	5 13 1
500,000	Ordinary shares	1	29 0	10*	7 15 5

* Free of tax.

[illegible] Rubber Co.—Second interim dividend of [illegible] per share, [illegible].

[illegible] Tea Association.—Interim dividend of [illegible] less tax.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

LONDON MARITIME INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of this Company was held at Winchester House, E.C., on November 11, the Chairman (Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G.) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Vernon Thomson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I have pleasure in rising to propose the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1915, as submitted to you, and presume that, as usual, you will agree to take the report as read. It is now 18 years since the Company was incorporated, and during the whole of that period the average dividend paid to the shareholders has been 5½% per annum. In these times I am, of course, aware that 5½% is considered a moderate return on capital, but investors have to consider two things—viz., rate of interest and security of their capital.

Strong Financial Position.

The Company is in a strong financial position, there being no Debentures and no loans from bankers or otherwise, so that our 5% Cumulative Preference stock is a sound security which can be purchased at the present time to yield an investor over 5½% per annum. The Reserve Fund is separately invested in the British 4½% War Loan. The profit for the past year, including the balance brought forward, amounts to £19,646. After paying the dividend on the Preference stock and increasing the Reserve Fund to £12,500, we recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary stock at the rate of 6% per annum, less income tax, making 6% for the year, carrying forward the slightly increased balance of £1,200. It has always been the policy of the Board of Directors of this Company for the 18 years that I have been your Chairman to write off depreciation upon its securities as opportunity offered. Largely as a result of this conservative policy, notwithstanding the fact that some of our investments as a consequence of the War stand in the books at more than their present market value, I am pleased to be able to state that a valuation of the investments as at the end of our financial year in the aggregate shows that the capital of the Company is more than intact.

Shipping Outlook.

The outlook for British shipping is favourable, and the Company's revenue prospects for the coming year are good. I was interested to read a report of a recent meeting of the Hamburg Association of Shipowners, at which Herr Ballin, who is by far the largest shipowner in Germany, was the principal speaker. I have for very many years been in active competition with him in the shipping trade in many parts of the globe, and I know that there is no one in Germany more competent to speak on German shipping in its various aspects. It is, therefore, instructive to note that such an experienced shipowner as Herr Ballin, speaking to Hamburg shipowners, frankly admitted that the German Fleet is unable to give battle to the British Grand Fleet, but after admitting this he went on to say that he felt confident the German Fleet would acquit itself brilliantly if only the British Fleet gave it a chance! Herr Ballin has now probably few illusions about the naval aspect of the War and the inability of the German so-called High-sea Fleet to sail on the "high seas" or to protect any of the Hamburg American steamers in any part of the world.

Fate of Germany's Mercantile Marine.

The German mercantile marine has been built up in the past with the active assistance and support of the German Government, which support was none the less effective because it was generally indirect, and did not court publicity; such help, for instance, as the establishment of the "control stations" for emigrants, which were the cause of indirectly subsidising the German shipping companies in their competition with British shipping companies by probably not less than a million sterling per annum, whilst the preferential railway rates over the German State Railway for cargo shipped by German steamers was another case of indirect assistance to German shipping, the amount of which is difficult to estimate, but it gave German shipping companies an immense advantage. At the outbreak of the War the German mercantile marine consisted of 5,459,296 tons, as compared with 19,256,766 tons owned by Great Britain. Of the German tonnage 230,000 tons have been captured by the British Navy and 38,000 tons have been captured by our Allies, 117,000 tons sunk, and 397,000 tons interned in ports of the British Empire, whilst the remainder—viz., about 4,677,000 tons—of German shipping have (with the exception of an insignificant number of steamers running in the Baltic) for more than a year been rusting in German and neutral harbours.

Services of the Navy.

The services rendered by our Navy in guarding these shores and those of our Allies, in securing the safe transport of men and material upon a scale so vast as to be hitherto unknown in warfare, and in protecting British commerce are incalculable, and if not always so widely appreciated as they might be can never be forgotten at least by those interested, as we are, in the maritime industry of this country.

I shall be pleased to answer any questions respecting the Company's business, but I think that the report and accounts, which are set out in the same way as they have been for the past 18 years, give the shareholders all the reasonable information. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts as submitted be received and adopted, and that a final dividend upon the Ordinary stock of 6% per annum, less income tax (making with the interim dividend paid in April 6% for the year) be declared and paid."

Mr. George Dodd seconded the resolution, which was at once unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Arthur A. Baumann, Mr. Dodd was re-elected to his seat at the Board; and Messrs. Fookes, Hickman and Company, chartered accountants, were re-appointed auditors to the Company on the motion of Dr. Moody, seconded by Mr. Pascoe.

Mr. M. B. Snell proposed, and Dr. Moody seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, expressed the hope that the future of the Company would be even more prosperous than the past.

The proceedings then terminated.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

THE eighteenth ordinary general meeting of United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, was held on November 11 at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. C. J. Cater Scott, the Chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that Cuba was one of the countries which had benefited by the War. With the exception of the tobacco industry, which had suffered by the crisis in the cigar business, the island had enjoyed a prosperity such as had seldom been its lot before, due to the very large crop of sugar, for which the owners obtained very high prices in consequence of the reduced amount of beet sugar available from elsewhere. This had enriched the island extraordinarily. The spending power of the population was largely increased, and this was reflected in the Company's largely increased receipts.

A Record Year.

Their total receipts were £1,692,361, or £80,690 more than in the previous year, and £65,000 more than in 1912-13. It was the biggest year they had ever had. The expenditure, £894,466, had decreased by £55,945, and the ratio of working expenses to receipts was 52.85 per cent., against 58.97 per cent. The result was a balance of £797,896, or an increase of £136,636. The total goods tonnage was 7,376,000 tons, an increase of 870,000 tons. The passengers carried numbered 7,753,000, an increase of 642,000. These were very big figures, and yet their traffic had never been carried with more satisfaction to the general public and greater freedom from complaints. On permanent way there had been no cutting down at all; on the contrary, there was a slight increase; but on maintenance of locomotives and rolling-stock there was a saving of £46,000, rendered possible by the policy carried out in the past of raising very materially the condition of rolling-stock and locomotives by judiciously weeding out everything that was found expensive to maintain and to operate, and revenue account had in the last five years been charged with a very large proportion of the cost of purchasing 14 locomotives, 57 passenger cars, 16 baggage waggons, and 2,773 goods waggons. Last year the dividend was paid in Debenture stock, but the dividend of 5% now recommended would be paid in cash and at once. The cost of maintenance was not likely to be so low in the current year. The position was stronger than a year ago, and they would be able to do a little more to improve the property without extravagance. In the past year the percentage of capacity to traffic in regard to passengers was 31.90, an increase of 4.28%, and in goods of 40.14, an increase of 4.72%, both showing distinct gains. The consumption of coal per ton mile of traffic was 1,272 lb., or a decrease of .05 lb., which on their large consumption represented no insignificant gain. In cash and moneys on loan the balance sheet showed a total of £723,755, or £654,000 more than a year ago. The Florida East Coast Railway had

established a ferry service between Key West and Havana [illegible] This to purchase another steamer. Experience led him to believe that the effects of this traffic in the future would be even [illegible]

The Western System.

[illegible] interested in the Western Railway of Havana. The districts of the Western had undoubtedly been hard hit. There was a reduction in the goods traffic receipts of £14,000. Happily they had an increase against that in the passenger traffic of £13,700, but that was due to their having electrified a portion of the railway, where they had built up quite an extraordinary passenger traffic. The gross receipts for the Western had been £288,012, or a[illegible] the expenses were £170,27[illegible], a decrease of £9,347. The working expense ratio was 61.19%, or 3.54% better than in the previous year, and the available balance was £107,535, which was £8,465 more than in 1913-1914. This had enabled the Western Company to pay its usual dividend of 7%, and to add £15,000 to its reserves. So far for this year the receipts did not show very well. The net receipts to November 6 were £89,285, or £6,076 less than last year. Then he came to the Havana Central Railroad, in which they were largely interested. The net receipts for the year were $611,066, or an increase of $26,926. That had enabled the Company to pay the full note interest and the Debenture interest, and to redeem £1,800 of unpaid coupons. During the past year the progress made by the Havana Central was small, but from July 1 to November 6 the receipts had been £99,839, or an increase of £11,356, so that the outlook at present for the current year was distinctly good. The Cuban Central had had a most excellent year, and was paying 4%, against 2%.

The Current Year.

Reverting to the United Company, the prospects for the current year, with the exception of tobacco, which he was afraid would be bad—which, however, was not important so far as the United was concerned—were distinctly good. Mr. Orr estimated that the sugar would show a 10% increase, and the general traffic was already everywhere good. The receipts to November 6 were £451,446, or £100,466 more than last year. In fact, up to date they had an increase of 20%—nearly 25%.

Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

CUBAN CENTRAL RAILWAYS, LIMITED.

[illegible] ber 11 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Cater Scott (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Our total receipts are £646,874, or £61,037 more than in the previous year, while our expenses are £343,408, or £24,753 less than in the previous year, the ratio of working expenses being 53.09%, against 62.84%. You will see, therefore, that the ratio of working expenses is down very nearly 10%, and I think you will agree that is [illegible]

Advance in Profits.

The profit on the year's operations of the railways amounts to £505,466, or £85,790 more than in the previous year, and that, again, I think, is most satisfactory. I might perhaps point out to you that the decrease in the expenditure is all the more surprising as the goods traffic during the past [illegible] that the cash in hand is £124,000, as against £80,000 in the previous year. During the current year I do not think we [illegible] as in the past year, and, as we are to-day in a stronger position, I do not think it would really be advisable to attempt it. We have not let down the property during the past year, and we must not let it down in the future. In the last two years we have added 16 locomotives and 675 wagons. This has enabled us to reduce our maintenance and at the same time to carry the traffic more satisfactorily. At the same time we have arranged for all the heavy locomotive repairs to be carried out at Cienaga, at the shops of the United Railways of the Havana, which is close to Havana. Now, if you will turn to page 6 of the report, you will [illegible] which is the available balance of net revenue after paying our fixed charges, &c. We propose, in the first place, to transfer £25,000 to reserve account, another £25,000 to the general renewals reserve, £5,000 to the insurance account, and £5,000 to the pension account. We lay great stress on this pension account. In the past there has not been a very satisfactory method for dealing with employees who have grown old in the service of the Company, and we do think men who have served us well should, when their time for work is ended, be properly provided for, and that is what we hope to do through the means of this pension fund. Then the Board recommends a final dividend of 2¾%, less income tax, on the 5½% Cumulative Preference shares in respect of the year ended June 30, 1915. That absorbs another £33,550. We recommend a dividend of 4%, less income tax, on the Ordinary shares, absorbing £36,000, and we carry forward £14,538 10*s.* 11*d.* I venture to say, in submitting these figures to you, that I think you will all share the satisfaction of the Board that we are able to make such a very successful showing for the past year. I may, perhaps, just mention for your information that our reserve account will now stand at £100,000, our general renewals at £85,033, the insurance account at £18,886, and the pension account at £16,701.

"Prospects Distinctly Good."

For the current year—that is, 1915-16—our prospects are distinctly good. Although, through a crisis in the cigar trade, so many orders have been cancelled since the outbreak of war, and the tobacco traffic promises to be poor, there is a promise of a very large sugar crop. Mr. Morson estimates the increase in the sugar crop at 15%, and I think this must tell not only on our sugar receipts, but on our whole business, and you can see from the receipts which are published every week that we are already enjoying increased prosperity from the enrichment of the island. Our receipts for the current year—that is, from July 1 to November 6—amount to £143,676, or £22,317 more than last year; and, remember, that is without taking in anything on account of the new sugar crop, which should begin to come to us towards the end of this year. Therefore, I think I can say that we can look forward to the results which we shall lay before you in a year's time with confidence and satisfaction. When you have been served well it is always a pleasure to thank people to whom you owe a great deal, and I think we ought to thank Mr. Morson and his staff in Cuba, who have done extraordinarily good work for us in the last twelve months. At the same time, I should like to thank Señor Don Cosme de la Torriente, our lawyer there, who gives his closest attention to our interests. I also want to thank Mr. Ogilvie, our director, who spends so much of his time in Cuba in forwarding the interests of the Company. While thanking those gentlemen abroad, I also desire most earnestly—and here I can do it more from my own personal knowledge—to thank Mr. Maslen and our staff in London for the work they have done in very difficult times.

Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bart., seconded the resolution, [illegible]

The Chairman next moved: "That there be and is hereby declared a final dividend of 2¾% (less income tax) upon the 5½% Cumulative Preference shares of the Company in respect of the year ended June 30, 1915."

The resolution was seconded by Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bart., and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now move: "That there be and is hereby declared a dividend of 4% (less income tax) upon the Ordinary shares of the Company in respect of the year ended June 30, 1915."

Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bart., seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to unanimously.

TALTAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE thirty-fourth annual general meeting was held on November 10 at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. Charles W. Parish (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When we met here last November the War had been going on for about three months, and while I was able to give you the gross earnings of our line from July 1 to October 31, I explained how impossible it was to make any forecast of the future in view of the extraordinary conditions in which we were placed in common with other railways in Chile. But I did remind you that about 65% of the nitrate manufactured in Chile was used on the Continent, and that it was evident that this quantity could not be required. The nitrate companies quickly saw that they could not go on manufacturing nitrate which they could neither realise nor ship, and by the end of September eight oficinas on our line had closed down and two more ceased working in December, leaving only three in work during the last half-year, with the result that we brought down to Taltal only 124,780 tons of nitrate, as against 319,861 tons the year before, or over 60% less, and this reduction naturally caused a corresponding falling off in the quantity of fuel required by the oficinas, for we only carried 27,837 tons of oil, against 69,243, and 15,141 tons of coal, against 43,090. These figures explain to you at once the adverse conditions under which we have suffered. But this position was duly appreciated by our General Manager, Mr. Norton, by our British staff, and also by our Chilean employees, who at once grasped the necessity of cutting down expenses. One of the chief sources of the Chilean Government's revenue is the export duty on nitrate, and when this fell off it somewhat deranged their finances. It also brought about a great scarcity of trade bills, and for a time it was almost impossible to secure sterling remittances. The rate of exchange fell to below 7*d.*, and there gradually arose a very difficult financial position, and I think we may congratulate ourselves that our railway has

for the manufacture of explosives, &c., and the price, which [illegible] to a remunerative level, notwithstanding the high freights. We felt justified in pointing out in our report that we thought low-water mark had been reached in February, and that since then the general position had begun to improve, and I hope it may continue to do so. In view of the extraordinary contraction of our business it is useless to attempt any comparison of the present accounts with those of previous years. The results are clearly set out in the report, and show the gross receipts for 1914-15 at £132,882, as compared with £309,567 in 1913-14, and net receipts at £53,707, as compared with £153,898. It was in expectation of these reduced profits that we last year increased our carry-forward from £22,557 to £50,355, and this figure has now been increased to £63,230, after meeting our Debenture service of £24,000 and an interim dividend of 2% paid last April. We have pleasure in now proposing that a further dividend of 4% be paid, making 6% for the year, and leaving £27,230 to carry forward. As to the present year, our four months' gross receipts from July 1 are cabled at £65,461, and our expenses at £31,036, so there remains a profit of £34,425, which, after providing for Debenture service, works out at the rate of over 8% per annum on our £900,000 of capital, and I know this corresponds with the hopes of our General Manager for the present twelve months, provided, of course, that there are no troubles or set-backs in the nitrate trade.

Mr. Frank Henderson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the dividend recommended was declared.

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE annual general meeting, adjourned from December 22 last, was held on November 8 at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. R. Tilden Smith presiding, in the absence of Mr. Herbert C. Hoover (Chairman of the Company).

The Secretary (Mr. D. Anderson, F.C.S.I.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman stated the Company had an enormous ore body already disclosed, containing, upon a conservative basis, at least 2,000,000 tons, for their future plans for treating which they would require a very large amount of capital. They had about £100,000 in hand. Next year they expected to pay all expenses and have left some additional capital. In any case, from one source or another, with such a phenomenally rich concern as theirs certainly was, all the capital that might be requisite should be easily obtained. The Corporation now owned 99.8% of the shares and over 77% of the Debentures of the Burma Mines, Limited. The property in which the Corporation had therefore become interested, and owned by the Burma Mines, Limited, was known as the Bawdwin Mines, situated in that part of Burma known as the Northern Shan States, 169 miles from Mandalay. Both companies were British, and the composition of the boards was five British and two subjects of the United States of America.

Estimated Annual Output.

A study of the reports would show that from a small beginning the undertaking bade fare to become one of the largest single lead-zinc-silver producers in the world, capable of turning out 75,000 tons of lead, 65,000 tons of zinc, and 7,000,000 oz. of silver annually. Over £2,000,000 had been spent in the equipment and development of the mines, £1,000,000 of which had been derived from the smelting operations. The quantities of metal referred to would, it was hoped, enter the trade channels of the United Kingdom as it had hitherto done, for the Company was not seriously committed as to its future by any contracts for the sale of its products. On the basis of technical advice given to him and of his own commercial investigation, he had come to the conclusion that to enter successfully into the field of zinc smelting it was essential to start with an established works which had bought its experience under surrounding conditions, and this was available in this country. A proposal had been made to the British Government which, he hoped, would lead to the establishment of such a works or organisation as would deal with the principal zinc products of the Empire. He was doubtful whether this Government would offer any encouragement, but he had no doubt that the Australian Commonwealth Premier would. The production of the quantity of ore and metal mentioned would necessitate the expenditure of £1,500,000 per annum in wages and salaries, and these metals would represent an increase to the national wealth of approximately £3,500,000 per annum, a large portion of which would be distributed among the miners, surface workers, staff railways, steamship lines, metal workers, metal markets, and to shareholders in the Company, all British.

Government Support Necessary.

It was necessary that the sympathy and support of the Government should be secured for the Company on a liberal basis, which an undertaking of this scope warranted. A new enterprise of enormous importance, in which a large amount of capital was invested, had been established with great risks, and there were difficulties for the overcoming of which the support of the Government both at home and in the district was absolutely necessary in order that success might be assured, and as quickly as possible.

In conclusion the Chairman said: "The relations between the Government officials and the Company are in the main uniformly satisfactory. Unfortunately, however, there is one exception, and it is an important one. I refer to this with extreme reluctance, and I do not for a moment wish to suggest that the Superintendent of the Northern Shan States is prompted in his attitude by anything but the highest motives. He does not, however, appear to grasp the broad bearings of an enterprise of this nature in regard to the development of the economic condition of the States, but he appears to regard it as nothing more than a money-making concern. Admittedly, every industrial enterprise has for its basis the making of profit, but the British Empire has been founded upon that basis; but in its train benefits are brought by the industry and expenditure of capital to the locality where the operations are carried on, and it is submitted that this should be borne in mind by all officials who are carrying on the administration of the country where these industrial undertakings are established, and for the benefit of the district every support should be given to enable the undertaking to develop on prosperous lines. In the inception it is to the disadvantage of the State that heavy conditions should be imposed, and the highest charges should not be imposed. If the wealth of the community is increased by the utilisation of any dormant asset it is difficult to understand that heavy impositions should be exacted unless in the case of competition, and in that case the decision should not be based on which will pay the larger amount, but on which will benefit the community to the greater extent. Our desire must be to establish closer relations with the Government, and to convince them of the importance of our operations and the benefits that will accrue to the district in particular and to the Empire in general." He then proposed the adoption of the accounts and report.

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., in seconding the motion, fully endorsed the Chairman's remarks as to the magnitude of the Company's operations, and said he felt very fairly confident that the assistance which the Chairman claimed should be extended to the Company by Government would be given.

Statement by the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

Mr. Theodore J. Hoover: A favourable factor in the last eight months' work has been the continued decrease of water in the mine. We had reason to fear in the early stages of our development that we had a very wet mine, but, as work has proceeded with depth, the water has gradually decreased, and we have been able to catch it in the upper levels, so reducing the task of pumping. As the depth increases in the internal shaft, however, this increased depth gives us more labour, and until the Tiger tunnel connects with the ore body we shall be obliged to keep the mine drained by pumping. We do not, however, anticipate that we shall be obliged, on account of water, to suspend any development work which it will be necessary to prosecute. The Tiger tunnel is showing good progress. We have passed through 3,000 feet of very wet, loose ground, which required timbering practically throughout the whole length. We hope that the next 3,000 feet may be better driving ground. As soon as the Tiger tunnel reaches the internal shaft the development will be materially accelerated, as we will then have no hoisting to do, and will have gravity drainage for the water and natural circulation for ventilation.

No Indications of Failure in Depth.

One of the most satisfactory features up to date in the development and ore-reserve position is the fact, as indicated in recent telegrams, that the ore has already been followed down to within 50 feet of the Tiger tunnel, as proven by recent developments in the internal shaft, and there are no indications of failure in depth. If this ore body goes down to Tiger-tunnel level full strength we shall have much more than 3,000,000 tons of ore above the tunnel. We shall probably not crosscut the ore body again until we have finished the internal shaft to the Tiger-tunnel level. The programme which we have outlined for the coming year, and which I will refer to presently, may involve the curtailment to some extent of our development of the Chinaman ore body. This will be brought about by the necessity of hoisting from the internal shaft, say, 150 tons of high-grade silver-lead ore per day. This curtailment will not, however, [illegible] work, pending the time when the Tiger tunnel reaches the ore body. The increase since December 31 1914, from 1,300,000 tons of proven and probable ore to 2,000,000 tons of proven and probable ore is a splendid record. The 250,000 tons of proven and probable high-grade silver-lead ore disclosed in the lower levels brings the average assay of the whole up to the figure given in the Report, but it is interesting to observe that the assay of the 1,750,000 tons other than high-grade silver-lead ore also shows an increase of assay in all the metals. This high-grade silver-lead ore

was to be expected, in view of the geological and mineralogical indications in the upper levels.

Production Prospects for 1916.

Concentrating Mill.—Beginning in June 1914 we have made on the mine in a small testing plant some 200 tests on samples of ore running from a few pounds up to 60 tons. As a result of this testing, your engineers have felt amply justified in recommending the erection of a 100-ton mill, consisting of crushers, jigs, tables, and slimes-treatment plant. As a result of operating his 100-ton plant continuously for several months, we will then be in a position to design the larger 1,000-ton per day plant. The 100-ton mill is now complete, and we shall shortly have reports as to results. Fuel supply is giving us considerable anxiety, due to the fact that our present and previous supplies of wood fuel cannot be depended upon indefinitely, and that we shall therefore be under the necessity of using coal in many of our operations where we have in the past used wood. This coal involves overseas freight, which in these times may place us in an uncomfortable position. We think it will be possible during most of the year 1916 to be on a basis of operations whereby we will mine 4,500 tons per month of high-grade lead-silver ore; 1,500 tons, more or less, of this will be sent to the smelter direct. The balance of this 4,500 tons per month, or 3,000 tons per month, will be sent to the mill and will there be treated in such a manner as to yield about 1,500 tons of concentrates assaying approximately 60 per cent. lead, 54 oz. silver, and 10% zinc. This 1,500 tons per month of high-grade lead-silver concentrates will be mixed with the 1,500 tons of high-grade ore before mentioned, and will be roasted, sintered, and smelted. The above mining, milling, and smelting operations on 4,500 tons of ore per month should result in the production of about 1,500 tons of soft lead and 140,000 oz. of silver per month. The sale of the above metals should give us a revenue amply sufficient to pay all the costs of operating and all the capital expenditure which we have in view for the year 1916. We hope that, over and above paying all the operating and capital expenditures, there will also be a surplus, but because of the unknown quantities interjected into all mining business as a result of the War in regard to transportation, prices of metals and availability of supplies, we do not wish to make a more definite statement than the above as to possible profits.

In reply to a question, Mr. Hoover said that, at the rate of 300 feet per month, they should make connection between the Tiger tunnel and the bottom of the internal shaft in about nine months, but in order to be on the safe side they had alowed for twelve months.

The motion was carried unanimously, and Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. having been reappointed auditors, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

THE WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighty-second ordinary general meeting was held at Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., on November 10, Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Steer Hodson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I now have much pleasure in offering a few remarks on the Company's affairs during the twelve months ended June 30 last. The message receipts afforded an additional revenue of nearly £74,000 for the period under review, which included eleven eventful months of war, with its resultant stoppage in the case of our Company of telegraphic traffic with Belgium, Germany, and Austria. The closing of these sources of revenue has, however, so far been compensated by increased earnings due to the obligatory use of plain language enforced by the several Governments under whom we work. These restrictions were latterly modified, permission having been given in the early part of this year for the use of certain well-known codes with South American countries, which has been much appreciated by the telegraphic public. Congestion of lines beyond this Company's system necessitated the suspension on August 5 last year of "deferred" and "week-end" telegrams. The former were re-introduced on October 1, 1914, and advantage was quickly taken of the restoration of this facility. No damage to the Company's cables has been experienced in consequence of the War. The sections in North Brazilian waters were interrupted by normal circumstances for four months, and owing to the exceptional conditions then and there prevailing our cable-repairing steamer was unable to attempt their restoration until March last. Communication during the interruption was, however, maintained with the Northern States of Brazil by the Brazilian Government land lines. The general expenses show a decrease of nearly £9,000, principally due to three causes, the first being the occupation of our own offices and staff quarters at Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, thus effecting a considerable saving under the head of rent. The second was our inability, owing to the War, to obtain the usual annual supply of forms and stationery until after the close of our financial year. The third cause was the fall in the value of the Brazilian milreis, which affected all our payments in that currency. There was also the very considerable decrease of over £40,000 in the cost of the maintenance of the cables, but income tax was higher by close on £15,000. I feel sure that the shareholders will endorse the action of the directors in subscribing to the War Relief Funds. After providing £32,747 for Debenture stock interest, and £33,348 14*s.* 9*d.* for income tax, there remains a balance of £578,273 10*s.* 9*d.*; to this is added the sum of £33,157 9*s.* 8*d.* brought forward from June 30, 1914, making a total of £611,431 0*s.* 5*d.* Three interim dividends, amounting to £93,568 10*s.*, have been paid; £150,000 has been applied towards the reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and Debenture stock issued; £150,000 transferred to the general reserve fund, £30,000 to the land and buildings depreciation fund, and £50,000 to the provision on account of investment fluctuations. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 3*s.* per share, making, with the interim dividends, a total dividend of 6% for the year; also the payment of a bonus of 2*s.* per share, both free of income tax, which together will amount to £51,982 10*s.*, leaving a balance of £85,880 0*s.* 5*d.* to be carried forward. The dividend and bonus will be payable on November 11. The balance carried forward is considerably larger than usual, but our message revenue for the current year since July 1 last shows a decrease of over £25,000, and it is not yet known whether and to what extent the proposed taxation of profits will affect the Company. It will interest you and our staff to know that a letter was recently received from the War Office stating that the Council fully realise the importance of the work on which the employees of the Company are engaged, and appreciate the efforts which are being made by them in the present emergency. I now conclude by moving: "That the report of the directors and the accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, now submitted, be approved and adopted, and that a dividend be now declared of 3*s.* per share, making, with the interim dividends already paid, a total dividend of 6% for the year, and also a bonus of 2*s.* per share, making in the aggregate a distribution of 7% in respect of the profits for the year. The said dividend and bonus to be respectively free of income tax."

Sir John Denison-Pender, K.C.M.G. (Deputy-Chairman), seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SUNBEAM MOTOR CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held on November 11 at Wolverhampton, Mr. John Marston (Chairman of directors) presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet the Chairman said the Company was now a controlled establishment, and since last March their energies had been entirely at the service of the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Allied Governments. They had supplied a very large quantity of cars and ambulances to the War Office and large numbers of aviation engines (the Sunbeam-Coatalen) to the Admiralty. This engine had been the result of many months' experimenting by their brilliant engineer and designer, Mr. Coatalen, and they believed they had succeeded in producing an engine that could not be beaten, having regard to the work it had to accomplish. At the further request of the Admiralty the Company had taken up the manufacture of waterplanes.

An Active Year.

All the departments had been kept during the year in full work, but this had not been accomplished without a considerable expenditure of capital. Three large buildings had been erected and several more acres of land for further developments had been bought. Business had been carried on under great difficulties. The cost of production had increased in all directions, and materials of all descriptions had been very difficult to obtain, but the staff and employees had worked well, and had enabled the Company to keep pace with the requirements of the War Office and the Admiralty, and the result was a handsome profit of £240,000. A good deal of this profit had to be used in paying for the new buildings, additional land and buildings, and tools and fixtures to equip them, the Company being committed to an outlay of at least £40,000. An additional amount of capital was also required to carry on the business, so that although the profit was large, the Company's liabilities from month to month were considerably more than last year. The stock stood at a larger sum than last year, but it was every bit good, and had been taken at absolute cost or under. In a business with such an increasing turnover, it was not surprising to find the stock larger, and the management ought to be commended in keeping up their stock when there was such an increasing difficulty in obtaining raw material. It was necessary to order well beforehand so as not to run the risk of keeping any department standing. The freehold land and buildings, notwithstanding the depreciation, stood at £20,000 more than last year, the plant and machinery were £14,000 more, and the stock and materials were £60,000 more. To the reserve fund the Company placed £120,000, and they carried forward more than three times the amount they did last year, after the shareholders had voted the directors something for their labours.

Possible Inland Revenue Claims.

The shareholders would remember that those firms whose financial year ended after July 1, 1915, were not dealt with under the last Budget, though they had Mr. McKenna's assurance they would not be forgotten. It was, therefore, considered more desirable to strengthen the Company's position by a liberal allocation to the reserve fund and a substantial carry forward, so that the Government claims could be faced without fear, than to pay a larger dividend, which, of course, could easily have been done, seeing that not only were the profits larger, but the cash balance was very substantial. They believed, however, they would be treated in a reasonable manner, the Government recognising the benefit they were obtaining from the Company's enterprise, particularly so since the Company became a controlled establishment. The sum of £25,000 had been invested in the War Loan.

The Company's Policy.

Mr. W. M. Iliff, in seconding the motion, said they could congratulate themselves upon a remarkable balance sheet. This year's result had not been attained by sitting down and waiting for Government orders. The profit also had not all been made out of the Government. Early in the season they supplied a good number of cars for private trade, both at home and for export. They had also supplied quantities of cars for Russia and had supplied and were supplying their aviation engines to that country and France, in addition to our own Government. The £40,000 liabilities for new buildings would be capitalised and paid out of reserve. While the War lasted they anticipated having to send all their products either to our own Government or to one of the Allies, but when the time came they would not be behindhand in energy and resources to grasp the private trade both at home and abroad.

New Aviation Engine.

Mr. Louis Coatalen (joint manager), in supporting, said the Company would shortly put on the market another aviation engine of 300 h.p. It had only been possible to produce this engine through the lessons learned by their long experience in producing racing engines, so it was a vindication of the racing policy adopted by the Sunbeam Company. This new industry of the Sunbeam Company had been extended beyond all expectation, and represented a far bigger business than had ever been done in motor cars, so it would be realised what a valuable asset this would be.

Even should there be a big slump in the motor car trade the Company could still easily maintain its rate of profit on aviation engines alone. Moreover, they had a third string to their bow in the building of complete flying machines. The first waterplane had been delivered and had made a successful flight. The Company had in hand from the Admiralty orders for complete machines worth thousands of pounds, and this in itself would prov a very remunerative adjunct.

The motion was carried.

The dividend, bonus, and other recommendations were agreed to, and the directors were voted a remuneration of £4,500.

AERATED BREAD COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixty-second ordinary general meeting was held on November 8 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. George Edwards, J.P. (Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The report and accounts for the past year, which we submit for your approval to-day, are far less favourable than we were led to hope they would have been at the commencement of the War. At our last annual meeting, when we had had three months' experience of war time, we found that our business had not been seriously affected, but since then, although our trade has increased, owing to the great development of the War, the shortage of labour, difficulties of transport and increased taxation, there has been an almost continuous increase in the cost of food and all the articles in which we deal. This has caused the margin of profit to be materially reduced, and had it not been for the advantages we possess as a Company and to economies we have effected, together with some increased charges to our customers, the profit would have receded to the vanishing-point. It may surprise you to learn that during the year we served more customers and took more money than in any previous year of the Company's existence. I think that in this time of stress it is very gratifying to us to know that we are not only retaining our business, but increasing it, when very many of our regular customers have left London to serve their country, and when most disastrous results have been experienced by many who are engaged in the catering trade. The increased price of food has been enormous. Our profit was also considerably affected by increased working expenses. The net profit is £36,002, being a reduction of no less than £39,124 on the previous year, and the lowest profit since the year 1891, 24 years ago. We have again written off £8,000 for depreciation, which leaves a balance of £28,002. On the credit side, the first item is buildings and property as per last account, £226,138. Capital outlay during the year was £29,251. This outlay on property increased that account to £255,390, but as we had reserved £20,000 from the profits of last year, and have written off £8,000 as depreciation from this year's revenue, the item of freeholds, leaseholds, plant and machinery is only increased in our books by £1,252, although the value of the property has been increased by nearly £30,000. The net profit, together with the sum brought forward from last year, is £56,545; the interim dividend, paid in May last, absorbed £17,285, so that there remains £39,260, from which we recommend the payment of a balance dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share, less income tax, which, together with the interim dividend, will make 17½% for the year, leaving £26,597 to be carried forward. Our balance sheet is made up to September 25; since then I am glad to be able to tell you that our business continues to increase, and especially in the new depots which we have recently opened, both in receipts and the number of customers. We should, of course, take more money by increasing the prices of some of our goods, but we are averse to raising the price of anything we sell if it can possibly be avoided. Our policy has always been to buy the very best and to sell to the public at the lowest price. We are continuously improving our depots, and when normal conditions are again resumed there is no reason why we should not return to our former prosperity. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Ernest Spencer, D.L., J.P. (Deputy-Chairman), seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The dividend recommended was declared, and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff.

NATIONAL SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The forty-third ordinary general meeting was held on November 11 at the Company's offices, 1 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., Mr. A. O. Miles, F.C.A. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The accounts might easily have been stated to show an even better result, but we have preferred to take the opportunity of making out of the revenue of the year extensive repairs to the premises, decorative and otherwise, and also of installing what is practically a new lift for the service of the tenants of our offices. You will see by the profit and loss account that we have spent (including the amount required for aircraft protection and insurance) the sum of £1,265. Against this we had reserved £750 from last year's profits, leaving a balance of £515 expended this year, as against our normal expenditure of about £250 a year. This alone more than accounts for the difference in the net profit as compared with that of last year. It is a matter of satisfaction that our revenue from the letting of safes and the storage of packages shows a further increase over that of last year, which showed a considerable excess over that of the previous year. In connection with the protection from aircraft risk, I explained to you last year the precautions which we had taken, and which cost us a considerable sum of money. I have now to inform you that we have also taken out a policy under the Government insurance scheme and that consequently everything humanly possible has been done for the protection of our tenants. You will gather from the report how the board suggest that the available balance should be disposed of—namely, by paying a further dividend on the Ordinary shares at the same rate as heretofore and by the transfer of the usual amount to the leasehold sinking fund, and, further, by a transfer to reserve fund of £500, bringing this fund up to £3,500, and by the appropriation of £500 to a contingency fund, to be dealt with as the directors may determine or as the exigencies of the business may require. They further propose to allocate a sum of £500 to start a reserve for staff pensions fund, to be under the absolute control of the board, for them to deal with in the interest of their employees in such a manner as they may think best. After providing for the sums referred to, we carry forward £1,218, which is slightly in excess of that for last year. In conclusion, I should like to testify to the hard work put in by our not very numerous staff.

Mr. Henry J. Gardiner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after a brief discussion.

Culloden Consolidated Co.—Interim dividend of 2½% (actual), less tax.

Cory (Wm.) and Son.—Interim dividend on Ordinary shares of 4%, less tax.

Chargola Tea Association.—Interim dividend on Ordinary capital of 5%, less tax.

Ouvah Ceylon Estates.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary shares.

Djember Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend of 4%, tax free.

Haslam (John) and Co.—Dividend at the rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary, making 5% for the year.

Klanang Produce Co.—Second interim dividend of 25% (actual), less tax, making a total of 45% this year to date.

National Safe Deposit.—Dividend at rate of 3% per annum on Ordinary, making 3% for the year.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Bantjes Consolidated.—Capital issued £502,306, in £1 shares. Three tube mills. Capacity of plant 30,000 tons per month.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	100	279,190	—	320,650	22/11	289,911	20/9	30,739	2 2	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	47,750	9½	51,523	21/7	61,648	25 9	[illegible]*	4 2*	1⅞
June qr.	100	61,000	8½	77,225	25/3	62,644	20 6	14,581	4 9	2⅛
Sept. qr.	100	63,300	—	68,069	21/10	62,952	20 2	5,117	1/8	2⅛
Oct. ...	—	20,490	—	22,389	21/10	21,630	21/1	759	1 9	2⅛

* Loss due to central shaft breakdown.

Dividends—1914, June, 2½; Dec., 2½ per cent.
1915, June, nil.

Consolidated Main Reef.—£924,364, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; three tube mills.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1913-14	96	av. 241,016	12	379,543	31/6	262,942	21/10	116,601	9/8	5⅞
1914-15	95½	av. 294,766	12½	442,549	30/0	304,384	20/7	138,265	9/5	19/0
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	—	84,380	—	120,497	28/6	82,610	19/7	37,887	8/11	19/9
Oct. ...	—	29,130	—	42,022	28/10	28,088	19/4	13,934	9/6	19/6

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 6¼ per cent.
1915, June, 6¼ per cent.

Crown Mines.—Capital £1,000,000 in 2,000,000 shares of 10*s.* each; issued, 1,880,212. £867,950 Five per Cent. Debentures. Milling capacity about 232,000 tons per month. 1913 figures and since include accumulated slimes.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	660	2,286,875	10½	2,976,989	26/1	1,783,477	15/7	1,193,512	10/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	660	592,000	10½	750,121	25 1	475,527	15/11	•274,594	9/2	4½
June qr.	660	638,000	10½	825,459	25/10	490,959	25/10	334,500	10/6	4⅜
Sept. qr.	660	[illegible]	—	788,144	25/9	5 3 480	16 3	294,164	9 6	3⅞
Oct. ...	—	221,000	—	270,050	24/5	172,719	15/7	97,331	8 10	3⅜

* Poor results due entirely to disappointing yield, which continues considerably below what is indicated by ore reserves values. "The cause of this difference is being carefully investigated.

Dividends—1914, June, 55; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 35 per cent.

City and Suburban.—£1,360,000, in £4 shares Two tube mills. Yearly profit is exclusive of accumulated slimes revenue.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1913 ...	151	av. 306,663	9½	583,141	38/0	335,622	21/10	247,519	16/2	2⅞
1914 ...	151	av. 324,117	9½	587,199	36/3	338,648	20/11	248,551	15 4	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	151	av. 81,309	10½	153,498	36/5	88,832	21/1	64,666	15/4	2⅞
June qr.	154½	av. 82,623	1 ¼	150,201	36 4	88,444	21 4	61,757	15/0	2⅝
Sept. qr.	152½	av. 86,550	—	152,456	35/3	90,310	20 11	62,146	14/4	2⅛
Oct.....	150	2[illegible]4.0	—	50,348	35 5	29,810	20 11	20,538	14 6	2⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 7½; Dec., 7½ per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—£950,000, in £1 shares. £195,000 5½% Debentures. 100 new stamps and 10 tubes. About £300 monthly sundry revenue included below.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt.	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
				£		£		£		
1914 ...	92½	578,100	2½	739,704	25 7	423,799	14 8	315,905	10/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	155,900	3	201,042	25/9	109,405	14/0	91,637	11/9	1⅝
June qr.	100	154,100	5	202,867	26/4	108,353	14/1	94,514	12/3	1⅞
Sept. qr.	100	160,030	—	208,565	26/0	116,333	14/6	92,232	11/6	1⅞
Oct. ...	—	54,100	—	68,618	25/4	40,495	15/4	28,123	10/0	1⅞

* Includes slimes profit and sundry revenue.

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 12½ per cent.

Argentine Land and Investment Co.—Dividend of 5%, less tax, on the Ordinary shares.

Credit Foncier of Mauritius.—Dividend of 5% and a bonus of 2% on Ordinary stock and shares for the year.

Dennis Brothers.—1915. Dividend of 10% and a bonus of 5%.

Dorman Long and Co.—Dividend of 5%, making 8% for the past year, and in addition a bonus of 1*s.* per share, both tax free.

Eastman Kodak Company of New Jersey.—Extra dividend of 12½% upon the Common stock. The usual quarterly dividends of 1[illegible]% upon the Preferred Stock and of 2½% upon the Common stock will be paid on January 1.

Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co.—Dividend of 7½%, tax free, on Ordinary for the year.

Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Co.—Interim dividend of 6% on Ordinary, less tax.

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An Ideal country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

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Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of Interest.

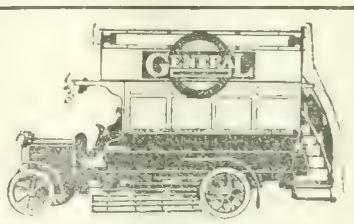
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D A 23

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN LONDON.

No. 4.—BEHIND THE ABBEY.

Here is a corner of London remindful of a quiet cathedral town. The gateway by the Abbey towers gives access to Dean's Yard, Green" of Westminster School. The school is on the east, a medley of grey walls and old courtyards, extending from the Abbey cloisters, wherein it first arose, to Great College St. Beyond Dean's Yard, in Tufton St., is the Architectural Museum, least known of all our galleries. Burton St. leads by way of Cowley St. and North St.—all lined with early Georgian houses — into Smith Square, where stands St. John the Evangelist, with its four belfrys, like an inverted footstool. Victoria Tower Gardens should be entered for a sight of the grey river and old Lambeth Palace, and because in them is Rodin's Burghers of Calais.

By ROUTES Nos. 11, 11A*, 20, 24, 29, 29A, 76†, 88, to Broad Sanctuary.

* Sundays only. † Weekdays only.

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THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £
PAID UP, £ ... RESERVE ...
BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, ... Port Said, Tanta, Zagazig, ... Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.
BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.
The Bank transacts every description of banking business in Egypt, grants letters of credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.
Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent. per annum.
On current accounts, interest at ... per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below £200.
27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND ... BANK LIMITED.

... Capital £1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital 539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors ... 539,437 10 0
... ... 0 0
... the United Kingdom.
... TRANSACTED ...
... A. M. JOHNSTON, Manager.

THE LONDON AND RIVER ...
Established 1862.
... E.C.

NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LTD.
HEAD OFFICE TORONTO, CANADA.
BRANCHES:
... Winnipeg ... Saskatoon ... Port ...
Paid-up Capital - $1,500,000.
Reserve Fund - $1,500,000.
Acts as Executor and Trustee and, as Agent for clients and corporations, invests funds in carefully selected First Mortgages on farms and improved city properties in Canada—Exceptional facilities offered for investing British Capital - Also Guaranteed Trust Investments.
Correspondents invited
28 ... A. J. NEWNS,
... E.C. ... Manager.
References
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

The organ of the wealthy classes of the North-Western Counties and of North Wales. Its influence is wide and far reaching.

It is the **best provincial medium for all classes of financial advertising.** Investors in a wide area can only be thoroughly reached through its columns.

An application to the London Manager, 187 Fleet Street, E.C., will bring details of Charges. Private wire to Liverpool is open day and night.

The Liverpool Courier

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OF
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Published October 23, 1915.
Price 1/-. Post free 1/2½.
Colonies and Abroad, 1/7
(Post free.)
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Address: THE PUBLISHER,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ESTABLISHED 1825.
Capital Subscribed. £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.
Head Office—EDINBURGH.
J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE ... HUNTER, Secretary.
London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.
J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.
Every description of ... business transacted, including the purchase and ... of ... Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and ... other payable in Great Britain or abroad; ... Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.
The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.
The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and
9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised -	**$25,000,000**
Capital Paid up - -	**$11,560,000**
Reserve Funds - -	**$13,000,000**
Aggregate Assets -	**$180,000,000**

Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, E. L. PEASE,
President. Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS—Bridgetown; DOMINICA—Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre, TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L. President.
JOHN AIRD, General Manager.
H. V. F. JONES, Assistant General Manager.
Paid-up Capital £3,082,192
Reserve Fund .. £2,773,972
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal.
This Bank having its own Branch at SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., is able to offer special facilities to visitors to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Branches at Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, and other points on the Pacific Coast.
Drafts, Money Orders and Travellers' Letters of Credit issued, payable at any of these places.
London Office: 2 LOMBARD STREET
[illegible], Manager.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED	$10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	$7,000,000
RESERVE FUND	$7,000,000

Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.
SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.
Agents: ENGLAND—LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 17 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.
Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.
DRAFTS issued upon and remittances cabled to any point in **CANADA** by the Agents of the Bank in England and Scotland, through whom inquiries regarding Canadian securities and business generally can be made and will be promptly attended to.

CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established in 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1840.
PAID-UP CAPITAL £[illegible] RESERVE FUND £[illegible]
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.
Court of Directors.

F. R. S. Balfour.	A. G. Wallis Hare.
J. H. Brodie.	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mavrogordato Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whitehead.

Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.
Drafts, Letters of Credit, Telegraphic Transfers,
Are issued by the London Office and Branches on the United States and Towns throughout Canada and the United States.
ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID	$5,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ...	$9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, Buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and BAGDAD.

Authorised Capital	**£1,500,000**
Called up	**£600,000**
Reserve Fund	**£55,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£900,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BELHOMME, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
The Bank transacts every description of Banking and Agency business connected with India on terms to be ascertained on application. Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880.
Authorised and Issued Capital, £[illegible]
Paid up Capital £[illegible], together £[illegible]
Reserve Fund £[illegible]
Reserve Liability of Proprietors .. £[illegible]
Total Capital and Reserve .. .. £[illegible]
HEAD OFFICE: 71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.
DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.
TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made. BILLS [illegible]
DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.
DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	**$8,808,891.79**
Assets - -	**$39,077,630.77**

$5 equals approx. £1.
41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID ...	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ..	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	6,880,000

President—E. T. STANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. FULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address— | London Agents—
"FOURBANK." SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government of British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Coimbatore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Jaffna		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS: Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State. Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
London Offices—Circus Place, London Wall, E.C., and 117 Cannon Street, E.C.
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ... £2,[illegible]
With power to increase to ... 4,000,000
Reserve Fund 525,000
Branches and Agencies in all the principal towns of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
Deposits received. Current Accounts opened and all descriptions of Banking business connected with South Africa and the Belgian Congo transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital (25,000 Shares of £10 each)	**£250,000 0 0**
Reserve Fund	**£680,000 0 0**
Reserved Profits ...	**£24,087 0 0**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.
Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,
The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.
Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES,
£2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

Printed by SHOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices, 51 Cannon Street, in the City of London, England.—*November 13, 1915.*

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BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits	$3,600,000
Total Assets over	$80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

London Committee:
J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G.;
Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C.
26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capita	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£240,000

Head Office ... AMSTERDAM.
London Agency... 2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
London Manager J. COST BUDDE.

All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up	$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange 0. 2s. per $ = £1,500,000	$15,000,000
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000
	$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...	$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Colombo, Foochow, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

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Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.

Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.

9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,033,410

Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.

London Offices:
24/28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Guaranteed by the Australian Government.

Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.

London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	...	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND ...	...	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	...	4,645,575
		£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE. LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.

NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C.
West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.

Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.

Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley.
A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.

CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.

Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD. Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital fully paid and Reserve ... £3,460,000

Head Office: MILAN.

The Bank has Branches at Genoa, Rome, Turin, Naples, Florence, Catania, Bari, and numerous other important towns in Italy.

LONDON BRANCH:
22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.
Managers { I. GEORGE MANZI-FE
DAVID A. HORNER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having Correspondents in all European Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.
Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cable, London."
Telephones: 7802, 7803 City.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—		
Subscribed	£4,500,000	
Unissued	500,000	
		£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up ...		£2,250,000
Reserve Fund		1,400,000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders		2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors		£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places of South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. The Purchase and Sale of Funds, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.

Established 1834. Incorporated in New South Wales

Capital Paid up ...	£2,000,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	1,825,960	0	0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	2,000,000	0	0
	£5,825,960	0	0

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit on Australasia are issued by the London Branch. Bills on Australasia negotiated or collected. Remittances cabled.

London Offices—
18 Birchin Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.
P. A. SCRIVENER, Manager.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

7 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000

Shares of £20 each	£2,500,000	
PAID-UP CAPITAL	1,250,000	
RESERVE FUND	1,400,000	

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent or collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.

PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Incorporated 29th July, 1861.

(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)

LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES,

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of Banks, Land Brokers, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Mining Investment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

THE INVESTORS' INFORMATION BUREAU

will give reliable and unbiassed advice by mail on any matter of investment interest free to subscribers.

Send 2 penny stamps for Specimen Copy.

GREAT BRITAIN and COLONIES 12s. 6d. per annum.

FRANCE and other EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 16s. 6d. per annum.

BRITISH OFFICE—88 FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO, CANADA.

UNION-CASTLE LINE.

South and East Africa

ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.

The Cape, Natal, Transvaal, Rhodesia, East African Ports, Mauritius, etc.

For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE A. HUNTER, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. STERLING LOANS OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, announce that £250,000 4½ per cent. Sterling Bonds of the 1st Series, £250,000 4½ per cent. Sterling Bonds of the 2nd Series, and Five Pounds Sterling Bonds on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government, for the purpose of cancellation, and that the said Bonds will be cancelled.

The number of the Bonds to be drawn will be as follows:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. LOAN.

FIRST SERIES.

13 BONDS OF £500.

210617, 210638, 210996, 211051, 211416 7, 211446, 211482 3, 211568, 211596, 211608, 211992.

892 BONDS OF £200.

130294 303, 130396, 130628, 130970, 130995 7, 131251, 131412, 131417, 131428, 131424/6, 131705, 131764 5, 132215 36, 133165 74, 134036, 135046, 135105 6, 135304, 135402 3, 135665, 135889 90, 135905 6, 137132 6, 137572, 138572/3, 138729 30, 138735, 138879, 138948, 139278, 139293 304, 139348, 139785/99, 139956 9, 140416 8, 140577 8, 140580 1, 140924, 141009, 141166, 141332, 141511, 141758 62, 141878 891, 141989, 142045 6, 142141, 142689, 143020, 143053, 143668, 143976, 144108 9, 144213/4, 144866 9, 144964 5, 145111, 145604, 146427, 146503, 146570, 146766 9, 146944 5, 147351 8, 147782 6, 147841 2, 148182, 149384, 149388, 150325 9, 151482 98, 151538, 151600, 152252 3, 152565 6, 152616 7, 152878, 153833/4, 153865 6, 153887, 153889, 154157, 154738, 155472 3, 155966 70, 156725 7, 157178 9, 157387 9, 157804 5, 157992, 158329, 158426 45, 158473, 158586, 159578, 159628, 159722 3, 159828 9, 159858, 159941 5, 160283 5, 160936, 161127, 161693, 161924, 162410, 162600 11, 162730, 162770, 162775 6, 163261, 163570, 163638, 163796, 163864 5, 164076 8, 164279, 164720, 164758, 164779 80, 165284 5, 165502, 165661, 165682, 166207, 166362, 166543, 167045 84, 167156 74, 167249, 167271/8, 167703/8, 167761/5, 168011 4, 168394, 168619, 168636, 168684, 168880 9, 169559, 169592/5, 170026, 170030 3, 170542, 170845, 170936 41, 171012, 171099, 171395, 172171, 172363, 172648, 172780, 172807, 172970, 173963, 174014, 175067 81, 175107, 175110/9, 175138, 175900, 175328/9, 175436 42, 175445, 175456 8, 175503, 175558, 175664, 175952 3, 176641, 176788 9, 177045 6, 177301/2, 177322 6, 177720, 177743, 177747, 178080 3, 178488, 178501, 178513/6, 178721/40, 178764 5, 178883, 179436 40, 180258 9, 180532, 180626 8, 180650, 180774 5, 180849 50, 180976 85, 181025, 181116, 181130 1, 181225 8, 181695, 182159, 182200, 182364, 182579 80, 182778, 182972 3, 183210, 183803, 183901/2, 184153, 184488 97, 187122 4, 187197, 187330 1, 187377, 187516 8, 187537 8, 187565 9, 187931, 188149, 188410, 188953 4, 189030 4, 189038 9, 189288, 189309, 189336, 189387, 189540, 189962, 190054, 190434, 190824, 190850, 190902, 191180, 191336, 191459, 191651 2, 191831, 192367, 192522, 192838, 193478 82, 193488, 193624, 193976, 194142, 194435, 194560, 194700 1, 194708, 194863 4, 195073/6, 195318 22, 195341/3, 195379, 195619, 195648, 195814 5, 195943, 196087 90, 196270, 196498 504, 196767, 196988, 197125, 197495 6, 197773 7, 197802 3, 197940, 197962 6, 198173 4, 198259, 198315 9, 198320 1, 198383 4, 198[illegible], 200055 6, 200212, 200277, 200649, 200923, 201769, 201505, 201590, 201599, 201862, 201993, 202194 9, 202492, 202622, 202624 5, 202681, 202690, 202818, 202823, 203040 1, 203066, 203435, 203438, 203933, 204815, 204855, 205071, 205076 80, 205138 46, 205148, 205269 72, 205350, 205358, 205600 1, 206132 4, 206141/5, 206151 4, 206345, 206946 54, 206993, 207168, 207173 83, 207307, 207309 11, 207371 3, 207618, 207991, 208030, 208220, 208247 8, 208251 9, 208418, 208498, 208593, 208632, 209103, 209110, 209191, 209904.

651 BONDS OF £100.

101, 1100, 1682 71, 2114 5, 2278 81, 2472, 2827, 3424, 3692 3, 4173, 4433, 4435 7, 4908, 5220, 5222 3, 5975, 84, 6644 5, 7291, 7625 44, 7871 950, 8718, 8928, 8977, 10452, 10997, 11032, 11699 708, 12838 41, 13022, 13351 3, 14149 51, 14178/9, 14589 98, 14626, 15411/2, 16136, 16165, 16763, 16860, 17025, 17537, 18633, 19193, 19324 32, 19716, 20148, 20401, 20738 43, 21802, 22233, 22276, 23344 5, 24607, 24895, 25176, 25503, 23604, 25607, 25714, 26150, 26417, 26539 52, 26536, 28497, 28513 5, 28581, 29030, 29247, 30325 7, 30346 9, 30401, 30683, 30711, 31604, 31959 62, 33332, 33404 5, 33411 3, 33455, 34209, 34534, 34805, 35007, 35123, 35915 24, 36432, 36489, 36665, 38466 8, 38586, 39026, 39442 6, 39574 7, 39654, 40116, 40236 7, 40986 9, 42065, 42218, 42535, 42601, 43117, 44497 505, 45335, 45608, 46009 11, 46239, 46251, 46256, 47230, 47244, 47341, 47400, 48980 2, 49633, 50194, 50678 9, 50709 18, 50754, 51889, 52375, 52455 8, 52526, 52717, 52901, 53327, 53338 42, 53494, 53538, 53740 1, 53997 54000, 54141, 54443, 55593 6, 55673, 56305, 58128, 58410, 58871 5, 59280 1, 59368, 60195, 61434, 61668, 61731, 61746 8, 61753 4, 62184, 62445, 62683, 63025 40, 63158, 63678, 64121, 64396, 64434 5, 64372, 65374, 66045, 66264 6, 66350, 66737, 67625, 67813, 67846, 68152, 69255, 69400, 70364, 70779, 71037, 71242, 71864, 72278 83, 73003 4, 73080 1, 73216, 73282 9, 73302, 73994 5, 74365 6, 75296, 75776, 76318, 76429, 77704, 78080, 78111 5, 78274, 78330, 78345, 78435, 79317 20, 79915 7, 80126, 80787 8, 80791, 81265 8, 81539, 82536 9, 82703, 82705 6, 82979, 82988, 83170, 83178, 83226, 83667, 84534, 85135, 86400 3, 86406, 87252 3, 87284, 87984, 88746, 88268, 88304 6, 88317 21, 88333 42, 89243, 89408, 90031, 91416, 91887, 93023, 93777, 94018 22, 94151, 95435, 95438, 96988, 97309, 98294, 98693, 98748, 99256, 100102, 100415, 101758, 102017, 102949, 103008, 103221 6, 103551, 103629 30, 103775 6, 103848, 104310 11, 104380, 104393 5, 105118, 105829 31, 106069 70, 107074, 108135, 108171, 108177, 108195, 108347, 109680, 111642, 111837, 112391, 112394, 112402, 112797, 113530, 113589, 115632, 115741 2, 116243, 116372, 116395, 116728, 116912, 117702, 119885, 120590, 122214, 122453, 122457, 122774, 122800, 123108, 123359 60, 123861, 123939 40, 124120, 124533, 124879, 125324, 126429, 126675, 126774, 129481, 129769 73, 129877.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. LOAN.

SECOND SERIES.

662 BONDS OF £200

325077, 325164 7, 325177, 325203/4, 325330 55, 325586/6, 325668, 325964 78, 326614 20, 326658 9, 326707, 327067, 327631, 328027/8, 328037, 328155, 328301, 328581/2, 328615, 328795, 329299, 329518, 329574 93, 330072/4, 330151/5, 330301, 330389 93, 330440/1, 330769 70, 330884, 331206 10, 331311, 331602, 331654, 331656, 331697, 331706, 331806, 332422, 332538, 332545 6, 332659 60, 332754, 333130, 333139, 333291 300, 333521 2, 333689, 333911 40, 334138 43, 334774 5, 335033, 335247, 335367 71, 335856, 336011, 336174, 336340, 336343 9, 336420 3, 336430 71, 336666 8, 336766, 336914, 337167, 337348/50, 337415, 337476, 337662 4, 337715 8, 337728, 337994, 338323, 338460, 338479, 338776, 338838, 338907, 338967 70, 339033/4, 339185, 339192, 339610 2, 340210 2, 340742 50, 340938 42, 341467, 341570 2, 341809 12, 342080, 342501 3, 342539 44, 342576 8, 342582, 342929 30, 343569 70, 343826 31, 343839 47, 343850, 344319, 344351 4, 344356, 344481 5, 345630, 345854, 345893, 345927 31, 346111 2, 346478, 346483 4, 346738 40, 346829, 347067/8, 347839, 348104 5, 348545 6, 348673, 349041, 349423, 349449 53, 349469 78, 349600, 349807, 350636, 350723 5, 350967, 351134, 351704, 351994, 351704 5, 351775, 353213 9, 353236, 353323, 353568, 353673, 353709, 354423 4, 354502 6, 354529 30, 354600 3, 355337 8, 355522 3, 355529 33, 356016 20, 356861, 356890, 357131, 357200, 357208, 357627, 357832, 358076, 358164, 358179 20, 358272, 358357, 358619 20, 358682 3, 358719, 359202 11, 359469 73, 359543 7, 359560, 359873/4, 360449 50, 360520, 360735, 360851, 361334, 361412, 363079, 363513, 363521, 363603, 363675, 363694, 363911, 364101, 364295, 364870, 365059, 365068 9, 365233/4, 365390 1, 365921, 365960, 366244, 366391 2, 366565, 367072, 367180, 367745, 367765, 368274 8, 368686, 368650 1, 368984, 369237 8, 369312, 369388, 369767, 369911 2, 370185, 370252, 370777, 371075/8, 371394, 371894, 372273, 372580, 372582, 372939 41, 372955 6, 373342 6, 374279 80, 374720, 374930, 375829 30, 377411 2, 377762, 377971, 379315, 379317, 379336 7, 379706 7, 379712, 379938, 380331, 381070, 381078, 381540, 381604, 381608, 381748, 381975, 382510, 382568, 382586, 382614 7, 382677, 383069, 383118 99, 383480, 383490, 383615 6, 384433, 384479, 384547, 384631, 384710, 384809 11, 385470, 385480 2, 385574, 385696 7, 386367 8, 386395, 386426, 386445, 386546, 386619, 387307 8, 387385, 387432, 387928, 387956 9, 388162, 389055 6, 390783, 4, 390795 6, 390976, 392936, 393749, 395124, 395193, 396329, 396959, 397138, 397173, 397550, 399139/40, 399670, 399796, 400058 61, 400375, 400874, 401966.

1,043 BONDS OF £100

225012, 225038 9, 225256 9, 225317, 225320, 225393 5, 225407, 225591 8, 225661, 225794, 225874, 225906, 225990 226016, 226134, 226225, 226372 3, 226379 86, 227436 7, 227486 8, 227565, 227688, 227971, 228055, 228421, 228462 80, 228619 23, 228936 61, 229517, 229880, 229888 9, 230448, 230686, 231633, 231890, 232361/2, 232504, 232745, 233151, 234495 9, 234512 3, 234544 53, 235881 3, 235935, 236500, 236610 11, 236963, 237237/8, 239664, 240108, 240241, 240445 6, 240479, 240640 5, 241118, 241289, 241767 8, 242453 60, 242476 7, 242482, 242490, 243040, 243072, 243941 50, 244101, 244342 6, 244433, 244436, 244752, 244923 4, 245133, 245209, 246641 56, 246769, 246847, 246373, 246982, 247031 3, 247762 81, 248491, 248869, 249375 6, 249485 6, 250039 213, 251058, 251266, 251423, 251497 9, 251748, 252225, 252313, 252610/11, 252647, 253636, 254170 2, 254954 71, 255382, 255601 10, 255677, 255728, 255810, 256975/6, 258750 85, 256788 934, 258355, 258540/2, 258550 6, 258879, 260332 5, 260370 3, 260732 3, 261440, 261528 72, 262098, 262472, 263382, 263484, 263608 9, 263821/2, 263785, 263851, 263882 911, 264239, 264348, 264967, 264902, 264989, 265002 3, 265359 60, 265494, 265514, 265545, 265697, 265796, 266191, 266430 1, 266745, 266948, 267373 86, 267393 422, 268215 9, 263443, 269522, 269636, 270372, 270454, 270995, 271020, 271623, 271764 6, 271799, 272073, 272409, 272628 31, 273228 9, 273399, 273717 26, 274191, 274865, 274936, 275021 9, 275195, 275962/4, 276073, 276138, 276295, 276624, 276849, 276889 91, 276919 90, 277016, 278728, 278801, 279495 6, 279741, 279755, 279757, 280068, 280383, 280690, 280738, 281131, 281363, 281439, 281534, 281618, 281996, 282048, 282157 64, 282498, 282530, 282548 9, 282644, 282895, 283513, 284084 7, 284353, 284355 6, 284358 60, 284459, 284576, 284951 5, 285207, 285738, 286289, 286376, 291419 21, 291643, 291964, 292036, 292102, 294797, 295238, 297683, 299271, 299884 5, 299988 90, 301889 90, 303185, 303575, 305466, 308490, 308553, 309454, 309866, 310103, 311438, 312866, 313068, 313077 8, 313363, 314317 19, 315510 12, 316336, 316451, 317111, 317739 42, 318301, 318360 77, 318941 4, 319898, 320115, 320506, 320971, 320988, 322036, 322155 7, 322171, 324375, 324815 6.

665 BONDS AT £20.

243, 507 9, 711, 1807 30, 3101, 5013, 5501 23, 5701 62, 5778, 6266 8, 6422 30, 6695, 6713 4, 8656 65, 9851, 12805 19, 12937 8, 13783 7, 14702 3, 15622 4, 15997, 16001, 16529 31, 16783, 16951 78, 18964 73, 19519, 19902 4, 20219, 20378, 22892 3, 23348 50, 23544 6, 23557 61, 23888 9, 28153, 30034/5, 30892, 31419 20, 32142 71, 33282, 33516 7, 35171 3, 35990 2, 36143 5, 36937, 37168, 38774 8, 39951 4, 40477, 40493, 41501 2, 41886, 42092, 42337, 42869 74, 43680 4, 43940, 44433, 44435, 44559 616, 44642 9, 45090, 46794, 47795 804, 48601 12, 50788, 53799 801, 53806 7, 53810 1, 53971 4, 54030 4, 54481, 55836 8, 57885 6, 57975, 59224, 62091 2, 62941, 63411, 64824, 64916 20, 65580, 65743 6, 65768 74, 67578, 67669, 68175, 68797, 8 799 812, 70302 3, 70771, 71993 7, 73942, 74086, 74521, 74561, 75132, 75827, 78879 81, 83493, 83800, 85092, 85128, 88152 3, 89947, 91921, 92060, 93543 6, 93231 4, 96239 40, 96401 3, 96407 11, 98303, 98327 9, 98378, 98853 4, 99044, 99219 37, 99836 7, 101383, 1 05535 8, 108759, 110452, 111857 8, 112568 9, 112672, 113294, 113597, 113599, 113677 8, 121293 5, 121613, 121693, 128207, 129470 1, 129473, 130760 4, 133980, 134997, 137522, 140193, 141011, 141409/10, 145315 20, 145458, 148676, 149036, 151645 7, 152849, 159617, 163365, 166431, 166485, 166659 60, 166827, 166829, 167277, 168537 9, 168920 1, 170686, 179957, 180094, 181192, 183372/3, 183442, 184476, 189825, 190197 8, 191183 4, 191966, 194677, 196627 9, 199068, 199694, 201489 90, 203962 3, 204118, 206101, 206194 5, 206594 6, 207994 6, 208021, 209061 4, 209747/9, 210762, 213501, 214243 9, 214806, 225641, 223966 7, 224825.

Loan on, 15th November, 1915.

INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN,
LIMITED. FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £2,000,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 1st December, 1915 will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
15th November, 1915.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT FOUR PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1910 FOR £11,000,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 1st December, 1915, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
15th November, 1915.

RAND WATER BOARD FOUR
FOUR PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, 1915.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in order to prepare the Dividend due on 1st January next, the balances of the several accounts in the above-mentioned Stock will be struck on the night of Wednesday, 1st December, and that on and after 2nd December the Stock will be transferable ex dividend. Forms of request for the purpose of forwarding Dividend Warrants by post to Banks or other Agents may be obtained on application to the Bank.

For the National Bank of South Africa, Limited,
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.,
16th November, 1915.

CITY OF PRETORIA FOUR
PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, 1939.
CITY OF PRETORIA FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, 1945/60.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in order to prepare the Dividend due on 1st January next, the balances of the several accounts in the above-mentioned Stocks will be struck on the night of Wednesday, 1st December, and that on and after 2nd December the Stocks will be transferable ex dividend. Forms of request for the purpose of forwarding Dividend Warrants by post to Banks or other Agents may be obtained on application to the Bank.

For the National Bank of South Africa, Limited,
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.,
16th November, 1915.

CITY OF BLOEMFONTEIN
FOUR PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, 1963.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in order to prepare the Dividend due on 1st January next, the balances of the several accounts in the above-mentioned Stock will be struck on the night of Wednesday, 1st December, and that on and after 2nd December the Stock will be transferable ex dividend. Forms of request for the purpose of forwarding Dividend Warrants by post to Banks or other Agents may be obtained on application to the Bank.

For the National Bank of South Africa, Limited,
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.,
16th November, 1915.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN
RAILWAY COMPANY

The Books of Deeds will be closed from [illegible] to the Common Stock, for the purpose of the payment of the Dividend [illegible] Payable at the Company's Office, No. [illegible] Broadway, Philadelphia, Pa., on [illegible] and the Common Stock Transfer Books will be closed at the close of business November [illegible], 1915.

F. H. GOLDEN, Secretary.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

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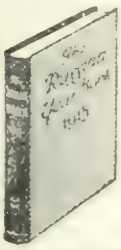
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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, November 19, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks. Notice.	Deposit Rates.—Discount Houses. Call.	Deposit Rates.—Discount Houses. Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¼
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2½
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	5	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 Months.	6 Months.	9 Months.	12 Months.
Price	...£98 14s. 9½d.	£97 10s. 1¾d.	£96 4s. 11¼d.	£95
Discount Rate	5%	5%	5%	5%

Discount Rates:—

	60 Days.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5½	5[illegible]-½	5[illegible]-¼	5[illegible]-¼
Trade Bills	—	5½-6	5½-6	5½-6

MONEY.

THE great efflux of gold, more especially to the United States and Spain, and to a minor extent to South America, coupled with the advance in the rate for Treasury bills last week to 5%, and a notification from the Bank of England to the market that it is not disposed to discount bills at under 5½%, made the Money market very firm early in the week. The last few days, however, there has been a greater disposition to discount. Nevertheless, the lowest rate for three, four, and six months' bills is 5⅜% to 5¼%, while in many cases buyers are holding out for 5¼% for three months', 5⅜% for four months', and 5⅜-5½% for six months' bills. The somewhat lower rates now current than a week ago are due to the knowledge that the money recently raised by the British and French Governments in the United States is now available for the payment of Government purchases, and, furthermore, that a banking credit of £10,000,000 has been created against the deposit of collateral with the Bank of England. There has also been a good deal of talk this week about the creation of a very large credit in the United States against the deposit of American collateral.

What the result of this talk will be is unknown, but it is evident that some steps will be taken by means of which the adverse balance of trade with the United States will be adjusted either by the sale of American securities or by loans against the deposit of American securities. Obviously the sounder method would be the sale of securities, but if holders are indisposed to sell, then it may be necessary to resort to the deposit of the securities against loans. We are inclined to think, however, that when holders of American securities realise that sales of them will be of advantage to the country, they will be willing to provide all the securities needed. Immediately the American exchange situation is taken care of for some months ahead the demand for gold will become much more moderate. Nevertheless, one cannot altogether ignore the fact that Great Britain is buying large quantities of goods from every country that can supply them, and that all the time prices of commodities are rising, so that a given quantity of goods calls for increasing sums of money. It is true that the value of the imports into Great Britain has recently declined, but it would be a mistake to assume that this indicates the true course of the country's trade. It is essential to note that the deliveries of goods on Government account are steadily increasing, and that the total value of the imports is rising instead of falling. Moreover, it is obvious that many goods are being held back from market for higher prices, and that, with the increased prosperity of the producing countries, arising from their great sales at profitable prices, they possess the means of holding back their goods until the level of price is reached at which they are disposed to sell. Consequently it would be unwise to assume that even if the American exchange is adjusted the whole of the trade balance will be adjusted. It is probable, however, that arrangements similar to those now being made with the United States will be concluded with other countries. Indeed, it is somewhat surprising that an effort has not been made already to induce French investors to sell to Spanish investors sufficient Spanish bonds to provide for the balance of trade in favour of Spain and to prevent the recurring shipments of gold from London to Madrid. Doubtless as time goes on, and greater experience is gained, arrangements will be made for meeting adverse balance not by shipment of gold, but by sales of securities, and by greater economy in domestic expenditure.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE exodus of gold on foreign account has increased, and notwithstanding the receipt of nearly £800,000 from South Africa and Egypt the net loss of gold on foreign account for the week ended Wednesday was as much as £3,663,000. Most of this gold went to the United States, but substantial sums ebbed away to several other countries. Thus, during the week ended Wednesday the export to Spain was £750,000, to other Continental countries £250,000, to South America £180,000, and to Canada £34,000. Further, yesterday and to-day additional large sums have been sent, including £730,000 to the United States, £400,000 to Spain, £170,000 to South America, £100,000 to Japan, £57,000 to Canada, and some smaller amounts to other countries. On the other hand, £1,600,000 of foreign gold coin has come in, presumably from France. In consequence of £1,881,000 of gold having come in from circulation the net loss in the gold held by the Bank was £1,782,000, which reduced the total amount held to £53,570,000. There was a contraction of £185,000 in the note circulation, and the loss of reserve was £1,597,000, reducing the amount to £39,006,000. The Bank made advances, presumably to the Government, amounting to £4,094,000, and in consequence of this there was an increase of £1,223,000 in the public deposits and of £1,261,000 in the "other" deposits, notwithstanding the loss of about £1,600,000 of cash. The public deposits are now £50,181,000, the "other" deposits £91,676,000, and the "other" securities £101,761,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities has fallen this week from 29.13% to 27.49%, partly in consequence of the increase in liabilities.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

THE supply of money in New York is increasing all the time, and the reserve of the New York banks last week was £1,200,000 higher at £148,450,000, a figure which compares with £92,350,000 at the beginning of the year. The loans of the banks last week increased £6,300,000, and the deposits just over £7,000,000. Consequently there was a reduction of £540,000 in the surplus reserve, bringing the amount down to £37,760,000. Notwithstanding the increase of nearly 50% in the loans and of over 50% in the deposits since the beginning of January, the surplus reserve has risen from £23,000,000 to £38,000,000. Short money in New York can be obtained at about 2% and sometimes at less. Exchange this week has been strong in consequence of the availability of the money raised by the British and French Governments in America for the purpose of meeting their expenditures. Furthermore, a bankers' credit of £10,000,000 has been created against the deposit of collateral at the Bank of England, and additional credits are expected to be raised from time to time as the exchange situation demands. Yesterday the sight exchange from New York came at 4.68⅞, whereas a week previous it was 4.64⅞.

The Irving National Bank of New York notify us by cable that the following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on —		Nov. 18	Par is usually quoted	Discount %
London	...	$4 85½	4 86½ dollars for £1	2·6
,,	...	$4 69⅝		
,,	...	$4 63⅜		
Amsterdam	...	40·15	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	From 3·5
Berlin	...	59·25	25 cents for 4 marks	15·1
Copenhagen	...	25·80	26 cents for 1 krone	Prem. 0·2
Italy	...	sight 6.48l.	5.18 lire for $1	25·1
Paris	...	5.14tr.	5.18 francs for $1	14·1
Petrograd	...	23·50	23½ cents for 1 rouble	9·6
Mexico	...	Mex. dollars	100 U.S. for 1 Mex. $	20·0
Switzerland	...	5.18tr.	5.18¼ francs for $1	2·8
Vienna	...	24 Dec.	20¼ cents for 1 krone	23·6

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Nov. 18, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ...	2%	%
Nov. 20, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	5-5½%	,, ,, ...	4½	5½

MONEY IN INDIA.

EXCHANGE on London remains strong at 1s. 4 32nd., and no difficulty is experienced in disposing of the 50 lacs of Council drafts that continue to be offered from week to week. The demand for money in India is steadily increasing, and this week another

83 lacs of silver were withdrawn from the Currency Department. This reduces the amount to 3,472 lacs. A year ago the amount held was 3,150 lacs. Since the beginning of August the amount of silver withdrawn has been 535 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, November 17, are:—

Bills. Rate.	Tendered. Rs	Accepted. Rs.	%	Telegraphic Transfers Rate.	Tendered. Rs.	Accepted. Rs	%
1 4 5/16	94,970	94,970	100	1 4 1/2	16,00,000*	16,00,000	100
—	—	—	—	1 4	2,84,00,000*	29,05,030	10
—	—	—	—	1 4 5/16	4,00,000	4,00,000	100
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/8	10,00,000	—	—
Total ...	94,970	94,970	—	Total ...	3,14,00,000	49,05,030	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 3,14,94,970	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills. Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Telegraphic Transfers.	Rs.	Average	Minimum
Calcutta ...	60,000	1,4.031	1/4	Def.	12,61,000	1 4 009	1 4
Bombay ...	10,000	1,4.031	1 4	Def.	25,44,030	1 4 005	1 4
Madras ...	24,970	1,4.031	1 4	Def.	9,00,000	1 4 029	1 4
				Imm.	4,00,000	1,4 062	1 4 1/8

From **April 1** to **November 16** inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs. 8,40,86,061**, realising £5,607,465. Up to **November 17** of the financial year the total bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,30 56 861**, realising **£4,206,230.** The total sales for the week ended **November 16** amounted to **Rs. 50,50,000**, realising £ 37,395. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

SILVER.

The Silver market has been strong, and the price has risen from 24 7/16*d.* to 25*d.* This advance is due primarily to the smallness of the supply when the demand for silver coinage both here and on the Continent is unusually heavy. The special reason for the advance this week was the receipt of buying orders both from India and China when it became known that the stock of silver in London had been reduced to only £750,000, a much lower figure than was supposed.

	Nov. 12	13	15	16	17	18	19
London ...	24 7/16	24 7/16	24 1/2	24 9/16	24 9/16	24 5/8	25
India ...	Rs.62 7/8	62 7/8	62 7/8	62 7/8	63 1/8	63 1/2	63 3/4
Exchange ...	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32

Stock Exchange.

An official notice was published November 17 respecting the new French 5% Loan, an unstated amount of which will next week (on November 25) be offered for public subscription. The issue price of the 5% Loan is fixed at 88%.

In Parliament on November 17 the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave the approximate amounts of 4½% War Loan that had been issued in conversion of Consols, Annuities, and 3½% War Loan. The outcome of the conversions is tabulated below:—

	Previously at Issue £	Exchanged for New 4½% War Loan £	Approximate Amount Annuities £
Consols, 2½% ...	541,046,896	[illegible]	337,047,000
Annuities, 2½% ...	[illegible]	7,500,000	[illegible]
,, 2¾% ...	[illegible]	1,000,000	2,834,000
War Loan, 3½%	[illegible]	135,000,000	215,000,000
,, 4½%	[illegible]	—	[illegible]

Respecting last week's meeting of members of the Stock Exchange, and the appeal to the Committee, it is urged on us that the whole matter largely depends upon legality. On this point we dwelt in The Statist of November 6. May we point out that if the Committee were even to adopt a policy of readmission *en bloc* of existing naturalised members, it rests with the Stock Exchange as a body whether or not the members will deal with naturalised Englishmen, descended from German or Austrian families, who have given no pledges of honourable adherence to the obligations they are under as naturalised Englishmen. As to legal measures on the part of a member whose membership is continued and who fails to do business and throws up his membership, subsequently appeal to law against fellow members who would not deal with him, that is out of the question.

Members of the Stock Exchange are looking forward to early announcements of other modifications; first, it is considered probable that Treasury relaxations in regard to minimum prices will be made; and, secondly, it is hoped, and also expected, that there will be relaxation of the regulation whereby a vendor has to pass to the broker not only the name of the registered vendor-proprietor, but the number of the shares, and be modified to the giving of the name alone, and this will save an immense amount of trouble in respect of numbers having to be passed through perhaps three or four hands.

One active market in particular that has shown retention of strength, with an increasing volume of public interest, has been that for rubber shares. The price of the commodity has been steadily advancing, and this week a distinct further upward movement has taken place, the price for the standard quality of plantation rubber advancing to 3*s.* 0*d.* "spot." In the early part of the year the same quality was in the region of 2*s.* per lb. In subsequent pages we deal with the rubber position and give some information as to bases for estimating probabilities as to the future values of shares.

The volume of business in the general Stock markets has distinctly fallen off this week, and though there has been no decided movement in prices, changes have been irregular, with more instances of decline than of improvement. The trend of the market for American securities has alternated but little. On any decline buyers come forward both for Railway bonds and shares, and also industrials. The "munition" industrials have again fluctuated considerably, and New York appears to be doing a large business both in such securities and generally.

The banks, if they have not yet actually come to an agreement, contemplate the action, from the first week in December, of closing at three o'clock instead of four. If this action be taken, as is considered certain, it will be necessary for the revision of Stock Exchange hours, and simultaneously with the conferences of bankers there have been meetings of members of the Stock Exchange Committee, so that any action on the part of the bankers will be simultaneous with revision of Stock Exchange hours.

AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL BOOM.

ITS SHARE MARKET EFFECT.

Many manufacturers in this country, even though they have secured business that has taxed their works to the utmost and from which they have derived large profits, as well as less successful firms and undertakings, cast envious eyes at the large amount of business that, consequent on the War, has been passed over to American undertakings of kindred character. Exceptional profits on this side will doubtless be largely eaten into by the operation of the excess profits tax, but in the United States such eating away of profits has not to be faced. It is interesting in this connection to observe the very remarkable market movements that have occurred in the prices of American industrial securities that have benefited, more or less, directly from the War. It may be that in some directions the enormous rises that have occurred in prices of shares of companies since the beginning of the year have been due to absorptions of kindred businesses, giving greater ability on the part of the absorbing companies to take

large orders. But apart altogether from the various reasons, which in some cases may be of quite exceptional character, a record of price movements this year gives a clue to the extent of activity that has been witnessed in the American Stock markets, and New York in particular. In the schedule we give below we set out the lowest prices recorded, mostly early this year and chiefly in January, and contrast these with the highest quotations that have been touched quite recently, generally in October. In several directions a reaction from the best has occurred, more particularly in those descriptions where extravagant rises had occurred. But recovery after the reaction has of late been a feature of this group of American securities. Bethlehem Steel Ordinary, for instance, on October 22 recorded the highest price of 600, from which figure there was a reaction of about 30%, and the latest cabled advice records the price as 485. General Electrics have reacted about 9, while United States Steel Common and Preferred have well maintained their rise. General Motors have this week spurted, and touched a record price.

Prices per Cent.

	1915— Lowest Price	Highest, generally October
Allis-Chalmers	Jan. 7¼	49½
American Car and Foundry	Feb. 40	98
,, Locomotive	Mar. 19	74
,, Smelting and Refining ..	Jan. 56	98⅞
,, Steel Foundries	Mar. 24	74⅓
,, Woollen	Mar. 15¾	57⅞
Baldwin Locomotive	Mar. 26½	150⅝
Bethlehem Steel Ord.	Jan. 46¼	600
,, ,, Pref.	Jan. 91	184
Continental Can	Jan. 40½	127
Crucible Steel of America	Mar. 18¼	109⅞
General Electric	Mar. 138	185½
,, Motors	Jan. 82	432
Lackawanna Steel	Jan. 28	94¾
Maxwell Motor (Incomes)	Jan. 15½	70
Pressed Steel Car	Mar. 25	78¼
Railway Steel Spring	Mar. 19	54
Republic Iron and Steel	Feb. 19	56½
Studebaker Corporation	Jan. 35¾	195
United States Steel Com.	Feb. 38	87¾
,, ,, Pref.	Feb. 102	116
Westinghouse	Feb. 64	129

WESTERN RAILWAY OF HAVANA.

THIS Company has been able to work with much greater economy in the past year, for with an increase of only £1,307 in gross receipts the gain in profit comes out at £3,097. The saving in expenses was as much as £9,348, or nearly 6%. For many years regular 7% distributions have been forthcoming, and whilst repeating this rate in respect of the past twelve months the directors propose to transfer £10,000 to reserve and £5,000 to general renewals reserve, against nil a year ago. To enable these reserve augmentations to be made, however, the balance carried forward is lowered from £22,071 to £15,535. The Company depends for its income more upon tobacco than sugar, and as the crop is a poor one, and the trade generally adversely affected by the War, the earnings of the line are showing some falling off compared with a year ago. The fact, however, that the balance brought forward has been reduced by over £6,000 seems to indicate that the directors do not take a gloomy view of the outlook. Unfortunately, they say, there is little prospect of an immediate revival of the tobacco industry, large stocks remaining in the warehouses unsold, and the growers being reluctant to plant fresh crops with little or no prospect of being able to dispose of their produce at remunerative prices. On the other hand, an improvement in sugar traffic may be looked for. The electrification of that portion of the line between Havana and Rincón referred to in the last report, which was opened to traffic on June 15 1914, has, despite the depression prevailing in the western end of the island, shown good results, and has in a large measure assisted the Company in maintaining its position.

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Mining Topics.

THE uncertainty in connection with the Balkan situation has this week tended to depress prices in the general Stock markets, and sympathetically in the Mining department. Changes in prices of Rand shares have been unimportant, but the tendency as a rule has been dull, with here and there exceptions. Amongst the exceptions in the South African department must be noted Modder Deeps, and City Deeps have also held their ground well.

An item of news this week is that Mr. H. C. Boyd, representing the Central Mining group, has been elected to a seat on the boards of the Modderfontein Deep and the Geduld Companies. We believe this is the first time that a direct interest has been taken

by the Central Mining group in what is known as the Goetz group of companies. We have recently dealt with the position of both these mines, our observations upon Modder Deep appearing in our issue of October 16, and upon Geduld November 13.

The meeting held in Johannesburg to consider the Robinson Deep scheme, which was dealt with *in extenso* in THE STATIST of September 25, approved the carrying out of the acquisition of the Booysen's area.

South African advices refer to leaders of the diamond industry taking steps to bring about a partial resumption of operations in the diamond industry. Apparently this step is contemplated to commence from the beginning of the new year, and a resumption of work will be effected at one of the De Beers four mines, the Jagersfontein, and possibly also the Premier. About simultaneously to the receipt of cabled advices in this country to the above effect the market for diamond shares experienced a reaction, it perhaps occurring sympathetically with the general trend caused by the discomforts of the War and political situation.

An exceptionally strong department has been that for copper shares, due to the steady appreciation of late in the price of the metal, and in respect of American shares reiterated rumours of a merger or mergers of United States controlled copper companies. We have previously referred to these rumours, but nothing is, as yet, definitely ascertainable as to what is really intended, although we note that rumoured amalgamation arrangements are now supposed to include the Braden Company, whose property is situated in Chili. Rio Tintos, sympathetically with the rise in American shares, have been distinctly in request, and have improved from a level of about 54 to nearly 58. New York and also Boston have fanned the speculative fever that exists on the other side of the Atlantic. Anacondas have been in strong demand, and have been steadily rising for some time past. Of course, since its incorporation of the old Amalgamated Company, the Anaconda has become the premier copper security of the world. The group of mines which forms the "Anaconda" has in the past produced more copper annually than any other mining corporation.

Rhodesian and West African shares have been somewhat out in the cold this week, and prices have reacted, more especially in Rhodesian shares. Chartered, which lately appreciated to near to 11*s.*, have had a set-back to under 10*s.* The old-time disposition to speculate in Chartered shares seems temporarily abandoned, and, indeed, as to Rhodesian gold mining shares, there is absolute indifference on the part of the speculative plunger as to what may be shown in the monthly crushing results.

In the tin section some benefit has accrued from the movement of price of the metal, in which for some time past there has been a rising tendency. Respecting our remarks upon the Malayan Tin Dredging Company last week, the Company has declared a dividend of 1*s.* per share, payable on the 30th inst. Little attention has been given to Broken Hill shares of late, and apropos of the production of these companies, the prices of lead and spelter included in the following contrast of metal prices will be found interesting:—

	Now	A Week Ago	A Month Ago
	£	£	£
Copper	79⅞	77½	72½
Lead	27	26¼	24
Tin	174⅜	172⅝	150½
Spelter (spot and forward)	90—82	90—84	68—59

Mount Lyell.—Cable advice received this week reports that a cross-cut at the 1,200-foot level of the North Mount Lyell mine has traversed 57 feet of continuously rich ore—a significant piece of news inasmuch as the level in question is the lowest in the mine, and was commenced this year.

"JOHNNIES" GROUP.

THE following abridged information is excerpted from the quarterly reports for September just to hand:—

CONSOLIDATED LANGLAAGTE.—The total number of coloured labourers employed has increased from 3,046 at June 30 to 3,905 at September 30. At the west shaft the South Reef has been intersected at the 10th level, and driving on reef begun. At the point of intersection the reef showed a value of 15.5 dwt. over 26.5 inches. The development throughout the mine continues to expose reef of satisfactory value.

GOVERNMENT AREAS.—The development of the mine continues to expose ore of good value, and the payable reserves were increased during the quarter by 111,400 tons. [At June 30 the pay reserves were 2,256,349 milling tons.] In addition to the ordinary development, a considerable amount of work is being carried out underground in order to prepare the mine for the increased reduction plant which is now on order. The excavations for the additional plant are nearing completion, and good progress has been made with the foundations. Certain portions of the plant have already been shipped, and will shortly be arriving on the property.

NEW UNIFIED.—Steady progress is being made with the development of the South Reef, and some encouraging values have been exposed. Over 50% of the ore mined was drawn from the Main Reef, thus conserving the richer Main Reef Leader and South Reef. An additional tube was put to work during the quarter, making two tubes and 60 stamps. The mill is being reconditioned, which will take some three or four months, during which working costs will be somewhat above the normal figure. When completed, the capacity of the reduction plant will be somewhat increased.

VAN RYN DEEP.—The main haulage north-east from 7th level east has attained a length of 747 feet. This haulage is rendering available for stoping a large area of ground which has been proved by winzes to contain ore of exceptionally good value. The haulage will connect with 5th level at a point about 1,000 feet from the eastern boundary of the mine. The driving of the 5th level east has been resumed, and has exposed reef of good value, and of width considerably above the average stoping width of mine. At the west shaft improved values have been exposed in the No. 1 winze from 5th level west, and the 7th level is being driven in ore of high grade.

BRAKPAN MINES.

THE original owner of farm Brakpan (166), in the Eastern Rand, was the Transvaal Coal Trust, which after preliminary bore tests disposed of the gold rights over the all-reef-bearing farm, comprising 4,056 acres, to the Brakpan Mines, Limited, which was formed in February 1903 with a capital of £660,000. The new owners continued boring and selected an initial portion of the total farm for its mynpacht, a vergunning, &c., mining area. About two years later it decided, and obtained the consent of the Government, to modify its mining area. About the same time, that is in 1905, it bought additional adjoining mining areas immediately to the north of its mynpacht ground. The position of its mining claims is to the south of the Van Ryn Deep, to the west of the Government Areas ground, and to the east of the Apex Mines, now belonging to the New Kleinfontein Company. The plan herewith gives the area of the mynpacht claims only.

The present mining area of the Brakpan consists of 1,150.45 claims, and the Company also possesses gold rights in respect of the remainder of the farm, which was proclaimed a gold field in 1907. In the ordinary way the Company would be entitled to receive one-half the mining dues payable to the Government for mining rights, but in case some lease arrangement should be come to by the Government a modification of terms may be arranged.

Although the Company had not issued all of its authorised £660,000 of capital at the time, in 1905, it obtained additional area, and elected in that year to increase its capital to £750,000. The initial issue of shares to vendors, plus shares issued as consideration for the additional ground taken up, absorbed 328,514 shares. For working capital 121,486 £1 shares were issued at various premiums, and the financial history of the Company and the total amounts

that have been authorised and expended by the Company are as given below:—

On formation of Company, February 1903, capital fixed at £660,000, in £1 shares.

	Shares	
To vendors	260,000	Original area.
„ „ (1905)	68,514	Additional area.
Total	328,514	
1903. Working capital ...	250,000	@ 40/- per share.
1905, Feb.: Option shares...§	50,000	@ 50/- „

May 1905, capital increased to authorised £750,000.

1909. Issued	60,000	@ 50/- per share.
„ Option exercised ...	15,000	@ 55/- „
1910. „ „ ...	15,000	@ 60/- „
„ Final issue	31,486	@ 55/- „
	750,000	

The cash resources obtained through share issues, together with interest, &c., receipts and profits applied to capital, may be put at:—

	£
Par value of shares issued	421,486
Plus premiums	526,350
Also interest, &c., receipts, say	130,898
Profits applied to capital outlay	158,721
	1,237,455

After relocation of its mynpacht shaft sinking was commenced. There are two shafts, No. 1 to the north and No. 2 some 4,400 feet to the south. In the No. 1 shaft reef was met with, September 1907, at a depth of 3,098 feet. Apparently this was in disturbed ground, for the showings were very poor—2¼ dwt. over a width of 24.5 inches. By underground boring at No. 1 shaft a dyke was passed through and reef again picked up of much better quality, showing 9.22 dwt. over 34.3 inches. In July 1908 shaft No. 2 intersected reef at a depth of 3,695 feet showing 16.38 dwt. over a width of 81,75 inches.

These two shafts are connected by an incline, and the various levels are driven from east and west. The borings showed that the reef is sometimes not in one compact mass; as, for instance, in Bore B to the east the intersection by the bore, May 1903, at a depth of 3,360 feet indicated 3¾ inches in Leader, value 36½ dwt., next 32 inches of barren quartzite, and then a further 36 inches of reef averaging 6½ dwt.

The Company steadily pressed on with development work and made early preparations for the erection of reduction plant of most modern pattern. Mill, tubes, cyanide appliances, &c., are located in the region of the No. 2 or southern shaft. The initial idea was to put up a mill of 160 stamps with room enough for a further 40 stamps. After early showings the decision was come to to add 40 stamps to the 160, but, experiencing signs of existence of poor zones, the mill ordered was disposed of and the idea of enlargement of plant abandoned. Before dealing with results since milling commenced in the middle of 1911 we may be permitted to present the features of the growth of ore reserves and the showings of developments since the beginning of 1912.

The pay-ore reserves prior to 1914 were calculated over assumed stoping widths to average 61 inches. For 1914 the width was increased to 62 inches. The reserves at December 31 have been reported as under:—

	Payable		Unpayable	
	Tons	Value s. d.	Tons	Value s. d.
1909	687,645	26 1	255,803	8 0
1910	1,720,181	27 9	746,965	8 10
1911	1,925,346	28 7	1,224,014	8 10
1912	2,457,000	28 7	1,806,000	9 7
1913	2,242,000	28 6	2,402,000	10 3
1914	2,490,000	28 7	5,211,000	9 9

It will be noted from the above that the accumulated quantity of unpayable ore is growing rapidly. It has to be recognised it is an *accumulation*, and though the aggregate of 5,211,000 tons termed "unpayable" had but a value of 2.3 dwt., an average that is quite unpayable, some of the ore above the average of the low grade, when it is in close juxtaposition to good-grade deposit, may be passed through the mill and be profitably used.

The development showings vary considerably, and the percentage of payable showings is such that a large allowance must be made in calculations as to the life of the property.

	Total Footage Sampled	Payable Footage on Reef	Payable Shoots: Percentage of Total	Payable Shoots: Average Width Inches	Payable Shoots: Average Value s. d.	Stulling. Inches
1912	12,619	7,895	63	39.6	50 2	1,928
1913	15,793	6,951	44	36.8	47 7	1,758
1914	17,515	6,945	40	41.5	55 8	2,502
1915.						
March qr. ...	4,260	2,175	50	48	70 0	2,888
June qr.	4,685	2,620	57	54.2	102 5	3,506
Sept. qr.	4,425	2,115	47	27.11	95 2	2,578

Though the mill itself has not been so far used to full stamping power, it is one of 160 stamps. An average of 10 tubes is now being used.

Results since start, June 3, 1911, have been reported as under:—

Years Dec. 31 Sps. Period 1911	Tons Sold	Mille. mg %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per Ton £	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per Ton £	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per Ton £	Price end of Period
(7 mos.) 100	241,204	14¼	332,237	27/6	221,260	18/4	110,977	9/2	25/-
1912 ... 135av.	687,525	15¼	996,458	31/2	552,341	17/4	444,117	13/11	12
1913 ...130av.	615,269	15¼	865,314	28/3	574,524	18/9	290,790	9/6	2 16
1914 ...140av.	621,573	13¾	859,117	27/7	575,661	18/6	283,456	9/1	—
1915.									
Mar. qr. 150	167,910	14¼	232,802	27/8	155,539	18/6	77,263	9/2	2 8
June qr. 150	181,010	10	246,856	27/3	160,002	17/8	86,854	9/7	2 15
Sept. qr. 140	190,000	12	265,625	27/11	169,608	17/10	96,015	10/1	3 1
Oct. ... —	64,000	—	90,038	28/1	56,927	17/9	33,111	10/4	3 2

The contrast of results of the last two years is set out below:—

Year to Dec. 31	1914	£	Per Ton	1915	£	Per Ton
Gross revenue	(621,573 tons)	859,117	27/7	(613,269 tons)	865,315	28/3
Expenses		575,661	18/6		574,524	18/9
Mine profit		283,456	9/1		290,791	9/6
Sundry revenue...		3,026			14,909	
		286,482			305,700	
Capital account & Depreciation	£ 4,260			£ 10,543		
Develop.Susp. a/c	11,683			14,851		
Profit, &c., taxes	25,873			26,770		
Divs. June (12½%)	93,750			(20%) 150,000		
„ Dec. (17½%)	131,250			(12½%) 93,750		
		266,816			295,914	
Surplus		19,666			9,786	
Balance brought forward ...		60,876			51,090	
Balance carried forward ...		80,542			60,876	

To the foregoing actual figures we may add an estimate of the 1915 results, based on ten months actual and the final two months estimated. The calculation on conservative bases is as under:—

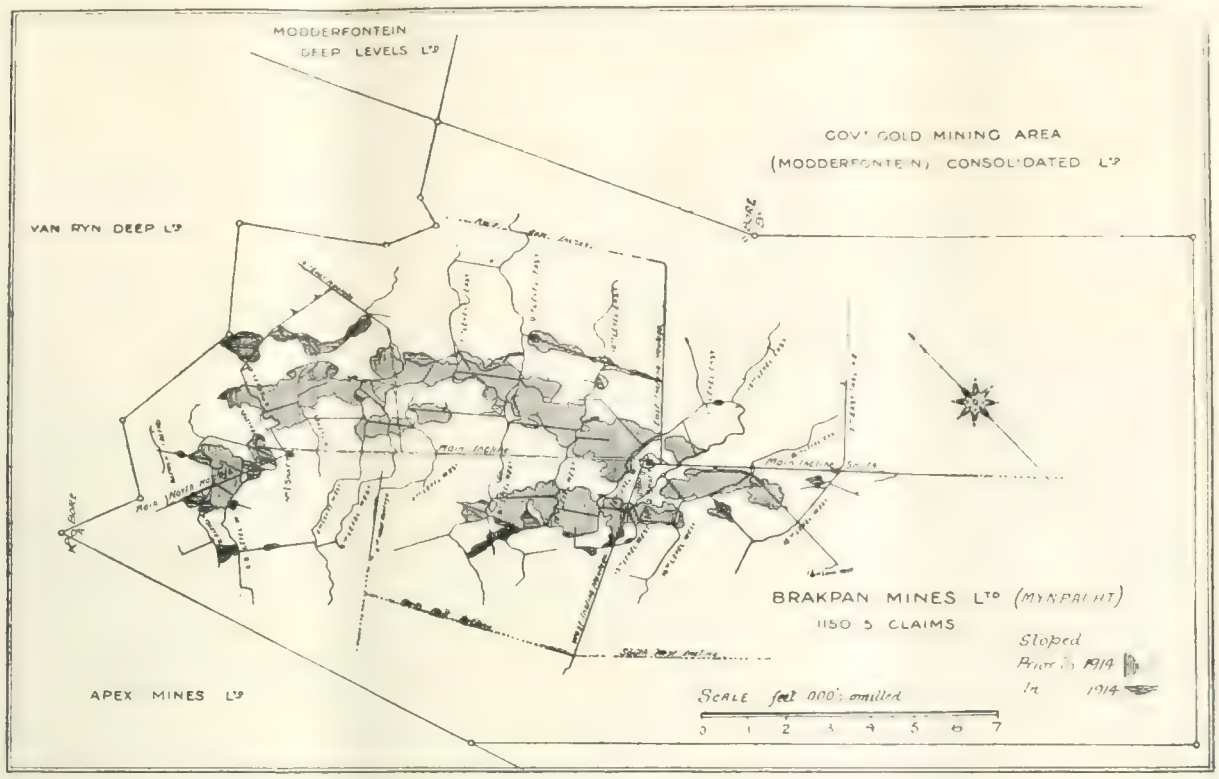
Estimate for **1915.**

	£	Per Ton
Gross revenue	(782,000 tons) 1,017,000	27 9
Expenses	656,000	17 11
Mine profit	359,000	9 10
Sundry revenue	3,000	
	362,000	
Depreciation, &c.	£6,000	
Taxes	36,000	
	42,000	
Net profit for appropriation	320,000	
Interim dividend June 1915, 17½% ...	131,250	
Final „ Dec. 1915, 22½% ...	168,750	
	300,000	
Surplus	20,000	

As a policy of mill extension has been abandoned, no setting aside of profit to capital purposes requires to be allowed for.

The General Manager's report as to 1914 operations set out that the amount of ore hoisted was, in round figures, 706,000 tons, and he stated "the tonnage mined represents an extent of area equivaelnt to 20.78 claims."

Taken by itself this statement looks as if the contents of the area were equal to about 34,000 mine tons per claim, or, making an allowance of 20% for sorting, &c., approximately 27,200 mill tons per claim. Of the quantity hoisted the Consulting Engineer reported that 72.4% had been derived from the payable reserve, as against 77.4% during 1913. This point has to be borne in mind, also that the proportion of pay ore of the total footage sampled in 1914 was



only 40%; in 1912 it had been 63%. In calculations that persons interested in the Company's property might make the basis of applying the quantity hoisted to the claim area exhausted would be entirely fallacious. We still think that the calculation we put forward in our "Mines of Africa" as to the pay contents of the mine, though very conjectural, is, in the circumstances, based on reasonable lines. In such calculation we based what we have termed "guess-work" on assumption of an 8 degrees dip and stoping width of 61 inches, and after allowing 15% for sorting we estimated the net mill tons per claim at 24,900 tons. But then we further safeguarded the calculation by roughly assuming that only about 50% of the claims contain payable reef. The total area of the Company's mine is 1,150 claims. If we apply 24,000 mill tons only to, say, 580 claims the initial quantity contained in the property works out as:—

	Mill Tons
580 net claims × 24,000 mill tons per claim...	13,920,000
Used to December 31, 1914	2,110,000
Remaining at January 1, 1915	11,810,000

We would, however, call attention to a statement of the Chairman at a meeting of the Company, held May 25 in Johannesburg, as to the ore contents of the 441 claims to end of 1914 opened upon:—

> "You will, therefore, be interested to hear the result of a recent calculation, which indicates that, on the basis of present working conditions, an average of about 10,000 mill tons of profitable ore per claim will ultimately be extracted from the 441 claims so far opened."

In above calculation we deduct approximately half of the total 1,150 claims, and in respect of remaining 580 claims we estimate the contents as 24,000 mill tons. Or, in other words, whereas the Chairman referred to a calculation of 10,000 mill tons per claim on a developed area of 441 claims, we refer to 24,000 tons per claim on half the total mining area of the Company proving payable. Putting the matter in another way, our calculation is 12,000 mill tons, compared with the Chairman's 10,000 tons per total claim. Taking only 10,000 payable mill tons per claim the outcome would be:—

	Mill Tons
Total area, 1,150 claims × 10,000 tons	11,500,000
Used to December 31, 1914	2,110,000
Remaining at January 1, 1915	9,390,000

Applying continuance of present rate of output of 730,000 tons a year to the quantity remaining to be mined, it would mean, on our figures, approximately 16 years' life, and on the 10,000 net pay tons per claim the Chairman gave a life of 13 years.

The issued capital of the Company is £750,000, in £1 shares, and the present price of the shares is about $3\frac{3}{8}$.

Assuming 40% annual distributions for a life of 16 years, and that the investor desires 10% income, and sets aside any excess of dividend and invests it at 5% for redemption of capital at end of life, the present value of the share works out about $2\frac{13}{16}$.

Should the life be 13 years the same basis of calculation shows a present value of about $2\frac{5}{8}$.

MESSINA (TRANSVAAL) DEVELOPMENT.

Last year's report disclosed that the financial position of this copper-mining undertaking had been greatly jeopardised by the administration controlling the Company up to the beginning of June 1914; but although a very bad financial condition had been created, it was believed that by the sacrifice of about a year's profit the damage could be remedied. This expectation has been borne out by events. Unfortunately, however, it would appear that the maladministration of the old *régime* was not confined to misdirection of the Company's finances, for the new directors' annual report for the year to June 30, 1915, or rather the technical reports accompanying it, disclose a greatly impaired mining position. Indeed, the report dated August 26, 1915, made by Mr. A. F. Kuehn, a member of the Technical Committee, reveals a very weak condition of the mine. He states that the mine "is suffering from a past over-production"; but



a far more serious circumstance than this is the fact that the ore reserves in the course of a year have been cut in half, and now represent less than two years' supply for the mill capacity. At the meeting of the Company a year ago the new Chairman said: "For the moment development is being curtailed. . . We have come to the conclusion that it is more important to have cash at the present time than to maintain or increase our ore reserves, and you must not think the mine is coming to an end should, at this time next year, the ore reserves be reduced; you must regard the phenomenon, should it occur, as part of a deliberate policy adopted at a time when affairs throughout the world are abnormal and when money is scarce." In view of this one would not have been at all surprised if the ore reserves had been depleted to the extent of the tonnage mined during the year; but we have a decline in the tonnage of the reserves that far exceeds the quantity of ore taken out of the mine, and, in addition, the average value of the ore reserves has declined considerably. The reports now issued adopt throughout the "long" ton of 2,240 lb., whereas previously "short" tons of 2,000 lb. were used. This makes comparison with the past difficult. However, in the following table, showing the ore reserve estimates of the last five years, we have turned the short tons into long tons so as to give a true contarast with the present position.

Ore Reserves.

At June 30	Proved		Probable		Total Proved and Probable	
	Ore Long Tons	Contents Value	Ore Long Tons	Contents Value	Ore Long Tons	Contents Value
1911*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1912*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1913*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1914*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1915†	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* [illegible]

† Estimate of ore reserves before allowance for sorting (18% in 1914-15).

‡ [illegible]

The position in reality is more unsatisfactory than shown in the above table, for the ore reserve estimate of June 30, 1915, includes waste that will be sorted out after mining, whereas previous estimates did not include such waste. The General Manager's report states that 20% must be deducted from the latest tonnage estimate to arrive at a true basis of comparison. That is to say, the net milling ore reserves at June 30, 1915, were estimated to be 140,000 tons, in comparison with 348,210 tons a year previously—a difference of no less than 208,000 tons. How is this accounted for? The General Manager's report states that the unsorted ore mined in the year to June 30, 1915, was 89,505 tons, averaging 7.3% copper, and, on the other hand, 31,900 tons of ore assaying 4.8% copper were developed, which means that the ore reserves should have been depleted during the year by about 56,600 tons of unsorted ore, equal to 45,300 tons of milling ore. Actually, as we have shown, the depletion in the estimated reserves amounts to 208,000 tons. Presumably, then, the ore reserves estimate of June 30, 1914, had been overstated to the extent of about 162,000 tons, or by nearly 50%—a most disquieting disclosure.

The amount of development work done during the year to June 30, 1915, was small owing to the necessity to curtail expenditure. The footage in ore was only 348 feet, the average value being 7.7% copper over 42 inches width. This compares with past disclosures as under:—

Year to [illegible]	[illegible] ft.	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	1,533	[illegible]	60
[illegible]	1,559	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	440	30
[illegible]	[illegible]	48	42

We have dealt with the mining position first because the state of affairs disclosed in the technical reports will be the governing factor affecting the milling results of the future.

For the past year to June 30, 1915, thanks to the high price realised for the copper output, a profit was earned sufficient to enable the financial position of the Company to be greatly strengthened. The quantity of ore milled for the twelve months amounted to 74,565 tons, against 52,511 tons in the previous year, and the result was that the copper contents of the concentrates and matte produced in the past year rose to 5,330 tons in comparison with 4,007 tons in 1913-14. The progress of producing operations in the past five years is shown below, the tons given being long tons in all cases:—

Year to June 30	Ore Treated Tons	Av. Grade Copper %	Concentrates Produced Long Tons	Concentrates Produced Av. Assay %	Matte Produced Long Tons	Matte Produced Av. Assay %	Total Copper Contents Yield per Ton Long Tons Treated Tons	Total Copper Contents Yield per Ton Long Tons Treated %
1911 ..	19,585	10·95	2,235	50·8	—	—	113½	6·8
1912 ...	9,258	9·0	1,037½	49·8	—	—	516¾	5·6
1913 ..	20,179	10·14	3,126	43·8	—	—	1,475	7·3
1914 .	52,511	8·5	8,900	40·7	668¾	58·0	4,007	7·6
1915 .	74,564	-	12,117½	39·9	872	57·0	5,330	7·1

The General Manager's report states that the extraction obtained in the past year showed considerable improvement, so that the decline in the yield of copper per ton of ore treated does not completely reflect the lower value of the ore mined. Nevertheless, from the figures we have previously given of ore reserves it will be noted that the average copper contents of the ore mined were considerably above the average value both of the ore developed in the year and of the ore reserves. Consequently, a further reduction of the grade of the ore milled is to be expected, though further improvement in extraction may slightly offset the effect on output.

As regards earnings and profits, the price realised per ton of copper was about £73½ in the past year, against £68⅝ in the preceding twelve months, a factor which, combined with the larger output, materially contributed to the expansion of revenue. In addition, working costs, including 5*s.* per ton milled for development, and a large sum for depreciation and other charges, were reduced to 53*s.* 5*d.* in the past year, against 60*s.* 6*d.* in 1913-14. As a result of the larger output, higher price of copper, and reduced working costs, the working profit of the past year increased to £130,526, in contrast with £60,690 in the previous twelve months:—

Year to June 30	Value of Output	Total Working Costs		Working Profit		Price of Copper per cent. of Period
	£	£	*s. d.*	£	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
1911....	57,050	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	25 0
1912....	29,761	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	18 3
1913....	93,786	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	30 0
1914...	219,752	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	15 0
1915	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14 3

* [illegible]

† [illegible]

‡ Loss. (*a*) Price of old £1 shares on basis of present 5*s.* shares.

Of the past year's profit, £15,000 was absorbed by Debenture interest and £25,468 went for income and profits tax. The balance of £90,058 has been used for the purpose of strengthening the financial position, £58,000 being written off for loss on loan and deposit accounts, £23,304 on account of shaft sinking and railway outlays, and £8,753 being carried forward. In addition, against only £8,053 expended on development, £20,681 was written off out of earnings. The balance sheet at June 30, 1915, after being thus strengthened, showed liquid resources as under:—

	£	£
[illegible]		169,662
[illegible]		3,334
		172,996
[illegible]	£6,819	
[illegible]	109,173	
[illegible]	26,681	
		142,673
Surplus		30,323

Of course, the above financial position is none too strong, as the financing of the annual output until its sale necessitates the employment of considerable resources. Furthermore, Mr. Kuehn considers the expenditure of £17,450 on capital account to be necessary for attainment of a maximum production and efficient practice. Then the mining position necessi-

tates the adoption of a vigorous development policy and the raising of the development redemption allowance to about 10*s.* per ton of ore milled, providing, say, £50,000 per annum. This will have to come out of profits, as the development and shaft sinking accounts in the balance sheet already figure for £78,706, representing as much as 11*s.* 3*d.* per ton of the milling ore reserves. Finally, Debenture redemption at the rate of £35,000 per annum commences from July 1, 1916.

As regards the future, Mr. Kuehn estimates that by being "forced" the mine can produce 92,400 tons of 6.2% copper, against 89,500 tons of 7.3% copper in the year to June 30 last. The profit that may be made depends upon the price realised for the metal, but in any case the heavy development and capital charges will be a severe handicap. Having regard to the ore reserve position and the development results, it is not surprising to find that Mr. Kuehn's conclusion is not over optimistic. He says:

> "Barring the possible find of Bonanza shoots, I look upon the undertaking as a producer of from 90,000 to 95,000 tons of ore per year for a period of eighteen months to two years, and thereafter, probably, a smaller annual rate."

The Company has an outstanding 6% Debenture debt of £250,000, the redemption of which at the rate of £35,000 per annum commences next year, and its issued capital is £181,788, in 5*s.* shares. The market price of these shares is 12*s.* 6*d.*, denoting a premium of 150%, which does not appear to be justified by the present condition of the mine.

Bantjes.—Recent developments are shown below:

	Main Reef Leader: Distance Exposed Ft.	Width In.	Assay	South Reef: Distance Exposed Ft.	Width In.	Assay
1914	1,[illegible]	2	[illegible]	2,540	13	79 10
1915, Mar. qr....	575	20	42 [illegible]	1,338	14	51 8
,, June qr....	835	14	46 7	1,245	10	71 5
,, Sept. qr....	1,165	15	[illegible]	1,115	14	58 5

The development showings and working results have indicated that this Company is experiencing great discomfort, and is barely able to secure a profit. The pay reserves are being eaten into very considerably, the new quantities brought into sight being much less than those mined. In the main, developments in the past have been in respect of South Reef, but this policy of attacking the South Reef is to be modified, and steps are being taken to increase the amount of development effected on the Leader. An arrangement has been come to with the Main Reef West Company, whose property is to the east of the Bantjes, to drive on to the Leader in the Bantjes region at an horizon some five or six levels below the level at present attained in the Bantjes ground. In the circumstances, with a view to conserving resources, the sinking of the main shaft is discontinued. All expenses have been cut down to a minimum, and even the directors' fees have been reduced to one-half.

ABOSSO.

THANKS entirely to a large increase in the quantity of ore milled, the working profit earned by this West African gold mine for the year ended June 30, 1915, rose to £33,138, in comparison with £27,105 for the previous year. The grade of the ore milled, which has fallen steadily for the past six or seven years, reached only 34*s.* per ton, against 34*s.* 8*d.* in the previous twelve months. As regards working expenses, economies introduced were more than offset by increased charges due to the War, the total cost figure, including development redemption, amounting to 28*s.* for the past year, against 27*s.* 9*d.* in 1913-14. Strictly speaking, the rise in working costs was greater than this, for while a sum of £22,275, or 4*s.* 6*d.* per ton milled, was debited to working costs, the actual expenditure on development for the year amounted to £28,323, the difference of £6,048 being added to the balance-sheet item representing mine development, which now stands at £56,735, equal to 4*s.* 2*d.* per ton of ore reserves. In 1913-14 development outlay exceeded the redemption allowance by £4,800, so that in the two years nearly £11,000 of development expenditure which should have been debited against earnings has been charged to capital account.

The total profit of the past year, swelled by a substantial addition to sundry revenue through treatment of a large quantity of ore for the Cinnamon Bippo Company, amounted to £40,522, against £31,707 in the previous year. After writing off about £2,000 less for depreciation, and providing a slightly larger sum for taxes, the net profit of 1914-15 was £23,918, against £13,204 in 1913-14. Out of the past year's profit a dividend of 5% on the capital of £400,000 is declared, against nil for the previous year, and the carry-forward is increased from £26,702 to £30,623. Only a small portion of the carry-forward is represented by cash, however, as the surplus liquid assets at June 30, 1915, amounted to only £23,809, of which £20,000 represents the sum required to pay the dividend. Of course, since the close of the year four months' profits have been earned.

Years ended June 30	1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £	1910 £
Gold production	[illegible]	[illegible]	184,737	[illegible]	175,617	174,854
Working costs ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	152,165	126,297	114,084	160,461
Working profit ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14,393
Sundry receipts	7,384	4,602	96	199	3,789	6,793
[illegible]	26,702	13,498	21,034	4,351	22,194	31,203
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	73,822	50,106	42,516	82,399
Allocations:—						
Depreciation, &c., written off ...	[illegible]	16,397	17,657	[illegible]	15,300	14,311
Taxes	[illegible]	2,106	2,566	3,329	2,865	5,894
Dividend paid ...	[illegible] (5%)	[illegible]	40,000	[illegible]	20,000	40,000
Carried forward	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21,034	4,351	22,194
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tons milled ...	107,240	88,381	104,400	89,322	68,746	[illegible]
Yield per ton	[illegible]	[illegible]	35*s.* 3*d.*	[illegible]	39*s.* 5*d.*	45*s.*
Assay extraction	—	[illegible]	88.4%	90.1%	—	—
Costs per ton ...	28*s.*	27*s.* 9*d.*	[illegible]	26*s.* 8*d.*	34*s.* 7*d.*	[illegible]
Profit per ton ...	6*s.*	6*s.* 11*d.*	10*s.* 0*d.*	10*s.* 3*d.*	4*s.* 10*d.*	11*s.* 5*d.*
Ore reserves (tons)	270,700	270,720	266,401	298,683	299,400	284,028*
Value per ton ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Issued capital ...	£400,000	£400,000	£400,000	£400,000	£400,000	£400,000
[illegible] of [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* Ore reserves at February 28, 1911.
(*a*) Average assay value. (*b*) Average mill-head value.

The falling-off in the value of the ore reserves shown above is due to the fact that the upper levels are becoming exhausted, while the bottom levels, generally speaking, have opened up lower values. The future appears to depend greatly upon how the new West reef opens up in the main shaft section. So far this reef has given distinctly patchy values, but the area in which it has been explored has been of disturbed character. The ore reserves, amounting to 270,000 tons, represent about 2½ years' supply for the mill; but of the quantity only 163,740 tons, value 33*s.* 6*d.* per ton, is classed as proven ore, the remainder being split up into 76,660 tons partially developed, value 32*s.* per ton, and 28,300 tons in supporting pillars, value 35*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

The £1 shares at their present price of under 10*s.* are at a discount of 50%, but even so they are too speculative to be recommended.

City Deep.—Quarterly developments below:—

Period	Main Reef Leader: Distance [illegible]	Width [illegible]	Assay	South Reef: Value
1914	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1915.				
Mar. qr. ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	77 8	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	105 10	[illegible]
Sept. qr.	[illegible]	27	92 1[illegible]	2[illegible] 6

The tonnage milled in the September quarter was the largest yet recorded.

[illegible] results of individual Rand Companies will be found on page 576.

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, November 17, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£71,862,510	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	53,412,510
	£71,862,510		£71,862,510

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,048
Rest	3,235,272	Other Securities	101,761,023
Public Deposits	50,181,683	Notes	38,848,560
Other Deposits	91,676,189	Gold and Silver Coin	157,157
Seven-day and other Bills	15,694		
	£159,661,838		£159,661,838

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	28.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	28.9	40·03	4	4½
1915.										
Oct. 13	32.5	59.9	70.8	97.9	25.9	114.7	45.8	27·16	5	4⅝
— 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	96.6	44.7	30·97	—	4 7/16
— 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.6	41.9	30·01	—	4¼
Nov. 3	33.4	56.6	45.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	—	4⅜
— 10	33.2	55.3	43.9	90.4	18.9	97.6	40.6	29·13	—	4⅜
— 17	33.0	53.8	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	—	5½

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 6%; Aug 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued £	Notes Cancelled £	Notes Outstanding £	Gold Coin & Bullion £	Ratio of Gold to Notes %
Total to Oct. 20 ...	200,544,005	121,148,741	79,315,274	28,500,000	35·9
Week to „ 27 ...	6,055,660	3,519,393	81,851,541	28,500,000	34·8
„ Nov. 3 ..	6,308,543	3,304,144	84,855,940	28,500,000	33.5
„ „ 10 ..	6,456,447	3,318,998	87,690,389	28,500,000	32·5
„ „ 17 ..	4,704,238	3,843,361	82,631,276	28,500,000	34·5

II.—Balance Sheet, November 17, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	61,254,163	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	21,377,113	Other Bankers	189,000
Certificates outstanding ..	5,920,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	446,969	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	44,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ..	15,439,683
Total ...	88,998,246	Total	88,998,246

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Nov. 11, Thursday...	Nil.	1,035,000 sovs. U.S. 300,000 Spain
„ 12, Friday ...	12,000 bars.	960,000 sovs. U.S. 450,000 Spain. 180,000 S. America. 34,000 Canada 50,000 Switzerland
„ 13, Saturday ...	Nil.	
„ 15, Monday ...	Nil.	580,000 sovs. U.S. 200,000 Continent.
„ 16, Tuesday ...	Nil.	670,000 sovs. U.S.
„ 17, Wednesday	684,000 bars. 100,000 Egypt.†	Nil.
Total for week ...	796 000	4,459,000
Net aggregate ...	[3,663,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Nov. 18, Thursday ...	Nil.	400,000 Spain. 170,000 S. America. 57,000 Canada 20,000 U S. 25,000 Straits.*
„ 19, Friday	...100,000 Foreign coin.	730,000 U.S. 100,000 Japan. 50,000 Switzerland.*

* Set aside. † Released.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£28.6	£28.3	£28.4	£35.3	£33.0
Public Deposits	12.6	13 9	10.6	16.3	50.2
Other Deposits	40.7	40.6	38.2	147.3	91.7
Government Securities	17.0	13.0	11.8	18.6	18.9
Other Securities	31 8	31.7	28.0	107 1	101.7
Reserve	22.4	27 6	26.9	55.7	39,0
Ratio to Liabilities	41 ½ %	50·67%	54·97%	34·04%	27·49%
Bullion (both Departments)	32,5	37.5	36,8	72.6	53,6
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4%	4 7/8 %	4 5/8·5%	2 ⅞ %	5 1/16 %
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 24	25 32	25 10	27 70½
Hamburg 8 days	20 44	20 50	20 51	—	—
New York 60 days	4 83	4 80·65	4 81·15	4 85	4 65⅞
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1 4	1/4 7/8	1 4 7/8	1 3 31/32	1/4 31/32
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88⅞	75⅞	72¾	68¼	65
French Rente 3 % Money	99 85	85 85	86 90	74 00	65 10
Silver, London spot oz	-/23 7/16	-/23¼	-/26 7/8	- 22½	-/25
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	28 3	32 10	30 1	39/8	52 6
Cotton, Mid Upland lb	-/5·81	-/6·92	-/7·41	-/4·42	-/6·96
Iron Scotch pig ton	58 3	74 0	55/11½	56 0	76 6

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.		BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.	
Oct. 13, 1915	Pesos 234,165,870	Sept. 25 to Oct. 16, 1915	£5,093,284
Oct. 6, 1915	234,165,638	Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321	Dec. 31 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114	Dec. 31 1913	18,400,561
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800	Feb. 19 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation	Deposits
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,187	£788	£8,883	£47
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	979
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,860	1,215
Oct. 31, 1914 ...	3,835	177	4,012	7,673	1,375	12,454	234
Oct. 31, 1913 ...	—	—	4,372	5,078	908	8,575	111

FRANCE.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Bills.	Circulation	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Nov. 4, 1915...	£190,188	£14,495	£204,683	£12,981	£563,142	£2,081	£100,835
Nov. 11, 1915...	191,291	14,469	205,740	10,929	567,527	2,367	99,899
Nov. 18 1915...	192,285	14,489	206,774	11,292	568,432	2,261	104,676
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	267,327	15,302	37,930
Nov. 20, 1913...	141,043	25,614	166,657	58,024	228,810	11,823	25,950

GERMANY.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23,'14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,188
Nov. 6,'15...	121,824	1,720	123,344	48,681	215,046	295,501	78,727
Nov. 15,'15...	121,660	1,820	123,480	102,330	216,821	291,647	77,494
Nov. 14,'14...	95,799	2,014	97,813	39,163	140,029	203,000	67,950
Nov. 15,'13...	61,806	13,730	75,336	4,179	47,733	96,382	33,835

HOLLAND.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Nov. 8, 1915 ...	33,345	206	33,551	6,850	8,153	47,399	1,255
Nov. 13, 1915 ...	33,987	248	34,215	8,532	7,652	47,168	1,840
Nov. 14, 1914 ...	14,329	390	14,719	15,589	11,020	39,751	1,495
Nov. 15, 1913 ...	12,451	631	13,082	8,251	7,219	25,741	317

ITALY.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,904	£8,867
Sept. 30, '15 ...	£45,990	£4,445	50,435	4,548	29,643	113,929	27,796
Oct. 10, '15 ...	45,598	4,445	50,043	4,024	29,864	114,428	27,452
Oct. 10, '14 ...	—	—	50,458		39,338	87,453	18,256
Oct. 10, '13 ...	—	—	49,659		22,590	70,464	7,530

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits.—Public.	Deposits.—Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,883	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Oct. 9, '15 ...	20,895	591	8,359	32,332	23,281	4,972
Oct. 9, '15	20,893	568	8,051	31,242	24,601	6,319
Oct. 10, '14...	21,268	2,201	7,883	29,863	13,274	3,192
Oct. 11, '13...	21,583	3,014	9,372	32,959	17,930	1,005

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve.—Own Vaults.	Reserve.—In Depositories	Reserve.—Total	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits	Circulation	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1,'14†...	—	—	£39,888	£411,238	£387,185	£8,318	£1,780
Nov. 6,'15 ..	£105,230	£41,988	147,218	616,360	668,918	7,083	38,300
Nov. 13,'15 ...	104,874	43,576	148,450	622,632	668,968	6,978	37,780
Nov. 14,'14 ...	-	—	88,560	426,634	385,070	21,346	1,482
Nov. 15,'13 ...	—	—	81,712	380,927	348,178	8,348	3,027

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Oct. 30, 1915...	3,760	3,738	781	4,198	8,603	1,368
Nov. 7, 1915...	3,797	3,687	781	4,109	8,463	1,392
Nov. 7, 1914...	2,265	1,742	503	6,692	7,204	1,297
Nov. 7, 1913...	2,816	1,674	504	4,230	5,908	651

RUSSIA.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation	Total Deposits.
July 21,'14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£8,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Oct. 29,'15...	183,385	2,459	185,844	8,417	443,307	501,083	143,413
Nov. 5,'15...	183,903	2,555	186,458	7,138	437,060	505,362	139,870
Nov. 5,'14...	176,383	4,135	180,518	9,388	159,552	278,112	98,289
Nov. 5,'13...	167,515	5,758	173,273	5,441	105,245	172,059	105,237

SPAIN.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1,'14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Nov. 6,'15...	32,036	29,354	61,390	41,584	13,777	83,739	35,667
Nov. 13,'15...	32,566	29,547	62,113	41,508	13,777	83,603	36,578
Nov. 14,'14...	22,417	27,827	50,244	48,696	13,777	79,469	24,490
Nov. 15,'13...	18,931	29,064	47,995	41,618	13,778	77,129	17,195

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans	Circulation	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† —	£5,717	£6,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Oct. 30, '15 ...	6,298	6,590	3,005	5,235	17,151	4,188
Nov. 6, '15 ...	6,298	6,687	2,951	5,051	16,883	4,093
Nov. 7, '14 ...	5,781	2,802	1,475	9,093	15,653	3,368
Nov. 8, '13 ...	5,694	4,707	1,337	7,325	12,481	2,897

SWITZERLAND.	Gold.	Cash.—Silver.	Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Oct. 30, 1915 ..	9,770	2,384	12,154	7,301	17,724	3,790
Nov. 6, 1915...	9,807	2,334	12,141	6,926	17,553	2,361
Nov. 7, 1914...	9,781	703	10,484	8,890	16,783	2,988
Nov. 7, 1913	6,863	1,086	7,954	5,112	11,116	1,940

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash.—Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Oct. 15, 1915...	$57,358	$61,307	$8,792	$65,753	$2,968	$83,174	82·3%
Oct. 22, 1915...	56,577	63,503	8,664	68,089	2,982	85,576	79·3%
Oct. 29, 1915...	56,281	63,693	8,813	68,711	2,784	85,990	77·3%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 28, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	4½	Oct. 28, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-3½	Feb 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915 Period	Receipts—Revenue	Receipts—Total including Loans	Expenditures—Supply Services	Expenditures—Int. on Debt, Advances, &c.	Expenditures—Total	Treasury Balance—Amt.	Treasury Balance—+ or − for Period	Treasury Bills stand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Oct. 30	4.020	37,269	26 798	11,350	38.148	17,559	− 878	237,497
7 „ Nov. 6	3.662	44,331	20,424	16 245	36.669	25,220	+ 7,671	255,500
7 „ Nov. 13	3,540	38,339	28,015	16,210	44,225	19,334	− 5,886	264,581
227 days to Nov. 13, 1915	131,791	1,121,393	817,508	368,002	1,185,510	19,334	−64,107*	+187,431*
228 days to Nov. 14, 1914	97,329	225.531	189.034	43,134	232,168	3,798	−6,637*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 40	11 26	11 25	11 32
—	Cable	11 20	11 06	11 00	11 12
Italy	3 mos.	30 85	30 60	30 35	30 40
—	Cable	30 42½	30 25	29 92½	29 95
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34	34	34½	34½
New York.....	do.	4 70½	4 66½	4 65½	4 65½
—	Cheques	4 71	4 67	4 66½	4 66½
Paris	3 mos.	28 10	28 30	28 05	27 95
—	Cable	27 70	27 90	27 64	27 53
Petrograd	do.	146	143	143	139½
Scandinavia	do.	17 30	17 40	17 50	17 55
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46	46½	46½	46½
—	Cable	25 05	24 95	24 90	24 90
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 45	25 20	25 20	25 15
—	Cable	25 05	24 75	24 80	24 75

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15	Oct. 29, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 20c.	11fl. 10c	10fl. 98½c.	11fl. 11c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1/32d.
Buenos Ayres ...	90 days	49 7/8d.	49½d.	49½d.	49 7/8d.
Calcutta.....	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1/32d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10 5/8d.	1s. 10¾d.	1s. 10d.	1s. 10d.
Italy	Sight	30lr. 45c.	30lr. 22c.	29lr. 95c.	29lr. 95c.
Lisbon	Sight	33⅜	33⅜	34	35
Madrid	Sight	25p. 05	25p. 02	24p. 90	24p. 90
Montevideo	90 days	54d	54d.	53½d.	53½d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 70½	$4 66½	$4 66	$4 65½
New York.....	Sight†	$4 68⅜*	$4 65½	$4 64½	$4 65½
—	60 days†	$4 63⅜*	$4 62½	$4 61½	$4 61
—	Cables†	$4 69⅜*	$4 66½	$4 65⅝	$4 66
— on Paris	Sight†	5.91½f. *	5.98¾f.	5.96f.	5.91½f.
— on Berlin	Sight†	80c. *	81¼c.	81⅜c.	81¼c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight†	41 1/16c.*	41⅜c.	42c	41¼c.
— on Mexico	Silver $	40c. U.S.*	38½c U.S.	38¼c. U.S.	38c. U.S.
Paris	Oneques	27f. 68c.	27f. 92c	27f 65c.	27f. 52c.
Petrograd	Sight	14½	142½	142½	139½
Rio de Janeiro...	90 days	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.	12 1/16d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 20	17kr. 25	17kr. 45	17kr. 50
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 5¼d.	2s. 4 1/16d	2s. 4 1/16d.	2s. 4 1/16d.
Switzerland	Sight	25f. 07½c.	24f. 75c.	24f. 75c.	24f. 80c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 1/16d.	9d.	9d.	8⅞d.

* Previous day's rates † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Aggregate.	Inc. or Dec.*	
	1915.	£	£	£	£	%
Birmingham...	Nov. 13	1,763,133	+ 606.849	77,737,462	+10,035,600	+ 14·8
Bristol.....	„ 13	807 000	+ 48.000	35.050.000	+ 2,308.000	+ 7·0
Dublin	„ 13	4.056.000	+ 88 400	169 630 000	+16,261,900	+ 10·8
Leeds	„ 13	493.200	+ 24.116	28 659.286	+ 5.898.757	+ 26·0
Leicester.....	„ 13	480.135	+ 118.143	18.058.186	+ 4,314.712	+ 31·5
Liverpool ...	„ 13	6 049.189	+ 2,130.124	251.419 497	+49.983.947	+ 24·8
Manchester ...	„ 13	6.979.353	+ 1.598.352	307 168 970	+16.554.805	+ 5·7
Newcastle ...	„ 13	1.583.900	+ 401.800	64 564 000	+15.497.300	+ 30·3
Nottingham ...	„ 13	422.187	+ 117 130	16.408 013	+ 45.581	+ 0·3
Sheffield ...	„ 13	493,408	+ 178.984	27.052 798	+ 4.871.948	+ 21·9
LONDON—	1915.	(000's omitted from the London clearings.)				
Town	Nov. 17	211.669	+ 33.291	9.611.648	− 1.803.933	−15·8
Metropolitan	„ 17	18.229	+ 1.676	821.459	+ 59.148	+ 7·7
Country	„ 17	32,500	+ 4.891	1.383.828	+ 172.973	+15·9
Total.....	„ 17	262.398	+ 39.803	11.816.935	− 1.576.842	−11·8

The following special items are included in the London clearings:

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month		
1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*
Oct. 14	45.291	—	Sept. 1	54.180	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15.393
Oct. 28	44.402	—	Oct. 1	52.018	—	Oct. 4	47.178	+ 8.718
Nov. 12	46,793	—	Nov. 5	47.524	—	Nov. 4	48.924	+ 15.593
1915 agg.	884.727	—		533 643	—		503.043	− 68.060

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.—According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	3 7/6	10/6	9/6
Australia to U.K. ...	95/0	—	30 6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.....	—	—	10/0
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	80 0d.	2 7/32d. w	17 6
Burmah o.c.	100 0nom.	30.0	22 6
Calcutta to p.p.	d.w. 92 6	—	nom.
Danube to A.R	—	—	10 0
Odessa to L.H.A.R. ...	—	—	8 0
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	82/6	30/0	70/6
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	62 6	50 0

HOMEWARDS.—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont (grain)	15/0	4/7½	1/10½
N.O to L.H (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O to U.K. (cotton & gr.)	—	22/0	13 0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915 ..	52/6	—	50/0	37 6	30 0
1914...	15/6	—	16/6	15/0	—
1913...	12/0	11/0	8/3	15 0	8.1½

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

NOV. 20.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	76 6	58/0	55/1½
— Middlesbro' warrants ...ton	69 7½	50 2½	49/1½
— Hematite warrants.....ton	115/0	82/0	81/3
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£9	£9
— Common bars .. ..ton	612	£7 7/6	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro'.....tons	129. 07	103.014	152.955
Steel Rails ...ton	£9 12/6	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard .....ton	£81 7 6	£54 2 6	£86 12/6
— Stock, Europe&afit., Oct. 31 tons	30.008	36.568	25.827
Tin—English ingots.....ton	£172	£141—£142	£184
— Straits .....ton	£177 10	£138 10	£181
Tinplates—Coke I.C. ... .box	20/6—20/9	12 9	12 9
Lead—Soft Foreign .....ton	£26 15	£18 5	£19 5
Spelter—Ord. Foreign .....ton	£94	£18	£20 5
Quicksilver—(75lb.) .....bottle	£16 10	£11 5	£7 10
Aluminium .....ton	nom	£83—£85	£81—£85
Antimony—Regulus ...ton	nom	£53—£55	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21/0—22/0	20/0—21/0
— — (best) Newcastle .....ton	19/9	13/3	14/8
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/6—14/9	11/3	10 10½
Soda—Crystals ex ship .....ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits .....ton	£39 10	£25 5	£30 13/9—£31
Gambier—Good marks .....cwt	38/9	19/6	17/10½
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/8—15/0	14/0—15 0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£31 5	£24 10	£22 17/6—£23 5
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb	66/6	44/9	44/0
Olive Oil—Spanish.....tun	£52	£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos .....ton	£37 10	£29 5	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/8½	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£42	£34 5	£31 5
Soya Oil .....ton	£29 10	£21 10	£28 7/6
Tallow—Aust. mixed .....cwt.	47/6	27/8—30 6	33/3—34 9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ...cwt.	43/10½	35/6	32/4½
Rape Seed—Toria .....416lb.	55/0	51/0	48/4½
Rubber—Para, spot .....lb.	2/8	2/7½	3/2
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe)lb	3/0	2/1—2/2½	2/4½
—World's Vis.sup(allkinds)Angton	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ..cwt	74 0	59 0—60 0	88/0—87/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	-/6 96	-/4 42	-/7 41
— Egyptian good fair .....lb.	-/9 30	/6 80	-/9 95
— Pernambuco, fair.....lb.	-/7 78	-/4 87	-/7 84
— Mid. Upl. New York .....lb.	11.75c.	nom.	13.80c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Nov. 12 bales	871.050	733.550	651.140
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol.....ton	£75	£40	£31
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£35 10	£23	£28
— Manila, Fair strips .....ton	£42	£23 15	£29 15
Jute—First Marks, spot .....ton	£28	£22	£34 12/6
— Red SOC.....ton	£23 10	£17	£30 15
Silk—Blue Elephant.....lb.	11/8	11 3—11/8	11/3—11/8
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb	1/0—1/1	-/11½—1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs .....lb	1/5½—1/6	1/2—1/2½	1/0½—1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	-/8½	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides .....lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD. CORN. &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Nov.18bus	38,363.000	78,026.000	67,247.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	127½c.	123½c.	99c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	52 8	39 8	30/1
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	48 0	39 6	29/6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	47/5	29 0	27 8
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr.	30 11	24 8	17/11
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	75	nom.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	nom	7 3½	4/9½
— La Plata .....480lb. qr.	39/0	28 0	23/9
Potatoes—Kents .....ton	90/0—100/0	72 6	50/0—60/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	40.178	25.705	10.970
— Deliveries do. .....tons	26.278	23.320	13.139
— Stock .....tons	20.875	7.090	5.196
— Price, Bassein .....cwt.	18 0	17/0	7/7½—8/0
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ...cwt.	18/6—22/0	15/0—21/0	14/0—17/6
Hay—Best.....2,016lb. load	120/0—150/0	85/0—90/0	77/8 87/8
Hops—English ....cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3—£5 5	£8 15—£9 10
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	5/4—5/6	4/1—4/7	3/0—3/6
— Scotch sides 8lb	5/6—5/8	4/10—5/0	4/4—4/6
— English 8lb	4/10—5/4	4/4—4/9	3/7—4/3
Mutton—Scotch 8lb	5 8—6 4	5/0—5/4	5/4
— English wethers 8lb	5/8—6 0	4/8—5/2	4/6—5/4
— New Zealand frozen 8lb	4/4—4 11	4/4—4 8	3/0—3/3
Pork—English .....8lb.	5/8—8/4	4/2—5/0	4/4—5/2
Bacon -Irish .....cwt	98/0—105/0	70/0—78/0	70/0—77/6
— Danish .....cwt	96 0—105/0	84/0—74/0	66/0—75/6
Hams—Amer long cut ...cwt	92/0—98/0	71/0—74/0	66/0—78/9
— — short cut .....cwt	86 0—94 0	70/0—74/0	67/0—74/0
Lard—Amer. pails .....cwt.	58/9—59/3	58/6—59/3	58/6—59/6
Butter—Danish.....cwt.	174/0—180/0	138/0—141/0	126/0—130/0
— Siberian.....cwt.	100/0—132/0	112/0—120/0	88/0—110/0
— French .. ..cwt.	113/0—158 0	104/0—124 0	100/0—126/0
— New Zealand .....cwt.	156/0—164 0	128/0—130/0	120/0—128/0
— Australian .....cwt.	158/0—164 0	118/0—130 0	104/0—120/0
Cheese—Canadian ... .cwt.	86/0—90/0	75 0—76/0	83/0—86/0
— New Zealand (white) ...cwt.	—	—	62 0—64/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan 1 tons	572.000	678.685	768 057
— Deliveries do. .....tons	753.713	894 666	747 542
— Stock .....tons	41.813	95.158	76.387
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. .. cwt.	18 6	18 0	10/9
— — Mauritius, crystals .....cwt	nom	25 6—26 6	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1.....cwt	40 6	31 0	18/0
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	59.247	44.080	35.248
— Home consumption do. ...tons	17.292	13.514	13.354
— Exports do.....tons	21.383	23.021	19 760
— Stock .....tons	33.583	18.023	10 514
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	75 0—85 0	75 0—85 0	82/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ..cwt	41 6	45 6	45 0
Tea—Imports (for 10 months) lb	344.918 042	254.428.726	279.173.871
— Home consumption do. ...lb	270.704.649	266.403.911	253.839.947
— Exports do .....lb	47.948.000	56.203.848	47.948.878
— Stock, Oct. 31 .....lb.	132.685.000	84.544.000	112.632.000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Sou. good ...lb	8.	9	-/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Sou. Ord. ...lb.	-/9	-/9½	-/8½
— — Common Congou ... ...lb.	-/7½	-/8½	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	90 0—94 0	60/0—62 0	87 0—89/0

* Prices more or less nominal, owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Nov. 12	80	—	£2,806	− 455	45	165.901	+ 9.353
Cork,Ban.&S.C.	Nov. 12	103	—	1.995	− 170	45	95.184	+ 4.737
Dublin & S.E.	Nov. 12	160	—	6.159	+ 288	45	253.713	+ 4.328
Gt. Northern	Nov. 12	561	—	21.335	− 1.815	45	1.051.760	+ 27.610
Gt.S.&Western	Nov. 12	1,130	—	32.742	− 1.148	45	1.507.846	+ 95.333
Mid. Gt. West.	Nov. 12	538	—	13.317	− 938	45	582.614	+ 11.524

. *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Oct. 9	882	+11	1.59.000	+ 20.180	2	—	—
Barsi Light	Oct. 16	116	—	11.800	+ 2.000	3	5.70.300	− 26.000
Bengal & N.W.	Oct. 9	2.041	+13	3.38.460	− 12.756	2	—	—
Bengal Dooars	Oct. 16	153	—	38.251	− 3.753	3	78.426	+ 6.710
Beng. Nagpur	Oct. 16	2.885	+ 9	7.84.000	+ 8.000	29	2.15.65.582	+ 2.96.447
Bomb. Baroda	Nov. 13	2.859	+32	10.93.000	− 1.05.000	7	71.96.000	+ 6.16.000
Burma	Oct. 9	1.342	—	4.07.563	+ 40.518	28	99.30.601	−11.07.230
East Indian	Nov. 13	2.716	—	18.98.000	− 2.85.000	7	1.22.69.000	− 3.45.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Nov. 13	3.058½	+78½	16.52.400	+ 1.44.400	7	94.21.600	+ 8.91.989
Madras & S.M.	Oct. 23	3.131½	−1½	7.60.000	+ 78.032	4	125.05.000	+ 2.16.899
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 16	797	—	1.69.485	+ 28.719	3	3.72.846	+ 22.211
Rob.&Kumaon	Oct. 9	545	+ 1	70.597	+ 3.618	2	—	—
South Indian	Oct. 16	1.783	+10	5.41.925	+ 80.336	3	11.36.960	+ 1.35.618
South Punjab	M. of July	823	—	9.50.845	+ 2.79.300	4†	29.77.119	+ 3.18.670

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Nov. 14	7.280	—	$ 820.800	+ 287.100	6	5.305.800	+1.668.000
Can. Pacific	Nov. 14	12.821	+602	3.035.000	+1.157.000	19	46.331 000	+2.108.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Nov. 7	816	—	£41.232	+ 18.028	18	422 886	+ 57.951
Grand Trunk	Nov. 14	4.008	—	145.68	+ 7.738	45	7.079.281	− 503 259
Grd. Trunk W.	Nov. 14	338	—	39.267	+ 11.763	45	1.361.127	+ 73 861
Dpt. Grd. Ha.	Nov. 14	189	—	15.232	+ 3.325	45	495.642	+ 39.748
Mashonaland	M. of Sept.	751	—	52.800	+ 10.533	12†	501.481	− 230.139
Mid. W. Aust.	M. of Sept.	277	—	5.653	− 2.359	3†	16.721	− 9.720
New CapeCent.	Oct. 23	205	—	1.397	+ 10	43	75.342	+ 768
Rhodesia Rlys.	M. of Sept.	1.397	—	74.243	+ 4.313	12†	788.930	− 235.997

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Nov. 13	33	—	Ps. 18.000	+ 2.000	46	553.200	− 24.550
Antofagasta	Nov. 14	819	—	£ 51.410	+ 11.630	46	1.100.550	− 308.775
Arauco	M. of Oct.	84½	—	£ 6.750	+ 225	7†	44.625	− 10.649
Arg. N. East	Nov. 13	752.	+ 85	£ 6.479	+ 2.404	20	132 586	+ 41.991
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	—	£ 290	− 10	12	2.370	− 1.210
Bolivar	M. of Oct.	110.	—	£ 5.5	+ 4.321	4†	30.532	+ 9.402
Brazil	M. of Sept.	3.426.	− 64	M 3.496.000	1076.517	9†	29.319.000	+1.364.504
Paulista	M. of Sept.	721	—	M 2.0.0.000	+ 947.978	9†	20.150.000	+2.549 989
Mogyana	M. of Sept.	1.131	—	M 3.5.600	432.733	9†	17.474.000	+2.182 215
B.A & Pacific	Nov. 13	3.636	+ 1	£ 7.000	+ 4.000	20	1.637.000	+ 310.000
B.A. Gt. So.	Nov. 14	3.792	+ 63	£ 10.000	+ 30.000	20	1.693.908	+ 321.967
B.A. Western	Nov. 14	1.867	+ 75	£ 5 000	+ 9.000	20	875.000	+ 148.000
Cent.Argentine	Nov. 15	3.307	+ 45	£ 11. 00	+ 7.000	20	2.193.500	+ 247 900
Cent. Uruguay	Nov. 13	271	—	£ 13821	+ 3.904	20	217.398	+ 47.981
„ (E. Ext.)	Nov. 13	31½	—	£ 4.3.6	+ 910	20	69.402	+ 20.020
„ (N. Ext.)	Nov. 13	18½	—	£ 2.564	+ 1.101	20	55.957	+ 9.429
„ (W. Ext.)	Nov. 13	211	—	£ 5.42	+ 928	20	33.424	+ 8.566
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Oct.	86	—	£ 10.00	− 326	10†	104.242	+ 1.131
Col. Rys.&Nav	M. of Sept.	85½	—	£ 22.409	+ 3.809	3†	65.035	− 6.465
Cord. Central	Nov. 13	1.186	—	£ 25.0.50	− 8.120	20	610.490	− 115.665
Cuban Central	Nov. 13	354	+ 9	£ 7.876	+ 1.374	20	151.552	+ 23.691
Dorada Ext.	M. of Oct.	71	—	£ 7.100	− 100	10†	78.400	− 6.400
EgyptianDelta	Oct. 20	619	− 4	£ 5.874	+ 1.051	28	87.314	− 17.826
Entre Rios	Nov. 13	730	—	£ 8.700	+ 2.400	20	183.100	+ 32.700
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 6	104	—	Ps. 60.334	− 14.562	45	2.650.257	− 298.879
Gt. W. Brazil	Nov. 13	1.010	—	£ 12.500	− 1.900	46	434.400	− 110.500
La Guaira&Ca.	M. of Oct.	23	—	£ 6.750	+ 1.500	10†	67.750	− 20.750
Leopoldina	Nov. 13	1.806	+ 20	£ 31.756	+ 5.058	46	1.344.398	+ 8.494
Manila North	Nov. 13	315	+ 2	£ 3.678	− 529	46	227.974	− 43.493
„ South	Nov. 13	266	+ 81	£ 3.197	− 1.168	46	166 603	+ 12.869
Mid. Uruguay	M. of Oct.	318	—	£ 9.415	+ 2.296	4†	42.020	+ 10.518
Nitrate(2wks.)	Nov. 15	366	—	£ 21.028	+ 12.161	44	302.157	− 207.071
N.W. Uruguay	M. of Sept.	113	—	$ 22.000	+ 7.416	3†	68.500	+ 16.357
ParaguayCent.	Nov. 13	255	—	c 50'.000	+ 259.000	20	8.940.000	+4.175.000
Peruvian Corp.	M. of Oct.	1.059	—	d 806.800	+ 176.180	4†	3.106 057	+ 232.398
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2.792	+ 637	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Nov. 13	100	—	$ 16.000	+ 1.000	20	372.100	+ 41.944
San Paulo	Nov. 7	163½	—	£ 31.791	+ 2.458	19	694.297	+ 176.271
Taltal	M. of Oct.	184	—	£ 17.708	+ 7.538	4†	65.461	+ 2.648
U. of Havana	Nov. 13	681	—	£ 26.772	+ 6.750	20	478.218	+ 107.216
Urug.Northern	M. of Oct.	73	—	£ 1.617	+ 520	4†	6.744	+ 1.822
W. of Havana	Nov. 13	147	—	£ 4.873	− 102	20	94.158	− 6.178
Zafra & Hlva.	M. of Sept.	112	—	£ 10.166	+ 2.614	9†	72.973	− 43.285

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−	Gross	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Nov. 11	389½	+21½	£ 53.091	+ 207	45	2.293.384	− 134.896
Auckland(4wks)	Oct. 22	25½	—	£ 20.831	+ 1.054	13	83.126	− 2.001
Brazil'n Tract'n	M. of Sept.	—	—	M. 8.494.000	+397.060	9†	57.457.110	+2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306 954	+ 18.333
Bristol	Nov. 12	31	—	£ 9.718	+ 1.792	45	431.943	+ 41.745
BritishColumbia	M.of Sept.	242	+ 5½	$ 517.022	−133.494	3†	1.534.871	− 480.480
Calcutta	Nov. 11	35½	—	R 62.550	+ 2.471	46	29.62.417	− 60.060
Cape Electric	M. of Oct.	42.3	—	£ 17.370	+ 1.316	4†	68.569	+ 6.591
Corfu & Herr.	M. of Oct.	9	—	£ 2.169	+ 626	10†	17.749	− 4.939
Cork Electric	Nov. 11	9½	—	£ 1.403	+ 120	46	50.270	− 80
Dublin United	Nov. 12	64½	—	£ 5.674	233	45	276 535	+ 10.578
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.984.501	− 90 930
Isle of Thane	Nov. 13	12:	− 6	£ 243	− 57	6	1.817	− 711
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20½	—	£ 3.165	+ 123	8†	22.119	+ 1.003
Lanarkshire	Nov. 11	28½	—	£ 2.019	+ 278	45	89.487	+ 4.576
Madras Electric	Nov. 15	—	—	R 29.441	+ 6.802	45	6.18.324	+ 32.148
Manila Electric	—	—	—	$ 123 946	+ 7.646	9†	1.100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Nov. 13	21½	—	£ 2.018	+ 93	6	13.368	+ 726
Rangoon Electric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
U.of Montevideo	M.of Oct.	90	—	£ 27.167	+ 667	12†	330.583	− 30.882
Yorks.W.Riding	Nov. 14	24	—	£ 1.562	+ 13	46	72.921	+ 5.979

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 247,809 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (Sh) Shares. (*) Compared with previous years. (†) Months. (‡) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (;) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
478 Cos. (000's omitted)	Aug. (e)	$279.891	+ $5.273	$99.713	+ $10.039
2 mos.	to Aug. (f)	542,839	+ 7,597	187,398	+ 19,820
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Sept.	408.000	—	119.000	+ 50.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	1,208,000	− 78,000	371,000	+ 89,000
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Sept.	136.000	− 2.000	26.000	+ 9.000
3 mos.	to Sept	388,000	− 22,000	65,000	+ 18,000
New Orleans & N.E. a	Sept.	292.000	+ 1.000	68.000	+ 35.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	879,000	− 63,000	208,000	+ 76,000
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Sept.	139.000	+ 11.000	30.000	+ 18.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	379,000	− 21,000	57,000	+ 12,000
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Sept.	10.795.000	+ 166.000	3.639.000	+ 3.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	32,121,000	+ 1,707,000	10,589,000	+ 687,000
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Sept.	2.380.000	+ 173.000	440.000	+ 349.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	6,554,000	− 385,000	764,000	+ 258,000
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Sept.	9.618.000	+ 835.000	3.194.000	+ 560.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	27,618,000	+ 2,007,000	9,665,000	+ 1,992,000
Canadian Northern ... b	Sept.	2.014 600	− 95.300	662 600	+ 71.900
3 mos.	to Sept.	4,423 600	− 658,300	1,186,500	− 79,400
Canadian Pacific..... b	Sept.	10 273.000	− 481.000	4.745.000	+ 378.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	26,970,000	− 4,184,000	10,988,000	− 621,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ...b	Sept.	4.045.000	+ 531.000	1.521.000	+ 398.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	11,661,000	+ 1,364,000	4,254,000	+ 1,040,000
Chicago & N. Western...a	Sept.	8.406.000	+ 308.000	2.837.000	+ 369.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	23,534,000	− 306,000	6,847,000	− 192,000
Chic. Burl. & Quincy.. b	Sept.	8.907.000	+ 327.000	3.773.000	+ 388.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	24,42.,000	− 765,000	9,116,000	− 537,000
Chicago Great Western b	Sept.	1.284.000	− 83.000	380.000	− 67.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	3,614,000	− 125,000	953,000	− 130,000
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Sept.	9.281.000	+ 21.000	3.388.000	+ 159.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	25,760,000	+ 511,000	8,659,000	+ 939,000
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 335.000
2 mos.	to Aug.	12,051,000	− 652,000	1,931,000	− 687,000
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Sept.	1.734.000	+ 13.000	479.000	− 23.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	4,666,000	− 344,000	1,216,000	− 274,000
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Sept.	3.613.000	+ 244.000	1.153.000	+ 268.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	27,382,000	+ 915,000	8,808,000	+ $,923,000
Colorado & Southern... a	Sept.	1.3 9.000	+ 100.000	422.000	+ 88.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	3,655,000	+ 139,000	965,000	+ 136,000
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Sept.	412.000	+ 98.000	169.000	+ 47.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	1,248,000	+ 208,000	576,000	+ 161,000
Delaware & Hudson... a	Sept.	2.073.000	+ 4.000	827.000	+ 46.000
8 mos.	to Aug.	14,957,000	+ 108,000	4,900,000	+ 658,000
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Sept.	2.444.000	+ 155.000	1.008.000	+ 290.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	6,699,000	+ 307,000	2,281,000	+ 626,000
Erie Railroad..... a	Sept.	8.254.000	+ 747.000	2.422.000	+ 968.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	47,480,000	+ 2,629,000	12,989,000	+ 2,995 000
Grand Trunk Railway a	Sept.	£808.600	− £35.700	£255.100	+ £23 850
9 mos.	to Sept.	6,453,450	− 603.700	1,769,350	+ 74.750
Grand Trunk Western a	Sept.	137.650	+ 12.050	46.150	+ 34 250
9 mos.	to Sept.	1,1 6,750	+ 29,600	130,950	+ 97.300
Great Northern ..... a	Sept.	$7.882.000	− $219.000	$4.040.000	− $299.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	19,882,000	− 1,955,000	9,029,000	− 1,429,000
Hocking Valley..... b	Sept.	660.000	− 71.000	295.000	+ 1.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	1,87 ,000	− 40,000	831,000	+ 143,000
Illinois Central ..... a	Sept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	1.327.000	+ 68.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	16,165,000	− 605,000	2,982 000	− 244,000
Kansas City Southern a	Sept.	871.000	+ 12.000	318.000	+ 67.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	2,509,000	− 180,000	927,000	+ 76,000
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Sept.	3.944.000	+ 28.000	1.150.000	+ 40.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	11 458,000	+ 188,000	3,269,000	+ 98,000
Louisville & Nashville a	Sept.	4.862.000	+ 260.000	1.488.000	+ 522,000
3 mos.	to Sept.	13,976,000	− 1.4.000	4,001,000	+ 967,000
Michigan Central..... a	Sept.	3.342.000	+ 201.000	1.097.000	+ 159.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	26 1 ,000	+ 931,000	6,325,000	+ 1,177,000
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Sept.	3.099.000	+ 170.000	1.267.000	+ 133.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	8,027,000	− 152,000	2,550,000	+ 345 000
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Sept.	2.627.000	− 66 000	585.000	− 35.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	7,797,000	− 311,000	1.7 4,000	− 208,000
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Aug.	5.111.000	− 2,2.000	1.145.000	− 246.000
2 mos.	to Aug.	9,874,000	− 732,000	2 092,000	− 708,000
New York Central..... a	Sept.	15 342.000	+ 1.455.000	5.570.000	+ 1.720.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	119,216,000	+ 5,276,000	33,052,000	+ 10,593,000
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Sept.	6.313.000	+ 511.000	2.162.000	+ 382.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	18,824,000	− 1.5 ,000	6,470,000	+ 1,497,000
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Sept.	728.000	− 94.000	186.000	− 2.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	2,602,000	− 214,000	916.000	+ 4,000
Norfolk & Western..... a	Sept.	4.790.000	+ 687.000	1.896.000	+ 550.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	13,986,000	+ 2,137,000	5,398,000	+ 1,661,000
Northern Pacific..... a	Sept.	6.768.000	+ 35.000	3.051.000	+ 578.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	18,194,000	− 407,000	6,876,000	+ 956,000
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Sept.	23.543.000	+ 1.632.000	7.274.000	+ 1.562.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	182,571,000	− 837,000	41,327,000	+ 4,889,000
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Sept.	11 927.000	+ 1.241.000	3.970.000	+ 1.141.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	85,642,000	− 43,000	19,319,000	+ 3,066,000
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Sept.	3.889.000	+ 169.000	1.085.000	+ 49.000
9 mos.	to Sept.	29,466,000	− 481,000	6,052,000	+ 223,000
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Sept.	4.462.000	+ 171.000	1.756.000	+ 312.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	13,775,000	+ 533,000	4,522,000	+ 715,000
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Sept.	2.125.000	− 672.000	Def. 24.000	− 232.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	5,916,000	− 1,181,000	Def 229,000	− 319,000
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.753 000	− 91.000	1.121.000	− 12.000
2 mos.	to Aug.	7,303,000	− 337,000	2,108,000	− 32,000
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Sept.	1.695.000	+ 119.000	403.000	+ 100.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	4 899 000	− 200 000	1.127.000	+ 27.000
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1.341.000	4.738.000	+ 829.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	39,453,000	+ 4,407 000	13,925,000	+ 3,382,000
Southern ..... a	Sept.	5.617.000	+ 107.000	1.679.000	+ 841.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	16 141,000	− 762,000	4,357,000	+ 1,075,000
Union Pacific ..... a	Sept.	9.162,000	− 11 000	3.928.000	+ 4.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	25,445,000	+ 255,000	10,179,000	+ 124,000
Wabash ..... b	Sept.	2.876.000	+ 229.000	933.000	+ 161.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	8,111,000	+ 22,000	2,34 ,000	− 13,000
Western Pacific..... a	Sept.	681.000	+ 85.000	258 000	+ 96 000
3 mos.	to Sept.	2,103,000	+ 3 3,000	826,000	+ 414,000

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	week to	Gross.	+or −*	Wks	Total	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern	Oct. 21	$116.000	+ $32.000	16	$1.490.000	− $ 36.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 14	862.000	+ 155.000	19	7.115 000	+ 1.993.000
Chicago Great Western	Nov. 7	290.000	+ 22.000	18	5.190.000	− 124.000
Colorado & Southern	Oct. 28	500.000	+ 18.000	7	5.121.000	+ 184.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Nov. 14	513.000	+ 74.000	8	—	—
Great Northern	Nov. 6	8.377.000	− 1.08 .000	4	28.754.000	− 872.000
Illinois Central	M. of Sept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	3†	16.165.000	− 605.000
Louisville & Nashville	Nov. 7	1.176.000	+ 204.000	18	—	—
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M.(Soo)	Nov. 21	749 000	+ 77.000	46	10.276.000	+ 206 000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas	Nov. 14	695 000	− 45.000	19	12.031.000	− 620.000
Missouri Pacific	Nov. 14	1.38 .000	+ 130.000	18	23.359.000	− 850.000
Southern Railway	Nov. 7	1,40 ,000	+ 181.000	18	23,5 9.000	− 136.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915.

GREAT BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

We are now getting very close to the time when the nation will use its great strength to the fullest advantage, and when the almost superhuman efforts it is making will have the results they are designed to have. From the very outbreak of war the nation was determined to secure victory, whatever the cost might be in life or in treasure, and whatever has been done, whether wisely or unwisely, has been for the purpose of attaining this object. Hitherto, however, Great Britain has presented much the appearance of a lifeboat with a scratch crew. Every man in it has been anxious to do his best according to the light within him. But in consequence of the lack of experience, both of the boatswain and of the crew, the vast amount of energy expended has not carried the boat very far towards its goal. Only that part of the boat's crew which was fully prepared for the work in hand has expended its strength to advantage and has prevented the boat from upsetting. The progress which has so far been made by the British forces with the conduct of the War is mainly due to the Navy, which has swept the seas clear of enemy ships, and to bankers and investors who have provided all the funds needed to meet the country's colossal expenditure not only upon the Army and Navy, but also in loans to the Allies. A great deal of hard and valuable work, however, has been effected in mobilising a great Army, but, owing to the unexpected and unforeseen difficulties arising from the manufacture of equipment and munitions of war, that Army has not yet been able to use its great strength and to show its great power.

The task of mobilising the strength of the British Empire has created a great deal of discussion as to the relative importance of the various services which Great Britain can perform, but underlying these discussions is a unanimity that can leave no one in doubt as to the policy that will be pursued. The nation is determined to put out its entire strength, physical [illegible] sion between conscriptionists and anti-conscriptionists is merely one of method and of proportion. Both desire to provide the country with the most effective fighting machine that the country can produce. Sufficient time has now passed to permit the boatswain to get a grip of his crew and of their capacity; and he is now able to urge this one to greater effort, a second to restrain his strength, and a third to lengthen his stroke, so that the full strength and weight of the crew may be felt and the fastest time made. The boatswain is now aware of the strength of the Navy, and whether that strength is greater or less than is needed to dominate the enemy's fleet and to maintain command of the seas. The work accomplished by the Navy certainly indicates that its strength is fully equal to its duties; indeed, in the matter of the merchant ships commandeered for Navy purposes its strength seems to be greater than is required. By transferring the surplus back to the merchant service the country's earning power would be improved. The Army is now learning its work, and is making great efforts to prevent its inexperience from putting an undue strain upon the financial and economic resources of the country. Waste is being reduced, while the whole Army is being rapidly equipped and brought into a state of efficiency.

Now that everything has been done or is in course of being done to render both the Army and the Navy very powerful, attention is being concentrated upon marshalling and mobilising the country's financial and economic resources. In surveying this side of the problem, it is essential to recollect that the country wishes and intends to put out the whole of its financial strength in order to secure victory whatever that strength may consist of—income, credit, or accumulated wealth. It is also essential to recollect that not only should the country's full financial strength be exerted, but that it should be exerted in a manner that will give the best results. Well-expended financial strength will enable much greater fighting forces to be maintained, and much greater sums of money to be provided for our Allies, than otherwise will be possible. It is common knowledge that an efficient and well-trained housewife is able to make a given income go two or three times as far as an inexperienced and thriftless one. And it is obvious that if the financial resources of Great Britain are thoroughly well administered, we shall not only be able to maintain our great Navy at a strength that will enable it to command the seas, and further to supply our Allies with the financial resources they need to meet their foreign payments, but we shall be able to maintain a great army for an indefinite period. On the other hand, if our financial resources are frittered away, it is obvious that after maintaining the Navy and providing our Allies with the funds they need, the size of the army we can maintain will be a very limited one.

Thus the financial problem has a twofold aspect. First, it is necessary to provide from month to month for the conduct of the War the greatest sums of money that the nation can supply by every possible method; and the second aspect, of no less importance, is that the money shall be thoroughly well expended, and that for every sovereign paid out a sovereign's worth of goods or services shall be secured. It is these two aspects that are now being more fully appreciated. Hence we can now look forward with every confidence to vast sums of money being supplied for the War by the British nation, and for these sums to be expended judiciously and wisely.

The creation of the War Council recently appointed, [illegible] mittee under the chairmanship of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, should materially contribute not only to the work of mobilising the great financial resources of the country, but expending them in the most effective manner. Hitherto, the financial resources of the country have been imperfectly mobilised. The Government has, in fact, pursued the methods which

would have been applicable to a small expedition needing no special measures. It has imposed a certain amount of taxation, but a relatively small amount. It has issued loans for public subscription in the normal manner, and it has invited bankers to provide money by the purchase of Treasury bills. These methods are very much the same as were adopted with regard to munitions in the early stage of the War. It was naturally assumed that if contracts were placed production would expand, and that the amount of munitions produced would automatically increase. Experience in this matter has shown that normal methods are of little or no use in such times as these, and just as it was essential for the Government to organise war industries for the production of munitions, so it is now necessary for them to organise new methods for the provision of all the money required to meet our vast expenditures. The country was known to possess unlimited power to produce munitions, and everyone assumed that private traders would do what was essential to produce them. But they didn't.

In the matter of finance the position is exactly parallel. The country has a great income which is being spent by the owners in the usual manner without regard to the necessities of the situation. People ought to know and to realise the nature of those necessities, but they don't. It is, however, essential that this income should now be used for the conduct of the War, and not merely for the gratification of individuals. The well of income is a deep one, and all that needs to be done is to provide the means of making its contents available for the prosecution of the War.

Experience in the recruiting campaign has shown the great loyalty of all classes of the people. Not only is every family willing to provide men to fight for their country, but it is willing to do anything within its power to ensure success. Therefore, in the matter of finance all that needs to be done is for the Government to tell the nation what is required, and to provide the machinery for collecting the money.

The recruiting campaign shows that it is necessary to appeal to each individual family and to each person who can render assistance, and that when this is done there is rarely, or never, a refusal. And if the Government were to appeal individually to each family to provide all the money it could spare for war purposes, we have no doubt that the sum collected would reach a very great figure.

When it entered upon the War, the country possessed a great amount of fixed wealth that could not be used for war purposes apart from the income it produced. It also possessed a substantial amount of wealth in other countries which could be utilised by sales of securities abroad. And it possessed a substantial amount of floating capital abroad which it was able to call in. So far, the easiest and most natural course has been pursued. A considerable part of the war expenditure so far incurred has been provided by calling in our floating capital abroad. Steps have also been taken to realise capital abroad which can be got in by sales of securities. A banker's credit of £10,000,000 backed by collateral has now been arranged between London and New York, backed by the deposit of securities as collateral, and a further plan is being discussed for a very much larger credit backed by American collateral securities.

The work of realising the capital we have invested abroad would be much easier were it not for the British income tax imposed upon coupons and dividends payable in this country, whether held by a foreigner or by a British citizen. A small modification of the law exempting foreign and colonial securities from taxation when held by persons living abroad would greatly assist us in the work of realising the accumulated capital we have invested in other countries.

Beyond the capital we can thus realise the nation's credit can be used for the purpose of borrowing money abroad. £50,000,000 nominal has already been raised on the strength of Government credit in the United States, and it should be possible to raise large additional sums from time to time. Hitherto Colonial and foreign participations in British Government loans, apart from the special American issue referred to, have been prevented by the income tax. This impediment has now been removed, Mr. Montagu, the able Financial Secretary to the Treasury, on behalf of the Government, having this week introduced into Parliament an amendment of the law, as follows:—

"The Treasury may, if they think fit, during the continuance of the present War and a period of 12 months thereafter, issue any securities which they have power to issue for the purpose of raising any money or any loan with a condition that neither the capital nor the interest thereof shall be liable to any taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown in manner directed by the Treasury that the securities are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, and securities issued with such a condition shall be exempt accordingly."

This action should materially assist to induce foreign and Colonial subscriptions to future British Government loans. But, having regard to the not unnatural inclination on the part of investors everywhere, and especially in what hitherto have been the debtor countries, to invest in local securities, would it not be desirable to exclude all foreign securities from British income tax when held abroad? By means of the new amendment to the law the Government has considerably increased the power of this country to raise money abroad, but it will not in any way assist British investors to sell abroad their great holdings of nearly £4,000,000,000 of Colonial and foreign securities. Of this total only a small part becomes free of British income tax when exported, and it is impossible to sell abroad securities upon which British income tax is still charged after they are sold to foreigners. Having regard to the rise of nearly 40% in the prices of commodities that has already taken place since the War began, and to the great profits which many countries are making from these prices, it is obvious that the countries hitherto debtor countries are able to repurchase some of their securities from our investors. Of course, if British investors were to check the advance in prices by economies in expenditure and by preventing exports of gold, the profits realised by the neutral countries would be curtailed and their power to purchase would be restricted. But in that case we should not need to realise as many securities as we shall have to sell if our present rate of consumption is maintained and prices continue to advance. In any case, however, whether the British people become more economical or not, it would seem to be desirable to render our investments in foreign countries a liquid asset as far as possible by removing the British income tax from securities that pass from a British investor to a foreign or Colonial investor.

Another indication of the attention now being devoted to the work of mobilising the financial resources of the country and thus adjusting the financial situation was given by Mr. Bonar Law this week, when leading the House of Commons, in one of the weightiest speeches he has ever made.

Thus, in view of the attention the Government is paying to finance, we feel warranted in expecting that before long Great Britain will possess not only the most powerful Fleet ever brought together and a mighty Army, but will be able to finance its own great expenditures, as well as to provide large sums for the Allies, without in any way straining its credit or exhausting its financial resources. All that now needs to be done is to complete the work of mobilising the financial resources of the country and using them to the greatest possible advantage.

MEETING OF THE ALLIED MINISTERS.

Four of our principal Ministers—the Premier, Mr. Balfour, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Lloyd George—have visited Paris this week to consult with the French Ministry. We hope this indicates that not only will there be more continuous and more confidential communications in the future between this country and France, but that communications with the other Allies will become equally continuous and confidential. It is true, of course, that England and France have been acting much more closely together than any other two of the Allies. From the very first British troops were sent to resist the attempt to rush Paris, and ever since British troops have been co-operating with the French in the resistance to Austro-German aggression. Moreover, it is to be recollected that France has made greater efforts than any other of the Allies. It is unquestionable, of course, that the main intention of the German Government was to strike down France before she had time to prepare her defence, for the purpose of compelling her to become an instrument in the hands of Germany; and thus not only to trample upon French independence, but to make France a tool in the hands of her enemy for winning that world-wide dominion which the Kaiser so arrogantly covets. In consequence, France has called out the full strength of her manhood. On Tuesday Mr. Bonar Law told the House of Commons that France has at present an army of seven millions of men. The figures are so large as to be startling, and may appear grossly exaggerated to some readers. But if any one is so disposed to look upon them he should remember that France has a great Colonial empire, that she has been able to win the loyalty of her subjects beyond sea, and that, therefore, there is a very large contingent of French Colonials in her armies. Moreover, it is not to be left out of account that France has not confined herself to the defence of her own territory. She is acting with the greatest ardour with ourselves both in the Dardanelles and in Serbia; while she is prepared to act in other quarters if necessary. There seems, therefore, no reason to doubt that France now has called out her whole manhood, and that she is resolved to fight this War out to a successful issue. Nevertheless, it seems to us highly desirable that while the relations between this country and France are made as close and as friendly as it is possible to make them, yet the relations of both with the other Allies, and particularly with Italy and Russia, should also be made as cordial as they can be. Hitherto it is greatly to be feared that our affairs have not gone as well as they might have done because we have not kept up that close and intimate communication with all our Allies which leads to co-operation in every quarter, and, therefore, to the forces available being employed to the very best advantage.

Many readers have already jumped to the conclusion that some big *coup* is in contemplation. As the War Committee has been careful to keep silent on the matter we do not presume to give any opinion respecting it. But we have to bear in mind that winter has set in, that there has been both snow and rain in large quantities in the Western theatre of the War, and that, consequently, a great offensive movement would be undertaken just now under grave disadvantages. If, indeed, a strong frost were to set in, and to last for any time, it might be judicious to make an offensive movement. But if the roads continue so soft that they will be seriously cut up by the movement of great munitions, it looks inadvisable to choose this moment for any particular operation. We do not, however, in saying this mean to express any opinion of our own, or to urge the Government either to one course or to another. Both Governments have formed small War Committees consisting of the men supposed to be most competent to advise in regard to the operations that ought to be undertaken. We are quite content, therefore, to leave to the judgment of those two Committees, aided, of course, by their expert advisers, the measures that ought to be taken. But it seems to us that it would be rather precipitate to assume that a great movement, either in France or in Belgium, is under consideration when we look around and see how many grave problems are taxing the judgment of both Governments. In any event, it does not seem likely that a definite decision will be arrived at without consulting both Russia and Italy. It is to be presumed that as the attitude of both Greece and Roumania is still doubtful, and as, moreover, the British and French troops sent to the aid of Serbia are not sufficient for the intended purpose, there is very much to weigh well with regard to the Serbian defence alone

The Austro-Germans, aided by the Bulgarians, have at the moment a decided advantage in that locality both in numbers and in equipment. If we can judge from newspaper reports, it is not even yet decided what Greece will do supposing the Allied troops are compelled to retire from Serbia into Greek territory. Therefore, presumably, it is the Serbian question more than any nearer problem that is occupying the minds of the French and British Ministers at present. The expedition has been entered upon, and cannot, therefore, lightly be abandoned. In consequence, Ministers have to consider with all the care they can whether they ought to send out such a force as would be sufficient to safely encounter and victoriously conquer all opposition, or whether they are to limit the assistance they give until matters are more ripe for striking a decisive blow. We presume that even in this matter there must be close consultation with the Russian and the Italian Governments. Both must be very seriously interested in successfully protecting Serbia. Both, therefore, naturally desire to have a voice in the decision of whatever is done. And we may be sure that both are prepared to do whatever is at the moment possible for them to do. Russia more particularly must feel that she is called upon to protect Serbia to the very utmost of her power. She has been the guardian of the small Balkan States from the beginning, and her prestige would suffer if she failed to protect them now. On the other hand, the position of Russia is a difficult one. Notoriously, she has not up to now been adequately provided with munitions of war. Therefore she has had to evacuate Russian Poland, and her duty to her own subjects in Poland, as well as the desire to recover her prestige, must urge upon her that the first necessity is to drive the enemy out of Poland. Whether Russia can do that and at the same time render assistance to Serbia is a question which we need not enter into at this moment. We discuss elsewhere the military power of Russia, and we refer our readers to what is there said. Here it is enough to state that the four great Allies ought as a matter of duty to themselves and to those allied with them to consult upon every important question, and to act as far as is practicable in accordance with the common agreement. We may, however, permit ourselves to remark even here that the winter in Russia has set in with great severity; and that, therefore, the Germans are in a very serious dilemma. They cannot bear the climate as well as the natives can, and consequently, if operations were resumed, the Germans would be likely to suffer terribly. In addition to this, there are good grounds for believing that the German forces in Poland are small; that they have been drawn upon for the movement against Serbia as well as for strengthening the German troops in France; and that, consequently, they are at the present moment at a disadvantage compared with the Allies. If that be so, and we believe it is so, the Russians may find upon full examination of all the facts that they can not only keep employed all the enemy troops in Poland, but that they can likewise

give assistance to Serbia in her great difficulty. Whatever may be the ultimate conclusion, it is very plain that the Ministers who have visited Paris to consult with the new French Cabinet have a large number of exceedingly difficult and exceedingly complicated questions to discuss and determine.

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the public will learn from Mr. Churchill's speech the unwisdom of listening to ill-informed and spiteful charges made against Ministers. Mr. Churchill's speech has made a very great impression upon the public. Of course, as his detractors allege, it is an *ex parte* statement. Everything that a man says in his own defence must in the nature of the case be more or less *ex parte*. But the speech was an exceedingly manly one. There were no bitter charges against opponents. There was a frank assumption of all due responsibility, and nothing that ought to have been concealed was divulged. Therefore, the speech has made a powerful impression. And it is earnestly to be hoped that people will recollect that charges made against Ministers cannot at the moment be replied to; that, therefore, a bitter enemy may misrepresent almost with safety because in certain conditions it is impossible for the Minister to reply. The real duty of the public is to give its confidence to the men who have done their work well, to disregard all tittle-tattle from persons who cannot have accurate information, and to wait until full information can be brought forward for the final decision as to the merits or demerits of Ministers. Mr. Churchill was chosen by the Prime Minister for the express purpose of putting the Navy into such a state of preparation that if Germany attacked it would be able to maintain supremacy at sea. Luckily for us, it happened that just before the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand our Fleet had been mobilised, and before the time for demobilisation arrived the assassination of the Archduke, and the temper displayed by both Germany and Austria-Hungary, caused grave fears that peace might be disturbed. It is to the lasting honour of Mr. Churchill and Prince Louis of Battenburg that they agreed not to demobilise, and that, in consequence, this country has been able to establish such a complete supremacy at sea as never before was established. Recollect that the battle of Trafalgar was not fought till a dozen years after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, and that until Trafalgar was fought we had not an unquestioned supremacy. If, then, nothing more stood to the credit of the late First Lord of the Admiralty and the First Sea Lord, Prince Louis, they have done a service in keeping the Fleet fully mobilised which never can be adequately rewarded.

Again, whatever may be the full story of the attempted relief of Antwerp, it is perfectly certain that the charges brought against Mr. Churchill are false. He did not originally suggest that either a military or a naval force should be sent to relieve Antwerp. When he did visit the city it was at the request of his colleagues. Moreover, the decisions he entered into were approved by his colleagues. Lastly, Mr. Churchill showed conclusively that he was not the sole author of the attack upon the Dardanelles. Of course, it is perfectly true that the whole story is not before the public. But Mr. Churchill came forward in the House of Commons and gave his own account of what actually happened with a manliness and a regard to the character of others which is highly commendable in him. There have been hints that the whole story has not been told, and there has been a lofty assertion that the public must judge. But nobody has come forward to lay his finger upon a single statement and say "This is false." We are not partisans of Mr. Churchill. We desire to claim for him no more than his merits. But we frankly confess that we have been very much impressed by the manly and straightforward manner in which he made his statement. Above all, we dwell upon the facts in the hope that the public will take to heart this lesson: that a public servant may by innuendo, false representations, and bitter hostility be hunted down, and yet when he challenges an open charge everybody shrinks from meeting him. Let us, then, in future trust the men to whom we have committed great powers. Without public support they cannot do anything effectual. With public support they can give their whole hearts and their whole minds to their duty. Let us remember how very grave and serious a thing that duty is, and try to be just to public servants as we try to be just to our friends.

RUSSIA'S FIGHTING POWER.

On Thursday of last week Mr. Tennant, replying to a question put to him as Under-Secretary for War, stated that just before hostilities broke out the number of men of fighting age and capacity in Russia was estimated at 21,400,000. As pointed out elsewhere, Mr. Bonar Law on Tuesday told the House of Commons that France has actually under arms at present seven millions of men. The population of Germany is considerably larger than that of France. Let us, then, assume that the whole fighting male population of Germany amounted at the beginning of the War to ten millions, which we believe to be entirely above the mark. But let us assume that it was, and that the fighting force of Austria-Hungary was eight millions. Then, while Russia had at the beginning of hostilities a male population capable of bearing arms to draw upon amounting in round figures to 21½ millions, Germany and Austria-Hungary put together had only 18 millions, or if anybody chooses to add two millions more, let us say 20 millions, though we believe 20 millions to be a gross exaggeration. Still, when hostilities broke out, on those figures Russia alone had a majority of possible soldiers over the two Central European Empires of a million and a half of men. The facts are really more favourable to Russia than we have put them, because we do not desire to say anything that would seem to exaggerate the power of Russia and minimise the power of Germany. The Russian population is growing more rapidly than the population of any other part of Europe, and Russia has unsettled lands of such vast extent that her population can go on growing for many a year. On the other hand, it is true that Germany has made wonderful economic progress during the last 50 or 60 years. Yet in spite of that great progress there is a considerable emigration from Germany, while from Austria-Hungary the emigration is still vaster. The populations, therefore, of the two Central European Empires are not growing with anything like the speed of that of Russia, and even if we assume that there is no breaking up of the two Central European Empires, the superiority of Russia will steadily increase for many a year to come.

Some of our readers may doubt the statement that France actually has under arms at present seven millions of men. If any reader does so he should remember how vast is the colonial empire of France, and how France draws upon that Empire when war breaks out. Furthermore, it must never be forgotten that while the British have in France, according to a statement of Mr. Asquith's the other day, over a million of men, they occupy only a very short front, whereas France occupies an immensely long front, and all through the summer has been on the offensive, constantly bombarding the enemy, and steadily, though very slowly, gaining from the enemy. We have, then, under 20 millions of fighting men on the part of the two Central European Empires, whereas we have nearly 21½ millions in Russia alone; we have actually under arms in France seven millions; and we have of British troops of all kinds probably four millions. Or to put the matter shortly, Russia,

the British Empire, and France have 32½ millions of men to draw upon against under 20 millions on the part of the two Central European Empires. It is admitted that France has called out every man she can well dispose of, and therefore that she cannot hope to increase her seven millions. But Germany also has called out every man she can spare. Remember that Germany has been preparing for this War for half a century or more, that she depends not really on the fighting qualities of her men, but upon asphyxiating gas, inordinately great cannons, and the like. Therefore, it is as important for Germany to keep a large body of her fighting men at home working in the mines and factories as it is to keep a large actual fighting Army. Germany by her sudden rush upon Paris got possession of a very considerable portion of France, and practically of the whole of Belgium. Therefore, she has been able to draw upon her own male population to an immensely greater extent than she otherwise could, because she has compelled Belgians and Frenchmen to work for her. But now the War has lasted nearly sixteen months. We ourselves have made good the want of high explosives. And Great Britain, Japan, and the United States are supplying Russia with what she needs.

As the winter has set in it does not seem probable that there will be very great activity for some months in Russia. Therefore, Russia has several months before her in which to provide all the munitions she requires, and she has an almost untouched male population to draw upon. For she was not able to draw upon the 21½ millions at her disposal to any considerable extent because she could neither feed them nor arm them. Now she is being rapidly supplied, and the same thing is true of ourselves. When the War broke out we had only six divisions of infantry and two of cavalry which it was possible to send to protect either Belgium or France. Now we have probably four millions of men. All the self-governing portions of the empire are hurrying forward further assistance to us. At home a new energy is being put into recruiting. When, in a few months, spring comes, therefore, the superiority of the *Entente* Allies over the Central European Empires will be so great that it will be humanly impossible for the latter very long to resist. Serbia is making a much better fight against great odds than could have been expected. Russia, if she draws upon her reserves, as she ought to do, will be in a position not only to attack Constantinople and relieve Serbia but to resume the offensive against the two Central European Empires. And France, with her seven millions of men, will be vigorously and gallantly performing the magnificent service she has performed during the past sixteen months. We have said very little regarding Italy so far. But it is to be recollected that Italy has a population of about 34 millions; that she is threatening Austria-Hungary; and that at any moment she may be in a position to take a step which will paralyse the Dual Monarchy. It is never to be forgotten that the majority of the subjects of the Emperor Francis Joseph are Slavs and are disaffected. They have been kept down because of the strict military supervision under which they are held. But it is notorious that they are longing for the appearance of deliverers amongst them, and that one single serious defeat of the Dual Monarchy would unquestionably bring about a general uprising. There is no question that Germany, because of the care with which she prepared for War for so many years, and the brutality with which she broke her treaties, flew in the face of every provision of international law, and descended to the most criminal actions, has been able to win in the beginning to a much greater extent than even the best informed expected. But she has now under arms the very utmost number that she can call together. She will be going down, therefore, in the future, whereas her enemies will be growing more and more powerful and better and better prepared. That we are not exaggerating we may remind our readers that it is generally believed that Germany at present has only 170 divisions everywhere in conflict with her enemies, and that she retains 90 of these in France and Belgium, showing that more than half of the whole German Army is even now fully occupied by the French and the British.

THE AUSTRALIAN WHEAT QUESTION.

Rumour has been busy of late with the question of the Australian wheat crop. It has been affirmed that the Commonwealth Government had not only decided to commandeer the entire surplus of the crop to be reaped in December and early January, but had set about securing the necessary tonnage for that shipment. The programme is said to be that growers will receive 3s. per bushel (5s. 7d. per cwt.) on account, and "the rest as agreed" after wheat has been sold at British port of arrival. Two leading firms are mentioned as having undertaken the whole of the wheat shipments between them, and in exchange for their doing this no wheat or flour will be allowed to leave Australian ports except in vessels chartered by them. Committees formed in Australia and London will attend to the purchase and sale respectively. The Government of the United Kingdom has been taking ships at the rate of 11s. per ton per month. Australia is rumoured to prefer a fee of 95s. per ton from Sydney to London direct; but this is a remarkably high price even for the present period of extraordinary stringency in the supply of shipping. The reader will perhaps do well to regard nothing as absolutely settled before the very close of the present year. We know how the Home Government has modified its decisions, and the Australian may also change its decrees.

Meanwhile let us see what actual wheat yield Australia's colonies—Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and West Australia—probably have for home supply and export. In 10 years the yield has varied from 13½ million cwt. to 51¼ million cwt. and the area cultivated from 5½ to 9½ million acres. The yields seem pretty closely estimated by the statisticians, but the acreage is rather indeterminate, as considerable areas are apt to prove not worth reaping in indifferent seasons. The yield per acre is never large, according to our standard, even in a good year, and Australia is a country of very dear labour. The estimates for the last 10 years may be given as follows:—

Australian Wheat Yields.

Jan.	Cwt.	Acres	Jan.	Cwt.	Acres
1915	13,560,000	8,600,000	1910	49,250,000	6,650,000
1914	56,492,000	9,500,000	1909	34,000,000	5,500,000
1913	50,670,000	7,500,000	1908	24,300,000	5,700,000
1912	38,900,000	7,550,000	1907	36,150,000	6,000,000
1911	51,750,000	7,450,000	1906	37,350,000	6,100,000

These figures are based on Board of Agriculture estimates and on those of the London and Liverpool shipping lists, checked by private advices and the circulars of leading firms. The last decennial Grey Book, published by the Australian States in 1905, gave the yield of January 1905 at 29,100,000 cwt. on 6,270,000 acres. The above figures show that while Australian production varies greatly, 700 lb. per acre is about the highest return that can be looked for even in a very good year. If this yield per acre be assigned to the crop to be secured in January 1916, the area being put at 2,000,000 increase, or 10,600,000 acres, then the prospective yield will be 66,250,000 cwt. In 1915 requirements have been about 2,000,000 cwt. above the yield; the surplus of 1914 has been completely eaten up. We may, therefore, with some confidence put consumption at 15,560,000 cwt. This being deducted from the crop will leave 50,690,000

available for exportation or about 11,827,600 Government quarters.

Past exports have been as follows, the total to Europe, including the United Kingdom, and those for South Africa and China, being very rough, but fairly indicative of the growing trade. South Africa includes Madagascar and Réunion, French colonies which buy rather freely; it also includes Portuguese East Africa:—

	To Europe Cwt.	To Africa Cwt.	To Asia Cwt.	Total Cwt.
1914 ..	28,676,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	31,676,000
1913 ..	21,243,200	1,900,000	900,000	24,043,000
1912 ..	22,100,000	1,800,000	800,000	24,700,000
1911 ..	33,366,000	1,700,000	700,000	25,766,000
1910 ..	27,600,000	1,600,000	600,000	29,800,000

There were no exports in the last four months of 1914, and since January 1 all exportation has been prohibited. A little Indian wheat was imported in the summer months. To move the 1916 wheat surplus Australia will need 14,724,000 cwt. more tonnage than she has ever before required; but she can if she chooses cut off from Africa and Asia the 3,000,000 cwt. which they are willing to buy, and send all her spare grain to the United Kingdom. The case of South Africa includes British possessions which, unhappily, have not risen to the agricultural occasion, but Argentina and India could fully meet their needs if the convenience of the shipping trade pointed to dealing with shipping from Australia in an undivided block. China and Cochin China can buy of the American Pacific States, but it is not altogether desirable to invite a neutral to annex a growing business of our own.

The somewhat curious matter about the idea of placing 50,000,000 cwt. of Australian wheat on British port markets in 1916 is the assumption, apparently not only by Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier, but also by Mr. Bonar Law (Colonies), Mr. Runciman (Trade), and Lord Selborne (Agriculture) at home that the British public will buy it on arrival. Hitherto Europe, including the United Kingdom, has not assimilated more than 33,366,000 cwt. in a single year, and as the first completed year of war was got through without any excess of demand over supply, the presumption is that war difficulties have been overcome and the question of wants and arrivals established without recourse to heroic measures. The commandeering of the Indian crop surplus was not so much a Government venture on the seas of trade as a statesmanlike understanding of a vast native population, whose instinct in time of war or other trouble is to hoard.

Australia, it must be remembered, produces several sorts of wheat for the agency shop-window, but practically only one sort for export. That is fine, light-yellow wheat, mild and palatable, but lacking in strength, and requiring to be mixed with a good percentage of wheat rich in dry gluten. Australian wheat mixes excellently with Canadian; but has the Australian Government consulted that of the Dominion with respect to the quantities that the two shippers are going to put coincidently on the British port markets?

The Canadian wheat is not a tied trade; it is not offered on arrival at a fixed price. If the Australian is to be obtainable at a fixed value, it is clear that when Canadian wheat is cheap Australian will tend to remain unsold in port granary. If it is not landed, the loss of freight earnings by the ship it is on board comes to very much the same thing. There are the Argentine and American surpluses to consider also, and interference with an open trade to the extent of 50,000,000 cwt. may set up dangerous waves of speculation. One real asset, however, is that Australian wheat, of all imported sorts, most nearly resembles English, and that a good supply of it in the period May 1 to July 31, when English is always very scarce, is a boon to millers, enabling them to supply bakers with the right mixtures for the modern town taste in the loaf.

THE RISE IN RUBBER.

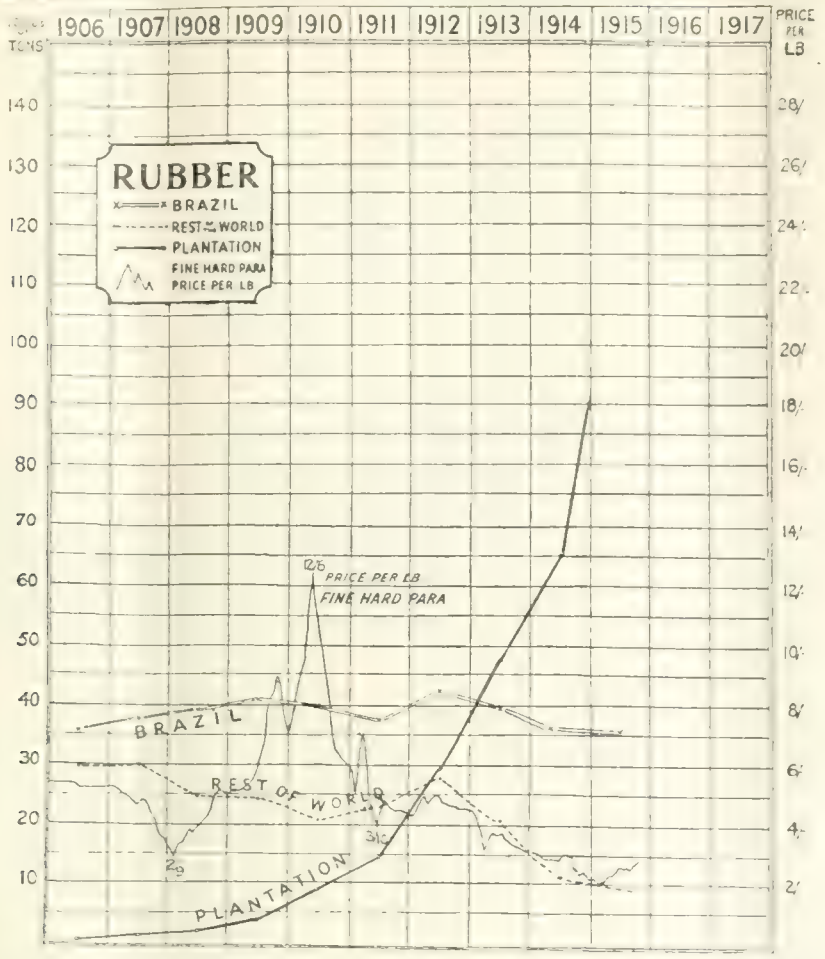
YEAR by year, up to early in 1915, for nearly five years the price of rubber fell, and except for a short period of recovery early in 1911 the fall was throughout persistent until the beginning of this year. Prices in April 1910 went to an inflated level, "plantation" touching 12*s.* 10*d.* and wild-grown Para 12*s.* 6*d.* per lb. The fall brought down quotations by January 1915 to 2*s.* and 2*s.* 4*d.* per lb. Present prices show a recovery to 3*s.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* respectively and the feature of "plantation" rubber at a higher price than wild Para.

The rapidity of the growth of production of plantation rubber, it had been feared, would result in an enormous excess of supply over demand. This apprehension contributed to the depressed condition of the market, but the reduction of price stimulated consumption, enabling rubber to be used in many directions where a high price would have been prohibitive.

At the time the War broke out the quotation was steadily kept at between 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. for standard-quality plantation, which was slightly less than the range in the twelve months previously. On the outbreak of war the decline in the use of rubber in some trades and the cut-off of the supplies required by the Central Powers was counterbalanced by an increased demand brought about by the army and navy requirements of the Entente and neutral Powers and the big expansion in the world-wide use of motor vehicles.

The recovery in price lately has led to much discussion of the position and probabilities of the future. Also it is asked what has been the impulse that has moved the market to the extent of a total recovery of 50% since January last. Apparently the chief buying has been for American account. Our transatlantic friends are understood to have been to the fore not only in acquiring rubber for prompt delivery, but in buying for forward positions, with delivery arranged to as far as the end of 1916. In the produce market it is asserted their purchases of late have exceeded 60% of the total business done. If the main business has been for this quarter, the question arises: why are the purchases made? It is known there are big foreign orders placed in the United States for rubber goods, also an increasing growth in the home demand, and insufficiency of stocks. There are also, doubtless, other reasons, including possibly the desire to acquire control of the rubber market in like manner as a few years ago American operators temporarily effected. Some American market operators love big coups in articles such as wheat, lard, cotton, copper, &c. They made a big coup in rubber years ago, and at the moment they may consider there is little risk of a set-back, but the possibility of an appreciable further rise in prices. Both from their point of view and in general it is felt that while there is war the demand will continue to be heavy. If an early peace occurs there will, for a period, be a large demand for rubber for the rehabilitation of army and navy requirements and also generally. The Central Powers especially would require immense quantities both for Governmental and commercial requirements. Any appreciable control of supplies and an accumulation of stocks for a period by the Americans would enable a combine to exact its own price.

If a design of such character be entertained, it is worth glancing at the magnitude of the value of the rubber output. At current prices the estimated rubber production of the world in 1915 and in 1916 would represent equal as to 1915 to about 40% and as to 1916 over 50% of the value of the world's gold output of, say, £92,000,000 a year. The production of rubber is estimated as set out below, and an average



price of 2*s.* 8*d.* represents approximately £300 per ton of rubber:—

Estimated Rubber Output.

	1915 Tons	1916 Tons
British grown	90,000	125,000
Foreign grown	35,000	40,000
	125,000	165,000
Value at £300 per ton	£37,500,000	£49,500,000

The influence on American exchange of any such action as that which possibly may be contemplated would be important in view of the very large contribution of the world's rubber production by British growers.

The above reference to output gives interest to the changes that have occurred in recent years, and we give below a contrast of the rubber production of each year since 1900. Not until 1907, however, did the output of plantation rubber attain to 1,000 tons. In the table we show the growth of production of plantation rubber and the movement in the output of wild rubber, and would particularly note that Brazil's output, which was over 42,000 tons in 1912, subsequently decreased, and as prices receded production fell off so severely that the yield for 1915 is estimated at only 35,000 tons. An even more severe movement has occurred in other wild-rubber producing countries. The low level of prices made it unprofitable in many directions to produce, and so severe was the decline that an output which in 1907 was returned at 30,000 tons is estimated for 1915 at about only 9,000 tons.

The figures to 1914 we give are taken from the particulars compiled by Messrs. W. H. Rickinson and Son from official data:—

Year	Plantation Tons	Wild — Brazil Tons	Wild — Rest Tons	Total Tons
1900	4	26,750	27,136	53,890
1901	5	30,300	24,545	54,850
1902	8	28,700	23,632	52,340
1903	21	31,100	24,829	55,950
1904	13	30,000	32,077	62,120
1905	145	35,000	27,000	62,145
1906	510	36,000	29,700	66,210
1907	1,000	38,000	30,000	69,000
1908	1,800	39,000	24,600	65,400
1909	3,600	42,000	24,000	69,600
1910	8,200	40,800	21,500	70,500
1911	14,419	37,730	23,000	75,149
1912	28,518	42,410	28,000	98,928
1913	47,618	39,570	21,452	108,140
1914	70,700	37,000	12,000	119,770
1915 (est.) ...	90,000	35,000	9,000	134,000
1916 (est.) ...	125,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	165,000

But a generation ago British-grown teas, India and Ceylon, displaced the China teas previously relied upon. Similarly the ability of British growers to produce plantation rubber profitably at about 2*s.* per pound has brought about a large displacement of wild rubber. The total wild-rubber output of 1912 was estimated at 70,000 tons; for 1915 the estimate is but 44,000 tons.

Apart altogether from the possibilities in connec[illegible] evidence of extension of the use of rubber in all manner of directions, any appreciable easing off in prices is for some time ahead unlikely to be witnessed. On the other hand, it is quite probable that further appreciation in prices will be witnessed, though it is to be trusted that no wild rush such as that which brought about the high rise in 1910 will recur. The record of price movements—spot quotations—of plantation and wild rubber, highest and lowest of each year and averages, are given below:—

Year	—Best Crepe Plantation— Highest		Lowest		Average		—Fine Hard Para— Highest		Lowest		Average	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
1906 ...	6	5	5	5½	5	10½	[illegible]		[illegible]		5	2½
1907 ...	5	9	3	8	4	11½	[illegible]		[illegible]		4	6
1908 ...	5	2½	[illegible]		4	[illegible]	5	4	2	9	4	0½
1909 ...	9	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	9	1½	5	0	6	10
1910 ...	12	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	12	6½	5	10	8	9
1911 ...	[illegible]	3	4	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	7	2	3	10	5	0
1912 ...	5	9	4	1	4	10	5	2½	4	3	4	9
1913 ...	4	6½	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	0½	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	0½	3	[illegible]
1914 ...	3	0	1	11½	2	3½	[illegible]	2½	2	6	2	10½
1915 (to [illegible]	[illegible]		1	11½	[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]	

RUBBER SHARE INVESTMENTS.

The [illegible] altogether as a surprise to those who have studied the position of the industry closely and followed the trend of events. The majority of the older companies have been steadily earning large profits and paying high dividends, while very many of the young producers have been rapidly expanding their outputs, increasing their incomes, and commencing or augmenting their dividend distributions. Estate management has been brought to a high pitch of perfection, costs of production have been heavily reduced, new and improved methods of tapping and cultivation have been adopted, and very few adverse "incidents" of any kind have

occurred such as so often upset the equilibrium of other speculative markets. Thus rubber shares have come to be looked upon as partaking more of the nature of an industrial enterprise than a speculative venture, but this notwithstanding, the purchaser is able to calculate upon receiving a high yield on his money on the basis of a comparatively low price for the commodity. Moreover, through the War three great doubts which perturbed the minds of rubber investors in the years of reason following the boom of 1910 have been disposed of. Plantation rubber was not held in very high esteem by many manufacturers

	Par of Shares	Year Ends	Issued Capital £	Market Price of Shares, Nov. 17	Planted Acreage 5 Yrs. and Over	Planted Acreage Under 5 Yrs.	Planted Acreage Total	Market Capitalisation per Planted Acre £	Rubber Output Past Year lbs	Rubber Output Current Year lbs	Output per Planted Acre lbs.	Past Year's Results Profit £	Costs All in s.	Costs All in d.	Dividends Paid Amount £	Dividends Paid %
Anglo-Malay	£	Dec. 31	154,000	10 3	3,689	754	4,443	173	1,384,382	1,227,287 (10)	312	76,950	1	0½	53,000	32
Anglo-Sumatra	£1	May 31	80,000	4	2,357		2,357	136	753,957	328,627 (5)	319	43,202	0	11½	32,000	40
Bajoe Kidoel	£1	Mar. 31	157,887	23 6	871	3,281	4,152†	48	71,925	73,594 (7)	17	18,022	1	9	15,789	10
Bandar Sumatra	£1	July 31	100,000	1¼	1,019	1,566	2,585	49	205,406	66,798 (3)	79	10,251			7,500	7½
Banteng	£1	April 30	60,000	1½	965	384	1,349	68	218,465	131,610 (6)	162	10,575	1	2	7,187	12½
Batang Malaka	2/–	Dec. 31	59,400 Debs. 80,000	2 1 par			1,268	55	124,850	167,316 (10)	99	4,345	1	3½	–	–
Batu Caves	£1	Dec. 31	26,750	12	1,207	483	1,690	190	556,021	501,300 (10)	329	37,502	0	10½	37,032	150
Batu Tiga	£1	Dec. 31	74,300	2½	1,488	332	1,820	112	488,225	483,015 (10)	265	22,110	1	3	16,717	22½
Bekoh	£	June 30	50,000	2 4	875	749	1,624	68	220,175	97,661 (4)	135	8,538	1	5½	7,125	7½
Bikam	£	Dec. 31	60,000	3 3	993	7	1,000	97	241,573	241,573 (10)	241	9,043	1	5	6,000	10
Bukit Cho	2 –	Dec. 31	50,000	5 6	971	136	1,107	124	210,670	215,500 (10)	190	10,546	1	1	9,375	18¾
,, Kajang	£1	June 30	100,000	2½	2,234	322	2,556	93	580,548	243,160 (4)	203	25,000*	1	1*	20,000*	20*
,, Mertajam	2/–	Mar. 31	158,847	2 10½	2,139½	337	2,476	89	389,666	321,012 (7)	157	14,908	1	4½	13,142	9
,, Pandang	2 –	Dec. 31	41,960	7 –	1,211	350	1,560	94	250,929	251,760 (10)	161	15,183	1	2½	10,742	25
,, Rawang	£1	Mar. 31	60,750	5½	3,271	619	3,890	99	673,507	412,739 (7)	175	4,000	1	0	33,350	50
,, Selangor	2 –	Dec. 31	314,955	2 9	6,866	2,134	8,000	69	307,244	426,800 (10)	38	12,759	1	3½	9,449	3
Castlefield	£1	June 30	45,000	1½	1,300	361	1,661	112	416,234	166,083 (4)	202	20,000*	1	2*	14,000*	35*
Gedong Para	£10	Dec. 31	70,000	7 0	2,652	299½	2,951	92	588,065	530,673 (10)	199	16,659	1	4½	13,125	18¾
Ghersoni	2 –	Dec. 31	225,000	3 6	2,004	34	2,038	190	537,646	529,141 (10)	264	35,020	1	1	23,570	15
Chevriot	£1	June 30	88,412 10,000	3 6	999	1,500	2,499	62	213,685	205,650 (10)	87	9,014	1	3½	6,630	7½
Cicely	2/–	Mar. 31	6,000 5% Pref. 70,000	17 6	850	416	1,245	112	298,205	186,794 (7)	243	9,962	1	5¼	9,900	60 Ord 65 Pref.
Cons. Malay	£	Dec. 31	70,000	8 9	2,562¼	663½	3,226	114	584,050	569,488 (10)	214	26,427	1	3½	26,250	37½
Damansara	£1	Dec. 31	105,000	5½	1,863	458	2,321	141	577,098	509,854 (10)	249	29,507	1	1½	28,875	27½
Dominion	£1	Dec. 31	136,600	1 5/16	1,242	438	1,680	121	349,184	349,184 (10)	208	19,656	1	3¼	15,026	11
Federated Selangor	£1	Mar. 31	26,400	5	1,052	-	1,052	125	259,357	184,703 (7)	256	13,604	1	1	13,200	50
Glenreed	£2	Dec. 31	55,000	2½	1,211	12	1,223	71	175,000	175,700 (10)	174	6,877	1	6½	6,125	17½
Golconda	£1	Dec. 31	88,000	2 5/16	1,679	25	1,704	120	427,374	344,967 (10)	250	23,866	1	0½	22,000	25
Grik Central	£1	Dec. 31	1,225,000	15 6	12,261	757	13,018	113	2,706,135	2,676,927 (10)	197	120,022	1	2½	85,750	7
Gula-Kalumpong	£1	Dec. 31	450,000	1 1/16	3,726	691	4,417	133	825,495	853,467 (10)	187	54,551	1	0½	45,000	10
Highlands	£1	Dec. 31	309,481	2½	3,803	361	4,164	186	1,137,858	958,827 (10)	273	75,425	1	0½	64,350	24
Inch Kenneth	£1	June 30	30,000 Debs. 50,000	3/4	1,296	99	1,395	78	265,000	265,000 (10)	187	10,730	1	3	5,400	20
Johore Rub. Estates	£1	Dec. 31	399,507	16 3	1,883	4,053	5,936	51	229,322	323,532 (10)	39	11,018	1	4½	-	—
Jong Lemanak	£1	June 30	77,000	2	-	-	1,083‡	92	375,141	161,652 (4)	223	17,457	1	4	14,475	17½
Jugra Land & Ind.	£1	Mar. 31	250,000	1½	3,764	1,236	5,000	82	524,311	370,321 (6)	105	25,188	1	1½	20,872	10
Kajang	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	15 –	509	816	1,325	43	55,258	70,450 (10)	41	1,709	1	5½	-	-
Kamunting & Taiping	£	June 30	30,000	8 6	1,000	-	1,000	127	309,624	262,000 (10)	309	17,555	1	0	12,000	40
Kapar Para	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	1½	2,491	1,057	3,548	94	618,624	424,319 (10)	174	41,555	0	10	37,500	50
Kelanang	£	Dec. 31	25,000	11 6	693	537	1,230	118	237,819	218,000 (10)	195	14,097	1	0	11,250	45
Klanang	£	Dec. 31	31,625	15 –	1,428	56	1,484	160	371,340	366,143 (10)	251	20,445	0	11½	20,029	63½
Kumbok	£	Dec. 31	90,000	2 9	1,181	118	1,299	95	239,942	275,290 (10)	177	5,805	1	4½	5,625	6½
Kuala Lumpur	£1		210,000	17	3,370	1,728	5,098	140	1,285,664	495,375 (4)	254	67,429	1	2	47,250	22½
,, Selangor	£	Dec. 31	30,600	1 5/16	1,470	197	1,667	195	551,854	455,807 (10)	331	41,726	0	9¼	34,425	112½
Labu§	£	Dec. 31	100,000	5 –	1,416	1,585	3,001	83	466,651	415,190 (10)	155	24,473	1	1	15,000	15
Lanadron	£1		22,200	1 1/16	4,326	874	5,200	102	1,241,508	1,059,665 (10)	235	66,288	1	0½	44,250	15
Langkat Sumatra	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	1½	1,740	185	1,925	71	329,700	324,024 (10)	171	11,955	1	6¼	11,250	15
Lendu	£1	Dec. 31	198,600	2	1,445	721	2,166	100	442,000	439,222 (10)	204	23,808	1	0½	16,290	15
Lukut	£	Dec. 31	110,000	17 6	4,777	2,614	7,391	115	1,389,290	1,195,115 (10)	188	78,899	1	2½	75,000	75
,, Pref.	£1		10,000	par												
London Asiatic	£	Dec. 31	159,762	6 9	1,078	78	4,156	127	1,131,430	1,014,955 (10)	272	51,455	1	3	39,940	25
Lumut	£1	Sept. 30	211,482	1¼	3,021	59	5,080	120	699,378	74,805 (1)	227	*45,000	1	1*	31,722	15*
Malacca	£1	Dec. 31	115,000 Pref. 285,004 Ord. $267,340 Debs.	par 4¼	-	-	16,000	108	3,382,147	2,882,600 (10)	220	144,224	1	3	62,944	17½
Merliman	2 –	Dec. 31	209,965 44,000 Debs.	4 9 100	5,038	320	5,358	93	829,644	892,013 (10)	155	38,499	1	1½	28,438	12½
North Hummock	£1	June 30	80,000	3	1,897	923	2,820	85	377,115	162,143 (4)	132	19,663	1	2½	16,000	20
Padang Jawa	2 –	Mar. 31	65,000	2 –	680	110	790	82	150,655	107,581 (7)	191	8,239	0	11¾	4,550	7
Pataling	2 –	Dec. 31	22,500	1 5/16	1,422	186	1,608	217	583,705	489,681 (10)	363	39,350	0	10	39,375	175
Pegoh	£1	Sept. 30	130,000	2	3,521		3,521	74	573,066	53,423 (1)	163	*28,000	*1	2	*20,250	*17½
Perak	2/–	Mar. 31	80,000	5	946	352	1,298	169	420,207	278,720 (7)	324	22,527	1	1	20,025	22½
Rub. Est. of Johore	£1	Dec. 31	125,000	1½	1,813		1,813	117	539,877	537,557 (10)	298	22,340	1	3½	12,500	10
Seaport	£1	Dec. 31	100,000	4½	2,214	36	2,250	191	736,000	683,462 (10)	327	46,005	0	11½	45,000	45
Selborne	2	Dec. 31	30,000	21 6	1,743	525	2,267	142	614,199	514,114 (10)	271	41,940	0	10½	20,000	100
Serdang Central	£1	Dec. 31	1,479	1 1/16	1,270	336	1,606	56	131,476	193,500 (10)	82	3,617	1	7½	3,749	6
Serendah	£1	Dec. 31	200,000	1	2,140	491	2,632	76	516,084	486,226 (10)	196	24,115	1	2½	12,000	6
Sialang	£1	Jan. 31	200,000	2 1/16	3,881	2,086	5,967	77	484,574	570,405 (9)	81	27,606	1	1½	24,000	12
Singapore Para	2/–	June 30	130,900	2 6	1,351	318	1,669	97	359,725	166,478 (4)	186	16,476	1	3½	13,090	10
,, United	2/–	June 30	249,800	2 6	—	–	3,712	83	402,274	166,700 (4)	108	21,616	0	11½	21,498	10
Straits	£1	Dec. 31	350,000	4 1/16	4,355	3,245	7,600	187	2,194,782	1,686,114 (10)	288	164,751	0	10½	140,000	49
,, Bertam	2 –	Mar. 31	200,000	4 5	3,538	1,094	4,632	92	751,921	523,500 (7)	166	39,319	1	1	25,000	12½
Sumatra Cons.	£1	April 30	89,150	2	1,972	300	2,272	79	308,148	198,300 (6)	135½	18,927	1	1½	17,925	20
Sungei Choh	£1	Dec. 31	50,000	2½	1,520	404	1,724	76	288,542	277,298 (9)	166	15,161	1	1½	10,000	20
,, Kuan	£1	Dec. 31	50,000 18,000	(Pref.) 2	1,470	884	2,354	85	2,000,000	420,228 (10)	111	15,233	1	1½	13,732	10
,, Kuat	£1	Dec. 31	65,000	1½	810	506	1,316	68	171,000	240,000 (10)	130	7,479	1	4	5,200	8
,, Salak	£1	Dec. 31	65,000	2 5/16	1,410	151	1,561	130	481,960	418,369 (10)	293	23,525	1	3	17,875	27½
,, Wang	£1	Dec. 31	58,666	¾	1,231	756	1,987	110	426,126	379,401 (10)	214	25,624	1	2	20,533	35
Tanjong	£1	June 30	150,000	2 3/16	3,634	1,482	5,116	82	804,327	366,148 (4)	157	40,000*	1	2*	30,000*	20*
Tanjong Malim	£1	June 30	500,000	1	2,483	4,164	6,647	75	571,538	571,538 (10)	86	26,515	1	5	25,000	-
Tapah	£1	June 30	125,000	2	2,684	1,233	3,917	83	646,260	587,510 (10)	164	32,320*	1	2½*	18,750*	15*
Tremelbye	£1	June 30	50,000	1	1,448	579	2,027	136	545,250	195,850 (4)	269	33,845	1	0½	31,050	45
United Selangor	2 –	Aug. 30	250,000	10 3	8,295	1,304	9,599	134	2,470,196	2,470,196 (10)	257	128,000*	1	0*	100,000	40*
,, Rubber	2 –	July 31	131,687	1 1/16	758	1,610	2,333	63	264,219	264,219 (10)	113	12,947	1	3½	6,584	-
Valambrosa	£	Feb. 28	50,600	15 6	2,242	1,084	3,346	117	542,203	280,511 (6)	162	24,873	1	3½	17,344	35
Yong Seng	£	Oct. 31	41,900	1 1/16	843	591	1,434	71	200,768	200,768 (10)	174	7,000*	1	2*	7,332*	17½*

Figures in parenthesis ( ) months of output of [illegible]. § Held [illegible]

owing to their idea that it was inferior to "para." But what kind of rubber, even plantation, has met the immense demands of the War for motor tyres, waterproofs, &c.? Then again, it was thought in pre-war days that the immense increase of plantation production that must—and, indeed, has—followed the great boom plantings would so outstrip consumption as to bring about an unremunerative level of price for the commodity. But the War has put a totally different complexion on this subject, the uses for rubber have been greatly widened, and after the War the replenishment needs of the Central Powers will be great. Lastly, the bogey of synthetic rubber must have ceased to worry even the most timid shareholders. "Necessity is the mother of invention," and yet Germany, despite her great need and her world-famous chemists, has not discovered a synthetic substitute. In view of all these circumstances it is but natural that rubber shares should come to be looked upon with increasing favour. They are not a speculation in the sense that a mine or an oil company is a speculation, and yet they can be bought at prices that afford a high yield to the investor and give promise of considerable capital appreciation irrespective of a rise in the value of the product.

But it is essential that the investor should take care to pay a reasonable price for his purchase, and in respect of no other kind of security with the same attractions is it so easy to ascertain the real value of the shares as compared with the market price. The great thing to remember is that an estate cannot produce more than a certain amount of rubber yearly from each planted acre. In the early stages the yield varies according to the age of the trees, and always the situation of the estate plays an important rôle; but, roughly speaking, it may be taken in regard to Malaya and Sumatra that 400 lb. per planted acre, at full maturity, is a safe allowance, or, if conservatism is desired to provide for possible contingencies, 350 lb per acre. Three other important factors are the price of rubber, the cost of production, and the market value of the capital. At full maturity, when producing from 350 lb. to 400 lb. per acre, well-situated estates should be able to produce rubber at a total cost of 1s. per lb.—a number of the older large plantations have already reduced their costs to appreciably under 1s. Now, on the basis of a given price of rubber and 1s. per lb. "all in" costs, it is very easy to arrive at what must be the maximum market capitalisation per planted acre of a fully matured estate producing from 350 to 400 lb. per acre, assuming that the purchaser requires a yield of 10%, on his investment. In the following table we show what the maximum market capitalisation per planted acre must be with a varying price for rubber:—

Assuming Investor Requires 10% *Yield.*

Price of Rubber Per Lb.	Full Maturity Yield 350 lbs. per Acre. Assumed "All In" Cost Per Lb.	Maximum Market Capitalisation Per Planted Acre	Full Maturity Yield 400 lbs. per Acre. Assumed "All In" Cost Per Lb.	Maximum Market Capitalisation Per Planted Acre
s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.	£
1 6	1 0	100	1 0	87½
2 0	1 0	200	1 0	175
2 6	1 0	300	1 0	262½
3 0	1 0	400	1 0	350
3 6	1 0	500	1 0	437½
4 0	1 0	600	1 0	525

Present Price of Rubber 3s. 0d. per lb.

Note.—The above table shows the maximum market capitalisations per planted acre because it is assumed that the whole of the profit represented by the difference between cost and price of rubber is distributed in dividends, and affords the investor a [illegible]

If shareholders and others interested will bear in mind the figures of maximum market capitalisations per planted acre given above, they will be able very easily to gauge the relative cheapness or dearness of the various rubber shares. In the full-page table herewith we give the vital information necessary to the appraising of about 80 different shares. We have set the three most important columns in conspicuous type. The reader, casting his eyes from left to right, will see what portion of the planted area has reached, or is about to reach, the tapping stage, what portion has still to come into production, and the total planted area. He will then observe the market capitalisation per planted acre, which he much consider in relation to the rubber production, the output per planted acre, and the "all in" costs shown in the succeeding columns. Also, he will note the profit earned in the last financial year and the dividends paid, indicating the margin between the distribution to shareholders and the profit earned. We venture to think a study of this table will open the eyes of many rubber shareholders to the value of their investments in comparison with others offering at present market prices, and will give a good idea of the number of shares that offer distinct attractions to the investor willing to take a comparatively low yield on his money now, with the almost certain prospect of a higher return later on, and the natural corollary of appreciation in capital value.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RY.

Not the least interesting item in Lord St. Davids' speech at the meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company this week was the reference he made to future capital commitments of the Company. In recent years we have been accustomed to see the Buenos Ayres and Pacific spending capital at the rate of a million and a half to two millions a year upon its own and subsidiary undertakings; now we have the assurance of the Chairman that for the next two or three years, at any rate, efforts will be made to keep capital expenditures within £200,000 per annum. At June 30 last the capital account showed a credit balance of £2,139,000, so that for some time to come stockholders are not likely to be called upon to sanction further new issues. The Company may well for a time rest on its laurels seeing that it has done so much in the past to extend and consolidate its system—a policy which, with the return of better times, is likely to bear abundant fruit in the shape of largely increased earnings and profits. Dealing with the immediate outlook, Lord St. Davids stated that a good feature was the fact that the area under wheat was greater than last year. On the other hand, some damage had been done by drought, while they were suffering from the visitation of locusts, which had also caused some little damage. While locusts do enormous damage to maize, however, it is not usual for them to do so much to wheat, and Lord St. Davids does not apprehend, therefore, that it will be very great. Another bad feature, he stated, was [illegible] was bound to go up. He estimated that coal would cost the Company at least £100,000 more, and possibly £150,000 more, this year than last. On the other hand, traffic receipts continue to grow, the increase to date being as much as £310,000. Generally speaking, the position of the Company depends on the condition of the country, and in this respect signs are not wanting that an improvement has set in. The country has been importing very little [illegible] prices. The result is that in Argentina deposits in [illegible] or later this money will be used in the development [illegible] the old rate of progress will be resumed. The price [illegible]

"[illegible] Life, Institutions and Culture." By William J. Harvey and Christian Reppien. Price 2s. 6d. (London: T. F. Unwin.)

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Financial Notes.

THE *Official Gazette* on Wednesday published the text of the Bill authorising the new French Loan, together with the decrees and regulations fixing the conditions of the issue. The price of issue is to be 88 francs per 100. The rate of interest is to be 5%. The subscription will be opened on November 25, and the date of the closing of the lists will be not later than December 15. Subscriptions may be paid with National Defence vouchers and bonds of previous War Loans, with 3½% Rentes and, on certain conditions, with 3% Rentes, and savings banks deposit receipts. The loan will bear interest from November 16. The price of the 3% Perpetual Rentes, which may be given in payment to the extent of one-third of the maximum subscriptions to the Loan, will be reckoned at 22 francs for each franc of interest.

It is a serious disadvantage, of course, that the enemy is in occupation of so large a portion of French soil, some of it the most prosperous in the Republic. We do not doubt, however, that the Loan will be a great success, for, though residents within the occupied territories will not be permitted to subscribe, the patriotism of the French people outside will not fail. Means will be found to make a great demonstration on the occasion. The amount of the Loan, very wisely, is not fixed, for, so much of the country being in the occupation of the enemy, it is difficult for even the most experienced financier to form an estimate of what the country can actually pay up. In any event the credit of France will not suffer, for everybody knows how keen is the patriotism of the French people, and how certain it is that the occupied Departments would subscribe largely if they had the power of doing so.

It is reported from Washington that several amendments to the Federal Reserve Act are under consideration for submission to Congress at the coming Session. The provision to vest in the Federal Reserve Board instead of the Secretary of the Treasury, the control of Government funds so far as their deposit in Reserve Banks or other banks is concerned, is one of the amendments that is expected. It is further anticipated that a provision will be introduced reducing the liabilities of member banks for payment on capital stock in the Reserve banks, possibly leaving the control of at least one-third of the reserve funds subject to final payment by the banks to the member banks themselves, as was the case under the old currency system. One other amendment looked for is a change in the law which would permit the handling by the Federal Reserve Banks of acceptances based upon domestic and commercial transactions [illegible] bills of exchange may now be taken.

[illegible] markets this year surprise had not seldom been expressed at the slowness with which the recovery of American trade and American speculation had proceeded. Those who were so surprised forgot many of the conditions which weighed on markets. The country had not recovered from the breakdown of 1907, and although the new Banking Act contributed to a restoration of confidence, it did so only slowly, for many people doubted whether the Act was altogether wise, and many more felt convinced that an amendment of the Act would have to be undertaken even before the Administration which carried it through came to an end. There is no question, however, now that American trade is making very great progress, and that the European war has benefited American business as largely as the most sanguine anticipated.

Of course, there are still obstacles in the way of further rapid advance. For one thing, the position in Mexico is anything but satisfactory. Carranza has been recognised by the South American States, and even by the United States. But feeling in the United States is anything but very confident respecting the policy he will pursue or his success in restoring and maintaining order. Then there is the great European War, which, if it benefits the trade of the United States, disturbs the trade of so much more of the world, while there are always difficulties arising which may have consequences that nobody can foresee. It is doubtful, therefore, whether there will be that outburst of speculation that many have predicted, though it is certain that trade must expand owing to the extraordinary demands of the European belligerents for goods from the United States.

The general feeling in Argentina is that the crops this year will be good, though not so good as last year. Rain fell at a propitious time, and that ought to be a good omen. On the other hand, there is talk of locusts, and there is always danger of frosts and other climatic disadvantages. However, there is no serious doubt that the crops will be good. Meantime, Argentina is benefiting by the large purchases of the belligerents and, therefore, everything is in favour of the country.

In Chili, the prospects are favourable, although it is true that the price of nitrate has fallen to 8*s.* 6*d.*, having been as high as 9*s.* But, against this, it is to be noted that freights are more favourable, while prices for forward delivery are good.

Business is not yet as good in India as the excellent monsoon led many people to hope, but it is to be recollected that India is doing a large trade all the same in jute, the War creating a strong demand for it. Likewise, there is a good business being done in cotton, chiefly for Japan.

"Anglo-Canadian Year-Book, 1915-16." By Keith Morris. Published primarily in the interests of all residents of the British Isles who are actively concerned with the great Dominion. Copies can be obtained from Messrs. William Stevens, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. Price 5*s.*

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LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RR.

IMPROVING POSITION.

THE Louisville and Nashville of late years has come to be regarded as one of the strongest railroads of the United States. That there is every justification for placing the undertaking in this category is evident from the fact that in the past year, in which there occurred the greatest percentage falling off in its revenue since 1894, the profits earned were equal to about 6¾% on its stock. It is true that in view of the adverse circumstances existing last year, and the desire to husband the Company's cash resources as far as possible, the rate of dividend was reduced from 7%, which had been forthcoming for the preceding five years, to 5%; but the improvement in conditions this year is likely to be so considerable that no long time is expected to elapse before the distribution will be raised to a higher level. Indeed, the existing quotation of about 126 for the stock in New York, at which the yield from the 5% dividend is no more than about 4%, would seem to indicate that the market recognises that the set-back in the dividend is merely a temporary matter and discounts in large measure a recovery in the rate of distribution.

The Company's lines serve not only a great agricultural and cotton-growing area, but important coalfields and manufacturing districts, the main line passing through the important iron centre of Birmingham, Alabama. Further, the lines form one of the most direct routes between the manufacturing districts of the Central West and the South and the Gulf of Mexico, extending, as they do, from Ohio and Indiana, as well as from Chicago and St. Louis, through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama to the sea coast. By reason of the geographical position of the system between the South and the Gulf, and between the South-East and the North-West, great prosperity has been brought to the Louisville in the past, and as time goes on and the territory served becomes more highly developed this prosperity will be considerably enhanced. Moreover, now that a bold bid is being made by the United States to build up a big trade with Central and South American countries, new sources of traffic of a profitable character may be expected to be opened up for the Louisville.

The depression in the iron and steel industries and in building construction caused traffic and earnings to fall off somewhat in the June half of 1914, and the set-back that then occurred was intensified by the disturbance to economic conditions in the South resulting from the outbreak of war. In no small degree the prosperity of the Louisville in recent years has been derived from the good times that have been enjoyed by the agricultural community, and especially by cotton growers, from the relatively high prices that ruled for agricultural produce of all kinds. Although not a large carrier of cotton itself—the tonnage of the staple in a normal year representing only about .6% of the total freight carried—the Louisville, in common with other lines operating in the same region, was bound to suffer from the blow to business activities in the South that ensued last year in consequence of the unprofitable prices obtained for cotton and the greatly reduced spending power of the communities served. Furthermore, the relative absence of orders for equipment and materials and supplies of all kinds on behalf of the railroads of the country, in view of the desire of the companies not to commit themselves to large expenditures until the question of freight rates had been satisfactorily settled, and the outlook for improving earnings was more assured, was also a disturbing factor that had to be contended with. In the ordinary course of things nearly 40% of the freight tonnage of the line consists of bituminous coal carried from the mines situated upon its system to the great industrial centres.

To afford an illustration of the great shrinkage in business throughout the whole territory served, some interesting figures are given in the last annual report, which we published a few weeks ago. These statistics show the falling-off in the past year in the freight "forwarded" revenue from the principal stations, from which it appears that from St. Louis the decline was as much as 30%, from Birmingham, Evansville, and Selma 25%, and from Cincinnati and Louisville almost 24%. In the case of the remaining stations, the percentage declines ranged from 10% to about 22%. Normally nearly 90% of the Louisville's freight traffic originates on its lines, so that the following statement, not only indicates the magnitude of the loss of traffic last year, but affords a good idea of the extent of the depression in trade in the districts served. Thanks to the satisfactory grain crops of 1914, the lightest falling-off was in products of agriculture, which declined 6.6%. In animal products the shrinkage was 14%, in minerals 12½%, in forestal products 20¼%, and in manufactures, merchandise, and miscellaneous freight, the volume of which rises or falls accordingly as the purchasing power of the community served expands or contracts, the decline was over 18%.

Classification of Freight Traffic, Louisville & Nashville RR.

Year to June 30	Agricultural	Animal	Minerals	Forestal	Manufactures, Merchandise, Miscellaneous	Total
1915	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1914 ...	2,431,513	524,963	20,143,454	2,937,190	6,177,986	32,215,106
1913 ...	2,561,521	546,939	19,774,501	3,195,463	6,163,310	32,241,734
1912 ...	2,631,010	525,655	18,651,091	2,705,167	5,912,209	30,425,132
1911 ...	2,585,409	463,014	17,852,166	2,849,432	5,869,911	29,619,932
1910 ...	2,541,988	438,042	18,570,137	2,952,660	5,652,390	30,155,217
1909 ...	2,258,548	432,831	14,274,076	2,523,601	4,914,896	24,403,952
1908 ...	2,158,215	418,504	13,626,231	2,488,446	4,565,106	23,256,502
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1906 ...	2,226,621	429,082	13,515,042	2,724,576	5,658,511	24,553,832
1905 ...	1,895,817	395,159	11,529,783	2,404,444	4,786,618	21,041,821

The changed conditions of traffic last year, and the greater proportionate decline in the tonnage of high-class freight, were responsible for the considerable decline in the average freight rate to .719 cent, in comparison with .778 cent secured in the previous year. Our records of this Company go back to 1890, and in no year since then has the rate been as low as last year.

It is little wonder in these circumstances that the gross revenue for the past year declined $8,263,000, or almost 14%, to $51,740,000, which is the lowest figure since 1909. A considerable portion of this loss of revenue was, however, neutralised by smaller operating expenses and taxes, the reduction having been $6,006,000, or about 12.6%. Hence the falling-off in net earnings after taxes was $2,257,000, or about 18%. The additional miscellaneous income received more than offset a small increase in interest

Income Statement of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Year to June 30	Average Mileage.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Interest, Rentals, &c.	Net Profit.	Earned.	Dividends Declared. Rate.	Paid.	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$	$
1915 ...	5,037	51,740,000	39,566,000	76·4	12,174,000	3,424,000	15,598,000	2,137,000	8,579,000	4,882,000	6·78	5	3,600,000	1,282,000
1914 ...	4,937	60,003,000	45,109,000	75·18	14,894,000	2,882,000	17,776,000	2,600,000	8,327,000	6,849,000	9·51	7	5,040,000	1,809,000
1913 ...	4,820	59,838,000	45,163,000	75·47	14,675,000	3,037,000	17,712,000	1,762,000	7,509,000	8,441,000	12·79	7	4,619,000	3,822,000
1912 ...	4,710	56,597,000	40,020,000	70·71	16,577,000	2,794,000	19,371,000	1,855,000	7,956,000	9,560,000	15·93	7	4,200,000	5,360,000
1911 ...	4,648	54,[illegible]	[illegible]	71·39	15,554,000	1,984,000	17,534,000	1,938,000	7,041,000	8,555,000	14·26	7	4,200,000	4,355,000
1910 ...	4,554	52,858,000	[illegible]	66·76	17,569,000	1,733,000	19,302,000	1,603,000	7,286,000	10,413,000	17·35	7	4,200,000	6,213,000
1909 ...	4,393	[illegible]	39,039,000	65·94	15,723,000	1,395,000	17,118,000	1,438,000	7,092,000	8,588,000	14·31	5½	3,300,000	5,288,000
1908 ...	4,348	44,[illegible]	[illegible]	75·39	11,069,000	1,278,000	12,347,000	1,394,000	6,438,000	4,515,000	7·52	5½*	3,300,000	1,215,000
1907 ...	4,306	48,[illegible]	32,815,000	67·93	15,444,000	1,561,000	17,010,000	1,208,000	6,385,000	9,417,000	15·69	6	3,600,000	5,817,000
1906 ...	4,131	43,008,000	28,346,000	65·91	14,662,000	1,567,000	16,229,000	1,142,000	6,152,000	8,935,000	14·89	6	3,600,000	5,335,000
1905 ...	3,826	38,517,000	23,928,000	62·12	14,589,000	1,627,000	16,216,000	955,000	5,842,000	9,389,000	15·65	6	3,600,000	5,789,000
1895 ...	2,255	19,[illegible]	11,[illegible]	62·24	7,278,000	363,000	7,641,000	569,000	6,092,000	980,000	1·85	Nil	—	980,000

• In addition a dividend of 1 per cent. on L. & N. RR. stock was paid, February 1915, in stock of Louisville Property Co.

and other charges, and the final result was a reduction of $1,967,000 in the net profit, which amounted to $4,882,000, a sum equal to 6.78% upon the stock. The profit earned in the previous year was equal to 9.51%, and in 1912-13, 12.79%. For 1910, when gross receipts were only $1,000,000 higher than for the past year, the net profit amounted to $10,413,000. Practically the whole of the shrinkage in profits that has occurred in the interval has arisen from increased expenses, due partly to much more liberal outlays upon maintenance, and in large measure to the additional cost of operating brought about by higher wages and various causes over which the Company has had no control.

From the appended Income Statement, showing the course of earnings and profits over the past decade, it will be noted that after the payment of dividends the Company has had large sums available each year for capital purposes. We would add that the same remark applies to preceding years also, the only exception since 1890 being in 1894, when there was a deficit of but $26,000, after paying a 4½% dividend. Indeed, for a long period the policy of the undertaking appears to have been to distribute half the profits in dividends and to put the remaining half back into the property. To take the case of the last ten years only, in which there have been two periods of considerable set-back in earnings and profits, the net profits have aggregated $80,155,000, of which $39,659,000 has been paid away to the stockholders, and the balance of $40,496,000 rendered available for capital purposes of various kinds. The carrying out year by year of this conservative policy is the real secret of the great financial strength of the Louisville, for by turning back into the property large sums of money out of profits it has been possible to keep down the capital account to a relatively low figure.

The efforts made last year to offset in part the great shrinkage in gross receipts are particularly noteworthy. Very little change occurred in the outlays upon maintenance of way, but upon maintenance of equipment there was a reduction of nearly $2,000,000, rendered possible by the diminution in traffic and the fact that the condition of the equipment had previously been raised to such a high standard that some curtailment of expenditure could be made without in any way impairing efficiency. In the aggregate maintenance outlays represented 37.31% of the gross receipts, against under 36% in the previous year. As regards conducting transportation, there was a saving of $3,268,000, and the ratio to gross receipts was 36.33%, against 36.78% in 1913-14; but this by no means represents the full power of the officers of the road to economise, for it has to be remembered that the outbreak of the War struck such a sudden blow to activities in the South that railway earnings slumped heavily before the officers of the various roads had an opportunity of putting into practice a retrenchment policy. Further, several companies, and among them the Louisville, had certain improvement works under way which had to be completed before the economies, which the circumstances rendered absolutely essential, [illegible] these improvement works on the Louisville have now been brought into use, and are proving of distinct benefit in enabling the traffic to be handled with an increasing degree of economy, and the ratio of conducting transportation this year should show large diminution. An interesting feature of the Company's expense account is that the Company is spending more money upon maintenance of equipment than upon conducting transportation. Such an achievement is equalled by no other large railroad in the United States. As showing the liberality of the outlays for upkeep which has always characterised this undertaking, and as pointing to the fact that the highly satisfactory nature of the profit account in past years has not been due in any way to putting a curb on maintenance work, we would mention that in the 10 years to June last, out of total gross earnings of $515,000,000, no less than $177,000,000, or 34½%, was devoted to maintenance of the road and rolling-stock. The cost of conducting transportation in the same period was about $184,000,000. The course of expenses in recent years has been as follows:—

Operating Expenses of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Yr. to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Conduct. Transp.	Gen. & Misc.	Total Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915...51,740,000		8,993,000	10,311,000	18,800,000	1,462,000	39,566,000
1914...60,003,000		9,287,000	12,292,000	22,068,000	1,461,000	45,109,000
1913...59,566,000		11,033,000	11,217,000	21,144,000	1,417,000	44,811,000
1912...56,211,000		8,829,000	10,071,000	19,586,000	1,140,000	39,626,000
1911...53,994,000		9,178,000	9,491,000	18,713,000	1,098,000	38,480,000
1910...52,433,000		[illegible]	8,559,000	17,151,000	1,104,000	34,986,000
1909...45,426,000		[illegible]	7,832,000	15,587,000	951,000	29,627,000
1908...44,620,000		6,291,000	9,020,000	17,253,000	1,030,000	33,594,000
1907...48,264,000		[illegible]	8,710,000	17,972,000	1,033,000	35,781,000
1906...43,008,000		6,538,000	7,792,000	15,639,000	964,000	30,933,000
1905...38,517,000		5,702,000	6,346,000	13,510,000	932,000	26,490,000

Ratio of Oper. Expenses to Gross Earnings, Louis. & Nashville RR.

		%	%	%	%	%
1915		[illegible]	19·93	36·33	[illegible]	76·47
1914		15·48	20·49	36·78	2·43	75·18
1913		18·52	18·83	35·50	2·38	75·23
1912		15·71	17·92	34·84	2·02	70·49
1911		17·00	17·57	34·65	[illegible]	71·27
1910		15·59	16·32	32·71	2·10	66·72
1909		11·57	17·24	34·31	2·10	65·22
1908		14·10	20·21	38·67	2·31	75·29
1907		16·71	18·05	37·24	2·14	74·14
1906		15·20	18·12	36·36	2·24	71·92
1905		14·8[illegible]	16·47	35·07	2·42	68·77

In the current year conditions have completely changed. The cotton grower is obtaining, and is likely to continue to obtain, a better price for his product, grain crops are abundant, and the need for bituminous coal and for iron ore is exceedingly great, in view of the large demands for equipment of all kinds by the railways and the heavy purchases of munitions of war by the Entente Powers. Furthermore, a very large amount of bituminous coal is being mined at the present time for export. Another factor to take into account is that the return to more normal conditions in the territory served will cause the spending power of the community to expand, and the demand for merchandise and miscellaneous traffic of all kinds that will thus be stimulated is likely to bring much additional traffic and earnings to the Louisville. Since the beginning of September gross earnings have been showing steady improvement, and this recovery is anticipated to continue. Up to the present, however, notwithstanding the greater amount of traffic coming to hand, the decline in gross receipts in the corresponding period of last year has not been made

good, but inasmuch as expenses, and more particularly the cost of conducting transportation, are being kept well in hand, net earnings have more than recovered to the level of two years ago. For the eighteen weeks to November 7 gross receipts have improved $411,000. The latest revenue statement is that for September, and this shows that a diminution of $134,000 in gross receipts for the September quarter was accompanied by an addition of $967,000 to the net earnings. In view of the improvement in gross receipts secured since September, and likely to continue to be witnessed, a much greater expansion than $1,000,000 in net earnings may be looked for this year. Indeed, it would not be surprising if without undue delay the dividend was raised to a higher level. Action upon the next dividend will be taken in the middle of December, and by that time the board will be in a better position to gauge the rate of profit than is the case at the moment. The severity of the shrinkage in earnings following upon the outbreak of war, the manner in which efforts were made to reduce expenses, and the improvement that has now set in, will be evident from the subjoined statement of the course of earnings and expenses since July 1914:

Recent Course of Earnings and Expenses, Louis. & Nash. RR.

(000's omitted.)

Months.	Gross Receipts.	Operating Expenses & Taxes: Maintenance of Way & Equipment	Conducting Transportation.	Total Expenses.	Net Profits after Taxes.
	$	$	$	$	$
July 1914	— 141	—143	17	— 83	+ 127
Aug. 1914	407	105	111	— 151	+ 54
Sept. 1914	— 719	+ 82	132	186	— 432
Oct. 1914	—1,311	66	124	— 265	— 811
Nov. 1914	—1,287	—178	141	359	— 727
Dec. 1914	—1,024	—137	215	— 366	— 253
Jan. 1915	880	—105	80	— 361	— 150
Feb. 1915	604	— 100	164	— 269	— 146
Mar. 1915	444	60	148	294	— 57
April 1915	533	— 56	193	— 307	— 14
May 1915	— 575	0	97	372	+ 227
June 1915	— 282	— 187	51	255	— 18
Year ...	—8,300	294	1,981	5,268	—6,943	—2,257
July, 1915	— 318	16	— 163	— 261	422	+ 104
Aug. 1915	— 76	70	— [illegible]	— 240	417	+ 341
Sept. 1915	+ 260				262	+ 522
Oct. 1915	+ 341					
Nov.(1st wk.)	+ 241					

The December half year, as a rule, is the most profitable six months for the Louisville, and in normal times it may be said that practically the whole of the year's dividend requirements are earned in that period. The net profit for the December half of 1914 amounted, however, to only $2,675,000, so that, apart from any change in net earnings since September, the profits for the current half-year will be sufficient to pay a year's dividend of 5%. If, however, net earnings continue to expand in the current quarter, as we anticipate they will, it would not be surprising to find that for this half-year the Company will have earned at least 6% on its stock.

Owing to the disturbed conditions of last year no new extension work is being undertaken at the present time, attention being concentrated upon adding to the physical strength of the existing road and in thus rendering practicable economies of operation not hitherto possible. In recent years great strides have been made in adding to the tractive power of the freight locomotives, and further progress has been made in the past year, the average tractive power of the freight engines at the end of June having been 35,378 lb., against 33,982 lb. a year earlier and 28,324 lb. 10 years ago. The capacity of the freight cars has likewise been increased, the average capacity per car having been raised to 39.11 tons at the end of June. The strengthening of the track is a matter that has always engaged careful consideration, and with a view to enabling heavier trains to be run the weight of rail on the track is being rapidly increased. As recently as 1911 the standard rail weighed 80 lb. per yard, and only about a dozen miles were laid with rails of heavier types. At the end of June no less than 1,052 miles were laid with rails weighing 90 lb. and over, compared with 626 miles in June 1914.

Owing to the possession of a large number of branch lines and a somewhat scattered mileage, it is not possible for the Louisville and Nashville to secure such heavy freight train loads as do some of the leading railroads in other parts of the country. Nevertheless, steady progress in the loading of the trains was made each year until 1913-14. Since then a very noteworthy improvement has occurred, and whereas between 1905 and 1914 the train load increased only from 229.15 tons to 296.58 tons, it has been raised in the past year to 347.47 tons. This better loading has permitted of a great saving in freight train mileage which in turn is reflected in the reduced cost of conducting transportation. Perhaps a better idea of the achievement secured last year in operating the freight trains is obtainable from comparison with the figures for 1910. Five years ago the volume of freight traffic—ton miles—was only slightly less than that of the past year, but the freight train miles run were then 18,396,000 against only 14,815,000 miles run last year. With practically no variation in the volume of traffic, there has thus been a saving of about 20% in the train mileage. The improved working of the freight traffic last year will be appreciated from the statement given below:—

Freight-Train Results, Louisville and Nashville RR.

Yr. to June 30	Rev. Ton Mileage.	Freight Train Miles.	Average Train Load, Tons.	Loaded Car Miles.	Average Loaded Car Load, Tons.	Ton Miles per Mile of Road.
1915 ...	5,144,141,631	14,815,013	347·17	241,654,890	21·30	1,021,335
1914 ..	5,511,812,374	18,591,743	296·58	270,888,154	20·36	1,116,491
1913 ..	5,513,273,784	18,708,827	294·75	272,136,332	20·26	1,143,866
1912 .	5,172,299,481	18,154,312	285·02	264,035,812	19·60	1,098,169
1911 ..	5,095,052,668	18,494,572	275·49	259,481,644	19·64	1,108,008
1910 ..	5,119,038,899	18,396,134	278·27	253,660,280	20·18	1,124,001
1909 ..	4,255,981,335	16,188,837	262·90	219,737,560	19·36	968,785
1908 ..	4,020,348,694	17,210,343	233·60	212,024,435	18·96	924,686
1907 ...	4,395,620,480	19,033,012	230·95	235,672,865	18·66	1,020,735
1906 ...	3,925,707,333	17,021,713	230·63	219,721,077	17·87	950,325
1905 ...	3,505,899,568	15,299,199	229·15	203,699,437	17·21	916,362

At the present time the capacity of the road is in excess of traffic requirements, but it is quite evident that the work of constructing a large amount of additional second track must be considered in the next few years. Ability to raise the necessary new capital that may be needed is afforded by the strength of the undertaking, and any steps that may be made in that direction would doubtless consist of the issue of Common stock to existing stockholders. Such an issue would, of course, be of pecuniary advantage to stockholders, as the new stock would probably be offered at par. At the end of June last the Company had $14,155,000 of cash in hand or on deposit, against $13,814,000 a year before. Exclusive of materials and supplies, current assets amounted to $18,718,000, against current liabilities of less than $8,800,000.

The amounts and prices of, together with the yields afforded by, the Company's principal securities are shown below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Louis. & Nash. RR.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div. Rate. %	Paid. 1st of	Price.	Yield % per An.† £ s. d.
N. O. & Mob. Div. 1st Mort.	4,992,000	Jan. 1930	6	J. & J.	122½†	4 16 0
L. & N. General Mort. Gold	[illegible],000	June 1930	6	J. & D.	122†	4 17 10
L. & N. Unified 50-yr 4% Mt.	64,770,000	July 1940	4	J. & J.	102†	4 8 10
Atl. Knox. and Cin. Mort.	24,745,000	May 1955	4	M. & N.	85½°	n4 13 7
Kent. Cent. R. 1st Mort. 4%	6,704,000	July 1987	4	J. & J.	87°	n4 12 0
5% 1st Mort. Coll. Trust...	4,705,000	Nov. 1931	5	M. & N.	110½†	4 14 5
L. & N.-So., Monon Coll. Jnt.	5,898,000	July 1952	4	J. & J.	75½°	n5 6 0
S. & N. Alab. 5% Cons. Mt.	9,292,000	Aug. 1936	5	F. & A.	108½†	5 0 0
S. & N. Alab. Gen. Con. Mt.	[illegible],000	Oct. 1963	5	A. & O.	106½°	4 19 6
Lex. & E. 5% 1st Mort.	[illegible],000	Apl. 1965		M. & S.	97½°	5 2 10
Common stock	72,000,000	—	5	F. & A.	133½†	4 0 4

(°) New York price. (†) London price. (b) Atlantic Coast Line RR. owns $36,720,000. (n) Not allowance for redemption. (r) Yield allowance for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY.

With a view to inducing the more prompt deposit of securities under the plan of readjustment, and thus bringing to a speedy conclusion the receivership in which the undertaking is now involved, the readjustment managers, together with the several Protective Committees with whom they are acting in co-operation, have compiled an interesting analysis which we publish on subsequent pages. The object of the analysis, together with a map which has also been prepared, is to show more fully than in the plan of readjustment published in July last how the various bonds of the system are affected, and the reasons for the treatment accorded to them under the plan. It will be recollected that originally it was proposed to carry through a voluntary readjustment of the capital of the system, whereby, *inter alia*, certain existing bonded indebtedness should be exchanged for junior securities, and an assessment of $50 a share should be paid on the Common stock, in return for which stockholders were to receive an equal amount of new General Mortgage 4% Bonds. The scheme was certainly a bold one considering the interests involved, but not unexpectedly it failed to be carried out through insufficient deposit of securities. Consequently, in August recourse had to be made to the Courts, and the former President, Mr. F. B. Bush, was appointed sole receiver, so that what security-holders failed to agree to voluntarily is now practically forced upon them.

It certainly behoves all holders of securities affected to deposit as soon as possible, for if the existing plan, which was drawn up only after very careful consideration, is not accepted, security-holders cannot hope to obtain better treatment under any new plan that might be proposed. The appointment of a receiver, too, emphasises the need for prompt co-operation in carrying through the reorganisation scheme. Judging from recent advices from New York, the amount of securities so far deposited is still relatively small, and, consequently, the time within which further deposits may be made has been extended to December 15 next. It is to be hoped that security-holders will recognise the necessity of curtailing as far as possible the delay and expense incident to receivership and foreclosure, and will promptly send their securities to the various depositaries. Only by so doing can the system be speedily restored to its owners, its credit re-established, and funds provided for future requirements. In all about $41,000,000 of new cash is required under the readjustment scheme, and the burden of providing this falls upon the stockholders; but after taking into account the value of the General Mortgage Bonds to be received upon the payment of a $50 assessment, the net burden of the cash assessment is reduced to between $17½ and $20.

FOREIGN RAILWAY RESULTS.

NORTH-WESTERN OF URUGUAY RAILWAY.

The financial depression in South America accentuated by the European war, has caused a further big reduction in the earnings and profits of the North-Western of Uruguay Railway, and last year's results are the poorest for a long while past. Indeed, the profit for dividend amounted to only £2,910, as against £6,635 in the preceding year and nearly £16,000 in 1912-13. Of course, no dividend is possible on the first Preference stock, which was also passed twelve months ago. Then, however, the balance carried forward amounted to £6,878, and adding this to the profit of £2,910 earned last year the directors are able to set aside £2,000 to the renewals fund, £5,026 to general reserve, and to carry forward £2,762 to the current year. The gross receipts show a decrease of £13,235, or 20.7%, but as this was accompanied by a reduction of £8,463 in working expenses the decline in net earnings is £4,772, or 7.4%. The total net income, including the Government guarantee, amounts to £32,330, which compares with £37,304 last year, £43,841 in 1912-13, and £44,627 three years ago. The relatively heavy drop in the Company's earnings and profits will be seen from the following statement:—

North-Western of Uruguay Railway.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11	1909–10
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings ...	50,485	63,720	77,686	74,599	70,488	65,324
Expenses	42,659	51,122	53,765	49,717	49,313	46,440
Ratio	(84.49)	(80.22)	(69.17)	(66.64)	(69.94)	(71.09)
Net earnings ...	7,826	12,598	23,921	24,881	21,175	18,884
Miscellaneous ...	651	164	—	—	—	—
Int. on Govt. bonds	9,808	10,497	10,723	10,723	10,724	10,723
Govt. Guarantee ...	14,045	14,045	9,197	9,023	11,079	11,488
Total income ...	32,330	37,304	43,841	44,627	42,978	41,095
Int. on 1st Deb. stock	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Int. on 2nd Deb. stock	4,358	4,213	3,267	2,826	2,302	2,302
Miscellaneous ...	1,062	2,456	929	1,006	585	102
Total charges ...	29,420	30,669	28,196	27,832	26,887	26,404
Net profit	2,910	6,635	15,645	16,795	16,091	14,691
Div. on 1st Pref. stock	Nil	Nil	13,744	16,493	16,493	13,744
Rate per cent. ...	—	-	(2¼%)	(3%)	(3%)	(2¼%)
Balance	Cr 2,910	6,635	1,901	Cr. 302	Dr. 402	947
To renewals fund ...	2,000	—	2,000	—	—	1,000
General reserve ...	5,026					
Balance	Cr 4,116	6,635	Dr. 99	Cr. 302	Cr. 302	Dr. 53
Brought forward ...	6,878	243	343	43	445	498
Carried forward ...	2,762	6,878	244	345	43	445

The bridge over the Cuareim River, linking this Company's line with that of the Brazil Great Southern, and so giving direct rail communication with Southern Brazil, was opened for traffic on July 1 last, and the board anticipate the opening up of fresh sources of traffic. Indeed, the new link may have an important bearing on the future prosperity of the Company as soon as the present abnormal conditions pass away. Southern Brazil has undoubtedly suffered badly from the financial depression of the last two years, but until the crisis commenced there were signs of the district becoming a great place for cattle, and it is in this traffic, as well as in timber, of which there are large tracts in the neighbourhood, that the Company hopes to obtain a considerable increase of revenue. Moreover, the Brazil Great Southern Railway has in recent years extended its system further northward, and a large stretch of new territory is being opened up, which, with better times, is likely to create a considerable amount of additional traffic over the North-Western of Uruguay Railway. On the whole, therefore, the outlook is distinctly encouraging. It may, of course, take some little time for the financial and economic conditions of the country to thoroughly right themselves, but the present demand for Uruguayan produce of all descriptions, and the high prices ruling, will greatly help to bring about a better state of affairs. Already the Company is benefiting by the greater activity of trade, and in the first quarter of the current year traffic receipts have risen by over 30%. In the last few years the Company has devoted a good deal of attention to consolidating and strengthening its position, and when normal times again return there is no doubt that it will enjoy the fruits of its enterprise in the shape of a large increase in earnings and profits.

The capital of the Company is as follows:—

North-Western of Uruguay Railway.

	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ s. d.
6% 1st Debenture stock ...	400,000	6	81½	7 11 11
6% 2nd Debenture stock ...	72,625	6	65	9 12 0
6% 1st Preference stock ...	383,850	—	22	—
5% 2nd Preference stock ...	293,173	—	18½*	—
Ordinary stock	120,120	—	16½*	—
Total capital	1,469,768			

* No dealings since July 27, 1914.

MIDLAND URUGUAY RAILWAY.

This Company was not able to reduce expenditure in the past twelve months to anything like the extent of the falling-off in earnings, with the result that in order to meet its interest charges in full a transfer of £10,000 had to be made from reserve. The decrease in gross receipts was £15,209, whereas the saving in

expenditure was only £7,258, and there was thus a diminution in net earnings of £7,951, or nearly 12%. The general condition of the line, the directors state, which had suffered from exceptionally heavy rains during the previous financial year precluded any great economy being made in permanent-way expenses, as considerable extra expenditure for drainage and maintenance had to be met. All other working expenses were, however, reduced to the lowest possible point, although the increased cost of materials minimised the result. The falling-off in traffic was general, and is, of course, due to the adverse conditions in Uruguay consequent on the European war. The number of passengers carried declined nearly 20%, and the receipts therefrom show a decrease of 22.5%. Goods traffic, other than Company's materials, amounted to 83,147 tons, as against 104,515 tons, a decrease of 20.4% in tonnage and 19.1% in receipts. Animal traffic was reduced by 12.5%, but owing to the receipt of more advantageous rates than formerly the earnings increased 24.2%.

That the unfortunate events of the last two years have told heavily against the Company will be apparent from the following comparison of the main results of working since 1905:—

Midland Uruguay Railway.

Year ended June 30	Miles Open	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings	Government Guarantee
		£	£	%	£	£
1915 ...	320	113,133	101,942	90·11	11,191	79,847
1914 ...	320	178,342	109,200	85·08	19,142	79,984
1913 ...	291	133,437	94,447	70·79	38,990	70,892
1912 ...	285	116,470	87,544	75·15	28,926	79,654
1911 ...	238	100,192	75,706	75·55	24,486	55,181
1910 ...	197	88,660	67,479	76·16	21,181	55,481
1909 ...	197	81,506	71,114	87·25	10,389	55,523
1908 ...	197	72,172	67,157	93·00	5,019	55,363
1907 ...	197	75,888	60,833	80·15	15,055	55,439
1906 ...	197	69,555	59,324	85·14	10,229	55,481
1905 ...	197	63,397	50,424	79·53	12,974	56,000

It will be seen that the Company's lines have been considerably extended in the last few years, but the capital involved has not yet had a chance to become remunerative. The Fray Bentos extension is only in its infancy and much may be expected as time goes on from the new traffic route which the line has established from Southern Brazil over the connecting line of the Northern and North-Western of Uruguay railways. Moreover, the Tres Arboles to Piedra Sola extension (35½ miles in length) was only opened to traffic in April 1913, so that sufficient time has not yet elapsed to test the value of this important feeder, especially having regard to the untoward happenings of the last two years. The position at the moment is, therefore, somewhat unfortunate, as much of the capital spent on new extensions is as yet quite unproductive. There is no doubt, however, that the seed has been sown for a progressive future, and as soon as Uruguayan affairs again become normal a marked increase in the prosperity of the undertaking should be shown. Distinct signs of recovery are already apparent, for in the first four months of the current year the traffic receipts of the line have advanced by over £10,500. To show the existing charges of the Company, and how they are provided, we give the following statement:—

Midland Uruguay Railway.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11
	£	£	£	£	£
Net earnings (as above)	11,191	19,142	38,990	28,926	24,486
Government guarantee...	79,847	79,984	70,891	79,654	55,181
Total income	91,038	99,126	109,881	108,580	79,967
5% Prior Liens ...	28,895	29,165	30,000	28,467	—
Do. sinking fund ...	7,548	7,335	6,500	6,640	—
5% Debenture stock ...	59,472	60,159	57,599	57,465	58,174	
Do. sinking fund ...	—	—	13,685	13,303	12,594
Miscellaneous	5,258	1,684	2,097	2,003	396
Total charges	101,173	98,343	109,881	107,878	71,164
Net profit ...	Loss 10,135	783	Nil	702	8,803
Transf. from special reserve	10,000	—	4,000	—	—
New works, &c.	—	1,000	—	—	6,308
Balance	Dr. 135	Dr. 217	Dr. 4,000	Cr. 702	Cr. 2,495
Brought forward ...	61	278	4,278	3,576	1,081
Carried forward ...	Dr. 74	61	278	4,278	3,576

The issued capital consists of £600,000 Prior Lien Debenture stock, £1,250,000 5% Debenture stock, and £600,000 Ordinary stock. About £90,000 of Debenture debt has now been redeemed and cancelled. While interest charges have always been met, no dividend has been paid on the Ordinary since 1896.

Midland Uruguay Railway.

	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ s. d.
5% Prior Lien Deb. stock ...	600,000	5	81½	6 5 0
5% Debenture stock	1,250,000	5	50	10 0 0
Ordinary stock	600,000	—	10	—
Total capital	2,450,000			

URUGUAY NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The Uruguay Northern Railway Company has been badly hit by the untoward events of the past twelve months. Its gross earnings amounted to only £18,955, against £26,637, a decline of £7,682, or 28.8%, which, coming as it does on top of a diminution last year compared with 1912-13 of nearly £4,000, shows the severity of the crisis through which the Company is passing. On the other hand, the working expenses total £17,510, as compared with £21,041, and the net earnings come out at only £1,445, as against £5,596. Such a margin is, of course, insignificant when compared with the interest liabilities of the Company, which in the aggregate amount to over £20,000. Thanks, however, to the Government guarantee, which last year produced approximately £20,000, fixed interest charges are fully covered, and there is a profit for the year of £1,324. Adding to this the amount brought forward from 1913-14—namely, £7,335—there is an available balance of £8,659, a sum equal to a dividend of nearly 3½% on the 7% Preferred stock. But in view of the present abnormal conditions due to the European war the board do not consider it expedient to recommend any dividend on the stock, and propose that the whole of the balance be carried forward. The general goods traffic and the passenger movement suffered considerably, the directors state, from the dislocation of trade and commerce in the country, but there was a small increase in animal traffic. The killing establishments opposite the Company's terminus at San Eugenio, which are engaged in the preparation of jerked beef for the Brazilian market, show a reduced output, the tonnage put on the Company's line during the year being 4,327 tons, as compared with 10,820 tons in 1913-14. How long the present abnormal conditions will obtain in Uruguay depends to a large extent upon the duration of the War. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the produce of the country is in demand at high prices, as a result of the European conflict, and that the wealth of farmers and merchants is being rapidly augmented thereby. Sooner or later this will tell in favour of the railway companies, and although it may take some little time for a complete restoration of confidence and a general recovery in trade, the position at the moment is distinctly more favourable than it was twelve months ago. The improvement in traffic receipts now being experienced seems to indicate that the worst has been seen. The following comparison of the main results of working for the past six years shows the adverse effect of the trade reaction upon the Company's prosperity:—

Uruguay Northern Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11	1909-10
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings ...	18,955	26,637	30,197	27,986	26,357	23,475
Expenses	17,510	21,041	19,230	20,054	19,682	17,488
Net earnings	1,445	5,596	10,967	7,932	6,675	5,987
Government guarantee	19,977	18,866	16,896	19,220	18,469	18,876
Net income ...	21,422	24,462	27,863	27,152	25,144	24,863
3½% Debenture stock	15,750	14,779	14,811	14,811	14,811	14,811
Do. additional interest	963	3,510	5,375	4,979	4,191	3,759
5% Debenture stock	2,500	2,302	2,307	2,307	2,150	1,826
Income tax	430	517	90	250	258	297
Total charges ...	20,098	21,108	22,592	22,347	21,410	20,703
Net profit	1,324	3,354	5,271	4,805	3,734	4,160
Div. on Pref. stock ...	Nil	Nil	4,708	4,375	3,750	4,708
Rate per cent. ...			(2%)	(1¼%)	(1¼%)	(2%)
Balance	Cr. 1,324	Cr. 3,354	Cr. 563	Cr. 430	Dr. 16	Dr. 548
Brought forward ...	7,335	3,981	3,418	2,732	2,530	3,078
Carried forward ...	8,659	7,335	3,981	3,162	2,514	2,530

The price of the 3½% Perpetual Debenture stock is 44½. In addition to its 3½% interest the stock is entitled, under the 1892 arrangement, to two-thirds of the net profits, which last year produced £963, a sum equal to an additional 4*s*. 3*d*. per cent. interest on the issue, or £3 14*s*. 3*d*. in all. On this basis the yield at the present price is as much as £8¾ per cent. It should be recognised that the strength of the issue rests on the ability of Uruguay to meet its guarantees, and seeing that Uruguayan Government bonds are now valued on a 5½% basis, there is room for considerable improvement in the Company's Debenture stock, which is undoubtedly greatly undervalued at 44½. The capital of the undertaking is as follows:—

Uruguay Northern Railway.

Security	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ *s*. *d*.
3½% Perp. Deb. stock ...	449,400	£3 11.3	44½	8 14 6
7% Pref. stock (Cum.) ...	250,000	Nil	34	—

NITRATE RAILWAYS COMPANY.

The Nitrate Railways Company has been able to resume the amortisation of its First Mortgage bonds much sooner than anticipated. Indeed, it was only in November last that the suspension of the sinking fund was agreed upon, and that, too, for the duration of the War, or until January 1, 1918, inclusive, whichever was the earlier date. It was also provided that during such period no dividend should be paid on the Ordinary shares. The announcement, therefore, that the next drawing of bonds will take place on December 1 has come as an agreeable surprise, especially as it is coupled with the declaration of an interim dividend of 2% on the Ordinary Unconverted shares and on the Preferred Converted Ordinary shares of the Company. Twelve months ago the dividend was 2½%, but, as no final distribution was made, this also was the rate for the year. The position of the Company has greatly improved of late owing to the big demand for nitrate from the United States and elsewhere for explosive and other purposes, and whereas in the middle of August the falling off in earnings was approximately £250,000, now the decline is under £220,000, and if the present rate of improvement continues, as it may, the results for the year will not be unsatisfactory. It is probable, moreover, that any decrease in receipts will be accompanied by savings in expenditure and that the net earnings will show only a comparatively small diminution. Last year, it will be recollected, the Company showed a profit for dividend of £66,000, but inasmuch as this figure was arrived at after allocating something like £157,000 to the sinking fund, the actual profit for the year was as much as £223,000, a sum equal to a dividend of 13% on the share capital. Of the total sinking-fund appropriation, however, £100,000 was in the nature of a voluntary contribution, so that, after making normal provision for redemption of debt, a dividend of fully 10% was earned on the Ordinary shares. Thus the position is quite satisfactory, and even if there is a further diminution in net revenue in the current year a higher dividend than 2½% will possibly be distributed, assuming, that is, that the extra and voluntary contribution to the sinking fund is for the time being suspended. The amount of Mortgage bonds outstanding is now only £248,400, out of a total of £2,000,000, so that even under normal conditions the extinction of the bonds can be completely accomplished with a relative short space of time. The real difficulty in the nitrate fields at the moment is the shortage of labour, but this is gradually righting itself, and with the price of nitrate at a very remunerative figure doubtless many oficinas closed down at the beginning of the War will reopen at no distant date, and the traffic receipts of the Railway Company should steadily expand. The price of the Undivided Ordinary shares is now 10¾. The Preferred Ordinary shares have risen to 7 and the Deferred Ordinary to 24*s*. 1½*d*.

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Insurance Notes.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

The outcome of this Company's operations in 1914 allows of the maintenance of the dividend at the rate of 32*s*. per share, concurrently with a satisfactory increase in the reserves. The capital amounts to £1,100,000, of which £132,000 is paid up, in 44,000 shares of £25, with £3 paid on each. The dividend had been increased in 1914 by 2*s*. per share. The current rate, it will be seen, is 53⅓% on the amount paid up. Interest at the stipulated rate of 4% is also payable on £580,000 Debenture stock, which was issued in connection with the purchase of the Norwich and London Accident Company a few years ago. The amount required for the dividend and the Debenture interest has been nearly covered by net interest earnings on investments, while the greater part of the considerable trading profits has been unappropriated. Looking to the special difficulties of the year under review, this appears to be a satisfactory result, and there seem good reasons for the belief that the Company should be able to maintain and also in due course, on a return to more normal financial conditions generally, and in the absence of any disturbing factors such as the occurrence of exceptional conflagrations, to gradually increase its distribution to shareholders.

The Company transacts fire, accident, and employers' liability, and also marine insurance business. Its fire account for 1914 shows a premium income, increased by £24,942, amounting to £1,212,611. After payment of claims and expenses, and adjustment of the reserve for unexpired risks at the standard of 40% of the premiums, as formerly employed, the trading profit appears to have amounted to £52,087, that sum having been transferred to profit and loss account. This represents about 4.3% of

the premiums. Although a small ratio for a non-conflagration year, the proportion is higher than shown by several of the Company's contemporaries engaged like itself in the transaction of a large and world-wide fire business. The fire fund at the close of the year, after the adjustments referred to, amounted to £1,284,357, or to about 106% of the year's premium income, which discloses a strong departmental position.

Better results are shown in the accident and employers' liability account. Here the premium income, increased by £16,848, amounted to £416,343, and the trading surplus, arrived at in the same way as in the fire section, to £55,338, or to about 12.7% of the premiums. After transfer of this sum to profit and loss, the relative fund, exclusive of £162,473 reserved in respect of estimated liability under outstanding claims, amounted to £173,277, or to 40% of the premiums, being the estimated amount of the liability under risks unexpired at the close of the year.

The marine section is a comparatively recent development of the Company's activities, and no profit has as yet been taken into account from this source, although the position of the account suggests that substantial profits have been made, although unencroached upon. The Company's marine premium, increased by £45,287, amounted in 1914 to £108,859, and the fund at the close of the year, increased by £54,779, to £105,575, which looks strong.

The combined trading profits from the fire and the accident and employers' liability accounts amounted to £107,425. To this has to be added £82,107, representing the excess of interest earnings, fees, and profits from sale and maturity of stocks (together amounting to £97,635) over income tax and bad debts (together, £15,528). The dividend as declared on the Ordinary shares, inclusive of provision for income tax, requires £70,400, and the Debenture interest paid during the year, less income tax, amounts to £21,412. The balance carried forward to 1915, after provision for the ordinary dividend and tax, seems to amount to £124,120. It shows a substantial increase over the balance carried forward last year, and it is pointed out that in this way special provision has been made for depreciation of Stock Exchange securities and other contingencies arising out of the War. In 1913 £69,996 was applied in writing down securities to market prices at the close of that year. The total assets in the Company's balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £2,802,980, and it is reported that the Stock Exchange securities were taken "at or below the market value on December 31, 1913, less accrued interest and dividends, with the following exceptions—viz., (1) United States securities taken at the market value on June 30, 1914; and (2) all other securities purchased during the year 1914 appear at cost."

The directors refer in their report to the loss which the Company sustained owing to the death in January of their colleague and former General Manager, Mr. C. A. Bathurst Bignold. Mr. Bignold had been intimately connected for a period of 34 years with the Society, which was founded by one of his ancestors 117 years ago. His grandfather, Sir Samuel Bignold, was Manager of both the Norwich Union Fire and the Norwich Union Life Societies for over 50 years, and his father was Manager for many years of the fire Company. Such a record is quite exceptional in the history of insurance, and the best proof of the value of the services of the Bignold family to these institutions is to be found in their flourishing position at the present day.

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE OFFICE, LTD.

This strong and well-managed Company was not founded for purposes of profit, but rather with the view of benefiting charitable institutions in connection with the Church of England, concurrently with the provision for the insurance of churches and church property. These purposes have been very successfully carried out. The capital amounts to £250,000, of which £25,000 is paid up, in shares of £10 with £1 paid on each, and dividends thereon are strictly limited under the Company's constitution to 5% per annum, which has been regularly paid since the establishment of the Company in 1887. The premiums charged have been at the lowest tariff scale, and after payment of the dividends referred to, a sum of £192,480 up to the close of 1914 had been distributed amongst various institutions, while reserves have been built up and maintained at an exceptionally high standard. The Company has therefore special claims upon the support of the clergy and of churchwardens. It is explained in the annual report for 1914 that the Company is careful not to retain at its own risk the whole of any large insurance effected with it, but reinsures in such a case the portion which experience shows to be in excess of a safe limit in the particular circumstances. This course of procedure renders it impossible for it to suffer more than a moderate loss by any one occurrence, and to the care with which individual risks are thus limited, and the exceptional economy with which the business is conducted, the success of the operations is in large measure due. No risks are accepted to which undue hazard attaches, and no business of any kind is transacted outside the United Kingdom. The Company therefore fills a very useful place in economic insurance, and it appears that a large field is still offered to it, for the under-insurance of churches and church property is still a regrettable circumstance, owing to reliance on the old-fashioned system of "sending the hat round," for which since the establishment of this Society there has been no valid excuse. The Company also transacts employers' liability insurance in respect of church workers and domestic servants, as well as burglary, glass, and personal accident insurance in suitable cases.

In the financial year ended February 28, 1915, the Company's premium income, increased by £2,123, amounted to £83,210, the total revenue to £96,303, and the claims and expenses to £55,341. After provision for the usual dividend and adjustment of reserves for unexpired risks there was a surplus of £39,711, of which it has been decided to distribute £20,000 in grants to Church societies, the balance of £19,711 being added to the reserves. The fire insurance fund now amounts to £165,329, and the employers' liability and other reserve funds to £101,976—together, £267,305, representing about 321% of the year's premium income, an extraordinarily high proportion. Apart from this, there is an investment fluctuation fund of £30,000. Total assets, February 28, 1915, £352,189.

AERATED BREAD COMPANY.

It is certainly not at all surprising that the Aerated Bread Company should show considerably smaller profits for the year to September 1915 than those of any recent years. As a matter of fact, the trade increased substantially during the year, but the diminution in profit is caused by the increased cost of everything dealt in and used by this Company "and by increased wages, war bonuses, and allowances to dependants of employees who are serving their country." In the year to September 1914 the trading exceeded in volume anything that previously happened, and it was a matter of considerable satisfaction to find that after a period of going downhill, followed by one of marking time, distinct signs of the attainment of a greater state of prosperity were evidenced, thus showing that the changes which were brought about, following on the dissatisfaction expressed by shareholders in the early part of 1910, were justified, and that greater

As is well known the Company is one of the oldest of its class doing business in London, and at one time

it rather appeared as if the management was inclined to remain satisfied with the achievements of the past and ignore new conditions that have come into existence in recent years, particularly the increase in competition occasioned by the coming into the field of strong concerns, partly attracted by the substantial business built up and the large profits secured by the Aerated Bread Company. Naturally, in face of this, any slackening of effort would soon prove fatal if not checked. Fortunately the shareholders were alert, and though the board was apparently inclined to adopt the position of regarding itself as being above criticism, a determined effort was made to bring about reforms, with the result that a steady improvement set in. So far as the net profits are concerned, the War has temporarily brought this to an end, and the dividend for the past twelve months is smaller than it has been for very many years past. For the years 1899 to 1903 the dividend was at the rate of 42½% per annum, but since then a much lower rate has prevailed, and for the twelve months to September 1911 the distribution was 22½%. For the following year this was increased to 25%, which was followed by a distribution of 27½%. But the less satisfactory results of the past year have brought the dividend down to 17½%.

To show the vicissitudes of recent years we set out a statement of the net profit, dividends paid, and market price of the shares of the Company for each year since 1897:—

Year ended September	Net Profit	Dividend Amount	Dividend %	Market Price of Shares Highest	Market Price of Shares Lowest
	£	£		£	£
1915	36,003	29,949	17½	4½	3
1914	75,126	49,845	27½	4⅝	4⅛
1913	77,023	49,965	27½	4⅝	3¹⁵⁄₁₆
1912	56,518	45,425	25	3⅞	2⅞
1911	46,492	40,882	22½	4⅛	3⅛
1910	48,534	45,424	25	4⅛	3⅞
1909	53,350	50,169	27½	4¹³⁄₁₆	3⅞
1908	55,886	50,409	27½	6⅝	4⅛
1907	72,904	68,740	37½	7⅞	5¹³⁄₁₆
1906	85,474	68,743	37½	7	5⅛
1905	66,411	59,584	32½	6⅜	5⅛
1904	67,565	57,855	30	9⅛	5¹³⁄₁₆
1903	85,426	80,694	42½	13⅞	9⅛
1902	82,063	78,975	42½	15⅛	12⅛
1901	77,277	76,989	42½	15⅛	12⅛
1900	79,518	74,983	42½	15⅛	12⅛
1899	83,995	72,944	42½	15⅝	12½
1898	67,638	66,458	40	14½	11½
1897	69,334	58,622	37½	12⅞	9⅛

The gross profit for the year to September 1915 has amounted to £286,919, as compared with £313,029 for the previous year; but this was accompanied by a rise in expenses from £240,350 to £253,146. After providing for depreciation, the amount available for distribution fell from £47,126 to £28,003.

Contrast of the results of the last fiscal year with the five preceding years is set out below:—

Year to Sept.—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross profit ...	286,919	313,029	304,925	282,531	281,070	279,967
Int. and transfer fees	2,230	2,447	3,189	1,788	1,625	1,915
	289,149	315,476	308,114	284,319	282,695	281,882
Expenses	253,146	240,350	231,091	227,801	236,203	233,348
Net profit	36,003	75,126	77,023	56,518	46,492	48,534
Depreciations ...	8,000	28,000†	12,825*	8,239	5,000	5,000
	28,003	47,126	64,198	48,279	41,492	43,534
Ordinary dividend ...	29,949 (17½%)	49,845 (27½%)	49,965 (27½%)	45,425 (25%)	40,882 (22½%)	45,424 (25%)
	−1,946	−2,720	14,233	2,854	610	−1,890
Brought forward ..	28,043	31,263	17,031	14,177	13,567	15,457
Carried forward ...	26,097	28,543	31,264	17,031	14,177	13,567

* Includes £4,825 bonus to staff.
† £20,000 for improvements and extensions.

At the meeting on November 8 the Chairman gave instances of how the costs had increased during the year. He pointed out first of all that they had served more customers and took more money than in any previous year of the Company's existence. But the increased price of food has been enormous. On five of their staple articles—sugar, flour, meat, tea, and butter—the average increase had been over 36%, to meet which they had increased their scale of charges on several articles. He then referred to the complaints that had arisen from the raising of the price of a cup of tea from 2*d.* to 2½*d.*, pointing out that the recent increased duty of 4*d.* per pound was a further increase beyond 3*d.* previously imposed. "Moreover, if they took the three ingredients of which a cup of tea was usually composed, in addition to the water, they now had tea 50% higher, milk 30% more, and sugar 120% more, an average of 66⅔% more; in addition to which fuel and the mechanical appliances for heating the water cost more, and china cups and saucers were much dearer than they were when 2*d.* per cup was a moderate price. Their profit had also been considerably affected by increased working expenses, rates and taxes, fuel, forage, and so on."

The authorised capital is £250,000, in £1 shares, of which £192,954 has been issued. At September 25 last the Company had secured a loan from its bankers which, with accrued interest, amounted to £35,224. This was due to a purchase of £42,700 of War Loan in order to convert the holding of Consols. There is no reserve fund. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at September 25 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	192,954	Property, plant, &c. ...	227,390
Loan from bankers	35,224	Stock	21,568
Sundry creditors	69,405	Sundry debtors	9,623
Profit and loss	39,260	Investments	70,027
		Cash	8,237
	336,843		336,843

The outlook is not very brilliant, of course, at the moment. True the business continues to increase, and, as far as possible, the directors aim at not having to increase prices. But when normal conditions are again resumed there seems no reason why a return should not be made to former prosperity. At the present price of 58*s.* for the £1 shares the yield afforded on the basis of last year's distribution of 17½% is about 6%.

DALGETY AND COMPANY.

TWELVE months ago the outlook for Australian pastoral companies for the year to June 30, 1915, was distinctly poor. At the meeting of Dalgety and Company held on November 19, 1914, the Chairman, referring to the conditions in Australia, said that he feared that the season generally must be a poor one. Drought prevailed in Western Australia and there had been very heavy losses of sheep, while in South Australia things were just as bad. Rains were needed in Queensland. In New South Wales, in the Central and Eastern districts, prospects on the other hand were fair, but in the West and Riverina districts conditions approaching drought prevailed. As a slight set-off dairying prospects in New South Wales and Queensland were excellent, though poor elsewhere in Australia. In New Zealand pastoral prospects were good, and agricultural and dairying fairly favourable throughout the Dominion. The adverse season conditions in Australia prevailed for the greater part of the year, and the report of Dalgety and Company points out that of late there had been a marked improvement. In Western Australia the drought is completely broken up, while South Australia has been favoured with good rains over an extensive area. In Victoria the country is now enjoying an excellent season. Favourable conditions also prevailed over the greater part of New South Wales, but in Queensland it is for the most part dry, though the conditions have been somewhat relieved by sporadic rains. New Zealand, on the whole, is distinctly prosperous. Wool prices throughout the year have been well above the average. Dairying prospects are not encouraging, as a short output is expected. On the other hand, all indications at the moment point to a record wheat crop, but the provision of adequate steamer tonnage will be a matter of great difficulty.

The Company has an authorised share capital of £4,000,000, in 200,000 shares of £20 each, of which

only £5 per share has been called up; while there have also been issued Irredeemable Debenture stock and Terminable Debentures, so that the total combined share and loan capital issued at present consists of the following:—

		£
4½ % Irredeemable Debenture stock		509,749
4 % „ „ „		1,753,391
Terminable Debentures, 5 %	£105,520	
„ „ 4 %	289,598	
		395,118
5 % Preference shares, £10 paid		500,000
Ordinary shares of £20, each, £5 paid		1,000,000
Making a total of		£4,158,258

It will thus be evident that the business is one of considerable magnitude, and it may be added that the total assets of the Company on June 30 last were valued at no less than £7,442,337, the main item of which, standing at £4,119,579, represents advances on land, station, stock, wool, and other produce. The Company had accumulated a reserve fund of £550,000, against which there were shown gilt-edged investments, valued at £385,000, and the Bishopsgate freehold premises of the Company, standing at £165,000. In addition to the reserve fund, a total sum of £260,000 has been applied from profits for the purpose of writing down the premises. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets of the Company as at June 30 last.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	1,500,000	Premises, plant, furniture, &c.	625,427
Irred. Deb. stock	2,263,140	Investments	886,307
Terminable Debentures ...	395,118	Bills receivable	173,893
Reserves	621,000	Advances on land	4,119,579
Sundry creditors, &c. ...	1,930,516	Merchandise	270,494
Bills payable	121,518	Sundry debtors	731,680
Produce realised	69,548	Cash	634,957
Balances in transit	192,810		
Profit and loss	348,687		
	7,442,337		7,442,337

In spite of the fact that seasonal conditions have been adverse during the greater part of the year, plus the upset and anxieties consequent on the War, the Company has done exceptionally well, and the shareholders and the management are distinctly to be congratulated on the fact that the past twelve months have proved the most prosperous in the Company's history, the net trading profits amounting to £582,097, as compared with £570,509 for the previous year. In spite of this substantial increase in trading profits, no alteration is made in the dividend, which remains at the 8% that has been distributed for each year since 1910. It may be recalled that the Company was able to maintain its dividend at the comparatively high rate of 5% throughout the most troublous times witnessed in Australia, and for a Company to pass through the financial crisis that occurred in the nineties and the ensuing drought without reducing its distribution below 5% affords ample testimony to the financial policy carried out, and the consequent strength of position built up.

To show the rate of dividend paid since the formation of the Company we give the following:—

Dividends to June 30, 1915.

Year ended June 30	Dividend %	Year ended June 30	Dividend %	Year ended June 30	Dividend %	Year ended June 30	Dividend %
1885 ...	6	1893 ...	8	1901 ...	8	1909 ...	7
1886 ...	7	1894 ...	8	1902 ...	7	1910 ...	8
1887 ...	7½	1895 ...	8	1903 ...	5	1911 ...	8
1888 ...	8	1896 ...	8	1904 ...	5	1912 ...	8
1889 ...	8	1897 ...	8	1905 ...	6	1913 ...	8
1890 ...	8	1898 ...	8	1906 ...	7	1914 ...	8
1891 ...	8	1899 ...	8	1907 ...	7	1915 ...	8
1892 ...	8	1900 ...	8	1908 ...	7		

Though the net trading profit for the past year shows an increase of £11,500 over that for the previous year, owing to the fact that a rise of £4,000 has occurred in current expenses, one of nearly £8,000 in the amount required for income tax, and one of £2,000 in the Debenture interest, the amount available for distribution shows a slight falling off amounting to £226,746, as compared with £229,002. After providing for the Preference dividend, there is a surplus of £201,746, which is sufficient to provide for a dividend of 20% on the Ordinary capital. But, as stated, the rate is maintained at 8%, while £40,000 is applied to writing down cost of premises, bringing the total up to £300,000 set aside for this purpose, £50,000 is added to the reserve fund, thereby raising it to £600,000; and £10,000 is carried to the staff benevolent fund; and the carry-forward is increased by £11,672 to £208,686—a sum nearly sufficient to provide for a year's Debenture interest, Preference dividend, and an 8% Ordinary dividend.

We further show the manner of the distribution of the profits for the past six years:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net trading profit ...	582,097	570,509	562,229	546,877	551,371	542,534
Management expenses ...	207,378	203,135	197,609	186,712	185,270	170,900
	374,719	367,374	364,620	360,165	366,101	371,634
Income tax	40 598	32,779	24,400	22,495	23,452	22,353
	334,123	334,595	340,220	337,670	342,649	349,281
Debenture interest ...	107,377	105,593	108,326	112,992	117,232	122,364
	226,746	229,002	231,894	224,678	225,417	226,917
Preference dividend ...	25 000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	201,746	204,002	206,894	199,678	200,417	201,917
Dividend	80,000 (8 %)	80,000 (8 %)	80,000 (8 %)	80,000 (8 %)	80,000 (8 %)	80,000 (8 %)
	121,746	124,002	126,894	119,678	120,417	121,917
Reserve, &c.	110,074	19,520	118,517	117,240	116,279	115,109
	11,672	104,482	8,377	−2,438	4,138	6,808
Brought forward... ...	197,014	92,532	84,155	81,717	77,579	70,771
Carried forward	208,686	197,014	92,532	84,155	81,717	77,579

As the Company has been able to do so well during the year when seasonable conditions have been largely adverse, now that better conditions prevail the outlook would appear to be for a further improvement during the current twelve months. The Ordinary share is of the denomination of £20, but of this only £5 is paid up, so that there is a somewhat heavy liability. The present quotation for the share is 5¾, and on the basis of an 8% distribution the yield is as much as £7 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent. Were it not for the liability attaching, it is probable that the price of the share would stand somewhat higher, but in view of the very strong position that has been built up, the possibilities of a call seem somewhat remote, and the present yield is certainly attractive. The £10 Preference share is quoted at 8, giving a yield of 6¼%. This also is a very satisfactory return for so well secured a share. The 4½% Debenture stock is quoted at 80, giving a return of £5 13*s.* 2*d.* per cent., and the 4% stock stands at 74¾, giving a yield of about 5⅜%. Both classes of stock are well secured, and form attractive Australian investments.

The following shows the capital, apart from the Terminable Debentures, prices, dividends, and yields afforded:—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Dividend %	Approx. Yield £ s. d.
509,749	4½ % Irredeemable Deb. stock ...	100	80	4½	5 13 2
1,753,391	4 % „ „ ...	100	74¾	4	5 7 0
500,000	5 % Preference shares	10	8	5	6 7 0
1,000,000	Ordinary shares, £20	5	5¼	8	7 16 8

* Free of tax.

TANJONG MALIM RUBBER COMPANY.

The [illegible] Company's £500,000 in £1 shares, all of which have been issued. The Company was formed in 1910 for the purpose of acquiring and cultivating with Para rubber and other products estates situated in the State of Selangor, in the Malay Peninsula, comprising altogether about 20,400 acres. The total area at present owned is 20,497 acres, which is made up as follows:—

[illegible]

During the past year it was decided to surrender 12,000 acres of the reserve land in order to save paying rent on it, and the surrender is now being carried

out. A further 17¼ acres has been rendered worthless for cultivation and has been abandoned.

The estimated crop of rubber for the year to June 30, 1915, was 565,000 lb. Excluding an increase estimated for the results of cultivation, of which very little was done owing to the War, the actual yield obtained was 580,691 lb. shipping weight. The yields per tree and per acre were as follows:—

	Average Trees Tapped. No.	Average Acres Tapped. Acres.	Total Yield Lb.	Yield per Tree. Lb.	Yield per Acre. Lb.
Southern Division ...	126,090	16,48½	430,345	3·59	261
Northern Division ...	14,410	746¾	150,346	3·38	201
Total	164,500	2,395¼	580,691	3·53	242

The average gross price received was 2*s.* 3.09*d.* per pound, as compared with 2*s.* 2.95*d.* per pound for the previous year, while the costs work out at 1*s.* 3.76*d.* per pound, as compared with 1*s.* 8.39*d.* per pound. The cost of production was 10½*d.* per pound, as against 1*s.* 4⅜*d.* per pound last year, a reduction of 5⅞*d.* per pound. If the cost of depreciation and insurance be deducted the cost of production is reduced to 9½*d.* per pound. A sum of £4,137 has been set aside to meet depreciation in value of that part of the Company's cash resources which was in Antwerp when the War broke out. Had this setting aside not been necessary, the all-in cost for the year would have been 1*s.* 2.02*d.* per pound instead of 1*s.* 3.76*d.* per pound. The income from rubber has amounted to £59,462, as compared with £39,054 for the previous year, and adding other income there is a total of £62,007. After providing for expenses there is a profit of £26,514. By the terms of the original agreement with the vendor the Company is precluded from using the profits from the area taken over already planted for any purpose other than the payment of dividends. It is thus necessary to look to other income to write off the preliminary expenses, &c. Interest to the total amount of £7,819 has been earned by the Company since its formation, and that is now used to write down the expenditure referred to, leaving a sum of £19,161 to be dealt with in the future. The profits are sufficient to provide for a dividend of 5%, and a sum of £7,695 is carried forward. Particulars of the crops, prices and profits are appended:—

Year ended June 30	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Cultivated area (acres)	6,647	6,647	6,275	5,151	2,725
Crop (lb.)	571,538*	371,986*	266,245*	157,957*	44,056
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	
Gross price per lb.	2 3·09	2 2·95	3 3·05	1 5	
Costs	1 3.76	1 8.39	2 2.7	-	
	0 11.33	0 6.56	1 0.35	-	-
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from rubber	59,462	39,054	29,453	29,934	10,236
Other income	2,545	1,450	936	2,162	3,594
Gross income	62,007	40,404	30,389	32,096	13,830
Upkeep of estates ...	25,723	26,028	25,202	13,531	6,645
General expenses	2,067	2,392	2,448	2,177	2,525
Income tax, &c.	7,703	879	783	1,096	908
Underwriting commission ...	7,819		—		
Net profit ...	18,695	11,105	13,956	15,292	3,752
Ordinary dividend ...	25,000 (5%)	- -	15,850 (4%)	14,255 (4%)	-
	−6,305	11,105	−1,894	1,037	3,752
Brought forward ...	14,000	2,895	4,789	3,752	
Carried forward	7,695	14,000	2,895	4,789	3,752

* Market weight.

We further set out a summary of the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital	199,603	Estates	229,872
Sundry creditors, &c.	7,324	Estate expenditure	109,608
Drafts ...	12,380	Buildings, &c. ...	27,118
Profit and loss	40,513	Timber ...	3,002
		Stock of rubber	19,884
		Sundry debtors, &c.	2,102
		Agents' balances ...	12,911
		Preliminary expenses	10,000
		Underwriting commission	16,980
		Cash	29,403
	359,820		359,820

The estimated production for the current year is 750,000 lb., and though the yield per acre during 1914-15 was not high, being 242 lb., that is explained by the fact that probably only a proportion of trees in the younger fields were tapped. When the whole planted area is mature it would not be unreasonable to expect a yield of over two and a-half million pounds of rubber from the 6,647 acres planted. With a large area of immature rubber now rapidly coming into bearing it is not reasonable to expect at present further reductions in the costs on the same scale as last year, but during the current twelve months it seems fair to expect that the all-in costs can be brought down to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1*s.* per pound, which would be quite satisfactory. Thus the Company should secure a net profit of at least 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound, which, on the estimated crop of 750,000 lb., would give a total net profit of nearly £47,000, which would permit raising the dividend to 9%. Should the net profit per pound reach 1*s.* 6*d.*, as is possible, the total profit would be £56,000, which would permit of a 11% distribution. As the planted area is so large it is not proposed at present to open up any new land, and the board consider it the wisest policy to endeavour to reduce the cost of production and improve the quality of the rubber. With the very large crops possible when the planted area is fully bearing as already indicated, and the cost of production brought down to a low figure—with possible future reductions—the outlook for large profits is very good. The present price of the £1 share is par. On the basis of last year's dividend of 5% free of tax, a yield of about 5⅛ is forthcoming. On a 9% basis the yield would be nearly 10¼%, and on a 11% basis the yield would be 12½%.

Correspondence.

WAR FINANCE.

To the Editor of "The Statist."

Sir,—The time is not far distant before the Government will have once more to appeal to the public for war loans. In my opinion a large amount of subscriptions could be raised if the Government made some such announcement as follows:—

"The Government are prepared to receive on deposit, until further notice, any sum or sums of money at 5% per annum interest, to bear any other higher current rate, to be repayable at any time after the declaration of peace on six months' notice by either side. The deposits will be received by any bank on Government account, and a special pass-book be issued to the depositor. Further deposits may be made as desired."

I think the suggestion has three good points to commend it, namely:—

1. Its adoption does not affect the aggregate deposits of joint-stock banks after Government disbursements. If the Treasury draws direct on the banks to the extent of the amount standing to the credit of the Government, the payees, as far as possible, being customers of the drawee, there will be no material displacement of cash.

2. A large proportion of bank depositors dislike stock or bonds, but would subscribe to war loans if their liquid capital were stated in a pass-book.

3. Large and small sums can be collected and merged with a minimum of expense, and the inflow should be continuous.

Provision might be made for depositors under this scheme to obtain at any time temporary advances from any bank to meet unforeseen calls, to an extent not exceeding their subscriptions on Government account, at a rate of interest 1% higher than the Government rate.

Depositors who desired to fix a deposit on Government account only for a definite period, say three, six, nine or twelve months, might be allowed Treasury bill current rates of interest, and be given a special deposit receipt.

With the willing and patriotic co-operation of the banks some such scheme as above stated might be made a great success.—Yours, &c.,

A. H. Gibson.

Kent Road, Harrogate, November 11.

Scottish Provident Institution.

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Commercial.

THE GRAIN TRADE.

SOME SPECIAL CAUSES OF DEARNESS.

Outside the use of [illegible] of separate inquiry by the Whitley Committee, there are three special causes now operating to produce dearness in articles dealt with at Mark Lane. These causes require sharply to be distinguished from one another before we can appreciate how the trade in corn and feeding-stuffs stands as a whole.

The first cause of dearness—that of inquiry increasing while supply is simply static—relates to a comparatively minor list of articles. None the less, the trade in some of them is considerable, and as a group they require to be studied by themselves. There is no doubt at all as to the absolutely non-speculative advance in prices for middlings, sharps, bran, brewery dried grains, distillery dried grains, malt, culms, and the like. These by-products of the mill, the brewery, and so forth are cleared off as soon as may be, the producers of the more valuable articles—flour, beer, spirits, &c.—requiring all their working space free. When, therefore, we have all these by-products 25 to 50% dearer than usual, while the output is static and there is no withholding, we may safely assume that retail and consumptive inquiry is much above the mean. It is of great importance to agriculturists to ascertain why and how this is so, but that inquiry is outside our scope. That which is of moment to our readers is the question of abating the scarcity by law or tariff. At present we import about 16 million cwt. of flour. If we were to buy that quantity of wheat instead we should have about four million cwt. more middlings, sharps, and pollard, and that without any increase in the price of bread. The retention of the by-products of the mill bids fair to be an economic question, not perhaps of quite the first rank, but at all events of very real moment.

The second cause of dearness is where, the demand appearing to be about stationary, the supplies are admittedly below the average. This is to-day the case with every description of British grain and pulse, and is traceable to one source—the want of labour. It is largely temporary. The need to sow the autumn crops and to lift and secure the potatoes and roots of the season is from the beginning of September to the end of November far more absolute than any other work. When with December these labours, which must be performed before the ground is frost-bound, have come to their natural termination, the farmer will be able to set his men to thresh and his carts to delivery of the threshed grain. Relief to the countryside is likely to be prompt. The cities are more or less in a state of siege, however, for the trucks, when laden up with grain at the local stations, by no means move off to London and other centres of consumption within 24 hours of the appointed load being duly loaded into the truck. Before the War there were time-tables for "minerals" and goods traffic no less than those for passengers. Few stations so small but to have one mineral train a day, and the leading distributing centres, such as Peterborough, Crewe, and the like, were almost as busy with goods despatch as with passenger trains. All this is now over, and the truth is that congestion has been on the increase for some months past. There is no guaranteed delivery by any specific date, and many purchasers, though paying cash, do not get the produce within a fortnight.

Outside these two causes we have that of speculation, and, while we cannot ignore this feature, we must resist a certain impulse, that exists in all times of crisis, to exaggerate it. The articles which are being kept up at very high prices by speculative importers are Canadian and American wheat and flour, Indian barley and peas, American maize, Burmese haricots, and all sorts of canary seed, sunflower seed, and also sundry bird seeds. One farm seed—wild white clover seed—has been completely captured, and the amazing price of 10s. per lb. is paid. This is just ten times the average price of an ordinary farm seed of good germinating power. The following articles have been withdrawn from the market under circumstances which are not convincing as to the supply being in reality very near exhaustion. We need only name Indian red wheat, Argentine wheat, Tunisian and Algerian barley, New Zealand, Dutch and Swedish oats, American and Cinquintino maize, New Zealand beans, Indian chick peas, and American buck wheat. Staples, which we miss, but under war conditions must miss, are Hungarian flour, Konigsburg tares, and Bavarian barley. The Hungarian flour we ought to be able to make at home: it is a mere matter of process. Why the War should have deprived us of Egyptian beans, Rhodesian maize, East African cotton seed, Australian oats, and Canadian linseed is difficult to say, but no rumour points to hoarding either here or in country of origin. The Canadian surplus of linseed is probably being absorbed by America, and, though the object may be that of shipment to Germany *via* Sweden, the Canadian seller, with an ostensibly friendly buyer at his own gate, cannot be subjected to criticism without considerable difficulty. The Government has taken steps to checkmate speculation in fertilisers, and there are sections of the corn trade which seem to invite the notice of the authorities. None the less should it be recorded that of the present three causes of dear-

NEUTRALS AND NON-CONTRABAND.

[illegible] position was dealt with at some length, particularly in relation to the United States competition, which had cropped up in markets hitherto a preserve of the Welshmen, which competition arose merely because our authorities were placing every conceivable obstacle in the way of British manufacturers doing business with

Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Greece it had for months past been almost impossible to secure export "permits" without the greatest difficulty and the most troublesome, vexatious, and costly delay, with the result that consumers of tinplates in the countries named were having their trade ruined owing to the restrictions placed in the way by us. The manifest injustice of stopping Welsh exports of tinplates to neutral European countries, while permitting the markets thus closed to us to be invaded without let or hindrance by the United States, constituted a very real grievance here, and it was pointed out, as a satisfactory solution from the Welshmen's point of view, that the British Government had made it a condition of the terms upon which the United States might obtain tin that the exportation from America to neutral Europe of tin in any form whatsoever should be subject to British "permits" in exactly the same way as if the finished material itself were of British origin. Our Government were enabled to do this because all tin of British Empire origin which is imported into the United States must be consigned to certain British Consuls, who will not release the metal under any circumstances unless comprehensive forms of guarantee are signed by United States consumers. The British Government thus virtually came into control of all United States exports of goods of which tin is a component part. The immediate result of this regulation coming into working order was that a large number of contracts which United States tinplate manufacturers had entered into with buyers in neutral countries, more particularly in Scandinavia, had to be cancelled, and it was not to be expected that the sellers would sit down quietly under the blow thus aimed at their trade. American tinplate manufacturers are now up in arms regarding the position which has arisen, and the matter appears to be reaching a head at the instance of a maker who endeavoured to send a consignment of tinplates to Sweden, alleged to be for *bona-fide* domestic consumption in that country, but whose goods were refused by the steamship companies on the ground, it is stated, that they were advised "in the British Consul's office" not to accept tinplates for Sweden. This is alleged to be "a peculiarly clear example of the methods employed by Great Britain in arbitrarily keeping English manufacturers out of neutral markets which she previously called her own."

The history of the transaction, which is regarded as typical of many others, was as follows: The United States makers concerned sold a thousand boxes of tinplates to a *bona-fide* consumer in Sweden on July 25. The plates were shipped from the mill on August 30 and reached New York on September 7. Freight room was engaged for September 20, on which date Great Britain had put into effect her regulations regarding United States imports of pig tin, which require that manufacturers importing pig tin on or after that date should agree that they could not sell tinplate to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, or Holland, except by shipping consignments *via* the United Kingdom. The shipping company thereupon notified that they could not accept the consignment without a formal "permit." The American manufacturers accordingly cabled the consignees in Sweden, who provided the proper authority with a sworn affidavit that the goods were intended for Swedish home consumption. This information was cabled to the Swedish Consul in New York, which document was sworn to and properly certified and presented to the British Consul, who refused to pass it on, stating that it was "not satisfactory." Consequently the steamship company refused to accept the goods for shipment.

There appears to be some force in the complaint of United States manufacturers that the British Government has no right to interfere in their export business in tinplate to neutral countries so long as it has not declared tinplate to be contraband; and there would appear to be some point in the complaint, too, that the refusal of the shipping companies to accept goods was because they were "quietly asked down to the British Consul's office, and advised by word of mouth that it would not be desirable for them to accept tinplate for Scandinavia at this time." It is very unfortunate that the action of our authorities should be so generally regarded by neutrals as arbitrary and illegal in dealing with overseas supplies to non-belligerent countries; though it, of course, is desirable that our powers should be pressed to the utmost in so far as they can be justified in international law. It is not hard, at the same time, however, to understand the growing resentment which all neutral countries feel against the way in which their shipping trade is supervised and obstructed. Sweden is in a difficult position owing to this cutting off of tinplates, being short of material with which to carry on her canning industries (which reacts upon the supplies of foodstuffs for her own people); and it is galling to America to find that markets which now stand wide open to her are inaccessible, though the goods desired are non-contraband. It is undoubtedly the multiplication of instances, of which the above is typical, which has led to the strong Note recently presented by the United States Government to Great Britain, reviewing the whole circumstances under which the latter is acting in respect to overseas trade between America and neutral countries, and the sooner some intelligible line of policy is laid down and the world at large is permitted to know what is and what is not contraband, and, therefore, what may and what may not be shipped from one neutral country to another, the better for all parties concerned. It is highly inexpedient unnecessarily to aggravate sentiment against the Allies in all neutral countries, and some revision of our policy in this respect is eminently desirable. The "gentle art of making enemies" is a poor sort of policy, and it might be abandoned to the mutual advantage of this country and her Allies.

COLONIAL WOOL SALES.

LAST Thursday saw the finish of the seventh series of sales, which lasted nearly a month. The auctions throughout have been very well attended, and at the finish prices are at the highest point. The opening was good, but the end was better. The outstanding feature has been the unprecedented demand for good combing merinos and crossbreds, while even faulty merinos have recovered the 1*d.* per pound they lost during the opening week. The sales have gone better than the most sanguine people expected, particularly in fine wools, and it is remarkable that, notwithstanding a lessened consumption on account of the present recruiting boom among the textile workers, even combing merinos are moving to a still higher point. No doubt the influence of our Allies and America has forced the home trade, and readers will see from the table below the alterations which have taken place compared with the previous auctions. No doubt the current Australian clip is deficiently grown compared with its predecessor, and all authorities are assuming a shrinkage of 450,000 to 500,000 bales. But even that should not make a great deal of difference so far as supplies are concerned, and unless the War speedily terminates, and machinery is released on the Continent, we think there is sufficient wool in sight to satisfy all the requirements of the home trade, America, and our Allies. American and Italian competition has been distinctly felt, the upward tendency of prices, particularly for crossbreds and slipes, being largely due to outside competition. America seems to be buying somewhat speculatively, expecting the War to be over in early spring. While the end is very much to be desired, we rather incline to the view that it is the big military orders which have been placed by Italy and Russia across the Atlantic which are largely account-

able for America buying so freely of both merinos, greasy crossbred fleece, scoureds, and slipes.

We give below a useful table showing the changes compared with the close of the September series:—

Australasian Wool

Greasy merino, superior		12d.
,, ,, average to good		11½d.
,, ,, inferior to average		½d. to 1d.
,, ,, inferior to average		1d. to ½d.
Scoured ,, superior		1½d.
,, ,, average to good		1d. to 1½d.
,, ,, inferior		¼d. to ½d.
,, ,, faulty pieces and locks		Low
Greasy ,, lambs, superior		½d.
,, ,, ,, medium		½d.
,, ,, ,, inferior		Low
,, crossbred, fine superior		½d. to ¾d. higher.
,, ,, ,, ordinary		½d. ,,
,, ,, medium superior		¼d. to ½d. ,,
,, ,, ,, ordinary		½d. ,,
,, ,, coarse superior...		1d. to 1½d. ,,
,, ,, ,, ordinary		½d. ,,
Scoured ,, fine		½d. to ¾d. ,,
,, ,, medium to fine cross		½d. to ¾d. ,,
Slipe crossbred fine lambs		½d. to 1½d. ,,
,, ,, medium ,,		1½d. ,,
,, ,, coarse ,,		½d. ,,
,, ,, faulty classes...		¼d. ,,
Greasy Punta Arenas, well conditioned		1d. to 1½d. ,,
,, ,, ,, wasty		½d. ,,
,, Falkland Islands		½d. ,,

South African Wool.

Snow White, super Westerns ...	Low
,, ,, medium	½d. lower.
,, ,, inferior	½d. ,,
Greasy combing, light	Fully par
,, ,, heavy	¼d. to ½d. lower.
,, clothing, light	Par to ¼d. ,,
,, ,, faulty	¼d. ,,

As far as one can gauge the outlook prices should remain about steady. The home trade, generally speaking, is very well employed, and France, Italy, and other Continental countries are all clamouring for supplies. No doubt there will be no surplus of good long combing merinos, and therefore we expect to see a full maintenance of values for decent wools, both merinos and crossbreds. The next series of sales begins on December 7.

LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

In many ways our staple industry continues to be vitally affected by matters arising as a result of the War. Owing to the levy of recruits for the Army the question of future production in yarn and cloth is of great interest. At the end of last week representatives of the employers had an interview with some of the officials responsible for recruiting, when the position of affairs was discussed. It has now been announced by the Board of Trade that certain grades of cotton operatives will be placed amongst the reserve occupations, and it is understood that such workpeople will only be allowed to enlist on condition that they return to their employment. It is expected that they will be placed in the later groups and not be called up unless absolutely necessary. The Government now seems to be realising the importance of doing everything possible to maintain our great export trades. This decision has given a good deal of satisfaction to employers; but the difficulty in obtaining workpeople is still very pronounced, and a considerable amount of machinery is stopped owing to want of hands. This state of affairs is resulting in some articles being in very limited supply. Compared with a fortnight ago there is not much alteration in raw cotton prices, and ideas have not changed with regard to probable supplies and consumption in raw cotton. Messrs. Neill Bros., of London, estimate the American crop at 12,300,000 bales, including linters.

The amount of practical demand in piece-goods for abroad has recently shown a falling off. Some producers of light fabrics suitable for India have rather more work to go on with, and can afford to present a firmer front to buyers, and further buying is being checked. We seem to be very little nearer trade of importance in shirtings, and such cloths are the worst thing in the market. A few more bids have been mentioned for China, but shippers seem quite unable to obtain adequate offers from their customers abroad, and most of the negotiations have failed to mature. Some of the South American markets continue to give fairly encouraging support. It is not an easy matter to get [illegible] prices for lots of any quantity. The chief obstacle to improvement in trade is undoubtedly the high cost in putting down goods in our outlets abroad, and hesitation on the part of buyers in replenishing stocks on the present basis is not an unreasonable attitude to adopt. There has been some fear of a labour dispute in the printing and dyeing industries, but a settlement has been reached and the notices of the operatives withdrawn. Makers and dealers in cloths suitable for printing and dyeing are hampered at every turn by the scarcity of chemicals, and no relief in this connection seems to be in sight. There continues plenty of activity in home-trade circles. An encouraging demand is being experienced in flannelettes.

In most kinds of American yarns the margin of profit for spinners has been widened during the past fortnight. Demand is now a little quieter, but a considerable business has been done, and many concerns have extended their engagements. Early delivery in certain qualities cannot be obtained, and stocks in first hands are practically non-existent. Managers of mills are greatly harassed by the labour shortage, and all kinds of devices are taking place to get over the difficulty. Further negotiations are taking place with the trade union officials with regard to the relaxation of rules for the time being. In yarns for India, most of the buying has been in dyed descriptions, and sellers have rather improved their position. With regard to the Continent, France has given the best support. Reelers and doublers are very busy, and in many instances deliveries are behind contract time. The improvement in Egyptian yarns has been maintained, and in spite of stocks being about the prices ruling, especially in the finer counts, are more remunerative than for a long time back.

LA GUAIRA AND CARACAS RAILWAY.

The directors of the La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company announce an interim dividend of 2½% in respect of the current year, being at the rate of 5% per annum. This compares with 6% distributed a year ago. The War has undoubtedly had a serious effect upon the trade of Venezuela, Germany being a big customer of the country's produce, and the railway companies are suffering accordingly. Last year, with a falling-off in gross receipts of about £5,000, the profit for dividend was reduced by £4,000 to £36,542, a sum sufficient to maintain the distribution at 8%, with a surplus of £8,500. So far in the current year the traffic receipts of the line have further declined by £20,750, notwithstanding some improvement in the last two months, and even if the present rate of recovery continues the gross receipts for the year will show a substantial diminution compared with 1914. Some saving in expenditure will doubtless be effected, but in any circumstances a cut in the annual rate of dividend seems to be inevitable. It is probable, however, that the Company will be able to pay at least 6%, and possibly 7%, for the year. The price of the Ordinary stock is 70[illegible]

"Railroads: Finance and Organization." By W. Z. Ripley, Ph.D. Price 14s. (London: Longmans, Green and Co.) An interesting survey of the working of United States railroads. Mr. Ripley puts forward two propositions which he thinks might bring about good results. One is that the railroads should be relieved of the steadily increasing burden of State [illegible] of such authority by the Federal Government. The [illegible] even encourage, such co-operation among carriers as will tend to eliminate the economic waste of competition without endangering its manifest advantages to the public at large. This means the repeal or amendment of the anti-pooling section of the Inter-State Commerce Law.

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD.

EIGHTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Office of The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company,
Baltimore, Md., October 27, 1915.

To the Stockholders of
The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.

The President and Directors of the Company submit herewith report of the affairs of the Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.

Except where otherwise indicated, the comparisons shown herein are with the figures for the preceding fiscal year. The income and capital accounts for the year are stated in accordance with the new Accounting Classifications as prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, effective July 1, 1914, and in order that such comparisons may be properly made the figures for the preceding year have been recast, so far as practicable, and consequently do not agree in detail with the figures published in the last annual report.

MILEAGE AND EQUIPMENT.

The statements in this report show the results of the operation of the lines directly controlled and operated by your Company, embracing:

	First Main Track	Total All Tracks
Miles (owned)	4,458.97	8,803.17
Miles (track & right)	76.30	204.10
Total miles operated	4,535.27	9,007.27

as shown in Table 28 in the full Pamphlet Report.

There has been an increase during the year in total first main-track mileage operated 57.05 miles, which was occasioned by the acquisition of the Moorfield and Virginia Branch, 36.61 miles; the construction of the Magnolia Cut-off, 13.14 miles; the extension of branch lines, 5.34 miles; and certain other adjustments, 1.96 miles.

The equipment of the Company at June 30, 1915, consisted of 2,399 Locomotives; 1,261 Passenger Cars; 86,097 Freight Cars; 3,163 Work Cars; and 144 pieces of Floating Equipment, as shown in detail in Table 27 in the full Pamphlet Report.

RESULTS FROM OPERATION.

The General Income Account of the Company will be found in Table 1 herewith.

The Total Railway Operating Revenues were $91,815,797.34, a decrease of $7,348,212.63, or 7.41 per cent.

The Total Railway Operating Expenses were $63,925,507.74, a decrease of $10,477,880.78, or 14.08 per cent.

The ratio of operating expenses to total revenues was 69.62 per cent., compared with 75.03 per cent. for the previous year.

The Net Revenue from Railway Operations was $27,890,289.60, an increase of $3,129,668.15, or 12.64 per cent.

The Gross Income from the year's operations was sufficient to enable your Company to meet its fixed and other charges, to pay the established 4 per cent. dividend upon the Preferred Stock and 5 per cent. upon the Common Stock, and leave a surplus of $771,475.86.

FREIGHT REVENUES AND STATISTICS.

Freight Revenue was $70,789,808.51, a decrease of $5,617,908.11, or 7.35 per cent., and constituted 77.09 per cent. of Total Railway Operating Revenues, as against 77.04 per cent. last year.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has ordered, effective July 1, 1914, that all statistics with respect to tons and tonnage be adjusted to the basis of 2,000 pounds per ton, without regard to the customary weight of the ton as waybilled. The statistics heretofore published have been on the basis of the weight of the ton as waybilled, and as a large proportion of your Company's tonnage is waybilled at 2,240 pounds to the ton, as prescribed by tariffs, the effect of the recent requirement of the Commission is to materially increase the number of tons as reported. The Traffic Statistics, Table 12 and Table 13-A, for the years 1915 and 1914, are given on the new basis, but in order that comparisons for the ten-year period may be continued, the statistics given in Table 13-B are stated on the basis of the tons as waybilled.

The [illegible] freight carried were 64,575,595, a decrease of 7,891,465 tons, or 10.92 per cent., and the tons carried one mile were 12,970,894,074, a decrease of 1,083,527,427 tons, or 7.71 per cent. As indicating the traffic density of the system, the revenue ton miles per mile of road were 2,860,005 tons, a decrease of 252,534 tons, or 8.11 per cent. The average distance each ton was carried was 201 $\frac{38}{100}$ miles, a gain of 7 $\frac{18}{100}$ miles over the previous year. Freight revenue per mile of road was $15,605.75, a decrease of $1,312.77, or 7.76 per cent., and the revenue per freight train mile was $0.77 $\frac{6}{10}$, an increase of 2 $\frac{6}{10}$ cents, or 7.69 per cent. The average earnings per ton per mile were 5 $\frac{46}{100}$ mills, an increase of $\frac{16}{100}$ mills. The increase in the average rate per ton per mile and in the average distance each ton was carried is mainly due to a larger proportion of the coal shipments being shipped to the ports of Baltimore and New York. Freight Traffic Statistics are given in Tables 12 and 13 in the full Pamphlet Report.

The Statement of Commodities Carried, Table 14 in the full Pamphlet Report, shows a substantial increase in the grouping of Products of Agriculture of 668,164 tons, or 18.97 per cent. There was, however, a very large decrease in the items comprised in the grouping of Products of Mines, amounting to 7,520,045 tons, or 15.42 per cent. under the previous year. The decrease in Products of Mines and of Manufactures reflects the depression in the steel trade and allied industries throughout the greater part of the year.

PASSENGER REVENUES AND STATISTICS.

Passenger Revenue amounted to $14,059,940.41, a decrease of $1,830,050.54, or 11.52 per cent. These earnings constitute 15.31 per cent. of the total earnings, compared with 16.02 per cent. for last year.

The number of passengers carried was 20,581,992, a decrease of 2,166,078, or 9.52 per cent.; the number of passengers carried one mile was 714,368,423, a decrease of 112,910,193, or 13.65 per cent., and the average distance each passenger was carried was 34.71 miles, a decrease of 1 $\frac{66}{100}$ miles. Of the decrease in passenger earnings, approximately $800,000.00 was due to the cessation of immigrant business occasioned by the disturbed conditions in Europe, and the remaining portion of the decrease reflects the general depression in business. The average rate per passenger per mile for the year was .01 $\frac{[illegible]}{100}$ cents, an increase over the previous year of $\frac{47}{100}$ cents, due in part to the withdrawal of special rate features and the increase in certain fares. The average earnings from each passenger decreased .01 $\frac{4}{100}$ cents. These and other statistics relating to Passenger Traffic will be found in Tables 10 and 11 in the full Pamphlet Report.

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES.

Mail Revenue was $1,236,076.68, an increase of $21,733.61 over the preceding year.

Express Revenue was $1,818,452.68, a decrease of $31,761.15. That this decrease was not greater, in a year of general depression, is due largely to the earnest co-operation and great activity displayed by the Wells, Fargo Express Company in building up this branch of the service.

Other Transportation Revenue, in which is included earnings from Switching and Special Train Service, Transportation of Milk, Excess Baggage, Water Transfers, &c., shows a net decrease of $44,338.20, mainly from Excess Baggage charges and Water Transfers.

Revenue from Sources other than Transportation, in which is included earnings from Dining Cars, Station Privileges, Storage, Grain Elevators, Joint Facilities, &c., shows a net increase of $154,111.76, principally occasioned by the increase in earnings from Elevators, due to the larger movement of grain.

OPERATING EXPENSES.

The total Operating Expenses for the year were $63,925,507.74, compared with $74,403,388.52 for last year, a decrease of $10,477,880.78, or 14.08 per cent.

The total Maintenance of Way and Structures expenses were $8,985,626.86, a decrease of $3,432,808.11, or 27.64 per cent. It should be noted in this connection that maintenance of way expenses for the previous year included a charge of $2,112,084.98 directly attributable to the disastrous floods of March 1913, which had no counterpart in the operations of the present fiscal year. These expenses include $556,452.15, covering replacement and revision of facilities incident to additions and betterments. The roadway and structures have been properly maintained.

The total Maintenance of Equipment expenses were $16,002,588.53, a decrease of $1,147,186.68, or 6.69 per cent. Included in these expenses is a charge for depreciation of equipment amounting to $2,810,415.80. The policy adopted some years ago of rebuilding and improving the equipment so as to better fit it for present service requirements has been continued, and 7,564 freight cars have been substantially rebuilt during the year.

The total of all Maintenance Expenses for the year was $24,988,215.39, and compared with the same expenses for the preceding year shows a decrease of $4,579,994.79, or 15.49 per cent. These expenses for the year represent 27.22 per cent. of Total Operating Revenues, as compared with 29.82 per cent. the preceding year.

The total Transportation expenses for the year were $34,254,572.05, and compared with last year, $39,985,496.44 show a decrease of $5,730,924.39, or 14.33 per cent. These expenses were 37.31 per cent. of Total Operating Revenues,

as compared with 40.32 per cent the preceding year. Co incident with the decrease in transportation costs and directly contributing thereto was the heavier freight-train load, which was 692.55 tons this year, against 645.37 tons for the previous year, an increase of 46.98 tons, or 7.28 per cent. There was a decrease in revenue freight train miles of 3,042,622 miles, or 13.97 per cent., notwithstanding the revenue freight handled one mile decreased but 7.71 per cent.

The Traffic Expenses decreased $247,329.82, or 11.49 per cent., due mainly to less expenditure for outside agencies and for printing tariffs, &c.

The Interstate Commerce Commission Classification of Outside Operations was abolished, effective July 1, 1914. The greater portion of the expenses formerly charged to those accounts are now charged direct to other accounts; a minor portion, however, is still segregated and included in Miscellaneous Operations, and the fluctuations therein for the year were immaterial.

The General Expenses increased $92,664.23, due prinpally to increased expense of the Relief Department on account of increase in pension payments and to the difference in method of charging appropriations made to that Department.

The credit item of Transportation for Investment is a new requirement of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The amount included therein represents the reasonable cost of transporting men and material for construction work and is charged to the cost of such work.

TAXES.

Railway Tax Accruals amounted to $3,289,611.04, and taxes charged to Miscellaneous Tax Accruals amounted to $213,463.32, or a total of all taxes for the year of $3,503,074.36, an increase of $59,926.33. Taxes for the year were 3.82 per cent. of Total Operating Revenues.

INCOME ACCOUNT.

Non-operating Income, in which is included Rentals from Property and Equipment, Dividends and Interest on Securities Owned, &c., decreased $872,569.82, due to the exclusion from the income of the year of any interest accruing on obligations of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway Company now held by your Company.

Deductions from Gross Income, in which is included Rentals paid for the use of Equipment and Property, Interest on Funded and Unfunded Debt, &c., increased $654,529.68, occasioned by increase in certain rentals paid and larger interest charges incident to increased capital obligations.

The Net Income for the year amounted to $10,780,881.33, an increase of $1,530,856.95 over the preceding year, out of which dividends at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum were paid on the Preferred Stock of the Company, amounting to $2,354,521.28. After deducting this amount and required appropriations for Sinking and other Reserve Funds, the balance transferred to Profit and Loss was $8,368,727.07.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

The amount to the credit of Profit and Loss at the beginning of the fiscal year was $32,804,187.74, which amount was increased to $41,172,914.81 by the addition of the surplus income earned during the year as shown above. Dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, amounting to $7,597,253.21, were declared on the Common Stock of the Company and charged to Profit and Loss, and there was also charged to this account during the year the net amount of $1,000,147.69, included in which is $897,970.95 for discount and expenses on securities sold during the same period. The balance to the credit of Profit and Loss, which represents the excess book value of assets over liabilities, at the close of the year is $32,575,513.91.

THE FIVE PER CENT. RATE CASE.

Because of the steady and constant increase in the costs of operation due to matters of a continuing character, such as wage increases, legislative requirements, and the necessity of maintaining higher standards in maintenance and operation, there had been a marked decline in the rate of return in net operating income upon the property investment of the railroads generally during the past several years. Owing to the inadequacy, under these conditions, of the then existing rates, your Company joined with other railroads serving Official Classification Territory in proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission, seeking to secure approval of a uniform advance in freight rates of 5 per cent.

Following the original and supplemental petitions of the railroads in the matter, and after hearings and investigations extending over more than a year, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in December 1914, approved an advance in the freight rates in the so-called Official Classification Territory, which includes the territory served by your Company, of approximately 5 per cent., except on certain commodities, such as bituminous and anthracite coal, coke, iron ore, &c., and on traffic moving *via* lake and rail, which exceptions apply to about one-half of the freight traffic of your Company. The Commission also approved of advances in certain passenger rates and some other miscellaneous charges. The revised rates on Interstate traffic became effective generally on March 15th, but the application of authority to adjust Intrastate rates is still pending in some of the States, therefore the full effect on your Company's revenues cannot now be determined.

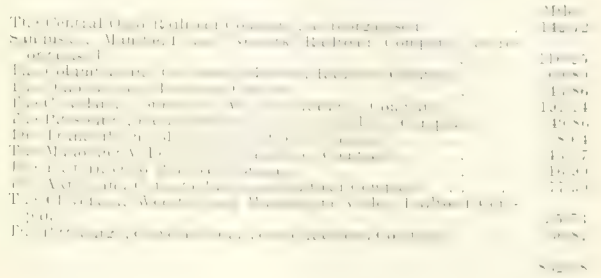
In that part of the decision devoted to their findings as to the adequacy of present revenues the Commission, among other things, stated

"In view of a tendency towards a diminishing net operating income as shown by the facts described, we are of opinion that the net operating income of the railroads in Official Classification Territory, taken as a whole, is smaller than is demanded in the interest of both the general public and the railroads; and it is our duty and our purpose to aid, so far as we legally may, in the solution of the problem as to the course that the carriers may pursue to meet the situation."

While granting approximately only one-half of the immediate relief asked for by the railroads, it should be encouraging to those interested in railroads and in the proper industrial development of this country to know that the Commission treated the question before it in a broad way, and recognised, unanimously, the necessities of the carriers for additional revenues, and declared its purpose to aid, so far as it legally may, in the solution of the problem as to the course that the carriers may pursue to meet the situation. It is believed that the inquiry has also served to bring about a much better understanding of the railroad situation by all interested or concerned in that question, and that because of this clearer understanding the shippers, the railroads, and the regulatory agencies of the public will all in the future be better able to satisfactorily work out the many problems incident to the Governmental regulation of the public utilities.

CHANGES IN CORPORATE RELATIONS.

Continuing the programme begun in 1912 for the purpose of simplifying the title to properties underlying the several System mortgages and of reducing the number of corporate entities comprising the System, thereby affording a more comprehensive basis for future financing, The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company during the year acquired the fee title to the properties of the following corporations owning railroads in the State of Ohio, the operations of which properties are included in the System as heretofore, viz. :—



The fee of that portion of The Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Toledo Railroad Company lying wholly within the State of Pennsylvania, 9.85 miles, was acquired by The Pittsburgh and Western Railroad Company, the entire capital stock of the latter being owned by your Company.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company also acquired the fee title to the property formerly owned by the Moorefield and Virginia Railroad Company, 36.61 miles, which had heretofore been operated separately, but was included in the operations of the System for the fiscal year.

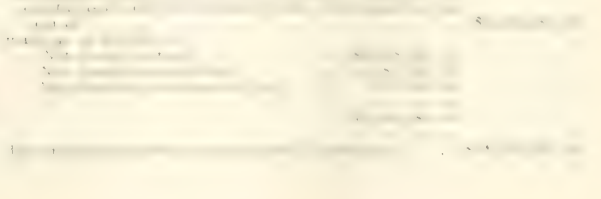
The purchase price of these properties represented the investment of your Company in the securities of, and capital advances to, the corporations mentioned above at the time of acquisition. The total amount of your investment has not been changed by reason of such purchases, the effect being merely to alter the form of the investment and to simplify the accounts on the general books of the Company.

The purchase of these properties, except in the case of the Moorefield and Virginia Railroad Company, did not increase or change the miles of road of the System, but did, however, increase the miles of road owned in fee by The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to the extent of 868.69 miles. The length of road now owned in fee is 2,168.75 miles, or 49.13 per cent. of the mileage comprising the System.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.

The General Balance Sheet, stated generally in the form now prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, is shown in Table 2 herewith, and the principal differences in the assets and liabilities of the Company, as compared with the previous year, are as follows :—

ASSETS.



Of this decrease, $17,751,244.53 is in Cash, and is due to the inclusion last year of $20,000,000.00 in this item to pay a like amount of One Year Secured Notes which matured and were paid July 1, 1914. There was a decrease in Special Deposits of $1,900,947.53, due to payments for additional equipment acquired for the Equipment Trust of 1913, and a decrease in Material and Supplies of $1,935,412.98. The increases in groupings of Deferred Assets and Unadjusted Debits are normal fluctuations incident to the business.

LIABILITIES.

There were no additional issues of Capital Stock during the year.

The grouping of Long-Term Debt, i.e., Funded Debt, shows an increase of		$3,991,833 54
accounted for as follows:		
Obligations issued during the year —		
Four and one half per cent. Secured Gold Notes —		
Ser. "A," maturing June 1, '17...	$20,000,000 00	
Ser. "B," maturing June 1, '18...	20,000,000 00	$40,000,000 00
Issued to retire $35,000,000 One-Year Notes, matured June 1, 1915, and for other corporate purposes.		
First Mortgage Bonds	1,000,000 00	
Issued under provision of the mortgage in recoupment of construction expenditures.		
Hampshire Southern RR. Co. (Moorefield & Virginia RR. Co.) First Mortgage Bonds, assumed	5,000 00	
	$41,005,000 00	
Obligations retired during the year —		
Baltimore & Ohio Equipment Trust of 1912	$1,000,000 00	
Series "C," paid at maturity.		
Baltimore & Ohio Equipment Trust of 1913	1,000,000 00	
Series "B," paid at maturity		
Baltimore & Ohio RR. Co., Loan No. 6 of 1853	6,000 00	
Purchased and retired.		
Real Estate Mortgages and Ground Liens, Liquidated	7,166 66	
Baltimore & Ohio RR. Co., One Year Secured Notes	35,000,000 00	37,013,166 66
Paid at maturity, June 1, 1915.		
Net Increase		$3,991,833 34
Current Liabilities show a decrease of		$21,484,875 57

due principally to the payment at maturity, July 1, 1914, of $20,000,000.00 of One-Year Secured Notes, the balance of the decrease being in the accounts Interest Matured Unpaid, Unmatured Dividends Unpaid, &c.

Deferred Liabilities decreased $470,620.68, resulting from the operations of the Relief Department and smaller aggregate amounts withheld from contractors' estimates. Unadjusted Credits increased $1,407,635.80, the major portion of which represents the net increase in Accrued Depreciation on Equipment.

Incident to the acquisition of the fee of certain properties in Ohio, there was restored to the Investment Account of Road $2,793,197.90 of capital expenditures for additions and betterments, which had heretofore been charged to Income or Surplus, and this change accounts for the increase in the item Additions to Property through Income and Surplus.

EQUIPMENT TRUSTS.

The status of the Equipment Trusts at June 30, 1915, follows:		
Baltimore & Ohio Equipment Trust of February 1912		
Total outstanding June 30, 1914	$8,000,000 00	
Matured and paid during the year —		
Series "C"—Paid July 1, 1915	1,000,000 00	
Outstanding June 30, 1915		$7,000,000 00
Baltimore & Ohio Equipment Trust of 1913:		
Total outstanding June 30, 1914	$9,000,000 00	
Matured and paid during the year —		
Series "B"—Paid April 1, 1915	1,000,000 00	
Outstanding June 30, 1915		$8,000,000 00
Total Equipment Trust Obligations outstanding June 30, 1915		$15,000,000 00

Each of these Trusts was issued in ten series of $1,000,000.00, one series of each Trust maturing annually.

ADDITIONS TO ROAD AND EQUIPMENT.

The total expenditures charged to Road Account were $3,744,946.32. These charges are shown in Table 6 in the full Pamphlet Report, where they are grouped under the more important accounts of the Road and Equipment Classification.

The total capital expenditures for equipment during the year aggregated $4,231,882.19, as shown below. Table 27 in the full Pamphlet Report shows the equipment in service and the various changes occurring therein during the year.

ROAD.

The work of constructing the roadway for new double track line and relocation of parts of the old line between Okonoko and Orleans Road, W. Va., known as the Magnolia Cut-off improvement, has been completed. One track has been laid and was put in operation December 6, 1914. The laying of the second track has been held in abeyance. With the use of this improvement it has been possible to increase the eastbound slow freight-train load to 6,180 gross tons, an increase of 36.36 per cent. The operations in this territory have been greatly facilitated by this improvement, the distance has been shortened 5.78 miles and the helper station at Hansrote has been eliminated, which latter constituted a serious interference with the movement of traffic by reason of eastbound trains requiring assistance over a section of the road where traffic is of the greatest density. While the new line has been opened but a little more than six months, substantial economies in transportation costs have already been effected and the movement of traffic much facilitated. With the handling of a greater volume of business the benefits derived will be proportionately larger. This improvement, together with others heretofore made, gives a continuous three-track line between Patterson Creek and Cherry Run, W. Va., a distance of 57 miles, which section has the greatest traffic density of the System, at times in excess of 24,000,000 ton miles per mile of road per annum.

No new construction work of any magnitude is now under way, but miscellaneous expenditures, as shown in detail in Table 6 in the full Pamphlet Report, were made during the year for the betterment and improvement of the property. Some of the more important items were as follows :—

An electric transformer station, to enable the utilisation of purchased power, was erected at Camden Station, Baltimore, Md.

A new passenger station was constructed at Berkeley Springs, W. Va., and a new combination station and office building was completed at Strasburg Junction, Va.

During the year three new interlocking plants were built, and four were reconstructed and rearranged.

Automatic signals were installed over seven miles of double track, and 10.6 miles of westbound track between Orleans Road and Magnolia, W. Va. Controlled manual block signals were provided for 14.7 miles of single track, and a large number of safety devices were installed for the protection of switches, grade crossings, &c.

The alignment near 75th Street, Chicago, Ill., was corrected, eliminating 194 degrees of curvature, making it possible to operate the heaviest power on this part of the line and dispensing with a slow order over six miles of road.

The work of eliminating the grade crossing of Concord Pike, near Concord, Del., was completed, as was also the Washington Road crossing at Elkridge, Md.

The Ludlow Avenue Viaduct, Cincinnati, Ohio, which was opened for traffic on June 15, 1914, has now been entirely completed, and substantial progress has also been made in constructing the Hopple Street Viaduct in the same city.

The undergrade crossing at 28th Street, Lorain, Ohio, was completed.

Important bridges were constructed during the year over the Monongahela River at Wheeling Junction, Pa., over Central Avenue, Madisonville, Ohio, and over the Potomac River at Magnolia and Kessler, W. Va., the latter two being incident to the Magnolia Cut-off.

To permit the operation of heavier locomotives the bridges between Akron Junction and Cleveland, Ohio, have been rebuilt or strengthened so as to carry engines weighing over 320,000 lb.

EQUIPMENT.

		$
Total Book Value of Equipment, June 30, 1914, was		107,756,946 72
During the year the following additions to the equipment were made:		
34 locomotives, 6 passenger cars, 1,781 freight cars, and 9 work cars, and payments were made on account of	$2,749,194 06	
And 5 passenger cars, 7,564 freight cars, and 1 work car were reconstructed, involving a net charge to the equipment account of	1,482,688 13	4,231,882 19
		111,987,928 91
During the year the following equipment was put out of service and credited to Investment in Equipment: 7 passenger cars, 3,603 freight cars, 419 work cars, 1 car float, and 1 lighter, having a book value of		2,149,791 50
Making the Gross Book Value of Equipment		109,838,137 41
From this should be deducted:		
Accrued Depreciation on Equipment in Service, as follows:		
Amount at credit, June 30, 1914	$15,025,071 35	
Amount charged to Income for depreciation, 1915	3,810,415 80	
	$18,835,487 15	
Depreciation accrued on equipment put out of service during the year	1,705,733 07	
Balance to Credit of Accrued Depreciation of Equipment in Service, June 30, 1915		17,129,754 08
Leaving the Value of Equipment June 30, 1915		92,708,383 33

In continuation of the policy inaugurated several years ago of strengthening certain classes of equipment, during the year 7,564 freight cars were rebuilt with steel underframes and bolsters and equipped with heavy draft gear to better fit them for present operating requirements.

At the end of the year 203 locomotives that had undergone thorough repairs were in storage awaiting traffic development.

The percentage of steel freight cars, including cars with steel underframes and steel centre sills, to the total revenue freight equipment at June 30, 1915, was 81.38 per cent., as compared with 72.77 per cent. last year and 38.83 per cent. at June 30, 1909.

Of the new equipment acquired during the year, 31 Locomotives and 1,195 Steel Freight Cars were purchased under

the provisions of The Baltimore and Ohio Equipment Trust of 1913.

Contracts have been entered into for the purchase of 50 steel passenger cars and 2,000 all-steel freight cars, to be delivered during the coming fiscal year.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

The Railroad Company assumes general charge of the Relief Department; furnishes office room and furniture, gives the services of its officers and employees and the use of its facilities; becomes the custodian of its funds with full responsibility therefor, and guarantees the true and faithful performance of the obligations of the Department.

RELIEF FEATURE.

The total number of members of this Feature is 50,591. The total payments for all benefits since the inauguration of this Feature, May 1, 1880, to June 30, 1915, amount to $20,096,882.93. A statement of the operations of this Feature, which provides accident, sick, and death benefits for employees, is shown on the first page of Table 26 in the full Pamphlet Report.

SAVINGS FEATURE.

This Feature combines the advantages of a savings and loan association, through which employees and their immediate dependants may invest their accumulated savings, and from which they may obtain funds for the purchase of homes, to be repaid through easy monthly instalments. As an incentive to employees to save, the Railroad Company guarantees 4 per cent. interest on all such deposits. During the past year this Feature paid to depositors $416,295.91, being 5 per cent. on deposits, after which there was a balance of $48,178.18 carried to the Surplus Account. On June 30, 1915, there were 8,937 depositors, with total deposits of $8,787,816.22, an average of $982.21. During the year 1,394 new loans were made and 541 loans were paid off, leaving in force and effect at June 30, 1915, a total of 6,114 loans, amounting to $5,536,842.22. Since the inauguration of this Feature, August 1, 1882, loans to the aggregate amount of $16,326,128.72 have been made, assisting employees in acquiring real estate to this extent. A statement of the operations of this Feature will be found in Table 26, pages 39-40, of the full Pamphlet Report.

PENSION FEATURE.

Pension payments to superannuated and infirm employees constitute a special pay-roll and are charged to Operating Expenses, the total amount so charged during the year being $287,835.99.

During the year 200 names were added to the pension roll and 87 were removed by reason of death, leaving 1,036 as the total number of pensioners on June 30, 1915. The average age of pensioners at June 30, 1915, was over seventy years.

A report of the operations of the Department will be distributed to members.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

One hundred and thirty-eight new industries, manufacturing and commercial, were located on or immediately adjacent to the line during the year, from which the Company expects to derive substantial freight revenues. One hundred and thirteen side tracks were constructed, eighty-seven to newly located industries, and twenty-six to industries previously located, but without side track facilities.

INSURANCE FUND.

A summary of the operations of this Feature for the year ended June 30, 1915, and a statement of the assets and liabilities, are shown in Table 25 in the full Pamphlet Report. The surplus in this Reserve Fund at June 30, 1915, was $1,503,680.30.

SUBSIDIARY LINES.

The Income Accounts of the following lines, owned by The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, but operated separately and not included in the Income Account of that Company, are shown in the following Exhibits, viz. :—

		Miles.
"A."	The Staten Island Railway Company	12·65
"B."	The Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Company	10·89
"C."	The Sandy Valley and Elkhorn Railway Company ...	30·57
"D."	The Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad Company...	79·42
		133·53

THE CINCINNATI, HAMILTON AND DAYTON RAILWAY COMPANY.

This property is still in the hands of Receivers, and while plans for its reorganisation are now being considered, the subject has not progressed sufficiently to justify any conclusion at this time as to the ultimate effect of the reorganisation upon your Company; consequently, there is nothing to add to the full statement made in this connection in the previous annual report, except that your Company has made no further advances to or on account of the Cincinnati Company, other than to pay the interest accruing during the year on the $7,500,000 00 First and Refunding Mortgage 4 Bonds outstanding and bearing the guarantee of your Company.

As previously noted, there was excluded from the income account of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the year all interest accruing on obligations of the Cincinnati Company now held by your Company, aggregating $22,695,144, so that the full weight of any income losses from this source has been met. The capital losses cannot yet be determined and adjusted.

* * *

The President and directors renew their acknowledgment of the loyal and efficient services of the officers and employees during the past year.

By order of the Board.
DANIEL WILLARD
President.

TABLE 1.—GENERAL INCOME ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915, IN COMPARISON WITH YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1914.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD SYSTEM.

	1915.	1914.	Increase or Decrease.
Miles of road operated (see Table 28 of full report) ...	4,[illegible]27	4,515.42	+ [illegible]
Operating Income—			
Railway Operating Revenues—Road Lines:	$	$	$
Freight	70,780,808 51	76,398,716 62	— 5,617,908 11
Passenger	14,[illegible]0,040 41	15,889,990 95	— 1,[illegible] 54
Mail	1,236,076 68	1,214,343 07	+ 21,733 61
Express	1,818,132 68	1,850,213 85	— 32,081 17
Other transportation revenue	1,[illegible]41,[illegible]86 29	1,755,724 10	— 14,[illegible] 29
Revenue from sources other than transportation	2,229,132 86	2,075,021 10	+ 154,111 76
Total Railway Oper. Revs.	91,[illegible]15,797 31	99,[illegible]9 97	— 7,[illegible]
Railway Operating Expenses—Road Lines:			
Maint. of way and structures	8,[illegible]26 86	12,418,454 97	— 3,[illegible] 11
Maintenance of equipment ...	16,002,588 53	17,149,775 21	— 1,147,186 68
Traffic	1,[illegible]46 45	2,152,826 27	— 247,[illegible] 82
Transportation	54,[illegible]72 05	59,885,496 44	— 5,[illegible]
Miscellaneous operations ...	[illegible]13 49	561,246 55	— [illegible]
General	[illegible]75 56	2,[illegible]9 20	— [illegible]
Transp. for investment—Cr. ...	**8,663 08**	—	— 8,663 08
Total Railway Oper. Exps.	63,925,507 74	74,403,388 52	—10,477,880 78
Ratio of expenses to earnings	69.62%	75.03%	— 5.41%
Net rev. from railway oper.	27,890,289 60	24,760,621 45	+ 3,129,668 15
Railway Tax Accruals ...	3,289,611 04	3,236,880 72	+ 52,730 32
Uncollectible railway revs. ...	18,981 38	—	— 18,981 38
	3,308,592 42	3,236,880 72	+ 71,711 70
Railway Operating Income ...	24,581,697 18	21,523,740 73	+ 3,057,956 45
Non-Operating Income:			
Rent from equipment other than freight cars	245,296 05	289,550 29	— 44,254 24
Joint facility rent income ...	660,363 19	657,202 50	+ 3,160 69
Miscellaneous rent income ...	402,913 61	388,[illegible]3 66	— 14,[illegible] 95
Dividend income	1,852,249 75	1,849,977 73	+ 2,272 02
Income from funded securities	1,465,346 45	1,288,623 50	+ 176,722 95
Income from unfunded securities and accounts... ...	418,026 82	1,556,637 66	— 1,138,610 84
Misc. income (all other items)	216,651 90	103,372 25	+ 113,279 65
Total Non-Operating Income	5,[illegible]847 77	6,133,417 59	— 872,569 82
Gross Income	29,842,544 95	27,657,158 32	+ 2,185,386 63
Deductions from Gross Income.			
Hire of freight cars—debit balance	1,121,665 34	847,209 77	+ 274,455 57
Rent for equipment other than freight cars	169,663 03	218,777 18	— 49,114 15
Joint facility rents	1,179,914 35	1,175,288 94	+ 6,625 41
Miscellaneous rents	[illegible]1,174 80	210,764 29	— 9,589 49
Miscellaneous tax accruals ...	213,463 52	206,267 31	+ 7,196 01
Interest on funded debt ...	11,480,288 06	14,344,310 74	+ 135,977 32
Interest on unfunded debt ...	1,[illegible]579 71	1,404,214 45	+ 179,365 29
Miscellaneous income charges (all other items)	111,914 98	2,301 26	+ 109,613 72
Total Deductions from Gross Income	14,[illegible]663 62	18,407,133 94	+ 654,529 68
Net Income	10,780,881 33	9,250,024 38	+ 1,530,856 95
Disposition of Net Income:			
Income applied to sinking and other reserve funds	57,632 98	49,457 28	+ 8,175 70
Dividends on Preferred stock (4% per annum)	2,354,521 28	2,354,[illegible]3 64	— 112 36
Total	2,412,154 26	2,404,090 92	+ 8,063 34
Income Balance transferred to Profit and Loss ...	8,368,727 07	6,845,933 46	+ 1,522,793 61
Income Balance transferred to Profit and Loss			$8,368,727 07
Amount to credit of Profit and Loss, June 30, 1914		$32,804,187 74	
Less—Discount and expenses of obligations disposed of during year		$897,976 35	
Miscellaneous adjustments (net)		102,176 74	
		1,000,[illegible]7 09	31,804,[illegible] 65
			$40,172,767 12
Dividends on Common stock (5% per annum)			2,[illegible]6 21
Balance to credit of Profit and Loss, June 30, 1915 (see Table 2) ...			$ 2,[illegible] 91

The figures for 1914 have been recast to conform to the classification prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission effective July 1, 1914, and include the operations of the Monongahela & Virginian R.R. Co. [illegible] from the date of their acquisition by your Company during the fiscal year.

TABLE 2.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD SYSTEM

ASSETS			Comparison with June 30, 1914
		$	$
Investments:			
Investment in Road and Equipment—			
Road		206,645,371 02	
Equipment		109,838,137 41	
		316,483,508 43	
Investments in Controlled Companies			
	Pledged	Unpledged	Total
	$	$	$
Stocks	51,576,650 50	5,237,267 35	56,813,597 91
Bonds	130,448,281 28	3,904,800 67	134,353,281 95
Advances	—	43,900,358 38	43,900,358 38
Total	182,024,811 84	53,042,426 40	235,067,238 24
Miscellaneous physical property			6,667,735 88
			558,218,482 55
Sinking Funds—			
Securities of carrier's own issue			96,000 00
Other assets			100 19
			96,100 19
Deposits in lieu of mortgaged property sold			1,853 00
Investments in Affiliated and other Companies—			
	Pledged	Unpledged	Total
	$	$	$
Stocks	15,869,044 50	13,407,455 33	29,277,197 83
Bonds	32,450,000 00	3,774,531 32	36,224,531 32
Notes	—	12,321,048 36	12,321,048 36
Advances	—	12,489,560 32	12,489,560 32
Miscellaneous	—	307,226 75	307,226 75
Total	48,319,044 50	42,299,820 08	90,619,864 64
Total Investments		649,036,300 38	+ 9,195,985 07
Current Assets—			
Cash		16,718,239 68	
Special deposits		171,799 97	
Loans and bills receivable		25,745 00	
Traffic and car-service balances receivable		1,453,489 09	
Net balance receivable from agents and conductors		3,587,257 29	
Miscellaneous accounts receivable		5,945,573 93	
Material and supplies		7,444,980 19	
Total Current Assets		35,347,085 15	—24,734,033 96
Deferred Assets—Working fund advances		65,170 35	
Insurance Fund—			
Securities of carrier's own issue	$1,257,000 00		
Other assets	246,680 30		
		1,503,680 30	
Other Deferred Assets		15,900 51	
Total Deferred Assets		1,582,751 16	+349 51
Unadjusted Debits—			
Rents and insurance premiums paid in advance		1,171 06	
Other unadjusted debits (inter-departmental accounts in process of adjustment)		1,501,781 97	
Total Unadjusted Debits		1,502,953 03	+551,858 11
Securities of Carrier's own Issue—Unpledged—			
Stocks		1,505,582 83	
Bonds		6,173,450 00	
Total Securities of Carrier's Own Issue—Unpledged		7,679,032 83	+994,338 43
Grand Total		695,148,122 55	—13,991,502 84

LIABILITIES				Comparison With June 30 1914.
Stock:				
Capital Stock—	Outstanding	Held by or for Carrier	Total Issued	
	$	$	$	$
Common stock	151,948,703 26	368,764 74	152,317,468 00	
Pref. stock	58,863,181 91	1,136,818 09	60,000,000 00	
Total Capital Stk.	210,811,885 17	1,505,582 83	212,317,468 00	
Long-Term Debt:				
Funded Debt Unmatured—				
Equipment obligations	14,960,000 00	40,000 00	15,000,000 00	
Mort. bonds	232,558,350 00	2,327,430 00	234,885,780 00	
Collateral trust bonds	84,840,980 00	5,159,020 00	90,000,000 00	
Misc. obligations	66,439,829 81	—	66,439,829 81	
Total Long-Term Debt	398,799,159 81	7,526,450 00	406,325,609 81	+ 3,991,833 34
Total Capital Obligations	609,611,044 98	9,032,032 83	618,643,077 81	+ 3,991,833 34
Current Liabilities—				
Traffic and car-service balances payable			1,351,101 54	
Audited accounts and wages payable			4,778,106 77	
Miscellaneous accounts payable			1,539,319 97	
Interest matured unpaid			2,313,551 43	
Dividends matured unpaid			105,511 40	
Funded debt matured unpaid			11,700 00	
Unmatured dividends declared			4,975,915 24	
Unmatured interest accrued			2,702,853 23	
Unmatured rents accrued			29,600 85	
Other current liabilities			2,187 96	
Total Current Liabilities			17,809,857 39	—21,484,875 37
Deferred Liabilities—				
Liability for provident funds			2,684,130 11	
Other deferred liabilities			127,653 06	
Total Deferred Liabilities			2,811,783 17	—470,620 68
Unadjusted Credits—				
Insurance reserve			1,503,680 30	
Accrued depreciation—Equipment			16,129,754 08	
Other unadjusted credits (inter-departmental accounts in process of adjustment)			1,653,498 93	
Total Unadjusted Credits			19,286,933 31	+ 1,407,635 80
Corporate Surplus—				
Additions to property through income & surplus			4,020,956 96	
Profit and Loss—				
Balance			32,575,513 91	
Total Corporate Surplus			36,596,470 87	+ 2,564,524 07
Grand Total			695,148,122 55	—13,991,502 84

The following securities bear the endorsement of The Baltimore & Ohio RR. Co.; Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Ry. Co., 1st and Refunding Mortgage Bonds (outstanding in hands of public), $7,500,000. The following securities bear the endorsement of The Baltimore & Ohio RR. Co. jointly with other companies, viz.: Akron Union Passenger Depot Co., 1st Mortgage Bonds, $70,000; Kentucky & Indiana Terminal RR. Co., 1st Mortgage Sterling Bonds, $6,282,780.60; Richmond-Washington Company, 1st Mortgage Bonds, $10,000,000; Washington Terminal Company, 1st Mortgage Bonds, $12,000,000.

The above General Balance Sheet presents an accurate statement of the accounts of the Company as of June 30, 1915.

J. T. LEARY, *Comptroller.*

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5*s.* per share, less tax.

ASSAM CO.—Interim dividend of 7½%, or £1 10*s.* per share, less tax.

BANK OF MAURITIUS.—The branch of the Bank at Mahe, Seychelles, will be closed on and after January 31, 1916.

BIDOR RUBBER ESTATE.—Interim dividend of 15%.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED.—Interim dividend of 6*d.* per share, less tax, on Deferred Ordinary.

BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION.—Dividend of 5%, tax free, for year.

BRITISH COTTON AND WOOL DYERS' ASSOCIATION.—The profits of this Association for the half-year, including income from investments, &c., after deducting £1,276 for specific depreciation and £17,987 for repairs and renewals during that period, have amounted to £91,181. From this there falls to be deducted on account of administration and other expenses £10,883. Debenture and other interest calls for £15,328, in addition to which a sum of £12,500 is transferred to depreciation fund, bringing that fund up to £166,516. There then remains a credit balance on profit and loss account of £52,469, which, with a sum of £32,458 brought in from last year, enables the Company to carry forward a sum of £84,928. During the half-year the branches as a whole have been well employed and continue so. The dyeware situation, however, is stated to be an increasingly difficult one, and unfortunately there appears little probability of improvement.

BUTTONS.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* per share, tax free.

CASTNER-KELLNER ALKALI CO.—Final dividend at rate of 24% per annum for the six months ended September 30, 1015.

CICELY RUBBER ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 40% on Ordinary shares and 42½% on the Preference shares.

COATS, J. AND P.—Usual half-yearly dividend of 3%, less income tax, on Preference shares, also the quarterly dividend of 5%, less tax, on Preferred Ordinary stock, and the quarterly dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share, less tax, on Ordinary.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—A branch of this Bank has been opened at Broadmeadows, Victoria.

FINE COTTON SPINNERS' AND DOUBLERS' ASSOCIATION.—Interim dividends on the Preference and the Preferred Ordinary shares, and also an interim dividend of 3% on the Ordinary shares, being at the rate of 6% per annum.

HORNSBY, RICHARD, AND SONS.—Dividend on Ordinary shares at the rate of 6½% per annum, less tax.

ILFORD.—Dividend of 5% on the Ordinary shares.

INSULINDE (SUMATRA) RUBBER.—*Dividend* of 10%, less tax, for the year ended June.

JOKAI (ASSAM) TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax, on Ordinary.

LYONS, J., AND CO., LTD.—Interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 20% per annum in Ordinary shares.

LONDON AND CHICAGO CONTRACT CORPORATION.—Dividend of 4% for the year.

MALACCA RUBBER PLANTATIONS.—An interim dividend of 10% for the year, tax free, on Preference and Ordinary.

ANALYSIS

OF THE SECURITY FOR THE BONDS DEALT WITH UNDER THE

MISSOURI PACIFIC PLAN OF READJUSTMENT

DATED JULY 1, 1915

AND OF THE PROVISION MADE FOR THEM THEREUNDER.

PROPOSED NEW SECURITIES.

The Plan contemplates that a new corporation (hereinafter called the New Company) shall acquire all the properties now owned by the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain Companies (so far as they may be embraced in the reorganisation), and shall issue, in consummating the Plan, the following classes of securities:

(*a*) $46,925,150 *new First and Refunding Mortgage 5 Bonds:*

These bonds are to mature about 1965 and to be of a series redeemable as a whole at 107½ and interest after 1920. The Plan contemplates that upon the completion of the proposed readjustment the mortgage shall be a lien (so far as practicable a direct lien) upon the entire System, including the Iron Mountain Lines (the aggregate of the prior liens averaging only about $18,328 per mile on the entire mileage mortgaged), and *that it shall be a first lien on about 3,650 miles of the System.* The mortgage is also to be a lien upon all property thereafter acquired by the use of bonds secured thereby. Bonds are reserved for future requirements. If the revenues of the last two fiscal years are taken as a basis, the property would show, over and above prior charges, earnings of about $6,500,000, equal to nearly three times the interest upon these bonds. .

(*b*) $44,399,292 *new General Mortgage 4 Bonds*

These bonds are to mature about 1975 and to be of a series redeemable as a whole at par and interest after 1920. The mortgage is to be a lien upon all property at any time covered by the new First and Refunding Mortgage, subject only to the lien of that mortgage and the liens prior thereto, and is also to be a lien upon all property thereafter acquired by use of the General Mortgage Bonds. Bonds are reserved for future requirements. If the revenues of the last two fiscal years are taken as a basis, the property would show, over and above prior charges, earnings of about $4,150,000, equal to nearly two and one-half times the interest upon these bonds.

(*c*) $76,751,635 *new Convertible 5% Preferred Stock:*

This stock is to be preferred as to assets and earnings (the dividends to be cumulative from June 30, 1918), and is to have full voting power and to be convertible at par into Common Stock of the New Company at the option of the holder, subject to an adjustment of dividends. The entire issue of Preferred Stock is to be redeemable at 107½ with certain accrued dividends. If the revenues of the last two fiscal years are taken as a basis, the property would show, over and above prior charges, earnings of about $2,370,000 or over 3% on the Preferred Stock to be issued under the Plan. Provision is made in the Plan for the possible substitution for Preferred Stock of Convertible 5% Income Bonds.

(*d*) $82,839,585 *new Common Stock*

Assessment for Cash Requirements.

The burden of raising the necessary new cash capital of about $41,000,000 required by the Plan has naturally been placed upon the stockholders, who will receive for their old stock an equal amount of new Common Stock, conditioned upon their paying an assessment of $50 per share, for which they are to receive an equal face amount of new General Mortgage 4% Bonds. After taking into account the value of these bonds according to recent market quotations for them as and when issued, the net burden of the cash assessment upon the stockholders would amount to from $17.50 to $20 per share. In fixing the terms of an assessment upon stockholders, it must be borne in mind that if those terms are unduly drastic, neither will the stockholders pay nor can the assessment be underwritten, in which case there would be no alternative but to place the burden of raising the necessary cash upon bondholders.

ANALYSIS OF THE SECURITY FOR THE EXISTING BONDS DEALT WITH BY THE PLAN AND OF THE REASONS FOR THE TREATMENT ACCORDED THEM.

$24,845,000 *Missouri Pacific Extended 6 Secured Gold Notes:*

These notes being secured by $25,000,000 principal amount of Iron Mountain First and Refunding Mortgage 6% Bonds, in addition to considerable other collateral of substantial value and in part indispensable to the Missouri Pacific System, the Plan provides for their payment in cash. The following is a statement of the collateral for these Notes:

Face or Par Value	
$25,000,000	Iron Mountain [illegible] Mortgage 6% [illegible]
[illegible]	Iron Mountain [illegible]
1,397,000	Missouri [illegible] Pacific Mortgage [illegible]
525,000	[illegible]
100,000	[illegible] Mortgage 5% [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Pueblo Stock Yards Company Stock
[illegible]	[illegible] Common Stock
9,500,000.00	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

$3,861,000 *Equipment Obligations Maturing June 30 1918:*

The equities in the equipment securing these obligations compel provision for their payment in cash.

$14,904,000 *Missouri Pacific Consolidated First Mortgage 6% Bonds Due 1920:*

These bonds are secured by a fourth mortgage on the main line from St. Louis to Kansas City, and by mortgage (chiefly a first mortgage) on the line from Kansas City to Atchison, and from Atchison to a point near Omaha, the line from Jefferson City via Boonville to Kansas City, and certain branches. The Plan offers to these bonds 110% in new First and Refunding 5s, thus giving them a 10 per cent increase in principal, coupled with a security of a system mortgage covering a large mileage with diversified traffics, which is believed to afford a greater measure of safety than the existing security.

$14,375,000 *Missouri Pacific Trust 5% Bonds Due 1917:*

These bonds are secured not by direct mortgage but by pledge of the following seven smaller bond issues of various maturities secured by separate first mortgages on seven sections of the System in Kansas and Colorado:—

	Maturity	Miles Mortgaged	Principal Amount
Bonds Secured in part upon Main Line:			
Pueblo & State Line	1917	152.12	[illegible]
Denver, Memphis & Atlantic	1916	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kansas & Colorado	1926	[illegible]	2,041,000
		[illegible]	$10,872,000
Bonds Secured upon Branches:			
Fort Scott, Wichita & Western, 7's	1917	[illegible]	$[illegible]
Wichita & Colorado, 6's	1917	[illegible]	[illegible]
Salina, Sterling & El Paso, 6's	1926	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kansas [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]	$[illegible]
Total [illegible]		1,113.78	$[illegible]

Enforcement by the Trust 5's of 1917 of their lien upon the pledged bonds, resulting in their obtaining possession of the pledged bonds, will not give them possession of the railroads mortgaged except such portions as may be covered by mortgages securing pledged bonds upon which defaults shall have been made and continued. Even portions of the main line indirectly covered might be omitted from the System of the New Company and its traffic cared for by other means; or the New Company might, by paying part of the pledged bonds of earlier maturities and paying interest on additional pledged bonds of later maturities and the principal when due, acquire the greater part of the mileage covered indirectly by this issue, *including all portions of the main line so covered*, leaving the Trust 5's to realise a large deficiency from pledged bonds in default secured on branches not taken over by the New Company. There would probably be deductions for expenses of collection of the deficiency, and assessments upon the Trust 5's would doubtless be necessary for development of the branches not taken over by the New Company. Considering these conditions, it is believed that the intrinsic value of the Trust 5's, as well as the measure of importance and value to the System of the properties comprised in their security, is [illegible] by the offer of 100% in new First and Refunding 5s. Bonds secured by a system mortgage covering a large mileage with diversified traffic, which is believed to afford a greater measure of safety than the existing collateral.

$9,636,000 *Missouri Pacific [illegible] Mortgage 5% Bonds Due 1920:*

These bonds, like the Trust 5's of 1917, are secured not by direct mortgage but by pledge of smaller bond issues. There are 19 of these issues, of various maturities, secured by separate first mortgages on 19 sections of the System in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Tennessee. They are as follows:

	Maturities	Miles Mortgaged	Principal Amounts
Bonds Secured upon Main Lines.			
Kansas City & S.-W. of Missouri, 6's ...	1926	20.70	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,110,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,273,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	300,000
[illegible]	1947	27.30	117,000
		[illegible]	$4,057,000
[illegible]			
St. Louis, Oak Hill & Carondelet, 6's...	1917	[illegible]	[illegible]
Iron Mountain of Memphis, 6's ...	1919	1.09	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	1920	26.27	394,000
Fort Scott, Belt Terminal, 5's ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	195,000
[illegible]	1920	53.07	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nebraska Southern, 5ss	1922	16.12	242,000
[illegible] ...	1916	131.00	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	1927	24.97	376,000
[illegible] ...	1920	73.00	[illegible]
Interstate Railway, 6's	1920	101.43	1,622,000
Joplin & Western, 5's ...	1922	4.50	69,000
[illegible]	1923	18.25	275,000
		[illegible]	$7,988,000
[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]

Even portions of the main line indirectly covered might be omitted from the System of the New Company and its traffic obtained by other means; or the New Company might by paying part of the pledged bonds of earlier maturities and paying interest on additional pledged bonds of later maturities and the principal when due, acquire about one-half of the mileage covered indirectly by this issue, *including all portions of the principal so covered*, leaving the Collateral 5's to realise a large deficiency from pledged bonds in default secured on branches not taken over by the New Company. There would probably be deductions for expenses of collection of the deficiency, and assessments upon the Collateral 5's would doubtless be necessary for development of the branches not taken over by the New Company. Considering these conditions, it is believed that the intrinsic value of the Collateral 5's, as well as the measure of importance and value to the System of the properties comprised in their security, is recognised by the offer of 100% in new First and Refunding 5% Bonds secured by a system mortgage covering a large mileage with diversified traffic, which is believed to afford a greater measure of safety than the existing collateral.

$57,255,000 *Missouri Pacific Forty-Year 4% Gold Loan Bonds Due* 1945, *and*

$29,806,000 *Missouri Pacific 5% First and Refunding Mortgage Bonds Due* 1959:

The position of these two issues is thus described in the Introductory Statement to the Plan:—

"The main burden of the readjustment in its immediate effect must necessarily be borne by the stock and by the two junior issues of bonds, viz., the Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bonds and the Five per Cent. Refunding Bonds, but it is hoped that the returns from the contemplated development of the property will be such as to more than compensate for the modification in their status to which their holders are now asked to consent. It has been deemed fair and logical to treat the two issues of bonds alike in the allotment of new securities.

"While the Five per Cent. Refunding Bonds have a mortgage lien, the Company is not earning its fixed charges, and in order to provide the means absolutely required to meet maturing underlying obligations (chiefly secured by prior liens upon the Missouri Pacific lines proper) and other capital requirements, and to re-establish the Company's credit, there is no alternative but the surrender of this mortgage. As to the Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bonds, their claim on the Missouri Pacific lines ranks behind that of the Five per Cent. Refunding Bonds. On the other hand, if the holders of the Four per Cent. Bonds were to take possession of their collateral, the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway stock, they would lose the many operating economies and valuable traffic arrangements enjoyed as a result of the close interdependence of the two main properties, which manifestly could not be operated separately so advantageously for either property as when united. They would be confronted with the task of raising the necessary funds for the requirements of the Iron Mountain Company, which is already subject to a very heavy mortgage debt—more than twice as much per mile as the mortgage debt ahead of the Missouri Pacific Five per Cent. Refunding Bonds. They would not obtain the benefits of the money to be raised under the present Plan through the proposed assessment on the Missouri Pacific stock, nor of the proposed retirement of the $29,423,000 of Iron Mountain Six per Cent. Bonds with their heavy sinking fund requirements, nor of the provision for dealing with the Iron Mountain endorsement on $1,741,000 Texas and Pacific notes and for paying the Iron Mountain floating debt. In other words, the Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bondholders would in that case become common stockholders in the Iron Mountain Company saddled with the burden of financing it, instead of being, as they will be under the present Plan, Preferred stockholders in the whole system with its financial needs adequately provided for.

"While it is deemed absolutely indispensable to convert these two bond issues into Preferred stock (or income bonds if conversion into Preferred stock should be found impracticable), it should be particularly observed that the proposed readjustment (except only for a portion of the money raised) places no lien ahead of them which does not rank prior to one or the other of them *now;* in fact, upon the complete consummation of the Plan, the charges ranking ahead of the new securities to be given to holders of Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bonds and Five per Cent. Refunding Bonds (taking the System as a whole) will be less than the charges ahead of them now.

It should be added that the failure of the attempt to effectuate the Plan through the voluntary action of the security holders, and the foreclosure proceedings now in progress under the First and Refunding Mortgages of both the Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain Companies, have only increased the importance of prompt deposit under the Plan by the holders of these two issues with a view to co-operation in terminating the receiverships at the earliest practicable moment. The plan offers 100% in new Convertible 5% Preferred Stock in exchange for both of these issues.

$3,972,000 *Kansas & Colorado Pacific First Refunding Mortgage 6% Bonds due* 1936:

Although only $3,972,000 of the Kansas & Colorado Pacific 6's are outstanding in the hands of the public, $16,715,000 additional are pledged under the existing Missouri Pacific First and Refunding Mortgage and will doubtless become the property of the Purchasing Committee under the latter mortgage upon the completion of the foreclosure proceedings now in progress. These bonds follow in lien the pledged bonds securing the Trust 5's of 1917 and the Collateral 5's of 1920 on almost all of their Kansas mileage. Accordingly it is believed that full allowance is made for the equities and the intrinsic value of the Kansas & Colorado Pacific 6's now outstanding by placing them upon a parity with the existing First and Refunding 5's (although the latter are secured upon a much larger mileage), and by offering them the same allotment in new securities, namely 100% in new Convertible 5% Preferred Stock.

$[illegible].000 *Missouri Pacific, Lexington Division 5% First Mortgage Bonds, due* 1920.

$[illegible].000 *Leroy & Caney Valley 5% First Mortgage Bonds, due* 1926.

$1,024,000 *Kansas City Northwestern First Mortgage 5% Bonds, due* 1933 *and*

$500,000 *Bonne Terre, St. Louis & Southern First Mortgage 5% Bonds, due* 1951:

These four issues of bonds are secured by first mortgages upon branches which it is believed could without material detriment be dropped from the System. It is estimated that for some time past none of these branches has yielded any substantial excess above operating expenses, while some of them have been operated at an actual loss. Their potential values as contributors of traffic to the System or otherwise are believed to be fully recognised by giving them 100% in new Convertible 5% Preferred Stock.

$3,459,000 *Central Branch First Mortgage 4% Bonds, due* 1919, *and*

$2,550,000 *Central Branch, Union Pacific First Mortgage 4% Bonds, due* 1948:

These two issues of bonds are secured by first mortgages upon portions of the branch from Atchison westward to Lenora, neither of which portions, according to careful estimates, has for some time past earned any substantial amount above operating expenses. This branch is not indispensable to the System, but in favourable crop years it originates desirable traffic, and it is believed to offer somewhat greater potential future value to the System than the lines securing the four bond issues last above mentioned. These two issues are accordingly offered 50% in new General Mortgage 4% Bonds and 50% in new Convertible 5% Preferred Stock.

$4,175,000 *Iron Mountain First and Refunding Mortgage 6% Bonds;*

These bonds are of the same issue as the bonds of which $25,000,000 principal amount are pledged to secure the Missouri Pacific Gold Notes. As these bonds are secured by a general lien on practically the entire Iron Mountain System (over 3,100 miles of road) and bear 6% interest, the Plan offers their holders 105% in new First and Refunding 5% Bonds.

$393,000 *Little Rock Junction Railway First Consolidated 6% Bonds, due* 1916, *Guaranteed by the Iron Mountain Company;*

These bonds are secured by mortgage upon an important bridge property near Little Rock, and their co-operation in the Plan is of value to the New Company. On the other hand, the Iron Mountain Company is not without an alternative route into Little Rock, and the Iron Mountain traffic is believed to be essential to the value of this bridge property. In view of these considerations the Plan offers to holders of these bonds 100% in new First and Refunding 5% Bonds.

Dated, New York, October 15, 1915.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

DALGETY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE thirty-first annual meeting of Dalgety and Company, Limited, was held on November 16 at the offices, 45 Bishopsgate, E.C., the Hon. Edmund W. Parker (the Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. E. Davison) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and gentlemen, You have now had the directors' report and balance sheet in your hands for some days, and I presume will take them as read. Last year, when I had the honour of addressing you, this country had been at war for some three and a half months, and, most unfortunately, that state of affairs still continues.

Effect of Drought in Australia.

This, of course, is very detrimental to business; nevertheless, I think shareholders may congratulate themselves that we are able to lay before them such a satisfactory balance sheet, having regard to the fact that, in addition to the pernicious effect of the War, Australia has suffered from a severe drought during the period under review. Luckily, in the early part of this year the drought broke up in most parts, the only State that is still suffering from want of sufficient rain being Queensland and some districts of New South Wales and South Australia; but, as it is, the losses of stock have been exceedingly serious, amounting to anything from 15 millions to 20 millions of sheep throughout the Commonwealth. This must inevitably lead to a serious shortage in the coming clip. As you are aware, the prices for wool, in which we are chiefly interested, have been much more favourable than was at one time anticipated, and, on the average, the returns to growers have been most satisfactory; indeed, in the case of our New Zealand clients, they have been abnormally so, in consequence of the very high values for crossbred wools. On the other hand, wheat, which in ordinary years had become an article of large export from Australia, was a complete failure last year, and so far from there being any export, there was a considerable quantity imported.

Dividend of 8 per Cent.

We propose, as you will have seen, to pay, with your sanction, our usual dividend of 8 per cent. and to revert to our policy of building up our reserve and writing down our premises, as I intimated to you last year we should do, if circumstances permitted it. I think you will agree that circumstances do permit this, and I feel sure we shall secure your approval of our action. It has always been the custom of this Company to pay its dividend free of income tax. I hope that we may be able to continue doing so; but with the very heavy increase in taxation, both here and in Australia, the burden is becoming a heavy one, and must, of course, become heavier. Last year I told you that, had it not been for the War, we had hoped to be able to give you a bonus in addition to the dividend, and I think that you will now, and perhaps for some time to come, have to consider (if we are able to continue our custom) that the payment of the dividend free of income tax is equivalent to a bonus, having regard to the growing pressure of taxation.

Australian Seasonal Prospects.

You will, I know, like to hear the most recent seasonal news that we have from the other side, so I will read you our latest telegrams:—

Pastoral.—In Victoria and South Australia the pastoral outlook is excellent, and in Western Australia good at present. The position in New South Wales is satisfactory to good, except in the northern, north-western, and parts of the western districts, where the situation is serious. In Queensland the season generally is very adverse, except in parts of the western and coastal districts. It is estimated that the shortage of sheep in Australia, as compared with last year, amounts to 20 millions, and that there will be a reduction of about 500,000 bales in the 1915-16 wool clip.

Agricultural.—The production of wheat in Australia from the ensuing harvest is estimated at one hundred and forty-five to one hundred and fifty million bushels, of which about one hundred million bushels will be available for export.

Dairying.—Prospects in Victoria and South Australia are good, but elsewhere they are adverse. Butter exports from Australia will compare favourably with last year as regards quantity owing to the depletion of the Victorian dairying herds during the recent drought and to the existing dry weather in Queensland and on the coast of New South Wales.

New Zealand Seasonal Prospects.—As a result of recent beneficial rains prospects for producers generally are good.

The Balance Sheet.

I will ask you now to turn to the balance sheet, and I will explain some of the variations in the figures from those of last year. The first item on the debit side that calls for comment is, I think, Terminable Debentures, which show an increase of £90,165, due to our having issued, towards the end of last year, £125,520 5% Debentures. We did this partly to strengthen our financial position, in view of the very troubled outlook, and partly to replace funds that had to be paid out for Debentures falling due, which were not renewed. Bills payable are £182,957 less. This is always a fluctuating item, but the drop this year is owing chiefly to the absence of any wheat transactions, and the same remarks apply to produce realised and not transferred to branches, which item shows a decrease of £300,904. Sundry creditors and customers' balances are less by £310,500, owing to our having paid off deposits to that extent during the course of the year. On the credit side, cash at bankers is less by £276,015, but against this we have investments, £336,307, which we had not last year, and these investments, as you will notice, are principally represented by Treasury bills and War Loan, which we considered it our duty to subscribe to. Bills receivable are £164,518 less. In a business such as ours this must always be a fluctuating item. Advances on land, stations, &c., show a decrease of £505,286, owing to some accounts being paid off, and to the reduction in others through the good prices obtained for wool and other produce. It is partly owing also to the conservative policy I told you last year that we were pursuing of very carefully scrutinising all applications for fresh advances and declining some that in ordinary seasons and normal times we should have taken up, but which under present circumstances we have allowed to pass us. Freehold and leasehold premises, plant, and furniture are less by £24,981. This reduction is brought about by writing off £10,074 for depreciation on leaseholds, plant, and furniture, as shown in the profit and loss account; the difference is accounted for by the amount written off freehold premises and buildings by the branches and deducted from gross profits. In the profit and loss account current expenses are more by £4,242. This is largely accounted for by the contributions we have made here and in Australasia to the different war funds—Red Cross, &c. Income tax shows an increase of £6,267, but this, of course, requires no explanation from me.

The Profit and its Appropriation.

To sum up, the position of the Company now is that, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, we show a net profit of £216,672 1*s.* 3*d.*, to which has to be added the balance brought forward, £197,014 12*s.* 7*d.*, giving a total of £413,686 13*s.* 10*d.* Out of this we have already paid: Interest on Preference shares, £25,000, and interim dividend at the rate of 8%, £40,000, leaving a balance of £348,686 13*s.* 10*d.* to be dealt with now, and which we propose should be appropriated as follows:—£40,000 in payment of a dividend at the rate of 8% per annum, free of income tax, making with the above payment 8% for the year; £50,000 to the reserve fund, thereby raising it to £600,000; £40,000 to writing down cost of premises; £10,000 to the staff benevolent fund; and £208,686 13*s.* 10*d.* carried forward. I think that I have now dealt with all figures in the balance sheet that might call for any comment, but, before putting the resolution for its adoption, there is one other matter I should like to refer to, and that is the staff of the Company. I am sure you will all be pleased to know how well the members have responded to the call of duty. Up to our latest advices from the Colonies, some 250 members have joined the Army; of these, I am sorry to say, nine have been killed, while 15 are wounded or missing. From this office alone 31 men have joined, equal to about 77% of our effectives. You will quite understand from these figures what a strain has been thrown on the rest of the staff to get the work put through; but I can assure you that they have thoroughly risen to the occasion and are doing everything in their power to meet the difficulties. If anyone desires to ask any questions I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. A. P. Blake seconded the motion.

Mr. Acton Adams said that, considering the drought that had extended over the greater part of Australia, he thought the balance sheet extremely good.

Mr. Deane suggested that, instead of carrying forward £208,000, the directors should pay a bonus of 5%, which would absorb only £50,000.

The Chairman, in reply, said that with regard to the suggestion that they had too much money, the fact was that they must be prepared for all emergencies.

The report and accounts were adopted.

HOTEL CECIL, LIMITED.

THE nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the Hôtel Cecil, Limited, was held on November 15 at the Hotel, Strand, W.C., Colonel Ernest Villiers, A.D.C. (Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. W. Elderkin) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: It will be apparent to every shareholder that the effects of the War must have had a very serious result upon the working of the hotel during the past year. Not only have the visits from Americans and foreigners practically ceased, but the wealthier classes of the kingdom who generally patronise the hotel have, for various reasons—economy, mourning, or a general disinclination for entertainment—not visited the hotel in anything like their usual numbers. Restricted licensing regulations and the darkness of the streets have further curtailed our business. We have had to pay increased prices for nearly everything used in the business, and at the some time we have had to reduce our terms.

The Year's Business.

Turning to the trading account, you will see that the business of the year shows a decrease of £102,144 as compared with last year. On the debit side the purchases are reduced by £28,585 and the working expenses by £10,261. Every care has been exercised to keep the expenses as low as possible, but shareholders will readily realise that there is a minimum below which we cannot go. There is an increase of £1,601 in rates, taxes, insurance, &c., which is accounted for by our two good years—namely, 1913 and 1914—being brought into the average for income-tax purposes. We hope to get some relief under this heading during the present year. Although everything in the hotel has been kept up to date, the greatest care has been taken to keep down expenses. We have done all that is possible for us to do consistent with the proper upkeep of the hotel. In this connection I might mention that, with a view to helping this, the directors have decided to take in future—at all events as long as the War lasts—only half their fees. (Hear, hear.) But you must realise, I think, that when things are not going well the work of the directors, and, in fact, of everyone connected with the hotel, is very much greater than when everything is going smoothly. Ninety-two of our employees have joined the Colours of our own country or those of our Allies, and, for your satisfaction, I may repeat what I told you last year—namely, that we have not had during the past year, nor have we now, in our employ a single German or Austrian, naturalised or not naturalised. (Hear, hear.) The shareholders will, I am sure, be glad to hear that during the year we rendered what service we possibly could to the British Red Cross Society by receiving wounded officers discharged from the military hospitals who had to remain in London for special treatment. I shall be very happy to answer to the best of my ability any questions that any shareholder may wish to put, and I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts, as printed and circulated, be adopted."

Sir Henry Kimber, Bart. (Vice-Chairman), seconded the motion.

Shareholders' Views.

Mrs. Samson said that it would be very ungracious on the part of any shareholder to grumble at the result of the trading for the past year; everyone knew the exigencies of the times and that businesses similar to theirs had suffered. She thought also that they should show their appreciation of the fact that the directors had seen fit to reduce their fees during the War; that indicated that they were taking a real and personal interest in the fortunes of the Company. She would, however, like to draw attention to the fact that the reserve for depreciation stood at the very low figure of £10,157. That, she thought, gave point to her remarks in past years, when the Company was doing very much better, and she had suggested again and again that some reserve fund should be built up, so that dividends could be equalised in bad times. She would also like to ask whether, in face of the present terrible disaster to the country, the directors had seen their way to meet the position by giving special terms during the War to visitors to the hotel.

Mr. Grayson said that he quite agreed in substance with the remarks of the last speaker, and he thought it was rather fortunate that they were able last year to carry forward so large a balance as £20,000, which had enabled them to meet the deficit and carry forward a balance of £11,000 on the present occasion. He noted that the repairs and renewals were only £7,315 that year, as against £15,500 last year, and he would like to urge upon the directors the advisability of not putting in hand, during the War, any repairs that were not of an absolutely urgent character.

The Chairman, in reply, agreed as to the policy of building up a reserve in prosperous times being the wisest and most politic thing to do, but there were times when there was not the wherewithal to build up reserves. As regarded special terms, he might say that they had been obliged to grant special terms, as he had indicated in his speech, and those special terms had to a certain extent been satisfactory, as they had brought in a certain number of people.

ANSELL'S BREWERY.

A Strong Financial Position.

THE annual meeting of Ansell's Brewery was held on November 18 at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, Alderman Edward Ansell presiding.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the annual report, referred to the retirement from the directorate of Mr. Peter Waltho, to whom he was sure the shareholders wished a speedy restoration to health.

The Balance Sheet.

Dealing with the balance sheet, Alderman Ansell said, although the net profit for the past year was not quite up to the record established in 1914, the results shown were perfectly satisfactory, the financial position of the Company being even stronger than a year ago. The profit, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and depreciation, was £87,054, and with the addition of the balance from the previous year made £157,974. In 1914 the profit was £91,546, to which had to be added £59,149 carried forward, making a total of £150,695. In each year the dividend was the same, but they carried forward this year £78,049 against £70,920. Thus, despite a slight decline in profits, the balance at the disposal of the directors and the sum carried forward showed substantial increases.

Dividend.

This was the twelfth year in succession that the Ordinary shareholders had received a dividend of 10%, while the present addition of £25,000 brought their reserve up to £325,000. With the amount carried forward they thus had a total reserve of £403,000—twice the amount of the Ordinary share capital held by the original vendors. Since the formation of the Company an amount equal to 50% of the original capital had been added to the capital fund of the undertaking from profits. There was no goodwill or mortgage item, and the directors had used the reserves mainly in buying properties and converting leaseholds into freeholds and generally consolidating the assets of the Company. He did not think for a moment the shareholders need be alarmed or apprehensive as to the future. He was satisfied that, short of confiscation—which he did not think was likely to come—the Company occupied to-day a very strong financial position.

Patriotism of Employees.

He referred with some pride to the record of the Company as regarded recruiting. He thought it reflected very great credit upon their employees. No less than 60% of their total staff had either joined his Majesty's Forces or entered munition works, and from the outset the firm adopted a scale of payment which ensured that the households of the married men received not less than prior to the men's enlistment. Similar allowances had been made to the dependants of single men. Of course, their situations would remain open for them, and they hoped the great majority would return to them. He regretted that up to the present time five of their men had lost their lives.

The New Drink Restrictions.

Alderman Ansell concluded with a reference to the new drink restrictions. He said it was too early to criticise in any way, but he would like to call their attention to a statement made in Birmingham a few days ago at a meeting held in connection with the United Kingdom Alliance. One of the speakers said "he believed there was a secret scheme afoot whereby the intention of the Central Control Board was to be defeated if possible, unless they were very careful." He (Alderman Ansell) was satisfied that the loyalty of the trade in the past should be a sufficient guarantee of its willingness to give loyal adhesion to the new order, which would come into force on Monday next. They were all anxious to do their very best to bring the War to a speedy and successful termination. It did undoubtedly entail many sacrifices, but sacrifices they would all be prepared to make cheerfully and willingly. He thought so far the trade had behaved very patriotically, and was satisfied that as far as the continuance of the discharge of their duties were concerned they would not be found wanting.

Mr. Joseph Ansell also referred to a statement made at the United Kingdom Alliance meeting, and said that on all occasions, and particularly during the last few months, the members of the licensed trade association in Birmingham had placed their services practically in the hands of the Licensing Committee, and had offered to do anything that lay in their power to facilitate their requirements in relation to the sale of intoxicants. If people would look at the cases which were brought to the Assizes, the Quarter Sessions, and the Police Courts they must know that crime and drunkenness—and it was generally said drunkenness led to crime—were considerably decreasing. Whereas before the extension of the city the magistrates used to sit day by day at the police courts until three or four in the afternoon, now, notwithstanding the larger area and the increased population, the business of the courts was generally finished in time for the justices to get away for lunch.

Mr. J. A. Fairhurst seconded, and the report was adopted.

Mr. Fairhurst was re-elected a director, and the auditors were reappointed.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on November 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids, the Chairman of the Company.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In the last financial year of this Company we had an exceptionally good wheat crop, which stood by us well. On the other hand, the maize and the oats were injured to a considerable extent by [illegible] such as is very unusual in the Argentine. During the year the tonnage we carried was greater, but most of it was in the nature of low-classed goods like wheat, and it was unfortunately in the traffic which pays a higher rate that we had a decrease. In passengers we actually lost, as compared with the year before, £291,000, and in parcels and luggage £20,000. In general goods we lost £173,000, and in building materials £45,000. Well, as I said, we gained on the wheat, and the result was that our gross receipts were £342,000 less than they were in the preceding year, but the profits from the traffic were only £86,000 less, and the reason for this is that we were successful in making very considerable economies indeed. The economies came to £256,000, which, I am sure, you will agree is a great feather in the cap of our general manager, and we are under obligations to him for it. The net results of the year, in a nutshell, are that we pay our Second Preference holders £2 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent., and there is a fractional sum over not enough to split up into a dividend—which is carried forward partly for their benefit and partly for the benefit of the Argentine Great Western Ordinary shareholders, who rank with them. You will ask me: What about prospects? First of all, the area under wheat is greater than it was last year. That is the first good feature. On the other hand, some damage has been done by drought on the Bahia Blanca section, and serious damage in a not very large district on the Pacific line near Villa Mercedes. There the wheat has been seriously damaged by drought, but our general manager still estimates that the crop will be a good one. We have got a visitation of locusts, and undoubtedly the locusts have done, at any rate, some little damage to the wheat crop. On the other hand, the maize crop, with the number of locusts in the country, will undoubtedly be liable to very material damage. There is another bad point, which is that during the current year our expenses are bound to go up from the increased price of coal. Now, gentlemen, to turn to the more cheerful side. We have a traffic increase up to date £310,000. Well, up to the time of this news about the locusts I had been very sanguine that at the end of our financial year on June 30 next we should probably not only keep that increase, but augment it. With this locust news, until we know how it turns out I cannot pretend to be as sanguine as that, but I do hope myself that we shall retain, at any rate, a considerable part of that increase. There is one other point which I think you would like to hear something about—that is as to our financial position. You have only to look at the report and accounts for yourselves to see that for a company of our size our financial resources are very considerable. We spent last year on capital account £350,000, but £162,000 of that was on doubling and stone-ballasting. The doubling which we were undertaking has been completed, but the stone-ballasting we have very reluctantly and sadly been obliged to stop. Taking those two items out, the amount we actually spent on capital account during the year was only £188,000. We shall spend as little as we possibly can. I think you may fairly put it that, taking the next two or three years together, we ought to keep our capital outlay under £200,000 per annum—more or less—and it will be very unlikely that during that time we shall have to come to you for further capital.

Mr. Edward Norman seconded the motion, which was carried with one dissentient.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the members was held on November 17, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The dividends guaranteed by the Pacific Company under the terms of the working agreement have been duly received. As you will have seen from the report, the present guaranteed shares under the terms of issue will be converted into Four and a Half per Cent. Guaranteed stock on April 1, 1916. Later on in our proceedings I shall propose a resolution to that effect. You will be pleased to know that the wheat and oat crops turned out well in the districts served by your railway, and that the traffic receipts were considerably above the average of the five previous years. Although as a guaranteed Company we are not interested directly in the working of our property, still it is a matter for congratulation to us to know that the concern is progressing favourably. I can best illustrate the importance of Bahia Blanca by telling you that during the nine months to September last the total exports of wheat and oats of the Argentine Republic was 2,900,000 tons, and of that total 1,500,000 tons, or very nearly a half, was exported from the port of Bahia Blanca. During the past year we have been able to keep down capital expenditure, and have obtained the sanction of the Argentine Government to defer branch construction work until the return of normal times.

Mr. Edward Norman seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now beg to move the following resolution, namely:—"That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to convert on and after April 1, 1916, the 200,000 Five per Cent. Guaranteed shares of £10 each, numbered 1 to 200,000, into £2,000,000 Four and a-Half per Cent. Guaranteed stock."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Norman and carried.

MALAYAN TIN DREDGING, LIMITED.

THE fourth annual general meeting was held on November 15 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., Sir Ernest W. Birch, K.C.M.G. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, said: If you will look at the profit and loss account you will see that the expenses at the mine amounted to £28,617, as compared with £13,929 in 1914. In the previous year No. 1 dredge ran for twelve months and No. 2 for two months—that is, fourteen months in all. This year you have had two dredges running over a period of twelve months and one for nine months—that is, 33 months in all. This more than accounts for the increased cost. It is true, as explained to you in the monthly postcards, that No. 1 dredge did not run for practically two months this year owing to two serious accidents. The necessary repairs entailed considerable expenditure, and partly accounts for the increase in the cost of repairs and maintenance from under £2,000 in 1914 to over £4,000 this year. The expenditure in London was £1,522 last year and £1,811 this year. The profit carried to the balance sheet is £12,091, as compared with £9,474 in 1914. On the receipts side of the accounts you will see that the sales of tin ore realised, say, £45,000, as compared with, say, £24,000 in the previous year. The output in 1914 was 236 tons, and this year it rose to 503½ tons. It might reasonably have been expected that the realisations, like the output, would have been more than doubled, but unfortunately the price of tin fell and the amount realised from our tin ore averaged 14*s.* 7*d.* per picul (or over £12 per ton) less than in the previous year. The average price of metallic tin (London three months' price) fell from £175 in the previous year to £152 in the year with which we are dealing. I will now ask you to look at the balance sheet. There has been an addition of £16,628 to the plant and machinery account, principally for No. 4 dredge, including its freight and erection. The directors have written off depreciation on the same lines as last year—that is, £750 depreciation for each dredge. This year we have decided to write off the cost of the freight of all the four dredges, or a sum of £5,953. You will observe that the stocks of stores and fuel in hand on June 30 have been increased from £1,199 in 1914 to £3,366. This is in pursuance of our policy to have a full stock of spare parts for repairs and maintenance on the property in order to save time in case of any sudden breakdown. The next point for examination is the cost to us of the work done. The stuff turned over approximated two million cubic yards at an "all-in" cost of 4*d.* a yard, or .80*d.* less than in the previous year. To put it in another way, it cost us less by 2*s.* 6*d.* per picul to obtain our ore, although the ore value of the ground worked was lower by .08 of a catty per yard—namely, .43 of a catty, as compared with .51 of a catty per yard in 1914. These figures are satisfactory, and it only remains for us to get into better ground and to sell our ore at a higher price in order to show bigger returns. We had worked out by the end of June 51 acres of a total of 1,191 acres. I do not intend to deal with Mr. Perkins's very full report printed with the report and accounts beyond calling attention to his expression of confidence in the future of the mine. For the four months of the year on which we have now entered the mine profit amounts to £13,134, and the directors this morning have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending June 30, 1916, of 1*s.* per share, less income tax, payable on the 30th instant, to all shareholders on the register at to-day's date.

Dredging Operations.

Mr. H. B. Perkins, in speaking of the mining, said: We have an area of [illegible] acres of dredging ground, as we have already told you, we opened up operations on the [illegible] part of its [illegible] proximity to the [illegible] Dredge. During the year [illegible] greater had it not been for the unfortunate accidents to No. 1 dredge, which was laid up for at least two months.

It is very pleasing to know that No. 4 dredge started operations this month, and she will enable us to considerably increase the returns, the benefit of which will appear in our next year's accounts. It can be safely asserted that our policy of larger dredges has been an unqualified success and that valuable experience is continually teaching us new points for economy and improvements and in the general maintenance of our machinery in good working order.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Walter J. Payne was re-elected a director, and in thanking the shareholders said he wished to remind them that this Company was the pioneer of bucket dredging in the Federated Malay States. The credit for this was due to his colleague, Mr. C. V. Stephens, and he thought they had every reason to be satisfied with the progress already made.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff closed the proceedings.

EDISON AND SWAN UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE thirty-second ordinary general meeting was held on November 18, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Ford, the Chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: With a view to extending the Company's manufacturing facilities, the sum of £8,690 has been expended on additional buildings to cope with its increased trade, and this is included in the balance sheet under the item freehold and leasehold property, standing at £73,036. Plant and machinery, for a similar reason, have been increased by the sum of £8,706, and you will note that the account now stands at £84,613. One of the principal items included in this additional expenditure has been in respect of our glass furnaces, and these are now equipped for an output of lamp bulbs of practically double the capacity which existed heretofore. While on the subject of lamps, I am glad to be able to tell you that we have in the past year found no difficulty whatever in disposing of the whole of our output, and could undoubtedly have sold more if our manufacturing capacity had been greater, but it is only within the last few months that the additional furnaces and plant have been available, and further moderate expenditure will be required. There has also been a considerable increase in the sale of goods produced in the engineering side of the works. In normal times the sales of lamps we have made would undoubtedly have shown us a considerably greater profit, but we are in this position: that the selling price of the drawn-wire lamp cannot be increased; in fact, it is more likely to be reduced. On the other hand, the cost of manufacture has risen to an abnormally high figure in consequence of increase in wages and the cost of raw materials. Anyhow, the Company has undoubtedly established the reputation of the "Ediswan" drawn wire lamp, and unless something altogether unforeseen should happen in the future I see no reason why the increased sales should not continue. Turning to the profit and loss account, the balance of gross profit brought from trading account has been increased from £51,244 to £56,962, the net result being that we have made a profit for the year under review of £14,146, against £4,695 last year, which I hope, under all the circumstances, you will consider fairly satisfactory. I much regret that it is not possible for the directors to recommend the payment of a dividend. You will remember that on previous occasions I have pointed out to you it is absolutely essential, before any dividend can be paid, that we should accumulate a very substantial reserve fund, which means that instead of dividing the profits we shall keep them in the business and employ them as additional working capital, and for this reason the Board recommend that a start be made in this direction by transferring to reserve account the sum of £15,000 and carrying forward to next year's account the balance of £4,878 16*s.* 3*d.*

Mr. E. B. Ellice-Clark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MALAYSIA RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

MALTA AND MEDITERRANEAN GAS CO.—Interim dividend at the rate of 4% per annum, tax free, on Ordinary.

MARSTON, THOMPSON, AND EVERSHED.—Interim dividend on Ordinary shares at the rate of 5% per annum.

MILLOM AND ASKAM HEMATITE IRON.—Dividend on Ordinary shares, making 10% for the year.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.—An agency of this Bank has been opened at 6 Wall Street, New York.

NEW PEGAMOID.—Dividend at rate of 10% for year.

PEASE AND PARTNERS.—Interim dividend on the fully-paid Ordinary shares of 8*s.* per share, being at the rate of 8% per annum. Also an interim dividend on the Deferred shares of 8*s.* per share, being at the rate of 8% per annum.

PLITTERS, LTD.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5% per annum on the Ordinary shares, less tax.

SHAWINIGAN WATER AND POWER CO.—Dividend of 1¾% for quarter on Common stock.

RAND DEVELOPMENTS.

City and Suburban.—Development showings below:—

Period	Main Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	Main Reef: Width Inches	Main Reef: Assay *s.* *d.*	M.R. Leader: Distance Exposed Feet	M.R. Leader: Width Inches	M.R. Leader: Assay *s.* *d.*	South Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	South Reef: Width Inches	South Reef: Assay *s.* *d.*
Year 1913	2,887	24.0	36 5	5,842	20.0	92 6	2,544	18.0	51 9
Year 1914	2,767	23.9	25 2	4,473	21.9	97 10	474	11.0	40 0
1915.									
Mar. qr.	573	22.1	21 8	621	16.9	93 11	150	11.0	33 2
June qr.	254	18.5	24 7	251	17.2	183 2	32	18.2	9 4
Sept. qr.	200	19.3	45 6	761	18.1	114 3	85	27.1	21 8

Princess Estate.— Recent developments below:—

Period	Main Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	Main Reef: Width Inches	Main Reef: Assay *s.* *d.*	South Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	South Reef: Width Inches	South Reef: Assay *s.* *d.*
1914, Sept. qr. ...	395	58.4	25 11	646	25	35 3
,, Dec. qr. ...	280	59.8	21 3	770	25	37 5
1915, Mar. qr. ...	605	50.3	30 7	1,050	25	31 0
,, June qr. ...	740	48.9	25 11	670	25	32 9
,, Sept. qr. ...	625	47.0	28 6	345	25	35 8

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Aurora West United.—There are in issue 212,705 10*s.* shares, and a favourable opportunity will be taken for a further issue to deal with floating debt, the total authorised capital being £300,000, in 600,000 10*s.* shares. Net floating indebtedness at December 31 about £105,000. Plant—80 stamps and a tube mill; capacity increased to 15,000 tons monthly.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue: Amt. £	Revenue: Per ton	Expenses: Amt. £	Expenses: Per ton	Profit: Amt. £	Profit: Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	80	164,791	16½	202,317	24/7	163,198	19/10	39,119	4/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	42,760	13½	52,472	24 11	40,952	19 6	11,520	5 6	—
June qr.	80	43,190	14	53,123	24/7	40,974	19 0	12,149	5 7	—
Sept. qr.	80	43,265	—	54,168	25/1	41,893	19/6	12,275	5 8	—
*Oct. ...	80	15,200	—	16,828	22/2	13,706	18/1	3,122	4/1	8 9

* "Operations adversely affected by a breakdown at the end of September of the crushing plant, which was in process of repair during October."

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—£440,000, in £1 share Three tube mills. Crushing capacity, about 25,000 tons a month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue: Amt. £	Revenue: Per ton	Expenses: Amt. £	Expenses: Per ton	Profit: Amt. £	Profit: Per ton.	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	238,390	15	347,486	27/4	289,534	23/6	57,961	3 11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	78,160	12½	100,898	25/9	95,951	24 6	4,947	1/3	—
June qr.	100	80,750	13	110,457	27/4	92,972	23/0	17,485	4/4	—
Sept. qr.	100	82,120	—	110,772	27/0	92,881	22/8	17,891	4/4	—
Oct. ...	—	27,000	—	37,301	27/7	31,637	23/5	5,664	4/2	—

Dividends—1914, June, 3¾ Dec., 3¾ per cent.
1915, June, 3¾ per cent.

East Rand Proprietary Mines.— Capital issued, £2,445,897, in £1 shares; £1,192,170 Convertible Five per Cent. Debentures in issue. Twenty-five tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue: Amt. £	Revenue: Per ton	Expenses: Amt. £	Expenses: Per ton	Profit: Amt. £	Profit: Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	820	1,831,950	8½	2,579,172	28/0	1,785,208	19/6	793,964	8/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	820	413,200	10	566,089	28/0	424,453	20/3	141,636	7 9	1 3/32
June qr.	820	434,000	10	605,348	28/3	461,925	19/1	173,890	7/2	1 5/16
July ...	820	164,000	9	219,965	26/3	163,917	19/6	55,548	6/9	1 5/16
Aug. ...	820	175,000	8½	242,616	25/2	166,567	19 0	58,049	6 2	1 1/4
Sept. ...	820	180,000	—	252,159	24/8	167,348	18 7	55,011	6 1	1 3/16
Oct. ...	820	197,600	—	284,302	28 8	177,379	17 11	87,023	5 9	1 1/8

Accumulated slimes profits included throughout.

Dividends—1914, June, 7½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 6¼ per cent.

Geldenhuis Deep. — Capital, £600,000; issued, 585,753 £1 shares. 300 stamps, 7 tube mills. Capacity, 720,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue: Amt. £	Revenue: Per ton	Expenses: Amt. £	Expenses: Per ton	Profit: Amt. £	Profit: Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	300	570,600	10½	781,568	27/5	652,471	£2/10	130,019	4/7	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	150,700	12	192,858	25 7	164,608	21/10	28,250	3 9	1¼
June qr.	300	151,900	12½	196,548	25 10	167,317	22 0	29,231	3 10	1 1/16
Sept. qr.	300	164,200	—	215,355	25 11	174,622	21 9	53,413	4/2	1
Oct. ...	—	59,000	—	74,567	25 3	60,767	20/7	13,830	4 8	1

1913 returns and since include yield from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 8¾; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Ferreira Deep.—£980,000, in £1 shares. Mills, 280 stamps and 7 tubes.

Year ends Sept. 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	261av.	668,530	11	1,236,633	36 11	584,475	17 5	652,153	19/6	—
1914-15.										
Dec. qr.	280	158,390	8	269,505	34 0	152,584	19/3	116,921*	14 9	—
Mar. qr.	280	171,470	10	304,006	35 5	156,089	18 2	147,917	17 3	7½
June qr.	†280	124,460	9½	226,824	36 1	144,269	22 2	84,555	12/11	2¾
Sept. qr.	280	165,580	—	273,851	33 3	151,992	18/7	124,859	15 1	2½
12 mos.	—	624,900	—	1,079,186	34 5	605,934	19 4	473,252	15 1	2½
1915-16.										
Oct.	‡... —	57,880	—	101,482	35/1	58,451	20/3	43,031	14/10	2½

* Grade for month of December was low, as hoisting was necessarily confined to ore from poorer section of the mine.
† Shaft repairs, due to fall of ground interfered with operations.
‡ Reduced profit due to exceptional expenditure and decreased recovery.
Profits from accumulated slimes treated are included in profits.

Dividends—1914, March, 25; Sept., 25; Dec. (bonus), 25
1915, March, 25; Sept., 17½ per cent.

Geduld Proprietary.—The capital authorised is £1,000,000; issued, £970,000, in £1 shares. Plant has been enlarged to 60 stamps and five tubes, having a capacity of 26,000 tons a month. Increase of plant to 40,000 tons a month was decided on on October 1, 1915. Such increase is expected to become operative late in 1916.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	53½av.	244,585	10½	395,457	32 4	298,489	24 5	96,968	7/11	—
[Profit irrespective of £10,647 miscellaneous revenue in 1914.]										
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	71,330	9½	113,683	31/10	78,412	21 11	35,271	9/11	24/0
June qr.	60	74,760	9½	113,713	30/5	78,525	21 0	35,188	9 5	28/9
Sept. qr.	60	77,950	—	117,178	30 0	79,993	20/3	37,182	9/9	32/6
Oct. ...	—	27,200	—	42,514	32/0	24,369	21/7	14,195	10/5	32/3

Gold reserve: 4,431 oz. July, Aug., Sept., Oct.

Monthly and quarterly profits include sundry revenue.

The sorting in this mine is both on surface and underground; very slight on surface.

Dividends—1914, Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Ginsberg.—210,000 £1 shares issued. One tube mill.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	77½	179,039	25	204,522	22/9	158,961	17 10	44,561	4 11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	45,100	18½	49,044	21/9	33,697	17 7	9,347	4 2	⅝
June qr.	75	46,444	15	51,093	22 0	39,670	17 1	11,424	4/11	⅝
Sept. qr.	75	46,950	—	53,498	22 9	41,626	17 9	12,482	5 3	9/
Oct. ...	—	15,800	—	17,911	22 8	13,872	17/8	4,039	5/0	9/0

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 7½ per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Goch.—£550,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; four tube mills. Sundry revenue, about £2,000 a year, included.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	360,000	10	381,113	21 2	258,983	14/5	122,160	6 9	—
19.5.									
Mar. qr.	90,500	10½	84,959	18 9	62,431	13/10	22,528	4 11	13/0
June qr.	91,450	12¾	88,175	19/3	63,249	13/10	24,926	5/5	15 9
Sept. qr.	90,700	—	87,9 2	19 4	63,466	13/11	24,5.6	5 5	15/0
Oct. ...	30,700	—	29,468	19 2	20,880	13/7	8,573	5/7	15/5

Dividends—1911, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Glencairn.—£550,000, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, about £2,000 a year, included in profits; also accumulated slimes revenue.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price ended of Period
1914 ...	158½av.	251,552	9½	175,433	14 2	148,429	11/9	30,004	2/5	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	160	60,690	10½	44,2 8	14/6	37,340	12 3	6,868	2/3	2/6
June qr.	160	65,370	1¼	48,016	15/3	36,7 4	11/7	6,2 2	1/11	1/9
July ...	—	22,090	10	14,573	13 2	12,186	11/2	2,387	2/0	2/0
Aug. ...	—	21,750	—	14,658	12/11	11,923	11/1	2,135	1/10	2/0

Dividends—1914, June, nil; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, nil.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—£170,000, in £1 shares. The Company has one tube mill, started May 1910.

Year to July 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14 ...	20	45,938	100,026	43 9	46,780	20 4	53,246	23 5	⅜
1914-15 ...	20	47,809	85,271	34/0	47,520	19/10	38,751	15/9	⅛
1915-16.									
Aug. ...	20	4,095	7,267	35 5	4,282	2 /11	2,985	14/6	⅛
Sept. ...	20	4,026	6,096	30 5	4,172	20/9	1,924	9/6	⅛

Dividends—1914, Jan., 10; July, 10 per cent.
1915, Jan., 10; July, 10 per cent.

Government Areas.—Capital £1,400,000, in £1 shares. At December 31, 1914, floating debt about £240,000. 100 stamps, 10 tube mills. Plant ordered to be doubled, or total raised to rate of near 1,100,000 tons a year. The returns include sundry revenue.

Year ends Dec 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914.										
Oct. 16 to Dec. 31	...80	97,700	15½	80,965	16/6	105,433	21/6	23,468*	5/0*	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	93½	140,400	14½	145,132	20/8	122,691	17/6	22,441	3/2	21/6
June qr.	100	142,000	13	171,285	24 0	132,415	18/7	38,850	5/5	1
Sept. qr.	100	142,100	—	136,418	27 8	146,155	20/7	50,263	7 1	28/9
Oct. ...	—	50,200	—	71,275	28 0	54,217	21/9	16,058	6 3	26/6

* Loss.

Heriot.—Issued capital £115,000, in £1 shares. One tube mill.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	70	154,228	16	231,765	36/5	138,197	20/11	129,324	15 0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	35,700	18¾	69,646	37/10	41,188	22/5	28,458	15/5	3¾
June qr.	60	38,300	19	69,577	36/4	42,810	22/7	26,867	13/9	3⅞
Sept. qr	60	39,700	—	69,644	35/1	43,063	21/8	26,581	13 5	2⅞
Oct. ...	60	13,800	18¾	23,884	34/7	14 277	20/10	9,507	13/9	2½

Dividends—1914, May, 30; Nov., 35 per cent.
1915, May, 40; Nov., 35 per cent.

Kleinfontein.—Capital issued, £1,151,540, in £1 shares; £175,000 6% Debentures. 220 stamps. Four tubes. Capacity of plant in use is at present over 650,000 tons a year.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses* Amt. £	Expenses* Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	200	601,000	19	791,722	26/4	528,452	17/7	263,270	8/9	
1915.										
Mar. qr.	200	155,050	17	200,177	25/9	132,466	17/1	67,679	8/8	
June qr.	200	158,800	15	203,338	25/11	135,932	17 4	67,406	8/7	22/0
Sept. qr.	200	167,150	—	216,824	25/7	139,245	17/1	69,589	8/6	23/6
Oct. ...	200	55,750	—	71,380	25/5	47,186	17/0	24,194	8/8	24/6

* Not including considerable expenditures in connection with the Apex and Benoni sections.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Knight Central.—£900,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps. Three tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ..	103¾av.	284,960	3	316,676	22/2	273,925	19/2	42,751	3 0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	113	76,400	—	82,339	21/6	71,029	18/7	11,310	2/11	6/6
June qr.	115	79,260	—	84,111	21/2	73,795	18/5	10,916	2/9	6/6
Sept. qr.	—	79,130	—	83,980	21/9	76,993	19/2	10,986	2/7	10/6
Oct. ...	—	29,20	—	31,567	20/9	27,564	19/0	4,053	2/9	13/9

Dividends—1910, Dec., 5 per cent. Nil since.

Knights Deep.—Capital, 743,526 £1 shares issued; £70,600 Five and-Ha lf per Cent. Debentures still to be redeemed. 400 stamps, 11 tubes, capacity 120,000 tons a month.

Year ends July 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
[Profits given below include water &c., revenue.]										
1913-14	400	1,118,900	Nil	814,703	14/7	664,003	11 9	150,700	2/11	1½
1914-15	400	1,172,920	Nil	878,650	15/0	705,465	12 1	173,420	2 11	1
1915-16.										
Aug. ...	400	108,400	Nil	77,287	14 3	64,450	11/11	12,787	2 4	1½
Sept. ...	400	106,800	—	74,953	14/1	64,926	12/1	10,282	2/10	1
Oct. ...		110,000	—	83,217	15/0	66,850	12 2	16,364	2 11	1

Gold reserve: Sept., 766, Oct., 1,966 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA. This Bank has made arrangements to open a agency every Friday at Pirbright Camp, Hampshire, in order to provide banking facilities for the officers and men of the South African Contingent, the major part of which is at present in camp in Bramshott.

TELBEDDE CEYLON ESTATES.—Interim dividend of 7½, less tax, on Ordinary.

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.—Interim dividend at the rate of 10% per annum, less tax.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised -	**$25,000,000**
Capital Paid up - -	**$11,560,000**
Reserve Funds - -	**$13,000,000**
Aggregate Assets -	**$180,000,000**

Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, *President.* E. L. PEASE, *Vice-President and General Manager.*
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS—Bridgetown; DOMINICA—Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Established 1864.

Paid-up Capital ($7,000,000) £1,438,356
Reserve Fund & Undivided Profits ($7,245,140) £1,488,727

Head Office: Montreal.
PRESIDENT—SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, C.V.O.
VICE-PRESIDENT—K. W. BLACKWELL.
GENERAL MANAGER—E. F. HEBDEN.

This Institution has 208 Branches and Agencies extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific (91 being in the Western Provinces).
Every facility offered to the business of immigrants: Savings Department at all Branches, where interest is allowed at 3 per cent. per annum.
Drafts sold available in any city or banking town in the United Kingdom or United States.

Agents in Great Britain:
The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
The Royal Bank of Scotland.
They issue Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers available at any banking point in Canada.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.
Established 1830.
Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.
CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,325,036.
GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437	10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000	0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.
REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia
E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra.)
Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	**£1,500,000**
Called up	**£600,000**
Reserve Fund	**£55,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£900,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANÇQUI, Esq. J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.
The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.
Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ...	500,000

Branches
INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS & CHINA.
The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.
Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.
On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	**$8,808,891.79**
Assets - -	**$39,077,630.77**

$5 equals approx. £1.
41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	**$3,000,000**
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	**$3,000,000**
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	**$6,880,000**

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address—"FOURBANK." London Agents—SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government of British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	...	£2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	... ...	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND ...	... ...	£1,175,000

LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to	...	4,000,000
Reserve Fund	...	525,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances, to buy and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South-West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected, Dividends and Annuities collected, Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.
London Offices: Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	...	£3,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	...	2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL ...	...	750,000
RESERVE FUND	...	685,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL ...	...	1,500,000

Receives Deposits of £50 and upwards, for 1, 2 or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum.
Drafts, Letters of Credit and Wire Remittances granted, and Bills on New Zealand purchased or sent for collection.
H. FRESHWATER, Secretary and London Manager.
17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)
Authorised Capital, £1,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £625,000

Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office 11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.
Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.
Drafts issued and **Remittances** cabled.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, *Manager.*

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BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.
The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ... £P.500,000
Reserve Fund £P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(Established by Khedival Decree, June 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to bearer.)
Capital, £3,000,000 (in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.) Reserve Fund, £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. Rowlatt, Esq. Head Office: Cairo.
London Committee—
E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G. Hon. Algernon Mills.
Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Hon. Sidney Peel.
LONDON AGENCY:
6 & 7 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager: J. T. Beaty-Pownall.
Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Circular Notes issued. Every kind of Banking business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-El-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah and Zagazig; and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Said and Suakim.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up	$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange 0. 2s. per $ —£1,500,000	$15,000,000
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000
	$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...	$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.
BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton Colombo, Foochow, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.
LONDON COMMITTEE.
Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Chairman.
Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.
Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP £3,703,704
RESERVE FUND £1,033,410
Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24/28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.
SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.
London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
NOEL JENNINGS, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C. / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Biella, Bologna, Brescia, Cagliari, Catania, Como, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Salerno, Sassari, Savona, Sestri Ponente, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD.
Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan and Tripoli.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	$3,600,000
Total Assets over	$80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.
London Committee:
J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G.;
Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.
Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to
LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. / 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Mukden (Fengtien)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.

R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.

General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.

LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised	-	**$25,000,000**
Capital Paid up	- -	**$11,560,000**
Reserve Funds	- -	**$13,000,000**
Aggregate Assets	-	**$180,000,000**

Head Office MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, President. E. L. PEASE, Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS — Bridgetown; DOMINICA — Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

Sir EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L. President.
JOHN AIRD, General Manager.
H. V. P. JONES, Assistant General Manager.

Paid-up Capital	... ...	**£3,082,192**
Reserve Fund	... ...	**£2,773,972**

Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal.

This Bank having its own Branch at SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., is able to offer special facilities to visitors to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Branches at Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, and other points on the Pacific Coast.
Drafts, Money Orders and Travellers' Letters of Credit issued, payable at any of these places.
London Office: 2 LOMBARD STREET.
C. CAMBIE, Manager.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED	... ...	$10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	... ...	$7,000,000
RESERVE FUND	... ...	$7,000,000

Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.
SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.
Agents ENGLAND—LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 17 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.
Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.
DRAFTS issued upon and remittances cabled to any point in **CANADA** at the lowest rates of the Bank in England and Scotland, through whom inquiries regarding Canadian securities and business generally can be made and will be promptly attended to.

CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1840.

PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000. RESERVE FUND £620,000.
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.
Court of Directors.

F. R. S. Balfour.	E. Geoffrey Hoare.
J. H. Brodie.	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mayne Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whittaker.

Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.

Current Accounts opened.
Coupons purchased.

ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE

CITY OF NEW YORK.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID)	$6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ...	$9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£7,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,550,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,550,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.
DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State. Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to	...	£4,000,000
Reserve Fund	... ...	£825,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances to Cuba and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected. Dividends and Annuities collected. Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.
London Offices { Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. / 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital (25,000 Shares of £10 each)	**£250,000 0 0**
Reserve Fund	**£680,000 0 0**
Reserved Profits ...	**£24,087 0 0**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,
The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	$6,880,000

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.

Cable Address—	London Agents—
"FOURBANK."	SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO.
	LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD.
	LLOYDS BANK LTD.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	... ...	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	... ...	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	...	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	... ...	400,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.
REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia
E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government of India at Basra.

Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	**£1,500,000**
Called up	**£600,000**
Reserve Fund	**£55,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	**£900,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
Branches
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.
The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.
Deposits are received for 1, 2 or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
P. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

HEAD OFFICE	HAVANA, CUBA.
Capital, Reserve and Profits	$8,808,891.79
Assets	$39,077,630.77

$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.

Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.

LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1830.

Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,325,036.

GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

THE MOLSONS BANK.

Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1855.

Head Office, MONTREAL. **Capital Authorised, $5,000,000.00.**

Capital Paid up, $4,000,000.00. **Reserve Fund, $4,800,000.00.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WM. MOLSON MACPHERSON, President. S. H. EWING, Vice President.
GEO. E. DRUMMOND. E. J. CHAMBERLIN. F. W. MOLSON. WM. M. BIRKS W. A. BLACK.
EDWARD C. PRATT, General Manager. E. W. WAUD, Superintendent of Branches.
H. A. HARRIES, Inspector. T. CARLISLE, Assist. Inspector. T. BERESFORD PHEPOE, Western Inspector.

GENERAL STATEMENT of the affairs of THE MOLSONS BANK on the 30th September, 1915.

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
Capital Stock paid in		$4,000,000 00	Current Coin	...$1,055,854 79	
Reserve Fund		[illegible]	Dominion Notes	... 3,467,295 00	
Profit and Loss Account		61,300 32			$4,524,149 79
130th Dividend for ¼ year at 11% per annum		110,000 00	Deposit with the Dominion Government for security Note Circulation		190,000 00
Dividends unpaid		794 25			
		4,972,094 57	Notes of other Banks		235,566 23
Notes of the Bank in circulation		3,519,456 00	Cheques on other Banks		1,[illegible]
Deposits not bearing interest		5,040,010 68	Balances due by other Banks in Canada		18,413 87
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date of Statement	33,781,358 57		Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada		2,010,885 68
Balances due to other Banks in Canada	[illegible]		Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding market value		42[illegible]
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries	[illegible]		Canadian Municipal Securities, and British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities, other than Canadian		1,630,842 74
Acceptances under Letters of Credit		166,290 33	Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding market value		1,495,991 77
Liabilities not included in the foregoing ...		88,508 04	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada on Bonds, Debentures and Stocks		5,302,065 47
		43,037,455 75			[illegible]
			Other current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) ...		31,849,908 09
			Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit as per contra		1[illegible]
			Real Estate other than Bank Premises		91,798 39
			Overdue Debts, estimated loss provided for		207,180 00
			Bank Premises at Head Office and Branches		2,014,600 00
			Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank		4,970 88
			Other Assets not included in the [illegible]		267,069 16
		[illegible]			[illegible]

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Balance to credit of Profit and Loss Account, 30th September, 1914	[illegible]	Appropriated as follows:	
Net Profits for the year after deducting charges of management, reservation for interest accrued on deposits, [illegible]	[illegible]	137th Dividend at rate of 11 per cent.	[illegible]
		138th Dividend at rate of 11 per cent.	[illegible]
		139th Dividend at rate of 11 per cent.	[illegible]
		140th Dividend at rate of 11 per cent.	110,000 00
		Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund	21,452 00
		Reserved for depreciation of Stocks, Bonds &c.	75,000 00
		War Tax on [illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]		[illegible]
		Leaving to be carried to Profit and Loss Account, 30th Sept., 1915	[illegible]
	[illegible]		[illegible]

NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO, CANADA.

BRANCHES:
Montreal, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton

Paid-up Capital - $1,500,000.
Reserve Fund - $1,500,000.

Acts as Executor and Trustee and, as Agent for clients and corporations, invests funds in carefully selected First Mortgages on farms and improved city properties in Canada—Exceptional facilities offered for investing British Capital Also Guaranteed Trust Investments.

Correspondence invited

28 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. A. L. NUNNS, London Representative.

References:—
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.

PAID UP, £[illegible] RESERVE FUND, £680,000

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Sonef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint-stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.

ESTABLISHED 1841. INCORPORATED 1914.
Principal Office ... BIRMINGHAM.
London Branch Office:
HALTON HOUSE, 20-23 HOLBORN, E.C.

Accumulated Funds Exceed £2,400,000. | Claims Paid Exceed £7,500,000.

Annual Valuations and Distribution of Profits.

All classes of Life Assurance and Annuity Business transacted.

Copies of the Annual and Valuation Reports, New Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained on application.

A. L. HUNT, General Manager.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE A. HUNTER, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Established 1817.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Proprietors, held 26th November, within the Head Banking House of the Corporation in Sydney, a Dividend on the capital stock of the Bank was declared at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the quarter ended 30th September, and that the same will be payable at this office on and after 14th December on the capital stock standing on the London Register.

By Order of the Board,
DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

No. 29 Threadneedle Street, London,
26th November, 1915.

THE MACKAY COMPANIES,

PREFERRED DIVIDEND No. 48
COMMON DIVIDEND No. 42

The regular quarterly dividend of 1 per cent. on the Preferred shares and the regular quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent. on the Common shares in the Mackay Companies will be paid on January 3rd, 1916 to shareholders of record as they appear at the close of business on December 10th, 1915.

The Transfer Books will not be closed.

Dividend cheques of English and Continental shareholders will be made payable at the option of the payees at the Union of London and Smiths Bank, Limited, London, E.C.

L. C. PLATT, Treasurer.

Dated November 24th, 1915.

BARCELONA TRACTION LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Laws of the Dominion of Canada.)

TO THE HOLDERS OF THE FIVE PER CENT FIRST MORTGAGE 50-YEAR BONDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Coupon No. 8, in respect of the half-yearly interest due 1st December, 1915, on the Five per Cent. First Mortgage 50-Year Bonds of the Company may be lodged on and after 1st December, 1915, at the Offices of the Company, 12 Manning Arcade, Toronto, Canada, or at 4 Bishopsgate, London, England, to be exchanged for Interim certificates in respect of the Five per Cent 10-Year notes to be issued in exchange thereof.

Special arrangements have been made to meet the convenience of holders of Bonds in France and particulars thereof have been duly published in France.

For and on behalf of the Barcelona Traction Light and Power Company, Limited,

F. H. B. DALY, Secretary.

Toronto, Canada, 5th November, 1915.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD FIVE PER CENT DEBENTURE BONDS

The Half-yearly Coupons due 1st December, 1915, in New York on the [illegible] Bonds will be cashed on and after that day at the rate of $4.85 per pound, at the Counting House of the undersigned.

ROBERT BENSON AND CO.

No. 20 Old Broad Street, E.C.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.
Paid up Capital £2,000,000 } together £3,960,000
Reserve Fund £1,960,000 }
Reserve Liability of Proprietors .. 4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE: 71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (Limited).

Established 1862.

Authorised Capital £1,000,000
Paid-up Capital ... ... 1,[illegible],000
Reserve Fund 2,000,000

BRANCHES.

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Lanus (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fe (Buenos Aires), Calle 9 de Julio (Buenos Aires).

URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency, Calle Rio Negro, Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency).

BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Caravellas, Macahe (Agency).

CHILI.—Valparaiso.

FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halevy).

BELGIUM.—Antwerp (22 Place de Meir).

Agency in New York and Agents throughout the World

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

7 Princes Street, E.C.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S

Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

CHARTERED BANK of INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.
Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Capital, £1,200,000. Reserve Fund, £1,800,000.

Court of Directors.

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Chairman.
Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, K.C.I.E.
Thomas Cuthbertson, Esq.
Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G.
William Henry Neville Goschen, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I.
William Foot Mitchell, Esq.
Lewis Alexander Wallace, Esq.
Managers, T. H. Whitehead and T. Fraser.
Sub-Manager, W. E. Preston.

BANKERS.—The Bank of England; The London City and Midland Bank, Limited; The London County and Westminster Bank, Limited; The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; The National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts, and Transact General Banking business connected with the East.

Deposits of money are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application, interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

For further information please apply:—GRAY, DAWES & Co., 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., and 16 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; or GELLATLY, HANKEY & Co., Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C., and 62, Pall Mall, S.W.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor looking for sound Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of Banks, Bond Houses, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Mining Equipment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

THE INVESTORS' INFORMATION BUREAU

will give reliable and unbiassed advice by mail on any matter of investment interest free to subscribers.

Send 2 penny stamps for Specimen Copy.

GREAT BRITAIN and COLONIES 12s. 6d. per annum.
FRANCE and other EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 16s. 6d. per annum.

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HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO, CANADA.

UNION-CASTLE LINE.

South and East Africa
ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.

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For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
Sub-Governor—ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
Deputy Governor—CHARLES S. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.
Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq. Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

THE
OCEAN
Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

Assets - - £3,000,000
Claims paid - £12,500,000

Accident Insurance of all kinds.
Employers' Liability. Fidelity Guarantees.
Fire and Burglary. Public Liability.
Motor Car. Excess Bad Debt and Credit.
Boiler and Lift Insurance.
Executorships and Trusteeships.

Head Office: MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.
T. M. T. ARMITT, *Manager and Secretary.*

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ORDINARY and INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.
LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bond Policy [illegible] and provides for [illegible] case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3,840,000.
Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER BIRMINGHAM.

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

Payable in Advance.

Inland.

ONE YEAR, £1 10 0 | HALF-YEAR, £0 15 0

(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 | HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8

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OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED

Colonial and Foreign Department:
17 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

This Bank has over 880 Offices in England and Wales, as well as Correspondents and Agents throughout the British Islands and a large number of Colonial and Foreign Agents. It thus offers all possible banking facilities to its customers, both at home and abroad.

Head Office: 71 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED.
Offices in Paris, Bordeaux, Biarritz and Havre.

THE STANDARD REFERENCE BOOK ON RUSSIA.

Published by Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., East Harding Street, London, E.C.,



The Russian Year Book 1915

UNDER SPECIAL FACILITIES FROM THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

"[illegible] a great deal of information of value to [illegible] at hand."

THE TIMES (Russian Supplement).

OF ALL BOOKSELLERS. PRICE 10/6 NET.

For particulars of a Life Policy giving the following guaranteed benefits after 20 years:

(1) No further premiums payable,
(2) Reversionary bonuses equal to at least £35 per £100 assured,
(3) Surrender value exceeding total sum paid in premiums,

Write for Leaflet "D 1."

The STANDARD LIFE Assurance Co. Estd. 1825.

Head Office: EDINBURGH: 3 George Street.
London: 64 King William Street, E.C.
and 3 Pall Mall East, S.W. Dublin: 64 Dawson Street.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, November 26, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks. Notice.	Discount Houses—Call.	Discount Houses—Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2, 1915 ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5½
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 Months.	6 Months.	9 Months.	12 Months.
Price	...£98 14s. 9½d.	£97 10s. 1¾d.	£96 4s. 11¼d.	£95
Discount Rate	5%	5%	5%	5%

Discount Rates:—

	60 Days.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5-⅛	5⅛-¼	5¼	5¼
Trade Bills	—	5⅜-6	5⅜-6	5⅜-6

MONEY.

Were it not for the small supply of bills discount rates would be firm, but with very few bills on offer rates are maintained with difficulty. The fine rate for 60-day drafts is now about 5⅛%; for three months' 5⅛ to 5¼%, and for four and six months' 5¼%. It would be difficult to maintain these rates were it not that the supply of money in the market has been substantially reduced by borrowings of short money by the Bank of England. The Bank of England return this week shows that bankers' balances have been reduced about £7,000,000. It is, however, evident that the value of money in London should be maintained at a profitable level in order that as much foreign money as possible should be retained here by attractive rates.

Of course, with our great purchases of goods from abroad it is obvious that the foreign exchanges will remain against this country, and no matter what the Bank of England rate may be the situation would not be fundamentally changed. Nevertheless, profitable rates of interest in London will induce foreign and Colonial bankers to leave in London a large part of the great sums of money accruing to them in consequence of our immense purchases of foreign goods. Probably a rate of 5% for Treasury bills, and of about 5¼% for Bank bills will accomplish this object. The action of the Bank of England in declining to discount for the market at under 5½% and in borrowing money from the market at 4½% has for its object the retention in London of as much foreign money as can be induced to remain here by an effective rate of 5%.

Of course the effective method of adjusting the exchanges and again making the Bank of England rate effective in stopping gold shipments is the creation of foreign credits, the sale abroad of British holdings of foreign securities, the reduction of imports, and the increase of exports. But we think it will be recognised in all parts of the world that the British people are fully warranted in using their credit and in selling securities for the purpose of paying for all the goods and material they need to purchase from abroad at the present time, and that they are also more than justified in lending their credit and in supplying their Allies with financial resources. Foreign countries, indeed, are as much interested in avoiding any undue drain upon the gold reserves of this country as are the British people themselves. If foreign balances are withdrawn from London in undue amount it will simply mean that the British people will be compelled to reduce their purchases of foreign goods, and that the countries which take them balances away in a manner that tends to disturb the London Money market will most severely suffer from the reduced demand for their goods which must inevitably ensue. That the British people are buying so freely from abroad is a matter of very great advantage to the countries from which the purchases are being made, and it is obvious that those countries in their own interests should facilitate these purchases in every possible way, knowing and realising how great is the wealth of Great Britain and the ease with which Great Britain will be able to pay for the goods in one way or another.

As regards the British people themselves, however, the matter presents a different aspect. It is for them to question the desirability of purchasing so many goods from abroad that are not really necessary, and to consider the question of the disadvantage of realising capital by the sale of securities for the purpose of buying goods that are not essential. The movement in this country in favour of economy is steadily expanding, and it is obvious that in a short time the British people will effect such substantial economies in their expenditures that the balance of trade against them will be so greatly reduced that they will not need to sell any greater quantity of securities than they are purchasing from their Allies and Colonies.

We have no doubt that foreign and colonial countries recognise this situation, and therefore are quite willing to leave in London large balances for employment at 5% and to take payment for the remainder of the goods sold to the British people either in British goods or in securities. In these circumstances the Bank of England seems to be acting wisely in maintaining an effective 5% rate for the purpose of giving foreign countries sufficient inducement to leave substantial balances in London.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The efflux of £1,256,000 in gold and of £288,000 in notes was entirely responsible for a reduction of £1,401,000 in the Bank of England reserve, as on balance £143,000 in gold was received on foreign account. The net loss of gold was £1,113,000. The reserve is now £37,605,000, and the gold £52,457,000, while the note circulation is £33,302,000. There was a reduction of £7,027,000 in the "other" deposits, and this brought about an increase of £1,967,000 in the public deposits and a reduction of £3,645,000 in the "other" securities. The amount of the public deposits is now £52,149,000, while the "other" deposits are £84,649,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is practically unchanged for the week at 27.58.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

Exchange has been steady this week and improved at one time to 4.70⅜, from which there has been a slight reaction. The supply of money in New York remains very abundant, and call loans can easily be obtained at 2%. Last week there was an addition of £1,600,000 to the reserves of the Associated Banks and trust companies, while their loans increased £1,000,000 to £38,988,000. Since the beginning of the year the stock of gold in New York has increased about £58,000,000, and in spite of the enormous increase in loans and deposits the banks still hold far more gold than they can find use for.

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Nov. 24, 1915 ...	Prime paper ... 2½-3%	Call money ... 2%
Nov. 27, 1914 ...	„ „ ... 4½-5%	„ „ ... 4½%

POSITION IN INDIA.

Exchange has not been quite as firm this week, and rates are down to 1s. 4d. for telegraphic transfers. The demand for the 50 lacs of Council bills was fairly

large, but rates were lower. The efflux of cash from the monetary centres continues, and the stock of coined silver in the Currency Department has been reduced another 83 lacs to 3,472 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | **Bengal** ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, November 24, are:—

Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	75,000	23,000	30	1 3 1/16	1,34,00,000*	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4	1,10,00,000*	33,46,000	30
—	—	—	—	1 4	6,00,000	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	50,00,000	15,21,000	30
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/32	1,10,000	1,10,000	100
Total ...	75,000	23,000	—	Total ...	3,01,10,000	49,77,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000 ...	Rs. 3,01,85,000 ...	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	10,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 8,11,000	1 4	1/4
				Imm. 1,10,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/32
Bombay ...	13,000	1/4	1/4	Def. 17,71,000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 10,21,000	1/4.031	1 4 1/32
Madras ...	—	—	—	Def. 7,64,000	1/4	1/4
				Imm. 5,00,000	1/4.031	1/4 1/32

From **April 1** to **November 23** inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs. 8,90,86,061**, realising **£5,941,124.** Up to **November 24** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,31,81,861, realising £4,214,531.** The total sales for the week ended **November 23** amounted to **Rs. 50,00,000**, realising **£333,659.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

SILVER.

There has been quite a sensational rise in the price of silver this week in consequence of the discovery last week that the stock in London was so small. Holders of the metal have not been disposed to sell while there was an active inquiry from the Continent as well as from India. Consequently the price, which on Saturday last was at 24 7/8*d.*, rose on Tuesday to 25 3/8*d.*, on Wednesday to 26 1/8*d.*, and to-day to as much as 27*d.* Apparently a further advance in the price must occur in order to bring out sufficient silver to meet the demand. It is apparent, however, that the supply cannot be increased very rapidly. It is true that the reports from Mexico indicate a more assured political situation in that country, but when order is restored it is obvious that the exports of silver from Mexico will be relatively slow.

	Nov. 19	20	22	23	24	25	26
London ...	25	24 7/8	25 1/4	25 5/8	25 1/2	26 1/2	27
India ...	Rs.62 1/2	62 1/16	63 1/16	63 3/8	65	65 3/4	65 3/4
Exchange ...	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1 4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32

Stock Exchange.

Last week we referred to contemplated action by the Stock Exchange Committee—with the sanction of the Treasury—in two directions, and both steps have since been taken. Firstly, there now is abolition of the necessity to give the numbers of the shares as well as the name of the vendor, the "name" alone now being sufficient; and, secondly, there is the removal of minimum prices as regards British Funds, Corporation stocks, also foreign stocks, bonds, &c. It may be recalled that Consols were retained for a time at the minimum price of 68 1/4, later at 66 1/2, and subsequently at 65. When this week the market was left to take care of itself, the anticipation was that a price of about 58 would be the new quotation, and this proved to be a correct forecast. There was a momentary descent at one time to 57 1/2, but the latest quotation of Wednesday was close to 58. Subsequently a distinct advance set in, raising the price to fractionally over 59. Apparently, some amount of further conversion, through selling of Consols at current price and the purchase of new War Loan, has been an outcome of the action taken, and the price of War Loan issues has improved, the latest quotations for 4 1/2% being 97 1/2 for Inscribed xd stock, and 99 5/8 for Cum. Div. scrip.

For a period markets in general were very inert, but later a change for the better was shown, and a pretty well all-round hardening of quotations occurred.

At the commencement of the week there were large dealings in Rubber shares, and a further advance occurred. The pace was too fast to last, and a check has been given to what was developing into wild buying for speculative account. In general the maximum prices in this department were attained on Tuesday, as a consequence of the further appreciable rise in the commodity, which from last Friday's quotation of about 3*s.* per pound for Standard Crepe rose by Tuesday to as high as 3*s.* 7 3/4*d.*, but the price has since reacted to 3*s.* 3*d.* It has been contended in some quarters that the movement that has taken place is unjustified, and has only been brought about by speculative action conducted by Mincing Lane operations. Of course there has been speculation, but it is based on strong views as to the future of the Rubber industry, and is not mere gambling. We say no more now on this point. It is also alleged that many rubber companies during the recent rise have entered into "forward" contracts at an average price of about 2*s.* 5*d.* per pound. This appears a low price considering the present quotation, but it has to be recollected that companies as a rule only sell part of the anticipated crop forward. The proportion, of course, varies according to the individual ideas of those in control of the companies in question as to the outlook for the commodity, many preferring to have a bird in the hand instead of waiting for a possible two in the bush; while others act extremely cautiously and sell but a small proportion forward. But even so it has to be borne in mind that the price realised in 1914-15 by those companies whose years ended December 31, 1914, and June 30, 1915, averaged slightly over 2*s.* per pound, and if a large proportion of the crop of 1916 financial periods, whether ending June 30 or later, has been sold at 2*s.* 5*d.* per pound, and some proportion of the crop retained, it is quite on the cards that an average of 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound may be secured for the year 1916, or, say, an additional profit of just under 6*d.* per pound. Even for some companies whose financial year ends December 31, 1915, it would not be unreasonable to expect an average gross price of 2*s.* 4*d.* per pound to be secured. Further, it is to be borne in mind that a great number of companies, superadded to the benefit of the higher price for the commodity, are expanding their outputs, and this is normally accompanied by lower "all-in" costs. The position from the rubber producers' point of view is, therefore, a very satisfactory one. In Editorial remarks later in the paper we deal with a formula for estimating whether or not a share is quoted at an attractive price.

A mild revival of interest has this week taken place in the Oil-share market.

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B

LONDON, CHATHAM AND DOVER RY.

An interesting issue is about to be made by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway in the form of Short-Term Mortgage bonds running for a period of five years. Since the War began issues of home railway capital of the old form have not been possible, and in order to attract investors the companies have had to offer more generous terms. In the case of five out of the six railway issues made in the past 14 months, Preference stocks have been disposed of, redeemable in a few years, when it is anticipated they will be replaced by perpetual Preference stocks bearing lower rates of interest. As in the case of the Great Central, the position of the Chatham is not such as to enable redeemable Preference stock to be sold, and therefore short-dated Debentures have to be issued instead. The new capital which has been sanctioned by the proprietors of the Chatham Railway this week is needed to pay the Company's share of various works in course of construction, or for which contracts had already been placed by the South-Eastern and Chatham Joint Committee prior to the War. These works are necessary for the development and betterment of the undertaking, and include the new marine station at Dover and improvements and extensions of the locomotive and wagon shops at Ashford. Further, the Company desires to pay off certain outstanding loans. The Company's Act for the current year authorised the raising of £1,000,000 by means of 5% Debentures, but the Treasury at present has sanctioned the issue of only £323,000. The new bonds will bear 5% interest, and it is believed will be disposed of at about 98, at which the yield would be about £5 9*s*. 3*d*. per cent., allowing for redemption at par five years hence. The bonds will be amply secured, the margin in excess of all interest and other charges for the year 1914 being about £290,000, which will also be about the figure for the current year. Possibly by the time the bonds fall due investment conditions will be such that the Company will be able to retire them by raising permanent Debenture stock bearing a lower interest rate.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RY.

It is doubtful if the shareholders of the Argentine Great Western Railway Company would be in the position they are to-day but for the working agreement with the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company. By this agreement shareholders are guaranteed certain specific dividends based on the distributions made to the Pacific Company's own stockholders. The Preferred Ordinary stock ranks for dividend with the 5% First Preference stock of the Pacific Company, and the Ordinary with the Second Preference stock of the working undertaking. Thus, in respect of the past year the Preferred stock receives its full 5% dividend, and the Ordinary a distribution of £2 16*s*. 6*d*. per cent., or the same as distributed on the second Preference stock of the Pacific Company. Having regard to the heavy falling-off in earnings in the past year, and the increased capital charges which now have to be provided, it is certainly doubtful if such dividends would have been forthcoming had the system been worked on its own. The diminution in receipts was as much as £244,000, or nearly 21%. This bears a heavy proportion to the total, seeing that the earnings of the entire system worked by the Pacific Company were only £342,709, or 7% below those of the preceding year. The line is, unfortunately, particularly susceptible to the prevailing conditions in Argentina, its principal source of revenue being wine and vine products, which are naturally more unfavourably affected by the trade stagnation throughout the Republic than almost any other industry. In spite of the prevailing crisis, however, the prospects of the Cuyo division continue excellent, and the recovery in trade which is slowly setting in will doubtless have a marked effect on the traffic earnings of the line later on.

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Mining Topics.

Business during the week in the Mining department has been on a very restricted scale. Price movements have been of but small extent, and pretty well evenly balanced as to rises or falls. The recent disposition of the speculative investor to take an interest in Eastern Rand shares has damped down. There has been a strong market in one or two descriptions, especially for Springs Mines and Van Ryn Deep, the £1 share of the former having risen to over 31*s*. and the "options" to 12*s*., and Van Ryn Deeps to about 2$\frac{13}{16}$*d*. The Modder group have "marked" but seldom; no appreciable changes have taken place, there being a lull in dealing. In general Rand descriptions the favourite continues to be City Deep. The shares of finance groups associated with mining undertakings have tended to droop, and there is also a pause in dealing in diamond descriptions. Though there is not much interest in American mining undertakings on this side there has been a continuance of an active market in New York, where a further improvement in prices has occurred. The quotation of copper has wavered, and a reaction to a slight extent has also occurred, as also in tin, compared with a week ago.

Dividends of 10% upon Ordinary and 8% upon Preference shares have this week been declared by the Pahang Consolidated. The total distributions for the year, which ends July 31, are 15% for the Ordinary and 12% for the Preference, both dividends being records.

Although the Crown Reserve and Coniagas companies have recently passed their dividends, Canadian advices report a more optimistic feeling prevailing as regards the Cobalt region, in view of the improved price of silver. There is also a good deal of optimism respecting the scattered gold areas, and many men of prominence in Canadian mining affairs are investigating the merits of the recently discovered gold regions of Kowkash and elsewhere. English interest in Canadian mining companies is chiefly centred in the Canadian Mining Corporation, whose shares have been in some demand during the past week, and a few of the Porcupine companies, in which region is situate the Hollinger, Vipond, &c, the Hollinger having turned out very rich indeed. Apropos of the Hollinger Company, it is making rapid progress, and is preparing

for an extension of its mill to a considerable extent. Some interest has also been displayed in Associated Gold Mines of West Australia, which is interested in Canadian mining undertakings, chiefly the North Thompson, situated close to the Vipond in the Porcupine district. For the time being Canadians have perforce to finance their own ventures, for, in the circumstances of Treasury restrictions, any introduction of even promising ventures on the London market is out of the question.

Coincident with the War period there has been an augmentation of the native labour force on the Rand. This, in general. We note from the speech of the Chairman of Knight's Deep at the recent meeting that in July 1914 the labour roll was 4,786 "boys." On October 22 this year there were in employ 6,359 "boys." The total of native labourers of the Rand at the end of July 1914 was 167,006, and at the end of October 210,017.

LUIPAARD'S VLEI.

In the vernacular, the Luipaard's Vlei Company had a "rotten time" in the year to June 30, 1915. For four out of twelve months—that is, January, February, March and May—losses on working were shown. In the main this arose from the heavy rainfall. The normal rainfall of three years was shown in a period of five months of the year to June 30, 1915. As an outcome the operations for the year resulted in an average profit of 1*s.* 1*d.* per ton, against 2*s.* 9*d.* per ton for the previous twelve months. The average monthly profit for the whole of 1914-15 was £1,866. The monthly profit, apparently including sundry revenue, in the period since July this year has averaged £4,418. The labour supply this year appears to be distinctly better. The latest advice is that the force of "boys" is 1,968, against an average of 1,528 for 1914-15.

It is difficult to understand the policy of the directors in making a dividend distribution in the circumstances. The operations of the previous year resulted in a surplus clean profit available for dividend of about £20,000. The distribution of a dividend of 5% was resolved upon, but in the War circumstances the distribution was not carried out. This year the corresponding amount of surplus available for dividend was approximately £3,000 only. The amount of £17,700 called for in respect of a dividend of 3¾% means an abstraction of very close to £15,000 out of the balance brought forward, which was £122,880, leaving £108,058 to be carried forward.

Reference is made in the report to the favourable opinion held as to the prospects of opening up the East Battery Reef section. It is to be hoped the expectation will be realised. Contrast of the results of the last two years' working is given below:—

Year to June 30.	1915		1914	
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	(218,453 tons) 22,511	(215,980 tons)	21,782	2.1.3
Expenses	21,8..		100,0.8	18.0
Mine profit	1,...	1.1	27,774	2.9
Estates, &c., revenue	1,7...		12,084	
	2,...		40,458	
Profits tax, &c. [illegible] charges [illegible]	£	£		
Income tax, [illegible] interest, &c. [illegible] exchange	9,4..	8,2.0		
Application of reserve fund	11,.71	2,200		
Dividend (3¾%)	...17,700			
			20,1..	
Surplus or deficit	...Def. 14,822		[illegible]	
Balance brought forward	[illegible]		102,8..	
Balance carried forward	[illegible]		122,88.	

A recasting of the ore reserves at June 30, 1915, gives the quantity fully developed as 702,123 tons, value 22*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and in addition some 60,000 tons of partially developed ore averaging 21*s.* 8*d.* per ton. This contrasts with a total of 666,365 tons a year ago of a value of 23*s.* 2*d.* Information is lacking as to how these ore reserves are based—that is to say, what is the stoping width adopted.

WITWATERSRAND (KNIGHT'S) G. M. COMPANY.

The property of this Company is the freehold of farm Driefontein, Eastern Rand, of an area of 10,335 acres. The Company marked out for itself mynpacht and mining claims, and let off at rentals other portions of its area as mining claims to the May Consolidated, Glencairn, &c., companies.

The retained mining area of the Company is T-shaped; the top of the T is along the course of the reef from east to west, extending in such direction some 7,500 feet. Then, from north to south, on the dip, there is an extent of some 2,000 feet. The reef-bearing portion of this outcrop portion of area has been assumed as about 210 claims. The tailpiece of the T has a width from east to west on the strike of about 1,400 feet, and along the extension of dip of about 8,500 feet: The reef area of this deep-level portion, so far scarcely touched, is in all about 200 claims. Water rights were also acquired, and one or two small separate areas of negligible importance are still owned.

The upper outcrop portion, or top of the T, in the course of operations has been nearly denuded of its ore contents, and the main reliance of the Company for the future is upon the ore contents of the southern dip ground, or tailpiece of the T.

The initial capitalisation of the Company, when formed in 1886, was £219,000, in £10 shares. The vendors received £150,000 in shares and £45,000 in cash. Though only £15,000 was thus left for working capital, the vendors had engaged to provide a battery to cost £21,500. But in those days protection of shareholders' interests in provision of adequate working capital was shockingly ignored. In 1888 the capital was increased to £250,000, and the £10 shares were converted into the denomination of £1. Of the increase of 40,000 £1 shares, 36,000 were disposed of at par and 4,000 at an average of about £2 12*s.* per share.

From 1887 to 1894 intermittent production represented an aggregate of about £123,000 value, of which £55,000 in 1894. In 1895 an episode of a projected increase of capital by 50,000 shares was taken exception to by some of the shareholders, and an injunction was granted by the courts, a "scandal" being caused by the so-called "guarantee" arrangements. All this is ancient history, and we merely refer to it before we deal with the position as to capital account as from 1896, when the issued capital of the Company was £250,000, in £1 shares. Subsequent issues have been as under:—

March 1896. Capital increased to £325,000.

	Shares
Disposed of at £4 per share	58,683
,, ,, (about) £7 15*s.* per share... ...	3,500
,, ,, at £4 12*s.* 3*d.* per share	12,817

April 1898. Capital increased to £375,000.

Disposed of at £6 per share	27,083
(Guarantors a year's option to take 22,917 shares at £7, which was not exercised.)	
Feb. 1902: Disposed of at £7 10*s.* per share ...	22,917

June 1904. Capital increased to £425,000.

Disposed of at £5 10*s.* per share	37,500
,, ,, £5 ,, ,, ...	12,500

May 1913. Capital increased to £475,000.

Disposed of at £3 10*s.* per share	42,500
Commission on shares	2,125
Total shares now in issue	469 625
In reserve	5,375
Authorised capital	475,000

In all about £850,000 was secured from premiums on share issues, and this amount, also nearly £100,000 taken from profits, was applied to writing off shaft sinking, [illegible] balance

sheet now the property, permanent works, buildings, and plant stand at about £417,000, the former item of development (ore reserves) disappearing in 1907 through it being by then written off.

In the early days many difficulties were brought about through the operations quite at the north leading to the discovery that there had been a first and second upthrow of reef, breaking off the continuity, and necessitating modification of working. Inasmuch as the outcrop portion of the property, however, is now nearly denuded of its ore contents, all is now comparatively plain sailing. In the untouched dip ground of the reef series two portions, known as the Main Reef Leader and the South Reef—more particularly the South Reef—are the main reliance of the future. The two reefs are in juxtaposition to one another, oftentimes being extracted together.

Late in 1910 it was decided to effect developments in the tail of the T-shaped property. By October 1912 the vertical shaft, equipped with a headgear of 105 feet high, intersected reef at a depth of 2,232 feet. At the bottom of the vertical shaft a new incline shaft, not to be confused with the incline shafts in the region of the top of the T-shaped area, is being sunk. The incline shafts of the upper part of the property have been discontinued at the 14th level, and the opening up of ground between the bottom of the new vertical shaft and the 14th level above will be effected by crosscut from the vertical shaft. At the commencement of driving, about January 1913, in the region of the vertical shaft the showings were reported as about 33*s*. 2*d*. assay value, and in a winze showed about 12 dwt. over 61 inches thickness of reef matter. The labour troubles of July 1913 and January 1914 caused suspension for a while of shaft sinking, but development operations were resumed February 1914, and the Chairman, at the meeting held May 1914, said:—

"From the information that we have secured we are satisfied that the area north of the vertical shaft contains reefs of considerable width and excellent value. To the south of the vertical shaft the Witwatersrand Deep Company has exposed satisfactory values in their development drives in the direction of our boundary, and these results would seem to indicate that the mine (Knight's), for a good distance south of the vertical shaft, will be of good grade."

It would be superfluous to go into detail of operations prior to recent years, but in general terms we may mention that from the era of intermittent crushings to the end of 1908 an aggregate of some 2,122,000 tons gave a yield of about £2,950,000 value of gold, say, in round figures, 28*s*. per ton. Of profit results to the end of 1908, nine half-yearly distributions were effected, the first two in 1898 and December 1905, and since regularly half-yearly. The aggregate of the dividends distributed in the period was £554,375. The detail of results of 1909 and since is set out below:—

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Yield per Ton	Gross Return	Expenses	Profit
			£	£	£
1909	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1910	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1911	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1912	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1913	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1914	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] & Reserves.

The dividends [illegible] of above period are given below:—

No.	Date			No.	Date		
		s.	£			s.	£
10	[illegible]	17½	[illegible]	17	June 1912	17½	74,375
11	Dec. 1909	17½	[illegible]	18	[illegible] 1912	17½	[illegible]
12	[illegible]	17½	[illegible]	19	[illegible] 1913	25	[illegible]
13	Dec. 1910	17½	74,375	20	June 1914	25	[illegible]
14	[illegible]	17½	[illegible]	21	[illegible] 1914	25	[illegible]
15	[illegible]	17½	74,375				

The results and appropriations of the last two years were as under:—

	1914		1913	
	£	Per Ton	£	Per Ton
Gross receipts ...	(603,150 tons) 605,365	24.3	(442,000 tons) 776,411	25/7
Expenses ...	337,992	13/6	530,779	14/9
Mine profit	271,025	10/9	245,632	10/10
Rental, &c.	24,600		20,461	
	295,625		266,113	
Appropriations—				
Taxes	£21,966		£2,169	
Expenses and Depreciation	7,414		6,622	
Depreciation ...	15,793		–	
Dividends ...(50%)	234,812	(50%)	234,812	
	280,985		261,603	
Surplus	14,638		7,510	
Development [illegible]	Cr. 1,220		–	
Brought forward	67,814		60,304	
Carried forward	83,672		67,814	

The following is an estimate of the results for year to December 31, 1915:—

Estimate of **1915**.

	£	Per Ton
[illegible]	624,000	24/8
[illegible]	347,000	13/8
Mine profit	277,000	11/0
Rental, &c.	25,000	
	302,000	
Appropriations—		
Taxes	£28,000	
[illegible]	8,000	
[illegible]	16,000	
Available for [illegible]	250,000	

50% Dividends (of which 25% declared June 1915) on £469,625 capital calls for £234,812.

On [illegible] there would be about £25,000 surplus after provision of 50% dividend for 1915.

In our "Mines of Africa, 1914-15," page 631, chapter and verse is given for the estimate set out therein of the ore contents in the upper portion of the T-shaped area. This was based upon a 40 degrees dip, 5 feet of stoping, and a 20% allowance for faults, sorting, &c., with outcome of adoption of a net 30,000 mill tons per reef claim. Allowing for what has been used to December 31, 1914, we estimate that approximately 1,200,000 tons of ore will remain in this outcrop region. In the tailpiece of the T, which, as mentioned, has a strike length of some 1,400 feet and of some 8,500 feet on the dip, such distances aggregate approximately 180 claims. To such has to be added 20 claims retained by the Company of the area under the chemical works to the east of the tailpiece, making the southern dip area 200 claims. Applying 30,000 mill tons per claim to such area we arrive at an additional 6,000,000 tons of ore assumed to exist. Remaining ore in the mine is to be extracted by means of the new vertical shaft, which is connected by tramway to the mill, lying to the north, where the ore is dealt with. The position of future ore supply [illegible]:—

	Mill Tons
Outcrop area, ore remaining Jan. 1, 1915	1,200,000
Southern dip area, 200 claims at 30,000 mill tons per claim	6,000,000
	7,200,000

On the [illegible] tons [illegible] the approximate present rate of output, this would represent, say, 14 or 15 years' life remaining.

Early in 1913 the then life was estimated as 15 to 20 years for all the remaining area of the mine.

According to official statements the ore reserve at December 31 in each of the following years were as [illegible]:—

1914		1913		1912	
Milling Tons	Recovery Value	Milling Tons	Recovery Value	Milling Tons	Recovery Value
1,221,879	28/0	1,225,688	27.2	1,331,540	25/11

It will be noted from the reserves that, allowing for the quantity of ore used, the amount of reserves left in sight at end of each year has varied but little. Possibly, with labour more abundant, as it is now reported to be, more effort will be made in the future to effect developments ahead of mill requirements. [illegible] reserves

to September 30, 1915, had been augmented since December 31, 1914, by nearly 60,000 milling tons.

If, as is expected, developments in the tailpiece continue as good as heretofore they have been reported, there is quite a probability that the recent rate of dividend of 50% per annum will be maintained. But in the circumstances of uncertainty it is desirable to be cautious in estimating the market value of the shares, and we will estimate the value of the share for 15 years' life upon the basis of dividends of 40% and also 50%.

Approximate present value of share to give the investor an income of 10% and return of capital at end of 15 years' life by investing excess dividends at 5%:—

Average dividend	**40%**	**50%**
Present value of share (say) ...	**2¾**	**3½**

The present market price is 2⅞.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.

THE half-year which ends this month will be the first complete financial period in which the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's new iron and steel works will have been in operation, and it is not unnatural, therefore, to look forward with some eagerness to the results that will be shown when the accounts come to be issued. In the half-year to May 31 last the iron and steel works were started up, but only preliminary operations were in progress and the accounts showed expenditure £54,000 in excess of receipts from this department. The Company, however, was able to report very satisfactory profits earned from its other varied activities, the high prices of lead and spelter helping considerably. Briefly speaking, in addition to the iron and steel works new departure, the operations of the Company consist of obtaining lead-silver-zinc ore from its own Broken Hill mine—which, it must be noted, is gradually reaching the stage of exhaustion—and treating this ore, together with accumulated tailings residues, in a concentration mill for the production of lead concentrates. The lead concentrates, and other material, mostly purchased, are passed through smelters which produce lead bullion, and the lead bullion is refined for fine silver and soft lead, both easily marketable. In addition, tailings containing zinc are treated in a concentration plant which produces zinc concentrates. The Company has a zinc smelter for the further treatment of zinc concentrates, but it is not of sufficient capacity to deal with the whole of the Company's output, and consequently a large proportion has to be sold and shipped abroad. On the outbreak of the War the chief markets for zinc concentrates on the Continent were rendered unavailable, but lately the Company has been able to dispose of considerable quantities of the product to American smelters, and consequently increased revenue from this connection should be shown in forthcoming accounts.

The progress of the Company in recent years in the matter of output and treatment of its own ores and tailings will be seen below. We do not give the figures of refinery outputs, because since the War commenced the Company has treated much larger quantities of material for other Broken Hill concerns. The average prices of lead and spelter (zinc) for the half-years and the gross profit obtained before allowance for depreciation will be noted:—

	—Ore-dressing Mills—			—Zinc Concentration—				
			Lead Concentrates		Concentrates	Aver Metal Prices		
Half-Yr. to	Own Ore Treated Tons	Tailings Treated Tons	Produced Tons	Tailings Treated Tons	Produced Tons	Lead £	Zinc £	Gross Profit £
Nov. 1912...	117,767	88,364	27,412	148,132	42,003	19½	26⅝	177,594
May 1913 ..	116,020	113,409	27,363	167,927	41,771	17½	25½	132,037
Nov. 1913...	148,875	122,915	33,360	181,463	43,914	19⅞	21	152,768
May 1914...	139,991	125,371	27,395	168,558	37,745	18¼	21⅜	165,293
Nov. 1914 ..	111,489	86,600	20,060	78,124	15,851	18⅜	24½	144,847
May 1915...	90,248	93,589	17,800	139,763	33,318	20	43¾	*223,512

* After deduction of £54,181, deficit on construction of iron and steel works.

The Company's issued capital is £472,402, in 8s. shares, and there are now outstanding £570,000 of 6% Debentures out of a total of £600,000 issued for the purpose of financing the construction of the new iron and steel works. Since its formation in 1885 the dividends paid have aggregated £10,756,000 in cash, but, despite the apparent largeness of the sum distributed, actually the dividend payments in relation to profits earned have been very conservative. In recent years especially has this been the case, as will be seen from the following:—

	Half-Years ended—			
	May 31, 1915	Nov. 30, 1914	May 31, 1914	Nov. 30, 1913
	£	£	£	£
Gross profit	223,312	144,847	165,293	152,768
Depreciation written off	27,084	19,236	14,578	8,994
	196,228	125,611	150,714	143,774
Dividends paid	118,101 (25%)	59,050 (12½%)	113,727 (25%)	104,033 (25%)
Balance profit	78,127	66,561	36,987	39,741
Brought forward	984,682	918,121	881,134	866,393
Carried forward	1,062,809	984,682	918,121	881,134
Capital expenditure	—	318,586	520,228	150,795
Surplus liquid assets	646,319	741,756	468,482	888,117

A very considerable proportion of the large amount figuring as carried forward is employed in the Company's business. Large sums have been used out of profits for the purpose of the new iron and steel works, in addition to the fresh issues of share and Debenture capital. Nevertheless, at May 31, 1915, the surplus liquid assets amounted to some £646,000.

To date the iron and steel works have cost about £1,500,000. Their output capacity is at present 125,000 tons of steel per annum, but this is to be increased to 170,000 tons, the additions to plant for the purpose being expected to cost £300,000, making the total expenditure on the enterprise £1,800,000. By the recent sale of its Port Pirie smelting works for £300,000 in cash and £200,000 in shares the Company will obtain additional funds which will pretty well cover the extra cost of extending the iron and steel works. At the end of August contracts had been entered into with the various Australian Governments for the supply of 106,000 tons of steel rails and the outlook for the enterprise seems to be bright, the various operations having been commenced and continued without a hitch. Moreover, as the Company owns very extensive iron-bearing properties of extremely rich character, large profits from the business are looked for, notwithstanding the high rate of wages required to be paid in Australia. In addition to the probably increasing revenue from the new works, the older part of the business—viz., silver, lead and zinc production—should yield substantial profits for many years yet. The immediate future in this respect is very beneficially influenced by the continuance of high prices of lead and zinc.

For so great an enterprise the issued share capital of £472,402 is distinctly small; and as regards the moderate Debentures outstanding at £570,000, this will be gradually paid off. The price of the 8s. shares is 15s. and the yield shown on the present rate of dividends works out at about 9%.

British Broken Hill.—This Company's mine remains closed down owing to the fact that its ore contracts suspended by the war not cancelled, with German buyers of lead and zinc concentrates. The Australian Government has passed an Act which declares as invalid all Australian contracts with the enemy, but it is doubted whether this Act would apply to English companies such as the Broken Hill [illegible] Broken Hill [illegible] Australian Government [illegible] through the question was [illegible] consideration of the Board of Trade for some considerable time, no decisive action has been taken, and until it is the Broken [illegible] Hill [illegible]

On the other hand, unhappily, expenditure on maintaining the mine continues. The amount expended on this account for the half-year to June 30, 1915, was £8,825. In addition, office charges absorbed £4,864—in which connection we think the directors' fees at rate of about £2,200 a year might in the circumstances be reduced. The net depletion of the Company's resources during the half-year amounts to £13,262. The balance sheet at June 30 shows the surplus liquid assets, irrespective of concentrates on hand, at present unsaleable, to be less than £5,000, and it is to be feared that continuance of the present state of things will result in the financial position becoming steadily, if not rapidly, impaired. The £1 shares are quoted at about 19*s*.

North Broken Hill.—We recently referred to the dividend of 1*s*. per share declared by the North Broken Hill Company, and this week a further dividend of a shilling, with a bonus of a shilling, has been announced, making 15% so far for the current half-year. This compares with 5% paid for the June half of 1915, nothing for the December half of 1914, and 25% for the June half of 1914.

Kyshtim.—Despite the war influences the output of refined copper by the Kyshtim Corporation is well maintained, aggregating approximately 6,150 tons for nine months of 1915, against 5,830 tons for corresponding period of 1914. The amount of output for the last three months of 1914 was cut down to about 1,617 tons. At the recent meeting, the Chairman stated that the capacity of the plant is now equivalent to an output of 10,000 tons a year. In present circumstances full capacity cannot be utilised, but all things considered the output is well maintained.

Nechi Mines.—Capital £140,000, in 140,000 Preference and 140,000 Ordinary shares of 10*s*. each. The whole of the Ordinary shares are held by the Oroville Dredging Company, Limited.

Period 1915	Cubic Yards Treated	Value Per Cubic Yard $	Value Per Cubic Yard Cents	Price Pref. Shares end of Period
14 days to Nov. 1 ..	77 322	16,715	21.6	12 9*
„ „ Nov. 15...	99,000	14,200	14.3	12/6*

* 9*s* paid.

The return to November 1 stated that cabled advices indicate the dredge will not have worked its way into the rich ground for about a couple of months.

MOUNT LYELL.

The high price ruling for copper exerted a very beneficial influence upon the operating results of the half-year to September 30 of this Australian copper-mining Company, its earnings being the highest obtained since 1907, in the second half of which year a record working profit of £311,301 was reported in respect of 3,796 tons of refined copper sold at an average price of £106 9*s*. 3*d*. per ton. The dividends paid during that half-year totalled 17½%.

In the half-year to September 30, 1915, 4,053 tons of blister copper, including 4,009 tons of refined copper, 5,018 oz. of gold and 219,800 oz. of silver, were produced at a cost of 18*s*. 7*d*. per ton of ore treated. The costs in 1907 period were 14*s*. 5*d*. per ton of ore. The refined copper sold amounted to 3,366 tons at an average price of £87 5*s*. 0*d*. per ton, and the working profit for the period amounted to about £204,000. This is a great improvement on the previous half-year's earnings, but still a very conservative policy has been adopted in the matter of dividend distribution. After deduction of about £64,000 for general office charges, prospecting, depreciation and taxes, the net profit for the past half-year was £139,071, out of which a dividend of 5% has been paid absorbing £64,460, the balance of £74,611 being added to the carry-forward, increasing the amount to about £670,000. The half-yearly dividend has now been raised, a distribution of 6¼% having recently been declared payable on December 20. At the end of September the liquid assets in excess of liabilities amounted to £469,031, in contrast with £344,895 six months previously—a very strong financial position in relation to the issued capital of £1,289,195. A contrast of the profits and allocations of the past five half-years is shown below:—

	Half-Years to— Sep. 30, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Sep. 30, 1914	Mar. 31, 1914	Sep. 30, 1913
Copper (refined) sold (tons)* ...	3,366	4,962	2,368	3,485	2,086
Average price realised (per ton)...	£87 5/0	£60 0/7	£56 12/10	£67 1/7	£72 8/6
	£	£	£	£	£
Total revenue	—	346,202	274,849	319,362	264,775
Mine, &c., expenses	—	209,434	207,241	215,694	190,147
Working profit	204,000*b*	136,768	67,608	103,668	74,628
Balance brought forward ...	597,644	501,643	539,005	560,094	520,371
Total	801,644*b*	638,411	606,613	663,762	594,999
Allocations:					
Office and general charges ...	11,750*b*	11,779	9,179	8,689	8,369
Mine prospecting	14,656	4,622	17,376	18,330	10,865
Taxes	18,400	3,300	318	3,254	2,060
Depreciation	20,123	18,246	11,417	11,440	11,391
Fire expenses	—	—	—	—	—(*a*)
Dividends paid†	64,460 (5%)	—	64,460 (5%)	80,424 (6¼%)	—
Insurance fund	—	—	2,220	2,620	2,220
Carry-forward	672,255*b*	597,644	501,643	539,009	560,094
Total	801,644	638,411	606,613	663,762	594,999

* Part of the product sold in one half-year is produced in the preceding period.

† The dividends, though paid in the half-year shown, are declared in respect of the profits of the preceding period.

(*a*) Fire expenses written off out of reserve fund in second half of 1913.

(*b*) Estimates.

The ore reserves at September 30, 1915, are reported as 2,764,689 tons, equal to nearly eight years' supply for the recent rate of ore consumption. This figure, it is officially stated, does not take credit for important additions disclosed by development work during the past half-year at the North Mount Lyell mine, where only last week, according to a cable advice, a very good discovery of rich ore at the bottom level occurred, a cross-cut disclosing 57 feet of continuously rich ore.

As regards the future, in view of the probable maintenance of a high price of copper during the continuance of the War, it looks as if shareholders can anticipate with some certainty the resumption of bonus payments as in the palmy days of 1906-8. The past year's net profit was sufficient to enable the payment of more than 10% on the capital, though only 5% was actually distributed. At their present price of 24*s*. 6*d*. *cum* 1*s*. 3*d*. dividend, the £1 shares certainly do not appear to be over-valued; the yield on the basis of 6¼% half-yearly dividends being over 10%.

Six Months	Ore Treated Tons	Blister Copper Produced Tons	Yield %	Cost of Producing Blister Copper Per Ton Treated	Net Profit* £	Dividend Paid %	Price of Shares end of Period
Sept. 30, 1907...	206,741	3,839	1·85	14 5	264,936	17½	29/0
Sept. 30, 1913...	142,614	2,474	1·73	22/2	41,944	—	26/0
Mar. 31, 1914...	163,513	3,433	2·1	20/4	61,954	6¼	26/6
Sept. 30, 1914...	170,994	3,911	2·28	21/2	29,317	5	21/6
Mar. 31, 1915...	175,189	3,984	2·3	18 7	98,221	—	23 9
Sept. 30, 1915...	176,368	4,053	2·3	18/7*	139,071	5	21/9

* Including revenue from Railway and Superphosphate Works.
Present price of shares, 24,6.

According to mail advices from Australia, the Mount Lyell has obtained options over the properties of the Tasmanian Copper Company, Hercules Gold and Silver Mining Company, and the Primrose Mining Company. The option is for nine months, and gives the Mount Lyell the right to absorb the three properties by giving 245,000 of its own shares, as to 100,000 shares to the Tasmanian Company, 120,000 shares to the Hercules and 25,000 shares to the Primrose. Under this arrangement the Mount Lyell would have to discharge the liabilities of the Hercules Company, not exceeding £10,000, and of the Tasmanian Copper Company, not exceeding £30,000. Alternatively the Mount Lyell may form a separate company, with a

share capital of £650,000 and £240,000 of Debentures, distributed as follows:—

	New Co.'s Shares.
To Hercules Co.	120,000
To Primrose Co.	25,000
To Tasmanian Copper Co.	100,000
Commission to Vendor Lyell	100,000
In Reserve	305,000
Total	650,000

	Debentures £
To provide working capital	200,000
To discharge liabilities of Hercules and Tasmanian cos.	40,000
Total	240,000

Lonely Reef.—In the report for the year 1914 mention was made that there had been a marked drop in the grade of the ore at the 10th and 11th levels, and a commencement of development at the 12th level was in low grade. It was added that since the end of the year a marked improvement had been shown in the grade at the 12th level, but, consequent on poor showings in levels above, the ore reserves brought into sight had considerably fallen off. During 1915 the quarterly reports show that developments effected at the 12th and 13th levels have shown distinct improvement over the two levels above, and cable advice was received November 1 of the encountering of high-grade ore at the 15th level. No mention having been made of the 14th level appears to indicate that a dash has been made to ascertain the nature of the reef formation in depth, deferring the opening up of the 14th level. The June quarterly statement set out that the 14th and 15th levels would be attacked in the last quarter of the year. Those shareholders who have the last report will be able, by filling in for themselves development work referred to by the quarterly statements, to appreciate the position. To September 30 an aggregate, north and south, of some 400 feet had been driven upon at the 13th level, and to the south, the direction of the pitch of the chute, the ore improved to approximately an ounce to the ton, or nearly double what it was to the north. A cable November 1 reports that 10 feet driven to the south and 5 feet to the north at the 15th level indicated as under: —

At	5 feet south	...	...	1 oz.	3 dwt.	over	53	inches
,,	10 ,, ,,	...	...	2 ,,	16 ,,	,,	64	,,
,,	5 ,, north	...	...	2 ,,	18 ,,	,,	58	,,

RAND DEVELOPMENTS.

Aurora West.—Recent developments as under:—

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	%	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling-inches
1914. Sept. qr....	1,540	1,150	68	44·7	42·0	1,869
,, Dec. qr....	1,165	855	73	41,6	42.0	1,762
1915. Mar. qr....	855	680	80	46·9	42·0	1,864
,, June qr.	615	415	67	32/3	42·0	1,364
,, Sept. qr.	1,085	765	71	34,0	42.0	1,428

It is anticipated the whole of the new plant will be in operation some time in November.

Crown Mines.—Recent developments as under:—

	M.R. Leader: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay	South Reef: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay
1914	8,475	25	76/5	6,530	27	43/3
1915. Mar. qr.	2,410	18	74/1	2,820	25	3-/8
,, June qr.	3,...	17	19-/9	3,100	28	47/1
,, Sept. qr.	3,...	25	94/2	4,030	26	-/11

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Recent developments as under:—

	Main Reef: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Value	South Reef: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Value
1914 ...	2,115	5...	...	2,215	8	12-/11
1915. Mar. qr.	...	28	...	1,060	7	...
,, June qr.	...	2	58/9	1,3...	7	18-/9
,, Sept. qr.	1,1...	26	4...	...2	...	14-...

Meyer and Charlton.—Recent developments as under:—

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	%	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling-Inches
1914. Sept. qr....	645	...	7...	85 5	50.06	4,275
,, Dec. qr. ...	505	...	8...	54/11	51.29	2,815
1915. Mar. qr. ...	855	...	6...	62/1	...	3,100
,, June qr....	980	...	...	7...6	47.0	...15
,, Sept. qr....	1,165	...	73½	70/11	47.0	3,432

Modder B.—Developments reported as below:—

	Payable Reef Developed Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay Value	Inch Dwt. Value
1913	3,...	12.3	...9 ...	1,833
1914	5,170	18	1...2 ...	1,846
1915. Mar. qr. ..	2,...	...	98/6	1,400
,, June qr. .	1,5...	23	74	...776
,, Sept. qr. ...	2,091	21	79/11	1,677

Modderfontein.—Recent development returns as below:—

Year ends June 30	Main Reef: Distance Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay	Stoping Inch Value s.
1913-14	6,...5	11 9	217 7	... 65
1914-15				
Sept. qr.	3,...7	11	131 2	1,442
Dec. qr.	5,4...0	12	140 5	1,684
Mar. qr.	3,...2	12	1...4	2,032
June qr.	2,935	11	191 6	2,106
1915-16.				
Sept. qr.	3,441	11	186 6	2,051

New Goch.—Recent developments as under:—

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	%	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling Inches
1914. Sept. qr....	1,...5	8...	79	65 2	55	3,761
,, Dec. qr. ...	970	3...	39	51.1	50	1,550
1915. Mar. qr....	870	427	49	...0	62	1,798
,, June qr....	1,002	7...	7...	54 1	56	1,932
,, Sept. qr....	955	870	87	...1	61	1,762

Nourse Mines.—Recent developments as under:—

	Main Reef: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.	M.R. Leader: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.	South Reef: Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.
1914...	1,320	50	39	1	2,...0	21	82	9	...19...	20	59	9
1915. Mar. qr.	1,...0	36	27	9	2,...2	16	...	0	1,...0	2...	51	8
,, June qr.	1,...0	49	34	9	2,7...0	16	57	11	1,525	22	47	0
,, Sept. qr.	1,255	59	35	5	2,...0	17	47	7	1,...0	34	42	0

Roodepoort United.—Recent developments as below:—

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	%	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling-Inches
1914. Sept. qr....	2,...0	...0	40	21 8	5...0	1,121
,, Dec. qr. ...	2,2...	...0	29	28 4	48.40	1,369
1915. Mar. qr. ...	2,145	5...	24	...6	52.66	1,...5
,, June qr. ...	2,030	1,170	57	...4	45.77	1,251
,, Sept. qr. ...	1,980	81...	4...	3...0	47...9	1,485

Rose Deep.—Recent development showings as under:—

	Main Reef: Feet Driven	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.	M.R. Leader: Feet Driven	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.	South Reef: Feet Driven	Width Inches	Assay s.	d.
Year 1914 ...	...2	31	37		1,617	2...	30	5	1,...7	29	31	6
19... Mar. qr.	525	19	40	11	2...0	2...	24	4	3...0	16	34	5
,, June qr.	391	2...2	50	7	2...0	3...	27	9	138	22.7	29	5
,, Sept. qr.	612	29	35	7	2...0	31	2...	1	275	...	39	11

Van Ryn.—Developments reported as under:—

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	%	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling-Inches
1914. Sept. qr....	9...6	8...5	82.9	47/7	4...	1,...4
,, Dec. qr. ...	5...6	...1	9...5	39 1	37	1,446
1915. Mar. qr. ...	1,489	1,00...6	67.9	37.7	39	1,462
,, June qr. ...	693	2...4	7...	...	43	2,...
,, Sept. qr. ...	1,526	799	42.4	51/9	42½	2,199

Village Deep.—Recent developments as under:—

	Main Reef: Dist. Exposed Ft.	Width In.	Assay	South Reef: Dist. Exposed Ft.	Width In.	Assay
1914	7,557	23.2	42 8	...5...	24.0	36/7
1915. Mar. qr. ...	1,130	25	74 ...	...	11	41/2
,, June qr....	1,509	2...	...1	...	...	...
,, Sept. ...	1,09...	21	...	...	...	...

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.—The monthly returns of some of the individual companies will be found at page 615 *et seq.*

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, November 24, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£70,744,180	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	52,294,180
	£70,744,180		£70,744,180

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£18,895,088
Rest	3,251,886	Other Securities	98,116,125
Public Deposits	52,148,990	Notes	37,442,430
Other Deposits	84,649,256	Gold and Silver Coin	162,887
Seven-day and other Bills	13,356		
	£154,616,490		£154,616,490

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	28.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Oct. 20	32.6	58.9	46.1	98.4	18.9	96.6	44.7	30·97	5	4 11/16
— 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.6	41.9	30·01	—	4½
Nov. 3	33.4	56.6	45.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	—	4⅜
— 10	33.2	55.3	48.9	90.4	18.9	97.6	40.6	29·13	—	4¼
— 17	33.0	52.6	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	—	5⅛
— 24	33 3	52.4	52.1	84.6	18.9	98.1	37.6	27·48	—	5⅛

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 8%; Aug. 8, 6%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Oct. 27 ...	206,569,665	124,718,124	81,851,541	28,500,000	34.8
Week to Nov. 3 ...	6,308,543	3,304,144	84,855,940	28,500,000	33.5
" " 10 ...	6,153,447	3,318,988	87,690,389	28,500,000	32·5
" " 17 ...	4,704,238	3,846,351	88,551,276	28,500,000	32·2
" " 24 ...	5,212,867	3,538,486	90,225,667	28,500,000	31·6

II.—Balance Sheet, November 24, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	62,562,595	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	21,643,063	Other Bankers	189,000
Certificates outstanding ...	6,020,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	446,969	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	44,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ...	17,114,064
Total	90,672,627	Total	90,672,627

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Nov. 18, Thursday	1,500,000 Foreign coin.	400,000 Spain. 170,000 S. America. 57,000 Canada. 20,000 U S. 25,000 Straits.*
" 19, Friday	100,000 Foreign coin.	730,000 U.S. 100,000 Japan. 50,000 Switzerland.*
" 20, Saturday	Nil	Nil.
" 22, Monday	75,000 Egypt.† 37,000 Straits.†	20,000 sovs. U.S.
" 23, Tuesday	Nil.	600,000 sovs. U.S. 50,000 Uruguay.
" 24, Wednesday	853,000 bars.	100,000 sovs. Spain. 100,000 Egypt.*
Total for week	2,585,000	2,422,000
Net aggregate	[163,000 *influx* for week.]	
Nov. 25, Thursday	Nil.	57,000 Canada. 250,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.*
" 26, Friday	8,000 bars.	716,000 sovs. U.S. 350,000 Spain. 250,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.* 90,000 S. America.

* Set aside. † Released.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£28,5	£28,3	£28,4	£35,3	£33,3
Public Deposits	13,3	13,2	9,7	18,7	52,1
Other Deposits	42,3	41,7	40,7	166,5	84,6
Government Securities	17,0	13,0	11,2	26,3	18,9
Other Securities	33,6	31,8	29,6	111,3	98,1
Reserve	22,9	27,9	27,4	55,4	37,6
Ratio to Liabilities	41 1/16 %	50·81%	54·38%	31·60%	27·48%
Bullion (both Departments)	33,0	37,8	37,4	72,2	52,4
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛ %	4⅛ %	4⅛ %	2 1/16 %	5 1/16 %
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 14½	25 22	25 29½	24 97	27 80½
Hamburg 8 days	20 43½	20 46½	20 49½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82⅝	4 80·65	4 81·25	4 85⅜	4 65
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 3/32	1/4 1/16	1/4 1/16	1/3⅜	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	89½	75½	73 1/16	68½	60
French Rente 3 % Money	99 65	89 62	86 47	73 50	65 50
Silver, London spot oz.	-/29 1/16	-/29 1/16	-/26⅜	-/22 13/16	-/27
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	28/7	32/1	30 4	41/0	53/6
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/6·03	-/7·03	-/7·20	-/4·48	-/7·20
Iron, Scotch pig ton	58/0	73/9	55/3	51/1½	78/10½

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Oct. 20, 1915	Pesos 234,166,925
Oct. 13, 1915	234,165,870
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	286,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25 to Oct. 23, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£786	£8,883	£47
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,248	979
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,860	1,215
Oct. 31, 1914 ...	3,835	177	4,012	7,673	1,335	12,454	234
Oct. 31, 1913 ...	—	—	4,372	5,078	988	8,575	111

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Nov. 11, 1915...	£191,281	£14,459	£205,740	£10,929	£567,527	£2,367	£100,999
Nov. 18, 1915...	192,285	14,489	206,774	11,292	568,432	2,251	104,678
Nov. 25, 1915...	193,408	14,462	207,870	11,833	571,187	1,714	105,847
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,788	267,327	15,302	37,930
Nov. 27, 1913...	141,044	25,721	166,765	63,859	225,962	12,336	32,203

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23,'14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,188
Nov. 15,'15...	121,660	1,820	123,480	40,611	216,821	291,647	77,494
Nov. 23,'15...	121,738	1,934	123,672	28,854	233,973	288,243	86,167
Nov. 23,'14...	97,434	2,249	99,683	146,130	200,458	—	70,780
Nov. 22,'13...	62,741	14,268	77,007	45,012	91,837	+ 17,339	37,544

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Nov. 6, 1915 ...	33,345	206	33,551	6,850	8,153	47,399	1,255
Nov. 13, 1915 ...	33,987	248	34,215	6,582	7,652	47,166	1,840
Nov. 14, 1914 ...	14,329	390	14,719	15,589	11,020	39,751	1,495
Nov. 15, 1913 ...	12,451	631	13,082	8,251	7,219	25,741	317

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,204	£6,887
Oct. 10, '15 ...	£45,598	£4,445	50,043	4,024	29,264	114,426	27,452
Oct. 20, '15 ...	45,251	4,427	49,678	4,597	28,927	114,248	28,318
Oct. 20, '14 ...	—	—	52,353		37,377	86,177	19,092
Oct. 20, '13 ...	—	—	49,604		21,994	69,885	7,482

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,883	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Oct. 9, '15...	20,893	568	8,051	30,242	23,601	6,319
Oct. 16, '15	21,281	542	8,211	30,407	22,522	6,593
Oct. 17, '14...	21,085	2,057	7,585	29,576	13,013	3,107
Oct. 18, '13...	21,618	1,991	9,369	33,149	17,602	1,441

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£89,888	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1,720
Nov. 13, '15 ...	£104,874	£43,576	148,450	622,632	668,968	6,978	37,760
Nov. 20, '15 ...	108,742	43,312	150,054	623,626	671,300	6,980	38,988
Nov. 21, '14 ...	70,100	32,100	102,200	429,240	405,680	18,540	35,380
Nov. 22, 13 ...	—	—	82,715	382,959	351,575	8,954	3,312

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,980	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Nov. 7, 1915...	3,797	3,687	781	4,109	8,483	1,392
Nov. 15, 1915...	3,753	3,634	781	4,334	8,339	1,638
Nov. 16, 1914...	2,324	1,727	508	6,733	7,147	1,374
Nov. 15, 1913...	2,509	1,699	504	4,087	5,842	535

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21,'14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£78,081	£163,411	£109,911
Nov. 5,'15...	163,903	2,555	166 458	7,138	437,050	505,362	139 670
Nov. 14,'15...	173,333	2,750	176,083	9,348	451,898	504,054	147,819
Nov. 14,'14...	176,472	4,264	180,736	10,902	157,163	279,088	101,425
Nov. 14,'13...	168,266	5,815	174,081	6,942	103,794	170,557	111,585

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1,'14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,855
Nov. 13,'15...	32,566	29,547	62,113	41,508	13,777	83,603	26 578
Nov. 20,'15...	33,330	29,764	63,094	41,356	13,777	82,768	26,801
Nov. 21,'14...	22,547	28,018	50,563	48,488	13,777	78,760	24,389
Nov. 22,'13...	18,960	29,154	48,114	41,744	13,778	76,379	17,039

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£5,717	£6,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,433	£3,903
Nov. 6, '15 ...	6,298	6,687	2,951	5,051	16 888	4,093
Nov. 13, '15 ...	6,297	6,885	2,945	4,881	16,883	4,319
Nov. 14, '14 ...	5,789	2,875	1,475	8,975	15,494	3,492
Nov. 15, '13 ...	5,693	4,716	1,337	7,205	12,114	3,146

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Nov. 6, 1915...	9,807	2,334	12,141	6,928	17,553	3,361
Nov. 15, 1915...	9,860	2,304	12,164	6,510	17,188	2,698
Nov. 14, 1914...	9,695	749	10,444	8,942	16,436	3,309
Nov. 15, 1913...	6,877	1,109	7,988	4,980	10,905	2,045

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Oct. 22, 1915...	£56,577	£63,503	£8,684	£68,089	£2,982	£85,578	79·3%
Oct. 29, 1915...	56,281	63,693	8,813	68,711	2,784	85,990	77·3%
Nov. 5, 1915...	58,943	65,256	8,625	69,213	2,732	86,544	81·4%

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	4½	Oct. 26, '14
Stockholm	6½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3–5	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Receipts: Revenue £	Receipts: Total including Loans £	Expenditures: Supply Services £	Expenditures: Int. on Debt, Advances, &c. £	Expenditures: Total £	Treasury Balance: Amt. £	Treasury Balance: + or − for Period £	Treasury Bills Outstand'g £
7 days to Nov. 6	3,662	44,331	20,424	16 245	36.669	25,220	+ 7,671	255,500
7 „ Nov. 13	3,540	38,339	28,015	16 210	44.225	19,334	− 5.886	264,581
7 „ Nov. 20	7,144	47,971	23 322	18,140	41,462	25.843	+ 6,509	277,636
294 days to Nov. 20, 1915	138,935	1,189,364	840,830	386,142	1,226,972	25,843	−57,608*	+200,486*
286 days to Nov. 21, 1914	101,684	243.560	202.936	43,384	246,320	7,675	−2,760*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 46	11 40	11 26	11 25
—	Cable	11 25	11 20	11 06	11 00
Italy	3 mos.	31 00	30 85	30 60	30 35
—	Cable	30 55	30 42½	30 25	29 92½
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34	34	34	34½
New York	do.	4 70	4 70½	4 66½	4 65½
—	Cheques	4 70½	4 71	4 67	4 66½
Paris	3 mos.	28 20	28 10	28 30	28 05
—	Cable	27 78	27 70	27 90	27 64
Petrograd	do.	145½	146	143	143
Scandinavia	do.	17 00	17 30	17 40	17 50
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46	46	46½	46½
—	Cable	25 16½	25 05	24 95	24 90
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 50	25 45	25 20	25 20
—	Cable	25 10	25 05	24 75	24 80

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15	Nov. 5, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 24c.	11fl. 20c.	11fl. 10c.	10fl. 93½c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49½d.	49 7/16d.	49½d.	49½d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 1/32d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10⅜d.	1s. 10 5/16d.	1s 10½d.	1s. 10d.
Italy	Sight	30lr. 50c.	30lr. 45c.	30lr. 22c.	29lr. 95c.
Lisbon	Sight	34	33⅝	33⅜	34
Madrid	Sight	25p. 15	25p. 05	25p. 02	24p. 90
Montevideo	90 days	54½d.	54d.	54d.	53½d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 70⅛	$4 70⅛	$4 66⅛	$4 66
New York	Sight†	$4 69*	$4 69½	$4 65½	$4 64½
—	60 days†	$4 67*	$4 66	$4 62½	$4 61½
—	Cables†	$4 70⅛*	$4 70⅛	$4 66½	$4 65⅝
— on Paris	Sight†	5.93f.*	5.91f.	5.98½f.	5.96f.
— on Berlin	Sight†	80⅝c.*	80⅜c.	81¼c.	81⅜c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight†	42c.*	41⅞c.	41⅝c.	42c
— on Mexico	Silver $	41⅜c. U.S.*	39⅜c. U.S.	38⅛c. U.S.	38⅛c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 77½c.	27f. 68c.	27f. 92c.	27f 65c.
Petrograd	Sight	145⅜	145⅛	142⅜	142⅜
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12 5/16d.	12 1/32d.	12 3/32d.	12 1/32d.
Scandinavia	Sight	17kr. 00	17kr. 20	17kr. 25	17kr. 45
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 6¼d.	2s 5½d.	2s. 4 7/16d.	2s. 4 1/32d.
Switzerland	Sight	25f. 15c.	25f. 07½c.	24f. 75c.	24f. 75c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 3/32d.	9 1/16d.	9d.	9d.

* Wednesday's rates. † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
Birmingham	Nov. 20	1.582.386	+ 493.824	79.319.848	+10.529.424	+ 15·3
Bristol	„ 20	797 000	+ 127.000	35.847.000	+ 2.435.000	+ 7·3
Dublin	„ 20	3 935.000	+ 1.300	173.585.000	+16.283.200	+ 10·3
Leeds	„ 20	487.830	+ 71.298	28 142.116	+ 5.970.055	+ 25·7
Leicester	„ 20	341.139	+ 57.460	18 399 325	+ 4.372.172	+ 31·2
Liverpool	„ 20	6 116.926	+ 1.919.070	257 538 423	+51.903.017	+ 25·2
Manchester	„ 20	6.765.879	+ 1.935.275	313 924 649	+18.490.081	+ 6·2
Newcastle	„ 20	1.168.500	+ 246.200	57.722.500	+15.744 000	+ 30·3
Nottingham	„ 20	339.508	+ 93 683	16.747 519	+ 139.284	+ 0·8
Sheffield	„ 20	442.048	+ 156.177	27.494 842	+ 5.028.125	+ 24·4
LONDON—	1915.	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
Town	Nov. 24	218.111	+ 55.637	9.827.769	− 1.753.325	−15·1
Metropolitan	„ 24	16.880	+ 1.818	833.339	+ 60.984	+ 7·8
Country	„ 24	28.638	+ 3.782	1.412.484	+ 176.755	+14·3
Total	„ 24	261.627	+ 61.236	12.078.582	− 1.515.807	−11·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings:

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	"Fourth" of the Month. 1915	£	+ or −*
Oct. 14	45.291	—	Sept. 1	54.180	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15.393
Oct. 28	44.402	—	Oct. 1	52.016	—	Oct. 4	47.176	+ 8.718
Nov. 12	48.793	—	Nov. 5	47.524	—	Nov. 4	48.924	+ 15.593
1915 agg.	884.727	—		533 648	—		508.043	− 63.060

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows:

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	32/0	11/6	9/6
Australia to U.K.	95/0	—	30/6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	10/0
Bombay to p.p. d w.	75/0	d.w. 20/0	d.w 19/3
Burmah o.c.	105/0	nom. 30/0	22/8
Calcutta to p.p.	d.w. 95/0	—d.w.	18/0
Danube to A.R.	—	—	10/3
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	8/9
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	90/0	30/0	13/0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	62/6	30/0

Homewards—cont.	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	16/0	4/4	1/10½
N.O to L.H. (cotton)	170/0	—	—
N.O. to U.K. (cotton & gr.)	—	22/0	13/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915	—	—	55/0	40/0	30/0
1914	15/6	20/0	18/6	17/6	—
1913	12/0	11/0	8/9	15/3	8/3

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years:—

NOV. 27.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	78/10½	51/1½	65/3
— Middlesbro' warrants ..ton	72/9	51/3	49/4½
— Hematite warrants ..ton	115/0	68/0	61/0
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£12 10	£9	£8
— Common bars ..ton	£12 5	£7 7/6	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro' ..tons	127 814	103.841	151.030
Steel Rails ..ton	£9 12/6	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ..ton	£81 2/6	£55	£86 5
— Stock, Europe & afl., Oct. 31 ton	30.008	38.586	25.827
Tin—English ingots ..ton	£189	£145—£147	£183 10
— Straits ..ton	£172	£151	£180 10
Tinplates—Coke I.C. ..box	20/6—20/9	13/6 17/9	12/9
Lead—Soft Foreign ..ton	£28 10	£19 5 nom.	£18 10
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ..ton	£100	£18	£20 15
Quicksilver—(75lb.) ..bottle	£18 10	£11 5	£7 10
Aluminium ..ton	nom.	£83—£85	£81—£85
Antimony—Regulus ..ton	nom.	£55—£55	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ..ton	nom.	21/0	20/9
— — (best) Newcastle ..ton	20/0	13 3	14/9
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt	14/6—14/9	11/3	10/9
Soda—Crystals ex ship ..ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ..lb	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/8	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ..ton	£31 15	£25—£25 10	£30 17/6–31 2/6
Gambier—Good marks ..cwt	39 6	22 0	17/10½
Indigo—Bengal good to fine ..lb.	14/6 –15 0	13/6—14 0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£33 2/6	£25 5	£23 17/6
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb	66 6	47 6	45/3
Olive Oil—Spanish ..tun	£52	£47—£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ..ton	£38 5	£29 15	£36
Petroleum—American ..gallon	8½	7½	8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ..ton	£43	£32	£31 5
Soya Oil ..ton	£30 10	£21 10	£26 7/6
Tallow—Aust. mixed ..cwt	47/6	27/6—30 6	33/3—34/9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ..cwt	44 3	35 0	32 1½
Rape Seed—Toria ..416lb.	55 0	51 0	48 4½
Rubber—Para, spot ..lb	2/11½	2 8½	3/1½
— Fine plantation (stn l. crepe) lb	3/3	2/11	2/3½
—World's Vis. sup (all kinds) Augton	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ..cwt	75/0—76 0	59/0—60 0	86/0—87/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland ..lb.	7/20	4/43	7/20
— Egyptian good fair ..lb	9/35	8 80	9/85
— Pernambuco, fair ..lb	8 02	4 87	7/31
— Mid. Upl. New York ..lb	11.75c.	7.75c.	13.30c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Nov. 19 bales	892.100	711.020	689.180
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol ..ton	£70	£40	£33 5
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£35 10	£24 10	£28
— Manila, Fair strips ..ton	£42	£24 10	£29 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ..ton	£28	£20	£34 10
— Red SOC ..ton	£23 10	£17	£30
Silk—Blue Elephant ..lb.	12/0	11/3—11/6	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av. lb	1/0—1/1	1/11½—1/04	1/11½—1/04
— Lincoln Half Hogs ..lb	1/6½	1/2—1/2½	1/01—1/01
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	8½	8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ..lb	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Nov. 22 bus	51.326.000	78.031.000	86.303.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb ..bushel	127½c.	123½c.	100c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb qr	5 6	41 0	30/4
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb	48 0	39 6	29 6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	47/11	29/8	27/8
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ..qr	31/3	25 5	19/7
Maize—N.Y. ..(new bushel) 56lb	nom.	71½c.	nom.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb	nom	7/3	4/9½
— La Plata ..480lb. qr	39/6	28/0	23/5
Potatoes—Kents ..ton	90/0—100/0	72 6	50/0—60/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 ..tons	40.735	25.800	10.970
— Deliveries do. ..tons	26.575	23.712	13.139
— Stock ..tons	21.135	6.783	5.198
— Price, Bassein ..cwt	18 0	17 0	7/7½—8/0
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ..cwt.	17/6—21/0	15/0—21/0	14/0—17/6
Hay—Best ..2,016lb. load	120/0—135/0	85/0—90/0	77/6—87/6
Hops—English ..cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3—£5 5	£8 10—£9
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen. chilled hndqrs. 8lb	4/8—5/2	4/4—4/10	3/1—3/8
— Scotch sides ..8lb	5 2—5 4	4 10—5/2	4/4—4/10
— English ..8lb	4 8—5 2	4 6—4 10	3/8—4/3
Mutton—Scotch ..8lb	5 6—5/8	4/10—5/2	5/4—5/8
— English wethers ..8lb	5/4—5/8	4/8—5/0	4/8—5/2
— New Zealand frozen ..8lb	4/4—4 11	4/3—4 8	3/4—3/8
Pork—English ..8lb.	5/8—8/4	4/4—5/0	4/4—5/2
Bacon—Iriah ..cwt	93/0—105/0	70/0—78/0	68/0—77/6
— Danish ..cwt	98/0—105/0	68/0—74/0	66/0—75/0
Hams—Amer. long cut ..cwt	94/0—110/0	72/0—76/0	64/0—78/0
— — short cut ..cwt	94/0—98/0	72/0—76/0	67/0—74/0
Lard—Amer. pails ..cwt	59 0	54/6—56 6	57/0—57/6
Butter—Danish ..cwt.	178/0—182/0	141/0—144/0	137/0—130/0
— Siberian ..cwt.	100 0—140/0	114 0—122/0	88/0—112/0
— French ..cwt	116/0—130 0	108/0—128/0	100/0—126/0
— New Zealand ..cwt	130 0—168/0	128/0—132/0	124/0—128/0
— Australian ..cwt.	158/0—184/0	120/0—130 0	100/0—120/0
Cheese—Canadian ..cwt.	88/0—92/0	75/0—77/0	84/0—87/0
— New Zealand (white) ..cwt.	—	74/0—75 0	83.0—84/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	583.696	700.830	778.654
— Deliveries do. ..tons	766 473	717.414	780 647
— Stock ..tons	40 749	9.555	73.979
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ..cwt.	18/6	18/0	10/9
— — Mauritius, crystals ..cwt	nom	25/6—26/8	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ..cwt	40 6	31 0	18/0
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	59 645	45.185	35.248
— Home consumption do. ..tons	17.618	13.916	13.354
— Exports do. ..tons	21.316	24.545	19.780
— Stock ..tons	33.122	17.202	10.514
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt	75/0—85 0	75/0—85 0	82/0—89/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ..cwt	39 6	41 0	46/3
Tea—Imports ..(for 10 months) lb	344.915.042	254.426.726	279.173.871
— Home consumption do. ..lb	270.704.649	268.403.911	253.839.947
— Exports do. ..lb	47.943.000	58.203.848	47.946.878
— Stock, Oct. 31 ..lb.	132.685.000	84.544.000	112.832.000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb	8½	9	8½
— — Ceylon, Pek., Soug. Ord. ..lb.	8½	9½	8½
— — Common Congou ..lb.	7½	6½	4½—5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	91/0–93 0	62/0—63 0	68 0—67/0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Nov. 19	80	—	£2.975	— 426	46	168.876	+ 8.927
CorkBan.&S.C.	Nov. 19	103	—	2.159	— 69	46	97.343	+ 4.668
Dublin & S.E.	Nov. 19	160	—	3.348	— 1.665	46	257.061	+ 2.663
Gt. Northern	Nov. 19	561	—	19.786	— 3.415	46	1.071.545	+ 24.195
Gt.S.&Western	Nov. 19	1,130	—	31.879	— 2.571	46	1.539.725	+ 92.762
Mid. Gt. West.	Nov. 19	538	—	13.606	— 1.013	46	596.220	+ 10.511

. *On August* 5, 1914, *Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act*, 1871.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Oct. 16	882	+11	1.17.000	— 7.900	3	2.76.000	+ 12.280
Bard Light ...	Oct. 23	118	—	11.400	+ 2.300	4	5 81.700	— 23.700
Bengal & N.W.	Oct. 16	2.041	+12	2 83.840	— 1 586	3	6.22.300	— 14.342
Bengal Dooars	Oct. 23	163	—	29 636	— 5.786	4	1.08.062	+ 924
Beng. Nagpur	Oct. 23	2.685	+ 9	7 57 000	+ 63.000	30	2.23.22 562	+ 3.59.765
Bomb. Baroda	Nov. 20	2.859	+32	12 21.000	+ 22 000	8	84.17.000	+ 6.38 000
Burma	Oct. 16	1.342	—	3.23 489	+ 20 633	29	1.02.55 375	−10 85 312
East Indian ...	Nov. 20	2.716	—	20.58 000	- 2.000	8	1.43.27.000	− 3.43.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Nov. 20	3.05½	+78½	17.51.200	+ 1.79 800	8	1,11.72.850	+ 10.71.789
Madras & S.M.	Oct. 23	3.131½	−1½	7.60.000	+ 78 032	4	25.05.000	+ 2.16.899
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 16	797	—	1 69 485	+ 26.719	3	3.72.846	+ 22.211
Roh.&Kumaon	Oct. 16	545	+ 1	61 747	— 5.212	3	1.32.344	− 8.830
South Indian	Oct. 23	1,783	+10	5.47.110	+ 1.61.912	4	17.44 070	+ 2.97 530
South Punjab	M.of July	823	—	9.50.845	+ 2.79.360	4†	29.77.119	+ 3.18.670

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Nov. 21	7,280	— $	768 930	+ 257,400	7	6,074.700	+1.925.400
Can. Pacific...	Nov. 21	12.921	+602	2.96.0.000	+1.23.1.000	20	49 291 000	+ 3.339 000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Nov. 14	916	—	£38 112	+ 20.008	19	460 978	+ 77 959
Grand Trunk	Nov. 21	4.008	—	137 929	+ 4 500	46	7.217.210	− 498 759
Grd. Trunk W.	Nov. 21	336	—	40 603	+ 12.678	46	1.401 730	+ 86 539
Det. Grd. Ha.	Nov. 21	189	—	13.773	+ 2..94	46	509.415	+ 41.942
Mashonaland	M.ofSept.	761	—	52 800	+ 10.533	12†	501.481	− 230 139
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofSept.	277	—	5.653	− 2.359	3†	16.721	− 9.720
New CapeCent.	Oct. 23	205	—	1.397	+ 10	43	75 342	+ 768
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofSept.	1.397	—	74.243	+ 4.313	12†	788.930	− 235.997

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Nov. 20	33	— Ps.	15 000	− 5.000	47	566.200	− 29.560
Antofagasta ...	Nov. 21	819	— £	33 990	+ 13.530	47	1.134 540	− 293.945
Arauco	M.of July	84½	— £	6.750	+ 225	7†	44.625	− 10.649
Arg. N. East...	Nov. 20	752	+ 85 £	7.080	+ 3,080	21	139 666	+ 45.279
Arg. Transand.	Sept. 18	111	— £	290	— 10	12	2.370	− 1.210
Bolivar	M. of Oct.	110	— £	8 532	+ 4 321	4†	30.532	+ 9.402
Brazil	M.ofSept.	3.426	+ 64 M	3.498 000	+1076.517	9†	29 319.000	+1.264.594
Paulista.....	M.ofSept.	721	— M	3 210.000	+ 947 978	9†	20.150.000	+2.549 989
Mogyana ...	M.ofSept.	1.131	— M	2.395.000	+ 432 733	9†	17.474 000	+2.182 215
B.A. & Pacific	Nov. 20	3.536	+ 1 £	72.000	+ 1.000	21	1.609.000	+ 311.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Nov. 21	3.792	+ 63 £	119.000	+ 24.000	21	1.812.908	+ 345.967
B.A. Western	Nov. 21	1,867	+ 75 £	53.000	+ 7.000	21	926.000	+ 155.000
Cent.Argentine	Nov. 20	3.307	+ 46 £	111 500	+ 1,500	21	2.305.000	+ 259 400
Cent. Uruguay	Nov. 20	271	— £	13.390	+ 407	21	230 788	+ 48 338
,, (E. Ext.)	Nov. 20	311	— £	4 367	+ 366	21	73.769	+ 20.386
,, (N. Ext.)	Nov. 20	186	— £	2 645	+ 885	21	38.602	+ 10 314
,, (W. Ext.	Nov. 20	211	— £	1.997	— 335	21	35 42..	+ 8.231
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Oct.	86	— £	10.200	— 326	10†	104 242	+ 1.131
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Oct.	65½	— £	17 438	- 1.762	4†	82.473	− 8.227
Cord. Central	Nov. 20	1.166	— £	24 050	— 9.460	21	634 540	− 125.125
Cuban Central	Nov. 13	354	+ 9 £	7.876	+ 1.374	20	151.552	+ 23.691
Dorada Ext....	M.of Oct.	71	— £	7.100	— 100	10†	78.400	− 5.400
EgyptianDelta	Oct. 31	619	— 4 £	6.724	+ 1.056	29	94 038	− 16 770
Entre Rios...	Nov. 20	730	— £	10.500	+ 2.800	21	193 800	+ 35.500
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 6	104	— Ps.	60 334	— 14.562	45	2.650.257	− 298 879
Gt. W. Brazil	Nov. 20	1,010	— £	12.000	— 3.200	47	446.400	− 113.700
La Guaira&Ca.	M. of Oct.	23	— £	6.750	+ 1.500	10†	67.750	− 20.750
Leopoldina ...	Nov. 20	1.808	+ 20 £	31.544	+ 4,165	47	1.375.942	+ 12.659
Manila North	Nov. 20	315	+ 2 £	4 098	— 298	47	232 072	− 43.781
,, South	Nov. 29	266	+ 91 £	3.322	— 760	47	169 925	+ 12.171
Mid. Uruguay	M. of Oct.	318	— £	9.415	+ 2.296	4†	42.020	+ 10 518
Nitrate(2wks.)	Nov. 15	368	— £	21.028	+ 12.161	44	302.157	− 207.071
N.W. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	113	— $	22.000	+ 7.416	3†	68.500	+ 16.357
ParaguayCent.	Nov. 20	255	— c	531.000	+ 276.000	21	9.482.000	+4.462.000
Peruvian Corp.	M. of Oct.	1,059	— d	806.900	+ 176.180	4†	3.108 057	+ 232.398
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	— £	2.792	+ 637	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Nov. 20	100	— $	23.750	+ 9.750	21	395.850	+ 51.694
San Paulo.....	Nov. 14	153½	— £	41.456	+ 6.164	20	735.753	+ 182.435
Taltal	M. of Oct.	164	— £	17.708	+ 7.538	4†	65.461	+ 2.648
U. of Havana	Nov. 20	681	— £	26 987	+ 6.040	21	505.205	+ 113.256
Urug.Northern	M. of Oct.	73	— £	1.617	+ 520	4†	6.744	+ 1.822
W. of Havana	Nov. 20	147	— £	4.586	— 87	21	98.744	− 6.265
Zafra & Hlva.	M.of Oct.	112	— £	11.346	+ 1.694	10†	84.319	− 41.591

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'g	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Nov. 18	369½	+21½	$ 51.294	— 1.165	46	2.344.678	− 136 061
Auckland(4wks)	Oct. 22	25½	—	£ 20.831	+ 1.054	13	83.126	− 2.031
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	M.	6.494.000	+397.060	9†	57.457.110	+2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306 954	+ 18.333
Bristol.....	Nov. 19	31	—	£ 9.596	+ 1.950	46	441.539	+ 43 695
BritishColumbia	M.of Sept.	242	+ 6½	$ 517.022	−133.494	3†	1.534.871	− 480.480
Calcutta	Nov. 20	36½	—	R 61.554	+ 532	47	30.23.951	− 59.528
Cape Electric...	M. of Oct.	42·3	—	£ 17.370	+ 1.316	4†	68.569	+ 6.591
Carth. & Herr...	M. of Oct.	9	—	£ 2.169	+ 626	10†	17.749	− 4.939
Cork Electric...	Nov. 11	9½	—	£ 1.403	+ 120	46	50.270	− 80
Dublin United	Nov. 19	64½	—	£ 5.513	+ 144	46	282.054	+ 10,702
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.984.501	− 90.930
Isle of Thanet...	Nov. 20	12½	− 6	£ 218	− 40	7	2.036	− 751
Kalgoorlie	M.of Aug.	20½	—	£ 3.165	+ 123	8†	22.118	+ 1,003
Lanarkshire ..	Nov. 18	28½	—	£ 1.904	+ 282	46	91.391	+ 4.858
Madras Electric	Nov. 15	—	—	R 29.441	+ 6 802	45	6.18.324	+ 32.148
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1,100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Nov. 20	21½	—	£ 1.945	+ 153	7	15.313	+ 864
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
U.of Montevideo	M.of Oct.	90	—	£ 27.167	+ 667	12†	330.683	− 30.882
Yorks.W.Riding	Nov. 21	24½	—	£ 1.420	+ 142	47	74.341	+ 6.822

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 247,809 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‡) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net	+ or −*
478 Cos. (000's omitted)	Aug.	(e) $279.891	+ $5 273	$99.713	+ $10.039
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	(f) *542,839*	+ *7,597*	*187,398*	+ *19,890*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Sept.	408 000	—	119.000	+ 50.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,208,000*	— *78,000*	*371,000*	+ *89,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Oct.	150.000	+ 10.000	34.000	+ 18.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*537,000*	— *14,000*	*99,000*	+ *35,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Oct.	377.000	+ 90.000	121.000	+ 81.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*1,256,000*	+ *25,000*	*329,000*	+ *166,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Oct.	164.000	+ 26.000	33.000	+ 20.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*531,000*	+ *5,000*	*90,000*	+ *32,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Sept	10.795.000	+ 158.000	3.639.000	+ 3.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*32,121,000*	+ *1,707,000*	*10,589,000*	+ *687,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Sept.	2.380 000	+ 173.000	440.000	− 349.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*6 554,000*	− *385,000*	*764,000*	− *255,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Oct.	10.004.000	+ 2.048.000	3.161.000	+ 1.203.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*37 642,000*	+ *4,055,000*	*12,827,000*	+ *3,155,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Oct.	3 678 500	+ 1.100.200	1.257 000	+ 537.800
Canadian Pacific..... b	Sept.	10 273.000	− 481.000	4 745.000	+ 378.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*26 970,000*	− *4,184,000*	*10,988,000*	− *521,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Sept.	4.045.000	+ 531.000	1.521.000	+ 398.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*11.661,000*	+ *1,384,000*	*4 264,000*	+ *1,040,000*
Chicago & N. Western.. a	Sept.	8 406.000	+ 308.000	2 837.000	+ 369.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*23 534,000*	− *306,000*	*6 847,000*	− *192,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy... b	Sept.	8 907.000	+ 327.000	3.773.000	+ 388.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*24,428,000*	− *755,000*	*9,116,000*	− *537,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Sept.	1.264.000	− 83.000	380.000	− 67.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*3,614,000*	− *125,000*	*953,000*	− *130,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul.. a	Sept.	9.261.000	+ 21.000	3 368.000	+ 159.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*25,766,000*	+ *511,000*	*8 689,000*	+ *939,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Aug.	6.385.000	− 283.000	1.273.000	− 335.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*12,051,000*	− *652,000*	*1,931,000*	− *687,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Sept.	1.734.000	+ 13.000	479.000	− 23.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*4,666,000*	- *344,000*	*1,216,000*	− *274,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Sept.	3.613.000	+ 244.000	1.15?.000	+ 258.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*27,382,000*	+ *915,000*	*5,808,000*	+ *2,923,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Sept.	1.3 9.000	+ 100.000	422.000	+ 88.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*3,685,000*	+ *139,000*	*965,000*	+ *136,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Sept.	412.000	+ 98.000	169.000	+ 47.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*1,248,000*	+ *208,000*	*576,000*	+ *161,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Sept.	2.073.000	+ 4.000	827 000	+ 46.000
8 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*14,957,000*	+ *108,000*	*4,900,000*	+ *558,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Sept	2.444.000	+ 155.000	1.008.000	+ 290.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*6 6.9,000*	+ *307,000*	*2,281,000*	+ *626,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Sept.	8.254.000	+ 747.000	2.422.000	+ 988.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*47,486,000*	+ *2,629,000*	*12,889,000*	+ *2,995,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Sept	£868 630	− £25.700	£255 100	+ £23 850
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*6,453 ,56*	− *503,700*	*1,769,350*	+ *74,750*
Grand Trunk Western a	Sept.	137 650	+ 12.050	46.150	+ 34 250
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,1 0,750*	+ *26,000*	*130,950*	+ *97,300*
Great Northern	Sept.	$7.892.000	− $219.000	$4.040 000	− $293.000
3 *mos*	*to* Sept	*19,882,000*	− *1,955,000*	*9,029,000*	− *1,429,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Sept.	660.000	− 71.000	295.000	+ 1.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,873,000*	− *40,000*	*831,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Sept.	5.767.000	+ 227.000	1.327.000	+ 68.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*16,165,000*	- *665,000*	*2,982,000*	− *244,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Oct.	977.000	+ 97.000	381.000	+ 137.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct	*3 4.6,000*	− *82,000*	*1,308,000*	+ *213,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Oct.	4 639 000	+ 529.000	1.370.000	+ 17.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*16 097,000*	+ *716 000*	*4 6.9,000*	+ *115,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Sept.	4 862.000	+ 260.000	1 488.000	+ 522.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*13,976,000*	− *114,000*	*4,001,000*	+ *967,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Sept.	3.342.000	+ 201.000	1.097.000	+ 159.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*26 193 000*	+ *911,000*	*6,325,000*	+ *1,177,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systems a	Sept.	3.099.000	+ 170.000	1.267.000	+ 133.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*8 627,000*	+ *152,000*	*2,860 000*	+ *345,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Sept.	2.627.000	− 66 000	685.000	− 35.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*7,797,000*	− *311,000*	*1,734,000*	− *208,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Sept.	5.228.000	− 200.000	1.217.000	− 370.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*15,102,000*	− *932,000*	*3 709,000*	− *1,078,000*
New York Central..... a	Sept.	15 342.000	+ 1.455.000	5.570.000	+ 1.720.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*119,216,000*	+ *5,276,000*	*33,052,000*	+ *10,593,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Sept.	6.313.000	+ 511.000	2.162.000	+ 382.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*18,824,000*	− *1,5 .,000*	*6,470,000*	+ *1,497,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Sept.	728.000	− 94.000	186.000	− 2.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*2,602,000*	− *214,000*	*916,000*	+ *4,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Sept.	4.790.000	+ 687.000	1.896.000	+ 550.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*13,986,000*	+ *2,137,000*	*5 398,000*	+ *1,661,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Sept.	6.768.000	+ 35.000	3 051.000	+ 578.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*18,194,000*	− *407,000*	*6,676,000*	+ *986,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Sept.	23.543.000	+ 1.632.000	7.274.000	+ 1.562.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*182,674,000*	− *837,000*	*41,327,000*	+ *4,889,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Sept.	11 927.000	+ 1.241.000	3.970.000	+ 1.141.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*85.642,000*	− *43,000*	*19,319,000*	+ *3,066,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Sept.	3.889.000	+ 169.000	1 085.000	+ 49.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*29,466,000*	− *481,000*	*6,052 000*	+ *223,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Sept.	4.462.000	+ 171.000	1.766.000	+ 312.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*12,775,000*	+ *533,000*	*4,522,000*	+ *715,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Sept.	2.125.000	− 672.000	Def. 24.000	− 232.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*5,916,000*	− *1,151,000*	Def *229,000*	− *319,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Aug.	3.753 000	− 91.000	1.121.000	− 12.000
2 *mos.*	*to* Aug.	*7,303,000*	− *357,000*	*2,108,000*	− *32,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Sept.	1.695.000	+ 119.000	403.000	+ 100.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*4,899,000*	− *200,000*	*1,127,000*	+ *27,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1.341.000	4.738.000	+ 829.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*39,453,000*	+ *4,207,000*	*13,928,000*	+ *3,382,000*
Southern ..... a	Sept.	5.617.000	+ 107.000	1.679.000	+ 841.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*16,141,000*	− *762,000*	*4,387,000*	+ *1,075,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Sept.	9.162.000	− 11.000	3.928.000	+ 4.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*25,445,000*	+ *255,000*	*10,179,000*	+ *124,000*
Wabash ..... b	Sept.	2.876.000	+ 228.000	933.000	+ 181.000
3 mos.	*to* Sept.	*8,111,000*	+ *22,000*	*2,346,000*	− *13,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Sept.	681.000	+ 85.000	[illegible].000	+ 98.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,105,000*	+ *393,000*	*826,000*	+ *414,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Oct. 31	$191.000	+ $65.000	17	$1.681.000	+$ 19.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 14	862.000	+ 155.000	19	17.115.000	+1.993.000
Chicago Great Western	Nov. 14	351.000	+ 65.000	19	5.541.000	− 187.000
Colorado & Southern	Oct. 31	602.000	+ 18.000	7	5.121.000	+ 184.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Nov. 21	522.000	+ 94.000	19	10.780.000	+ 772.000
Great Northern	M.of Oct.	8.872.000	+1.083.000	4†	28.754.000	− 872.000
Illinois Central	M.ofSept.	5.757.000	+ 227.000	3†	16.165.000	− 805.000
Louisville & Nashville	Nov. 14	1.189,000	+ 227.000	19	21.328.000	+ 637.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Nov. 7	932,000	+ 295.000	18	12.405.000	+ 819.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Nov. 14	695.000	+ 45.000	19	12.031.000	− 620.000
Missouri Pacific	Nov. 21	1.329.000	+ 172.000	19	24.709.000	− 313.000
Southern Railway	Nov. 14	1,568,000	+ 170.000	19	24.885.000	+ 34.000

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W. A. BOWIE, London Manager.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1915.

MEETING EXPENDITURE.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE export of gold this week has not been nearly as heavy as last week, and the gold shipped abroad has been provided by gold received from abroad. Moreover, the American exchange has been firmly maintained, and is now in the neighbourhood of 4.70, or at a discount of only about 3¼%. The strength of the American exchange is the result of the recent Government Loan in the United States, which is now available for the payment of Government purchases in that country, and the creation of a banking credit in New York for account of British bankers for a much larger amount than the figure we stated last week. The Committee in charge of the London end of the transaction consists of Lord Cunliffe, Sir Edward Holden, and Sir Felix Schuster; while the New York Committee comprises Messrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, National City Bank (chairman); James S. Alexander, National Bank of Commerce; Charles H. Sabin, Guaranty Trust Company; Seward Prosser, Bankers' Trust Company; George M. Reynolds, Continental and Commercial Bank of Chicago; Robert Y. Hebden, New York agent for the Bank of Montreal; William H. Porter, J. P. Morgan and Company; John E. Gardin, National City Bank; and Frederick I. Kent, Bankers' Trust Company. This banking credit is to be supplanted by, or rather is in anticipation of, the formation of a much more extensive credit based upon the sale or deposit of a large quantity of American securities. It is hoped that the amount of this latter credit will eventually reach a very large sum.

The preliminary steps to obtain the deposit of the necessary securities have already been taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Conferences are reported to have been held on Friday of last week between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and representatives of British insurance offices, and also with representatives of British trust companies having substantial holdings of American securities. The proposals put before these conferences have not been officially announced, but it is understood that holders of American securities who agree to lend them will receive a certificate of deposit carrying with it interest at the rate of ½% per annum over and above the rate of interest given by the securities deposited. At any time holders would have the right to sell their securities, and the certificates of deposit would also be negotiable. These terms are so very attractive that private investors who own the greater part of the American securities in this country will doubtless take immediate advantage of any such offer that may be made to lend their securities under Government guarantee. Of course, it will be obvious to everyone that the sale of American securities by holders for the purpose of adjusting the exchange is much to be preferred to the deposit of securities with American bankers as collateral for loans. In the latter case the money is obtained for the purpose of meeting the exchange situation at once and without any arrangement with bankers becoming necessary. Moreover, when securities are sold they are, generally speaking, transferred from British investors to American investors, whose power to purchase them is practically unlimited. Roughly speaking, the power of American investors to buy securities, apart altogether from their power to invest in other forms of property, is anything from £600,000,000 to £800,000,000 a year, and were British investors to sell some of their securities this great fund would be tapped. When, however, the securities are used as collateral for banking loans the funds available for such a purpose are limited by the amount of free money that American bankers possess. Banking deposits in the United States grow much more quickly than in this country, but in comparison with the investing fund of the American nation the banking fund is a relatively insignificant sum, and, in carrying out a transaction where perhaps a hundred millions sterling or even more is involved, it would be much better to obtain the money of American investors than the funds of American bankers. Of course whatever method is the more practicable must be adopted, but we would ask British holders of American securities to note that in selling part of their holding at the present time they will render valuable service to their country by providing the means of paying for the great quantities of produce and munitions which this nation and its Allies are buying from the United States.

When the proposals which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to make to investors, insurance companies, trust companies, and others are matured it is probable they will embrace two methods of procedure: (1) the deposit of securities to be used as collateral for a banking loan from the United States; and (2) the sale of securities for the purpose of adjusting the exchange. We hope that the patriotism of investors will induce them to provide the Chancellor with all the securities he needs, and that they will realise that of the two methods the sale of securities will be of much greater benefit to the nation than the loan of securities.

There has been a great deal of discussion as to how many American securities we still hold in this country, but whether the smaller or the larger estimates are accepted it is evident that we hold sufficient to pay for all the goods we may buy from the United States for two or three years, that is if British investors will consent to lend or to sell their securities for the purpose of meeting the country's payments.

Another matter with indirect bearings upon the exchange situation, but nevertheless one of great fundamental importance, is the attention which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is giving to the matter of national thrift, and the endeavour he is making to induce all classes of the community to curtail their expenditures and to provide the money needed for the War in much larger measure out of income. In announcing that a sum of £5,000,000 has been subscribed for the last War Loan through the sale of scrip vouchers and scrip certificates, which arrangement comes to an end on December 1, the Chancellor of the Exchequer referred to a plan that is now under consideration for the issue of bonds in multiples of £1, carrying interest at 5% cashable on demand at face value at any time. In order, however, to induce holders not to cash the bonds unless absolutely necessary, it was proposed that they should carry no interest for the first six months. This plan is not final, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer merely announced it in order to invite public discussion. Although, as far as we can gather, the plan has not been received with any great amount of warmth, as the absence of interest for the first six months seems likely to make the bonds not sufficiently attractive to the working classes, nevertheless, the important matter is that the question is now under discussion

of discovering a method of inducing the working classes, who are now receiving unusually high wages, to set aside part of their income by subscribing for bonds, and thus to provide a portion of the great sum of money needed for the War. If the present proposal should prove to be not quite generous enough, the discussion which the Chancellor has invited will probably bring other proposals which will be acceptable to the working classes. Therefore we may hope that in future wage-earners will make much greater provision for themselves against the period of depression that will come when the War is over, and the nation has again to live well within its income. By doing this they will contribute a much larger sum to the War expenditures. Moreover, in proportion as wage-earners and others keep down their expenditures, imports will be reduced, exports will increase, and the trade balance will tend to adjustment.

Beyond all these matters, which indicate clearly that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government are devoting themselves earnestly to the question of providing the money needed for the conduct of the War and the adjustment of the exchanges, the announcement has been made that a National Labour Conference on economy will be held next Wednesday between representatives of the Government and the wage-earners of the country, and that at this Conference Mr. Asquith will deal with the general situation, and Mr. McKenna with the purely financial side of economy and will ask the assistance of the Union to forward his War Loan Savings campaign, and that Mr. Runciman will discuss the wage problem as well as the important question of fixing food prices.

We attach a great deal of importance to this Conference, which will give the Government the opportunity not only of addressing labour but the country on matters of crucial importance. It is evident that a great many people realise the nature of the work that has to be done, and are doing their very best to assist the nation to perform that work. It is also evident that vast numbers of persons of all classes and ranks are paying very little attention to the financial and economic problems of the country, and by their heedlessness are not only doing nothing to assist their country to meet its great war expenses, but are diminishing the power to make these expenditures, by unnecessary outlays of all kinds and descriptions, outlays which add to the aggregate consumption of the country and help to bring about our great imports.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have again and again made it clear that not only can the country not be as extravagant as usual, but must be much less extravagant, and the latter, in placing before the House this week his suggestion for inducing the working classes to save, made the following statement, which should be read and digested by every citizen:—

"Extravagant expenditure in any class cannot be tolerated at the present time, and this truth must be appreciated by the public. If the community will save all that part of the national income which need not be spent, such saving will strengthen our national finances during the War, and will benefit the individual after the War and during the possible stress of a return to normal conditions. Economy in expenditure is vitally necessary. The nation must be made to understand this, and a suitable instrument must be devised by means of which we may avail ourselves of the nation's savings."

Thus the course of events throughout the past week—the negotiations for the acquisition of a large amount of American securities for exchange purposes, the proposed plan for the issue of £1 bonds, and the arrangements for a National Labour Conference at which leading Ministers will speak—has been in the direction of assisting the nation to meet its great War expenses, and at the same time to adjust its foreign trade balance.

THE FRENCH LOAN.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued this week of the new French loan for an indefinite amount in the form of 5% Perpetual Rentes. The price of issue is 88, and the loan is made free of all taxation. Inasmuch as the French exchange upon London is now 27.80½, against the normal 25.22½, the net return to English holders is much greater than the nominal return. Roughly speaking, the price in sovereigns is about 80%, and the yield afforded is about 6¼%. Of course this yield is based on the expectation that eventually the French exchange will return to par, and that interest on the new loan will be paid at an exchange rate of about 25.22½. The issue of this loan is another indication of the financial recovery of France since the early days of the War. At the beginning of the War the rapid advance of the German Army on Paris threw the country into confusion, and it was only possible to finance the Governmental expenditures by loans from the Bank of France and the issue of Bank of France Notes. As time went on, however, and the invader was driven back, it became possible to issue short-term obligations, called Obligation de la Défense Nationale and Bons de la Défense Nationale. Now the improvement in financial conditions is so great that the Government is able to make a great loan in 5% Perpetual Rentes. How much money will be raised by the loan cannot, of course, be predicted, but it is evident that the sum will be very large, apart altogether from the amount issued for conversion purposes. Up to the present time the money borrowed by France for the War has been about £850,000,000. The amount of the existing War indebtedness is as follows:—

War Debt of France.

	Francs.
Advances by the Bank of France	7,300,000,000
French Treasury bonds discounted by the Bank of France for advances by the State to foreign Governments	560,000,000
3½% Loan of July 1914	462,263,000
Bons de la Defense Nationale	8,353,000,000
Obligation de la Defense Nationale	3,659,000,000
Treasury Bills placed abroad:	
England	1,028,967,000
United States	135,716,000
Anglo-French Loan in U.S.	1,250,000,000
Total	22,748,955,000

CANADIAN LOAN.

THE prospectus has been issued this week of Canada's first War Loan, the amount of which is for $50,000,000, bearing interest at 5% and issued at 97½%. The subscriptions already received reach a very large total, and it is understood that the loan has been fully subscribed. The issue of this loan indicates the very great change that has come over the financial condition of Canada during the past year, and reflects the wealth accruing to the country from the bumper crops of this year. In our issue of November 6 we showed that in the current season Canada will have a very large sum of money available for purposes other than normal, and pointed out that possibly the country would be able to buy back some of its own securities from this country. If, however, the greater wealth of Canada enables the country to meet a large part, if not the whole, of its War expenses, the work effected in assisting the Empire at the present time will be equally noteworthy as it will mean that Great Britain will not require to lend as much money to its Colonies for War purposes as was expected. There is no doubt whatever that the loan will be a very great success, and probably when the whole of the money has been expended Canada will be in a position to raise a new loan in order to meet further expenditures. No greater object-lesson could be given concerning the possibilities of Canada which is now able to raise a substantial sum of money for War purposes, although a large part of the capital it has spent upon its development in recent years has yet to become productive.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE'S FIGHTING STRENGTH.

Probably every General Staff in Europe, and we may add America, knows to a nicety the existing strength of the British Army. But it is deemed wise by the gentlemen who control our affairs at present to keep concealed from the British public what is known to all foreign Governments. So long as they hold that opinion, of course, it is proper for British journalists to accept the fiction, and to pretend that nobody knows what the actual strength of the British Army is. At all events, we deem ourselves bound not to proclaim what the Government tells us it wishes not to be told. But we may point out certain things which Ministers have occasionally let out. To begin with, it will be recollected that the actual force with the Colours just before hostilities began, including all the garrisons of every kind, did not quite amount to 200,000 men. But in a recent speech Mr. Asquith himself told us that whereas we were able to send to the relief of Belgium when war broke out no more than six divisions of infantry and two of cavalry, we have, or we had when he was speaking, over a million of men in France and Belgium. Furthermore, everybody who walks about and keeps his eyes and his ears open knows that all over the United Kingdom there are immense masses of men actually under training. In addition to this, it is matter of common knowledge that there is a large British as well as French force attempting to force the Dardanelles; that there is a British expedition assisting the French in defending Serbia; that there is a British Army which has just won a brilliant victory near Baghdad; that, in addition, there is a large garrison both in Egypt and in India; and, lastly, that every position of any importance, like Gibraltar and Malta, is well and fully garrisoned. Over and above all this, we are hurrying on further enlistment as if we believed that we were still much short of the Army we desired to put in the field. We are, then, not in any way telling tales to the enemy when we say that our land forces of all kinds at home and abroad at the present time must number something between three and four millions. Practically all these, except the 200,000 Regulars and their reserves which existed in peace time, have been raised within the last 16 months. Furthermore, nearly four millions of men have been enrolled, equipped, and trained in 16 months without the application of force in any form. It is an exploit which none of us would have believed possible two years ago; and it is a feat which, say what they may, our friends and our enemies alike are astounded to see accomplished. Mainly, the vast armed forces now being assembled have been drawn from the white population of the Empire. We are aware of the splendid service that has been rendered by our Indian troops. But India has not been drawn upon to anything like the extent that she might be, nay, more, to anything like the extent she wished to be. The ruling princes, the great nobles, the local governing bodies have all volunteered help in any form that might be desirable. And scarcely any acceptance has followed. Indian troops are doing splendid service in India, in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, and elsewhere. But the little use that has been made of Indian loyalty is one of the amazing things which make us doubt whether our rulers have any real conception of the nature of our Empire or any clear idea of how audacious enemies can, and ought to be, dealt with.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of India amounted to 315 millions. Now, if we were to accept in their literal sense the offers made by the ruling princes and great feudatories of India and call for only 1% of the population, that is to say, one man of proper fighting physical qualities out of every hundred of the total population, we should get an army of 3,150,000. There are military writers of considerable reputation who maintain that Germany has raised 10 millions of men. According to the German Census of the other day, her population was slightly under 65 millions. Therefore, if Germany enrolled 10 millions of men in her Army she took very nearly two men out of every thirteen men, women, and children in the community. Whereas if India furnished only one man in every hundred men, women, and children she would give us 3,150,000, which, added to the armies we have at present, would very nearly raise the whole British land forces to the level of the entire French land forces, though France is fighting for her very life, and we are free even from the fear of an enemy landing on our shores. We do not ourselves believe that Germany ever had 10 millions of men under arms, or that, in fact, she could keep 10 millions of men for any length of time employed in pure soldiering. What is the most striking feature of the present War is that Germany not only had been working as hard as she could ever since 1870 in preparation for this War, but that she has since the War itself began shown that she had scarcely reduced by a single individual the number of men employed in production for the War. She has been able to carry armies from France to Poland and back again as often as she pleased, and in as large numbers as she dared, showing that not only her railway staff was absolutely complete, but that the production of coal was carried on as largely and as fully as in peace time. Furthermore, she has from time to time astonished the world by such new modes of warfare as asphyxiating gas, showing that all her engineering works and chemical works are as fully manned as ever. In short, Germany has surprised careful observers not by her strategy, nor even by the valour of her soldiers, but by the completeness with which she has carried on every kind of productive industry that was required for the most efficient employment of her armies. That is the really striking thing in the German procedure. No doubt the fact that she occupied Belgium and so large a part of France enabled her to compel her conquered enemies to work for her. But even Germany, which the professors used to hold up to the world as a general example of efficiency—even Germany, we say, cannot make unskilled men do the work of skilled men. Germany employed French and Belgians in certain ways, but certainly not in the skilled branches of her Army and those that supply her Army.

In all reasonable probability Germany has never had more than seven millions, or at the outside eight millions, of men in her armies. Yet Mr. Bonar Law told us the other day that France has seven millions at the present time. To all intents and purposes, then, France, England, and Italy have considerably more men under arms than the enemy. We are leaving entirely out of account the Russians, with their 21½ millions of men capable of bearing arms. We are, then, largely superior in numbers to our enemy, and when the time comes that fact will be shown in the most striking way. But hitherto, for reasons which need not be gone into here, we have not been in a position to use these numbers. It is probable that during the winter very little may be done. With common sense and a little strategic ability we ought to be able to crush Bulgaria and to settle definitely the Austro-German armies sent to invade Serbia. Then we ought to be able to induce Roumania and Greece to join with us and to capture both Buda-Pesth and Vienna. In that case, there would remain for Russia and England practically only the reconquest of Poland and the capture of Constantinople. We have shown that one man out of every 100 men, women, and children raised in India would give us an army of 3,150,000 men, which would be far more than would be required. Even half that force would probably dispose of the Turks and all their pretensions. There is a school amongst us which nothing ever yet has taught, and which, apparently is incapable of being taught by any amount of experience. We have had fears of [illegible]

from time out of mind whenever we had an enemy abroad. And now we find Ireland fighting by our side loyally and with enthusiasm. Only about a dozen years ago we were actually fighting the South African Republics, and now South Africa is as proud of her position in the Empire, and as ready to fight the Empire's battles, as even the British themselves. Yet there are people who shake their heads and look scared when you talk of employing over three millions of Indians in fighting the battles of the Empire. As a real matter of fact, there would be no more certain way of convincing the Indians that we have taken them for good and for evil as our partners, and that the Empire and its advantages will be theirs as well as ours.

GREECE AND THE WAR.

Neither the Note addressed by the Entente Allies to Greece nor the reply of the latter has, as we write, been published. Therefore the less said about it the better, since we are bound to take for granted that the Powers have reasons for not making known the whole correspondence. There is less need for comment since we are assured that Greece has conceded all the demands of the Powers. If so, we are bound to presume that she has done everything that is really necessary. For it is hardly conceivable that the Powers would have asked less than is requisite. Whether Greece takes part in the conflict is a matter of comparatively small importance, since our readers are well aware that the Entente Allies are numerically so immensely stronger than their enemies that there can be no difficulty on their part in preparing such an expedition to defend Serbia; or, if that has come too late, for revenging Serbia and clearing the enemy out of her territory as may be needed. On the other hand, it would be vain to deny that the assistance both of Greece and of Roumania would greatly shorten the War. Unfortunately, Bulgaria is practically a bulwark against the attack upon the Turks. A considerable Russian Army, we are told, is assembled to protect Serbia, but Roumania blocks the way. Similarly time has been spent by the Entente Allies in obtaining the concessions demanded from Greece. If, then, Roumania and Greece were to allow the Allies to pass through their territories, and still better if they were to assist the Allies in compelling Bulgaria to lay down her arms and in subduing the Turks, we might hope that the War would very quickly come to an end. Still, as we have said, the matter is of comparatively small importance since it is only now that the British Empire is really prepared for seriously engaging in the War. France is at the very zenith of her fighting strength. Russia is only now obtaining a sufficient supply of munitions. And Italy, until the present moment, has had a very serious task in the Trentino. We are now, therefore, all in a position to tackle our difficulties seriously, and it is really a matter of greater concern for the Balkan Powers themselves than for the Entente Allies whether they join or not.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the German propagandists and the unwise partisanship of certain parties among ourselves, Germany and Austria-Hungary are but very ill-provided for a prolongation of the War. Without entering upon a detailed estimate of the strength of their present armies, it is enough to remind the reader that the two Central European Empires are fighting not only in Belgium and in France, but also in Galicia, in Russian Poland, and now in the Balkans. The enormous extent of front which they are called upon thus to hold against attack is almost unprecedented. They have called up, or are calling up, all their reserves of every kind. They have a serious Russian winter to face, and, in contradistinction to all this, the British Empire and Russia are now for the first time becoming fully prepared. Within sixteen months the British Government has enrolled, armed, and trained something between three and four millions of men to call upon. And Italy, hitherto having confined herself to her own frontiers, is now about to extend her operations. Considering the position in which our enemies stand and the advantages which we, on the other hand, possess, it is clear that the longer the struggle goes on the more absolutely and literally ruinous will it be for our enemies. In saying this, we are indulging in no braggadocio. We do not in the least deny that a protraction of the War is a very serious matter for every belligerent, however strong. But the Entente belligerents, though they will suffer, can bear the strain, whereas the two Central European Empires cannot. They have practically thrown away their really efficient troops. They are now calling out very young boys and old men, and, with the Russian winter to face, the consequences to them will be serious indeed. Even for their sake it would be a great advantage if the War could be rapidly brought to an end. Peace, of course, is out of the question unless we are able to dictate our own terms to the two Central European Empires. That is a foregone conclusion. But it would be better for the two Central European Empires in the long run to have to submit sooner rather than later, because every week now that the War is continued the manhood of Germany and Austria-Hungary is being exterminated. For that reason more than any other it would be desirable if Greece and Roumania were to unite with the Entente Powers to compel Bulgaria to lay down her arms, and then to push as quickly as possible upon Buda-Pesth and Vienna. The taking of Constantinople would, as a matter of course, be accomplished. But we ourselves, as we show elsewhere, have abundance of resources to effect that.

THE BALKAN OUTLOOK.

It is greatly to be feared that the Serbians are being pushed very hard, and that practically they will have to suffer as the Belgians and the Poles have suffered before sufficiently powerful Allied reinforcements are sent up to relieve them. Practically almost all Old Serbia has been occupied by the enemy, and Novi Bazar is in danger of sharing the same fate. How soon the Allied reinforcements will come up we are not told, and it would be futile to guess. It is said that the Greek Government has given all the pledges required from it respecting the treatment of British and French troops should they be compelled to fall back from Serbia into Greek territory. But we had better wait for full official information regarding such matters. Had Greece and Roumania thrown in their lot with the Allies at an earlier date they would not only have greatly served their own interests, but in all probability they would have prevented Bulgaria from joining the enemy; and, therefore, they would have secured Serbia against actual invasion. However, there is no use in bewailing either past mistakes or past misunderstandings. The real question is: How soon will the Allies be able to send sufficient reinforcements to hurl back the enemy from Serbia? It ought not to take a very long time, and yet everything seems to indicate it will not be done in a hurry. Russia, as we pointed out last week, had when hostilities broke out a total male population capable of bearing arms of very nearly 21 millions. Granting that her losses during the recent campaigns have been heavier than is generally supposed, and that even yet she has not been able to provide herself with the requisite munitions of every kind, yet it is simply incredible that she cannot afford an army sufficient to at least equal the Bulgarians. We are told that Russia herself is using every effort to supply herself fully with munitions. We hear from Japan that the Japanese have supplied Russia with immense quantities of munitions, and are promising to continue the same good offices in the future. We know that con-

siderable quantities of munitions have been furnished both by this country and by the United States. Therefore, it seems difficult to believe that Russia cannot get together 300,000 or 400,000 men to save the Serbians from the fate of the Belgians. If Russia could send 300,000 or 400,000 to increase the forces forwarded by the British Empire and by France, and if, in addition, Italy furnished a contingent, it ought to be possible not merely to bring Bulgaria to her senses, but to drive back the Germans and the Austrians, and to march rapidly, first, upon Buda-Pesth, and then upon Vienna. Germany is at the present time occupying nearly the whole of Belgium and a large portion of France. She is also in possession of Russian Poland. And now she is making an attempt to overrun and destroy Serbia. Yet Germany never has had ten millions of men under arms. She has been fighting since the beginning of August of last year; practically for almost sixteen months. She is said to have thrown away life in the most reckless manner, hurling immense masses of men against the enemy so as to force their way by sheer weight of numbers. Her losses are reputed to be enormous, both upon the Eastern front and upon the Western. And yet she is not merely retaining the ground she has taken possession of, but we are asked to believe that not merely is it impossible for the Entente Allies to beat her back, but that to send an expedition to the Balkans is to fly in the face of all good strategy, and to risk the really main points for the sake of only minor points. If Germany had control of as many capable soldiers as Russia we could understand the argument. But when Germany and Austria combined have not as many men capable of bearing arms as Russia alone, the contention seems to us not worth listening to. Unquestionably Germany had three great advantages over her adversaries. She had been preparing for generations, and she thought that she had so completely prepared that she could strike down her nearest adversaries in the course of a few weeks. Secondly, she had provided herself with an admirable system of strategic railways by means of which she was able to transfer any number of troops she thought proper from the West to the East or from the East to the West. Thirdly, by her utter disregard of all obligations of every kind—moral, religious, and legal—she got possession of large territories both in the West and in the East, and she has compelled the male populations left behind to work for her. By these means there is no doubt that she has made her own male population go much farther than it could have gone under ordinary circumstances. But allowing for everything, it is childish to say that the Entente Powers cannot with ordinary common-sense and ordinary organising power provide forces sufficient to crush both Turkey and Bulgaria, and then to smash both Austria and Germany.

"Income Tax Tables, 1915-16." Twenty-nine tables, compiled by A. G. R. Brown and T. Fraser. Price 1*s.* 6*d.* (Edinburgh: Geo. Stewart.)

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.—The annual general court of proprietors of the Royal Bank of Scotland was held on November 24, Mr. E. A. Davidson, the senior director, in the chair. The Chairman, in moving the approval of the report of the directors for the year ending October 9, 1915, drew attention to the increase of over 2 millions in the deposits on last year's figures—the amount having now reached record at upwards of 19 millions—and, whilst expressing gratification that the year's profits had also shown a highly satisfactory increase, stated that the directors regretted that the usual bonus of 1% was being withheld, owing to the necessity of providing for the depreciation which had taken place in the Bank's investments—an experience common to all banking and financial institutions in these times. A dividend was declared for the half-year at the rate of 10% per annum, subject to deduction of income tax.

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Financial Notes.

WE are glad to note that while so much of the Press is writing in a spirit to discourage the public, feeling in the City is decidedly improving. City men fully recognise that Germany has failed. Her chance, since she alone was fully prepared and her adversaries were all unprepared, was in the position in which she could have struck such fatal blows against one or two of her adversaries as would have compelled those who received the blows to make peace on almost any terms. Now Germany's preparations have failed. Her immense strength did not succeed. She is on the downward grade. Her soldiery is decreasing in numbers, while her enemies are greatly increasing. Consequently, though, as Mr. Churchill said the other day, things may become worse before they are better, still Germany has failed, and the success of the Entente Allies is assured.

In the United States there is also a better feeling, and there is a much stronger desire just now than there has been hitherto to make a serious effort for obtaining a larger portion of the world's trade. We make no doubt that American efforts will be attended by a great deal of success. The United States, happily for itself, is at peace with all the world. It has had several exceedingly good seasons. It has not engaged in reckless speculation for a long time now. And, owing to the War, it has been selling to almost all the other Great Powers on an extraordinary scale. The United States, therefore, is in a position in which it ought to be able to increase its own trade materially. Especially it ought to be able to capture much of the trade carried on formerly by Germany and Austria-Hungary. When the War is over their male population will be so ruinously decreased that it will take them a long time before they are able to produce as they did formerly. On the contrary, the United States will continue growing immensely in population. After the War, no doubt, America will attract large numbers, especially of the beaten enemy. There ought to be, therefore, a material increase in the American proportion of the world's trade.

At the same time, there is no reason why this country also should not gain a very large portion of

the world's trade. We are sorry to say that neither the Government nor the commercial classes are making the effort which they ought to make, and which would better enable the country to meet the cost of the War. Nevertheless, we shall increase our trade, and when the War really ends and the efforts made by this country are properly understood, her credit will go up immensely. Moreover, she will be one of a band of Allies who will all be disposed to deal with one another as largely as possible. We are not afraid, therefore, concerning the future of our own country.

The Committee of Investigation of the hypothecary situation of the Argentine Republic has presented its report to the Ministry of Finance. It is certainly reassuring, and shows that the indebtedness of the agricultural community is by no means as great as generally was feared. The total hypothecary indebtedness of the country is stated by the Committee to amount to $2,989,349,216 m/n. The percentage of the mortgages in relation to the value of the properties comprised therein, calculated at $18,000,000,000 m/n, is about 15.55%, and of the total amount the actions before the law courts for executions or foreclosures affecting only 220 millions of the 2,800 millions of mortgages, or 7.86%, involve only 1.22% of the value of the private property.

The report goes on to state that in the amount of the mortgages in force, those held by the National Hypothecary Bank represent about $583,000,000 m/n; the mortgage companies and associations hold securities for $866,000,000 m/n; the banks of loans and discounts possess mortgage documents for $198,000,000 m/n; insurance companies hold them for $32,000,000 m/n; to societies and banks in the provinces and territories property is charged with about 20 millions; and private mortgages amount to about 1,285 millions.

It will be seen that though the amount of indebtedness is, of course, large, yet the position is one which a country so fortunately placed ought to quickly recover from if proper measures are taken. The Committee recommends that the Hypothecary Bank should be authorised to begin lending again. Whether that would or would not be a wise measure can best be judged by persons on the spot. Lending is indispensable where the borrowers are industrious, thrifty, and enterprising. But where they are the reverse, mere lending simply tends to increase the difficulties. If, therefore, a resumption of lending is authorised it ought to be hedged round with precautions.

The agreement regarding the Salvador debt which is to be submitted to a meeting of creditors on December 3 for their approval is as follows: The funding into 7% Sterling bonds of the half-year's interest on the 6% bonds, due on August 15 last, and each subsequent half-year's interest payable down to, and including, August 15, 1919. The payment by the Salvador Government of the income tax on half-yearly interest to be so funded up to, but not exceeding, 2*s.* 6*d.* in the £. And the suspension of the provision contained in the general bond for the annual cumulative amortisation fund or redemption of the 6% bonds until the funding bonds have been redeemed.

MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY.

On another page we publish a further appeal by the Readjustment Managers and the Chairmen of the respective Committees of bond and stock holders for the prompt deposit of securities under the Plan of Readjustment. In our issue of July 31 we dealt fully with the plan, and we referred to the matter again last week. We would, however, counsel all those holders who have not yet participated in the scheme to deposit their securities without delay. Only by so doing can the Company's affairs be quickly rehabilitated to the advantage of all concerned.



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American Topics.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO.
EXPANDING PROFITS.

In the current year all the factors are favourable to a very great traffic and earnings for the Baltimore and Ohio, and for a substantial improvement in the net profits of the road. In the first place, the full benefit from the higher rates conceded towards the end of 1914 only became evident in the last four months of 1914-1915, and therefore the greatest benefit from this source is derivable this year. Secondly, with the largest crops ever harvested in the west the shipments of grain traffic to the eastern ports are likely to be of unprecedented amount. Thirdly, with steel mills operating at full capacity and with record demands upon the great manufacturing industries of the country, arising from the heavy purchases of equipment and materials of all kinds, both for export and for home consumption, the heavy traffic —such as coal, coke, ores, and iron and steel manufactures, which form the bulk of the Company's business, are showing great expansion. Lastly, the property is in better condition than ever before, and the additional business now coming forward will probably be handled with great economy. With traffic increasing apace the effect of the large capital outlays of the past few years will become increasingly apparent. For the four months to October gross receipts have expanded as much as $4,056,000; expenses have increased only $862,000, and net earnings show the great expansion of $3,194,000. Moreover, practically

Income Statement of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad System.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Revenue.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Revenue.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Interest Charges.	Net Profit.	Div. on 4% Prefd.	Balance.	Div. on Common. Earned. %	Div. on Common. Paid. %	Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$
1915	4,535	91,816,000	63,926,000	69·62	27,890,000	5,242,000	33,132,000	3,503,000	18,848,000	10,781,000	2,355,000	8,426,000	5·54	5	7,597,000	829,000
1914	4,515	99,164,000	74,403,000	75·03	24,761,000	6,133,000	30,894,000	3,443,000	18,201,000	9,250,000	2,355,000	6,895,000	4·54	6	9,119,000	*2,224,000
1913	4,456	103,330,000	76,428,000	73·96	26,902,000	5,212,000	32,114,000	3,113,000	15,619,000	13,382,000	2,355,000	11,027,000	7·24	6	9,121,000	1,906,000
1912	4,456	94,040,000	66,822,000	71·06	27,218,000	4,343,000	31,561,000	2,985,000	14,635,000	13,941,000	2,355,000	11,586,000	7·61	6	9,121,000	2,465,000
1911	4,434	89,968,000	64,738,000	71·96	25,230,000	4,897,000	30,127,000	2,595,000	14,711,000	12,820,000	2,356,000	10,464,000	6·87	6	9,121,000	1,344,000
1910	4,434	90,163,000	63,195,000	70·09	26,968,000	4,217,000	31,185,000	2,470,000	12,468,000	16,248,000	2,356,000	13,892,000	9·13	6	9,120,000	4,773,000
1909	4,460	77,564,000	52,854,000	68·14	24,710,000	4,722,000	29,432,000	2,272,000	13,184,000	13,977,000	2,400,000	11,577,000	7·61	6	9,131,000	2,446,000
1908	4,448	79,377,000	58,204,000	73·33	21,173,000	4,397,000	25,570,000	2,213,000	12,603,000	10,754,000	2,400,000	8,354,000	5·49	6	9,131,000	*776,000
1907	4,482	88,553,000	59,032,000	66·66	29,521,000	4,056,000	33,577,000	1,938,000	11,867,000	19,772,000	2,400,000	17,372,000	11·41	6	9,130,000	8,242,000
1906	4,486	82,509,000	53,342,000	64·65	29,167,000	3,485,000	32,652,000	1,600,000	11,494,000	19,558,000	2,400,000	17,157,000	13·77	5½	6,851,000	10,306,000
1905	4,482	72,539,000	48,440,000	66·78	24,100,000	2,993,000	27,093,000	1,518,000	10,849,000	14,726,000	2,400,000	12,326,000	9·92	4½	5,592,000	6,734,000

* Deficit.

the whole of the addition to the expenses has been in maintenance, and a greater volume of traffic has been handled at less expense than the smaller traffic of last year. The great increase of traffic and expansions in net earnings in recent months will be evident from the following statement:—

Recent Course of Earnings & Expenses, Balt. & Ohio RR.

	Gross Receipts	Maintenance Way	Maintenance Equipment	Cond. Trans.	Oper. Expenses	Net Earnings
	$	$	$	$	$	$
July 1914	871	− 461	+ 25	256	− 500	− 568
Aug. ,,	929	411	+ 91	561	664	265
Sept. ,,	599	− 267	+ [illegible]	− 307	− 529	[illegible]
Oct. ,,	−1,550	− 292	− [illegible]	− 500	1,134	397
Nov. ,,	−1,150	− 391	− [illegible]	− 422	− 1,241	[illegible]
Dec. ,,	−1,379	− 294	− [illegible]	− [illegible]	− 1,141	[illegible]
Jan. 1915	− 920	− 241	[illegible]	− 586	− 882	− 38
Feb. ,,	− 36	− 148	[illegible]	− 656	− 970	+ 1,006
Mar. ,,	745	− 98	[illegible]	− 708	− 1,022	− 277
Apr. ,,	− 447	− 95	− [illegible]	− 477	− [illegible]	− 196
May ,,	− 544	− 176	[illegible]	328	− 793	− [illegible]
June ,,	− 702	360	61	463	− 1,016	+1,718
Year ...	−7,348	−3,[illegible]	[illegible]	−5,978	−10,477	+[illegible]
July 1915	− 524	+ 21	[illegible]	384	− 283	− 806
Aug. ,,	− 648	+ 174	[illegible]	64	− 21	− 627
Sept. ,,	− 855	− 216	+ [illegible]	− 295	− 276	− 554
Oct. ,,	−2,049				− 846	+1,203

Apart from further improvement that may occur in the remaining months of the year, the net profit at present shown for 1915-1916 is $11,620,000, a sum equal to almost 8% upon the stock. In view of comparison being made in November, December and January with the very poor results of a year ago, and the strong tide of industrial activity now being experienced, these results may be substantially improved upon, and it is probable that the directors may feel warranted in restoring the dividend to a 6% basis in January next.

The Baltimore and Ohio is the most southerly of the great Eastern trunk roads, its lines extending from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington on the Atlantic to Chicago and St. Louis. Apart from a considerable "through" traffic the road has access to the great bituminous coalfields of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio, from whence it derives a very large coal traffic which it conveys east to tidewater, or west to the important manufacturing centres of Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago. From decade to decade in the past the growth of the coal and manufacturing businesses in the districts served has been most remarkable, and the great problem which the undertaking has had to face has been to handle profitably the immense volume of traffic that accrued to it, but for which it receives an extremely low rate. Even with rates as low as they were the Baltimore and Ohio, in common with other great railroads of the United States, could have gone on earning satisfactory profits and been able to raise the capital needed to provide for future traffic requirements had not burdens been imposed upon them.

We refer more particularly to the demands of employees for higher rates of pay which the railways were practically forced to concede, and the introduction by Federal and State authorities of certain legislative enactments which compelled the companies to incur additional expenses in operating the traffic, although no benefit accrued to the lines from their adoption. In order to obtain partial compensation for the increased cost of operating, the railways, on several occasions, appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to raise freight rates, but for a considerable period their efforts were fruitless, with the result that expenses increased much more rapidly than gross earnings, and the net return upon capital was diminished. In view of this state of affairs the majority of the companies were averse to making new capital expenditures. Normally the railways of the United States are by far the best customers of the great iron and steel and equipment companies, and when their purchases were so greatly curtailed the volume of business in the large manufacturing centres declined, and the earnings of the lines which served those districts fell off in a marked degree. Beyond this, trade generally, and especially the building trade, had received a set-back, after the great stride forward of recent years. Consequently, for the year to June 1914 the net profit of the Baltimore and Ohio was considerably below that secured in the previous year, and was equal to no more than 4.54% upon the Common stock. The dividend for that year was, however, maintained at 6%, the rate that had been forthcoming regularly since the beginning of 1906, the directors feeling justified in continuing the 6% dividend in view of the expectation that conditions would improve, especially as the railways would be called upon in 1914-1915 to move the great grain crops harvested in 1914.

It was a position such as this which confronted the Baltimore and Ohio at the outbreak of war. Coincidentally with the commencement of hostilities the Interstate Commerce Commission handed down a decision regarding freight rates which, while affording some slight compensation to the Companies for the addition to their expenses, was on the whole unsatisfactory. This factor, combined with the first effects occasioned by the War, caused the operations of the great steel and iron works to fall to a very low ebb, and by the close of the calendar year 1914 the steel industry was operating at only about one-third of its mill capacity. Further, the great wave of immigration which had been so evident in past years suddenly ceased, and the effect upon passenger traffic was considerable, the loss of revenue in the past year from this source alone in the case of the Baltimore and Ohio having been as much as $800,000. As a result of these various circumstances, and the relative poorness of the profits secured for the December half of 1914, it was decided to reduce the dividend to 5%. Even this rate was in excess of the profit earned, but the directors felt justified in making a reduction of no more than 1% in the dividend in consequence of a more favourable decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in December last as to freight rates. Under this decision the railways, while not granted the full concessions in rates for which they had hoped, secured greater benefits than had been conceded in July 1914. On the basis of the traffic for 1914 the benefit to be derived by the Baltimore and Ohio from the higher freight rates now in force was estimated at between $2,000,000 and $2,500,000 per annum.

Roughly speaking, it may be said that the turn in the tide of gross earnings of the Company came at the end of January last, the loss of revenue for the seven months to January being practically the loss for the whole twelve months to June last amounting to $7,348,000. To offset so severe a shrinkage in gross earnings it was necessary for the officers to put forward every effort to curtail the cost of operation. This they were able to do in part by reducing maintenance outlays, but mainly by greatly reducing the

cost of conducting transportation. When Mr. Willard became president of the road, in 1910, he set himself the task of carrying out a great programme of improvements in order that the traffic might be handled more economically. This work involved the expenditure of approximately $100,000,000 of new capital. For several years prior to the appointment of Mr. Willard little progress had been made with the work of conveying the traffic more economically, but by means of the important improvements to the road and equipment and the increased skill of the officers very substantial reductions in the cost of conducting transportation were effected last year, and operating expenses were reduced as much as $10,477,000. Therefore, notwithstanding a loss of over $7,000,000 in gross receipts, the net earnings for the year showed the satisfactory increase of $3,129,000. Miscellaneous income was $891,000 lower, principally owing to the exclusion of any interest on the Company's holdings of obligations of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway. After allowing for $647,000 of additional interest and other charges the net profit for the year was $1,531,000 higher at $8,426,000. This sum was equal to 5.54% on the Common stock, and after the payment of the 5% dividend there was a surplus of $829,000. In the previous year the profit equalled only 4.54%, on the stock, and after distributing a 6% dividend there was a deficit of $2,224,000. How the results for last year compared with those for former periods will be evident from the income statement herewith. From this statement it will be evident how urgent was the need for increased rates, for despite a gain of over $14,000,000 in gross earnings between 1909 and 1915 the net profit in the period fell from $11,577,000 to $8,426,000, although some $100,000,000 of additional capital had been expended, mainly with a view to lessening the cost of operating. The fact is that, through arbitrations and settlements, labour cost about $4,500,000 more in 1915 than the same services would have cost under the 1908-9 schedules, while higher taxes and full crew and other enactments raised to about $6,200,000 the burden which has had to be borne, and over which the Company has had no control.

Of the reduction of $10,477,000 in expenses, $3,434,000 was on account of maintenance of way and $1,147,000 on account of maintenance of equipment. Such a large diminution in the outlay upon the road was rendered possible by the non-recurrence of an exceptional outlay of $2,112,000 which had to be made in the previous year in consequence of damage arising from the floods in the Ohio Valley in the spring of 1913, so that the decrease in what may be termed the normal outlay upon maintenance of way amounted to $1,320,000. In the aggregate maintenance outlays last year represented 27.22% of the gross receipts against 27.69% in the previous year, after deducting the special "flood" damage repairs. Undoubtedly one of the most satisfactory features of the past year's operations was the great saving in conducting transportation. In December last the extensive improvement programme that has been carried out in the last few years was brought almost to an end by the opening of the Magnolia cut-off, believed to be one of the largest pieces of railroad work undertaken in mountainous country, and said to be the most costly per mile of road. By means of this cut-off, of about six miles in length, sharp curves and steep gradients have been eliminated, and it has become possible to increase the east-bound slow freight train load between the points served by the cut-off to 6,180 gross tons, or by as much as 36½%. Beyond permitting heavier trains to be run, the serious interference incidental to the movement of traffic when trains require assistance up the grades on a section of the road where traffic is of the greatest density has been avoided. Although the new line was opened for only six months of the last fiscal year, substantial economies in transportation costs were effected and the movement of traffic facilitated. Of course, with the handling of a greater volume of business, the benefits to be derived will become proportionately larger. For the past year the cost of conducting transportation was reduced by more than three points, from 42.49% in 1913-14 to 39.38%. How the expenses of last year compared with those for previous years will be apparent from the appended [illegible]:

[illegible] Balt. & Ohio RR.

[illegible]							$
1915...	91,816,000	8,986,000				2,777,000	63,926,600
[illegible]						2,697,000	74,403,000
[illegible]							[illegible]
[illegible]						1,991,000	[illegible]
[illegible]						1,857,000	62,676,000
[illegible]				16,374,000	31,616,000		61,334,000
[illegible]						1,595,000	51,114,000
[illegible]						1,335,000	58,204,000
[illegible]				14,313,000	31,686,000	1,612,000	59,082,000
[illegible]				13,320,000	28,108,000	1,572,000	53,342,000
[illegible]							48,440,000

Ratio of Expenses to Earnings of Balt & Ohio RR. System.

						%
[illegible]			17·1			69·62
[illegible]			[illegible]			75·03
[illegible]			18·01			72·65
[illegible]			[illegible]			[illegible]
[illegible]		11·64	[illegible]	39·15		[illegible]
[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
1909		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		66·97
[illegible]		[illegible]	16·99	[illegible]		75·35
[illegible]		[illegible]	16·16	35·79	1·82	[illegible]
1906		12·54	16·14	[illegible]	1·90	[illegible]
1905		[illegible]	16·10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Great credit is due to all engaged in the conduct of the traffic last year. By means of the stronger equipment and roadbed substantial additions to the length and weight of the freight trains were made, and for the twelve months the average freight-train load was raised by 7.3% from 617.86 tons to 662.70 tons. The improvement in the loading of the freight trains since Mr. Willard took charge of affairs has been really remarkable, for in the six years since 1909 an addition of 24% to the freight traffic (ton miles) has been accompanied by an actual decrease of over 20% in the freight-train miles run, with the result that the train load has been raised by no less than 55%. In the current year the weight of the freight trains is being still further added to, and for the whole year the officers look for an average load of fully 700 tons. The greater economy now being exercised in operating the freight traffic will be evident from the statement given below:—

Freight-Train Results, Balt. & Ohio RR. System.

Year to June 30	Aver. Miles.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Rev. Tons.	[illegible] Miles of Road.
1915	4,535	12,415,383,633	18,731,546	662·70	472,708,372	26·27	2,737,518
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21,777,168	617·86	531,232,934	25·35	2,979,838
1913	4,456	14,313,128,233	25,098,811	619·65	565,476,588	25·40	3,211,865
1912	4,455	12,490,418,797	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23·35	2,803,648
1911	4,434	11,703,559,445	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2,639,654
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	27,182,329	442·37	525,212,191	[illegible]	2,711,666
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23,477,078	428·05	448,882,455	22·39	2,253,253
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	25,631,726	413·56	462,132,172	22·94	2,383,176
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	28,013,223	437·13	531,598,319	23·04	2,744,344
1903	4,486	11,483,112,646	27,195,121	422·25	506,704,461	22·66	2,559,932
1905	4,432	9,657,865,455	23,945,188	402·50	448,997,698	21·47	2,150,464

The Common stock, after having touched 69 early in the year, has now recovered to a shade over par, at which the yield from the 5% dividend, allowing for exchange and accrued dividend, is about 5⅜%. If the dividend is restored to a 6% basis the yield will be 6⅜%. The return on the 4% Preferred stock, now quoted 83½, is roughly 5⅛%.

Yields afforded by Principal Securities of Balt. & Ohio RR.

Description.	[illegible]	$	[illegible] tion.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Price	Yield % per Ann.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	J. & J.	[illegible]	[illegible]
4% 1st Mort. 50-yr. Gold[i]		79,976,000	July	1948	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pitts. Junc. & Mid. Div. 1st Mt.		6,055,950	Nov.	1925	3½	M. & N.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	J. & J.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pitts., L. Erie & W. V. Ref. Mt.		42,525,000	Nov.	1941	4	M. & N.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
St. Lor. & Wheel. 5% 1st Mt.		5,000,000	Oct.	1933	5	A. & O.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	J. & D.	[illegible]	[illegible]
W. Vir. & Pitts. 4% Deb. *g*		3,981,000	Apr.	1990	4*g*	A. & O.	[illegible]
Cin. Ham. & Dayt. 1st Ref. Mt. *g*		7,500,000	July	1959	4*g*	J. & J.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	M. & S.	[illegible]
B. & O. 2-Yr. Sec. Gold Notes		20,000,000	June	1917	4½	J. & D.	[illegible]
Do. 3-Yr. do.		20,000,000	June	1918	4½	J. & D.	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	M. & S.	[illegible]
Common stock	...	151,948,703	—		5	M. & S.	[illegible]

(*a*) New York [illegible]. (*b*) Lowest price. (*c*) Sterling bonds. (*d*) Callable after July 1, 1923, at 105. (*g*) Principal and int. guar. by B. & O. (*h*) Basis, (*c*) Convertible into Com. stock up to Mar. 1, 1923, at $110 per share and subsequently redeemable at 102½%. (*n*) Not allowing for redemption. (*r*) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

The Central Argentine Railway Company is making rapid recovery, and last year's loss of profit is likely to be quickly regained. Since the beginning of July the traffic receipts of the line have risen by £249,400, or over 12%, which is within £26,000 of the total diminution of the past twelve months. Moreover, since the turn in the tide of traffic decreases set in in February last, rapid strides have been made, and for the 39 weeks, from February 20 to November 20, the growth in earnings amounts to no less than £567,000, or at the rate of over £14,500 per week. This means that practically the whole of the previous decline, amounting at one time last year to as much as £593,000, has now been made good, and all future gains will go to swell the relatively large earnings of the pre-war period. In part the recovery is due to the higher rates and tariffs which came into force on October 1, and in part to the large tonnage of cereals held over from the last harvest. In a cable from the General Manager, dated November 26, it was estimated that no less than 650,000 tons of cereals were then awaiting transport, and this is doubtless helping the Company at the present time. The crop outlook, moreover, is promising, although the appearance of locusts in certain districts may ultimately affect the yield of wheat and linseed. The area sown with cereals is, however, greater than last year, and recent rains are reported to have greatly benefited the growing crops. To show how well the Company has done in the past nine months, and the relatively poor traffics with which comparison has to be made until March next, we set out herewith the course of earnings monthly since July 1912:—

Course of Traffic Receipts since July 1, 1912.

Month	Principal Crops Carried	1915–16	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13
		£	£	£	£
July	Maize	[illegible]	[illegible]	501,000	469,000
August ...	,,	[illegible]	[illegible]	651,000	607,000
September ...	,,	[illegible]	395,000	505,000	479,000
October ...	,,	[illegible]	518,000	493,000	509,000
November ...	,,	[illegible]°	422,000	544,000	570,000
5 months	,,	2,417,000	2,162,000	2,694,000	2,634,000
December ...	,,		426,000	421,000	432,000
January ...	Wheat		[illegible]	541,000	481,000
February ...	,,		[illegible]	484,000	532,000
March	,,		[illegible]	497,000	700,000
April	,,		476,000	439,000	541,000
May	Maize		[illegible]	468,000	597,000
June	,,		547,000	514,000	572,000
Total year ...			5,755,000	6,058,000	6,489,000

° Estimated.

Both financially and economically Argentina is steadily gaining strength. The big demand for the produce of the country for the belligerent nations, and the high prices ruling, are bringing it enormous wealth, and, although general trade may not fully recover until the War is over, there is no doubt as soon as peace is restored Argentina will be in a better position than ever to enter the markets of the world to obtain all she needs to carry on the development of the country, so seriously retarded by the untoward events of the last few years. In this revival the railway companies will share, and when one reflects on the wonderful strides made by the companies in the years immediately preceding the recent setback, there must come a feeling of confidence as to the future and what may happen when normal conditions again prevail.

A restrospect of the main results of working by the Central Argentine Railway over a series of years is typical of the general position and is certainly instructive. Taking a period of nine years—*i.e.*, 1904-13—the gross earnings of the line advanced from £3,759,000 to £6,489,000, and the net earnings from £1,796,000 to £2,392,000. Thus, despite the fluctuating character of the crops from year to year, and the varying fortunes of farmers and others as a result, the advance in gross receipts was practically continuous throughout the period, and in the nine years amounted in the aggregate to no less than 72%. The growth in net earnings was not so marked owing to the rise in wages and in the price of railway material of all kinds; nevertheless, a growth of 54% in the period cannot be regarded as anything but satisfactory. The advance in profits was equally good, for, whereas in 1904 the sum available for distribution was £1,110,000, and a dividend of 6% was paid on a capital of £16,000,000 in 1913, the divisible surplus was not far short of £2,000,000, and the distribution was still 6% on a capital of £28,600,000. Last year the net profit amounted to £1,456,000, or rather more than sufficient to pay 5% on a capital of £29,000,000, so that, nothwithstanding the severe crisis through which the country has been passing, the setback in the Company's prosperity has been relatively small. The comparison of working results since 1904 is given below:—

Central Argentine Railway.

Year	Average Miles Worked	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings	Net Profit for Ordinary	Div.
		£	£	%	£	£	%
1914–15	3,286	5,755,000	3,363,000	58·43	2,392,000	1,456,000	5
1913–14	3,151	6,058,000	3,547,000	58·54	2,511,000	1,663,000	5
1912–13	[illegible]	6,489,000	3,719,000	[illegible]	2,770,000	1,996,000	6
1911–12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	56·09	2,294,000	1,581,000	6
1910–11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	55·51	2,411,000	1,664,000	6
1909–10	2,482	4,748,000	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,985,000	[illegible]	6
1908–09	2,392	4,929,000	2,884,000	58·50	2,045,000	1,354,000	6
1907–08	2,392	4,919,060	[illegible]	59·66	1,985,000	1,326,000	6
1907	[illegible]	4,604,000	2,727,000	[illegible]	1,877,000	1,189,000	6
1906 ...	2,361	4,531,000	2,553,000	56·34	1,978,000	[illegible]	6
1905 ...	2,347	3,995,000	2,060,000	51·56	1,935,060	1,249,000	6
1904 ...	2,347	3,759,000	1,963,000	52·23	1,796,000	1,110,000	6

It will be seen that last year's falling-off in gross earnings of over £300,000 was attended by a further marked saving in working expenses, and that the profit for dividend, despite increased capital charges, shows a diminution compared with the preceding year of £207,000 only. The profit available for distribution was £5,000 in excess of the sum needed to pay the 5% dividend, and after allocating £100,000 to contingencies fund to meet abnormal flood charges, the balance carried forward is only £95,000 smaller at £346,000. The income statement of the Company for the last four years is set out beneath:—

Central Argentine Railway.

Year to June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	[illegible]	6,058,000	[illegible]	6,221,000
Expenses	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ratio	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Net earnings	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Miscellaneous income ...	185,000	178,000	174,000	128,000
Net income	2,577,000	2,689,000	2,944,000	2,422,000
Interest on Deb. stock	541,000	491,000	438,000	436,000
Western Section Annuity	91,000	91,000	91,000	91,000
6% Notes	50,000	—	—	—
Miscellaneous interest ...	[illegible]	8,000	[illegible]	12,000
Total charges	685,000	[illegible]	545,000	539,000
Profit for Preferences ...	1,892,000	2,099,000	2,399,000	1,883,000
4½% Preference stock ...	436,000	436,000	403,000	302,000
Profit for Ordinary ...	1,456,000	1,663,000	1,996,000	1,581,000
Div. on Ordinary stock	1,409,000	1,409,000	1,616,000	1,511,000
Rate per cent. ...	(5%)	(5%)	(6%)	(6%)
Surplus	47,000	254,000	380,000	70,000
Deferred stock	41,000	41,000	49,000	49,000
Rate per cent. ...	(5%)	(5%)	(6%)	(6%)
Surplus	6,000	213,000	331,000	21,000
Brought forward ...	440,000	227,000	190,000	169,000
Total surplus	[illegible]	440,000	521,000	190,000
To renewals fund ...	100,000	—	294,000	—
Carried forward ...	[illegible]	440,000	227,000	[illegible]

The decrease in earnings last year occurred almost entirely in passenger traffic and general merchandise, two items which are particularly sensitive to trade fluctuations, and reflect the trend towards economy which the events of the year have rendered imperative among the Argentine people. The number of passengers carried was only 20,798,000, as against 23,091,000, and the receipts therefrom declined from £1,851,000 to £1,609,000. With a return to normal times the passenger traffic should quickly recover, especially having regard to the many improvements effected in the passenger service, such as the opening of the new terminal station at Retiro and the electrification of the suburban lines now nearing completion.

The growth in the passenger traffic in recent years and the severity of the setback in 1914-15 will be appreciated by a glance at the accompanying table:—

Passenger Traffic.

Year to June 30	No. of Passengers	Passenger Receipts	Parcels, Luggage, &c.	Total Coaching Receipts
		£	£	£
1915.. ..	20,798,000	1,609,000	230,000	1,839,000
1914.. ...	23,091,000	1,851,000	254,000	2,105,000
1913... .	21,731,000	1,807,000	248,000	2,055,000
1912...	18,605,000	1,611,000	221,000	1,832,000
1911... ..	17,290,000	1,548,000	206,000	1,754,000
1910. ..	15,159,000	1,422,000	188,000	1,610,000
1909. .	13,925,000	1,259,000	158,000	1,417,000
1908	13,010,000	1,165,000	148,000	1,313,000

The crops generally were good and in great demand, with the result that wheat and maize carryings represent additional receipts of about a quarter of a million sterling, whilst the sugar harvest—which was most successful—appreciably exceeded that of the preceding year. These improvements were, however, more than offset by reductions in building materials and general merchandise, with the result that the total goods traffic was somewhat smaller, both as regards tonnage and revenue, than in the preceding year. To show the nature of the freight traffic and the relative importance of individual sources of revenue, we give the following summary:—

Freight Traffic, Central Argentine Railway.

	Quantity			Receipts		
	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	£	£	£
Maize	2,329,871	2,197,240	2,746,170	701,004	679,546	778,808
Wheat	921,669	538,322	1,054,689	429,145	247,251	475,244
Wine	178,444	174,523	167,182	200,948	194,169	165,166
Linseed	381,216	375,344	344,245	181,000	184,850	180,179
Sugar and cane	318,963	271,450	205,755	165,917	156,180	114,096
Flour and naddings	190,850	186,578	160,590	107,516	101,918	84,049
Charcoal ..	124,188	128,947	128,546	84,952	87,044	88,200
Hay, grass, &c. ...	149,552	153,398	155,199	80,840	82,768	72,378
Firewood .	242,159	241,230	270,493	70,927	65,188	65,474
Lime	78,400	120,345	150,740	65,255	102,624	130,024
Fruit & vegetables	52,708	34,819	32,465	52,547	35,496	30,708
Hides and skins ...	23,685	24,170	28,069	48,850	50,128	45,041
Bran and shorts ...	82,057	92,848	90,543	35,120	39,841	38,155
Posts and stays ...	40,452	58,577	66,485	24,543	31,073	37,418
Timber (Native)...	24,389	16,690	17,818	12,757	20,778	25,947
Sleepers	21,488	58,396	106,258	16,100	51,858	58,247
Wool	5,607	5,954	5,118	8,205	9,040	8,011
Limestone .	54,250	109,653	155,745	8,100	15,005	19,790
Bricks and tiles ...	54,327	127,542	202,253	8,049	17,968	30,073
Grease & tallow ...	5,561	5,596	5,363	6,547	6,797	5,484
Other products ...	299,511	498,500	583,755	195,168	265,524	285,179
General goods ...	945,317	1,100,710	1,254,933	795,117	958,696	1,040,128
Total public traffic ...	6,525,744	6,544,082	7,948,964	3,283,797	3,359,234	3,748,029
LIVE STOCK.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
Cattle	1,045,749	1,061,295	1,198,758	271,063	256,438	299,631
Sheep	494,755	541,802	623,634	14,162	12,833	15,724
Horses	45,063	54,669	52,412	16,659	20,944	20,647
Pigs, &c. ...	61,248	39,006	33,608	1,786	1,000	3,196
Total live stock	1,646,815	1,696,772	1,908,412	308,650	294,215	339,198

The most satisfactory feature of the year's operations was the large saving in working expenses. The decrease shown was £183,700, or 5.2%, practically the whole of which was in conducting transportation. A saving of 12.27% was effected in train mileage, mainly as a result of increased loading of the freight trains, the average gross tonnage hauled per goods-train mile being no less than 20.8% more than in the previous year. The course of working expenses over a series of years, and the lower cost of conducting transportation last year as compared with 1913-14, will be seen from the tables appended:—

Working Expenses, Central Argentine Railway.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings	Maint. of Way	Maint. of Equipment	Cond. Transportation	Other Expenses	Total Expenses
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915 .. .	5,755,000	525,000	502,000	1,892,000	444,000	3,363,000
1914 ..	6,058,000	491,000	521,000	2,059,000	476,000	3,547,000
1913 ..	6,489,000	617,000	624,000	2,010,000	468,000	3,719,000
1912 ..	5,224,000	382,000	468,000	1,644,000	436,000	2,930,000
1911 .	5,420,000	437,000	588,000	1,540,000	444,000	3,009,000
1910 .	4,748,000	413,000	497,000	1,429,000	393,000	2,762,000
1909 .	4,929,000	593,000	502,000	1,426,000	502,000	2,883,000
1908	4,919,000	719,000	509,000	1,331,000	354,000	2,913,000

Ratio of Expenses to Gross Earnings.

	%	%	%	%	%
1915 .. .	9·11	8·73	32·87	7·72	58·43
1914	8·11	8·60	33·98	7·85	58·54
1913	9·50	9·63	30·96	7·22	57·31
1912	7·31	8·96	31·48	8·34	56·09
1911 .. .	8·07	10·85	28·40	8·19	55·51
1910	9·35	10·48	30·10	8·28	58·19
1909	12·04	10·19	28·94	7·33	58·50
1908	14·68	10·39	27·18	7·22	59·47

It must be borne in mind that included in the above expenses is a sum of no less than £440,000 by way of contributions to the renewal funds, which is some £70,000 larger than in 1913-14, and explains the increase in maintenance of way outlays. Eliminating these special renewal contributions in both years, the decrease in working charges is as much as £254,000, and the ratio to gross receipts is only 50.79%, as compared with 52.45. The ability of the Company to effect economies is therefore great, and, inasmuch as the renewal fund account in the balance sheet now amounts to well over a million sterling, the prospect of increased charges in the current year, as a result of the rise in the price of coal, &c., can be faced with calm and equanimity. Indeed, the position of the Company may be regarded as very sound and the future most encouraging. How soon it will be in a position to again raise the dividend to 6% remains to be seen, but, seeing that the profits last year, excluding betterment outlays, were equal to 6½% on the share capital, no long time is likely to elapse, now that a turn in the tide has set in, before stockholders get back to their old position of receiving at least 6% distributions. The revenue derived from the increase in freights will, of course, be so much additional profit this year and may amount to a considerable profit.

The price of the Ordinary stock has now recovered to 84⅝xd, and on a 5% dividend basis the yield afforded is nearly £6%. The Deferred stock is quoted at 75¾xd, and in this case the yield is as much as £6⅝%. The 4½% Preference stock, with a margin of profit behind it of £1,456,000, can be bought at about 83½xd, to yield the investor £5⅜%. The Debenture issues of the Company are well-secured investments, and at current quotations they give a return of over £5%. The capital of the Company is as follows:—

	Amount.	Interest.	Price.	Yield.
	£	%		£ s. d.
4 % Debenture stock	13,436,764	4	81	5 0 11
3½% Central Debenture stock	113,564	3½	79*	4 12 9
½% Western Annuity... ...	2,017,500	4½	—	—
4 % 3-year Notes	1,000,000	6	101½xd	†5 3 10
5 % 5-year Notes	2,000,000	5	99xd	†5 4 3
4½% Preference stock	9,695,718	4½	83½xd	5 7 9
Consolidated Ordinary stock ...	28,186,950	5	84⅝xd	5 18 2
Deferred stock	811,800	5	75¾xd	6 12 0
Total	57,262,296			

* Price July 27, 1914. † Allowing for redemption.

RUBBER.

We notice the advance in the price of rubber this week to considerably over 3*s*. per pound is rather widely interpreted as being due to lack of transport facilities. No doubt this factor has to some extent influenced the market for "spot" rubber, but the fact that the price for delivery as far advanced as June 1916 has risen very considerably also indicates that lack of shipping facilities is not the main reason for the market activity. The spot and forward prices of the commodity at the present time, compared with a year ago, are given below:—

Prices of Plantation Rubber (Standard Crepe).

	Spot Per Lb.	Forward Delivery— Dec.	Jan. to Mar.	Jan. to June
Nov. 26, 1915 ...	**3/3**	**3/2⅛**	**3/0**	**2/11½**
Nov. 26, 1914 ...	**2/1⅛**	**2/1⅛**	**2/0¾**	**2/1**

It will be noted that the price of rubber for delivery more than six months ahead is over 3*s*. per pound.

A correspondent puts forward the suggestion that the low American exchange has something to do with the undoubtedly immense demand for rubber on behalf of America. Taking rubber at 3*s*. per pound, one ton has a value in sterling of £336. At the normal rate of exchange of $4.87 the equivalent in dollars would be $1,636, but with the exchange now at $4.70 this is reduced to $1,579, a difference in favour of the American buyer of $57, or £5 for every ton of rubber purchased on this side.

RUBBER SHARE VALUATION.

We have been asked to make clearer our remarks at pages 549 to 551 of last week on how to ascertain the real value of a rubber share as compared with the market price. The chief point to bear in mind is that the main index to the value of a rubber share is the

market capitalisation per *planted* acre, which is arrived at by multiplying the issued capital by the price of the shares and dividing by the planted acreage. As against the market capitalisation per planted acre there is a *maximum instrinsic valuation* per planted acre for all rubber estates, on the assumption of a given full maturity yield per planted acre, a given profit per pound, and presuming the investor requires a yield of, say, 10%, on his money.

To give an example we will take a well-known rubber company which has an issued capital of £159,762, in 2*s.* shares at present quoted at 7*s.* 3*d.*, which means that the actual market capitalisation is, say, £578,100. As the planted area is 4,156 acres, the market capitalisation per planted acre is £139. Presuming the investor will require a 10% yield on his money when full maturity is reached, and that *then* the yield per planted acre will be 350 lb., with rubber 2*s.* per pound and "all-in costs" at 1*s.* per pound—*i.e.* profit 1*s.* per pound—what will be the maximum intrinsic valuation per planted acre? The sum is as follows:—

$$\text{Planted Area} \times \text{Yield} \times \text{Profit per lb.} \times 10 \div \text{Planted Area}$$

$$\text{i.e.}\quad \frac{4{,}156}{1} \times \frac{350}{1} \times \pounds\frac{1}{20} \times \frac{10}{1} \times \frac{1}{4{,}156} = £175.$$

The figures cancel one another until $\frac{350}{2}$ remains.

The multiplication by 10 capitalises the profit on a 10% basis, and as it is assumed that the whole of the profit is distributed as dividend, the figure of £175 is the *maximum* intrinsic valuation per planted acre on the basis of 350 lb. full maturity yield and 1*s.* per pound profit. As will be seen from the cross-page analysis herewith, the well-known rubber company in question has a present market capitalisation of £139. Its planted area has practically all reached the tapping stage, but is not yet in full bearing. For this year the yield per planted acre will be about 300 lb. Consequently, the investor in the shares at the present market capitalisation of about £140 per planted acre must look upon his purchase as fairly fully valued, unless he anticipates one or more of the following three possibilities:—

(1) A perpetually higher price than 2*s.* per pound for rubber.

(2) Lower "all-in" costs than 1*s.* per pound.

(3) Higher full maturity yield than 350 lb. per planted acre.

It is an easy matter to alter the maximum intrinsic value calculation according to the variations of these three factors.

In the following table we show what the maximum market capitalisation per planted acre must be with a varying price for rubber:—

Assuming Investor requires 10% *yield.*

Price of Rubber Per Lb.	Assumed "All In" Cost Per Lb	Full Maturity Yield 400 Lb. per Acre Maximum Intrinsic Valuation per Planted Acre	Full Maturity Yield 350 Lb. per Acre Maximum Intrinsic Valuation per Planted Acre
s. d.	*s. d.*	£	£
1 6	1 0	100	87½
2 0	1 0	200	175
2 6	1 0	300	262½
3 0	1 0	400	350
3 6	1 0	500	437½
4 0	1 0	600	525

PRESENT PRICE OF RUBBER, 3*s.* 0½*d.* per lb.

NOTE.—The above table shows the maximum market capitalisations per planted acre because it is assumed that the whole of the profit represented by the difference between cost and price of rubber is distributed in dividends, and affords the investor a 10% yield on his capital.

The cross-page tabular analysis we gave last week, showing the positions and valuations of about 80 different rubber companies, has been much appreciated. Next week we hope to deal in a similar manner with a further large number of concerns not included in last week's list.

TEBRAU RUBBER.

THE report of this Company for the year to June 30, 1915, confirms the profit forecast made in our issue of November 6. Of the planted area of 3,917 acres, 2,176 acres were in bearing at June 30, 1915, some 714 acres having been brought in during the twelve months. The average number of acres tapped for the year, however, was only 1,940 acres, or less than half the planted area. The output, which was nearly double that obtained for the previous twelve months, amounted to 646,082 lb., giving a yield per acre tapped of 333 lb., and per total planted acre of 165 lb. A slightly higher price was realised for the product. The cost of production was reduced to 1*s.* 2*d.* per pound, including every known revenue charge—a decline compared with 1914 of about 22%—and the net profit for the year rose to £32,798, or 1*s.* 0.12*d.* per pound, in comparison with £10,671, or 7.67*d.* per pound, in the year ended June 30, 1914. The following table gives a good idea of the progress of the Company:—

	Year to June 30— 1915	1914
	Acres	Acres
Planted area	3,917	3,917
Average acreage tapped	1,940	1,242
	Lb.	Lb.
Rubber output	646,082	334,440
Yield per acre tapped	333	245
Yield per acre planted	165	85
Gross price realised per lb.	2/2·17	2/1·87
"All in" cost per lb.	1/1·95	1/6
Profit per lb.	1/0·12	0/7·67
	£	£
Value of rubber	70,440	35,770
Total revenue (per statement)	37,578	25,098
Net profit	32,798	10,671
Sundry receipts	274	424
Brought forward	11,261	166
Total available	44,333	11,261
Appropriated:		
Capital expenditure written off..	10,661	
Transferred to reserve	16,000	
Dividend paid	12,500 (10%)	
Carry-forward	5,272	11,261
	44,333	11,261
Issued capital	125,000	
Surplus liquid assets	30,745	15,098

Present price of shares, 2½. Market capitalisation per planted acre, £72.

When one comes to consider the allocation of the past year's profit, one is almost startled by the extreme cautiousness of the policy adopted by the directors. Out of the year's net profit of £32,798 a dividend of 10%, absorbing only £12,500, is declared: £16,000, equal to another 12½% on the capital, is transferred to reserve, £10,661 is written off capital expenditure, in addition to £5,407 charged to depreciation in the "all-in" cost, and the carry-forward is superficially reduced to £5,272. We say superficially reduced for the reason that the balance sheet shows that, after allowing for the payment of the 10% dividend, the liquid assets exceeded the current liabilities at June 30, 1915, by no less than £30,745, against £15,098 twelve months previously. It seems an ultra-cautious policy to keep in hand a sum representing 24% on the issued capital of £125,000, especially in view of the bright prospects in regard to further large increase of production in the current financial year. True it has been decided to erect a new factory, to be ready for occupation at the end of June next, but the report expressly states that it is proposed to spread the entire cost of the new installation over the next three years' revenue.

	Par of Shares	Year Ends	Issued Capital £	Market Price of Shares, Nov. 17	Planted Acreage— 5 Yrs. and Over	Under 5 Yrs.	Total	Market Capitalisation per Planted Acre £	Past Year's Results— Rubber Output Past Year Lb.	Current Year Lb.	Output per Planted Acre Lb.	Profit £	Costs "All in" s. d.	Dividends Paid Amount £	%
"A" Company	2 -	Dec. 31	159,762	7/3	4,073	78	4,156	139	1,131,420	1,014,957(710)	272	51,466	1 3	39,940	25

However, while shareholders may feel they are being kept from receiving the much larger immediate dividend that is warranted, it will be apparent to all that the extremely cautious policy now adopted will be of benefit in the future. Moreover, the progress of output in the next few years will be rapid. The output for the current financial year is conservatively estimated at 900,000 lb., of which 285,949 lb. have been obtained in the first four months to November 30. Of the 3,917 planted acres, only an average of 1,940 acres, or less than half the planted acreage, were tapped in the past year. Of the balance of 1,977 acres, a portion has now come into bearing, and the whole of the remainder should have reached the tapping stage by the end of next year. Consequently, very heavy annual increases of output may be expected during the next two years. The current year's estimated output of 900,000 lb. should yield a profit of at least 1*s.* per lb., equal to £45,000. A 20% dividend on the capital would absorb only £25,000.

At the present market price of £2¼ *cum* dividend, representing a market capitalisation of £72 per planted acre, the £1 shares of the Company are distinctly cheap, having regard to the outlook for production and the financial position. When in full bearing the intrinsic valuation per planted acre on the basis of rubber at 2*s.* and "all-in" costs at 1*s.* per pound, should be at least £150, equal to, say, £4½ for the £1 shares, in comparison with the present quotation of 2¼. The insufficient factory accommodation, which is being smartly remedied, is not a vital factor, and the [illegible] guarded by the large reserve fund.

FRASER AND CHALMERS, LIMITED.

Fairly considerable progress has been made by this well-known engineering Company during the twelve months to June 30, 1915, the balance of net profits after providing for depreciation showing an increase of nearly 50% over those for the previous year. It is certainly satisfactory to find that progress has been made during a particularly difficult time. Naturally, trading during the period has been affected by the War, while difficulties have been experienced in obtaining supplies of raw materials and in maintaining a sufficient labour force. As the Chairman points out, these are difficulties which apply practically to all engineering concerns in this country at the present time, but they have been somewhat accentuated in the case of Fraser and Chalmers, Limited. Owing to the close proximity to other works and the Arsenal at Woolwich, there is at present an unprecedented demand for skilled and unskilled labour, and the housing problem in that district adds to the difficulties of the situation. Twelve months ago the Chairman told the shareholders that there was a falling-off in the number of orders and inquiries for Erith manufactures immediately after the outbreak of war, but after some time had elapsed a better tone had been observed, though it was hardly to be expected that the normal volume of business would be secured during the year. This anticipation proved to be largely correct, because, "although the turnover in value was approximately the same as the previous year, in tonnage it was considerably less, the levelling-up in money value being largely the necessary result of increased cost of manufacture in these times." Nevertheless, the Chairman was able to report progress. The advance recorded last year in the manufacture and sale of steam turbines and turbo-blowers has been fully maintained during the year under review, the results from this department showing an improvement; and, equally satisfactory, there is every promise that it will continue to grow in importance. The Company has now an established name in this class of manufacture, as is evidenced by the increasing number of inquiries and orders which are received. The orders taken in the coal-carrying and coal handling department have also been very satisfactory, and at the present moment the Company is in the process of carrying out some substantial orders for the French Government, and also in South Africa and China. The directors anticipate that in the near future this should be one of the principal departments of the Company. Some business has been secured also in Bettington boilers, and further inquiries are at present under consideration, though they may have to be deferred owing to the present regulations which exist for controlled establishments. The works of the Company were declared a controlled establishment under the Munitions of War Act on August 2 last. There are certain disadvantages which partially offset the advantages in dealing with the question of labour. Owing to the requirements of the Government, all orders and instructions from them must receive precedence over any other work, and, consequently, there is found considerable difficulty in maintaining certain branches of the business. Considerable progress is reported in regard to the manufacture of dredges, and much encouragement has been received in the experience of the construction of the last three dredges built. In the early part of this year the Company was offered further orders, but owing to the necessity of providing for Government and other war work these had to be refused. During the year under review the business in South Africa has shown some improvement, accounted for by the increase in the demands which sprung up shortly after the outbreak of war for many stamp mill and other supplies, in view of the danger of a shortage and the cutting-off of supplies from Germany. During the pressure of the demand the Company had to place some of its orders in the United States, but it is hoped that in time this position will adjust itself. The trading in Australia, and also in Canada, shows a falling-off as compared with the previous year. Certain new business has been secured in Australia, and the satisfactory crops in Canada are expected to improve conditions there in the near future.

Originally the business of the Company was confined practically entirely to the manufacture of mining machinery, more especially for export to South Africa. With a comparative stationariness of [illegible] conditions of the South African mining system, and with the mining companies' wants largely satisfied, together with an increase in competition, it is not surprising that the directors of Fraser and Chalmers, Limited, should find that their business was inclined to show a downward tendency. With no great probability of improvement in the future, the board decided on the wise policy of enlarging the basis of the business, and, consequently, at the present time, instead of being engaged purely in the manufacture of mining machinery, additional branches of business have been opened. The Company has specialised in the manufacture of turbines and turbo-blowers. It has also taken up the manufacture of large gas-engines, while other manufactures undertaken are those of oil-engines, coal-handling machinery, and boilers, so that whereas formerly the profits depended on one class of manufactures, a change has occurred, and in the future the broader basis should have an important bearing on the results. As at the present time the Company is naturally passing through a transitional stage, it cannot possibly be expected that the undertaking of establishing practically new businesses could be carried into effect in a successful manner all at once. There has been, for example, the necessity of finding new markets—a very costly proceeding, for, of course, special inducements in the way of low prices have had to be offered in order to obtain a start. During the first few years, therefore, it means a period of going slowly, of meeting exceptional costs, and, consequently, of being content with a comparatively small margin of profit.

For the past twelve months the net trading profits, after deduction of management expenses, have

amounted to £24,640, as compared with £20,711 for the previous year. After allowing for depreciation there is a net balance of £12,059, as compared with £8,377—an increase of nearly 50%. This improvement, however, is not sufficient to permit of a resumption of dividends on the Ordinary shares, the last distribution being in 1912, when 3% was paid. The Preference dividend has, however, been duly paid, and the balance, plus the amount brought forward, less a transfer of £17,904 to reserve "in order to compensate for the amount expended during the year in fixed plant and machinery at the works," is carried forward to the current year.

In the following table we set out the manner of distributing the profits for the past six years:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	[illegible]	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profits	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	35,726	[illegible]	53,182
Interest, discount, &c.	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,839	4,500	[illegible]	2,324
Interest on [illegible] in America Co., &c.	[illegible]	[illegible]	112	169	[illegible]	1,651
Gross profits	26,101	[illegible]	[illegible]	40,395	65,715	57,157
Management expenses, &c. ...	3,641	[illegible]	22,711	22,104	21,667	21,233
Depreciation account	10,401	[illegible]	9,695	9,515	[illegible]	[illegible]
Balance ...	12,059	8,377	5,228	[illegible]	32,998	[illegible]
Debenture interest ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,098	1,105	1,105
Preference dividend (7½%) ...	4,725	4,725	[illegible]	4,725	4,725	4,725
Ordinary dividend	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11,340	26,460	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reserve	17,904	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	−10,570	3,652	−60,121	[illegible]	[illegible]	−6,721
Brought forward *	18,977	[illegible]	75,446	[illegible]	85,425	90,146
Carried forward	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	84,133	[illegible]

* After [illegible]

The issued share capital amounts to £441,000. A total of £70,000 Debentures have been issued and lodged as security for future loans and personal guarantees. With the most recent transfer from profits the reserve fund is brought up to £80,000. The works stand in the books at £204,967. Patterns and drawings stand at the nominal sum of £1, as do the patents. The total assets are valued at £714,491, as may be seen from the following summary of the liabilities and assets at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES	£	ASSETS	£
Issued capital	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sundry creditors	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bill payable, &c.	27,738	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reserve	[illegible]	[illegible], &c.	[illegible]
Profit and loss	[illegible]	[illegible] work	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]
		A	[illegible]
		[illegible] debtors, A	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]
	714,491		714,491

As regards the future, it may be pointed out that during the past year the Company has appointed a representative to look after its interests in Russia. Although there is not much prospect of immediate business the ground is being prepared for future work. The Company has entered into a contract with Vickers, Limited, for the supply of electric power to the Vickers works at Erith. Should this not be continued after the expiration of the contract the power station will supply all the needs of Fraser and Chalmers' own works at a considerably lower cost for power than in the past. The Company is carrying out a large amount of work for the Government or its contractors and for the supply of power units, which is classed as war work; but, naturally, other orders and inquiries for the Company's ordinary manufactures have had to be turned down. The works are fully occupied at the present time, and "there is reason to hope that the results for the current year should be as favourable as, if not more so than," those of the year just ended. Hence at present prices both classes of shares appear worth the attention of investors who desire what must be partially regarded as a lock-up investment.

Amount		Par	Price	Investment
£		£		%
63,000 5½% Cum. Pref.	...	5	5[illegible]	[illegible]
378,000 Ordinary	...	5	2[illegible]	[illegible]

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Insurance Notes.

GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the disturbing factor of the War this Company is able to point to some satisfactory features in its annual report for 1914. The new business amounted to £534,395 in sums assured, £28,640 thereof being reassured, the net retention thus being £505,755, which is [illegible] £146,502 [illegible] corresponding [illegible] 1913. It would be wrong, however, to infer that the Company's new business [illegible] by the War. The greater part of the new business in 1913 was effected in the United Kingdom, but the home new business in 1914 was less than a fourth of the total amount reported in that year.

The following comparison of the Company's home and overseas new business in these years is interesting:—

			Annual Value of New Sums Assured.	
			Written in the United Kingdom.	Out of the United Kingdom.
			£	£
1913	..	...	221,883	137,370
1914	..	...	122,420	383,335

Thus in 1914 the new business within the United Kingdom showed a decrease of £99,463, while on the other hand the new business out of the United Kingdom showed an increase of £245,965.

Of the new business out of the United Kingdom effected in 1914, £349,475 related to British colonies and £33,860 to foreign countries. The Company is strongly represented in South Africa.

The total net premium income amounted in 1914 to £1,[illegible] [illegible] decrease of £4,844. The

premiums on business within the United Kingdom, £130,157, are decreased by £6,933; those on business out of the United Kingdom, £46,774, are increased by £2,089. The expense ratio, comparing expenses of all kinds with premium income, was 20.3% in 1914, as compared with 19.7% in 1913. Looking to the amount and geographical distribution of the new business, an increase in the expense ratio was to be looked for, but the expense ratio as it now stands is about 50% above the average shown by British life offices, and a reduction in this respect seems desirable in future.

The mortality experience seems to have been favourable. The death claims amounted to £139,134, of which £18,019 was reassured, and it is reported that £32,646 less was paid out in this way than had been provided for. The number of deaths anticipated by the mortality tables was 527, and the actual number was 431. At the date of the annual meeting it was reported by the Chairman that only two death claims, both being for small sums under old policies, had fallen on the Company owing to war casualties, although such comparative immunity is not again to be expected. The directors are, however, limiting their risks in this direction, as they are not taking any new policies subject to war hazards.

Endowment assurances for £46,163 matured by survivance during 1914. Through the year's operations the life assurance fund was increased by £22,521 to £2,043,319, the investment reserve fund being maintained at £133,531. The interest yield on the life fund seems to have been about £3 15*s*. 9*d*. per cent., after deduction of tax, as compared with the rate of 3% actuarially assumed for valuation purposes. The total assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £2,281,460, as appearing in the balance sheet, the values of the Stock Exchange securities being taken at or under cost price.

Policyholders have the protection of a subscribed capital amounting to £1,000,000, of which, however, only £50,000 is paid up, in shares of £100 with £5 paid. The proprietors' fund (inclusive of paid-up capital) appears in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, as £66,156. The dividends to shareholders during the current quinquennium are at the rate of 10% per annum. The next quinquennial valuation falls to be made on December 31, 1917. The reversionary bonuses declared on the last quinquennial occasion on the current series of policies (those effected subsequently to 1897) were at the rate of 20*s*. per cent. per annum, in compound form.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The accounts of this mutual life office are made up to March 1 in each year. The last quinquennial valuation, made as at March 1, 1913, led to improved bonus results, although out of the normal profits it was found advisable to apply £85,567 as provision for depreciation in the market value of negotiable securities. The bonuses in reversionary form declared in respect of the quinquennium then ended were at the standard of 30*s*. per cent. per annum, in compound form, as compared with 26*s*. per cent. per annum five years previously. This excellent declaration was no doubt helpful to the Society's agents, and an increased new business was reported for the first year, ending March 1, 1914, of the current quinquennium.

That the new business for the year ending March 1, 1915, showed a reduction is not surprising; indeed, this was a general characteristic during 1914 in the experience of all life offices whose new business is obtained in the United Kingdom, and the accounts of companies made up to December 31 related to five months of war, whereas in the case of the Scottish Equitable seven months of war were included. Nevertheless, the diminution in the Society's new business is only about 15%. The new assurances effected in the year to March 1, 1915, amounted to £697,123, of which £62,194 was reassured, the net retention thus being £634,929, as compared with £751,453 in the previous year.

The Society's total premium income, amounting in the year ended March 1, 1915, to £426,856, shows an increase of £3,026. Thus the new business appears to have been more than sufficient to replace wastage through deaths, survivance, surrenders and other causes. Indeed, this fact is more strikingly brought out if single payments of premium are excluded from the last two years' accounts. Apart from these payments, the premiums in the year ended March 1, 1915, amounted to £415,204, as compared with £406,490 in the previous year, the renewable premium income thus showing an increase of £8,714.

The expense ratio in proportion to the total net premium income shows a diminution of 5*s*. 1*d*. per cent., being £13 4*s*. 9*d*. in 1914-15, as compared with £13 9*s*. 10*d*. per cent. in 1913-14.

The sum of £9,291 was received during the last financial year as consideration for annuities granted, as compared with £12,897 in the preceding year. The Society does not appear much inclined to push this class of business, although the attractions of annuity contracts for life offices are increased by the higher rate of interest which can at present be secured on new investments in good classes of security.

As regards claims, the Society's experience seems to have continued to be favourable. The amount of the death claims in the last financial year, inclusive of bonuses, but deducting reassurances, was £338,045. This is higher by £33,043 than was reported for the previous year, but is stated to have been well within the expectation. Bonus additions to ordinary participating policies which became claims represented 42.7% of the total sums assured, which testifies to the past productiveness of the Society's bonus system. Endowment assurances for £134,330 matured by survivance.

Through the year's operations the Society's funds were increased by £58,110 to £6,285,115. The nominal increase was £102,362, but it is explained that, in view of the prevailing depreciation of securities, the directors thought it advisable to carry £44,252 to the investments suspense account.

The average net rate of interest for the year, after deduction of income tax, is reported as £3 19*s*. per cent., as compared with £4 0*s*. 3*d*. per cent. in the previous year. The diminution in the net yield is more than accounted for by the increase in income tax. Although income tax for the now current financial year will be still higher, the Society will benefit by the relief given in respect of purely life offices, according to the methods of assessment indicated by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer in his last financial statement. In any case the net interest yield reported by this Society from its last financial year shows that a considerable profit must have accrued to members from the investment of the funds, as the rate of interest actuarially assumed for the accumulation is 3%.

CASTNER-KELLNER ALKALI.

The twelve months to September 30, 1915, have proved exceptionally prosperous for this well-known Chemical Company, and the profits made are far and away the highest recorded. Of late years the Company has enjoyed a time of considerable prosperity and dividends have been on a substantial scale. Up to 1907 the profits were fairly substantial, but the dividends, though never falling below 4%, were on a much smaller scale than have prevailed since then. The formation of the Company dates back to 1895, when it was brought out to work the Castner-Kellner patents in the British Empire, except Canada, for the manufacture of caustic alkali and bleaching-powder by means of electrolytic decomposition of salt. In 1900 another business was taken over, the basis being thereby broadened by the addition of other chemical manufactures, the chief portion of the acquired busi-

ness being the manufacture of sodium. The Company ranks among these industrial concerns in this country which are well and scientifically managed and administered, and the board has set itself resolutely to maintain the works in a thoroughly efficient and up-to-date condition. Steps have been taken to bring down the cost of production to the lowest possible figure, and by reason of the foresight and energy consistently forthcoming the dividend since 1907 has never been lower than 12½%, while it has been as high as 22½%. For the past twelve months the rate is at 20%, but in comparing the rate of distribution it should not be forgotten that in 1913 it was decided to capitalise a portion of the reserve fund, and distribute it as a special bonus to the shareholders, and the result of this increase in capital was that the 15% dividend paid for the twelve months to September 1914 was equivalent to the 22½% for the previous year, and it may also be added that the 20% that is paid for the twelve months to September 30, 1915, has called for nearly £45,000 more than the 22½% that was paid in 1913. The profits for the past twelve months have amounted to £267,203, as compared with £179,730 for the previous year. The reason for the substantial increase is to be found in a capital expenditure of £215,000 which was made between 1913 and 1915 on land, buildings, plant, machinery, &c., the new plant only beginning to make itself felt in the early part of the financial year under review, and, as the Chairman pointed out at the meeting this week, the extra profits are due not to increased prices or to any extra profits made out of Government contracts, but to the foresight of the directors, plus a certain amount of good fortune, in very largely increasing the plant at the right time, enabling them to carry out all contracts without inconveniencing any customers. The Chairman also emphasised the fact that such of the products as had been required by the Government had been supplied at prices which left the Company no more, if as much, profit than it would have derived from their sale in the ordinary way of business.

The following affords a bird's-eye view of the profits secured from 1901:—

		Gross Profits	Net Profits	To Reserves	Dividend
		£	£	£	%
Year to Sept. 30,	1915 ...	267,203	252,750	60,000	20
,, ,,	1914 ...	179,730	165,875	52,500	15
,, ,,	1913 ...	177,189	163,977	55,000	22½
,, ,,	1912 ...	181,819	168,380	80,000	20
,, ,,	1911 ...	183,399	170,063	80,000	20
,, ,,	1910 ...	169,076	155,569	77,500	17½
,, ,,	1909 ...	137,597	124,842	60,000	14
,, ,,	1908 ...	118,948	106,085	42,500	12½
,, ,,	1907 ...	120,320	107,057	30,000	12
Six months	,, 1906 ...	57,644	30,975	15,000	7
Year ended March 31,	1906 ...	75,560	58,750	30,000	6
,, ,,	1905 ...	58,880	42,204	15,000	4
,, ,,	1904 ...	43,488	31,645	15,000	4
,, ,,	1903 ...	67,117	48,562	15,000	6
,, ,,	1902 ...	74,102	46,323	15,000	6
,, ,,	1901 ...	60,142	30,200	10,000	5

After providing for Debenture interest there is a balance of £252,750. The 20% dividend has absorbed £150,000 of this, leaving a balance of £102,750. Of this, £50,000 is carried to the depreciation reserve, and £10,000 to the general reserve, the surplus of £42,750 being added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £61,152.

In the following statement we show the manner of distributing the profits for the past six years:—

12 Months to Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross profits ...	267,203	179,730	177,189	181,819	183,399	169,076
Sundry expenses ...	6,547	6,785	1,841	4,757	4,546	4,521
	260,656	174,945	175,348	177,062	178,853	164,555
Debenture interest, 4½%	8,056	8,575	8,371	8,682	8,790	8,986
	252,750	165,875	163,977	168,380	170,063	155,569
Dividend...	150,000	111,458	102,094	90,000	90,000	78,750
	(20%)	(15%)	(22½%)	(20%)	(20%)	(17½%)
	102,750	54,417	61,883	78,380	80,063	76,819
Depreciation and reserve	60,000	52,500	55,000	80,000	80,000	77,500
	42,750	1,917	6,883	—1,620	63	—681
Brought forward ...	18,402	16,485	10,602	13,222	14,159	15,840
Carried forward ...	61,152	18,402	17,485*	11,602*	14,222*	15,159

* Less sum voted to directors.

The issued share capital now amounts to £750,000, and there is in addition a Debenture issue now totalling £177,253. This Debenture debt was originally £250,000, but a sum of £5,000 is set aside each year for the purpose of redeeming the issue. With the allocations from the profits of the past twelve months the depreciation reserve is brought up from £387,500 to £437,500, and the general reserve from £69,364 to £79,364. The general reserve is invested entirely outside the business, and in addition to these investments there are others valued at cost at £236,578. Some of these are trade investments upon which no exact value can be placed, but the greater portion consists of thoroughly sound marketable securities quoted on the Stock Exchange. The total assets are valued at £1,725,727, of which land, buildings, plant, machinery, patents, and other assets are valued at £1,186,788. If the depreciation reserve be deducted it will thus be seen that this item is reduced to under £750,000. The cash in hand at September 30 last amounted to £77,917. Herewith we give a summary of the liabilities and assets as shown in the last balance sheet:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	750,000	Property, &c. ...	1,187,168
4½% 1st Mort. Deb. stock	177,253	Sundry debtors ...	88,528
Sundry creditors, &c. ...	153,458	Stocks	64,372
Depreciation reserve ...	437,500	Investments ...	305,941
General reserve	69,364	Bills receivable ...	1,201
Profit and loss	211,152	Cash	77,917
	1,725,727		1,725,727

Naturally the large increase in the carry-forward, bringing it up to £61,152, as compared with £18,402, is due to the necessity of providing for the payment of whatever sum that may become due from the Company in respect of the excess profits taxes. The directors are not able to say at present with anything like complete precision what the amount will be, "but whatever it might turn out to be the directors felt certain that the carry-forward will not only cover it but leave a large margin to spare." Altogether it will be seen that the Company occupies a strong position. It has built up a very substantial business, and, as already indicated, by adopting a policy of maintaining the plant in a thoroughly efficient condition, by introducing the most modern methods of manufacture, and by following out a conservative policy thereby giving command of some additional working capital, it is well placed not only to meet competition, but also able to take advantage of any trade expansion. Doubtless Government demands will continue to keep the Company very busy during the current year, and there is, therefore, every reason to assume that the profits will continue on a very substantial scale. The £1 Ordinary share has risen from 2½ to 3 throughout the past twelve months On the basis of the 20% distributed last year the yield afforded is very nearly 7%. The Debenture stock is quoted at 95, thereby giving a yield of 4¾%. This stock is well covered from both capital and interest point of view, and the yield is certainly a good one.

We recapitulate the capital, prices, and yields afforded herewith:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d
177,235	4½% 1st Mort. Deb. stk....	100	95	4¾	4 15 9
700,000	Ordinary Shares ...	1	3	20	6 18 10

DENNIS BROTHERS (1913), LIMITED.

Last year we drew the attention of investors to the possibilities of the shares of this motor-car manufacturing concern. The report for the year to September 30, 1915, shows that the profits have risen from £68,169 to £122,066. This increase has been secured in spite of serious difficulties. The supply of labour and material has caused considerable anxiety, and the Company has had to cancel most of the orders announced as being in hand in December last owing to the fact that, with the exception of fire-engines for municipal authorities, the War Office has demanded the whole of the Company's output.

The Company is a young one, being brought out in March 1913, when it was formed for the purpose of acquiring and developing the business of Dennis Bros., Limited, of Guildford, manufacturers of motor vans, motor lorries, motor fire-engines, motor-cars, &c. A three-yearly profit period was shown in the prospectus. For the twelve months to September 30, 1910, the profit was £19,378, for the following year it rose to £30,914, and for the year to September 30, 1912, it reached a total of £41,085. The prospectus anticipated a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, on the capital of £300,000 with which the Company was formed. The first report covered the period to September 30, 1913, and this showed that the prospectus' anticipations of higher profits had been realised, the trading profit amounting to £55,441. After providing for depreciation and payment to the vendors of the profits from September 30, 1912, to March 31, 1913, the balance was sufficient to provide for the 10 per cent. dividend forecasted.

For the twelve months to September 1914 the trading profit rose to £68,169, and the net profit was £61,485, which was more than sufficient to provide for a 20% dividend. The distribution, however, was maintained at 10%, and £10,000 was carried to general reserve, while the whole of the preliminary expenses, amounting to £19,851, were wiped out. As already stated, for the past twelve months the trading profit has amounted to £122,066, and the sum available for distribution has risen to £117,920, this being nearly sufficient to provide for a distribution of 40%. The actual dividend is 15%, and from the balance of £72,920 a sum of £40,000 is carried to general reserve, and £25,000 to a reserve for fluctuations in stock values, the exceptionally large allocations being due to the necessity of providing for excess profits duty and other contingencies. The carry-forward is £11,349, as compared with £4,129 brought in.

We set out herewith the manner of distributing the profits:—

Year ended Sept. 30	1915	1914	1913
	£	£	£
Trading profit	122,066	68,169	55,441
Interest and transfer fees	2,800	675	320
	124,866	68,844	55,761
Depreciation, &c. ...	5,446	6,859	5,695
Paid to vendors	—	—	20,753
Expenses ...	1,500	1,500	8,018
Net profit	117,920	61,485	21,295
Dividend ...	45,000	30,000	15,000†
	(15%)	(10%)	(10%)
	72,920	31,485	8,295
Reserve fund ...	65,700	29,851*	5,800*
	7,220	1,634	2,495
Brought forward	4,129	2,495	—
Carried forward	11,349	4,129	2,495

* Including preliminary expenses written off.
† Six months.

The issued capital is £300,000, and the reserves have been brought up to £75,000, while there is also £11,349 carried forward. The total assets are valued at £476,153, of which cash forms the exceptionally large total of £118,109, this being the largest individual item of the assets. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at September 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued capital	300,000	Buildings and goodwill	102,597
Sundry creditors	76,804	Land, buildings, &c.	82,641
Reserves	75,000	Stock on hand and work in progress	168,789
Profit and loss	11,349	Debtors	11,017
		Investments	3,000
		Cash	118,109
	476,153		476,153

During the past year the Company's operations have been confined to the manufacture of two types of vehicles only, one being the military type of wagon and the other the Dennis turbine fire-engine. On August 4, 1914, the military authorities commandeered all the vehicles which were made and those nearing completion in the factory, and payment was made as if they had been delivered to the customers for whom they were originally intended, and, as already stated, with the exception of the fire-engines for municipal authorities, the whole of the output has been taken by the War Office. This naturally has necessitated a loss of connection with private clients, and has depreciated the goodwill. Doubtless on the termination of war competition among commercial-vehicle manufacturers will be very acute, but there is no doubt that a considerable wastage will have to be made good, and mechanical traction will undoubtedly be called upon to make up for the enormous losses of horses due to the War. Nevertheless, it is certainly desirable in view of possible competition that the financial position of the Company should be strengthened as far as possible, and hence the decision of the directors to set aside sufficient profits not only to meet the excess profits duty, but also to write down the goodwill, will have a beneficial effect on future results, for it goes without saying, of course, that the stronger the Company's financial position the better it will be placed to meet whatever competition is manifested. The £1 share now stands at 29*s.* 6*d.*, and on the basis of the 15% paid for last year, the yield afforded is over 11%. There should be little or no difficulty in maintaining profits at a sufficiently large figure to provide for a continuance of the 15% distribution, and the large yield afforded is undoubtedly attractive.

DICK, KERR AND COMPANY.

A SLIGHT improvement has been shown for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, as compared with the previous year, the profits increasing £2,200. After providing for Debenture interest and Preference dividend the balance is sufficient to provide for a 6% dividend, but in view of the abnormal conditions prevailing it was considered advisable to pass the dividend again and place £25,000 as a reserve against contingencies.

The manner of the distribution of the profits may be seen from the following statement for the past six years:—

Twelve months ended June 30	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net trading profits	41,539	41,762	30,092	3,275	37,994	22,821
Debenture interest, &c.	10,539	10,961	11,183	11,551	11,760	12,105
Debenture stock redemption	—	—	500	500	500	500
	31,000	30,801	18,409	—8,776	25,734	10,216
Preference dividend (6%)	18,300	18,300	18,300	18,300	18,300	18,300
	12,700	12,501	109	—27,076	7,434	—8,084
Ordinary dividend	—	—	—	—	13,000	13,000
					(5%)	(5%)
	12,700	12,501	109	—27,076	—5,566	—21,084
Special reserve ...	25,000	—	—	—	—	—
	—12,300	12,501	109	—27,076	—5,566	—21,084
Brought forward	5,121	2,625	2,516	29,592	35,158	56,242
Carried forward	—7,179	15,126	2,625	2,516	29,592	35,158

The normal development of the business is, of course, stopped, and the Company is now busy on abnormal work. The profit on last year's trading was principally derived from orders and contracts taken before the War, and these are gradually falling in. The decision of the board to set aside £25,000 to a special reserve is to provide for the transition period following on the end of the War, which will be occupied in re-establishing normal conditions. The directors are hopeful, however, that as a result of the work now being undertaken for the Government "some reasonable profit proportionate to the efforts that have been made will be permitted—sufficient, at all events, to make it unnecessary next year to put aside a large percentage of profit to reserve for contingencies." As the Company is engaged practically entirely on War work, naturally it will be affected by the excess profits duty. The £1 Ordinary share may be obtained at about 8*s.* 9*d.*, and the £1 Preference share at 13*s.* The latter gives a yield of 9%, and as there should be no difficulty in maintaining the Preference dividend the shares have decided speculative attractions.

SAMUEL ALLSOPP AND SONS.

A MEETING of the holders of the 4½% Debenture stock of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, was held on November 23 for the purpose of considering a scheme of arrangement. The scheme is founded on the fact that on December 31 next the moratorium in respect of interest upon the Debenture stock comes to an end, and unless steps had been taken the Debenture stockholders could then take action to wind up the Company. The scheme extends the period in which the Debenture stockholders can take action, providing that in respect of arrears of interest the Company shall issue certificates of rights, the certificates to be issued in respect of that portion of the interest which the Company may from time to time be unable to pay in cash. On account of the current year it is proposed to pay 2½%, so that the certificates will only be issued for 2%. The scheme was passed by a very large majority. At the meeting Sir William B. Peat afforded some information as to the Company's present position. The directors now responsible for the management of the Company presented their first accounts for the year up to September 1914, showing a surplus profit of £13,048. For the twelve months to September 30 last it is expected the profit will be at least £30,000, and this during a period seriously affected by the War. Increased taxation has tended to reduce the consumption of the Company's output, but a set-off has been secured against that, inasmuch as Allsopps has acquired an interest in Showells Brewery. For the current year, with the further serious restrictions which are in force applicable to other licensed property, and particularly to licensed properties in areas where munitions are being manufactured, the Company's barrelage shows a serious redution as compared with the barrelage of the immediately preceding year. On the other hand, however, in so far as all brewing materials are concerned, the Company is well-bought for the current year's requirements at comparatively cheap prices. On the whole, however, it would appear that the outlook is not particularly brilliant, and it was, therefore, distinctly desirable that some arrangement should be made with the 4½% Debenture stockholders to enable the Company to tide over what may prove to be a difficult period. With the scheme of arrangement carried it seems possible that, given good management, the Company may eventually fairly turn the corner.

HOPE BROTHERS, LIMITED.

TWELVE months ago the Chairman of Hope Brothers, Limited, warned the shareholders that the business must undoubtedly be affected by the withdrawal of thousands of customers from their ordinary occupations, and, he added, "not only may our sales be reduced from this cause, but we must suffer from rising markets and almost certainly from the difficulty of obtaining certain classes of goods." The warning was a timely one; and probably no retail businesses have felt more acutely the effects of the War than those dealing in men's wear, and, as anticipated, the Company has had to contend with the rise in prices of raw materials and the difficulty of obtaining certain classes of goods, while the question of transport has proved a very pressing one. Some slight compensation for the falling off in the regular trade has occurred by contracts which the directors were able to obtain for the supply of clothing to the troops. Altogether it is not surprising that the trading profit for the twelve months to August 31, 1915, is only £43,845, as compared with £53,733 for the previous year. The Ordinary dividend is reduced from 5% to 4%, but in order to pay this it is necessary to reduce the carry-forward by £1,239.

In the following statement we set out the manner of distributing the profits for each year since 1909:—

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary dividend	14,545	16,783	21,199	20,421	20,000	20,000	21,171
Depreciation, &c.	6,001	5,839	9,245	9,274	8,671	8,972	6,579
Appropriation, pref. stock, &c.	—	—	1,609	10,186	9,609	10,728	8,511	8,500
Net profit	21,546	22,622	32,053	39,881	38,280	39,700	36,261	36,250
Pref. dr. 5%	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	10,761	18,622	25,053	25,204	23,637	20,744	18,772
Ordinary dividend	12,000	15,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	16,500	15,000
	—	—	—	(6%)	(6%)	(5½%)	(5%)
	−1,239	3,622	7,053	7,304	5,637	4,244	3,772
To reserve fund	—	500	5,500	5,000	3,202	3,000	3,000
	−1,239	3,122	1,553	2,304	2,435	1,244	772
Amount brought forward	12,482	11,243	11,015	8,711	6,276	5,032	4,260
Carried forward	11,243	14,365	12,568	11,015	8,711	6,276	5,032

The outlook remains uncertain, and the Company can scarcely expect to do any more than maintain the current year's profits at last year's level, and, on the whole, the Ordinary shareholders would do well not to anticipate a repetition of even the 4% that was paid for last year; and it may be added that the Chairman has indicated the possibility of passing an interim distribution. The £1 Ordinary share may be obtained at about 13*s.*, while the £1 Preference share stands at 15*s.* 6*d.*

HUMBER, LIMITED.

A VERY considerable advance in profit is shown by this cycle and motor-car Company as a result of the trading to August 31, 1915, the profit rising from £36,318 to £80,791. The demand for the Company's ordinary production has been far beyond the available capacity of the works, after allowing for the great reduction in the output of cars and cycles in consequence of the major part of the machinery being devoted to War Office work. As from September 1, 1915, the factory was placed under Government control, and very little work except for the Government is now possible. After providing for depreciation there is a net profit for the past year of £64,146, as compared with £23,513 for the previous year. The Company was thus able to pay off two years' arrears of Preference dividend, leaving a further two years still to be provided for, while £10,000 was placed to a buildings reserve, and the balance of £14,367 was added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £48,659. Herewith we set out the profits for each of the past three years:—

	1915.	1914	1913
	£	£	£
Profit on trading	80,791	36,318	69,115
Other income	1,037	1,488	1,442
Gross profit	81,828	37,806	70,557
Interest, directors' loans, &c.	8,378	7,622	11,656
Depreciation ...	9,304	6,671	8,809
Net profit	64,146	23,513	50,092
Pref. dividend (5%)	39,779*	19,890	19,890
Reserve	10,000		
Balance	14,367	3,623	30,202
Brought forward	34,292	30,669	467
Carried forward	48,659	34,292	30,669

* Arrears (5%).

The Ordinary shares have received no return since 1907, and, as already indicated, the Company has been for some time past in arrears with its Preference dividend. In the circumstances, therefore, it would appear that the provisions of the excess profits duty will bear rather hardly on the Company, unless the directors are able to satisfy the tribunal that special circumstances must be taken into consideration. Doubtless this will be done. It is probable, however, that as a result of the current year's labours it will be possible to wipe out the whole of the arrears of the Preference dividend, and thereby bring nearer a resumption eventually of Ordinary dividends.

"Business Prospects in India." By A. T. Stewart. Price 2*s.* (London: F. Hodgson, 89 Farringdon Street, E.C.) One of a series of booklets written with the endeavour of arousing greater interest in British enterprise abroad.

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Commercial.

THE KHAKI BOOM.

A SUBJECT that has commanded much attention during this period of war has been the Government requirements of textile products. This matter has been emphasised during recent weeks by the placing of large orders for khaki clothes by the Allies with United States manufacturers. Whether the five million yards have been given out by the Italian or the Russian Government is not really clear, one section of the trade asserting one thing, and another the opposite. But that is of little importance, the great fact being that something like that quantity of khaki has been placed, the annoying thing being that it could have been easily tackled in West Riding manufacturers, and thereby at least a month could have been saved in delivery and fully 6*d.* per yard in price, and it is not yet actually known why the Allies went across the Atlantic to place their orders. Some assert that the officials went abroad under a misconception, believing that if the orders came to the West Riding [illegible] reasonable time, it being generally supposed that all firms alike were overwhelmed with orders. Such is not the case by any means, and we are confident that Huddersfield manufacturers could easily have done full justice to such an order, both from the standpoint of delivery and price. That our own War Trade Department was not consulted has caused both surprise and annoyance in manufacturing circles.

The textile industry to-day is very differently situated from what it was six months ago, particularly in regard to the khaki business. It is now fully four months since the writer remarked in these pages that there were no signs of any further khaki orders being placed for soldiers' uniform serge, owing to there being heavy stocks in the hands of the Government. Succeeding events have fully verified that statement, and according to a recent War Office memorandum it is very unlikely that new contracts for khaki cloth will be given out, except to the regular manufacturers who have made for the War Office for many years. It will be remembered that twelve months ago any manufacturer capable of producing a passable khaki piece could obtain a decent order, but when those contracts were executed they were not favoured with new orders. We are in a position to say that even the present recruiting boom is very unlikely to lead to new orders being placed with what we call outside firms, it being the regular manufacturers, who have made for the War Office for years, who will be called upon to deal with the supplying of the needs of our Army. There is also one more important fact, which should be made known to all manufacturers, namely, that future contracts will be for serge made from worsted warp and woollen weft, all solid worsted serge, such as the troops have been wearing during the recent summer, being largely unsuitable for winter wear. We fully endorse the attitude which the officials of the British Government have taken up in demanding that our soldiers be clothed in something solid and warm, and to get the maximum heat-creating properties in a cloth it must be made either from all woollen yarns or a combination of a worsted warp and a woollen weft, the piece being well milled before being finished.

The recent War Office memorandum sheds wonderful light upon the purchases of cloth and other woollen goods required for military purposes, and below we give figures showing the quantities of khaki, riding cloths, flannel shirtings, &c., which have been purchased by the War Office during the period of the War:

Description	Yards
Tunic cloth (serge drab mixture)	22,222,320
Trousers cloth (tartan drab mixture)	19,039,025
Greatcoat cloth	9,670,662
Bedford cord, barathea, and whipcord	5,856,851
Flannel shirting (silver grey, grey and drab)...	44,692,743
Flannel shirting (hospital, white)	4,592,733
Serge, hospital blue	2,415,000
Highland tartan	640,604
Total	109,129,938

According to the last return it appears that American manufacturers were favoured with orders for four and a half million yards of khaki cloth, these purchases being made in December and January last, at a time when there was a great need for supplying the troops as quickly as possible. It appears that the quantity of khaki cloth, including serge, tartan, greatcoat cloth, Bedford cord, barathea and whipcord rejected upon inspection since the outbreak of the War amounted in the aggregate to one and a half million yards. This represents 2½% of the total quantities ordered, and must be regarded as very slight. We fully endorse the long-adopted methods of the War Office in submitting to a thorough test all cloths tendered before accepting deliveries from any party.

Another very useful table published by the War Trade Department shows the quantities of blankets and rugs, including the principal articles of hosiery, which

have been purchased by the War Office during the period of the War; the particulars are as follows:—

Undervests	3,858,797
Drawers, woollen	11,797,479
Drawers, cotton	3,412,363
Cardigans and jerseys	4,990,123
Cap comforters	6,759,680
Body belts	3,711,320
Gloves, worsted (pairs)	2,604,834
Blankets, general service	11,565,622
Socks, worsted (pairs)	36,033,523
Blankets, saddle	641,928
Horse-rugs	1,144,155

Since the above particulars were furnished other contracts have been placed, particularly for hosiery, fabrics, and the placing recently of a good million yards of 26-oz. cloth by the Russian Government shows that British manufacturers may expect our Allies to look to them first for supplying all future requirements. The granting of licences for the export of crossbred wool and tops has created a very different feeling in the home trade, and no one can now expect to buy as reasonably as they could have done a good month ago. No doubt it was a right move to grant licences for sending these materials to our Allies. Some shipments have been made both to the Netherlands and Scandinavia, and the granting of licences for export has certainly saved the English clip from slumping. Possibly by the time our own Government is prepared to give out further khaki contracts the next New Zealand clip will be on the market, but in the meantime there is little prospect of new khaki contracts of any magnitude being placed.

Since writing the above we hear on unquestioned authority that the Russian Government representative in Bradford has this week again been placing further khaki orders for a 26-oz. cloth at 5s. 9d. per yard. There are also further inquiries among Yorkshire manufacturers for riding-breeches, presumably for our own Government, there being as yet no real surplus of Bedford cords and barathea cloths, which have been found so serviceable by the Royal Field Artillery. There is every prospect of the present khaki boom continuing; in fact mills generally are exceedingly busy throughout the whole of the United Kingdom, with the exception of a few of the high-class worsted manufacturers of Huddersfield. All hosiery firms are also inundated with orders and work.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday.

DURING the past fortnight our market has shown a hardening tendency, and to-night's closing rates show a gain of nearly 20 points for American deliveries, while Egyptian have been relatively easier, and prices for this growth are quoted at a few points decline. To-night's closing quotations (the highest of the fortnight) are January-February delivery, American 7.02*d*., and January Egyptian 7.55*d*.

The hardening tendency was held last week in check by the disposition of Southern holders in America to sell their cotton, and some of our local importers were able to book some very fair lines, with the result that this market was called upon to absorb a considerable quantity of hedges put out against these purchases. The rise in freights, however, put this market and America out of touch again. The rate of freight now demanded for December shipments from Gulf ports to Liverpool—180 cents per 100 pounds—necessitates a further widening in the parity between the two markets before importing can again become practicable. The inability of importers to buy this week has left our market short of "ring" contracts, and the normal daily demand for covers against spot sales and spinners' calls has proved in excess of the supply, and consequently buyers have had to pay advancing rates. The difference between Liverpool and New York for winter months is now running over 200 American points, and if our market [illegible] it would seem that this difference must widen further. The unusual financial facilities now at the disposal of planters to enable them to hold their cotton until they can secure a satisfactory price places them in a very strong position, and removes any necessity for forced sales. InLiverpool a good deal of our surplus from last season has gone into consumption, and unless our supplies are replenished by fresh imports the visible supply figures for this country will become bullish. The world's supply is, we believe, ample for the world's requirements; but if a suitable distribution is to be made among the consuming countries, prices must be relatively readjusted so as to enable this country, and those Continental nations who can still import cotton, to attract sufficient supplies to provide for the requirements of their spindles. When the tussle is between a strong holder and a needy buyer, as a rule the latter has to comply with the demands of the former.

The Census Ginners' Report, issued on Tuesday, gave the amount of cotton ginned up to November 13, exclusive of linters, as 8,778,000 bales, against 7,384,000 last report and 11,671,000 for the same date last year. The decrease, compared with last season, is general throughout all the cotton States. The report confirms crop estimates of 12,000,000 bales, and those who took an extremely pessimistic view of crop prospects, and talked of a yield of only 10,000,000, or even less, have now nearly secured their crop. The report, being in close approximation to market expectations, did not occasion any change in values.

A very fair daily business continues on the spot at steady rates. Medium grades round about middling are worse to buy, the "points on" stiffening against the buyer. Good staples are still in demand, but for low qualities there is considerable irregularity, and here and there parcels are offered at very cheap rates. A large amount of cotton has been forwarded to the trade, railway and canal facilities having improved for



the time being. Quite a considerable proportion of the cotton recently purchased has been returned as being bought for export.

Correspondence.

THE NEW FRENCH LOAN—IS IT FREE FROM TAXATION?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE STATIST."

SIR,—It appears to be generally believed that the new French Loan will be "exempt from taxation" in the full sense that would ordinarily be attached to the phrase in this country, so that, for example, the new Loan will be free from French income tax. There is, however, reason to believe that the phrase is used with a much more limited meaning, and I would refer your readers to the following extract from *Le Matin* of the 13th instant. (The italics are not in the original.)

"Le 5% sera garanti net pendant quinze ans et sera exempt d'impôts. 'Le question de savoir,' précisa le ministre des finances, 's'il est bon que *la rente* soit soustraite à l'impôt ne se pose pas en ce moment. Nous déclarons que *le titre* est exempt d'impôts, mais cette exemption ne s'applique pas aux impôts qui frappent le porteur ou le revenu. C'est là une déclaration que je demande formellement à la Chambre de confirmer par son vote afin qu'il n'y ait pas d'équivoque.'"

Translation.

The following is the definite statement of the Finance Minister: "The question whether it is desirable that the *Rente* should be subject to taxation does not arise at the moment. We announce that the *bond* is exempt from taxes, but this exemption will not apply to taxes which fall on the *holder* or the *income*. I ask the Chamber formally to confirm this declaration by its vote, in order that there may be no possible misunderstanding."

So far as I am aware the formal announcement in the *Journal Officiel* in no way modifies the Finance Minister's statement, and, if so, it would appear that while the new bonds are not liable to stamp duty, &c., nor to taxation as personal property, there is nothing to prevent the State from taxing the *income*, either by deduction or in the hands of the holder.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. J. LIDSTONE.

Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society,
9 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh,
November 23, 1915.

[The official statement that the loan is free of all taxation is very definite, and as far as foreign holders are concerned the question raised in this letter does not apply.—ED. STATIST.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE CO.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax.

ANGOSTURA BITTERS.—Final dividend of 3% on Ordinary.

BENGAL UNITED TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 10s. per share, less tax, on Ordinary.

BROWN (JOHN) AND CO.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum on Ordinary, less tax.

CACHAR AND DOOARS TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 8s. per share, less tax, on Ordinary.

DREYFUS AND CO.—Dividend of 6% on Ordinary.

FLEMING (A. B.) AND CO.—Interim dividend at the rate of 10% per annum, less tax.

HALFORD CYCLE CO.—Final dividend of 40%, tax free, making 50% for the year.

INGLIS AND CO.—Interim dividend at rate of 10% per annum.

KERALA RUBBER CO.—Interim dividend of 3% for current year.

LAND AND HOUSE PROPERTY CORP.—Dividend of 2½%, less tax, on Ordinary.

LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE CO.—Dividend of 4s. per share, less tax.

PACIFIC PHOSPHATE CO.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 5% per annum.

PEACOCK AND NILAMBE (CEYLON) TEA AND RUBBER ESTATES, LTD.—Interim dividend of 4%, tax free.

INDIAN MINES.

BALAGHAT.—Capital, £212,600 in Ordinary and £95,400 in Ten per Cent. Preference shares of £1 each. The Preference shares after first receiving 10 per cent. entitled to participate *pro rata* with Ordinary for further dividend, but are non-cumulative.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield Value £	Total Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs per Ton	Working Profit* £	Working Profit* Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period†
1914 ...	40,440	66,691	33/0	32/6	909	0/6	2/9
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	9,687	16,188‡	33/5	—	—	—	4/3
June qr. ...	9,009	16,465‡	36/6	—	—	—	4/9
Sept. qr.	9,186	16,585‡	36/2	—	—	—	4/0
Oct. ...	2,960	5,691‡	39/3	—	—	—	5/3

* Before deduction of royalty (£3,264 in 1914).
† Price of Ordinary shares.
‡ Estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Account 1907, March, 10 on Pref. Nil since.

CHAMPION REEF.—Capital £260,000, in shares of 2s. 6d.

Year ends Sept. 30	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield* £	Total Gold Yield* Per Ton	Working Costs per Ton	Total Profit† £	Total Profit† Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1912–13 ...	220,551	510,736	46/3	26/6	218,001	19/7	10/9
1913–14 ...	216,934	527,500	48/7	27/10	225,489	19/7	10/6
1914–15.							
Dec. qr. ...	54,352	134,300*a*	49/4	—	—	—	10/9
March qr. ...	53,115	136,000*a*	51/2	—	—	—	11/6
June qr. ...	51,593	138,885*a*	53/10	—	—	—	11/3
Sept. qr. ...	52,300	141,504*a*	54/1	—	—	—	11/6
12 mos. ...	211,368	550,689*a*	52/7	—	—	—	11/0
1915-16.							
Oct. ...	17,615	45,507*a*	51/8	—	—	—	10/6

* Includes yield from accumulated slimes.
† Before payment of royalty.
(*a*) Estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Total distribution, account 1911-12, 50. Account 1912-13, April, 13⅓; July, 16⅔; December, 20. —Total, 50. 1913-14, March, 13⅓; July, 16⅔; December, 23⅓.—Total, 53⅓. Account 1914-15, March, 13⅓; July, 16⅔.

MYSORE.—Capital £305,000, in 610,000 10s. shares.

Year to Dec. 31	Ore Crushed Tons (2,000 lb.)	Total Value of Gold Secured £	Total Value of Gold Secured Per Ton	Total(*a*) Working Expenses Per Ton	Working Profit £	Working Profit Per Ton	Price end of Year
1913 ...	302,662	905,030	59/9	24/3	538,191	35/6	4¼
1914 ...	304,375	899,498	59/1†	23/10	536,253	35/3	4
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	75,636	222,453*	58/10†	—	—	—	4⅛
June qr. ...	73,300	219,895*	59/11†	—	—	—	4⅛
Sept. qr.	77,176	217,690*	56/5†	—	—	—	3¹¹⁄₁₆
Oct. ...	26,977	72,585*	54/5†	—	—	—	4

* Estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.
† Includes yield from slimes, not extensively treated prior to October 1914.
(*a*) Exclusive of royalty (£54,902 in 1914).

Dividends per cent.—Account 1912, 120. Account 1913, 125. Account 1914, 115. Account 1915, June, 35; Oct., 35.

NUNDYDROOG.—Capital £283,000, in 10s. shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total(*a*) Gold Yield Value £	Total(*a*) Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Working Profit* £	Working Profit* Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1913 ...	90,550	304,326	67/1	31/9	160,228	35/4	27/0
1914 ...	89,950	303,551	67/5	32/3	158,541	35/2	24/0
1915.							
Mar. qr.	22,800	78,308†	68/10	—	—	—	26/0xd
June qr.	23,200	80,238†	69/4	—	—	—	25/6
Sept. qr.	24,000	82,216†	68/6	—	—	—	26/0
Oct. ...	8,000	27,268†	68/1	—	—	—	26/6

* Before deduction of royalty (£19,493 in 1914).
† Estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.
(*a*) Including slimes, &c.

Dividends per cent.—Account 1912, total, 41⅔. 1913, total, 35. 1914, total, 35. 1915, June 10; Oct., 11⅔.

OOREGUM.—Capital issued, 481,544 Ordinary and 240,000 Ten per Cent. Preference shares; all shares of 10s. each. Preference shares first get 10 per cent., and, beyond, same dividend as paid on Ordinary.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Total Gold Yield £	Total Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Working Profit* £	Working Profit* Per Ton	Price of Ord. Shares end of Period
1913 ...	153,636	360,888	47/0	22/8	186,613	24/4	21/0
1914 ...	154,898	367,082	47/4	22/10	190,075	24/6	22/0
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	38,411	93,800†	48/10	—	—	—	27/0
June qr. ...	38,505	92,140†	47/10	—	—	—	25/9
Sept. qr. ...	38,200	91,328†	47/7	—	—	—	22/9
Oct. ...	12,850	30,454†	47/4	—	—	—	23/0

* Before deduction of royalty (£21,660 in 1914).
† Estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.

Dividends per cent.—Total distribution, account 1911 and 1912, 40 on Preference and 30 on Ordinary. Account 1913, 42½ Preference and 32½ Ordinary. Account 1914, June, 17½ Preference and 7½ Ordinary; December, 7½ each; March, 10 each. Account 1915, June, 17½ Preference and 7½ Ordinary.

TO THE HOLDERS OF THE FOLLOWING SECURITIES OF THE

MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY:

Convertible Five per Cent. First and Refunding Bonds,

Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bonds,

CAPITAL STOCK,

and Securities of the other issues dealt with in the plan of readjustment.

In order to preserve the Missouri Pacific system from the evils and losses incident to a prolonged receivership the plan of readjustment should be promptly consummated. The property does not require the extensive physical rehabilitation or the elimination of burdensome entanglements and contracts which are the usual causes of long railroad receiverships. What is required is (a) the cash (approximately $41,000,000) for immediate needs; (b) such reduction in fixed charges as will bring them within a proper margin of the demonstrated earning capacity of the property; and (c) the creation of a new security to deal with the obligations maturing during the next five years (approximately $79,000,000) in so far as they do not fall within the cash provisions of the plan, and to provide for future corporate requirements.

Manifestly these results can be accomplished only by an early reorganisation, and to this end the prompt co-operation of the holders of the various classes of securities affected by the readjustment is essential. They are accordingly urged for the protection of their own interests, and in order to insure the early restoration of the, property to the management of a solvent company, to deposit their securities under the plan of readjustment as promptly as possible, and, in any event, on or before December 15, when the time for deposit under the plan expires and after which it is intended to proceed actively to carry the plan into effect.

There can be no doubt that radical changes in the financial structure of the company as called for in the plan of readjustment are essential to secure the needed results. Although the anticipated improvement in business should result in better earnings than those of the last fiscal year, which failed to meet the interest charges by about $1,250,000, the margin between earnings and fixed charges, which is absolutely essential for the restoration of the company's credit, cannot be assured without the reduction in interest payments sought to be accomplished by the conversion of the Convertible Five per cent. Bonds and the Four per cent. Gold Loan Bonds into Preferred Stock (or Income Bonds). Under the plan the stockholders provide the $41,000,000 of cash for immediate requirements without imposing any burden upon the holders of these bonds; for while the stockholders receive a Four per cent. Bond equal in face amount (but not in market value) to the cash which they furnish, the position of the holders of the Convertible Five per cent. Bonds and the Four per cent. Gold Loan Bonds in relation to earnings is not disturbed in any material degree, because upon the consummation of the plan the charges ahead of them upon the system, taken as a whole, are not augmented, while the net earning capacity of the property should be substantially increased.

The attention of holders of the Missouri Pacific Four per cent. Gold Loan Bonds is called to the fact that default has been made in the payment of the interest on the Iron Mountain Company's First and Refunding Mortgage Six per cent. Bonds, and that proceedings have been instituted to foreclose the mortgage by which those bonds are secured. Their attention is also called to the importance of preserving the traffic relations between the Iron Mountain and Missouri Pacific Companies.

Copies of the plan of readjustment and of an analytical statement relating thereto may be obtained from the readjustment managers, any of the depositaries or sub-depositaries, or the secretary of any of the committees.

The certificates of deposit for Convertible Five per cent. First and Refunding Bonds, for Four per cent. Gold Loan Bonds, for Trust Five per cent. Bonds due 1917, for First Collateral Mortgage Five per cent. Bonds due 1920, and for Stock, have been listed up on the New York Stock Exchange. About 40 per cent. of the Convertible Five per cent. Bonds and 40 per cent. of the Four per cent. Gold Loan Bonds have already been deposited under the plan.

New York, November 24, 1915.

KUHN, LOEB AND CO.,
Readjustment Managers.

ALEXANDER J. HEMPHILL,
Chairman, Five per Cent. First and Refunding Mortgage Bondholders' Committee.

FRANK N. B. CLOSE,
Chairman, Forty-year Four per Cent. Gold Loan Bondholders' Committee.

JAMES N. WALLACE,
Chairman, Stockholders' Committee.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

PRESIDING at the meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank on November 23, Mr. H. A. Richardson said it was his good fortune to present to the shareholders the strongest balance sheet he had ever put before them. They maintained their dividend, and out of the surplus profits had provided in full for depreciation of securities, for all ascertained war losses, and put aside £20,000 for losses that were pretty sure to arise as the War went on. This result had been largely due to a very gratifying increase in current accounts, the cotton crop having been sold much better than seemed likely, and to the fillip that the large number of soldiers located in Egypt had given to business generally. It was a feather in their cap that they had kept the military accounts in Egypt. In Malta and Gibraltar, where they had the Treasury accounts, they had done very useful work. Under contract they had to supply all the funds required there, and in Malta, owing to the War, the requirements had been very large indeed—double what they were before the War. The Malta branch had met all these demands. The new branch at Khartoum had shown encouraging profits. As regarded Egypt, a year ago it looked very gloomy, with cotton at 5*d.* per pound, and not readily saleable at that, but Egypt had, after all, come through the year much better than might have been expected. The revenue showed a deficit of only £1,700,000, no very serious matter in itself. For the first few months of the War trade was at a complete standstill, and losses faced everyone, yet, so soon as the Government fixed a minimum for cotton values, things began to improve all round, the moratorium was brought gradually to an end, and the settlement of cotton contracts on the local exchange—which promised to be a serious source of danger and difficulty—was ably and satisfactorily arranged. Paper took the place of gold, and readily passed into currency, proving an excellent counter for marketing the cotton crop, while the large arrivals of soldiers put money freely into circulation. Five millions sterling was transferred to Egypt between February and August, to the great advantage of importers and others, and with rising prices for cotton exporters were in most cases able to make good their losses of the earlier months. On the other hand, the cultivators of cotton had suffered severely, though there might be some little compensation in the cereal crop, and sugar cultivators had done exceedingly well. The Bank was fortunate in only having £10,000 locked up in enemy countries.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on November 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. T. Dillon) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said he was sorry to have to inform the meeting that Lord St. Davids was not able to be present, owing to an attack of influenza. He had, however, sent a copy of the remarks which he would have made had he been there, and these he (the Chairman) would read : "The total receipts of the railway for the past year showed the large decrease of £244,187—namely, from £1,164,738 in the previous year to £920,551 in the present year, this decrease being equivalent to 20.96%. Taking into account the number of miles open for traffic, these receipts are the lowest for the past 10 years. As stated in the directors' report, the decrease is attributable to the war, and to the consequent disturbance of credit following upon the depression which existed in Argentina prior to the War. At the beginning of the War the banks called in their loans and declined to make further advances. The big wine bodegas, being fully stocked with wine, owing to greater production and reduced consumption, refused to buy more grapes from the small growers. The consequent scarcity of money in circulation caused much increase in the depression of trade already prevailing.

Decrease in Passenger and Goods Traffic.

The receipts from passenger traffic and from general goods are fairly accurate indications of the condition of trade, and it will be seen that the former shows a decrease of £107,354 and the latter a decrease of £53,142. These two items together account for more than 65% of the total reduction in the receipts. The next largest item in reduced receipts is in posts. This is in consequence of the decrease in the plantation of new vineyards, due to trade depression and to the over-production of wine in previous years. The Government of the Province of Mendoza has not only discouraged the plantation of new vineyards, but has taken steps to put out of production some of the existing vineyards in order to reduce the supply of wine to a figure nearer to the probable consumption. One or two of the shareholders have asked questions with regard to the reduction of the dividend. By the arrangement with the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, the Ordinary stock of this Company receives a similar dividend to that paid on the Second Preference stock of the Pacific Company. That Preference stock is not cumulative, and is entitled to receive a dividend according to the amount of profits actually earned during each year, and as the profits of that Company are sufficient for the distribution of £2 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent. on the Second Preference stock, we receive the amount required to pay a like dividend on the Ordinary stock of this Company. One shareholder has written assuming that if this Company had been working its own line it would have been able to pay a larger dividend on its Ordinary stock. It is difficult to arrive at an exact calculation of what our line would have earned if working on its own account, but I have had some figures taken out which show that, allowing for the traffic which has been deflected from our old main line to the new route of the Pacific Company *via* La Paz, and allowing for the larger percentage of working expenditure which our line must always show owing to its distance from the coast, the bad water at many parts of the line, and for other reasons, the Ordinary stock of this Company for the year with which we are now dealing would not have received any dividend at all, and there would have been a reduction of the dividend on the Preferred stock. Over the eight years during which the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company has worked our line, the figures which I have mentioned show that generally the arrangement has proved to be an equitable one between the two companies, as in four out of those eight years the Argentine Great Western Railway would have earned a larger dividend than the amount paid to it by the Pacific Company, and in the other four years it would not have earned an amount equivalent to that which it has received from the Pacific Company and distributed in dividend. Up to the end of 1914 the advantage was slightly in favour of the Pacific Company, but with this year's results added the advantage is distinctly in favour of this Company. The closing of the Transandine line for through traffic for some months is another factor which has helped towards the decrease in receipts. Capital expenditure during the year has been almost entirely suspended, with the result that, owing to the large amount of materials returned to stores from the extensions which were in construction, there is a credit in the capital expenditure account of £72,040. The investments continue to be shown in the balance sheet at cost—namely, £159,923. Valuations have been made of these investments as at June 30 last, so far as it has been possible to make valuations in these times, and I have been asked by the auditors to state that they show a depreciation on the cost price of the investments of 13½%.

Prospects Excellent.

As to the present prospects, the General Manager reports that these continue to be excellent. The financial conditions of Argentina are improving, and with that improvement, which should be general all over the country, it is reasonable to expect an increased demand for the products of those parts of the country which our railway serves. According to late advices, the selling price of wine this year has increased. Experiments are being made in the districts served by our railway to grow cereals and vegetables, and these show a fair promise of success. Some 60,000 hectares of wheat are reported to have been sown in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. Up to the date of the latest advices the receipts of our line show an increase this year of more than 13% over the corresponding period last year, while the receipts of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific system show an increase of £311,000, or more than 23% over last year's figures. According to a cablegram lately received from the General Manager, the following is the position : "Cuyo prospects excellent. Vineyards very satisfactory; contracts grapes being made, favourable prices."

The Chairman then moved the following resolution :—"That the directors' report and audited accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, be received and adopted, and that a balance dividend of 2½% on the Preferred stock and a dividend of £2 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent. on the Ordinary stock of the Company be and the same are hereby declared for the year ended June 30, 1915."

The Hon. Charles N. Lawrence seconded the motion.

The Chairman intimated that he would be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders might wish to put.

The Agreement with the Pacific Company.

Mr. W. H. Skeel: Is the present agreement under which we are working with the Pacific Company a permanent agreement, or is it for a term of years?

The Chairman: The answer to the question is that it is renewable every 20 years.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: That the Hon. Charles N. Lawrence be re-elected a director of the Company.

Mr. C. M. Rose seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Hon. C. N. Lawrence proposed the re-election of Lord St. Davids as a director, which was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr. T. E. Nalty, seconded by Mr. Cross, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company were appointed auditors of the Company for the ensuing year at a remuneration of 50 guineas.

Mr. Nalty proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Chairman for presiding, and for the very lucid statement he had made with regard to the affairs of the Company.

Mr. Johnston seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the hope that Lord St. Davids would be in his usual position at the next meeting, and that he would be able to give the stockholders a more cheerful account than has been submitted on the present occasion.

The proceedings then terminated.

CASTNER-KELLNER ALKALI COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE twentieth ordinary general meeting was held on November 24 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Right Hon. G. W. Balfour (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it was with great pleasure that the directors were able to come before the shareholders with figures so favourable. The net profits for the year, after the customary ample allowances for repairs and maintenance, amounted to £260,804, as against £174,150 last year, or an increase of no less than £85,654. Adding the amount carried forward from last year, and deducting the Debenture interest and the interim dividend paid in May, they were left with an available balance of £211,151. The directors recommended the appropriation of this balance as follows: £50,000 to depreciation reserve, increasing that account to £437,500; £10,000 to general reserve, increasing that account to £79,364; £90,000 in payment of a final dividend of 12%, making, with the interim dividend paid in May, 20% for the year, payable on the 30th instant, leaving £61,151 to be carried forward to the next account. As regarded the depreciation reserve, the sum which they proposed to place to that reserve on the present occasion was £50,000, whereas last year and the year before the amount so placed was £32,500. The increase was due to the large extensions which had recently been made to the Company's plant and machinery. They had not thought it necessary to recommend that more than £10,000 should be added to the general reserve this year as compared with £20,000 last year. It would have been quite easy, had they been so minded, to have added the same sum to the general reserve this year as last year without interfering with the appropriation to dividend. In addition to the investments in the general reserve account there were other investments which, taken at cost price, represented a value of over £236,000. Some of these were trade investments, upon which no exact value could be placed, although they were certainly worth more than they cost, but the greater portion consisted of thoroughly sound marketable securities quoted on the Stock Exchange.

Strong Financial Position.

The financial position of the Company was a very strong one. The shareholders might rest assured that if it were less so the directors would have considered it their first duty to go on building up reserves rather than increase the dividend. As things were they were satisfied that the handsome dividend now proposed had been thoroughly earned and could be paid without entrenching in any degree upon those principles of conservative finance to which the board had consistently adhered throughout the history of the Company. The object of the large carry-forward of £61,151, as compared with £18,402 last year, was to provide for the payment of whatever sum might become due from the Company in respect of the tax on excess profits under the provisions of the Finance Bill now before Parliament. What the amount would be they could not yet say with anything like complete precision, but whatever it might turn out to be the directors felt certain that the carry-forward would not only cover it, but leave a large margin to spare. The real reason for the increased profits was to be found in the capital expenditure of £215,000 which had been made between 1913 and 1915 on land, buildings, plant, machinery, &c. The new plant only began to make itself felt in the beginning of the financial year under review. The extra profits were due not to increased prices or to any extra profits made out of Government contracts, but to the foresight of the directors—and, he might say, a certain amount of good fortune—in very largely increasing the plant at the right time. This had enabled them to carry out all their contracts without inconveniencing any of their customers, and he wished the shareholders to understand that such of their products as had been required by the Government had been supplied at prices which left them no more profit, if as much, than they would have derived from their sale in the ordinary course of business. He congratulated the shareholders on the favourable results, and stated that he saw no reason why the coming year should not be as prosperous as the past one.

Sir Henry R[illegible] seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MESSINA (TRANSVAAL) DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

THE annual ordinary general meeting was held on November 25 at Salisbury House, E.C., Mr. H. C. Hoover presiding.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Leslie, the Chairman of the Company, was unable to be present owing to indisposition, but had prepared the speech which he would have delivered had he been present. In the course of his speech Mr. Leslie said that the shareholders were meeting under far more favourable circumstances than the most optimistic of them could have anticipated when they met a year ago. On June 30, 1914, the current liabilities of the Company exceeded the liquid assets by about £75,000, whereas on June 30, 1915, the liquid assets exceeded the current liabilities by about £31,000. They had been able to clean up the balance sheet by writing down dead assets, and there was not much now left to do in this respect. With regard to the various security assets, they had to face the fact that present conditions were unfavourable to the realisation of such assets and also to their value. As to the present position of the Messina Company, the overdraft at their London bankers, which at the end of 1914 amounted to about £85,000, had been reduced to £27,000 at the date of the present balance sheet. It had since been paid off, and they now had a credit balance there of about £49,000. They had also a quite considerable credit balance in South Africa on current account, the only money now owing in South Africa being the advances made from time to time on products in transit, which was repaid out of the first realisations of this metal as it came forward.



The Mining Position.

As to the position of the mine itself, there was some difference of opinion as to the position and value of the ore reserves, and Mr. Kuehn was sent out to check the matter. Mr. Leslie said that he was somewhat disappointed with Mr Kuehn's estimates, and that, in his view, was the weak point of an otherwise magnificent position. They were taking energetic steps, now that the financial position admitted of this policy, to develop the mine itself and some adjacent prospects on the property. It was too early to speak of results at present, but the prospects were quite promising, and they had great hopes of improving the position of the ore reserves by these means, because Mr. Kuehn had not in his estimate of the reserves included any tonnage for increase in depth or laterally, or for surface prospects. They knew of no reason why the mine should not go down to much greater depths than they had yet reached. In fact, it was all in favour of continuity in depth that the quality of the ore in the ninth and tenth levels had not changed, and that the same rich bands of bornite and chalcopyrite appeared to make up the ore in the pay shoots. It was true that the two principal ore bodies, the bonanza hanging wall and foot-wall, showed a noticeable decrease in size, but this phenomena of decreased width had happened in some of the higher levels and might happen again; and they did not attach great importance to it for the next 200 feet or 300 feet. It led them, however, to suppose that the present rate of output might not be indefinitely maintained, but, as they were deliberately pressing the mine output in view of the present price of copper, they must not complain or be disappointed if they had, say, in about twelve months' time, to be content with a lower output than they were now getting.

Improved Metallurgical Methods.

Mr. Emery went out to Messina in August and formally took up the position as General Manager in December of last year, and he had succeeded in effecting the following improvements; he had increased the sorting and milling capacity of the plant from 20% to 25%, so that it could now handle 10,000 tons a month. This enabled them to press the mine output at a time when copper prices were favourable. He was, they believed, well on the way towards getting an extraction of 90% of copper from that ore, as compared with an extraction of 74% obtained in December last. This increased extraction, moreover, had been obtained from a lower-grade ore than was available in December last, and, calculated on an annual output of 5,000 tons of copper, was equivalent to an additional profit for the Company, at present prices, of something approaching £60,000 per annum, as compared with their former milling practice. It would be gathered that the perspective of the whole proposition had changed since last year. Owing to improved metallurgical methods, they were obtaining more copper from the [illegible] owing to decreased ore reserves, additional capital expenditure must be curtailed to its smallest possible dimensions. The question, therefore, of erecting a smelter had vanished. There were some points about the future which they had to keep steadily in mind, such as the taxation question, the contingent liability under the railway guarantee to the South African Government, the redemption of Debentures, which commenced next year, and the current financial requirements of the Company under present uncertain conditions. The question of dividend must be subservient to all these considerations. They were hopeful, however, that in the early part of next year it would be possible to declare an interim dividend, should no unforeseen change in the position take place. The Chairman added that the remarks of Mr. Leslie expressed the views of the entire board, and he concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. R. J. Frecheville seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CONSOLIDATED SIGNAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourteenth ordinary annual general meeting was held on November 25 at the Westminster Palace Hotel, S.W., Mr. S. P. Wood, the Chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report presented with the accounts, said: Signalling is one of the first things on which railway companies economise in times of financial disturbance, and about the last on which they commence expenditure, and present times are not an exception with regard to home, Colonial, and foreign railways. We have turned our efforts towards the production of war materials, but as only a portion of our subsidiary companies' plant and machinery was suitable for such new work we have had to adapt and add to it as far as possible, and also to adopt new methods of manufacture. Notwithstanding the assistance of war-work orders, the general turnover has been very largely reduced, and that turnover being of a varied and different class from our standard manufactures normal results could not be attained. The gross profits of the subsidiary companies in respect of the year ended June 30 amounted to £36,329. After deducting Debenture and loan interest and the usual depreciations, there remains a net profit of £7,162, which, togther with £17,578 of their unappropriated profits—a total of £24,741—is being distributed by the subsidary companies, of which this Company receives £18,000.

This amount is credited in the Company's profit and loss account, and, after payment of the expenses of the Company, there remains a profit for the year of £18,298, which, added to the amount of £4,529 brought forward from last year, makes a sum of £22,827 available for distribution. The interim dividend on the Preference shares absorbed £5,890, and we have placed a further £6,000 to our reserve account, making that reserve £28,500. We now propose to pay the balance of the Preference dividend, absorbing £5,461, leaving £5,475, which it is proposed to carry forward. Doubtless the first thing which may strike some shareholder is that there are ample undivided profits which could be used to pay an Ordinary dividend, and that is so, and might have been proposed with safety in other than war times. Your directors have given this point very careful and weighty consideration, and, following the policy laid down of assuring as far as possible that our factories shall be kept going concerns, they unanimously came to the conclusion that it would not be in the best interests of the shareholders as a body that the accumulated profits should be further drawn upon. A large part of the undivided profits is used in the businesses of the subsidiary companies and is, therefore, not liquid.

Mr. Walter Holland seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE, LAND AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifty-first annual ordinary general meeting was held on November 25 at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Robert Henryson Caird (managing director) presiding.

The Chairman said the year they had passed through had been one of grave anxiety. When war broke out no one knew when bills would be met, and no one could tell how prices for wool would go, or even whether wool, which was their chief product, could be got to market at all. Until January of the current year it had looked as though the gloomiest forebodings would not be too black. Then, however, things began to mend. Prices were now on a satisfactory level, and, though there were still many difficulties to contend with, among them congestion at the docks, and possible interference with shipping by the Government, on the whole the realisation of the wool clip was being successfully accomplished. He would like to say a word or two as to the adverse legislation in Australia, but he did not want to risk being misunderstood. What he wanted to protest against was the imposition of taxation of a penal character, in which category he included the Federal land tax, imposed when revenue was not required, and with the avowed intention of forcing large holdings to be sold. It was of so burdensome a character that it had forced them to realise a large part of their freehold properties, on which they had expended great sums in development, and where their continuance as owners would have been of direct benefit to the country, as they would have gone on increasing its productivity. Recently there had been the Federal land tax on leaseholds, not levied on income, but on the capital value. There were also land and income taxes in the various States, and recently there had come the Federal progressive income tax, running up to 5s. in the pound, and nominally a war tax. The inequity of that tax was that they would have to pay on the interest on their Debenture debt, which was not a profit at all. The general financial position in Australia also gave ground for anxiety. The continuance of lavish expenditure on public works, some not of immediate utility, necessitated continual Government borrowing, so that by June 1916 the total indebtedness, for a population of under five millions, promised to be well over £400,000,000. Dealing with the items in the balance sheet, the Chairman claimed that the figures showed that safety was their first consideration, while, subject to that, they had kept their funds well employed. With their monetary resources and their tried and trusted staff of officers, they did not fear the forces of Nature. Droughts would always have to be combated in their fight to get returns from a country that, without capital, would still be desert. They did not fear financial crises, nor did they greatly fear the effect of the War. The unknown quantity was the extent to which adverse legislation in Australia would continue. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by Mr. F. A. White and carried unanimously.

Belsize Motors.—Final dividend on Ordinary at the rate of 12% per annum, less tax, making a total distribution of 10% for the year.

Cardigan Steamship Co.—Dividend of 2s. per share, less tax.

Hovis-Bread Flour.—Interim dividend at rate of 6% per annum on Ordinary.

Kellner Partington Paper Pulp Co.—Ordinary dividend for past year 17½%, tax free.

P.P.K. (Ceylon) Rubber.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Langlaagte Estate.—Capital £950,000; issued 886,500 £1 shares. 200 stamps; five tubes.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
		£		£		£		
1914 ...	589,619	713,887	24 3	53 .43	18 0	185 [illegible]	6 4	—
[Profits include estate, &c., revenue for 1914, £6,251.]								
1915.								
6 months ...	299,366	356,5[illegible]	[illegible]	271,272	18 1	[illegible]	18 9	
Sept. qr. ...	157,365	18[illegible]	[illegible]	14[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Oct. ...	52,6[illegible]	6[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17 7	[illegible]	[illegible]	

* For April and since ounces [illegible] calculated on the basis of £4 per ounce, being secured [illegible] profit result is calculated at £[illegible] per ounce to allow for "all in" working charges.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Luipaard's Vlei Estate.—Issued capital, £472,012; £79,065 of Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures. 60 stamps, five tube mills. Capacity of plant 21,000 tons a month. Miscellaneous revenue, averagingx £950 £4,343,700, in £1 shares. £2,918,400 of 6% Deben-

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	60	204,980	25½	217,842	21 3	190,068	18/6	27,774	2/9	9/9
1914-15	60	218,453	24	225,414	2[illegible]	213,823	19 7	11,590	1 1	7 0
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	60	64,015	24	71,732	22 5	61,576	19 3	10,2[illegible]	3 2	7/3

Dividends—1909; 5; 1915, June, 3¾ per cent.

Main Reef West.—Capital, £491,188, in £1 shares; £256,223 Six per Cent. Debentures. 120 stamps, three tube mills; capacity, 25,000 tons monthly.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15	—	239,520	10	316,713	27/8	267,838	19,11	50,875	3/9	7/0
1915-16.										
Sept.qr.	110	75,100	—	85,2[illegible]	2[illegible]	73,5[illegible]	19/7	11,702	3 1	7/0
Oct. ...	—	26,520	—	28,276	21/4	21,437	18/5	3,8[illegible]	2 11	4½

Dividends—1912, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent. Nil since.

Meyer and Charlton.—Capital £200,000, in £1 shares. Two tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	75	177,155	3½	408,479	46 1	153,170	17/3	255,309	28 10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	43,462	2	98,6[illegible]	45 4	39,825	18 4	[illegible],778	27 0	5
June qr.	75	43,954	3½	100,5[illegible]	45 [illegible]	39,195	17,11	61,360	27 11	5½
Sept. qr.	75	44,590	—	101,[illegible]	[illegible] 7	40,[illegible]32	18 1	61,293	27/5	[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	14,980	—	33,[illegible]	4 4	13,121	17 6	20,831	27 10	5½

* In addition there was £7,648, result of clean up in January.

Dividends—1914, June, 35; Dec., 35 per cent.
1915, June, 40 per cent.

Modder Deep. — Capital £500,000, in £1 shares. Sixty-stamp mill—six tubes—started December 14, 1914. Capacity of plant at present about 35,000 tons monthly. Arrangements made to increase to total of 40,000 tons monthly.. Sorting both below ground and on surface. In table below only the above-ground sorting percentage is given.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt. £	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	83,050	8	125,769	30/3	79,191	18/5	46,578	10 10	3½
June qr.	60	97,[illegible]0	11	1[illegible]7,246	3[illegible]	[illegible],819	1[illegible]7	88,427	17/1[illegible]	4½
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ½ yr.	60	18[illegible],[illegible]0	[illegible]½	2[illegible],0[illegible]	[illegible]2	1[illegible],010	17 6	1[illegible],[illegible]5	14 6	—
Sept qr.	60	1[illegible],000		1[illegible],[illegible]4	[illegible] 4	[illegible],7[illegible]	1[illegible]	[illegible],2[illegible]	[illegible] 1	6
Oct. ...	—	54,700	—	63,[illegible]	[illegible]7	29,022	16 9	[illegible],[illegible]9	19 [illegible]	[illegible]

* Profits include sundry revenue.

Dividends—1915, June, 10 per cent.

Modderfontein.—Capital, £1,400,000, in £4 shares. Six tube mills in use. Present capacity of plant, 52,500 tons per month. Additional plant of capacity of 40,000 tons monthly arranged for, to raise total capacity to about 1,100,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	180	510,350	4½	99[illegible],[illegible]52	38[illegible]0	487,663	17/1	[illegible]2,[illegible]89	21 8	13[illegible]
1914-15	180	611,500	17	1,1[illegible],[illegible]91	38 5	486,241	15/11	[illegible]85,450	22/4	14½
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	180	155,000	17½	2[illegible],[illegible]83	38 2	133,912	17 2	1[illegible],[illegible]71	21 0	15[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	53,[illegible]0	—	1[illegible],[illegible]41	39 4	45,[illegible]63	17 4	[illegible],[illegible]31	22 0	15[illegible]

Returns include profit from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 16½ per cent.

Modderfontein B.—Issued capital £700,000, in £1 shares. Plant of capacity to deal with 540,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt.	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt.	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			£		£		£		
1914 ...	8[illegible]	43[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3[illegible]1,342	15/7	447,[illegible]4	2 [illegible]	—
1915.									
Mar. qr.	96	12[illegible],[illegible]10	[illegible]1,21[illegible]	[illegible]3	97,892	15/7	13[illegible],[illegible]9	2[illegible]6	[illegible]
June qr.	[illegible]6	12[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]5	9[illegible],[illegible]78	16/2	142,[illegible]	23 [illegible]	[illegible]
Sept. qr.	[illegible]8	13[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]2	[illegible],[illegible]1	[illegible]5/[illegible]	[illegible],[illegible]63	[illegible]6	[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	4[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	34,542	15/5	[illegible]4,152	2[illegible]2	[illegible]

Dividends—1[illegible], June, 25; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 32½ per cent.

Nourse Mines.—Issued capital £827,821, in £1 shares. Mill, 260 stamps, 7 tube mills, making capacity about 58,000 tons for the month.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	260	539,[illegible]0	1[illegible]	7[illegible]6 8	28 3	372,381	21/3	1[illegible]2,22[illegible]	7 1	1[illegible]
1914-15 ..	260	602,100	14	[illegible],[illegible]81	26,3	6[illegible],[illegible]38	21[illegible]	168,643	5 3	1½
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	260	173,[illegible]00	13	2[illegible],[illegible]72	23 4	172,9[illegible]4	2[illegible]0	2[illegible],9[illegible]	3 4	1[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	58,3[illegible]0	—	7[illegible],[illegible]45	2[illegible]3	58,[illegible]54	19/9	13,2[illegible]9	4 6	2[illegible]

Monthly profits include revenue from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 8¾; Dec., 8¾ per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Primrose.—£325,000, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, say £390 per month, included in 1915 figures. Two tubes since December 1912. No sorting done.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	157½av.	276,800	Nil	367,482	22/3	172,518	12/6	194,934	9/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	140	59,[illegible]0	Nil	[illegible],814	19/7	40,657	13/7	18,157	6/0	13/6
June qr.	140	6[illegible],[illegible]50	Nil	81,2[illegible]9	18[illegible]	39,448	11/.0	2[illegible],841	6/7	[illegible]
Sept. qr.	140	6[illegible],[illegible]00	Nil	57,[illegible]7[illegible]	16[illegible]	40,162	11/7	17,411	5/1	8/6
Oct. ...	—	22,5[illegible]0	—	18,[illegible]93	16/5	13,277	11/11	5,016	4 4	9[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 20 per cent.
1915, June, 20 per cent.

Randfontein Central.—Capital, £4,500,000; issued, £4,343,700 in £1 shares. £2,918,400 of 6% Debentures, repayable at rate of £150,000 per annum. Plant: 1,000 stamps, 29 tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt.	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
			£		£		£		
1914...907av.		2,493,384	2,8[illegible],[illegible]99	27/2	2,671,[illegible]25	18/7	81[illegible],[illegible]74	6/6	—
1915.									
6 mos.*	902av.	1,2[illegible],989	1,[illegible]75,[illegible]9	28/9	1,[illegible]63,182	17/3	[illegible]2,347	5/1	11/6
Sept. qr.	9[illegible]av.	2[illegible],565	7[illegible],[illegible]26	2[illegible]/1	5[illegible],[illegible]3	17/1	17[illegible],[illegible]3	5/7	11[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	2,7[illegible],[illegible]	2[illegible]4,[illegible]31	[illegible],4	196,212	18/3	66,622	6/1	11/0

* Mining operations considerably hampered by flooding of several of principal shafts, due to abnormally heavy rains.

† Monthly values estimated at £4 5s. per fine ounce, [illegible] profits based on a value of £4 5s. 3d. per oz. in order to allow for war charges.

Dividends—1912. Dec., 5 per cent. 1913, June. 7½ per cent.; Dec., 2½ per cent. 1914, June, nil; Dec., nil. 1915 June, 2½ per cent.

Robinson Deep. — £1,000,000, in £1 shares; 200 stamps and 10 tube mills, capacity 65,000 tons.

Year ends Mar. 31	Stps	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
19[illegible]4 15...	11[illegible]av.	5[illegible],[illegible]70	[illegible]½	[illegible],827,21[illegible]	2[illegible]3	5[illegible],0[illegible]1	5 1[illegible]	31[illegible],0[illegible]9	1[illegible]0	1[illegible]
1915-16.										
June qr.	150	1[illegible],[illegible]0	[illegible]1	2[illegible],69[illegible]	[illegible]7	1[illegible],2[illegible]9	1[illegible]3	[illegible],[illegible]91	9/5	1[illegible]
Sept. qr.	160	16[illegible],[illegible]0	—	4[illegible]6	2[illegible]/10	1[illegible]8,9[illegible]8	1[illegible]6	7[illegible],[illegible]8	9/4	[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	[illegible],[illegible]0	—	7[illegible],[illegible]2	[illegible]2,[illegible]2	[illegible]2,[illegible]7	17/8	[illegible],[illegible]87	[illegible]	1[illegible]

Reserve gold: Sept., Oct., 2,230 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Robinson G.M.—£2,750,000, in £5 shares. Six tube mills. Sundry revenue and accumulated slimes profit not included in yearly figures.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	250	638,000	6½	1,[illegible]7,[illegible]68	3[illegible]2	454,905	14 3	[illegible]7[illegible],[illegible]6[illegible]	17/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	250	170,[illegible]0	3½	247,[illegible]7	29/0	115,464	13/7	131,715	15/5	1[illegible]
June qr.	250	17[illegible],[illegible]0	3[illegible]	2[illegible],[illegible]3	29/2	117,[illegible]78	13/4	1[illegible],[illegible]90	15/0	1[illegible]
Sept. qr.	250	18[illegible],[illegible]0	—	2[illegible],1 1,2[illegible]0	[illegible]	1[illegible],[illegible]3	14/3	1[illegible],[illegible]83	14/8	1[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	6[illegible],7[illegible]0	—	7[illegible],[illegible]28	2[illegible]3	3[illegible],728	15/1	[illegible],[illegible]97	12/3	1[illegible]

Dividends—1914, June, 9 per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent. Dec., 9 per cent.
1915, June, 8 per cent.

Rose Deep.—Capital, £700,000, in £1 shares, all issued. Seven tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	300	735,122	14½	899,976	24/4	610,562	16/7	285,414	7/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	179,300	13⅜	221,848	24/9	154,870	17/3	66,978	7/6	1⅜
June qr.	300	193,400	13½	244,715	24/3	166,232	16/9	78,383	7/11	1⅛
Sept. qr.	300	204,600	13	234,345	22/11	171,627	16/9	63,219	6/2	1⅛
Oct. ...	—	70,100	—	80,474	22/11	58,660	16/8	21,814	6/3	1⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

Simmer and Jack.— £3,000,000, in £1 shares; 320 stamps and seven tube mills; monthly and quarterly results include sundry revenue.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	320	769,600	2½	799,339	20/9	475,660	12/4	322,678	8 5	4⅛
[Plus £34,126 additional rental and interest revenue for 1914-15.]										
1914-15	320	868,300	2	899,117	21/5	514,821	12/0	350,296	8/8	11/0
1915 16.										
Sept. qr.	320	239,200	—	222,751	21 10	137,540	13 2	91 2.1	8/3	8/6
Oct. ...	—	73,900	—	76,[illegible]	20 9	47,831	13 7	29,069	8 2	8 6

Gold reserve: Sept., 6,530, Oct., 5,800 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Simmer Deep.—Capital issued, £1,650,000 in £1 shares. There are £583,400 of Five and-a-Half per Cent. First and £237,500 of Five per Cent. Second Debentures. Nine tube mills. Profits include sundry revenue.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton.	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	180	643,000	1½	534,692	16 7	495,[illegible]24	15/5	39,037	1 2	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	180	193,500	3	154,733	1[illegible]3	140,421	14 9	14,363	1 6	1 1½
June qr.	180	194,500	3½	158,559	1[illegible]5	142,151	14 8	16 523	1 9	1 3
Sept. qr.	180	182,500	—	153,325	16/9	139,740	15 4	13,585	1 5	[illegible]
Oct. ...	—	71,300	—	51,083	1[illegible]2	51,[illegible]7	14 5	2,421	8	2 1½

Gold reserve: Sept., 297 Oct., oz.

Sub Nigel.—Capital £475,000 in £1 shares. Issued, £431,580.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	25	57,655	3½	108,226	37/6	89,024	30/10	19,202	6 8	—
1915 ...	25	58,470	22½	116,480	40/0	104,970	36/0	11,710	4/0	8 6
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	—	20,920	—	40,105	38 4	32,439	31 0	7,666	7/4	10/0
Oct. ...	—	7,770	—	14,530	37 9	10 994	28 6	3,536	9 3	10 0

Gold reserve: Sept., 645; Oct., 795 oz.

Dividends—1912-13, 7½ per cent. 1913-14, 5 per cent. 1914-15, Dec., 2½ per cent.; June, nil.

The effect of the increased plant is very noticeable in the October return; evidently it is now well into its stride.

Transvaal G. M. Estates.—£604,225 in £1 shares; £77,992 of 5% Debentures. Three tube mills.

Year ends Mar. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15 ...	75	161,910	408,497	50/5	184,751	22 9	223,746	27 8	1⅛
1915-16.									
June qr.	75	35,875	85,847	46/7	41,568	22/7	44,279	24/0	1⅛
Sept. qr.	75	38,985	91,220	46/9	46,900	24 1	44,320	22 8	1¼ 1
Oct. ...	—	13,815	23,610	41 5	16,746	24 2	11,894*	17 3	1⅛

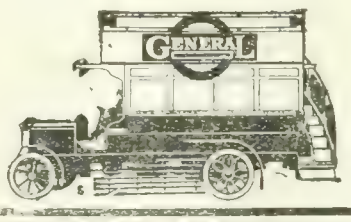
* "Decreased profit mainly due to lower grade recovered at Central Works."

Dividends—1914, March, 17½; Sept., 17½ per cent.
1915, March, 12½; Sept., 10 per cent.

Unified Main Reef. — £250,000, in £1 shares. Tube-mill plant has been erected.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	60	155,[illegible]4	15	169,450	21.9	108,122	13 11	61,328	7/10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	59,8[illegible]3	13½	41,783	20/8	25,736	12/11	15,322	7 9	⅞
June qr.	60	39,790	1[illegible]	39,979	20/0	25,114	12/6	14,865	7/6	⅞
Sept. qr.	60	41,050	—	42,256	20 7	26,940	13 1	15,395	7 6	⅞
Oct. ...	—	13,[illegible]0	—	14,242	20/9	9,236	13/8	5,006	7/1	⅞

Dividends—1913, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.



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Van Ryn.—£500,000, in £1 shares. Batteries, 180 stamps. Six tube mills. Present capacity about rate of 450,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	133	av. 439,900	8½	590,129	26/10	351,143	16/0	238,936	10/10	3⅜
1914-15	140	462,920	7½	581,043	25/1	342,615	14/4	242,369	10/9	3⅝
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	140	115,400	—	126,365	21/11	81,650	14/1	55,285	9/7	2⅞
Oct. ...	140	38,810	—	46,989	24/3	27,442	14/1	19,547	10/2	2⅜

Dividends—1914, June, 22½; Dec., 22½ per cent.
1915, June, 22½ per cent.

Van Ryn Deep.—Capital, £1,196,892, in £1 shares. 80 stamps, 8 tube mills, started July 14, 1913. This plant has attained a capacity of about the rate of 530,000 tons a year.

	Tons Stps.	Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	77½	483,090	11¼	805,948	33/4	394,912	16/4	411,036	17/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	136,530	13½	234,933	37/2	103,193	16/3	131,745	20/11	2⅞
June qr.	80	126,100	13½	234,976	37/2	104,995	16/7	129,981	20/7	2⅝
Sept. qr.	80	128,520	—	238,618	37/4	105,762	17/0	132,856	20/4	2½
Oct. ...		42,260	—	78,769	37/2	35,708	16/2	43,061	21/0	2⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

West Rand Consolidated.—Developments have been as under:

Period	Sampled on Reef Feet	Payable Feet	Payable %	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Shilling-inches
1914. Sept. qr....	1,220	895	73	54/0	42	2,268
,, Dec. qr. ...	1,515	1,160	76	49/5	45	2,226
1915. Mar. qr....	1,310	775	59	43/4	44	1,936
,, June qr. ...	2,535	1,572	63	34/10	45	1,570
,, Sept. qr. ...	2,365	1,860	79	32/9	47	1,539

The quarterly report states: "Having regard to the heavy increase in the cost of materials under the present war conditions and the difficulty of obtaining deliveries, it has been decided to postpone the erection of the new plant designed for considerably augmenting the crushing capacity and to carry on the mining operations on a more limited scale than previously prevailed."

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ARMY AND NAVY INVESTMENT TRUST.—Dividend at rate of 12% per annum on Deferred stock for half year.

CALLENDER'S SHARE AND INVESTMENT TRUST.—Dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, making 5% for the year.

CONSOLIDATED GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO. OF BALTIMORE.—Quarterly dividend of 1¼% on Common stock.

DEANSGATE TEA.—Interim dividend of 5%, tax free.

DOOM DOOMA TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK.—Dividend of 9%, less tax, making a distribution of 15% for the year.

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METROPOLITAN CARRIAGE, WAGON AND FINANCE CO.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5% and 6% per annum, less income tax, on the "A" and "B" Preference shares respectively, and at the rate of 7% per annum on the Ordinary shares.

PALACE SHIPPING CO.—Dividend of 15%.

PATON (WILLIAM) LTD.—Dividend of 7% on Ordinary.

PEEPY AND CO.—Interim dividend on Ordinary of 2½%, tax free.

POWER GAS CORPORATION.—Dividend on Ordinary for year at rate of 6% per annum, less tax.

RIO NEGRO (ARGENTINA) LAND CO.—Dividend of 4%, less tax, for year.

RUBBER ESTATES OF CEYLON.—Interim dividend of 5%.

RUPAI TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST.—Final dividend of 3% on Deferred stock, making 5% for the year.

STAR ASSURANCE.—Interim dividend of 7d., less tax.

TARA TEA CO.—Interim dividend of 5%, tax free, on Ordinary.

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OF

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REPORT BY THE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND,

To the Annual General Court of Proprietors,

On Wednesday, 24th November, 1915.

The Directors now submit to the Proprietors the annexed Abstract Statement of the Affairs of the Bank at the Second Saturday of October, 1915, with relative Profit and Loss Account, certified by the Auditors.

The Balance of Rest at 10th October, 1914, was		£960,629 12 11
The Net Profits of the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to		293,731 15 5
		£1,254,361 8 4
The Midsummer Dividend, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, *less* Income-tax, required	£89,479 3 4	
It is now proposed to pay a similar Dividend at Christmas, also *less* Income-tax	87,395 16 8	
There has been written off expenditure on Bank Buildings and Heritable Property ...	6,500 0 0	
And applied towards Depreciation on Stocks	270,000 0 0	
From Profits of the Year £110,356 15 5		
From Rest 159,643 4 7		
£270,000 0 0		
		453,375 0 0
Leaving undivided profits at credit of Rest		£800,986 8 4

The number of Stocks and Securities are still subject to the minimum prices fixed by the Government consequent on the War, and the market values of these cannot meantime be accurately ascertained. In addition to the sum reserved from the Profits of the previous year, the Directors consider it advisable to apply £270,000 in writing down the value of the Investments.

In common with other Banks, the Directors subscribed for substantial amounts of the War Loans, which is shown in the increase in British Government Securities held.

The Governor, the Deputy-Governor, the Extraordinary Directors, and the Senior Ordinary Director (Mr. Davidson) all retire at this time, but are eligible for re-election.

Auditors also fall to be appointed for the ensuing year, and Mr. John M. Howden, C.A., and Mr. J. Maxtone Graham, C.A., offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
ADAM TAIT, *Cashier.*

ABSTRACT STATE OF AFFAIRS at 9th OCTOBER, 1915.

LIABILITIES.

To the Public—		
1. Deposits with accrued Interest...	£19,144,394 2 9	
2. Notes in Circulation	1,640,239 0 0	
3. Drafts Outstanding	580,579 3 1	
4. Acceptances and Indorsement of Foreign Bills—		
On account of Banking Correspondents £151,641 6 9		
On account of other Customers ... 290,551 13 0		
	442,192 19 9	
Total Liabilities to the Public	£21,807,405 5 7	
To the Proprietors—		
5. Capital £2,000,000 0 0		
6. Rest 800,936 8 4		
7. Proposed Half-year's Dividend at Christmas 87,395 16 8		
	2,888,382 5 0	
Total Liabilities	£24,695,787 10 7	

ASSETS.

1. Gold and Silver Coin, Currency Notes, Notes of other Banks, and Cash with Bank of England and other London Bankers	£3,119,279 5 10	
2. Money in London at Call and short notice, and Cheques, &c., payable on demand, in hand, and *in transitu*	3,256,316 14 11	
Brought forward	£6,375,596 0 9	
3. British Government Securities (War Loan, Consols, Exchequer Bonds, and Local Loans Stock)	5,361,459 4 7	
4. Indian and Colonial Government Securities, Bank of England Stock, and British Railway Debenture and Corporation Stocks	951,017 10 0	
5. Foreign Government Stocks, Bank of Ireland Stock, Indian Railway Stocks, and other Marketable Securities ...	1,647,417 7 6	
	£14,335,490 2 10	
6. Bills discounted (including £1,564,000 British Treasury Bills)	2,964,756 18 5	
7. Advances on Cash Credit and Current Accounts	4,664,324 19 6	
8. Loans on Stocks and Securities	1,665,416 1 4	
9. Banking Correspondents and other Customers for Acceptances and Indorsements, *per contra*	442,192 19 9	
10. Bank Buildings (partly yielding rent) ...	294,777 17 8	
11. Property yielding rent	203,828 11 1	
12. Freehold Property in London (partly occupied by Bank and partly yielding rent)	125,000 0 0	
	10,360,297 7 9	
Total Assets	£24,695,787 10 7	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Expenditure on Bank Buildings and Property written off	£6,500 0 0	
„ Dividend for half-year, paid at Midsummer 100,000 0 0		
„ *Less* Income Tax 10,520 16 8		
	89,479 3 4	
„ Dividend to be paid at Christmas 100,000 0 0		
„ *Less* Income Tax 12,604 3 4		
	87,395 16 8	
„ Applied in writing down Stocks	270,000 0 0	
From Profits of the Year £110,356 15 5		
„ Rest 159,643 4 7		
£270,000 0 0		
Brought forward	£453,375 0 0	
To Balance, being free Rest or undivided Profits, carried forward	800,986 8 4	
	£1,254,361 8 4	
By Rest at 10th October, 1914	£960,629 12 11	
„ Gross Profits, after deducting rebate on Bills Current, and Income-tax, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts £496,436 12 4		
Less Charges of Management at Head Office and 167 Branch Establishments ... 202,704 16 11		
Net Profits	293,731 15 5	
	£1,254,361 8 4	

D. S. LUNAN, *Accountant.*

AUDITORS' REPORT.

As Auditors appointed by the Proprietors of The Royal Bank of Scotland, we have checked the Cash on hand at Head Office, Glasgow, and London, verified the cash with London Bankers, the Securities for money at call and short notice, the Government Securities and other Investments, and examined the details of the other Liabilities and Assets set forth in the foregoing Abstract State of Affairs, and we now certify that in our opinion said Abstract State is a full and fair Balance Sheet, properly drawn up, and exhibits a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's Affairs, as shown by the books, at 9th October, 1915.

JOHN M. HOWDEN, C.A., *Auditor.*
J. MAXTONE GRAHAM, C.A., *Auditor.*

Edinburgh, 15th November, 1915.

Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices, 51 Cannon Street in the City of London, England.—November 27, 1915

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94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK.

Incorporated by Imperial Russian Government Decree.

Capital Authorised...	Rbls. 65,000,000
Do. Subscribed...	Rbls. 45,000,000
Do. (Subscribed by the Imperial Chinese Government) Kouping	Taels 3,500,000
Reserve Funds	Rbls. 23,398,309
	Rbls. 71,898,309

HEAD OFFICE: AT PETROGRAD.

Branches at all the principal Towns in Russia, Manchuria, Siberia, Central Asia and China; also at Paris, Bombay, Hongkong and Yokohama.

Interest (paid quarterly) allowed on Fixed Deposit Accounts for one year and over at 4 per cent. per annum; for shorter periods and on current accounts, at rates to be learnt on application.

Banking business transacted of every description.

CHANTREY INCHBALD, London Manager.
64 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 29,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—		
Subscribed	£4,500,000	
Unissued	500,000	
		£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up ...		£2,250,000
Reserve Fund		1,400,000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders		2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors		£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places of South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. The Purchase and Sale of Funds, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

Incorporated 29th July, 1861.

(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)

LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

7 Tokenhouse Yard, E.C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000 Shares of £20 each		£2,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL		1,250,000
RESERVE FUND		1,400,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre. River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent or collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capital	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital...	£240,000
HEAD OFFICE ...	AMSTERDAM.
LONDON AGENCY...	2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
LONDON MANAGER	J. COST BUDDE.

All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,600,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,600,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0	0
Paid-up Capital	539,437	10	0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10	0
Reserve Fund	400,000	0	0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia

E. M. JANION, Manager.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747	10	0
Paid-up Capital	669,587	10	0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317	13	0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ...	607,160	0	0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of Banks, Bond Houses, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies, Mining Equipment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

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will give reliable and unbiassed advice by mail on any matter of investment interest free to subscribers.

Send 2 penny stamps for Specimen Copy.

GREAT BRITAIN and COLONIES 12s. 6d. per annum.

FRANCE and other EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 16s. 6d. per annum.

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HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO, CANADA.

UNION-CASTLE LINE.

South and East Africa

ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.

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For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, GENERAL MANAGER. GEORGE A. HUNTER, SECRETARY.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

["LONDON ISSUE."]

NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN

OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic.

Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first Coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1916.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. per Fcs. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL

(Being the equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88, the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Seven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Theadneedle Street, London, E.C. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal Capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
On application ...		7	—
On, or before, Monday, the 31st January, 1916 ...		19	—
On, or before, Tuesday, the 29th February, 1916 ...		19	—
On, or before, Friday, the 31st March, 1916 ...		19	—
Total	£3	4	— @ Fcs. 27.50 per £ = Fcs. 88

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 : 3*s.* 6*d.* in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND,

with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The French Government undertake that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931; but they reserve to themselves the right to redeem the issue, in whole or in part, at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

The issue will be made in the form of Bonds to Bearer, which may, if desired, be registered or inscribed in the "Grand Livre de la Dette Publique" at the Ministry of Finance in Paris, without payment of any fee.

CONVERSION OF

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills due 16th January, 1916.

2. French Government 3½ per cent. Rentes (Redeemable).

3. French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable).

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 16th January, 1916, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 : 3*s.* 3*d.* cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5% from the 16th November, 1915 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 16th January, 1916.

2. French Government 3½% Rentes (Redeemable) may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £3 : 6*s.* 4*d.* cash for each Fcs. 100 nominal capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 3.50 of Rente) surrendered.

3. French Government 3% Rentes (Irredeemable) may be tendered in lieu of cash, to the extent of not more than one-third of the total amount payable in respect of any allotment of this issue, where payment in full for such allotment is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £2 : 8*s.* cash for each Fcs. 100 Nominal Capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 3 of Rente) surrendered. The Coupon due 1st January, 1916, must be detached before Bonds are lodged for Conversion.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of all securities lodged for Conversion, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the outbreak of War, or, where issued subsequently, since the date of issue.

Applications for the Loan may be paid up

1. Entirely in cash;

2. Partly in cash and partly by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options; or

3. Entirely by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options;

provided always that in no case may the sterling value of 3% Rentes surrendered exceed one-third of the whole sterling amount payable in respect of any allotment. In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Securities to be converted does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of twopence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of Cash applications, and applications for the Conversion of French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, made on forms bearing their Stamp. No commission will be paid in respect of allotments resulting from the Conversion of French Government 3½% and 3% Rentes.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation in the London Stock Exchange of Bonds of the "London Issue." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necesasry Forms of Application, viz. :—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Securities, or both;

2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments.

may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., and at the Branches of that Bank; and at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

The List of Applications will be Closed on or before Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915.

BANK OF ENGLAND, E.C.

29th November, 1915.

BASS, RATCLIFF & GRETTON, LIMITED.

Notify that the Transfer Books of their Preference and Debenture Stocks will be Closed from the 17th to 31st inst., both inclusive, for the preparation of Dividend and Interest Warrants.

December, 1915.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four per Cent. Debenture Stock and Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Central Debenture Stock of this Company will be Closed from the 8th December to the 31st December, inclusive, for the preparation of Interest Warrants.

F. FIGHIERA,
Secretary.

3A Coleman Street, London, E.C.,
1st December, 1915.

MERSEY DOCKS & HARBOUR BOARD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Registers of the Debenture Stock, and also the Transfer Registers of the (January and July) Annuities and Bonds, will be Closed from One o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, the 11th instant, till the end of the month, for the purpose of preparing the half-yearly Interest Warrants. The Transfer Registers will be re-opened, and documents for registration received, from the morning of the 1st January, 1916.

W. C. THORNE, Registrar.

Dock Office, Liverpool,
1st December, 1915.

THE BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Registers of Stockholders of this Company will be Closed from 15th to 31st December, both inclusive, for preparation of the Warrants for the Interest and Dividend for half-year ending 31st December, 1915.

The Warrants will be posted on 1st January, 1916.

By Order of the Board,
T. R. WYNNE,
132 Gresham House, Managing Director.
Old Broad Street, E.C.,
1st December, 1915.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The Board of Directors has declared a Quarterly Dividend of One and One-half per Cent upon the Common Stock of the Company, payable at the Office of the Company, Commercial Trust Building, Philadelphia, Pa., December 18, 1915, to the Common Stockholders as registered at the close of business November 30, 1915.

E. H. ALDEN, Secretary.

SWANSEA HARBOUR TRUST.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Registers of Transfers of Swansea Harbour Stocks will be Closed at 4 o'clock P.M., Wednesday, the 15th day of December instant, and will be re-opened at 10 A.M., Saturday, the 1st day of January next.

TALFOURD STRICK,
Clerk.

Harbour Offices, Swansea,
4th December, 1915.

THE BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

The Directors of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, Hereby Give Notice that the Register of Debenture Stock will be Closed from Friday, the 10th instant, to Friday, the 24th instant, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915.

Holders of Provisional Scrip to Bearer of the Four per Cent. Debenture Stock are reminded that this security was convertible into Registered Stock as from the 1st January, 1915, and that until the registration particulars are lodged at the Offices of the Company interest from the date referred to will not be paid.

By Order of the Board
A. GIOT.
Secretary.

Dated this 2nd December, 1915.
Offices of the Company—
River Plate House,
Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

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Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COMPANY OF CANADA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company, so far as regards the Five per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock (Grand Trunk Borrowed Capital) and Perpetual Four per Cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock, will be closed from TUESDAY, the 14th December, 1915, to THURSDAY, the 13th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

Warrants for the interest accrued to 31st December, 1915, will be forwarded on the 13th January, 1916, to all proprietors of those stocks registered on the books of the Company on the 14th December, 1915.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company, so far as regards the Five per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock (Great Western Borrowed Capital) and the Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock (Northern Borrowed Capital) will be closed from SATURDAY, the 15th January, 1916, to MONDAY, the 31st January, 1916, both days inclusive.

Warrants for the interest for the half-year to the 31st January, 1916, will be forwarded on that date to all proprietors of those stocks registered on the books of the Company on the 15th January, 1916.

By Order,
H. H. NORMAN,
Secretary.

Dashwood House,
9 New Broad Street, London, E.C.,
3rd December, 1915.

THE CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Capital £260,000, in 2,080,000 Shares of 2*s.* 6*d.* each.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Company held to-day, it was resolved to recommend to the Shareholders at the forthcoming General Meeting on the 16th December, that a reliance dividend for the year ending 30th September last of Eightpence per Share (less income tax at the rate of 2*s.* 8*d.* in the £), be declared, payable on the 4th day of January, 1916, to the Shareholders on the books of the Company on this 2nd day of December.

By Order of the Board,
F. H. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

5 & 6 Queen Street Place,
London, E.C.,
2nd December, 1915.

N.B.—The above Dividend will make a total distribution for the year of 1*s.* 5*d.* per Share, or 50% per cent. upon the Capital of the Company.

Notice of the General Meeting to be held on the 16th December will be given in due course.

The Income Tax of 2*s.* 8*d.* in the £ is arrived at by taking the average rate for the Company's year, viz., 2*s.* 4*d.*, and effecting the necessary adjustment in regard to the tax on the interim dividends paid on the 6th May and 1st September, 1915, consequent upon the increased tax.

LAKE SUPERIOR CORPORATION FIRST MORTGAGE COLLATERAL TRUST FIVE PER CENT. GOLD BONDS.

The Interest Coupons of the above-mentioned Bonds maturing 1st December, 1915, may be presented for payment at the rate of 4·86⅔ at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., or at its Branches in Montreal or New York.

Three clear days required for examination.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
1st December, 1915.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

The organ of the wealthy classes of the North-Western Counties and of North Wales. Its influence is wide and far reaching.

It is the **best provincial medium for all classes of financial advertising.** Investors in a wide area can only be thoroughly reached through its columns.

An application to the London Manager, 187 Fleet Street, E.C., will bring details of Charges. Private wire to Liverpool is open day and night.

The Liverpool Courier

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UNDER SPECIAL FACILITIES FROM THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.
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OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.
Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,
THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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Forward postcard for Company's popular booklets, "Total Abstinence as Asset in Life Assurance" and "Homes and How to Own Them."

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.
Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.
Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, December 3, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates :—

DATES FIXED.	BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.	DEPOSIT RATES.—DISCOUNT HOUSES— BANKS. NOTICE.	CALL.	NOTICE.
	%	%	%	%
Nov. 29, 1915 ...	—	—	4	4¼
Sept. 2, „ ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2½
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2½
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3¼	3½
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills :—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	£98 15s. 0¾d.	£97 9s. 10½d.	£96 4s. 11½d.	£95
Discount Rate	5 %	5 %	5 %	5 %

Discount Rates :—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5¼	5½-¼	5½	5¼
Trade Bills	—	5½-6	5½-6	5½-6

MONEY.

THE process of financing the Government until the next War Loan is issued early in the New Year still governs the Money market, and is, of course, responsible for the steady export of gold that goes on from day to day and from week to week notwithstanding the American credit. At the present time practically no money is being collected from the nation for the war, and almost the whole expense is being covered by bankers' loans or by issues of currency. Consequently the expenditure of the nation is being maintained at a very high level, and in spite of the large credits in the United States foreign balances are accumulating here, and gold continues to be exported.

The market is, of course, aware of the steps which the Government is now taking to curtail the expenditure and consumption of the nation by inducing it to become more thrifty, and by requesting the wage-earning classes to seek for no further increases in wages. But these measures, whatever may be their ultimate value, have so far had no effect upon consumption, upon imports, or upon the foreign trade balance. The only really effective measure so far taken has been to provide for the American trade balance by the loan in the United States, by the creation of banking credits, to which we referred last week, and by the sale of moderate amounts of our American investments in New York. The measures will provide for the bulk of our payments to the United States for some time to come. As long as our imports are maintained at their present great total whilst our exports remain relatively small, and we have to provide such great sums for our Allies, it is evident that the market will continue in its present condition.

Early in the New Year, however, a great change may be effected if the Government succeeds in inducing the country to become much more thrifty and so provide a larger part of the War expenses out of income. Furthermore, there is the possibility that the Government will recognise the need to provide securities suitable for sale in other countries than the United States, more especially in Canada and South America, and the adverse balance which is now causing gold to go out in such substantial sums from week to week may be settled largely in securities of one kind or another, as well as by a reduction in the amount of foreign goods purchased. As matters now stand, however, the situation is that the supply of bills is extraordinarily small; in fact, the great joint stock banks have practically no international bills in their portfolios; that the Indian and similar banks are full of money and able to carry their own bills; that the money of the joint stock banks thus set free is going into Treasury bills at 5%; that the amount of foreign money in the market is substantial; that the supply of floating money available is large, although the rate for short money is maintained at somewhat over 4%; and that, notwithstanding the paucity of bills, open market rates of discount are as high as 5¼% for three, four, and six months' bills.

It is evident that rates of discount are likely to be firmly maintained at this level owing to the need of the Government to sell a large amount of Treasury Bills each week at 5% in order to finance the War expenses until the new loan is raised, and the desirability of retaining here as much foreign money as possible.

DEPOSIT RATES.

THE discount houses this week have raised the rates allowed by them on deposits at call and at short notice from 3½% and 3¾% to 4% and 4¼% respectively.

FINANCING THE GOVERNMENT.

LAST week the Governmental expenditures amounted to just over £34,000,000, almost the whole of which was needed for supply. To provide for this great sum the revenue received was only £3,364,000, and the balance of £30,000,000 was provided as to over £16,000,000 by the issue of new Treasury bills and by the receipt of £12,748,000 on account of the American loan. The Bank of England return this week shows that the Bank has increased its holding of Government securities by nearly £11,000,000, and further the Currency statement shows that an additional £10,000,000 of the balances to the credit of this account have been placed in Government securities, so that the Bank and the Currency Department between them have this week provided the Government with about £20,000,000 of new money. The cash balance of the Treasury last week was £23,965,000, or not quite £2,000,000 lower than in the previous week. The amount of Treasury bills outstanding on Saturday last was £293,812,000, and apparently the total will reach something like £400,000,000 by the beginning of January.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

GOLD continues to go abroad with persistent regularity, and in the aggregate the withdrawal of the metal from the Bank of England in the week ended Wednesday was £2,504,000. Rather less than £1,000,000 of this went to the United States, while substantial sums went to Spain, Egypt, South America, and some to Canada. Since Wednesday the movement has continued, although against the gold lost sovereigns have been received. On balance for the week ended Wednesday the net loss of gold on foreign account was £1,815,000. Against this loss £597,000 in gold was received from the country, and the final loss was £1,218,000, reducing the sum held to £51,239,000. The note circulation increased £973,000, and the reserve declined £2,192,000 to £35,413,000. There was an addition of £10,945,000 to the Government securities owned by the Bank, and by means of this money the Government was able to meet its disbursements, the reduction in the public deposits being no more than £1,789,000. The "other" deposits increased £8,876,000, while the "other" securities were reduced £1,635,000. The amount of the "other" securities is now £96,481,000, and the total of the "other" deposits is £93,525,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities has fallen from 27.48% to 24.61%.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

LAST week the reserves of the Associated Banks showed a reduction of £3,000,000 notwithstanding the continued import of gold. Presumably the money was transferred to the Treasury and to the interior. On the other hand the loans increased £4,000,000, and the gain in deposits was £900,000. The surplus reserve was consequently down £3,000,000 to just under £36,000,000. A statement issued by the Federal Reserve Board says that gold imports between January 1 and November 19 amounted to no less than $377,348,000, equal to about £78,000,000. With the sight exchange at 4.70⅞, and with our enormous purchases from the United States to pay for as well as a large part of the purchases of our Allies, it is evident that substantial amounts of gold will continue to be withdrawn from London for New York notwithstanding the credit facilities that have been created. Of course, we shall be able to provide this gold in large part at any rate from the productions of South Africa and of Australia as well as by the import of gold from India. Unless the United States is willing to lend money much more freely, or unless our investors sell their securities on a much bigger scale than hitherto, it is obvious that the stock of gold in the United States will continue to expand. A large part of the gold that has come in has gone into

the Federal Reserve banks and into the banks of the interior, but the reserves of the New York banks since the beginning of the year have increased £55,000,000.

The Irving National Bank of New York notify us by cable that the following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—		Rate Dec. 2	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London ...	sight	$4 70½	4 86½ dollars for £1	3·2
,, ...	cables	$4 71⅛		
,, ...	60 days	$4 66½		
Amsterdam	sight	41⅝c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 4·0
Berlin ...	sight	78½c.	95 cents for 4 marks	17·3
Copenhagen	cheques	27.90c.	26¾ cents for 1 kronen	Prem. 4·3
Italy ...	sight	6.52½l.	5.18 lire for $1	25·9
Paris ...	sight	5 82½fr.	5.18 francs for $1	12·4
Petrograd	sight	32⅛c.	51½ cents for 1 rouble	37·7
Switzerland	sight	5 33½fr.	5.18½ francs for $1	2·9
Vienna ...	sight	18 96c.	20¼ cents for 1 kroner	31·0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Dec. 2, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	2½-3%	Call money ...	2%
Dec. 4, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	4½-5%	,, ,, ...	6%

POSITION IN INDIA.

Exchange has recovered this week to 1*s.* 4 3/32*d.*, and beyond selling the 50 lacs of drafts offered the Council has disposed of a substantial amount of "specials." The demand for money in India all the time is increasing, and the cash balances of the banks are falling steadily.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, December 1, are:—

Bills.				Telegraphic Transfers			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs	Rs.	%	*s. d.*	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	4,50,000	48,000	10	1 4	1,75,00,000*	18,88,000	10
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	15,00 000	15,00,000	100
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/32	1,45,00,000	15,64,000	10
Total ...	4,50,000	48,000	—	Total ...	3,35,00,000	49,52,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000	Rs. 3,39,50,000	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	—	—	—	6,90,000*	1/4	1/4
Bombay ...	5,000	1/4	1/4	10,98,000*	1/4	1/4
				30,64,000	1/4.046	1/4
Madras ...	43,000	1/4	1/4	1,00,000*	1/4	1/4

* Deferred.

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Madras	2,76,374	1/4 1/32
Transfers on Madras (Deferred)	2,00,000	1/4 3/32
Transfers on Bombay (Immediate)	2,50,000	1/4 1/8
Transfers on Bombay (Deferred)	5,00,000	1/4 5/32

From April 1 to **November 30** inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs. 9,40,86,061**, realising **£6,274,684.** Up to **December 1** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,34.26.861, realising £4,230,816.** The total sales for the week ended **November 30** amounted to **Rs. 50,00,000,** realising **£333,560.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be **50** lacs.

SILVER.

After advancing to 27¼*d.* the price of silver has fallen to 26 7/16*d.* in consequence of re-sales of the metal by India and China, and also owing to a diminution in the demand for the Continent. Doubtless the reports that have been current as to peace negotiations have not been without effect, but it is evident that these reports should be accepted with great reserve. When they prove to be without foundation a sharp recovery in the price of the metal will probably be experienced.

	Nov. 26	27	29	30	Dec. 1	2	3
London ...	27	27¼	27 ⅛	27 1/16	26⅞	26 1/16	26 7/16
India ...	Rs.67 3/16	68 1/8	70⅛	69⅛	69 1/8	68⅛	68⅛
Exchange ...	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32	1/4-3/32

Stock Exchange.

Settlement of pre-War open position deferred to a year after peace declaration.—*Vide* Emergency Rules as to conditions.

	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.	Consols.
Settlement Days	Tues., Dec. 14 / Wed., Dec. 29	Wed., Dec. 15 / Thurs., Dec. 30	Wed., Jan. 5 / —

Some sharp fluctuations in general Stock Exchange securities have occurred since modification of minimum prices procedure. The competition, too, of the new French War Loan has been noticeable. The rush up in price of our own 4½% War Loan was followed by a sharp set-back from the best price of nearly 100 *cum* dividend for "scrip" to about 97¼xd, the present price for inscribed stock.

There has been a noticeable activity, especially during the last day or two, in American railway bonds, which has been shown by the numerous markings in descriptions that in normal times are scarcely mentioned.

In the industrial department there has been activity, accompanied by rises in the prices of shipping shares. Amongst the munition group a feature of the week has been the Thornycroft profit announcement, which has taken everybody by surprise. The features of the report are elsewhere dealt with.

Business has been quieter in the rubber section. The price of rubber receded early in the week, Standard crêpe being down to very near 3*s.* per lb., but during the last few days the quotation has again risen to 3*s.* 6*d.* These fluctuations must be regarded with reserve. In case there be any idea of operating for the rise or of accumulating supplies in view of future eventualities it would not be politic on the part of those who may have such action in view to pursue an unvarying course of buying. They would like to shake off any following which sought to tack itself on to their skirts. Having already bought to a considerable extent at low prices, when a rise is being pushed by outsiders, the originators of the move would effect some sales, and then a reaction would frighten the small plungers who had followed the lead. Down would go the price and the initial operators would again come into the market and buy. Hence a see-saw might go on for some time. Should, however, there be any serious endeavour to bring about a "rig" the position in these days is very different from what it used to be five or six years ago, when the quantity that had to be financed was comparatively small. The main output was then wild grown rubber, now it is plantation grown, and plantation rubber producers are altogether a different body of men to deal with than were those who had control of the supplies of Brazilian, &c., rubber. In these days any combination would be met with resolute action on the part of the big producers, and withal it is to be recollected that the proper aim of plantation producers is to keep a stable market and not one where the price alternately rockets and falls back in spasms. We call attention to the editorial remarks and schedule of companies that appear in subsequent pages.

"The New Empire Partnership. Defence—Commerce—Policy." By Messrs. Percy and Archibald Hurd. (London: John Murray. Price 6*s.*) The Messrs. Hurd show how, under pressure of war, the Empire is being welded into a virile working partnership which must profoundly affect the future of the race, and greatly modify its relations with the outside world.

CUBAN CENTRAL RAILWAYS.

THE Cuban Central Railways Company has raised its dividend from 2% to 4% in respect of the past year and at the same time has added largely to its reserves. The amount available for distribution, apart from the balance brought forward, is £97,484, a sum equal to nearly 10% on the shares. The dividend of 4% requires only £36,000, and out of the balance of £61,484 the directors have transferred £25,000 to reserve account, £25,000 to general renewals reserve, £5,000 to insurance account, and £5,000 to pension account, leaving £1,484 to be added to the balance carried forward, which is thereby raised from £13,054 to £14,538. Twelve months ago, in addition to paying the dividend of 2%, the sum of £15,000 only was placed to reserve. In other words, the gain in profit for the year has been nearly £65,000, which, having regard to the fact that traffic receipts were up only £55,000 and that interest charges were heavier, is a very satisfactory achievement. The actual increase in gross receipts was £61,000, and as this was accompanied by a reduction of £25,000 in working expenses the net earnings have gained no less than £86,000, or nearly 40%. The year is, indeed, the most profitable experienced by the Company. A comparison of the net results of the last five years is given below:—

Cuban Central Railways.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11
	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit	164,584	99,588	142,875	109,545	97,976
5½% Preference dividend ...	67,100	66,917	66,000	66,000	66,000
Profit for Ordinary	97,484	32,671	76,875	43,545	31,976
Ordinary dividend	36,000	18,000	27,000	18,000	18,000
Rate per cent.	(4%)	(2%)	(3%)	(2%)	(2%)
Surplus	61,484	14,671	49,875	25,545	13,976
Special renewals, &c.	35,000	—	37,000	21,000	9,000
Reserve	25,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
Total funds	60,000	15,000	47,000	26,000	14,000
Balance	Cr.1,484	Dr.329	Cr.2,875	Dr.455	Dr.24
Brought forward	13,054	13,383	10,508	10,963	10,987
Carried forward	14,538	13,054	13,383	10,508	10,963

Since the beginning of July the traffic receipts of the line have risen by about £25,914, and inasmuch as comparison will continue to be made for several months with poor takings a year ago, whilst business in Cuba is on the up grade the position of the Company twelve months hence should be still more satisfactory. Referring to the future the General Manager in his report states that "the prospects for the coming year are good. So far weather conditions have been ideal, and the cane throughout our district is in excellent condition. The area under cultivation has been extended, and some of the mills have increased their capacity. Others have made improvements with a view to obtaining a better extraction from the cane, so that altogether I think we may look forward to a substantial increase in our earnings from this source. At a very conservative estimate I think this increase will be 12%." The tobacco crop is expected to be less than in the previous year, but all other classes of traffic promise to keep pace with the sugar business, and an all-round increase in traffic may be anticipated. The price of the £10 shares is 5⅛xd., and on a 4% dividend basis the yield afforded is as much as £7¾ per cent.

"Mathieson's Monthly Mining Handbook." Mid-November, 1915. Price 1s.

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Mining Topics.

MORE public interest has been given to the mining department during the past week than for some while, and a feature of the week has been the receipt of considerable buying orders from the Cape, being chiefly in connection with the shares of Eastern Rand undertakings. Special inquiries have been for Springs, Daggafonteins, City Deep, Modder B., and Modder Deeps, and in each case the inquiries have been contributed to from the Cape. Springs shares and also the options have shown a very considerable advance in price; there have been dealings in Modder B's at over 6, Modder Deeps at slightly above 5¾, and City Deeps have advanced to 3½. So far indifference has been displayed toward New Modderfontein shares in their present form. It is considered certain that the meeting to be held in January next will agree to the splitting of the shares from their present denomination of £4 into four shares of £1 each. The demand for Daggafontein shares has been on well-grounded rumours of a pending scheme for the financing of this company, and in subsequent columns will be found an article upon the subejct. Prices for both Mining and Finance Companies ceased at the best points.

A little while back there was what is termed a

"chicken boom" in Mexican shares, but the speculative interest has not continued.

Some attention has been given to the shares of mining companies whose affairs are dominated by the state of the market for silver, which continues to rise in price. Broken Hill descriptions have been especially strong. The further dividend announced by North Broken Hills has led to an appreciation in the price to about 43*s.* 6*d.* Sulphide Corporation shares have been in request, though the Ordinary shares have reacted somewhat, due to the fact that final dividends of 10% on the Preference and 15% on the Ordinary have been announced, making 20% in each case for the year to June 30 last. For the year 1914 10% only was paid on both classes of shares.

As a result of the upward movement in the silver market, and also indirectly as a result of the excitement in Canada over the prospects for gold mining, a few English operators have sought to have a finger in the Canadian pie. This has chiefly expressed itself in the demand during the past week for the shares of the Canadian Mining Corporation, upon whose position and prospects some remarks will subsequently be found. As we mentioned last week, Associated Gold Mines of West Australia shares have been in request, and this week shares of the kindred company, the Associated Northern Blocks, have been inquired for, in both cases consequent on their Canadian interests.

The disposition evinced a few weeks ago to take an interest in diamond shares has simmered down. It is not believed that there will be any resumption of the industry on a large scale, but only partial recommencement.

The copper department has been erratic, and uncertain at that. Fresh statements have been put forward as to long-rumoured American combines. On this occasion the Guggenheim group of companies is mentioned, including the Kennecott, a concern little known on this side, the Braden, a Chilian undertaking, and the Guggenheim Exploration itself. The Kennecott Company, though a fresh name to this side, was formed as long ago as 1906 to deal with an Alaskan high-grade copper mine. Apparently the Braden Copper Company, whose property is in Chile, is to be amalgamated with the Kennecott, which also is to take in the Guggenheim Exploration. The Utah Copper Company is also mentioned as in some way figuring in this scheme, while there have also been indirect references to the inclusion of the Inspiration Consolidated. Statements have appeared in the American Press which seem to indicate that as regards the Kennecott combine arrangements have been largely made, though it is interesting to recall that the rumours regarding American combinations but a little while ago were quite different. It is all very vague at present, but it is to be hoped that something really definite will be made known at an early date.

Tin shares have been somewhat weak in tendency in sympathy with the lower price of the metal.

The Champion Reef has declared a final dividend of 8*d.* per share for the year ending September 30 last, making a total of 1*s.* 5*d.* per 2*s.* 6*d.* share, or 56⅔%, compared with 1*s.* 4*d.*, or 53⅓%, for the previous year.

The Oroville Dredging Company announces its usual quarterly dividend of 2½%, though this time, for purposes of adjustment, income tax has to be deducted at the rate of 4*s.* in the £. The Plymouth Consolidated has declared another dividend of 1*s.* per share, making 15% for the current financial year.

The recent rise in the price of silver to over 29¼*d.* per fine ounce will, if maintained, considerably benefit a number of mining undertakings. The average price for the first 10 months of 1915 has been only 25¾*d.* per fine ounce. The Broken Hill Companies, and particularly the Proprietary and Sulphide Corporation, the Santa Gertrudis of Mexico, and the Canadian Mining Corporation, are among the large producers of the metal.

MASHONALAND AGENCY.

At the end of August, 1914, a reconstruction project was mooted, but was dropped. Last month a new scheme was put forward to be considered at a meeting held on Friday this week. The new project was a scaling down of the capital from £400,000 to £150,000, by reducing the par value of the Ordinary shares from £1 to 7*s.* 6*d.* per share. The holding of the Company in Wankie Colliery shares was to be distributed among shareholders, and the proposal was that 6*d.* cash per Agency share should also be distributed. There has been a contention that the cash distribution should be larger. At the time of writing we have no knowledge of how the meeting went, but whether it was decided that sixpence or a shilling per share be distributed, the principle seems to us utterly adverse to the interests of the Company, and shareholders who voted for any cash distribution whatever voted against their own interests. It is not a case of a bird in the hand being worth two in the bush, but the necessity of having resources in hand for carrying out the policy of conserving and developing the remaining assets of the Company. The bulk of the income of the Company has been derived from its holding of Wankie shares which it now distributes. Almost the whole of the Company's income-bearing assets will be gone, and yet denudation of cash resources is proposed.

SHEBA.

For the year to June 30, 1915, this Company did poorly in contrast with the previous year; with an augmentation of some 10,000 tons it secured a profit of approximately £11,000 less than in 1913-14. Three dividends of 5% were distributed for 1913-14, while for 1914-15 only two similar distributions were made. A comparison of results is set out below:—

Year to June 30	—1915—	—1914—
	£	£
Gross revenue	[illegible]	[illegible]
Expenses	104,686	11[illegible]
Gross profit	[illegible]	[illegible]
Writings off	£5,148	£5,104
Taxes	5,374	6,110
Dividends	(10%) 26,974	(15%) 40,461
	[illegible]	[illegible]
Surplus or Deficit	Surp. 665	[illegible]
Balance brought forward	[illegible]	11,490
Balance carried forward	[illegible]	[illegible]

The tone of the report is not a hopeful one as to the immediate future. The ore reserves are almost identical as to quantity at June 30 each year, but the assay value of 1915 was appreciably under what it was in 1914, being an average of slightly under 9 dwt., against approximately 11 dwt.

Burma Corporation.—Cable advice reports the lead bullion production for November as 896 tons, of which 858 tons were refined, indicating that the refinery capacity is catching up the lead bullion output. This is important as bearing on the official hope that next year a lead bullion output of about 1,500 tons per month will be reached, and all refined, for the production of 1,500 tons of soft lead and 140,000 ounces of silver per month.

Development indications continue very satisfactory at the 300-foot and 430-foot levels, and this week it is advised that the internal shaft, now very close to the horizon of the Tiger tunnel (670 feet from surface), for 10 feet of sinking showed values averaging 14 ounces silver, 16% lead, and 19% zinc. If this is in the footwall of the lode the values are highly encouraging.

Sub-Nigel.—Recent development returns have shown as under:—

Period 1914.	Distance Exposed Feet	Sampled Feet	Width Inches	Assay oz.	dwt.
Sept. qr.	1,583	985	7.2	18	5
Dec. qr.	1,521	880	15.19	131	7
1915.					
Mar. qr.	1,562½	895	14.9	103	8
June qr.	1,[illegible]½	[illegible]	[illegible]	75	3
Sept. qr.	1,679	1,130	17.6	85	0

DAGGAFONTEIN.

PROJECTED RECONSTRUCTION.

INITIALLY the freehold of farm Daggafontein in the Eastern Rand was owned by what now is the Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited. The farm comprises 4,363 morgen, which is equal to 9,238 acres, and again equivalent to 6,285 mining claims.

In June 1899 the Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate, Limited, was formed with an authorised capital of £60,000 to prospect by bores the potentialities of the property, and the right was given the Syndicate to form a mining proposition with a capital of £600,000. A commencement of boring by the Syndicate was made, but, owing to the Boer War, for a long period nothing could be effected. After that war boring was recommenced and conducted by the Syndicate up to the time of the formation of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company, Limited, in October 1902, and from September 1903 the Mining Company conducted its own operations.

Having given this brief retrospect, we revert to a description of the area. The farm, of approximately four miles east to west, and averaging a little over two and a half miles from north to south, all reef-bearing, is situated to the south-east of Geduld, to the east of Springs Mines, and to the south of Grootvlei. Ground immediately south of the farm has been recently taken up by the Consolidated Gold Fields Company and the Central Mining and Investment Company, such area being on the dip of the Nigel field, and there the dip is towards the north-west.

The experience derived from boring at various points in Daggafontein proved the existence not only of the Main Reef (Van Ryn) series, common to the whole of this region, but also, about 1,300 feet nearer to surface, parallel reef formation, termed the Kimberley Reef, and in two of the bores that were sunk in farm Daggafontein assays of Kimberley Reef were found of payable character. Though accompanying these remarks we give a general plan to show the location of the property and the relative position of neighbouring properties, it is desirable here to give another small plan showing the location of the various bores that were sunk, either by the Syndicate or the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company, prior to the initiation of the sinking of the No. 1 shaft, which was really commenced in earnest in November 1910. The plan below gives the location of the shaft and of the different bores referred to in the table given after the small plan.



Borehole	Ft.	Main Reef — Assay Value and Width	Ft.	Kimberley Reef — Assay Value and Width
No. 1	3,276	1oz. over 5·5in.		
1905.—No. 2 (joint with Grootvlei, &c.)	4,880	11·5dwt. over 7·8in.		
No. 3. S.E. (stopped at 2,627ft.) ...	—	—	2,118	19dwt. over 8.5in.
No. 4. W. not proceeded with deeper than about 1,500ft.				
No. 5. S.E. (stopped at 3,887ft., and No. 7 bore started to locate Van Ryn reef position)	—	—	1,946	31·2dwt. over 2·5in.
Nov. 1905. S.E. No. 6 ...	3,125	Av. 11·36dwt. over 23½in.		
Feb. 1908. Central, No. 7	3,561	24·58dwt. over 6in.	2,102	18dwt. over 7in.

Bore 6 is just to the north of bore 3, at south-east corner of the farm.

Bore 7 is midway between bores 1 and 6. The No. 1 shaft is near this bore.

In the middle of September 1914 the shaft met reef at about 3,580 feet depth, reported to show an assay value of 7.85 dwt., say 33*s.* 4*d.*, over a width of 40.36 inches.

If reference is made to the larger plan accompanying these remarks it will be noted that a contour line shows where reef exists at a depth of 3,000 feet. Such has been ascertained through the many boreholes sunk in the district. Then it will be noted that the shafts of the Springs Mines penetrated the reef where it dips *from* the north, while the shaft of the Daggafontein encountered the reef on the dip *from* the east. The matter is a technical one and might escape notice unless attention were called to it. It may be asked: What does it matter which way the dip goes? The answer to this is, that consequent on the curving of the reef outcrop, the shaft of the Daggafontein penetrated reef at a slightly less depth than either of the Springs shafts, although the Springs Mines shafts are distant approximately four miles west of the Daggafontein shaft.

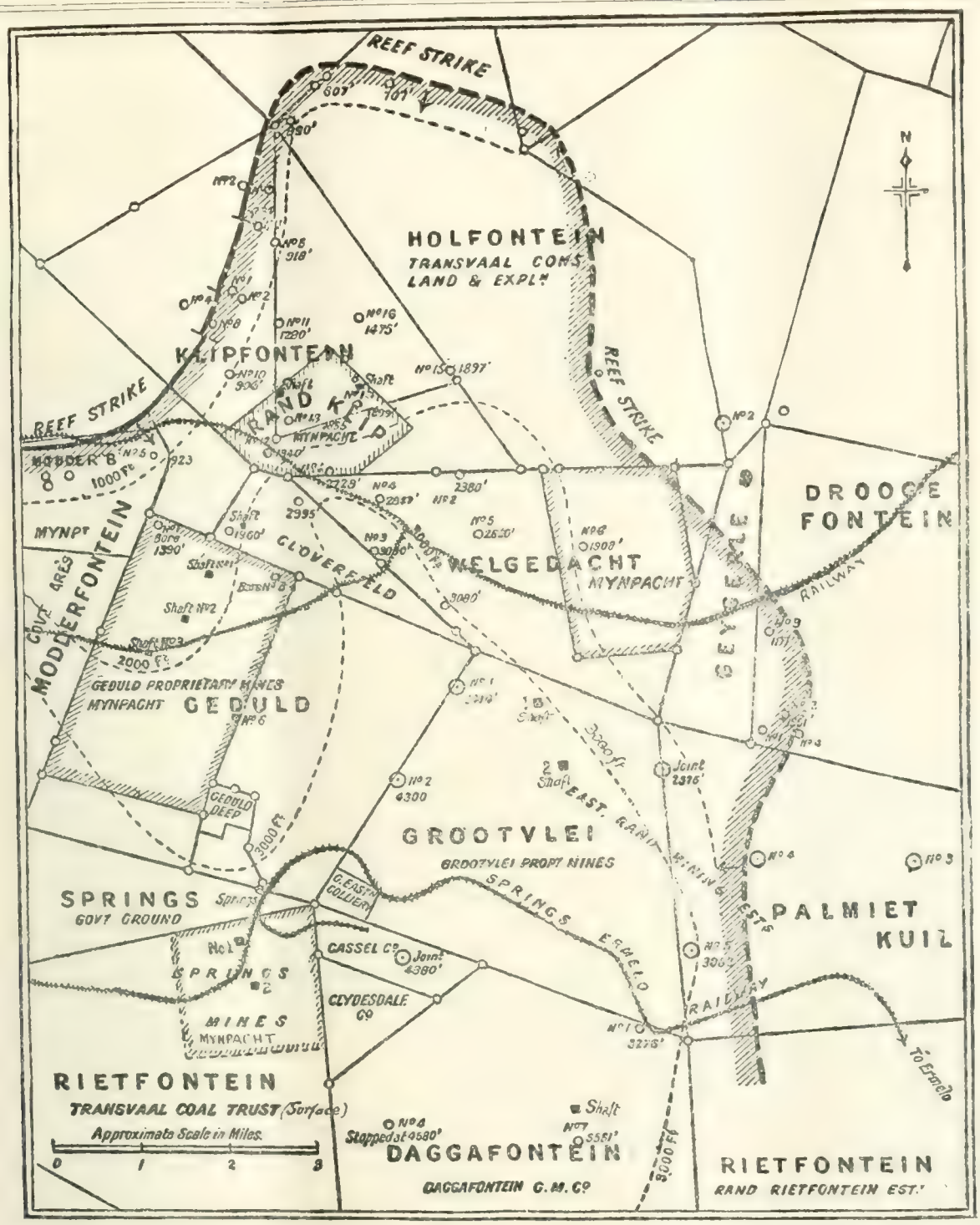
The Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited, as vendor, on the formation of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company with £600,000 capital, received as its consideration 300,000 £1 shares, and the Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate had the right to take at par the balance of the £600,000 capital. On the formation of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company in October 1902, the Syndicate subscribed at par for 100,000 shares, and, under option rights which it is unnecessary to detail here, in 1904 it took up a further 10,000 shares at par. The detail of issues of capital by the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company are given below:—

October 1902. Capital £600,000 in £1 shares.

	Shares
To vendors (Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Ltd.)...	300,000
Oct. 1902: Purchased by Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate	100,000
Further issue to directors, &c....	1,507
April 1904: Taken under option by the Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate at par ...	10,000
April 1909: Purchased by Henderson's Transvaal Estates at par	125,000
Total issue to present date	536,507

The majority of the Prospecting Syndicate's £60,000 capital, we believe, is held by Henderson's.

The reimbursement of the Syndicate of the costs of sinking bores, and the cost of the Company's own boring operations, later loss on investments, the Company having temporarily invested working-capital resources in Consols and lost money thereby, and finally the expenditure of about £250,000 for cost of shaft-sinking and its equipment left the Company in the position at June 30, 1914, of having expended all its working capital resources, and incurred a floating debt of some £107,000. At the present time, we understand, the floating debt is approximately £130,000. Throughout its recent history the Company has been financed by the Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited. When the War broke out in



August 1914, all operations were suspended and the mine put in charge of a caretaker.

Any idea of raising further capital during the War period has been hitherto deferred, but for some months past there have been rumours of negotiations with design to lift the Daggafontein out of its present impecunious and uncomfortable position. These rumours have taken a more definite shape during the last few days; and, indeed, it is now no secret that arrangements have been made between the Consolidated Mines Selection, the Central Mining and Investment, and the Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited. Heretofore the last-named Company alone has provided the financial resources required, The Daggafontein mine has been somewhat of the nature of a millstone about the neck of the Henderson's, and it may be fairly said the proposition is too big a one for it to undertake single-handed. But it is quite a different matter when the co-operation is secured of the Consolidated Mines Selection and the Central Mining, two strong companies. A reconstruction and putting up of additional capital does not mean the Daggafontein will then and there enter a state of prosperity. There will have to be a long period of waiting—to effect developments, the sinking of a second shaft, and later, if the nature of developments permit, the erection of a reduction plant. This will take two or three years. The conclusion of the arrangements being entered into, however, appears near at hand.

Although the main details of the contemplated Daggafontein reconstruction have been agreed upon by the Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited, who are by far the largest shareholders and practically control the concern, the matter has yet to be placed before the directors of the Daggafontein Company itself.

Meanwhile the idea entertained is to form a *new* Daggafontein Company to take over the property against the issue of approximately 308,000 £1 shares,

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130,000 of which will be issued to Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited, in discharge of the Daggafontein Company's debt to that Corporation, being at the rate of one share for every £1 owing. The balance will allow of a distribution of one new share for every three of the 536,507 existing old £1 shares. Then, beyond, 100,000 shares will be subscribed at par by the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Limited, the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited, and Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited. This money to be employed in the immediate prosecution of development operations. The position would then be:—

	New £1 Shares
To old shareholders, say	178,000
To retire floating debt	130 000
Subscribed at par	100,000
Total	408,000

It is contemplated that at a later date convertible Debentures to the tune of £400,000 will be created, and will be offered to the shareholders of the Daggafontein Company under a guarantee of the above Corporations, who, as a consideration for such guarantee, will receive further options and a cash commission.

It is understood that the management and engineering control of the reconstructed concern will be vested in the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Limited.

It may be advanced that to attempt to estimate what the ore contents of the Daggafontein mynpacht, wherever it is situated, is impossible. Although there is not on the Daggafontein, as with the Springs, development done so as to bring ore into sight, ascertainment has been made of the existence of reef by boring, and the reef has been come upon in the shaft. It is true it is not practicable to form any opinion as to the grade that will be disclosed by de velopments, but it seems to us it will not be unreasonable to sum up the position as to pay ore contents in the same way as has been done by us in the case of Brakpan and Springs. With both these properties we conjectured it would be wise not to estimate more than half the area as containing payable grade, and if we apply this moiety principle to the total 1,436 mynpacht, &c., claims of the Daggafontein, assuming a 6 degrees dip and 4½ feet of stoping, this would mean an aggregate of 24,165 mine tons per claim. From the mine tons we will deduct 15% for underground and overhead sorting, and after allowance of this we will assume a quantity of 20,000 mill tons per claim. The total mynpacht, when it is marked out, will contain 1,436 claims, and if we allow only half these claims as being payable, the result may be expressed as under: —

	Mill Tons
718 net claims × 20,000 mill tons per claim ...	14,360,000

The Springs Mines is being equipped with a plant to deal with 360,000 tons per annum, and the application of a plant of similar capacity for the Daggafontein would mean a life for that property of almost exactly 40 years.

As the Company's own mynpacht, &c. mining area will aggregate an area of 1,436 claims, the remaining portion—equal to 4,847 claims—of the farm, on proclamation, will be opened to prospectors, and the mining Company will be entitled to receive half the licence fees, the other half going to the Government; or some other arrangement may be come to in case, as is probable, a Government lease like that of the Government Areas (Modderfontein) is fixed up.

Arizona Copper Company.—The directors announce that owing to the continuance of the strike no copper was produced during November. On November 5 a fire occurred at No. 3 mill at Clifton. The exact amount of damage has not yet been ascertains, but it may be stated that the figures which have been put into circulation are greatly exaggerated.

CANADIAN MINING CORPORATION.

THE recent rise in the price of silver to about 29*d.* per fine ounce, which compares with an average price of only about 25⅜*d.* for the first 10 months of the year, has caused attention to be given to the shares of silver-producing companies, and particularly to the Canadian Mining Corporation—a 1914 amalgamation of four separate Cobalt silver mines—the £1 shares of which have risen during the past week to 11*s.*, in comparison with 7*s.* 6*d.* a few months ago. In the circumstances information as to the progress of the undertaking will be timely. Unfortunately, it is impossible to give the full amount of information necessary to the proper appreciation of the Company's position, because of the slackness of the administration in the matter of issuing reports. Four-weekly statements of earnings are supposed to be published, but they appear spasmodically, and even then are always belated. Official information in regard to current development results is altogether lacking; and this is a serious matter for individual shareholders and the Stock Exchange, having regard to the fact that the holders of large numbers of shares have the controlling of the undertaking, and, therefore, know the development disclosures not officially published. In making these remarks we have in mind the fact that in recent months rumours in Canada and newspaper paragraphs have appeared stating that rich development disclosures have been made, especially in the City section of the properties, and also beneath the Cobalt Lake, now drained of its water. But we have seen no official confirmation or denial, and we are informed by the London office that current development results are not published. However, with such information as is available in regard to the progress of the undertaking we deal below.

The five properties now belonging to the Company are the Cobalt Townsite, City of Cobalt, Cobalt Lake, Townsite Extension, and Little Nipissing, together covering 183½ acres in the centre of the Cobalt Camp. These properties are vested in a Canadian-registered undertaking, the Mining Corporation of Canada, which at December 31, 1914, had an issued capital of 2,075,000 $1 shares. The English-registered Company, the Canadian Mining Corporation, Limited, holds 1,911,319 of these shares. The Canadian Company's financial year ends December 31 and the English Company's on March 31. Why this should be, having regard to the fact that the amalgamation dated from April 1, 1914, it is difficult to see; but one thing is certain—the practice of having one financial year for the subsidiary and another for the parent adds obscurity to a position already fogged by lack of interim information. The first reports of the amalgamated concern were made up for the nine months to December 31, 1914, in the case of the Canadian Company, and for the twelve months to December 31, 1915, in the case of the English Company. For the nine months covered by the Canadian Company's report 664½ tons of high-grade ore, containing 1,267,547 oz. of silver, equal to 1,907 oz. per ton, were shipped. The mill of the Cobalt Reduction Company, in which the Corporation holds a large share interest, treated 106,719½ tons of low-grade ore for the Corporation for a yield of 1,917,577 oz. of silver, equal to 18 oz. silver per ton. The total silver produced was thus 3,185,124 oz., of which about 40% was obtained from a very small quantity of extremely high-grade ore, as follows:—

Canadian Company's Results.

[9 Months to December 31, 1915]

High Grade Ore Output	High Grade Silver Produced Output	High Grade Yield Per Ton	Low Grade Ore Output	Low Grade Silver Produced Output	Low Grade Yield Per Ton	Total Ore Output	Silver Produced Output	Yield Per Ton
Tons	Oz.		Tons	Oz.		Tons	Oz.	
664½	1,267,547	1,907	106,719½	1,917,577	18·0	107,384	3,185,124	29·6

The gross price realised for the silver produced in the nine months to December 31, 1914, was 51.2 cents per ounce, equal to, say, 2*s*. 1½*d*. in sterling. The gross value of the silver output per ton of total ore shipped and treated amounted to about 60*s*. 9*d*. Working costs totalled about 36*s*. 6*d*. per ton, but, deducting the revenue received from dividends paid by the Reduction Company, the actual working expenditure amounted to about 31*s*. 6*d*. per ton, equivalent to 15 oz. of silver per ton on the basis of the average price realised for the period. Including dividend receipts from the Reduction Company and sundry revenue, the profit at the mines for the nine months to December 31, 1914, amounted to £181,400, of which head office expenses, royalties, taxes, and Manager's commission absorbed £30,979, leaving a net profit of £150,421. Of this only £51,875 was paid in dividends during the period, the balance of £98,546 being carried forward, and resulting in the balance sheet of the Canadian Company at December 31, 1914, showing the very strong position of £112,760 surplus liquid assets.

Canadian Company's Earnings and Outlays.

	40 Wks. to Oct. 7, 1915 Tons		9 Months to Dec. 31 1914 (Dollar at 4*s*.) Tons
High grade ore output	—		6,051½
Low grade ore milled	99,938		106,719½
	Oz.		Oz.
Silver production	—		3,185,124
Average price realised per oz.	—		51.2 cents
	£		£
Value of production	—		325,978
Dividends from Reduction Company .	—		26,736
Sundry receipts	—		2,259
Total gross income	375,288		354,973
Expenditure at mines	195,525		173,573
Profit at mines	179,763		181,400
Deduct:	£	£	£
Head office expenses	—	11,197	
Royalties and taxes	—	11,955	
Manager's commission	—	7,917	
		—	30,979
Net profit	—		150,421
Dividends paid	—		51,875
Carry forward	—		98,546
Surplus liquid assets	—		112,760

English Company's Receipts and Outlays

	12 Months to March 31, 1915 £
Dividends from Canadian Company	98,154
Sundry receipts	47
Total Revenue	98,201
Deduct office expenses and income tax	7,878
Net income	90,323
Dividends paid	76,456 (5%)
Carried forward	13,867
Surplus cash in hand March 31, 1915	10,433

As regards the operations of the current year, we can only judge the progress of the undertaking from the monthly advices, and the information given in these is, as we have said, very deficient. The quantity of ore milled is given, but not the tonnage of the high-grade ore shipped, a very vital factor having regard to the fact that this class of ore in 1914 supplied 40% of the total silver output. Moreover, the monthly advices do not state the silver output, but merely give the value of production *plus* dividend receipts from the Reduction Company. The price obtained for silver is not mentioned, and it is also impossible to tell how much of the revenue is derived from silver production and how much from dividends on Reduction Company's shares. However, in contrast with the financial period of nine months to December 31, 1914, covered by the last annual report, we are able to give in the following table the gross income, the expenditure at the mines, and the profit at the mines for the 40 weeks—nine months and one week—of the current year. The table also shows the English Company's receipts from dividends on its shareholding in the Canadian Corporation for the year to March 31, 1915, and the dividends paid out. The English Company's issued capital at March 31, 1915, was £1,529,130. Its net income for the last financial year was £90,323, equal to not quite 6% on the capital, and the distribution actually paid was 5%. It is to be noted, however, that the English Company's revenue would have been much larger but for the conservative distribution of the Canadian Company's profits.

It will be seen from the above that the quantity of ore milled shows some reduction, and also that, whereas the profit at mines for the nine months to December 31, 1914, was £181,400, the figure for the first 9¼ months of the current year, according to the monthly advices, is £179,763. It is impossible, in view of the lack of information, to say for certain whether the reduction of profit is due to the smaller quantity of ore milled, but it looks as if this is the proper explanation. The rise in the price of silver has been too recent to favourably affect the earnings shown in the table, but if the enhanced value of the metal is maintained the profits of the Corporation should show considerable increase, provided, of course, there is no material reduction in the silver values of the ore produced by the mines. In this connection it is particularly important that high-grade ore should continue to be found, and consequently, if very rich discoveries have been effected since the last annual reports, official silence in the matter is inexcusable. With 40% of the silver production coming from a few tons of high-grade ore, it is manifest that lack of high-grade ore and ability to produce silver from low-grade ore alone would result in the present comparatively large profits being cut down to very small dimensions. The ore reserves at December 31, 1914, were estimated to be as follows:—

Ore Reserves.

	High-Grade Ore		Low-Grade Ore		Total Ore	
	Tons	Silver Contents Oz.	Tons	Silver Contents Oz.	Tons	Silver Contents Oz.
Town Re .	2[illegible]	473,000	76,113	1,522,260	76,322	1,995,260*
City ...	454[illegible]	869,200	17,249	344,980	17,7[illegible]	1,2[illegible],180†
Total ...	6[illegible]	1,342,200	[illegible]	1,867,240	[illegible]	[illegible],440

* Ounces, 26·1 per ton.
† Ounces, 2,500,000 on Dec. 31st, 1914.

It will be seen that the position at the end of last year was not a strong one, the silver contents of the high and low grade ore combined representing only about a year's production, which makes it all the more evident that development progress is the crucial factor in the Company's position. Provided development results are good—as they are rumoured to be—and if they continue to be so, the £1 shares of the English Company at their present price of 11*s*., in view of the recent upward movement in the price of silver, should yield larger dividends than recently paid; but it is to be borne in mind that the inherently speculative character of the shares is greatly increased by the lack of official information on which to base an opinion, and the future is especially dependent upon the capacity of the management, which, in regard to the mines, appears to be good.

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TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, December 1, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£69,550,100	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	51,100,100
	£69,550,100		£69,550,100

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£29,840,118
Rest	3,279,501	Other Securities	98,481,248
Public Deposits	50,360,517	Notes	35,274,995
Other Deposits	93,525,478	Gold and Silver Coin	138,569
Seven-day and other Bills	16,434		
	£161,734,930		£161,734,930

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Oct. 27	32.8	56.2	39.9	99.7	18.9	96.8	41.9	30·01	5	4¼
Nov. 3	33.4	56.6	45.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	—	4⅛
— 10	33.2	55.3	48.9	90.4	18.9	87.6	40.6	29·13	—	4¼
— 17	33.0	53.6	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	—	5¼
— 24	33.3	52.4	52.1	84.6	18.9	88.1	37.6	27·98	—	5 5/16
Dec. 1	34.3	51.2	50.3	93.5	29.8	96.5	35.4	24·61	—	5 5/16

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 6%; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency note issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Nov. 3	212,878,208	128,022,268	84,855,940	28,500,000	33·5
Week to " 10	6,153,447	3,318,998	87,690,389	28,500,000	32·5
" " 17	4,704,238	3,843,351	88,551,276	28,500,000	32·2
" " 24	5,212,867	3,538,486	90,225,657	28,500,000	31·6
" Dec. 1	5,428,408	3,740,087	91,913,999	28,500,000	31·0

II.—Balance Sheet, December 1, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	64,104,220	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	22,109,779	Other Bankers	179,000
Certificates outstanding ...	5,700,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	657,620	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	54,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ...	9,023,056
Total	92,571,619	Total	92,571,619

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Nov. 25, Thursday...	Nil.	57,000 Canada. 250,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.* 716,000 sovs. U.S.
" 26, Friday ...	8,000 bars.	350,000 Spain. 250,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.* 90,000 S. America.
" 27, Saturday ...	Nil.	Nil.
" 29, Monday ...	62,000 bars.	106,000 bars. 250,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.* 100,000 sovs. Egypt.*
" 30, Tuesday ...	Nil.	
Dec. 1, Wednesday	619,000 bars.	235,000 sovs. U.S. 100,000 Egypt.*
Total for week ...	689,000	2,504,000
Net aggregate [1,815,000 *efflux* for week.]		
Dec. 2, Thursday ...	500,000 sovs.	5,000 sovs. U.S. 34,000 Canada. 200,000 Holland.
" 3, Friday ...	6,000 bars.	100,000 Egypt.* 200,000 sovs. Spain. 60,000 S. America.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£28,7	£28,6	£28,8	£35,9	£34 3
Public Deposits	12,7	11,9	7,7	12,6	50,3
Other Deposits	43,0	40,5	39,9	167,9	93,5
Government Securities	17,0	13,0	11,2	31,3	29,8
Other Securities	33,2	30,9	27,9	113,1	96,5
Reserve	23,3	26 3	26,3	53,9	35,4
Ratio to Liabilities	41⅞%	50·08%	55·14%	29·87%	24·61%
Bullion (both Departments)	33,6	36,4	36,6	71,4	51,2
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛%	4 1/16-4⅜%	4⅞-4 1/16%	2⅝%	5 3/16%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 11	25 24	25 32	25 02	27 51
Hamburg 8 days	20 43	20 45	20 49½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 80·50	4 81·25	4 86	4 67½
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 3/32	1/4 5/32	1/4 1/16	1/3⅞	1/4
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	89 5/16xd	75 7/16 xd	72xd	63¼	58xd
French Rente 3 % Money	99 95	80 32	85 70	74 00	64 50
Silver, London spot oz.	-/30	-/29 9/16	-/27	-/23	-/26 7/16
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	28/5	31/9	30·9	41/11	54/2
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/6·17	-/6·97	-/7·33	-/4·40	-/7·55
Iron, Scotch pig ton	57/6	73/3	55/3	57/10½	77/9

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Nov. 3, 1915	Pesos 235,444,987
Oct. 27, 1915	234,179,911
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25 to Nov. 6, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5,221,324
Dec. 31 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS.

[In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad.	Circulation.	Deposits
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£788	£8,693	£47
Sept. 30, 1915 ...	5,928	281	6,209	3,667	3,427	12,243	879
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,860	1,215
Oct. 31, 1914 ...	3,835	177	4,012	7,673	1,335	12,454	234
Oct. 31, 1913 ...	—	—	4,372	5,078	968	8,575	111

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
Nov. 18, 1915...	£192,285	£14,489	£206,774	£11,292	£568,432	£2,261	£104,678
Nov. 25, 1915...	193,408	14,462	207,870	11,833	571,187	1,714	108,847
Dec. 2, 1915...	195,001	14,344	209,445	12,950	571,640	4,072	107,807
July 30, 1914†	165,654	25,013	190,667	97,768	287,327	15,302	37,903
Dec. 4, 1913...	140,852	25,817	166,669	71,531	236,395	8,628	26,637

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23, '14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,188
Nov. 23, '15...	121,738	1,934	123,672	26,854	233,973	288,243	66,167
Nov. 30, '15...	121,783	1,865	123,628	33,889	234,376	299,971	79,392
Nov. 30, '14...	99,563	2,216	101,779	37,634	148,409	210,268	69,872
Nov. 29, '13...	60,957	14,219	75,176	3,368	47,667	99,095	31,572

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,496	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Nov. 20, 1915 ...	34,280	280	34,560	6,441	7,581	48,938	2,931
Nov. 27, 1915 ...	34,291	315	34,606	6,333	7,602	47,123	2,724
Nov. 28, 1914 ...	15,098	407	15,505	15,003	11,286	40,095	1,707
Nov. 29, 1913 ...	12,458	702	13,160	7,591	6 937	28,809	244

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,204	£9,887
Oct. 10, '15 ...	£45,698	£4,445	50,043	4,024	29 264	114,428	27,452
Oct. 20, '15 ...	45,251	4,427	49,678	4,597	28,927	114,248	28,318
Oct. 20, '14 ...	—	—	52,353		37,377	86,177	19,092
Oct. 20, '13 ...	—	—	49,604		21,994	69,885	7,482

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Oct. 16, '15...	21,281	542	6,211	30,407	22,522	6,593
Oct. 23, '15 .	21,361	539	6,553	30,868	22,219	7,188
Oct. 24, '14...	21,545	1,939	7,788	30,056	12,208	3,293
Oct. 25, '13...	21,640	1,859	9,547	33,493	16,706	1,016

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£89,888	£411,238	£387,185	£8,316	£1,720
Nov. 20, '15 ...	£106,742	£43,312	150 054	623,626	671,300	6,980	33 988
Nov. 27, '15 ...	103,416	43,656	147,072	627,642	672,218	7,018	35,988
Nov. 28, '14 ...	69,540	24,240	93,780	431,340	409,200	15,660	28,480
Nov. 29, 13 ...	—	—	82,715	383,945	349,777	8,942	1,170

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,878	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Nov. 15, 1915...	3,753	3,634	781	4,334	8,339	1,638
Nov. 22, 1915...	3,893	3,630	781	4,337	8,289	1,564
Nov. 23, 1914...	2,361	1,712	508	6,560	7,058	1,330
Nov. 22, 1913...	2,507	1,629	504	4,037	5,683	499

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£8,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Nov. 14, '15...	173,333	2,750	176 083	9,346	451,696	504,054	147,619
Nov. 21, '15...	173,891	2,855	176,748	7,052	489,484	511,348	154,777
Nov. 21, '14...	176,540	4,348	180,888	9,476	186,646	280,524	99,263
Nov. 21, '13...	168,336	5,897	174,233	7,610	99,958	169,890	110,099

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Nov. 20, '15...	33,330	29,764	63,094	41,358	13,777	82,758	26 801
Nov. 27, '15...	33,737	30,113	63,850	41,276	13,777	82,380	27,137
Nov. 28, '14...	23,587	28,235	50,822	48,288	13,777	78,411	24,449
Nov. 29, '13...	19,014	29,200	48,214	42,040	13,778	76,230	16,713

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£5,717	£8,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Nov. 13, '15 ...	6,297	6,885	2,945	4,881	16,683	4,319
Nov. 20, '15 ...	6,295	7,217	2,929	4,747	16,327	4,760
Nov. 21, '14 ...	5,798	3,048	1,475	8,783	15,004	3,750
Nov. 22, '13 ...	5,692	4,741	1,337	7,084	11,582	3,524

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£18,371	£3,128
Nov. 15, 1915...	9,880	2,304	12,184	6,510	17,188	2,698
Nov. 23, 1915...	9,898	2,262	12,160	6,565	16,702	2,930
Nov. 23, 1914...	9,599	787	10,398	7,994	16,040	2,722
Nov. 22, 1913...	6,875	1,115	7,990	4,687	10,443	2,001

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Nov. 5, 1915...	£58,943	£65,258	£8,625	£69,213	£2,732	£88,544	81·4%
Nov. 12, 1915...	59,489	65,851	8,830	71,863	2,601	89,238	80·1%
Nov. 19, 1915...	63,195	69,830	9,030	76,999	2,585	94,365	79·8%
Nov. 20, 1914...	40,883	48,145	1,121	45,428	243	49,285	—

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 28, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	8	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne...	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	4½	Oct. 28, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-5	Feb 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915, Period	Receipts—Revenue £	Receipts—Total including Loans £	Expenditures—Supply Services £	Expenditures—Int. on Debt £	Expenditures—Advances, &c. £	Expenditures—Total £	Treasury Balance—Amt. £	Treasury Balance—+ or − for Period £	Treasury Bills Outstand'g £
7 days to Nov. 13	3,540	38,339	28,015	16 210		44,225	19,334	− 5.886	264.581
7 „ Nov. 20	7,144	47,971	23 322	18,140		41,462	25 813	+ 6,503	277,636
7 „ Nov. 27	3,364	47,954	33,114	16,718		49,832	23,965	− 1,878	293,812
241 days to Nov. 27, 1915	142,299	1,217,318	873,944	402,860	1,276,804		23,955	−59,486*	+216,662*
242 days to Nov. 28, 1914	104,653	251,741	216,004	43,947	259,951	2,225		−8,210*	—

* Increase or decrease since April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Dec. 3 '15	Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 44½	11 45	11 40	11 26
—	Cable	11 24½	11 25	11 20	11 06
Italy	3 mos.	31 20	31 00	30 85	30 60
—	Cable	30 75	30 55	30 42½	30 26
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	33⅞	34	34	34
New York	do.	4 70⅜	4 70	4 70½	4 66½
—	Cheques	4 71⅛	4 70½	4 71	4 67
Paris	3 mos.	27 97½	28 20	28 10	28 30
—	Cable	27 57½	27 78	27 70	27 90
Petrograd	do.	149	145⅜	146	145
Scandinavia	do.	16 75	17 00	17 30	17 40
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46¼	46	46	46¼
—	Cable	25 00	25 16½	25 05	24 95
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 65	26 50	25 45	25 20
—	Cable	25 25	25 10	25 05	24 75

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Dec. 3, '15	Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15	Nov. 12, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 25c.	11fl. 24c.	11fl. 20c.	11fl. 10c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s 4 3/32d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49 5/8d.	49½d.	49 7/8d.	49½d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4 3/32d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4 3/32d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 11½d.	1s 10⅞d.	1s. 10 7/8d.	1s 10⅞d.
Italy	Sight	30lr. 75c.	30lr. 50c.	30lr. 45c.	30lr. 22c.
Lisbon	Sight	34	34	33⅝	33⅝
Madrid	Sight	25p. 00	25p. 15	25p. 05	25p. 02
Montevideo	90 days	54¼d.	54¼d.	54d.	54d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 71	$4 70⅛	$4 70½	$4 66½
New York	Sight†	$4 70 1/16*	$4 69⅝	$4 69½	$4 65½
—	60 days†	$4 66⅛*	$4 66½	$4 66	$4 62½
—	Cables†	$4 71 1/16*	$4 70⅝	$4 70⅛	$4 66½
—	on Paris Sight†	5.82½f.*	5.91f.	5.91f.	5.98¾f.
—	on Berlin Sight†	78½c.*	80½c.	80⅜c.	81¼c.
—	on Amst'd'm Sight†	41⅜c.*	42c.	41⅞c.	41⅜c.
—	on Mexico Silver $	42⅜c. U.S.*	43c. U.S.	39⅝c. U.S.	38½c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 55c.	27f. 77½c.	27f. 68c.	27f. 92c.
Petrograd	Sight	149	145⅜	145½	142½
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12 7/16d.	12 5/16d.	12 3/16d.	12 1/16d.
Scandinavia	Sight	16kr. 80	17kr. 00	17kr. 20	17kr. 25
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 7d.	2s. 6 3/4d.	2s. 5½d.	2s. 4 1/4d.
Switzerland	Sight	25f. 22½c.	25f. 15c.	25f. 07½c.	24f. 75c.
Valparaiso	90 days	9 1/8d.	9 3/16d.	9 1/8d.	9d.

* Previous day's rates. † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
BIRMINGHAM	Nov. 27	1,518,848 +	442.302	80.838.698	+10,971,726	+ 15·7
BRISTOL	„ 27	735 000 +	52.000	36.582.000	+ 2,487,000	+ 7·3
DUBLIN	„ 27	3.274,400 −	472.000	176,939 400	+15,791,200	+ 9·8
LEEDS	„ 27	830.288 +	41.734	29.777.404	+ 6.011.789	+ 25·3
LEICESTER	„ 27	305.313 +	42.332	18.704.838	+ 4,414,501	+ 30·9
LIVERPOOL	„ 27	6.480.424 +	2.900.064	263.996.847	+54,803,081	+ 26·2
MANCHESTER	„ 27	6.447.922 +	1.894.139	320.372 571	+20.184.220	+ 6·7
NEWCASTLE	„ 27	1.670.500 +	539.700	69.393 000	+16.283 700	+ 30·7
NOTTINGHAM	„ 27	313.549 +	83.217	17.081.088	+ 222.481	+ 1·3
SHEFFIELD	„ 27	408,502 +	53.892	27,903.344	+ 5,082.017	+ 22·3
[000's omitted from the London clearings.]						
LONDON—TOWN	Dec. 1	218.516 +	43.873	10.046.275	− 1,709,453	− 14·6
METROPOLITAN	„ 1	17.013 +	683	855.352	+ 81.547	+ 7·7
COUNTRY	„ 1	28,255 +	3.725	1,440.719	+ 180.480	+ 14·3
TOTAL	„ 1	263.784 +	48.181	12.342,346	− 1,487,426	− 10·6

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or −*	"Fourth" of the Month. 1915	£	+ or −*
Oct. 28	44 402	—	Oct. 1	52.016	—	Sept. 4	39.722	+ 15,393
Nov. 12	48.793	—	Nov. 5	47.524	—	Oct. 4	47.178	+ 6,718
Nov. 26	41.581	—	Dec. 1	56.006	—	Nov. 4	48.924	+ 15,593
1915 agg.	928.308	—		589.654	—		503.043	− 63.060

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.—According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	32/6	9/6	9/6
Australia to U.K.	95/0	—	30/0
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	10/0
Bombay to p.p.	d w.77/8	17/0d.w	18/9
Burmah o.o.	110/0	—	23/9
Calcutta to p.p.	d.w.105/0	—d.w.	18/0
Danube to A.R.	—	—	10/3
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	8/0
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	105/0	31/0	12/0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	62/6	30/0

Homewards—cont.	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	15/0	5/0	1/10½
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	170/0	—	—
N.O. to U.K. (cotton &gr.)	—	22/0	13/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	—	55/0	39/0	30/0
1914...	20/0	—	20/0	17/0	—
1913...	12/0	11/0	8/0	14/6	8/3

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

DEC. 4.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	77/9	57/10½	' 55 3
— Middlesbro' warrants ...ton	71/10	51/9	49/3½
— Hematite warrants ...ton	115/0	84/0	81/0
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£13 10	£9	£9
— Common bars ...ton	£12 15	£7 10	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro' ...tons	128 893	105,575	148,078
Steel Rails ...ton	£9 12/6	£6 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ...ton	£78 12 6	£58 7/6–£58 12 6	£65 15—£66
— Stock, Europe&afit., Nov. 30 tons	30.003	36.586	25.827
Tin—English ingots ...ton	£168	£153—£154	£177—£178
— Straits ...ton	£173	£151	£178 5
Tinplates—Ooke I.C. ...box	22/3	13/6 17/9	13/6—18/0
Lead—Soft Foreign ...ton	£23	£19 2/6	£17 10
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ...ton	£89	£27	£20 15
Quicksilver—(75lb.) ...bottle	£16 10	£11 5	£7 10
Aluminium ...ton	nom.	£82—£84	£81—£85
Antimony—Regulus ...ton	nom	£50—£55	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	21/0	21/8
— — (best) Newcastle ...ton	20/9	13/3	15/8
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/6—14/9	10/9	10 9
Soda—Crystals ex ship ...ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/8	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ...ton	£31 7/6	£24 5—£25	£31 2/6–£31 7/6
Gambier—Good marks ...cwt.	40 6	22 0	17/7½—17 9
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/8—15/0	13/6—14/0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£33 2 6	£23	£24
Linseed—Calcutta, spot... 410lb	86 6	46/6	45 6
Olive Oil—Spanish ...tun	£52	£47—£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ...ton	£40	£30	£38
Petroleum—American ...gallon	nom.	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£43 10	£31	£31 5
Soya Oil ...ton	£33	£21 10	£26 7/8
Tallow—Aust. mixed ...cwt.	52/6	27/8—30/8	33/3—34 9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ...cwt.	48/1½	35/0	31/9
Rape Seed—Toria ...416lb.	82/0	51/0	48/1½
Rubber—Para, spot ...lb.	3/0	2/8½	4 8½
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe) lb.	3/5—3 6	2/2½—2/2½	4 5
—World's Vis.sup (allkinds) Angton	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair...cwt.	75/0—78/0	60/0—61/0	82/0—83/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland ...lb.	-/7·55	-/4·40	-/7·33
— Egyptian good fair ...lb	-/9 50	-/8·60	-/9 85
— Pernambuco, fair...lb.	-/8 37	-/4 80	-/7·31
— Mid. Upl. New York ...lb.	12 40c.	7.50	13.50c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Nov. 26 bales	884.830	694.110	731.500
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol ...ton	£75	£40	£31
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£35 15—£36	£24 10	£27
— Manila, Fair strips ...ton	£43 10	£24 10	£28 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ...ton	£27	£18 10	£35 5
— Red SOC ...ton	£24 10	£16	£30 10
Silk—Blue Elephant ...lb.	13/0	11/3—11/6	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	-/11½—1/0½	-/11½—1/0½
— Lincoln Half Hogs ...lb	1/6½	1/2—1/2½	1/0½—1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	-/8½	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ...lb	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/8	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Nov. 29 bus	57,252.000	76,418.000	67.142.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	129½c.	129c.	101c
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	54 2	41 11	30 9
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	48 0	39 6	29 9
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	48 7	30/3	27 0
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ..qr	31 1	25/8	18 4
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb.	nom.	71c.	nom.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	9/1—9/2	7 2½	4/11½
— La Plata ...480lb. qr.	40/0	27/0—28 0	23/9
Potatoes—Kents ...ton	95/0—105/0	75 0—80 0	55/0—60/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	41.184	28.157	11.307
— Deliveries do. ...tons	26.833	24.299	13.541
— Stock ...tons	21.276	6.553	5.131
— Price, Bassein ...cwt	18/0	17/0	7/9—8/1½
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ..cwt.	19 6	15/0—21 0	14 0—17 8
Hay—Best ...2,016lb. load	120/0—135 0	85/0—90 0	77/8 87/8
Hops—English ...cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3 5—£5 5	£8 10—£9
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	4/8—5/2	4/2—4/8	3/4—3/8
— Scotch sides ...8lb	5/2—5/4	4/8—4 10	4/4—4/10
— English ...8lb	4/8—5 2	4/3—4/8	3/6—4/3
Mutton—Scotch ...8lb	5/6—5/8	4/8—5/0	5/4—5/8
— English wethers ...8lb	5/4—5/8	4/4—4/10	4/6—5/0
— New Zealand frozen ...8lb	4/4—4/11	3/10—4/2	3/4—3/9
Pork—English ...8lb.	5/8—6/4	4/0—4/8	4/2—4/10
Bacon—Irish ...cwt.	98/0—103/0	70/0—78/0	66/0—77/0
— Danish ...cwt.	98/0—103/0	68/0—74/0	64/0—75/0
Hams—Amer. long cut ...cwt	94/0—100/0	72/0—76/0	64/0—78/0
— — short cut ...cwt	96/0—98/0	72/0—76/0	66/0—76/0
Lard—Amer. pails ...cwt.	59/6—60/0	54/3—55/6	56/6—57/0
Butter—Danish ...cwt.	180/0—182/0	147/0—149/0	128/0—132/0
— Siberian ...cwt.	100.0—140/0	116/0—124/0	88/0—112/0
— French ...cwt.	112/0—160/0	110/0—128/0	110/0—128/0
— New Zealand ...cwt.	164/0—168/0	128/0—134/0	128/0—130/0
— Australian ...cwt.	158/0—164/0	124/0—132/0	100/0—120/0
Cheese—Canadian ...cwt.	90/0—92/0	76/0—78/0	64/0—67/0
— New Zealand (white) ...cwt.	89/0—90/0	75/0—76/0	64/0—65/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	598,968	738,292	810,068
— Deliveries do. ...tons	773,634	731,968	793,800
— Stock ...tons	40,880	117,485	72,138
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ...cwt.	18/6	18/0	10/9
— — Mauritius, crystals ...cwt.	nom.	26/0—27/0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ...cwt	40/6	31/0	18/0
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	59,950	48,373	36,080
— Home consumption do. ...tons	18,098	14,297	13,808
— Exports do. ...tons	22,578	28,098	20,277
— Stock ...tons	32,335	16,462	10,377
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	72/0—80/0	75/0—85/0	82/0—90/0
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt.	40/3	43 0	46 3
Tea—Imports...(for 10 months) lb.	344,918,042	254,428,728	279,173,871
— Home consumption do. ...lb.	270,704,649	268,403,911	253,839,947
— Exports do. ...lb.	47,943,000	58,205,848	47,948,878
— Stock, Oct. 31 ...lb.	132,885,000	64,544,000	112,632,000
— Price, Indian, Pek Souc, good lb	-/8½	-/9	-/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek, Soug. Ord. ...lb.	-/8½	-/9½	-/8½
— — Common Congou ...lb.	-/7	-/7	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	80/0–82/0	62/0—63/0	68/0—67/0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Nov. 28	80	—	£3.118	− 84	47	171.994	+ 8.843
CorkBan.&S.C.	Nov. 26	103	—	2.147	− 64	47	99.490	+ 4.604
Dublin & S.E.	Nov. 26	160	—	3.958	− 871	47	261.019	+ 1.792
Gt. Northern	Nov. 28	581	—	20.585	− 2.215	47	1.092.130	+ 21.980
Gt.S.&Western	Nov. 28	1,130	—	32.213	− 958	47	1.571.938	+ 91.804
Mid. Gt. West.	Nov. 26	538	—	12.829	− 914	47	609.049	+ 9.597

*** *On August* 5, 1914, *Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act*, 1871.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Oct. 30	682	+11	1,45 000	− 1.292	5	5,32.000	+ 14.304
Bard Light ...	Nov. 6	116	—	9.400	+ 14.800	6	6.00.800	− 68.200
Bengal & N.W.	Oct. 23	2.041	+12	3 11.200	+ 34 669	4	9.33.500	+ 20.327
Bengal Dooars	Nov. 6	163	—	49.737	+ 12.693	6	2.06.686	− 20.127
Beng. Nagpur	Oct. 30	2.685	+ 9	8.57.000	+ 1.06.000	31	2.31.79.562	+ 4.65.963
Bomb. Baroda	Nov. 27	2.859	+32	13 40.000	+ 1.41.000	9	97.57.000	+ 7.79 000
Burma	Oct. 30	1,342	—	3,71.037	− 23.293	31	1,09 37.957	−11.23.134
East Indian ...	Nov. 27	2,716	—	21.18 000	+ 94.000	9	1,64.45.000	− 2.49.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Nov. 27	3,112½	+132½	19,44.900	+ 4.74.600	9	1,31.17.700	+15.46.389
Madras & S.M.	Nov. 6	3,131¢	−1¢	7.55.000	+ 78.573	5	40.20 000	+ 3.67.499
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 30	797	—	1.86 847	+ 30.592	4	7.16.429	+ 40 870
Roh.&Kumaon	Oct. 23	545	+ 1	62.616	− 680	4	1.94.960	− 2.682
South Indian	Nov. 6	1,763	+10	5.13.891	+ 79.359	6	27.89.071	+ 5,18.386
South Punjab	M.of July	923	—	9.50.845	+ 2,79.300	4†	29,77.119	+ 3.18.670

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Nov. 21	7,280	— $	768 900	+ 257.400	7	6.074.700	+1.925.400
Can. Pacific...	Nov. 21	12,921	+602	2.960.000	+1,231.000	20	49.291 000	+3.339.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Nov. 21	916	—	£42.108	+ 22.827	20	503.086	+ 100 086
Grand Trunk	Nov. 30	4,008	—	192.560	+ 3.689	47	7.409.770	− 495.070
Grd. Trunk W.	Nov. 30	338	—	53.105	+ 18.059	47	1,464 835	+ 104.598
Det. Grd. Ha.	Nov. 30	188	—	20.741	+ 8.059	47	530.156	+ 48.001
Mashonaland	M.ofSept.	751	—	52.800	+ 10.533	12†	501.481	− 230.139
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofSept.	277	—	6.853	− 2.359	3†	16.721	− 9.720
New CapeCent.	Oct. 30	205	—	1.601	− 89	44	76 944	+ 670
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofSept.	1,397	—	74.243	+ 4.313	12†	788.930	− 235.997

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Nov. 27	33	—	Ps. 18.000	− 4.000	48	568.200	− 33.550
Antofagasta ...	Nov. 28	819	—	£ 30.335	+ 11.765	48	1,164 875	− 281.490
Arauco	M.of Oct.	641	—	£ 9.225	+ 2.400	10†	67.800	− 6.449
Arg. N. East...	Nov. 27	752	+ 85	£ 5.700	+ 1.000	22	145.366	+ 46.279
Arg. Transand.	Nov. 20	111	—	£ 690	− 60	21	8.500	+ 550
Bolivar	M. of Oct.	110	—	£ 8.532	+ 4.321	4†	30.532	+ 9.402
Brazil	M.ofSept.	3,426	+ 64	M 3.498.000	+1076.517	9†	29.319.000	+1.864.954
Paulista.....	M.ofSept.	721	—	M 3.200.000	+ 947.978	9†	20.150.000	+2.549 989
Mogyana ...	M.ofSept.	1,131	—	M 2.395.000	+ 432.733	9†	17.474.000	+2.182.215
B.A. & Pacific	Nov. 27	3.536	+ 1	£ 72.000	− 3.000	22	1,681.000	+ 308.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Nov. 28	3.792	+ 63	£ 118.000	+ 14.000	22	1,930.908	+ 359.967
B.A. Western	Nov. 28	1,867	+ 75	£ 56.000	+ 4.000	22	984.000	+ 159.000
Cent.Argentine	Nov. 27	3,307	+ 45	£ 107.000	+ 1.000	22	2,412.000	+ 250 490
Cent. Uruguay	Nov. 27	271	—	£ 14.073	+ 2.239	22	244.861	+ 50.627
„ (E. Ext.)	Nov. 27	311	—	£ 4.254	− 56	22	78.023	+ 20.330
„ (N. Ext.)	Nov. 27	185	—	£ 2.463	+ 1.024	22	41.065	+ 11.333
„ (W. Ext.	Nov. 27	211	—	£ 2.575	+ 317	22	37.996	+ 8.548
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Oct.	86	—	£ 10.200	− 328	10†	104 242	+ 1.131
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Oct.	85½	—	£ 17.438	− 1.762	4†	82.473	− 8.227
Cord. Central	Nov. 27	1,186	—	£ 24.100	− 10.260	22	658 640	− 135.385
Cuban Central	Nov. 27	354	+ 9	£ 9.396	+ 1.323	22	168.880	+ 25.914
Dorada Ext....	M.of Oct.	71	—	£ 7.100	− 100	10†	78.400	− 5.400
EgyptianDelta	Nov. 10	616	− 7	£ 6.641	+ 1.241	31	100.679	− 15 529
Entre Rios...	Nov. 27	730	—	£ 11.600	+ 3.000	22	205.200	+ 38.500
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 6	104	—	Ps. 60.334	− 14.562	45	2.650.257	− 298.879
Gt. W. Brazil	Nov. 27	1,010	—	£ 13.800	− 1.900	48	460.200	− 115.600
La Guaira&Ca.	M. of Oct.	23	—	£ 6.750	+ 1.500	10†	67.750	− 20.750
Leopoldina ...	Nov. 27	1,806	+ 20	£ 32.398	+ 297	48	1,408.340	+ 12.956
Manila North	Nov. 27	315	+ 2	£ 4.221	− 265	48	236.293	− 44.046
„ South	Nov. 27	286	+ 91	£ 3.482	− 589	48	173.407	+ 11.582
Mid. Uruguay	M. of Oct.	319	—	£ 9.415	+ 2.298	4†	42.020	+ 10 518
Nitrate(2wks.)	Nov. 30	368	—	£ 21.680	+ 14.148	46	326 837	− 192.925
N.W. Uruguay	M.ofSept.	113	—	$ 22.000	+ 7.416	3†	68.500	+ 16.357
ParaguayCent.	Nov. 27	255	—	c 494.000	+ 227.000	22	9.976.000	+4.689.000
Peruvian Corp.	M. of Oct.	1,059	—	d 806.900	+ 176.180	4†	3,108.057	+ 232.398
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2.792	+ 637	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Nov. 27	100	—	$ 19.400	+ 3.900	22	415.250	+ 55.594
San Paulo.....	Nov. 21	153½	—	£ 34.834	+ 532	21	770.587	+ 182.967
Taltal	M. of Oct.	184	—	£ 17.708	+ 7.538	4†	65.461	+ 2.648
U. of Havana	Nov. 27	681	—	£ 27.783	+ 6.639	22	532.988	+ 119.795
Urug.Northern	M. of Oct.	73	—	£ 1.617	+ 520	4†	6.744	+ 1.822
W. of Havana	Nov. 27	147	—	£ 4.625	+ 223	22	103.369	− 6.042
Zafra & Hiva.	M.of Oct.	112	—	£ 11.346	+ 1.684	10†	84.319	− 41.681

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Nov. 25	389½	+21½	£ 52.407	+ 1.644	47	2,397.085	− 134.417
Auckland(4wks)	Oct. 22	25½	—	£ 20.831	+ 1.054	13	83.126	− 2.001
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	M.	6,494.000	+397.080	9†	57,457.110	+2,287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306.954	+ 18.333
Bristol.....	Nov. 28	31	—	£ 9.634	+ 1.954	47	451.173	+ 45.649
BritishColumbia	M.of Sept.	242	+ 5½	$ 517.022	−133.494	3†	1.534.871	− 480.480
Calcutta	Nov. 27	35½	—	R 68.355	+ 10.981	48	30.92.308	− 48.567
Cape Electric...	M. of Oct.	42.3	—	£ 17.370	+ 1,316	4†	68.569	+ 6.591
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Nov.	9	—	£ 2.090	+ 711	11†	19.839	− 4.228
Cork Electric...	Nov. 25	9½	—	£ 1.391	+ 45	48	53.039	+ 41
Dublin United	Nov. 26	54½	—	£ 5.361	+ 13	47	287.405	+ 10.693
Havana Electric	Sept. 28	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1,184	39	1,884.501	− 80.930
Isle of Thanet...	Nov. 27	12†	− 6	£ 211	− 42	8	2.246	− 793
Kalgoorlie	M.of Sept.	20½	—	£ 2.997	+ 133	9†	25.116	+ 1,136
Lanarkshire ...	Nov. 25	28½	—	£ 1.803	+ 205	47	93.194	+ 5.083
Madras Electric	Nov. 30	—	—	R 25.837	+ 1 279	47	6,44.161	+ 33,427
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1,100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Nov. 27	21½	—	£ 1.877	+ 129	8	17.180	+ 989
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
U.of Montevideo	M.of Oct.	90	—	£ 27.167	+ 687	12†	330.583	− 30.882
Yorks.W.Riding	Nov. 28	24 11/16	—	£ 1.419	+ 44	48	75.781	+ 6.167

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 245,132 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with preceding year. (†) Months. ( ) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
474 Cos. (000's omitted)	Sept.	(e) $294.241	+ $17,783	$111.728	+ $18.548
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	(f) *837,080*	+ *25,380*	*299,126*	+ *38,436*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Sept.	408.000	—	119.000	+ 60.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*1,208,000*	− *78,000*	*371,000*	+ *89,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Oct.	150.000	+ 10.000	34.000	+ 18.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*537,000*	− *14,000*	*99,000*	+ *35,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Oct.	377.000	+ 90.000	121.000	+ 81.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*1,256,000*	+ *26,000*	*329,000*	+ *156,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Oct.	154.000	+ 26.000	33.000	+ 20.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*533,000*	+ *6,000*	*90,000*	+ *32,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Oct.	11.385.000	+ 503.000	3.755.000	+ 100.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*43 506,000*	+ *2,210,000*	*14,344,000*	+ *787,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Oct.	2.572.000	+ 119.000	600.000	+ 223.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*9,126,000*	− *266,000*	*1,364,000*	+ *478,000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Oct.	10.004.000	+ 2.018.000	3.161.000	+ 1.203.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*37,642,000*	+ *4,055,000*	*12,827,000*	+ *3,195,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Oct.	3.678.500	+ 1,100.200	1.257.000	+ 537.800
		—	—	—	
Canadian Pacific..... b	Oct.	13.443.000	+ 4.160.000	6.579.000	+ 3.258.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*40,413,000*	− *24,000*	*17 567,000*	+ *2,737,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Oct.	3.977.000	+ 572.000	1.391.000	+ 411.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*15,638,000*	+ *1,936,000*	*5,645,000*	+ *1,451,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Oct.	8.457.000	+ 744.000	2 670.000	+ 568.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*31,991,000*	+ *438,000*	*9,517,000*	+ *376,000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...b	Sept.	8.907.000	+ 327.000	3.773.000	+ 388.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*24,428,000*	− *756,000*	*9,116,000*	− *837,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Oct.	1.312.000	+ 6.000	369.000	+ 35.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*4,926,000*	− *119,000*	*1,322,000*	− *95,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Oct.	9.516.000	+ 642.000	3.435.000	+ 751.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*35,282,000*	+ *1,153,000*	*12,144,000*	+ *1,690,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Sept.	6.573.000	− 308.000	1.401.000	− 360.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*18,626,000*	− *959,000*	*3,328,000*	− *1,052,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Sept.	1.734.000	+ 13.000	479.000	− 23.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*4,666,000*	− *344,000*	*1,216,000*	− *274,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Oct.	3.653.000	+ 415.000	1.139.000	+ 190.000
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*31,035,000*	+ *1,330,000*	*6,947,000*	+ *3,113,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Sept.	1.319.000	+ 100.000	422.000	+ 88.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*3,685,000*	+ *139,000*	*965,000*	+ *136,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Sept.	412,000	+ 98.000	169.000	+ 47.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept	*1,248,000*	+ *208,000*	*576,000*	+ *161,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Sept.	2.073.000	+ 4.000	827.000	+ 46.000
8 *mos.*	to Aug.	*14,957,000*	+ *108,000*	*4,900,000*	+ *658,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Sept.	2.444.000	+ 155.000	1.008.000	+ 290.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*6,649,000*	+ *307,000*	*2,281,000*	+ *626,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Oct.	6.567.000	+ 1.028.000	2.691.000	+ 1.215.000
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*64,013,000*	+ *3,657,000*	*15,571,000*	+ *4,210,000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Oct.	£798.200	+ £24.700	£235.150	+ £28.350
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*7,251,650*	− *479,000*	*2,004,500*	+ *103,100*
Grand Trunk Western a	Oct.	160.700	+ 29.200	45.100	+ 37.300
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*1,981,450*	+ *49,800*	*176,050*	+ *134,600*
Great Northern ..... a	Sept.	$7,862.000	− $219.000	$4,040.000	− $299.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*19,882,000*	− *1,955,000*	*9,029,000*	− *1,429,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Sept.	680.000	− 71.000	295.000	− 1.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*1,873,000*	− *40,000*	*833,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Oct.	6.093.000	+ 573.000	1.209.000	+ 130.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*22,258,000*	− *32,000*	*4,191,000*	− *114,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Oct.	977.000	+ 97.000	381.000	+ 137.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*3,486,000*	− *83,000*	*1,308,000*	+ *213,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Oct.	4.639.000	+ 529.000	1.370.000	+ 17.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*16 087,000*	+ *716,000*	*4,639,000*	+ *115,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Sept.	4.862.000	+ 260.000	1.488.000	+ 522.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept	*13,976,000*	− *134,000*	*4,001,000*	+ *967,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Sept.	3.342.000	+ 201.000	1.097.000	+ 159.000
9 *mos.*	to Sept.	*26 193,000*	+ *931,000*	*6,325,000*	+ *1,177,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Sept.	3.099.000	+ 170.000	1.267.000	+ 133.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*8,027,000*	+ *152,000*	*2,860 000*	+ *345,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Sept.	2.627.000	− 66.000	685.000	− 35.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*7,797,000*	− *311,000*	*1,734,000*	− *208,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Sept.	5.228.000	− 200.000	1.217.000	− 370.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*15,102,000*	− *932,000*	*3,309,000*	− *1,078,000*
New York Central..... a	Oct.	16.141.000	+ 2.532.000	5.811.000	+ 2.290.000
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*135,357,000*	+ *7,808,000*	*38,863,000*	+ *12,883,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Sept.	8.313.000	+ 511.000	2.162.000	+ 382.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*18,824,000*	− *1,510,000*	*6,470,000*	+ *1,497,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Oct.	765.000	+ 8.000	108.000	+ 52.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*3,367,000*	− *206,000*	*1,024,000*	+ *56,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Sept.	4,790.000	+ 687.000	1.896.000	+ 550.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*13,986,000*	+ *2,137,000*	*5,398,000*	+ *1,651,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Oct.	7,166.000	+ 517.000	3.379.000	+ 798.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*26,360,000*	+ *110,000*	*10,255,000*	+ *1,784,000*
Pennsylvania System:					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Oct.	24.090,000	+ 3.066.000	6.506.000	+ 1.854.000
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*206,664,000*	+ *2,229,000*	*47,831,000*	+ *6 643,000*
W. of Pitteburg..... a	Oct.	12,115,000	+ 2.183.000	3.699.000	+ 1,729.000
10 *mos.*	to Oct.	*97,757,000*	+ *2,140,000*	*23.018,000*	+ *4,795,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Sept.	3.889.000	+ 169.000	1 085.000	+ 49.000
9 *mos.*	to Sept.	*29,466,000*	− *481,000*	*6,052 000*	+ *223,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Oct.	5,230.000	+ 977.000	1,429.000	+ 753.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct	*18,005,000*	+ *1,510,000*	*5,951,000*	+ *1,467,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Sept.	2.125.000	− 672.000	Def. 24.000	− 232.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*5,916,000*	− *1,181,000*	Def *229,000*	− *319,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Sept.	3.900 000	+ 225.000	1.080.000	− 28.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*11,203,000*	− *133,000*	*3,168,000*	− *169,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Sept.	1,695.000	+ 119.000	403.000	+ 100.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*4,899,000*	− *200,000*	*1,127,000*	+ *27,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1,341.000	4,738.000	+ 828.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*39,453,000*	+ *4,207,000*	*13,928,000*	+ *3,382,000*
Southern ..... a	Oct.	6.028.000	+ 496.000	1.820.000	+ 820.000
4 *mos*	to Oct.	*22,169,000*	− *266,000*	*6,207,000*	+ *1,695,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Oct.	10.276.000	− 1.074.000	4.669.000	+ 783.000
4 *mos.*	to Oct.	*35,720,000*	+ *1,329,000*	*14,848,000*	+ *907,000*
Wabash ..... b	Sept.	2.876.000	+ 228.000	933.000	+ 161.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*8,111,000*	+ *22,000*	*2,346,000*	− *18,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Sept.	681.000	+ 85.000	258.000	+ 98.000
3 *mos.*	to Sept.	*2,105,000*	+ *393,000*	*826,000*	+ *414,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Nov. 7	$105.000	+ $24.000	18	$1.786.000	+$ 43.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 21	880.000	+ 196.000	20	18.125.000	+2.420.000
Chicago Great Western	Nov. 21	350.000	+ 43.000	20	5.917.000	+ 9.000
Colorado & Southern	Nov. 7	325.000	− 2.000	18	5.446.000	+ 182.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Nov. 21	522.000	+ 94.000	19	10.780.000	+ 772.000
Great Northern	M.of Oct.	8.872.000	+1,083.000	4†	28,754.000	− 872.000
Illinois Central	M.of Oct.	6.093.000	+ 573.000	4†	22.258.000	− 32.000
Louisville & Nashville	Nov. 21	1,161.000	+ 203.000	20	22.488.000	+ 840.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Nov. 14	881.000	+ 272.000	19	13.286.000	+1.091.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Nov. 21	731.000	+ 13.000	20	12.762.000	− 607.000
Missouri Pacific	Nov. 21	1.329.000	+ 172.000	19	24.709.000	− 313.000
Southern Railway	Nov. 21	1,314.000	+ 150.000	20	26.252.000	+ 235.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1915.

MOBILISING OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

This week the Government has made further progress with the task of financing the War. It is true that the step is of a negative rather than of a positive character, but it is none the less effective for the purpose in view—to keep the nation's total expenditures within the limits of safety and to provide the great funds needed to finance the War. To understand the importance of the step taken this week, one finds it desirable to review briefly the events that have governed expenditure, both national and Government, since the War started. The most important of these was the decision of the Government to create a great Army. This decision involved a heavy reduction in the supply of labour on the one hand, and a greatly increased demand for it for manufacturing and distributing purposes on the other. Next in importance was the haste with which the Army was assembled and the need to provide it, in the shortest space of time possible, with everything it required. This in turn compelled manufacturers, traders, and railway companies to offer special inducements to labour, both in the matter of wages and in overtime allowances, to put forth strenuous efforts to produce and to transport the goods. Moreover, this haste, and the greatness of the need, caused both the War Office and the Admiralty to pay abnormally high prices for the things they required, in order to induce manufacturers to meet their demands by extending their works and by giving special bonuses to their workmen. These two factors have brought about a great rise in the profits of manufacturers and traders, not only in the War trades, but in many other industries, a remarkable expansion in the average earnings of workmen, and have contributed to the rise of over 40% in prices. Moreover, the great war orders placed abroad, and the unprecedented consumption of the Allied nations, have caused world prices to show an appreciable advance, and have brought all the neutral and other nations out of the extreme depression into which they fell at the beginning of the War, into a relatively high state of prosperity, thereby causing their consumption also to show marked expansion.

With prices still advancing both at home and abroad, it is of the greatest moment that everything possible should be done to check any further rise in consumption in this country, as such rise will accentuate the advance in prices, and will make the task of paying for our great foreign purchases yet more burdensome. Indeed, to prevent a further rise in prices it is not only necessary to check the growth of consumption in this country, but to reduce the present level of consumption.

In considering this matter account should be had of the fact that the country is now buying abroad directly and indirectly nearly £1,000,000,000 worth of goods in the course of a year, and that it is selling goods abroad at the rate of less than £400,000,000 per annum. Hence, an all-round advance of 10 per cent. in prices means a loss of £60,000,000 a year to this country. The advance in prices according to our index number has been over 40 per cent. since the War began; and although the advance in the prices we have paid on the average for goods from abroad is less than this, it has still been very large. Unless consumption in this country is now checked, and substantial reduction effected in order to neutralise the expansion in consumption in the countries from which the Allies have bought so freely, a further great advance in prices will become inevitable. And such advance in world prices would not only increase our already serious problem of making payment for our imports, but would reduce the quantity of goods and produce which other nations would otherwise be able to supply to the Allied Powers.

And with this situation there were signs that fresh requests for higher pay were about to be made by the wage-earners of this country, and that these requests would be used by manufacturers to demand still higher prices from the British Government and from consumers.

It was this situation that called for the Joint Conference this week between the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, and a great body of Labour delegates and caused Ministers to make an eloquent appeal to the working classes in their own interests not to ask for further increases in wages, and not to squander the large incomes they are now receiving, but to lend to their country, to meet the war expenses, as large a portion of their earnings as possible.

The Labour delegates listened to these requests with very great attention and with much sympathy, and again displayed the patriotism which animates all classes in this country by passing the following resolution:—

"That, having heard the very important statements presented to the conference by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade, we hereby resolve to arrange for an adequate number of copies of the official report of their speeches to be supplied to the members of all trade unions, and to commend to their

earnest and favourable consideration the appeals contained therein."

And, just as the men's delegates wished to do the right thing, we have no doubt that the men will be equally patriotic, and that one of the most important steps in the work of checking the rise in prices and adjusting our foreign exchange will be taken by the working classes of this country in refraining from demanding a fresh advance in wages, in voluntarily reducing their consumption of non-essentials, and in providing a substantial sum of money for the War.

If the working men of this country act in this patriotic manner, would it not be possible to induce manufacturers and others to examine into the profits they are making, and, if they find the prices they are charging for goods are exorbitant, to reduce them substantially? It is true that Parliament has imposed an income tax of 3*s*. 6*d*. in the pound, a super-tax on large incomes rising to 3*s*. 6*d*. in the pound, and a 50% profits tax; nevertheless, it is evident that in some cases—possibly a few cases—great profits are being made after the payment of these taxes. The workmen know the firms that are making these profits, and it will be difficult to induce them to refrain from demanding a still greater share of these profits. The difficulty would, however, be met if these few firms would voluntarily reduce their prices, and thus forgo any profit beyond an amount that gives liberal compensation both to capital and management. From the criticisms by the delegates of the speeches of both Mr. McKenna and Mr. Runciman it is evident that this matter was very much in their minds, and it is possible that the assent of the labour unions to the proposals of the Government will be made conditional upon the limitation of manufacturers' profits. In other words, they may demand that both capital and labour shall be required to consider not merely their own but the country's interest. In considering the profits accruing to capital, however, it will be essential to take into account the present heavy taxes—income, super and excess profits taxes—which in the vast majority of cases have already reduced the return to capital to very modest proportions.

But whatever stipulations the workmen may make to the proposals now before them, we regard the step taken by the Government this week as a highly important one, and as assisting not only to check the further rise in prices, but to bring to the Exchequer substantial contributions to the next War Loan.

THE FRENCH LOAN.

The prospectus of the National French Loan, which is published elsewhere, states quite clearly that both capital and interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic, and anyone subscribing for the loan in this country need have no fear that his income will ever be reduced by the imposition of any French tax upon the loan. The question of taxation as applied to a French citizen is, of course, an entirely different matter. The loan will be free of all taxation, but presumably a French citizen, in returning his income for taxation, would have to include the income derived from the Government loan, and he would be taxed on this income including interest received on Government debt. By making the loan free of taxation the French Government has made it readily saleable in all parts of the world. Securities bearing national taxes, whether owned by an investor at home or abroad, can usually be sold only in the home market, as foreigners have a rooted aversion to paying the taxes of other nations. Therefore, a British investor applying for the French loan now offered for subscription need have no fear of any French tax upon his investment. All he will have to pay is the British income tax to which he is liable according to his income.

The price of issue is £3 4*s*. per 100 francs nominal capital, being the equivalent, at the exchange of f.27.50, of 88 francs, the price at which the loan is being issued in Paris. When the exchange recovers to par, that is 25.22½, the price of issue of £3 4*s*. will be equal to a price in francs of only 80.72, and this is practically the price at which the investor is asked to buy.

On the basis of an exchange of 25.22½, the return at the present issue price is £6 3*s*. 10*d*., and on the basis of an exchange of 27.50 it is £5 13*s*. 8*d*. This yield is a very attractive one, and a buyer will not only get this high return, but will probably see the value of his security recover to well over par before many years are past. The bonds cannot be converted before 1931, so that he will enjoy his high return for at least 15 years, and if the loan is then converted he will get a premium upon his investment of nearly 20%.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

On a memorable Wednesday recently a meeting of informal character was held of Stock Exchange members. A resolution was carried at such meeting urging the Stock Exchange Committee to adopt a policy in respect of naturalised members of enemy origin. While we then expressed the view that consideration should be shown, we cannot agree with the procedure, *still existent*, of business on behalf of such naturalised members being conducted for them by English authorised clerks, who in some cases are themselves members of the Stock Exchange. Their principals, wisely in the circumstances, absent themselves, but their representatives of English birth act for them. About the time of the meeting we pointed out that as regards the legal standpoint matters were entirely in the hands of Stock Exchange members themselves, for even if members of alien origin were re-elected it would not be incumbent upon members of patriotic instincts to deal with either them or their authorised representatives. The continuance of English authorised clerks indiscriminately conducting business for naturalised members of enemy origin appears to us to be a matter for inquiry. But certainly it ought to be well weighed whether members who deal with the authorised representatives of naturalised aliens are in all cases behaving in a manner consonant with the patriotic traditions of the Stock Exchange.

Though certain alterations in the times of Stock Exchange procedure have become necessary in consequence of the banks closing an hour earlier than heretofore, the changes on the part of the Stock Exchange do not affect the public. Those clients who have to make transfers of stocks inscribed on the books of the Bank of England, &c., will be notified by their brokers that their attendance will be required at a certain hour, and this is only carrying out the old procedure with an alteration of hours. A client who has to deliver stock registered and transferable by usual transfer forms, if he does not post the executed transfer to his broker, but intends to deliver it personally at the broker's office, will be well-advised not to defer his visit till later than just before midday. In other respects the public is not affected by the internal arrangements.

This week both the War Loan "inscribed" stock and the War Loan "scrip" are quoted ex dividend, and the prices have automatically come together. In future there will be a distinction between inscribed stock and stock to bearer, in the same way as heretofore there has been a distinction between inscribed stock and scrip, but no separate quotation in the Official List is contemplated. With Consols, if a bearer security is to be traded in the purchaser, or seller, has to intimate his special desire, otherwise the bargain is in "inscribed" stock.

ITALY AND THE WAR.

Baron Sonnino, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated on Thursday, amidst the applause of the Chamber, that the Government had decided to imitate the example set by the United Kingdom, France, and Russia at the outbreak of hostilities, and to pledge herself to make no separate peace. Furthermore, he added that Italy has decided to contribute to the defence of Serbia. This is in the highest degree satisfactory. It is true, of course, that Italy has been at war for a considerable time now, and that it has been understood that she is preparing to assist Serbia. But it is to be recollected that at first Italy carefully refrained from declaring war against Germany, pointing out, truly enough, that she had no direct grievance against Germany, whereas her relations with Austria-Hungary were such that she must either be an ally or an enemy of that Power. Gradually, as hostilities continued, war between Italy and Germany followed, but the feeling towards Germany was nothing like so strong as that against the Dual Monarchy. Consequently, until this declaration was made, Italy was perfectly free to come to any terms that seemed satisfactory to herself with the two Central European Powers, or any one of them. Furthermore, it is not to be forgotten, as Baron Sonnino very truly remarked, that it is part of the policy of Italy to consider the maintenance of the independence of Serbia as indispensable in the future for a satisfactory state of things in the Balkans. Therefore, Italy now has become, in the full sense of the term, one of the Entente Allies, and, like the rest of them, has pledged herself to see the War fought out to its ultimate and successful conclusion. Nothing could be more satisfactory. We welcome the alliance with Italy, for the feeling between this country and Italy has always been most cordial. When the unification of Italy took place we were always eager and ready to support her, though we did not find it necessary to draw the sword. And ever since the feeling between the two countries has been most friendly. We welcome, then, the adhesion of Italy, not only as a proof that our feeling towards that country is fully reciprocated, but also because we know the constancy of the Italians and the valour of the Italian Army. We entertain little doubt regarding the conflict in the Balkans. All along we have looked upon it as an additional proof that Germany is feeling herself being exhausted, and that she is trying, not merely to stir up fresh enemies against the British Empire, but to divert British energies so as to prepare the way for a peace that will be, to some extent at all events, satisfactory to herself. Now that the condition of things is being cleared up, that Germany and Austria-Hungary have committed themselves to the mad course of attempting to hold their positions, not only in France and Belgium, and in Poland and Galicia, but likewise to open up communications with Constantinople and thereby to make a desperate effort to stir up discontent in Syria and Egypt, we can see what real alarm exists amongst the two Central European Empires, and how very gravely they are concerned as to the rapidly approaching exhaustion of their resources. Furthermore, the act of Italy will not only make their enterprise madly ruinous, but will bring about the exhaustion more quickly than most people anticipated.

ACCUMULATED WEALTH.

[Communicated.]

It may be true that a Cabinet of business men would carry on the War much better than one composed of politicians, but if we are to judge by the speeches of some of them it would be very necessary to muzzle them. Perhaps, however, that would be one of the advantages of the change—that being business men they would muzzle themselves and take off their coats and work. If they were allowed to talk also the nation would soon be in a pretty muddle, if we are to take Sir Alfred Mond's recent effort as a fair specimen. Sir Alfred said himself that if he claimed to be anything, he claimed to be a business man. Everyone will readily grant him the title, and add, moreover, that he is a very able and successful business man to boot. At the same time, he is probably one of the clearest thinkers of to-day in practical economic questions, and yet in the House of Commons recently he uttered some sentences which can only have the effect of confusing folk who are not versed in business matters and misleading them into a state of mind which is highly inopportune and dangerous. In a word, Sir Alfred was trotting out once more that bad old "accumulated wealth" fallacy, which has already had so disastrous an effect in encouraging public and private waste and sending criticism and common-sense to sleep. "The argument," he said, "that we cannot afford this or that in view of the financial situation is extraordinarily exaggerated, and a nation whose capital is 24,000 millions cannot suddenly go bankrupt because it is spending five millions a day. The sum is huge, but the capital also is huge. We must liquidate our assets in order that we may use them to bring the War to a successful conclusion." It would be difficult to pack into a couple of sentences a string of statements more mischievous at the present moment than these. Uttered by a man who is well known to have been extraordinarily successful in business, the mischief that they may do is, of course, immeasurably enhanced. "We are so rich that it does not count" is the argument used, consciously or otherwise, by the spendthrifts of the War Office (who have at least the excuse that their first business is to equip, train and feed the Army); by the civil departments, which make business difficult and tie up our export trade in red-tape; by the luxury tradesmen, who tempt the public with huge advertisments to spend money on frivolities and absurdities which ought to be going into weapons and shells; and by self-indulgent citizens, who cannot see why they should stint themselves of any comforts and pleasures that they can afford. And now it is repeated and endorsed by a great captain of industry. Even if we grant Sir Alfred Mond's figure of 24,000 millions for our capital wealth, which is far above the amount usually estimated, it does not follow that we can look on a daily expenditure of five millions a day as a light matter. That we shall "suddenly go bankrupt" is, of course, not contemplated by any serious critic of our present financial position. There is no question of our going bankrupt suddenly or slowly; but we cannot spend five millions a day on war and continue to "wax fat and kick" in our private expenditure, and Sir Alfred does an ill service to the cause of economy when he calls the attention of the ignorant, in the street and in the departments, to our huge accumulated total of wealth. For by far the greater part of this huge total is of no use whatever for the War, and its existence is entirely irrelevant when we consider the finance of the War. Not only is it irrelevant, but the mention of it is misleading and fallacious. As he proceeds to say, "we must liquidate our assets," in other words, sell them. How many of them can we sell, and to whom? Who will buy our railways and factories and workshops, and docks and houses, and public parks and landed estates, and such other assets? We can pledge them, or their earning power, to a limited extent by borrowing on them in America and elsewhere. For the immediate purposes of the War they are useless, except as part of the machinery of production or for the purposes of income. Some of our assets we can sell, such as our securities, but we cannot sell them nearly fast enough to enable us to regard five millions a day as a matter to be met easily out of resources stored up in the past. We can only liquidate to the extent that neutrals will buy our assets or lend to us on them. For the rest, we have to pay for the War, not out of

accumulated capital, but by producing the stuff that is needed. That we can only do by forgoing stuff that we have hitherto consumed, radically altering our whole mode of life as a nation, so that all the labour and energy that is available can be devoted to making what is wanted for the Army. These things have been for months accepted in theory as a platitude, and ignored in practice by most of the more prosperous classes of the community. Now a great business authority invites us to ignore them by dwelling on our huge wealth as if it were in a form that could be shot out of a gun. "There is an idea," says this mentor, in another passage of the same speech, "that unless we produce wealth we cannot finance our Allies. We do not produce wealth; we produce commodities." What are commodities but wealth, and what is wealth but commodities? If we do not produce commodities we certainly cannot finance our Allies, and we can only produce the commodities required by our Allies if we cease, or check, the production of commodities required for frivolous and self-indulgent consumption. Sir Alfred points out, very truly, that we are no worse off if we make shells instead of motor-cars, and that making cheap pianos for the working classes does not help us to finance our Allies; and yet, almost in the same breath, by emphasising the fact of our huge accumulated wealth, he invites people who want pianos or motor-cars to go on buying them. "What do the Serbians want?" he asks. "They do not want money; they want men to defend them." But what use are men if they are not armed and supplied with munitions enough to cope with the enormous consumption of them that this War involves? Really, Sir Alfred seems to have wandered back into the Middle Ages, when a number of stout fellows with battleaxes in their hands were the deciding force in the great battles that sealed the fate of nations. Nowadays we want artillery and shells, and for them we want money or productive power. If it were only a question of men the Russians would long ago have been in Berlin. But the Russians lacked the productive power to make the necessary weapons and the money to buy them as fast as they were wanted, and so the Germans, who had the productive power, were able to drive them back across their own frontiers. In our case, too, productive power is all-important. We cannot increase it positively, but we can increase it for war purposes if we divert into war production forces that are now employed in production to meet the extravagance of all classes. The checking of this extravagance is one of the most serious financial problems that we have to face. Only by carrying it out can we supply the needs of the Army, reduce imports, increase exports, and check the adverse movement in the exchanges. We are not likely to carry it out if our business leaders talk at large about our 24,000 millions of capital as if those millions were practically available for war purposes.

IMPERIAL ORGANISATION AND THE WAR.

A TIME of war so widespread and so formidable does not appear, at first sight, to be well fitted for seriously dealing with the organisation of the Empire. But we venture to think that if our readers will carefully consider the matter they will change their opinions, and see that it is of the very greatest importance that we should, without delay, give assurance to the self-governing portions of the Empire that their rights are not forgotten, and that their claims are not pushed aside to a more convenient occasion. Nothing could well be more gratifying than the conduct of the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths and Unions in the present great strugggle. They have with one accord acclaimed the decision of the Home Government to enter into the war to prevent the brutal aggression of Germany. And they have given proof of their real earnestness in so doing by the magnificent manner in which they have supported the Mother Country. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us of the old country to give them assurance that we recognise the splendid spirit in which they have acted, and are most eager to show our appreciation. Just now the Entente Allies are doing what they ought to have done at the very beginning, namely, calling into existence means by which they can continuously discuss, and come to agreement upon, all questions of military, naval and diplomatic action. It has been found—as, indeed, all previous experience ought to have taught us was the fact—that alliances are of comparatively little worth unless the several Allies are willing to subordinate their own individual interests to the common good, and to agree beforehand upon what course of conduct the common good requires. That is most prudent, and we trust that before very long its immense advantages will be made apparent to all the world. But we have not made any approach, at all events so far as the ordinary public is concerned, towards a concert of opinion with our own flesh and blood beyond the seas. Yet surely it never was so important as at the present moment that we should do so. We have already referred to the great services rendered by the self-governing communities of the Empire, and to the generosity with which they have lavished both blood and treasure. We ought to give them unquestionable assurance that we fully appreciate what they have done; and, furthermore, that we reckon as highly as they do themselves the advantages of continuing to the very end advising with them.

At the present time the self-governing communities within the Empire have proof before them, such as never hitherto existed, of the immense advantages of belonging to the greatest Empire in the world. As a broad, general rule, people were rather inclined to think that communities so widely scattered, and so prosperous and progressive as those, say, of Canada and Australia, were almost independent of the Empire. They had small fleets of their own, or they were preparing to construct them. They had a good military organisation. And their credit was excellent. Therefore, it was often argued that the Empire was to them of little importance, except that the Mother Country was always ready to lend to them on terms much lower than she would lend to foreign communities. Now it has been shown by unquestionable experience that the Daughter Countries, as well as the Mother Country, owe their freedom from invasion and internal trouble very largely to the British Navy. Almost from the very outbreak of hostilities the Navy has been able to keep the enemy's fleets locked up in their harbours, to drive their merchant marine from the seas, and, practically, almost to cut off all communication between the enemy and the neutral countries. All this shows what would be the result if care had not been taken to provide for us the greatest Navy the world has ever seen. Merchants in Canada, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and so on, are almost as safe in sending their goods across sea as they were while peace continued. And they enjoy that degree of safety because the fleets of the Empire are irresistible. We are not, in saying all this, denying the great services rendered by the fleets of the self-governing communities. On the contrary, we look forward to a time when those fleets will be greatly enlarged, and when practically the British Empire will be able to dictate peace because it will be able to forbid any aggressor to put out to sea. All this, great as is its value, is only part of the advantages which we all share—Mother Country and Daughter Countries alike—by the fact that we have the greatest Navy in the world, and are able to bottle up, in consequence, our enemies. The time will come soon when the populations of the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths and Unions will grow very large. When that time comes, not only will the

British Empire be able to maintain the greatest Navy the world ever saw, but it will be able to send into the field, the greatest Army any single State has ever done. There are many foolish arguments, both in the daily and weekly Press, and particularly in the monthly and quarterly magazines, respecting the best way of maintaining peace for an indefinite time. There is, in reality, only one way, and that is for the real lovers of peace to combine together for the purpose of punishing every criminal Government that would make war. The British Empire alone, in 20 or 30 years, certainly in 50 years, if it holds together and acts with the same patriotism and the same union as it is acting now, will be able to forbid war. But if it were joined, let us say, by the United States and by Russia, can anybody imagine any coalition of enemies so mad as to defy the three Powers just named? It is impossible, then, to overrate the value of a well-organised, well disciplined and high-spirited British Empire.

Some of the self-governing Governments beyond sea have desired that an Imperial Conference should be held during 1915. Upon the whole, however, opinion has decided against that. We bow to the general opinion of the self-governing portions of the Empire. But we would ask: Is there any reason why a conference of the kind—not necessarily attended by every Prime Minister, but at the same time in continuous communication with each Prime Minister—should not meet in London, not so much to decide as to discuss all the problems in the way of a drawing closer of the relations between the self-governing portions of the British Empire? And when such discussions were completed, would there be any good ground for not publishing the whole of the arguments on all sides, so as to acquaint the public with the difficulties that stand in the way of a satisfactory arrangement? We have spoken so far only of the self-governing communities. But the problem of India is, to say the very least, at the lowest estimate as important as any other portion of the matter. It has been conceded, both by the United Kingdom and by the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths and Unions, that India is henceforward to be represented at each Imperial meeting. But that will not be enough. We of the Mother Country must be prepared, in the first place, to recognise the loyalty and public spirit shown by India since hostilities began, and to extend the rights she now possesses. Furthermore, we must be prepared to take her into partnership in all matters of foreign politics. Last week we pointed out what a great army India to-day is capable of raising, even on the assumption that she is asked to enrol no more than 1% of her total population. But every year that passes the population and the wealth of India are increasing, and it is incumbent upon us to recognise the fact; to pay homage to the loyalty of the Indian people; and to concede to them at least a portion of the rights to which they are entitled within the Empire.

THE BALKANS.

Baron Sonnino's statement in the Italian Chamber on Thursday is the most satisfactory incident, not only of the week, but of many weeks, and promises to bring the crisis in the Balkans to an early and satisfactory conclusion. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, it now turns out, has not merely hurried on the catastrophe, but has ensured his own destruction. How long things might have dragged out had he been more patient it is impossible to say. But his plunging into the conflict on the side of the two Central European Empires has brought about a state of things which we cannot doubt will quickly lead to a most favourable conclusion for ourselves. Italy has pledged herself now fully and frankly to the policy professed all along by the Entente Powers. She will make no separate peace; and, therefore, will insist that when peace is made it will put an end to Prussian militarism. Russia, it is also clear, is preparing a very considerable expedition for the Balkans. Russia, indeed, which called Bulgaria into existence and has treated that State ever since as a spoilt child, could not do less, for if she had allowed Bulgaria to help in the ruin of the Balkan Slav States she would have been false to all her traditions. Happily, our readers are aware, Russia herself is making great efforts to turn out an adequate supply of munitions. Japan is helping with the best of goodwill. And our own country, Canada, and the United States are all co-operating. We may be very sure, therefore, that Russia now has a sufficient supply of munitions to deal with Bulgaria; and, consequently, we may reasonably conclude that, whatever may be done with Bulgaria herself, the King, who has played the turncoat, will be got rid of. It is as well not to deal in predictions, for predictions are apt to hold up those who make them to ridicule. But the action of both Italy and Russia is well calculated to impress strongly both Greece and Roumania. It is easy to understand that the several Balkan States should be greatly impressed by the success of Germany in compelling Russia to evacuate Poland; and, therefore, that they should be exceedingly unwilling to risk a conflict with the victor. But while this must be said in fairness, the fact remains that Greece, while permitting British and French troops to land at Salonika, and to use its railroads, yet refuses to concede any of the demands put forward by the Entente Powers. At least, that is the general belief. Nay, more, if some of the statements published are true, King Constantine, in winding up his interview with Lord Kitchener, pointedly remarked that he could not depart from neutrality. Of course, we do not know the real facts; and we must not take newspaper statements for unquestionable truths. Still, it is not pleasant to have it repeated day after day that King Constantine—who is not only the brother-in-law of the Kaiser, and a Field-Marshal of Germany, but entertains strong German sympathies—has dismissed M. Venezelos from his councils, and insists upon retaining the right to maintain neutrality. Does that imply, we should very much like to know, that if British or French troops have to retreat into Greece, neutral Greece will claim the authority to intern them? While, then, we agree that the Prime Minister acted wisely in refusing, for the time being, to make any statement regarding Lord Kitchener's mission, yet we strongly hope that a full explanation will be given as soon as a favourable opportunity offers, and that the nation will be made clearly to understand whether we have not merely the right to land in Greece, but have the right also to withdraw into Greece, without disturbance of any kind from Greece, should we deem it necessary to do so. It is to be recollected that the British Fleet has absolute control of Greece. Therefore, there will be no excuse if we put a British and a French force into a position which is commanded by the British Fleet, and yet allow that force to be dealt with in a manner dishonourable to us. We admit fully the difficulties that confront Greece. We are not in the least inclined to join in the chorus of reprobation which is now addressed to her. We had our opportunity when Russia seemed to be carrying all before her in Poland and Galicia to use our influence for our own purposes in the Balkans. Rightly or wrongly, we refrained from doing so; and under existing conditions, therefore, we are not inclined to condemn the Greeks.

A little while ago, there were many persons amongst us who were opposed to a Balkan expedition, arguing that in war dispersion of force is usually fatal; and that our true course is to select the really decisive position, and to concentrate upon that our main effort. Much less is heard of that since Lord Kitchener started upon his mission, partly, no doubt, because the fault-finders hesitate to condemn a policy

approved of by the Secretary of State for War; and, partly, because full consideration has made it clear, even to those who have given consideration to war-like matters, that things have come to such a pass now that we should neglect our dearest interests if we did not take measures to protect Serbia and to open the Dardanelles. As yet the policy of Roumania is as doubtful as that of Greece. Roumania has favoured us even less than the latter country; for while Greece has permitted us to land our troops in her territory, Roumania has not in any way shown favour to us. Against this, however, it is to be recollected that Roumania is immediately and directly exposed to attack by the two Central European Empires; and as Bulgaria has taken action with those two Empires it is not surprising that Roumania should think first of her own interests. We have no intention, therefore, to scold Roumania, as so many of our contemporaries are doing. But it is plain that Roumania holds the key of the situation, and that the solution will largely depend upon Roumania's action. We have admitted that, as things stand at present, Roumania cannot be expected to face the two Central European Empires. But things would change completely if Russia should send a really strong force against Constantinople. She may do so either by land or by sea. She may, for example, from Sebastopol send what force she considers necessary to attack either Bulgaria or Constantinople itself; or, in alliance with Roumania, she might directly attack either Bulgaria or Turkey. That she is about to do one or other cannot be doubted after Baron Sonnino's statement. We shall refrain, however, from giving an opinion as to which course she ought to take. The Allied Powers, no doubt, will all fully consider the matter, and come to a well-weighed decision. All that is really necessary is that the force should be sufficient for the work intended for it, and we have no doubt now that Russia has the munitions necessary. It is true that Russia is an immense country; and her male population of fighting age amounts to very nearly 21½ millions; and that, therefore, to put forth her whole strength she would require immense supplies. But if Russia herself, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada are all working hard to give her what she needs, her receipts ought to be very large every week. It is not likely that she will enter upon active offensive operations in Poland during the height of winter Probably she will call up vast reserves, arm them, and train them, and so make ready for the spring. But her active operations will probably be restricted to where the climate permits of such operations. It ought to be possible, then, for Russia to send a very large army to deal with the Turks. If Roumania were satisfied that Russia was in a position to second her successfully, Russia might act through Roumania. If, on the other hand, Roumania is afraid of drawing upon herself the attacks of the Germans and the Austrians, Russia may find it most convenient to land an army from the sea in Bulgaria. Such an operation would at once compel the Bulgarians to withdraw from all their attacks upon the Serbians; and if the Russian force was sufficient it would very quickly dispose of the Bulgarians and probably soon compel Constantinople to surrender.

There are many other combinations which might be made. But it is useless to discuss these. When the time comes official information will be given by the Prime Minister, and our wisest course is to wait for that. Yet we consider that it is useful to point out at the present time that our position in the Balkans is by no means as difficult as some of our contemporaries delight in painting it. The British and French expedition, taken alone, may or may not be sufficient to deal with the Bulgarians, the Germans, and the Austrians, and at the same time to inspire respect in the other Balkan States. But it is to be recollected that Italy is one of the Entente Allies, and Italy recognises the desirability of taking part in the opening of the Dardanelles. Still more important is it to bear in mind that Russia has a population of fighting age larger than the two Central European Empires and Bulgaria added together; that the winter months prevent the Germans from undertaking formidable offensive operations in either Poland or Russia; and that, therefore, they are confined to opening the road to Constantinople, in the hope of extending the war zone. Therefore, we have thought it advisable to point out that Russia has the means, as well as the will, to act decisively against Constantinople; and that if she does so with full determination to win, the capture of Constantinople may turn out to be a much less serious affair than many critics are willing to admit. Even if Russia does not quickly use her immense reserves, the other three Entente Allies are quite capable of dealing with the situation. For it must never be forgotten that the British Fleet is supreme in the Mediterranean as elsewhere.

TALTAL RAILWAY.

As foreshadowed by the dividend announcement, the report of the Taltal Railway Company for the past year makes a poor showing. The decrease in gross earnings was as much as £176,700, or 57%, and as the saving in expenses was only £76,500, the decline in net earnings amounts to £100,200, or 65.1%. The volume of traffic passing over the line was very greatly reduced. The aggregate weight of goods carried has been 192,572 tons, as compared with 478,697 tons, a decrease of 59.77%. This large reduction is attributable to the closing of most of the nitrate oficinas soon after the outbreak of war. The quantities of nitrate, coal, and oil fuel have been 264,391 tons less than in the previous year, equal to 92.40% of the total decrease. The number of passengers carried has decreased from 83,954 to 45,974, equal to 45.24%. Although the profit available for dividend is only £30,877, or not much more than sufficient to pay 3½% on the shares, the directors feel justified in maintaining the dividend at 6% in view of the improved outlook for the nitrate industry and the satisfactory position of the Company. The prospects for the current year are certainly much brighter. The price of nitrate has risen very considerably, and there appears to be a fair demand. Freights to Europe and the United States are not so excessive as formerly, and there are more steamers available for the traffic. "We are already," the General Manager states, "bringing to port a considerable portion of the heavy stocks of nitrate which had accumulated in the interior, and at least two of the more important oficinas served by us are about to recommence the elaboration of nitrate. Just now there is considerable difficulty in getting workmen back from the south as quickly as the nitrate producers require them, and this trouble will doubtless delay the opening of other oficinas for some time; but there is every indication that the nitrate industry is recovering from last year's depression, and our railway will naturally benefit by the improvement." This is already apparent in the results secured so far in the current year and in the first four months the gross receipts amount to £65,461, an increase of £2,648, or 4.2% compared with a year ago. The working expenses, on the other hand, total £31,036, and there is thus a profit for the period of £34,425, which, after providing for Debenture service, works out at the rate of over 8% per annum on the £900,000 of capital. This, the Chairman stated at the annual meeting, corresponds with the hopes of the General Manager for the present twelve months, provided, of course, that there are no troubles or set-backs in the nitrate trade. The price of the £5 share has now risen to 5⅛xd., and on a 6% dividend basis the yield afforded is £5 17*s.* 1*d.* per cent.

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Financial Notes.

On October 1 the Secretary of the United States Treasury made certain changes in the form of the Treasury statements showing the condition of the Treasury on that day; the principal cause of the objections being that the change has shown a material increase in the available cash balance. The change has excited much comment, for it is objected that where a large increase is shown in the available cash held between the evening of the last day of September and the morning of the first day of October, without any apparent paying in of cash, the public is misled. As a matter of fact, the changes are not open to the suspicion which they have excited. One of them, indeed, was actually directed to be made by an Act of Congress passed some years ago, but not acted upon until now. The increase is due mainly to two alterations. The first is that the item of "Disbursing Officers' Balances" is now for the first time excluded from the liability side of the "General Fund." But, as already observed, that treatment was ordered by Act of Congress some years ago.

The second material change is the excluding of the amount deposited by National Banks for the retirement of National Bank notes not yet paid out for that purpose. This change has not been authorised by Act of Congress, and, therefore, is open to criticism. In actual fact, however, it is not likely to have any evil influence upon United States finance. The National Banks of the United States are authorised to reduce their note circulation by certain amounts within definite times, provided they lodge the money necessary for calling in and paying off the notes in circulation. Heretofore, the money paid in has been treated as a current liability. Under the new arrangement it is treated as part of the debt of the United States. The actual liability, then, is admitted just as it was before. But it is treated now as part of the debt of the United States instead of being a current liability.

Perhaps the old form is more preferable than the new. But that any evil influence can flow from the change does not seem probable. The money is held in the Treasury to repay notes actually in circulation, and it does not seem to matter much under what heading it is entered. It may be added that notes called in often remain in circulation for a very long time after they have been called in. The notes pass from hand to hand throughout the Union. The ordinary holder pays no attention to the notices issued that notes of certain numbers of certain banks have been called in; and it may be many years, therefore, before they are actually paid off. Still, the fact that the change has called forth much criticism is interesting as showing how completely the circulation of the United States consists of paper, and how carefully any tampering with that paper is noted and disliked.

The new banking system of the United States completed its first year of existence on November 16. No statement was issued by the Board reviewing the year's activities of the system. But it is currently reported that the whole of the District Banks earned together for the year 2% on their capital. It will be remembered that there are 12 of these District, or Regional, Banks; that they have derived their capitals from the National Banks; and that each District or Regional Bank presides over all the National Banks in the district. Therefore, the mere statement that the 12 banks in the aggregate have earned 2% for the year tells us very little; for some of those banks may have earned very much more, and others may have earned nothing at all. It is stated, however, that the aggregate paid-up capital amounts to nearly 11 millions sterling; that the total deposits approach 75 millions sterling; and that their cash holdings are not very far short of 66 millions sterling. The re-discounts of the 12 banks are only £8,600,000.

The explanation offered for the smallness of the business done by the Reserve Banks is that even yet, great as is the activity of business in the United States, money is very plentiful and very cheap; that, therefore, the National Banks have not had occasion to apply to the Reserve Banks for the re-discounting of bills, and that probably there will not be very much business of the kind done unless trade improves very much farther. It would seem, in short, that the activity of trade in the United States is very largely confined to dealings with the *Entente* Powers. Putting aside the United States itself, the neutral countries are not very wealthy; and none of them are very eager traders. The *Entente* Powers confine their trade very largely to matters which subserve the War in some way or other. Furthermore, it is to be remembered that trade with the two Central European Empires is practically cut off, since German and Austrian ships are driven completely from the sea.

A meeting under the presidency of the Lord Mayor is to be held in Merchant Taylors' Hall, Threadneedle Street, on Tuesday afternoon, December 7, at 3 o'clock, on behalf of the extensive war work of the Church Army. City men particularly are asked to attend.

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A STRONG CORPORATION.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Union Pacific is one of the strongest railroad corporations in the United States, whether judged from the point of view of physical strength or financial stability. In recent years practically the whole of its road and bridges have been entirely reconstructed and adjusted as to curvatures and gradients. On the principal section of its main line of nearly 1,000 miles, stretching between Council Bluffs and Ogden, 757 miles have been double tracked. Its equipment is of the latest powerful, capacious type; and financially the Company is equally strong. In the past year, despite the adverse influences, its net profit has been no less than $24,411,000, which was sufficient to have paid a dividend of 11% upon the stock. A very large part of the money expended upon improving and extending the road since the nineties has been provided from surplus profits. After the payment of a 33% bonus in March 1914, calling for $74,000,000, a reserve of $50,000,000 has been created for depreciation of securities, and there is an undivided surplus of $97,000,000. The Company has in hand sufficient funds to provide for all double tracking and extensions needed for a long time to come, its free investments amounting to $193,000,000. These investments are distinct from its interests in affiliated undertakings, which consist of $89,000,000 of stocks and $104,000,000 of bonds, equipment obligations, and short term Notes. Of its total investments about $80,000,000 consists of money derived from the sale of its Southern Pacific stock.

By reason of its strategical position the line must for all time form the main artery of communication between San Francisco and Chicago, with the aid of the Central Pacific in the West and of the Chicago and North-Western in the East. When the separation of the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific was ordered by the Courts, permission was granted for the Union Pacific to acquire the Central Pacific, which may be regarded as its natural outlet to San Francisco, at a cost of $104,000,000, and all arrangements to that end were made. Owing, however, to difficulties having been placed in the way of carrying out the proposition by the Californian State Railroad Commission, the acquisition was not then made, and the scheme had to be dropped for the time being. The Attorney-General of the United States has, however, now brought a suit against the Southern Pacific to compel that Company to dispose of its interest in the Central Pacific on the ground that the union of the two undertakings violates the Shearman Anti-Trust Law. This suit was instituted as far back as February 1914, and up to the present no decision has been handed down, but it is anticipated that no long delay will occur before judgment is given. The belief generally prevails that the way will then be paved for the acquirement of the Central Pacific by the Union Pacific, to whom it is essential. The means of paying for the Central Pacific if the purchase becomes feasible are amply provided for out of the large realisable investments referred to above.

Very few American railways have a more promising future than the Union Pacific, in view of its access to the Pacific Coast, where population may now be expected to increase very rapidly in consequence not only of the existing railway facilities and relatively cheap railway transport, but of the new Panama Canal, which will enable the Pacific Coast States to compete more effectively with the rest of the country in both the home and foreign trades. Striking evidence of the skill with which the traffic is conveyed is shown by the results for the twelve months to June 30 last. During that period, notwithstanding the abundance of the crops of 1914, there was a diminution in the quantity of freight conveyed in consequence of the general trade depression, and the freight earnings declined $3,271,000, or 5.2%. The depression also had an adverse effect upon the passenger traffic, which declined $1,792,000, or 8.7%. Thus for the year gross receipts declined $4,887,000, or 5.3%. To offset this loss additional efforts were made to reduce the cost of conducting transportation, where a saving of $2,480,000, or 9%, was effected. This economy was secured by increasing the freight-train load from 430 tons to 442 tons notwithstanding the reduction in traffic, by a reduction of about 4% in the price of fuel, and by greater economy in the fuel bill by reason of the saving in train mileage and greater care in avoiding waste.

In the aggregate operating expenses were reduced $3,004,000, and after allowing for the payment of $437,000 less for taxes, the decline in net receipts was no more than $1,446,000, or 4.6%. Miscellaneous income was $4,133,000 lower, due principally to the non-receipt of dividends on Baltimore and Ohio Preferred and Common stocks, and Southern Pacific stock formerly held but now disposed of. On the other hand, interest and other charges were $877,000 lower than in 1913-14, owing mainly to a debit for hire of equipment in the previous year having been converted into a credit and the conversion of bonds into Common stock. Thus on balance the net profit for the Common was $4,701,000 lower at $24,411,000. After the payment of the 8% dividend there remained a surplus of $6,628,000. How the results for last year compared with those for previous periods will be evident from the accompanying Income Statement.

Income Statement of the Union Pacific System.

Yr. to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Revenue.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Revenue.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Fixed Charges.	Net Profit.	Int., etc., 4% rent.	Balance.	Div. on Common.— Earned.	Div. on Common.— Paid.—	Balance,
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	%	$
1915	7,784	86,958,000	52,137,000	59·96	34,822,000	13,303,000	48,125,000	4,641,000	15,091,000	28,393,000	3,982,000	24,411,000	10·98	8	17,783,000	6,628,000
1914	7,597	91,845,000	55,140,000	60·04	36,705,000	17,436,000	54,141,000	5,079,000	15,968,000	33,094,000	3,982,000	29,112,000	13·25	9	19,781,000	9,331,000
1913	7,349	93,638,000	54,030,000	57·70	39,608,000	19,208,000	58,816,000	4,666,000	17,373,000	36,777,000	3,982,000	32,795,000	15·14	10	21,663,000	11,132,000
1912	7,150	85,978,000	50,390,000	58·61	35,588,000	20,149,000	55,737,000	4,369,000	17,328,000	34,040,000	3,982,000	30,058,000	13·88	10	21,664,000	8,394,000
1911	6,678	88,983,000	49,808,000	55·98	39,175,000	18,644,000	57,819,000	3,464,000	14,379,000	39,976,000	3,982,000	35,994,000	16·61	10	21,660,000	14,334,000
1910	6,296	90,228,000	46,939,000	52·02	43,289,000	19,890,000	63,179,000	3,264,000	14,409,000	45,506,000	3,982,000	41,524,000	19·17	10	21,704,000	19,820,000
1909	6,062	78,750,000	37,945,000	48·19	40,805,000	18,110,000	58,915,000	2,571,000	14,746,000	41,598,000	3,982,000	37,616,000	19·12	10	19,678,000	17,938,000
1908	5,781	76,039,000	41,694,000	54·86	34,345,000	17,308,000	51,653,000	2,445,000	13,489,000	35,719,000	3,982,000	31,737,000	16·23	10	19,549,000	12,188,000
1907	5,645	76,309,000	40,148,000	52·62	36,161,000	12,607,000	48,768,000	2,077,000	10,514,000	36,177,000	3,982,000	32,195,000	16·47	10	19,548,000	12,647,000
1906	5,404	67,281,000	35,261,000	52·41	32,020,000	10,330,000	42,350,000	1,703,000	8,883,000	31,764,000	3,982,000	27,782,000	14·29	8	15,550,000	12,232,000
1905	5,357	59,325,000	30,371,000	51·19	28,954,000	6,496,000	35,450,000	1,492,000	11,173,000	22,785,000	3,982,000	18,803,000	11·91	4½	7,104,000	11,699,000
1895*	5,327	22,555,000	14,193,000	62·18	8,362,000	1,737,000	10,099,000	1,182,000	10,431,000	*1,514,000* †	—	*1,514,000* †	—	Nil	—	*1,514,000*

* Calendar year. † Deficit.

At the outset of the business depression the Company resolved to continue without any modification the policy of maintaining the property fully up to its high standard, and consequently the expenditures upon maintenance of way and structures last year were substantially the same as in the previous year, there being an increase of $28,000 on the year, whilst maintenance of equipment outlays were only $416,000 lower. Expenditures upon the road and equipment combined last year represented 26.46% of the gross receipts, a higher proportion than for any previous year. By reason of economies the ratio of conducting transportation to gross receipts was reduced to 28.76%, which compares with almost 32% as recently as 1911-12. The continued high level of outlays upon maintenance, and the saving effected in conducting transportation last year, will be apparent from the following statements:—

Railway Expenses of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maint. of Way.	Maint. of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	Gen.&Misc. Expenses.	Total Expenses.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	86,958,000	10,901,000	12,101,000	25,010,000	4,125,000	52,137,000
1914*a* ...	91,845,000	10,873,000	12,517,000	27,380,000	4,370,000	55,140,000
1914*b* ...	90,309,000	10,786,000	12,123,000	27,609,000	2,874,000	53,392,000
1913 ...	91,810,000	10,689,000	10,694,000	28,184,000	2,531,000	52,098,000
1912 ...	84,180,000	9,594,000	9,812,000	26,875,000	2,252,000	48,535,000
1911 ...	87,202,000	10,445,000	9,209,000	26,013,000	2,241,000	47,908,000
1910 ...	88,506,000	9,915,000	9,075,000	24,193,000	1,965,000	45,148,000
1909 ...	77,360,000	7,682,000	7,435,000	19,478,000	1,908,000	36,503,000
1908 ...	74,423,000	9,106,000	8,326,000	20,827,000	1,918,000	40,177,000
1907 ...	74,656,000	10,023,000	7,867,000	18,780,000	1,958,000	38,628,000
1906 ...	66,879,000	9,900,000	7,119,000	16,204,000	1,601,000	34,824,000
1905 ...	58,757,000	7,342,000	6,884,000	13,927,000	1,634,000	29,787,000

Ratio of Oper. Expenses to Gross Earnings, Union Pacific RR.

	Maint. of Way.	Maint. of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	Gen.&Misc. Expenses.	Total Expenses.
	%	%	%	%	%
1915	12·54	13·92	28·76	4·74	59·96
1914*a*	11·84	13·63	29·81	4·76	60·04
1914*b*	11·95	13·42	30·57	3·18	59·12
1913	11·64	11·65	30·70	2·76	56·75
1912	11·39	11·66	31·93	2·68	57·66
1911	11·98	10·56	29·83	2·57	54·94
1910	11·20	10·25	27·34	2·22	51·01
1909	9·93	9·61	25·18	2·46	47·18
1908	12·24	11·19	27·98	2·58	53·99
1907	13·42	10·54	25·16	2·62	51·74
1906	14·80	10·64	24·23	2·40	53·07
1905	12·50	11·71	23·70	2·78	50·69

(*a*) New basis. (*b*) Old basis.

The average rate obtained last year was .968c., with an average density of 771,000 ton miles per mile of road.

The outlook for the current year is for results very much better than last year. Farmers in the Western States last year obtained unprecedented income from their great crops, while this year the crops are again abundant and prices are still very remunerative. The increased spending power is likely to result in much larger purchases of general goods. Both in Kansas and Nebraska, the production of corn is considerably in excess even of the unprecedented crop of 1914, and the crop of winter wheat in Kansas is larger than ever before. The crop of Nebraska is smaller than in 1914, but it is still larger than in 1913. The crops of oats, too, compare very favourably with those for former periods. Some idea of the greatness of the crops in these two States in the past season will be evident from the appended statement:—

Principal Crops in Union Pacific's Territory.

	Corn			Winter Wheat			Oats		
	1915	1914	1913	1915	1914	1913	1915	1914	1913
	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*
Kansas ...	170·2	108·2	23·4	69·5	64·2	58·1	14·4	59·0	34·0
Nebraska	212·2	174·0	114·2	113·5	176·3	86·5	62·6	69·6	59·6

* 000,000's omitted.

Comparison will be made in the coming months with the relatively poor gross receipts obtained last year, and by the end of the year the whole of last year's shrinkage in gross earnings will be regained. Already, in the four months to October, gross receipts have expanded $1,329,000, and inasmuch as there was an increase of only $422,000 in operating expenses and taxes, the addition to the net earnings was $907,000. Apart, therefore, from any further improvement in net receipts in the last eight months of the year, the net profit is equal to as much as 11½% upon the stock. The results for the first four months of the current fiscal year, and the figures with which comparison will be made in the coming months, will be apparent from the following statement of the course of earnings and expenses since July 1914:—

Recent Course of Earnings & Expenses, Union Pacific.

[000's omitted.]

Month	Gross Receipts	Maintenance of—Way	Maintenance of—Equipment	Cond. Transportation	Oper. Exp. & Taxes	Net receipts after Oper. Exp. & Taxes
	$	$	$	$	$	$
July 1914	— 263	+ 71	— 55	— 201	— 241	— 22
Aug. ,,	— 26	+ 72	— 18	— 138	— 177	— 205
Sept. ,,	— 188	+ 37	— 30	— 141	— 217	— 29
Oct. ,,	—1,153	+ 83	— 86	— 309	— 390	— 783
Nov. ,,	— 356	— 90	—121	— 393	— 515	— 211
Dec. ,,	— 415	—135	— 14	— 360	— 675	— 260
Jan. 1915	— 515	— 76	+ 1	— 200	— 300	— 215
Feb. ,,	— 338	— 28	+ 6	— 174	— 170	— 168
Mar. ,,	— 553	—119	+ 3	— 207	— 249	— 284
Apr. ,,	— 504	— 1	+ 6	— 218	— 192	— 312
May ,,	— 251	+ 59	— 21	— 81	— 27	— 224
June ,,	+ 37	+ 99	— 88	— 68	— 189	— 226
Year ...	—1,887	+ 28	—416	—2,480	—3,441	—1,446
July 1915	— 288	+ 68	— 48	+ 46	— 115	— 173
Aug. ,,	— 22	+ 25	— 36	— 12	— 31	— 55
Sept. ,,	— 11	+ 47	—102	— 28	— 15	— 4
Oct. ,,	+1,074	—	—	—	+ 291	— 783
4 Mos.	+1,329	—	—	—	— 422	— 907

The Company's bonds are exceedingly well secured, for at the present time, in order to meet interest and other charges calling for a little over $15,000,000, there is available a net income of about $44,500,000. The covering of all interest charges practically three times over clearly indicates the ability of the Company to dispose of bonds at any time it may desire to issue them for the purpose of extending or further improving its system.

The 4% Preferred stock is now quoted at 88, at which the return afforded is, roughly, 4⅞%. The Common stock stands at 148¾, and the yield given from the 8% distribution is 5¾%, allowing for accrued dividend and the difference in exchange.

The prices of, together with the yields afforded by, the Company's principal securities are set out below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of Union Pacific RR.

Description.	Amount Outstanding.	Date of Redemption.	Int. or Div. Rate.	Paid.	Appr. Price.	Yield % per An.*r*
	$		%		£ s. d.	
4% 1st Mt. Land Grant ...	100,000,000	July 1947	4	J. & J.	104‡†	4 3 4
1st Lien and Ref. Mort. ...	38,760,000	June 2008	4	M. & S.	91½°	*n*4 7 5
Do. Do. Sterling...	26,835,225	June 2008	4	M. & S.	£91‡	*n*4 6 0
Or. RR. & Nav. 4% bonds	23,380,000	June 1946	4	J. & D.	92½°	4 9 0
Or. Wash.&Nv.1st&Rf.Mt.A	20,060,000	Jan. 1961*g*	4	J. & J.	88°	4 12 9
Do. "B" Ster. Bonds ...	19,341,800	Jan. 1961*g*	4	J. & J.	£91‡	4 9 4
Or. S. L. RR. 5% 1st Mort.	12,328,000	July 1946	5	J. & J.	105½°	4 13 6
Do. 4% RR. Guar. Ref.	45,000,000	Dec. 1929*g*	4	J. & D.	94§°	4 11 6
Do. 6% Ry. 1st Mort. ...	14,931,000	Feb. 1922	6	F. & A.	108½°	4 8 1
U.P.20-year 4%Conv.Goldc	26,835,225	July 1927	4	J. & J.	100‡†	*n*4 5 10
U.Pac.4% Non-Cum. Pref.	99,543,500	—	4	A. & O.	87½†	4 17 3
Do. Common stock ...	222,291,600	—	8	J.A.J.O.	148¾†	5 14 11

(°) New York price. (†) London price. (‡) Sterling bonds. (*c*) Convertible at option of holders into Common at $175 per share prior to July 1, 1917. (*g*) Interest and principal guar. by U.P. (*n*) Not allowing for redemption. (*r*) Allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

ATCHISON RAILWAY.

NEW PREFERRED STOCK.

The Atchison Railway has applied to the Kansas State Railroad Commission for permission to sell $10,000,000 of its 5% Preferred stock. This is the first occasion during the 20 years the present Atchison Railway has been in existence that the Company has raised money by a direct stock issue. The authorised amount of the Preferred stock is $131,486,000, of which $114,200,000 has previously been issued, the balance of $17,286,000 having been retained in the treasury for the acquisition of auxiliary lines and for improvements, extensions, &c. Subject to the approval of the Kansas Commission, the whole of the new stock has been disposed of to private investors by Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Company at a price understood to be 98½. The net price of the old stock in New York is about 99, the existing quotation of 101½ including about $2 of accrued dividend. Our calculation of existing profits is as follows:—

Estimated Profits of Atchison Railway.

Net profit, year to June 30, 1915	$24,131,000
Additional net receipts, 4 months to October, 1915	787,000
Estimated reduction in interest charges, 1915-16, through conversion of bonds into stock	126,000
Estimated existing profit	25,004,000
5% on $124,174,000 of Pref'd. stock now outstanding	6,208,000
Balance for Common stock	*18,836,000
6% dividend on Common stock	12,029,000
Surplus	6,807,000

* Equal to 9·4% on Common stock.

The Preferred stock is quoted in London at about 107½, at which the yield afforded is £5 1*s*. per cent. The Common stock is at 112¾%, and, allowing for exchange, the yield is about 5⅝%.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

NEW BOND ISSUE.

The announcement has been made in the past week that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has disposed of $60,000,000 of 5% bonds through its bankers, Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb and Company and Messrs. Speyer and Company. The bonds were underwritten at the price of 98. They were, however, offered to the public at par, and are understood to have been oversubscribed. The issue is made under the new General Refunding and Improvement Mortgage sanctioned by the stockholders twelve months ago. Under this mortgage $600,000,000 of bonds were authorised to be issued in series, as required for refunding purposes and for improvements, extensions, &c. The new money is needed in part to meet maturing obligations, the Company having outstanding $40,000,000 of 4½% Notes, of which $20,000,000 are due June 1917 and the balance a year later. All the Notes of either or both series, but not part of a series, may be redeemed at the option of the Company on any interest date, on six weeks' notice, at a premium equal to one-fourth of 1% of the principal amount thereof for each six months between the date of redemption and the date of maturity, together with accrued interest. In recent years all new financing has been done by means of the issue of short-term Notes, pending the completion of the financial plan under which the broad General Mortgage was authorised, and the return of more favourable conditions to enable long-term financing to be undertaken. Last week we dealt at length with the improved position of the Company. After paying off the floating debt about $20,000,000 of additional capital will be available with which to provide for further improvements and extensions to the property.

"Tables for Calculating Dollars into Sterling" at from $4.60 to $4.79⅛ to the £, in Rates varying by 1/16, with a Table showing Decimals of £1 Sterling. (London: Effingham Wilson, 54 Threadneedle Street, E.C. 2*s*. net.)

ARGENTINE NORTH EASTERN RLY.

In accordance with the scheme of arrangement of July 21 last the half-yearly interest, due January 1, 1916, on the "B" Debentures and "B" Debenture stock of the Argentine North Eastern Railway Company will be satisfied by funding scrip to bearer. This scrip is issued at par, and bears interest at the rate of 5% per annum, and is redeemable at par subsequently either out of revenue or by the issue of new "B" Debenture stock. The earnings of the line are now showing satisfactory recovery, and the outlook is much more promising. The announcement that the directors of the Company, in conjunction with those of the Entre Rios Railways, have decided to adopt a joint administration is all to the good, as it implies a closer union of interest, which is bound to be to their mutual advantage. The two lines form a through trunk system between Paraguay and Buenos Ayres. The one is complementary to the other, and whilst amalgamation in its widest sense, although much to be desired, is not yet considered feasible, the step now taken may possibly lead to a still closer fusion of interests later on. We deal fully with the position and prospects of the Entre Rios Railways in the following columns.

ENTRE RIOS RAILWAYS.

MORE PROMISING OUTLOOK.

The past year has been one of exceptional difficulty for the Entre Rios Railways, and being a young Company, at any rate in its present form, it has felt the crisis much more acutely than the older and more established railway undertakings of the Republic. With the outbreak of war the import trade of Argentina was almost entirely suspended, and in this way the railway companies lost a large and profitable traffic. To this misfortune must be added, so far as the Entre Rios Railways are concerned, the partial failure of the crops in the districts served and ten months of incessant rain. Following as it did on a year of exceptionally bad weather in 1913-14, the conditions of working were extremely unfavourable, and as a consequence heavy losses have been incurred. The decrease in gross earnings was as much as £172,000, or 28.2%, and as this was accompanied by a reduction of only £6,000 in working expenses, the net earnings at £111,000 show a decline of no less than £166,000, or nearly 60%. Indeed, the net results for the year are the poorest since 1906, when, it will be recollected, the system was very much smaller than it is at present, and the extension to Buenos Ayres had not then been completed. Unfortunately, capital charges in the meantime have largely increased, a considerable amount of money having been spent in recent years in reorganising, extending, and improving the system, and whereas nine years ago Debenture issues were non-existent, now interest on Debenture capital calls for a sum of over £158,000. In addition to this, an expense of nearly £11,000 has been incurred in repairing flood damage, which is charged off against revenue. There is also a loss of £6,000 to be made good in respect of working a Government line, whilst £4,000 is reserved for doubtful claims, &c. On the other hand, nearly £11,000 has been received from miscellaneous sources, including a transfer of £8,000, balance of fire-insurance fund, and the net result is a loss, after meeting all revenue charges, of £61,000. Deducting from this the balance of nearly £12,000 brought forward from the previous year, the net deficiency is £49,000, against which the Company holds fully-paid shares of the French Railway Company of the Province of Santa Fé equivalent in nominal amount to £50,000. Thus the exceptional losses of the past twelve months have been fully provided for, and the Company starts the new year with practically a clean sheet. The severity of the crisis and the effect it has had on the Company's prosperity may be

gathered from the fact that in 1913-14 there was a profit in excess of charges of £135,000, a sum equal to the full dividends on the First and Second Preference stocks, with a surplus of over £6,000. The income statement of the Company for the last four years is set out beneath:—

Entre Rios Railways.

	1914-15*	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12
	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	437,650	609,850	611,145	472,101
Expenses	326,028	332,414	345,846	291,923
Ratio	(74.57)	(54.51)	(56.59)	(61.83
Net earnings	111,302	277,436	265,299	180,178
Miscellaneous	2,430	6,489	71,392*	24,459
Net income	113,732	283,925	336,691	204,637
4% Deb. stock	60,200	60,200	59,636	52,200
5% Debentures	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
5% Cons. Deb. stock	63,151	49,643	9,788	—
Miscellaneous	16,424†	4,072	12,896	2,082
Total charges	174,775	148,915	117,320	89,282
Net profit	Loss 61,043	135,010	219,371	115,355
Div. on 5% 1st Pref. stock ...	Nil	50,000	100,000	90,383
Rate per cent.	—	(2½%)	(5%)	(5%)
Balance for 2nd Pref.	—	85,010	119,371	24,972
Div. on 4% 2nd Pref. stock ...	Nil	14,681	29,362	29,362
Rate per cent.		(2%)	(4%)	(4%)
Balance for Ordinary	—	Cr. 70,329	Cr. 90,009	Dr. 4,390
Reserve and renewals, &c. ...	—	58,585	90,009	5,780
Balance	Dr. 61,043	Cr. 11,744	—	Dr. 10,170
Brought forward	11,744	—	—	10,170
Carried forward	Dr. 49,299‡	11,744	—	—

* Includes £67,669 received from Argentine Railway Company in respect of guarantee under working agreement, of which £43,894 would have been payable out of future surplus revenue.

† Includes £10,957 for flood damages, £6,325 loss on working National Government Eastern line, and £4,109 reserved for doubtful claims, less £8,321 balance of fire insurance fund transferred.

‡ Against this the Company holds for the credit of revenue account, pending realisation, fully paid shares of the French Railway of the Province of Santa Fé, equivalent in nominal amount to £50,000.

The outlook for the Company is much more promising, and a steady recovery of lost ground is now in progress. The import trade of the country will, it is true, not revive until the War is over, and general business may be restricted as long as hostilities last. But with Argentina rapidly growing in wealth as a result of the great demand for its produce at enhanced prices, the moment peace is restored it will be in a position to enter the world's markets and buy freely all the material it requires to continue the development of the country so seriously retarded by the unprecedented happenings of the last few years. Meanwhile everything depends on the agricultural and stock-raising industries, and here fortunately the position leaves little to be desired. The camps in the Province of Entre Rios are reported to be in good condition, and the wheat and linseed crops now being harvested promise a good yield. The favourable reports received from the General Manager are borne out by the results for the first four months of the current year, which show that the gross receipts have been £165,241, against £124,489, and the net receipts £45,411, as compared with £18,357, the period being that of least traffic. The comparison is as follows:—

Results for Four Months July 1 to Oct. 31.

	1915	1914	—Inc. or Dec.—	
	£	£	£	%
Gross earnings	165,241	124,489	+40,752	+32·7
Expenses	119,830	106,132	+13,698	+12·9
Ratio	(72.53)	(85.24)	−(12.71)	—
Net earnings	45,411	18,357	+27,054	+147·8

The Company is therefore fully earning its interest charges, and future increases will consequently represent profit for dividend on the share capital. The increase of 10% in freights and fares since the beginning of October will help the Company materially, and will assist in neutralising the effects of the difficult circumstances under which the railways have now to be worked. Having regard to the high price of coal and the adverse effect this will have on future working costs, it is satisfactory to note that the Company has reverted to wood-burning as far as practicable, and although the organisation may take time, it will, in the long run, mean considerable economy of coal fuel and a saving in transportation expenses. On the whole, therefore, the immediate outlook is quite satisfactory. Looking to the more distant future, it has to be borne in mind that the line is yet in its infancy as a through trunk system to Buenos Ayres, and that much of the capital recently spent on extensions and improvements has yet to bear fruit. Until last year's set-back considerable progress was in evidence, although as a fact the Company suffered considerably from a series of wet seasons and a succession of disappointing crops. However, the growth of business was appreciable, as is evident from the following comparison of both the passenger and freight traffic since 1905:—

Passenger Traffic.

Year ended June 30	Miles Operated	No. of Passengers	Passenger Mileage	Passenger Miles per Mile of Line	Average Receipts per Passenger per Mile	Passenger Receipts
					d.	£
1915	730	361,378	18,668,914	25,492	1.28	98,926
1914 ...	742	495,296	26,311,149	35,459	1.35	147,932
1913 ...	730	423,264	19,962,690	27,346	1.46	121,369
1912 ...	688	357,055	17,719,182	25,725	1.37	101,074
1911 ...	688	312,903	17,856,112	25,954	1.50	111,550
1910 ...	675	313,773	17,874,086	26,480	1.29	95,806
1909 ...	656	276,004	16,473,363	22,368	1.23	75,218
1908 ...	663	249,649	10,757,715	19,108	1.28	57,496
1907 ...	503	218,828	9,695,819	19,276	1.28	71,794
1906 ...	472	189,435	8,141,202	17,248	1.28	43,435
1905 ...	472	182,018	7,004,831	14,841	1.26	36,737

Freight Traffic.

Year ended June 30	Miles Operated	Total Tonnage	Ton Mileage	Ton Miles per Mile of Line	Average Receipts per Ton Mile	Freight Receipts
					d.	£
1915 ...	730	590,338	67,279,731	92.164	1.10	285,801
1914 ...	742	786,234	87,424,236	117,822	1.12	380,555
1913 ...	730	876,530	86,447,878	118,421	1.20	409,051
1912 ...	688	684,473	65,403,173	95,062	1.21	314,989
1911 ...	688	615,601	69,955,965	101,680	1.14	317,059
1910 ...	675	553,133	58,228,874	86,265	1.17	270,056
1909 ...	656	575,329	51,994,784	89,867	1.23	256,551
1908 ...	563	549,991	40,022,446	77,649	1.31	212,300
1907 ...	503	526,831	37,178,574	77,882	1.24	186,051
1906 ...	472	398,294	28,549,039	60,485	1.15	132,180
1905 ...	472	420,161	28,378,664	60,124	1.14	130,613

The freight traffic consists of a variety of produce, general goods forming a not inconsiderable proportion of the total. As the new lines are developed and the virgin lands surrounding them are brought into cultivation, the traffic both in cereals and in general goods will grow correspondingly, and with the prospects of a more marked development of interchange traffic via the Argentine North-Eastern and the Paraguay Central Railways to and from Buenos Ayres, the future appears to be distinctly hopeful. It is satisfactory to note that in the past season the through traffic in oranges over the Company's main line to Buenos Ayres provided a record tonnage.

The nature of the freight traffic and the variety of commodities transported over the system will be seen from the summary appended:—

Freight Traffic, Entre Rios Railways.

Goods.	1914-15 Tons	1913-14 Tons	1912-13 Tons	1911-12 Tons	1910-11 Tons.
Wheat	54,522	59,881	105,139	115,293	80,299
Maize	15,688	11,330	16,562	6,350	12,255
Linseed	115,906	145,651	165,411	90,692	47,325
Flour and bran	39,671	44,655	42,905	37,327	36,497
Charcoal	24,550	21,507	26,232	27,207	27,969
Firewood and timber ...	31,245	31,134	39,258	35,155	26,870
Hay	6,631	9,040	6,011	3,636	13,780
Wool and hair	4,278	4,235	5,429	6,944	7,694
Hides, skins, &c.	4,241	6,712	9,662	12,191	18,286
Bricks, lime, sand	10,787	24,389	26,071	18,070	18,426
General goods ...	148,671	104,845	92,051	89,913	125,322
Sundries		202,707	228,384	139,297	101,004
Total goods	454,190	666,086	753,115	582,075	515,927
LIVE-STOCK	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Cattle	230,849	181,497	186,519	154,975	158,993
Sheep	145,564	270,329	369,251	346,152	238,...
Other animals	6,691	18,712	12,724	10,768	13,926
Total animals ...	383,...	474,538	568,494	510,...	411,...

Another factor of importance is the probability of much greater economy of operation as traffic improves. Last year cannot, of course, be taken as a criterion owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing, but seeing that in the two preceding years there was a drop from 61.83% to 54.51% in the ratio of expenses to receipts, it is clear that the improvements effected in the road and rolling stock, and the more scientific

methods now adopted in handling the traffic, were beginning to tell in favour of the Company, and are likely to become still more effective as business improves and conditions generally become more normal. Owing to the bad weather last year's outlays upon maintenance of way increased from £49,428 to £71,228; but with this exception practically every other item of expenditure was curtailed compared with the preceding year, although in proportion to the gross receipts an increase is shown. A comparison of the expenditures of the various spending departments and the proportions of such expenditures to the gross receipts in each of the last three years is set out beneath:—

Working Expenses, Entre Rios Railways.

Year ended June 30—	1915		1914		1913	
	Amt.	Per Cent. of Gross Receipts	Amt.	Per Cent. of Gross Receipts	Amt.	Per Cent. of Gross Receipts
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Maint. of way, works, &c.	71,228	16.28	49,428	8.11	51,669	8.46
,, Locomotives ...	16,736	3.82	16,545	2.71	23,223	3.80
,, Carriages ...	7,365	1.68	9,834	1.61	8,581	1.40
,, Waggons ...	8,043	1.92	8,710	1.43	12,040	1.97
Total maintenance ...	103,372	23.70	84,517	13.86	95,512	15.63
Running expenses ...	76,715	17.53	85,773	14.06	90,483	14.81
Traffic expenses	59,171	13.52	67,906	11.14	74,953	12.26
Total conducting transptn.	135,884	31.05	153,679	25.20	165,436	27.07
General charges	30,380	6.94	36,359	5.96	33,572	5.49
Miscellaneous	29,272	6.68	24,135	3.96	22,144	3.63
Maritime service ...	27,125	6.20	33,753	5.53	29,182	4.77
Total working expenditure	326,528	74.57	332,414	54.51	345,846	56.59

The substitution, at any rate partially, of wood fuel for coal will help the Company materially through a period of abnormally high coal prices, and another favourable sign of the times is to be found in the trials about to be made of burning oil fuel on the ferry-boats, which, if successful, should bring about still greater economy of operation.

An event of interest which occurred during the past year is the decision taken by the board, in conjunction with that of the Argentine North-Eastern Railway Company, to adopt a joint administration, which became effective on February 15, the administrations of the two lines being transferred to Concordia. It has long been hoped that an amalgamation of the two systems would sooner or later be brought about, to their mutual advantage, and the step now taken is probably the prelude to a complete fusion of interests in its widest sense.

From all this it will be obvious that the set-back experienced in the past twelve months is likely to prove of quite a temporary character. The losses incurred have undoubtedly been severe, but the conditions prevailing have also been unprecedented, and when normal times again return there is every reason to anticipate a growth in earnings and profits the like of which has not yet been witnessed, and we venture to predict that within a relatively short time not only will the Preference stockholders be in receipt of their full dividends, but that substantial distributions will be forthcoming on the Ordinary capital. To show the progress which the Company was making prior to the outbreak of war we give herewith a retrospect of the main results of working for the past 10 years:—

Entre Rios Railways.

Year ended June 30	Miles Open	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings	Net Profit
		£	£	%	£	£
1915... ...	730	437,000	326,000	74.57	111,000	61,000*
1914... ...	742	610,000	332,000	54.51	277,000	135 000
1913... ...	730	611,000	346,000	56.59	265,000	152,000
1912... ...	688	472,000	292,000	61.83	180,000	115,000
1911... ...	688	478,000	254,000	53.11	224,000	175,000
1910... ...	675	406,000	226,000	55.79	179,000	114,000
1909... ...	656	366,000	220,000	60.05	146,000	107,000
1908... ...	563	300,000	166,000	55.35	134,000	126,000
1907... ...	503	264,000	140,000	52.84	124,000	128,000
1906... ...	472	199,000	119,000	59.85	80,000	81,000

* Loss.

Prices of the Company's securities have recovered somewhat from their recent low level, but at current quotations they are still attractive purchases for those willing to lock up their money for a time in the hope of making considerable profits ultimately. The capital of the Company is as follows:—

Security	Amount	Int.	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ s. d.
4% Debenture stock	1,505,000	4	70	5 15 6
5% Debentures	700,000	5	76½	6 15 2
5% Consolidated Deb. stock ...	1,303,000	5	80	6 7 0
5% 1st Preference stock	2,000,000	—	58½	—
4% 2nd Preference stock	734,049	—	30½	—
Ordinary stock	1,783,140	—	23	—
Total	8,025,189			

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

A RETROGRADE POLICY.

UNDER the regime of Sir Thomas Sutherland the reports and accounts of our premier shipping Company formed a model document, and both shareholders and the investing public were able to form a perfectly clear idea of how the Company stood. The reports were very full and gave ample information as to the working of the Company. The accounts were presented in ample detail, so that it was possible to follow the fortunes of the Company intelligently, and gain such information as is desirable for a shareholder to obtain as regards the concern in which he is a partner. Twelve months ago a change was made condensing somewhat the form of account, thereby ensuring "a certain privacy" in regard to the internal management of the Company's business, but the report added, and we italicise the important clause of the statement, "it will be found at the present time that *all those particulars which the public may be considered entitled to possess*, such as the amount of depreciation, insurance, mail subsidy, &c., are clearly set forth." Since the publication of that statement Sir Thomas Sutherland has resigned the chairmanship of the Company and handed over the management into other hands, his retirement following closely on the absorption of the British India Steam Navigation Company by the P. and O. Company. Lord Inchcape, the Chairman of the absorbed concern, has now become the Chairman and one of the managing directors of the P. and O. Company, and it must be assumed that the new Chairman is responsible for what must be described as a retrograde step in presenting the accounts, and the bad policy pursued by the British India Company has been introduced into the P. and O. Company. Only twelve months ago, as pointed out, it was acknowledged that the public were entitled to certain particulars. Now these particulars are not given, and presumably it is now considered that the public is not entitled to them. Why? The model accounts issued by Sir Thomas Sutherland have given place to a mere travesty of accounts under Lord Inchcape. Formerly shareholders and investors were given information as to the total receipts of the Company, while details were also afforded as to the expenses of running ships, the amount spent on administration, and the sums devoted to insurance, and, even more important, the amounts written off for depreciation were definitely shown. In the present accounts not the slightest information is afforded on any of these points, and the following comparison speaks very loudly as regards the change that has been made:—

	1915	1914	1913
Revenue—	£	£	£
Passage money, freights, charters, interest on investments, &c. ...	No information	4,881,045	4,993,948
Mail subsidy	,, ,,	305,000	305,000
	,, ,,	5,186,045	5,298,948
Less external charges	,, ,,	1,730,441	1,429,875
Provisioning of passengers and claims for cargo damages ...			399,580
Net revenue	,, ,,	3,455,604	3,469,493
Expenses—			
Navigating and general ships' charges	,, ,,	2,355,209	2,195,849
Administration expenses ...	,, ,,	218,998	211,779
Miscellaneous expenses ...	,, ,,	23,506	22,905
Insurance charges	,, ,,	53,386	24,298
Total expenses	,, ,,	2,651,099	2,454,831

We are aware that the directors of certain companies have in the past decided to withhold from their shareholders such information as the directors of the P. and O. Company have hitherto afforded, among the chief offenders being the old Union-Castle Company and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. And especially in the case of the latter concern, the plea was made that the information was withheld owing to the undesirability of affording material valuable information to competitors, the chief bogey being "German competition." This particular bogey must now at any rate be laid low. The new Chairman of the P. and O. Company does not even pay his shareholders the compliment of informing them why the change has been made, and the only reference to the matter is the abrupt statement that the form in which the accounts are submitted "has been simplified." To such an extent, indeed, has simplification been carried that for practical purposes the accounts might almost have been withheld altogether. Not only are the figures with regard to the working withheld entirely, and not only is the amount written off for depreciation not stated, but the balance sheet has also been "simplified," and in place of a detailed statement we now have the following items lumped together in one sum, namely, "coal, naval and victualling stores, freehold and other property, workshops and machinery, wharves, moorings, &c., sundry investments, and cash at bankers and in hand"—a veritable hotch-potch.

In the absence of any reasons for the retrograde policy now initiated, it is perhaps but natural to assume that the withholding of information to which shareholders and the investing public are entitled is due to the desire of the board for concealment. And the impression is given that they wish to hide the very large profits that the Company has apparently made.

In so far as it is possible to compare the profits for the twelve months to September 30, 1915, with those of the previous year, it would appear that a net profit of £594,161 has been secured, as against £354,469. This, however, is not an exact figure, inasmuch as an adjustment should be made with regard to the insurance against war risks. For the previous year the charge for this item, covering, of course, only eight weeks, was £31,000. The profits for the twelve months to September 30 last have had to bear a premium of over £250,000, so that, taking this item into account, the more correct comparison would be roughly a profit of about £800,000, as against the actual £354,000 for the previous year. The usual distributions are made, and a sum of £100,000 has been added to the provident good-service fund.

We further compare the manner of distributing the profits for the past six years:—

Year ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net revenue ...	*	3,455,604	3,869,073	3,531,531	3,404,627	3,374,624
Expenses	*	2,651,099	2,854,411	2,732,846	2,572,851	2,591,380
	*	804,505	1,014,662	798,685	831,776	783,244
Depreciation ...	*	450,036	459,918	496,160	559,542	†510,751
Net profit	594,161	354,469	554,744	302,525	272,234	272,493
Deb. int., 3½% ...	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000
	531,161	291,469	491,744	239,525	209,234	209,493
Pref. div., 5% ...	152,000	117,000	117,000	65,375	58,000	58,000
	379,161	174,469	374,744	174,150	151,234	151,493
Def. div. & bonus...	269,681	174,000	174,000	174,000	150,800	150,800
	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(15%)	(13%)	(13%)
	109,480	469	200,744	150	434	693
Reserve, &c. ...	100,000	—	200,275	—	—	—
	9,480	469	469	150	434	693
Brought forward ...	68,703	68,234	67,765	67,615	67,181	66,488
Carried forward ...	78,183	68,703	68,234	67,765	67,615	67,181

* No information.
† Includes £25,000 written off goodwill of Blue Anchor Line.

It is pointed out that, notwithstanding the fact that a large number of the Company's steamers were commandeered by Government for war purposes, and that 31 of the ships are still in Government service, no mail departure has had to be abandoned, and the services have been satisfactorily maintained, though at much extra cost. The freight market ruled high during the last nine months of the year, but the Company did not thereby benefit to any extent, their steamers for the most part being necessarily restricted in cargo capacity owing to the high speed required by the mail contract, and the large space occupied by mails and parcels post. It is also pointed out that the expenditure on working, maintaining, and running the steamers has increased enormously owing to the advances in wages and to higher prices of stores and coal, while delays in loading and discharging at all ports have lengthened the duration of voyages while further adding to the cost. Rates of charter for vessels commandeered by the Government have been very moderate, shipowners "having displayed a patriotic disposition to assist the Government in the present great emergency." The book value of the fleet is shown as £4,507,159, representing a tonnage, excluding the boats building, of 489,644 tons. Twelve months ago the book value of the fleet was shown as £3,299,546, representing a tonnage of 501,167 tons. It will thus be seen that the book value of the fleet is much higher than it was twelve months ago, and the inference would rather be that the allowance for depreciation has been on a smaller scale. We set out herewith in the attenuated form now available the liabilities and assets of the Company as at September 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	4,837,874	Steamers, tugs, &c. ...	4,507,159
3½% Debenture stock ...	1,800,000	New ships...	250,220
Reserve fund	1,374,000	Coal, property, &c. ...	6,453,945
Contingent fund	450,000		
Provident fund	150,000		
Bills payable	2,271,480		
Profit and loss	353,970		
	11,217,324		11,217,324

Naturally there has been no opportunity to lay down new ships in the past twelve months, and the two mail-steamers which are under construction, and which in the ordinary course would have been delivered this autumn, will not be completed for some considerable time, the builders having been obliged to devote their attention to Government work. Instead of investing the amounts set aside for depreciation in new tonnage, as would have been the case in normal circumstances, the directors have placed them, together with the proceeds of certain securities which have been sold, in the Government War Loan and Treasury Bills, and doubtless this step is partly responsible for the fact that the book value of the fleet is now higher than it was twelve months ago. Attention is drawn in the report to the fact that a serious loss has been suffered through the fall in the value of the securities in which the reserves are invested; "it is difficult to say what the depreciation is in the absence of a free market, but it amounts to a very large sum, the greater portion having been caused by the War."

It is needless to recall, we are sure, that the Company has been well and conservatively managed throughout the whole of its career, that it has been placed in a very strong position, and there is no doubt that under the able management of the present managing directors the prestige of the Company will be very fully maintained. The chief blow to that prestige is the policy of concealment that has now been initiated, and we sincerely trust that the board will reconsider the matter and once again afford the public all those particulars which they "may be considered entitled to possess." The very strong position built up by the Company, the great state of prosperity which it has consistently enjoyed, the substantial return afforded the shareholders, and the large premium at which the Deferred stock stands in the market, all afford the most ample evidence that the policy of openness that has previously prevailed has not injured the concern, but has rather aided it, and unless Lord Inchcape is able at the meeting on Wednesday next to give the fullest justification for the

new policy, we trust the shareholders will take matters into their own hands, and insist on the publication of the information which they have previously received.

The yields on the various securities range between £5 1*s.* 5*d.* per cent. on the Debenture stock, and £5 19*s.* 7*d.* per cent. on the Deferred stock. All classes of capital are attractive shipping investments, the three prior securities being, of course, of the nature of gilt-edged investments, while the Deferred stock, in view of the strong position, cannot be considered overvalued.

Herewith we recapitulate the capital in issue, prices and yields afforded:—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Dividend %	Approx. Yield £ s. d.
800,000	Debenture stock	100	70	3½	5 1 5
1,000,000	2nd Debenture stock ...	100	69½	3½	5 2 2
3,040,000	Preference stock	100	97⅓	5	5 5 3
1,797,874	Deferred stock	100	292	15*	5 19 7

* Free of tax.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WHEAT TRADE.

The decision of the Government to establish a wheat reserve is happily not a case of being wise after the event, for the emergency is yet with us, and a stable wheat market will be a distinct asset—one might almost call it an additional road towards victory. Had the decision, however, been come to on the kalends of August 1914 instead of the kalends of December 1915, the nation would have saved 20*s.* per quarter on every quarter now to be purchased. Into what that quantity will or is to be inquiry is not desirable in the national interest, but if public counsel is right it should not be given on the too easy lines of any "wise saw," such as "not to spoil the ship for a halfpennyworth of tar." The world production this new cereal year is abundant, and the natural tendency of wheat prices, as indicated in contracts for 1916 shipment, is towards a somewhat marked decline.

With respect to the cablegrams of Sunday and Monday last we are asked officially not to discuss them, and not only shall we observe that request in the spirit as well as in the letter but would tender our very hearty sympathy to overworked Cabinet Ministers, who seemingly cannot get even the Day of Rest in security against what can only be described as sheer fatuity on the part of officials who have previously been upheld in matters of the most ridiculous over-cautiousness. Yet "wires" which professed to indicate a Government transaction of unprecedented magnitude—those who sent the cables attempted no concealment—were innocently let through to paralyse the corn trade for 48 hours, ample time, probably, for the senders to effect their purpose. The wheat reserve will, as we have said, be a step towards the great desideratum of stability in the wheat trade. We are permitted to state that the Government is already in communication with the recognised magnates of the Baltic and of Mark Lane. If Lord Selborne and Mr. Runciman are guided and guarded by those authorities as to what to buy and how to buy, the public may rest assured that the national purse will be fully and honourably protected. The Cabinet itself must decide what proportion to the national wants from season to season should be acquired; we can only place on record the market opinion that while the thing should be done—and ought to have been done earlier—it should not now be overdone. To lay down corn in store is not like laying down a vintage which will only improve by keeping. Moreover, an oppressive weight of reserves always discourages sowings for the following season.

Happily, the Boards of Agriculture and Trade are in exceedingly competent hands, and we may feel confident that all due points of this and kindred character will be borne in mind.

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Insurance Notes.

NORWICH UNION MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

This attractive life Office has for many years regularly reported the largest new business amongst British contemporary institutions of its class not possessing an industrial organisation. The business extends to many foreign countries, but the Society takes the lead also in new business effected within the United Kingdom, and a proof of the high esteem in which it is held in our own country is shown by the fact that it is one of very few offices that were able to report an increase in home business in 1914. It may be taken that but for the outbreak of the War the increase would have been greater; but it is really remarkable that there was any increase at all, considering the adverse influences prevailing during the closing months of last year.

The total new life business reported for 1914 in sums assured was £4,968,859, of which £325,334 was reassured, the net amount retained at the Society's sole risk being £4,643,525, of which £2,857,193 was effected within the United Kingdom, as compared with £2,794,738 in 1913. The total net life premium income, amounting to £1,532,330, shows an increase of £85,437. The expenses of management, inclusive of commission, charged to the life assurance account absorbed about 14½% of the relative premium income, which is a very moderate ratio considering the large proportion of new premiums, necessarily bearing

considerable initial charges. The mortality experience was favourable. Claims by death involved payments of £570,773, which amount is reported to be less by £74,196 than the sum expected according to the tables employed in the mortality investigation. In addition, claims under endowment assurances maturing by survivance amounted to £160,820. Through the year's operations the life assurance fund was increased by £865,870 to £10,826,755.

The annuity account for 1914 shows that a sum of £67,385 was received as consideration for new annuities granted, that annuities for £123,787 were paid, and that the annuity fund at the close of the year amounted to £1,020,458. The premiums in connection with capital redemption policies amounted to £116,452, and the relative fund at the close of the year to £1,039,549.

Apart from the additional figures relating to the acquired Scottish Imperial Company (premiums, £32,179; life assurance fund, £669,897; assets £679,021), the assets shown in the Norwich Union life balance sheet on December 31, 1914, amounted to £13,014,318. The gross interest yield on the average amount of the funds during the year was £4 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent., and the net yield, after deduction of income tax, was £4 2*s.* per cent. This indicates a very large profit from the investment of the funds, for the rate of interest at which it is actuarially assumed that the funds will accumulate is only 2½%.

The Society is widely known as one of the best bonus producers. At the last quinquennial valuation the bonuses on the current series of participating policies, comprising those issued since June 30, 1896, were at rates varying from 36*s.* to 68*s.* per cent. per annum, according to age at entry and duration of policies. The next quinquennial valuation falls to be made on June 30, 1916.

Some interesting particulars in regard to the Society's experience and financial position were given by the Chairman in his address at the annual meeting on May 26. From this it appears that the Society's foreign operations had never been extended to either Germany or Austria, and that its interest in enemy countries was limited to an ordinary agency in Constantinople. In France and Belgium the policies issued did not cover war risk. Looking to the Continental principle of compulsory military service, the policy conditions had been framed with special care, and, in cases where the Society assured the risk referred to substantial extra premiums were charged. Reassuring information was given by the Chairman as regards the investment position. The amount of depreciation in assets, comparing book prices with estimated market values, was reported by him as less than 2½% of the whole amount. At the last quinquennial valuation the appropriation of a larger proportion to depreciation did not prevent the maintenance of the Society's high bonus standard, so that no great anxiety need at present be felt as regards the outcome of the investigation next year.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

The subscribed capital in this Company amounts to £300,000, of which £34,500 is paid up in shares of £10 with £1 3*s.* paid. The annual dividend to shareholders during the current quinquennium, ending January 31, 1919, has been fixed at 3*s.* per share.

Perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the accounts for the last financial year, which ended on January 31, 1915, is the apparently successful and profitable development of the Company's fire, accident and general department, which was opened in 1905. Premiums in this account, amounting to £27,401 after deduction of reassurances, showed an increase of £8,136 (the increase in gross premiums is greater). As against this the outgo for claims, expenses and costs of all kinds was £20,138. It is normally supposed, presuming the incidence of premiums to be fairly distributed over the year, that 40% of the increase in premiums covers the addition required to provide for unexpired risks, and if this rule were applicable here the profit in the last financial year from the Company's fire trading would appear to have been £4,009, which in itself, had it been used for such a purpose, would nearly have covered the dividend to shareholders. But a sum of only £1,016 has been actually transferred from this account to profit and loss. Thereafter the fire, accident and general funds on January 31, 1915, amounted to £45,212, representing about 165% of the fire, accident and general premium income, which discloses an exceptionally strong departmental position.

The situation as regards the more important life department seems to be less satisfactory. The net new life business reported for the year ended January 31, 1915, is £162,532, as compared with £217,132 in the previous year. A decrease was to be expected in consequence of the War, but even had none been shown the return would have been meagre in comparison with the outlay apparently involved. We have never been able to understand the exceptionally heavy ratio of expenses shown in the accounts relating to this Company's life business. The total net life premiums, amounting to £108,266, showed a decrease of £3,225, yet expenses of management and commission absorbed 22.6% of the premiums. The premium income has diminished for several years in succession. The expense ratio, although slightly lower than in the previous year, is a very high one for a declining business. It practically uses up the whole margin of premiums reserved at the valuation, so that there is no profit at all from economy. The bonus history of the Company has not been satisfactory to policyholders in the past, and, as we have repeatedly urged, a drastic reduction in expenses seems called for in their interests. Claims by death amounted to £92,041. The incidence of mortality appears to have been favourable, for although these claims included payments of £5,746 occasioned by war fatalities, the total amount is stated to have been only 90% of that expected under the valuation tables employed. Policies for £80,838 matured by survivance. Through the year's operations the life assurance fund was reduced by £46,197 to £1,559,544. The net interest yield on the life fund, after deduction of income tax, is reported to have been £3 17*s.* per cent. The rate of interest assumed for the accumulations is 3%, so that there seems to have been a fair average profit from this source.

The small section relating to employers' liability and domestic service insurance shows premiums of £2,849, and a relative fund at the close of the year amounting to £1,738, exclusive of provision for outstanding claims. The balance standing to the credit of profit and loss account at the close of the financial year was £7,741.

The total assets as shown in the balance sheet on January 31, 1915, amounted to £1,705,987. Nearly 70% of the investments take the form of freehold and leasehold ground-rents, mainly in the Metropolitan area, the freehold ground-rents standing in the books at 23¾ years' purchase. The Stock Exchange securities and other assets were taken at the market values, less accrued interest and dividends, as at January 31, 1914, the close of the last quinquennium, in cases where they had been held at that date, subsequent purchases being taken at cost price, less accrued interest.

"English Railways: Their Development and Their Relation to the State." By E. Cleveland-Stevens. Price 6*s.* (London: Geo. Routledge.) This is a detailed historical account of the consolidation of English railways up to the year 1900. Two maps are given, showing the railways existing in 1848 and at the present time.

RUBBER SHARE VALUES.

INVESTORS interested in rubber shares as permanent investments, and not as mere gambling counters, will have welcomed the steadying of the price of rubber in the region of 3*s.* per pound during the past week in place of the previous week's too rapid upward movement in values. Of course it has meant the elimination of a good deal of speculation in the share market, but from the point of view of the genuine investor this is no drawback, as it enables investment purchases to be made at more reasonable prices than is possible in a speculatively active market. Steady investment buying on individual merits, is much preferable to speculative inflation on account of a temporary jump in the price of the commodity, and there is no doubt that during the past few weeks investors on the lookout for securities of real merit in which to place a portion of their surplus funds have been turning their attention to the rubber section. It is becoming increasingly recognised that, apart altogether from a possible rise in capital values engendered by anticipation of the effect of an advance in the price of rubber, the shares of high-class rubber plantations offer considerable attractions to the keen investor, inasmuch as, though they are no more speculative than any ordinary industrial venture, rubber shares can be bought to give the purchaser a high

	Par of Shares	Year Ends	Issued Capital £	Market Price of Shares	Planted Acreage: 5 Yrs. and Over	Planted Acreage: Under 5 Yrs.	Planted Acreage: Total	Market Capitalisation per Planted Acre £	Past Year's Results: Rubber Output: Past Year Lb.	Rubber Output: Current Year Lb.	Output per Planted Acre Lb.	Profit £	Costs "All in" s. d.	Dividends Paid: Amount £	Dividends Paid: %
Allagar	£20 Debs.	Dec. 31	85,000 25,000	2/3	647	513	1,160	104	226,774	218,000 (*10*)	195	[illegible]	1 6½	4,250	5
Alor Pongsu	£1	Dec. 31	40,000	1/7	422½	310½	733	102	[illegible]	[illegible] (*10*)	179	[illegible]	1 4	6,000	15
Anglo-Malay	2/-	Dec. 31	150,000	10/3	3,689	754	4,443	173	1,384,382	1,227,287 (*10*)	312	[illegible]	1 0½	33,000	22
Anglo-Sumatra	£1	May 31	80,000	4	2,357	—	2,357	136	753,957	328,627 (*5*)	319	43,202	0 11½	32,000	40
Bagan Serai	£1	Dec. 31	50,000	44/3	681	404	1,085	104	191,822	213,333 (*10*)	177	11,427	1 0½	10,000	20
Bajoe Kidoel	£1	Mar. 31	157,887	21/9	871	3,281	4,152†	48	71,925	73,594 (*7*)	17	18,022	1 9	15,789	10
Bakap	£1	June 30	60,000	41/-	755	102	857	143	300,963	113,189 (*4*)	351	16,753	1 0¾	15,000	25
Bandar Sumatra	£1	July 31	100,000	27/-	1,019	1,566	2,585	52	205,406	[illegible] (*3*)	79	10,251	—	7,500	7½
Bantardawa	£1 Debs.	June 30	103,600 15,000	12/6	1,191	—	1,191	67	138,287	51,267 (*4*)	116	1,066	1 11	—	—
Banteng	£1	April 30	60,000	1½	965	384	1,349	68	218,465	131,610 (*6*)	162	10,575	1 2	7,187	12½
Batang Malaka	2/-	Dec. 31	52,400 Debs. 8,000	2,1 par	—	—	1,268	55	124,850	167,316 (*10*)	99	4,345	1 3½	—	—
Batu Rata	£1	June 30	99,025(b)	26/-	1,013	458	1,470	88(b)	252,473	114,040 (*4*)	172	14,471	1 1½	12,378	12½
,, Caves	£1	Dec. 31	26,750	12	1,207	483	1,690	190	556,021	501,300 (*10*)	329	37,502	0 10½	37,032	150
,, Tiga	£1	Dec. 31	74,300	2¾	1,488	332	1,820	107	488,225	540,315 (*10*)	265	22,110	1 3	16,717	22½
Bekoh	2/-	June 30	95,000	2/4	875	749	1,624	58	220,175	97,661 (*4*)	135	[illegible]	1 5½	7,125	7½
Bikam	2/-	Dec. 31	60,000	5/3	993	7	1,000	97	241,573	223,227 (*10*)	241	[illegible]	1 5	6,000	10
Bradwall	£1 Loan	Dec. 31	[illegible]	18/-	1,191	512	1,703	54	212,129	235,456 (*10*)	125	4,165	1 8½	—	—
Braunston	£1	Sept. 30	84,500	1½	1,273½	146½	1,420	89	306,000	30,500 (*1*)	215	10,540	1 2¾	8,450	10
Bukit Cheng	2/-	Dec. 31	50,000	5/-	971½	136	1,107	113	210,670	215,500 (*10*)	190	10,546	1 1	9,375	18¾
,, Kajang	£1	June 30	100,000	2¼	2,234	443	2,677	84	580,548	243,160 (*4*)	209	30,222	1 0¾	22,500	22½
,, Luntang	£1	June 30	30,000	3½	800	419	1,219	80	280,725	95,330 (*4*)	230	17,504	1 0½	10,800	40
,, Merlimau	2/-	Mar. 31	158,847	2/10½	2,139½	337	2,476	89	389,666	321,012 (*7*)	157	14,908	1 4½	13,142	9
,, Pangeng	2/-	Dec. 31	41,960	7/-	1,211	350	1,560	94	250,929	304,760 (*10*)	161	15,183	1 2¾	10,742	25
,, Rajah	£1	Mar. 31	66,709	5½	3,271	619	3,890	99	673,507	412,739 (*7*)	175	40,934	1 0	33,350	50
,, Sembawang	2/-	Dec. 31	314,955	2/9	5,866	2,134	8,000	69	307,244	426,800 (*10*)	38	12,759	1 3½	9,449	3
Castlefield	£1	June 30	45,000	4½	1,300	361	1,661	112	416,234	166,083 (*4*)	202	26,651	0 10½	19,530	45
Ceylon Para	2/0	Dec. 31	70,000	7/9	2,652	299½	2,951	92	588,065	530,673 (*10*)	199	16,659	1 4½	13,125	18¾
Chemtong	2/-	Dec. 31	75,000	2/6	940	160	1,100	84	205,234	270,000 (*10*)	187	8,008	1 3½	5,250	7
Cheras	£1	Dec. 31	42,500 (30,000 Shares, 15 - paid)	— 17/6	403	607	1,010	47	38,012	71,100 (*10*)	38	556	1 11½	—	—
Chersonese	2/-	Dec. 31	225,000	3/6	2,004	34	2,038	190	537,646	539,141 (*10*)	264	35,020	1 1	23,570	15
Cheviot	2/0	Dec. 31	88,412	3/6	999	1,500	2,499	62	213,685	205,650 (*10*)	87	9,664	1 3½	6,630	7½
Chota	2/-	Dec. 31	50,000	2/3	—	—	733	77	111,647	124,829 (*10*)	152	4,903	1 2	3,125	6¼
Cicely	2/-	Mar. 31	10,000 Ordinary 6,000 5% Pref.	17/6	829	416	1,245	112	398,365	186,794 (*7*)	248	9,963	1 5½	9,900	60 Ord 65 Pref.
Cons. Malay	2/-	Dec. 31	70,000	9/-	2,362½	663½	2,926	114	584,050	569,488 (*10*)	214	26,427	1 3½	26,250	37½
Damansara	£1	Dec. 31	105,000	3½	1,863	458	2,321	141	577,098	509,854 (*10*)	249	29,507	1 1½	28,875	27½
Dennistown	£1	Dec. 31	156,600	1½	1,242	438	1,680	121	349,184	406,249 (*10*)	208	19,656	1 3½	15,026	11
Edinburgh	2/-	Dec. 31	42,500	6/6	930	81½	1,011½	136	240,292	242,500 (*10*)	237	13,326	1 0¾	10,625	25
Federated Selangor	£1	Mar. 31	26,400	5	1,052	—	1,052	125	259,357	184,703 (*7*)	256	13,604	1 1	13,200	50
Glen Bervie	£1	Sept. 30	50,000	1/6	—	—	1,407	54	203,615	18,703 (*1*)	144	6,000*	1 6*	12,500	5*
Glenshiel	£1	Dec. 31	35,000	2½	1,311	12	1,223	74	212,335	175,700 (*10*)	174	6,877	1 6½	6,125	17½
Golconda	£1	Dec. 31	88,000	2/6	1,679	25	1,704	120	427,374	344,967 (*10*)	250	23,866	1 0¾	22,000	25
Golden Hope	£1	Dec. 31	44,000	1⅝	1,019	951	1,970(a)	36(a)	174,133	162,051 (*10*)	205	7,773	1 2¼	7,700	17½
Grand Central	£1	Dec. 31	1,225,000	24/-	12,261	757	13,018	113	2,706,135	2,676,927 (*10*)	197	120,022	1 2½	85,750	7
Gula-Kalumpong	£1	Dec. 31	450,000	1½	3,726	691	4,417	150	825,495	833,467 (*10*)	187	54,551	1 0½	45,000	10
Harpenden	£1	Dec. 31	30,000	7	1,244	403	1,647	127	432,927	331,385 (*10*)	263	24,745	0 11	24,000	80
Hewagam (Ceylon)	£1	Dec. 31	240,000	17/-	2,433	17	2,450	85	432,982	411,100 (*10*)	177	9,989	1 4½	9,600	4
Highlands	£1	Dec. 31	309,481	2½	3,803	361	4,164	186	1,137,858	958,827 (*10*)	273	75,425	1 0¾	64,550	24
Inch Kenneth	£1	June 30	30,000 15,000 Debs.	3½	1,296	99	1,395	78	235,402	108,500 (*5*)	187	10,730	1 3	5,400	20
Jasin	2/- Debs.	Dec. 31	15,000 10,000	1/10	189	952	1,141	45	78,242	101,142 (*10*)	69	1,639	1 9	—	—
Jeram	£1 (£9,200 17/6 paid)	Mar. 31 Shares	47,614	33/6	800	254	1,054	82	164,912	125,807 (*7*)	157	8,712	1 0	7,142	15
Johore Para	£1	June 30	64,995	16/-	456	366	822	63	[illegible]	[illegible] (*6*)	170	7,568	1 0¾	4,875	7½
Johore Rub. Lands	£1	Dec. 31	399,507	17/-	1,883	4,053	5,936	57	229,322	323,532 (*10*)	39	11,918	1 4½	—	—
Jong Lumber	£1	June 30	77,000	2	—	—	1,681‡	92	375,141	161,652 (*4*)	223	17,457	1 4	14,475	17½
Jugra Land & Rub.	£1	April 30	250,000	1¹³/₁₆	3,764	1,236	5,000	82	524,311	370,321 (*6*)	105	25,188	1 1½	20,872	10
Kajang	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	20/-	509	816	1,325	56	55,258	70,450 (*10*)	41	1,799	1 5¼	—	—
Kampong-Kuantan	2/-	Dec. 31	[illegible]	8/6	1,000	—	1,000	127	309,624	262,000 (*10*)	309	17,555	1 0	12,000	40
Kamunting	2/-	June 30	182,425	3 1½	2,015	181	2,196	129	668,277	250,330 (*4*)	304	37,603(c)	1 2	27,364	15
Kapar Para	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	4½	2,491	1,057	3,548	94	618,624	424,319 (*10*)	174	41,122	0 10	37,500	50
Kepong	2/-	Dec. 31	25,000	11/6	663	557	1,230	118	237,819	218,000 (*10*)	195	14,097	1 0	11,250	45
Klanang	2/-	Dec. 31	31,625	15/-	1,428	56	1,484	160	371,340	366,143 (*10*)	251	20,458	0 11¾	20,029	63⅜
Komtek	2/-	Dec. 31	90,000	2/9	1,181	118	1,299	95	239,942	275,290 (*10*)	177	[illegible]	1 4¾	5,625	6¼
Kuala Lumpur	£1	June 30	210,000	5⅜	3,370	1,728	5,098	148	1,285,664	455,575 (*4*)	254	67,429	1 2	47,250	22½
,, Selangor	2/-	Dec. 31	30,600	1⅛	1,470	197	1,667	195	551,854	453,807 (*10*)	331	41,726	0 9½	34,425	112½
Kuran	£1	Dec. 31	37,500	60/-	757	164	921	122	227,683	228,998 (*10*)	247	12,182	1 0½	11,250	30
Labu§	2/-	Dec. 31	100,000	5/-	1,416	1,585	3,001	83	466,651	415,190 (*10*)	155	24,473	1 1	15,000	15
Lanadron	£1	Dec. 31	295,000 22,200 (6% Debs.)	1⅞	4,326	874	5,200	102	1,241,508	1,059,665 (*10*)	235	66,288	1 0½	44,250	15
Langkat Sumatra	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	1¹³/₁₆	1,740	185	1,925	71	329,700	324,024 (*10*)	171	11,955	1 6½	11,250	15
Ledbury	£1	Dec. 31	105,000	2	1,445	721	2,166	100	442,908	439,223 (*10*)	204	[illegible]	1 0¼	16,290	15
Lendu	£1 Debs.	Mar. 31	47,500 20,000	16/-	543	588	1,131	51	108,397	59,694 (*7*)	96	850	2 0	—	—
Linggi	2/-	Dec. 31	110,000	17/6	4,777	2,614	7,391	115	1,389,290	1,195,115 (*10*)	188	78,899	1 2½	75,000	75
,, Pref.	£1		10,000	par											
London Asiatic	2/-	Dec. 31	159,762	6/6	4,078	78	4,156	127	1,131,420	1,014,955 (*10*)	272	51,455	1 3	33,940	25
Lumut	£1	Sept. 30	211,482	1⅝	3,021	59	3,080	113	699,378	74,805 (*1*)	227	[illegible]	1 1*	31,722	15*
Madingley	2/-	Feb. 28	50,986	2/2	325	585	910	60	70,511	[illegible] (*6*)	77	2,589	1 5¼	2,437	5

	Par of Shares	Year Ends	Issued Capital £	Market Price of Shares	Planted Acreage 5 Yrs. and Over	Planted Acreage Under 5 Yrs	Planted Acreage Total	Market Capitalisation per Planted Acre £	Rubber Output Past Year Lb.	Rubber Output Current Year Lb.	Output per Planted Acre Lbs.	Past Year's Results Profit £	Past Year's Results Costs "All in" s. d.	Dividends Paid Amount £	Dividends Paid %
Malacca	£1	Dec. 31	115,000 Pref. 238,964 Ord. £267,540 Debs.	3⅞ 4⅛ 100	—	—	16,000	108	3,382,147	2,882,000 (10)	220	144,224	1 3	62,944	17½
Mapalagama(Ceylon)	2	Dec. 31	50,000	2½	484	352	836	50	65,540	65,058 (10)	78	3,454	1 1	1,875	6¼
Merlimau	-	Dec. 31	202,905 £40,000 Debs.	4⅜ 100	5,038	320	5,358	93	829,644	892,000 (10)	155	38,499	1 1½	28,458	12½
Merton	£1	Dec. 31	25,000	17½	257	267	524	42	92,158	66,832 (9)	176	4,329	1 2½	1,250	5
Narborough	2 Ord. 1 Pref.	June 30	60,000 10,000	1⅝	414	400	814	73	116,172	170,000 (4)	142	5,000*	1 2*	—	—
Nordanal	£1	Dec. 31	280,000	1 1/16	1,230	1,255	2,485	119	575,874	500,849 (10)	232	36,686	0 11½	30,800	11
North Hummock	£1	June 30	80,000	3	1,897	925	2,820	85	377,115	162,143 (4)	132	19,663	1 2½	16,000	20
Oriental	£1	Dec. 31	55,000	¼	1,545	184	1,729	104	335,170	478,903 (10)	194	11,169	1 6½	11,000	20
P.P.K. (Ceylon)	£1	Dec. 31	85,000	2⅜	1,005	—	1,005	90	189,256	212,307 (10)	189	8,381	1 1½	8,500	10
Padang Jawa	2 -	Mar. 31	65,000	2⅜	680	110	790	90	150,655	107,781 (7)	191	8,399	0 11½	4,550	7
Patalima	2	Dec. 31	22,500	1⅝	1,422	186	1,608	217	583,705	489,681 (10)	363	39,350	0 10	39,375	175
Pegoh	£1	Sept. 30	130,000	2	3,521	—	3,521	74	573,066	53,423 (1)	163	*28,000	*1 2	*20,250	*17½
Perak	2 -	Mar. 31	89,000	5 -	946	352	1,298	169	420,267	278,720 (7)	324	22,527	1 1	20,025	22½
Permas	£1	June 30	75,000	2½	884	432	1,316	59	211,536	87,455 (4)	160	8,429	1 6	3,750	5
Port Dickson	2 -	Mar. 31	173,006	1⅜	876	2,108	2,984	51	212,815	166,450 (7)	71	6,071	1 7	—	—
Rani Travancore	£1	Dec. 31	275,000	2½	2,195	979	3,174	91	647,760	525,377 (2)	204	33,349	1 1½	27,500	10
Ratanui	£1	Sept. 30	39,470	41 -	507	274	781	104	198,121	22,054 (1)	254	10,000*	1 1*	5,507	17½*
Rembia	£1	Sept. 30	80,000	21	—	—	1,583	61	267,386	500,000 (7)	163	10,954	1 8½	8,800	11
Riverside Selangor	£1	Dec. 31	75,000	13	1,074	1,218	2,292	98	315,581	255,418 (10)	141	21,073	0 10¼	16,717	25
Rubana	£1	April 30	250,000	27	1,339	1,665	3,004	114	511,662	267,681 (6)	170	27,037	1 0¾	25,000	10
Rub. Est. of Johore	£1	Dec. 31	125,000	1½	1,813		1,813	121	539,877	537,557 (10)	298	22,340	1 3½	12,500	10
Rub. Ests. of Krian	2/-	Dec. 31	120,000	2⅜	1,000	683	1,683	89	260,431	271,151 (10)	155	13,222	1 1½	6,000	5
Sagga	£1	July 31	23,000	⅞	1,196	311	1,507	87	358,828	96,000 (3)	238	17,199	1 3½	9,200	40
St. George (Ceylon)	£1	Dec. 31	70,000	4⅝	1,579	—	1,579	104	397,513	373,000 (10)	252	19,165	1 2½	15,750	22½
Scottish Malay	£1	Dec. 31	54,500	1	1,403	801	2,204	98	314,756	316,020 (10)	143	20,459	0 11½	15,042	30
Seaport	£1	June 30	187,500	½	900	885	1,785	84	262,600	101,785 (4)	194	15,310	1 2	14,062	7½
Seafield	£1	Dec. 31	100,000	4	2,214	36	2,250	191	736,000	683,462 (10)	327	46,905	0 11½	45,000	45
Segamat	£1 Dbs.	Dec. 31	59,815 60,000	16 -	1,002	817	1,819	59	147,338	187,940 (10)	81	6,213	1 3¾	—	—
Sekong (Borneo)	£1	July 31	80,000	15 -	423	656	1,079	56	144,359	35,067 (3)	134	6,940	1 4½	4,000	5
Selaba	£1	Dec. 31	125,000	1½	1,885	594	2,479	87	529,998	471,286 (10)	214	25,408	1 1½	18,750	15
Selangor	2 -	Dec. 31	30,000	21 6	1,742	525	2,267	142	614,199	514,114 (10)	271	41,940	0 10½	20,000	100
,, River	£1 Dbs.	Dec. 31	149,282 8,220	3½	1,520	787	2,307	83	242,464	347,540 (10)	152	13,954	1 2¾	9,856	20
,, United	2 -	Mar. 31	79,927	1 10	589	640	1,229	57	102,405	71,080 (7)	84	5,441	1 1	3,664	5
Sennah	£1	June 30	452,500	1	3,321	3,862	7,183	86	980,253	426,193 (4)	136	52,112	1 2½	45,250	10
Sengat	2 -	June 30	170,000	1 10	1,084	489	1,573	99	273,100	119,456 (4)	173	17,107	1 0½	10,625	6¼
Serdang Centrl.	£1	Dec. 31	62,479	1 1/16	1,270	336	1,606	56	131,476	193,500 (10)	82	3,617	1 7½	3,749	6
Seremban	£1	Dec. 31	200,000	1	2,140	491	2,632	76	516,084	486,226 (10)	196	24,115	1 2½	12,000	6
Sialang	£1	Jan. 31	200,000	2⅛	3,881	2,086	5,967	78	484,574	570,405 (10)	81	27,606	1 1½	24,000	12
Singapore Para	2 -	June 30	130,900	2 6	1,351	318	1,669	97	359,725	166,478 (4)	186	16,476	1 3½	13,090	10
,, United	2/-	June 30	249,800	2 6	—	—	3,712	83	402,274	166,700 (4)	108	21,616	0 11½	21,498	10
Straits	£1	Dec. 31	350,000	4	4,355	3,245	7,600	187	2,194,782	1,686,114 (10)	288	164,751	0 10½	140,000	40
,, Bertam	2 -	Mar. 31	200,000	4 -	3,538	1,094	4,632	92	751,921	523,500 (7)	166	39,319	1 1	25,000	12½
Sumatra Cons.	£1	April 30	89,150	2½	1,972	300	2,272	96	308,148	198,300 (6)	135½	18,937	1 1½	17,925	20
Sumatra Para	2 -	June 30	125,000	6⅜	2,418	1,199	3,617	117	532,233	193,000 (4)	146	32,850	1 1½	33,854	27½
Sungei Buruva	£1	June 30	85,000	1⅝	999	1,049	2,048	66	300,660	131,100 (4)	146	14,803	1 3½	12,722	15
,, Buloh	£1	Dec. 31	50,000	4½	1,413	340	1,753	128	459,247	435,350 (10)	266	28,826	1 0	22,500	45
,, Choh	£1	Dec. 31	50,000	2½	1,320	404	1,724	76	288,542	277,298 (9)	166	15,161	1 1½	10,000	20
,, Kapar	2 -	Dec. 31	100,000	8 -	2,072	482	2,554	157	658,616	533,800 (10)	259	39,427	1 0	34,610	37½
,, Kari	£1 Ord. 10,000 £1 Pref. 10,- paid	June 30	55,979 5,000	35 -	630	413	1,043	101	287,510	101,180 (4)	276	20,026	—	13,720	22½
,, Krian	£1	Dec. 31	82,000 6% Pref. 18,000 Ord.	(Pref.) 2	1,470	884	2,354	85	262,582	420,228 (10)	111	15,233	1 1½	13,732	10
,, Kruit	£1	Dec. 31	65,000	1½	810	506	1,316	74	171,065	205,870 (10)	130	7,479	1 4	5,200	8
,, Salak	£1	Dec. 31	65,000	2⅝	1,410	151	1,561	130	481,960	418,369 (10)	293	23,525	1 3	17,875	27½
,, Way	£1	Dec. 31	58,666	3¼	1,231	756	1,987	101	426,126	379,401 (10)	214	25,624	1 2	20,533	35
Sungkai Chumor	£1	June 30	40,000	78/-	1,197	380	1,577	98	371,600	147,500 (4)	236	19,781	1 1	16,000	40
Taiping	2/- Loan	Sept. 30	204,210 £10,900	2 6	1,939	—	1,939	137	484,599	49,225 (1)	249	23,000*	1 2*	12,252*	6*
Tali Ayer	£1	April 30	300,000	1⅝	1,563	2,252	3,815	103	462,046	306,730 (6)	121	26,844	1 0½	30,000	10
Tandjong	£1	June 30	150,000	3	3,634	1,482	5,116	89	804,327	366,148 (4)	157	39,716	1 2¼	30,000	20
Tanjong Malim	£1	June 30	500,000	22 -	2,483	4,164	6,647	75	571,538	235,892 (4)	86	26,513	1 5	25,000	5
Tebrau	£1	June 30	125,000	2⅝	2,684	1,233	3,917	73	646,360	285,949 (4)	164	33,172	1 2	12,500	10
Third Mile	2 -	Dec. 31	41,500	6 12	944	374	1,318	96	301,582	267,710 (10)	229	11,507	1 4	8,620	22½
Tremelbye	£1	June 30	69,000	4	1,448	579	2,027	136	545,350	195,850 (4)	269	33,845	1 0½	31,050	45
Ulu Rantau	£1	Dec. 31	32,931	2½	579	92	671	135	239,316	183,324 (10)	369	11,574	1 2½	9,870	30
United Serdang	2/-	Aug. 30	250,000	10⅜	8,295	1,304	9,599	134	2,470,196	493,950 (2)	257	148,000*	1 0*	100,000	40*
,, Sua Betong	£1 Dbs.	Dec. 31	63,800 60,000	28 -	1,763	1,297	3,060	49	111,270	322,510 (10)	36	4,305	1 5½	—	—
,, Sumatra	2/-	Dec. 31	110,000	6 -	—	—	3,642	91	470,417	520,700 (10)	129	26,010	1 1½	20,833	20*
,, Temiang	2/-	July 31	131,687	2 3	723	1,610	2,333	63	264,219	85,490 (3)	113	12,947	1 3½	6,584	5
Vallambrosa	2/-	Feb. 28	50,600	15 -	2,262	1,084	3,346	110	542,203	280,511 (6)	162	24,873	1 3½	17,394	37½
Yam Seng	2/-	Oct. 31	41,900	4 7½	845	591	1,434	71	200,768	249,908	174	12,000*	1 2*	7,332*	17½*

* Estimated. † Interplanted with coffee. ‡ About half the acreage is in bearing. § Holds 132,023 Chevilot shares
Figures in parentheses ( ) denote months of output of current year. (a) Including estate purchased September 1915, being financed by Company's Debenture.
(b) Excluding 20,944 shares under option at par. (c) Includes £1,409 profit from tin.

return on his money with considerable chances of capital appreciation as the planted areas approach maturity and costs of production are reduced.

At the present time most of the share values are based upon a price of rubber very considerably less than the existing quotation of over 3*s.* per pound, so that share prices are not inflated. Of course some shares are more fully valued than others, for naturally an estate in full bearing, or nearing maturity, commands a higher price than an estate in a less forward stage of production. Therefore it is preferable to purchase the shares of a relatively young—though not too young—rubber estate, showing progressive increase of output, rather than the shares of a fully, or nearly fully, matured plantation with a practically stationary output.

It should be borne in mind that an average rubber estate at full maturity will yield about 350 lb. per planted acre, and the nearer an estate approaches this figure the nearer it is to full maturity. The finest estates will produce 400 lb. per planted acre, or even more, but 350 lb. is a conservative average allowance. In purchasing a rubber share, then, one point to note is the present rubber yield per planted acre in comparison with 350, at the same time taking into account the proportion of the planted estate that is still immature, or, say, less than five years old. With this comparison in mind, turn to the market capitalisation per planted acre, which is the principal index of share valuation. We showed last week that on the basis of a full maturity yield of 350 lb. per planted acre and 1*s.* per lb. profit—*i.e.*, conservatively taking rubber at 2*s.* per lb. and "all-in" costs at 1*s.* per lb.—the maximum intrinsic value of a rubber estate at full maturity, to give the investor a 10% yield, would be £175 per planted acre. But to

allow for contingencies it is better to adopt a figure of £150 as the standard, and, as a general rule, it may be said that the relative merits of rubber shares can be roughly judged by the degree of proximity of their market capitalisations per planted acre to this figure of £150. Care should be taken, however, to see that "all-in" costs are low, *i.e.*, as near as possible to or under 1*s.* per lb., and it should also be noted whether the portion of the estate in bearing is giving a good yield of rubber or not. For instance, Batu Caves shares at their present price of £12 represent a market capitalisation per planted acre as high as £190, but as on the basis of last year's and this year's dividends the yield to the investor is 12½%, the shares are obviously not over-valued. The explanation is as follows:—

(1) The yield per planted acre at full maturity will probably be over 400 lb., as with about 30% of the planted acreage under five years old the yield has already reached over 330 lb. per planted acre.

(2) The "all-in" cost in 1914 was under 1*s.* per lb., viz., 10½*d.* per lb.

(3) The price obtained for rubber in 1914 averaged 2*s.* 2½*d.* per lb.

These reasons explain why Batu Caves market capitalisation of £190 per planted acre, though much higher than the adopted standard of £150, is not unreasonable, and the same remarks apply to Pataling and one or two other shares.

In the accompanying cross-page table we give the vital information necessary to the appraising of about 140 different rubber shares. We have set the three most important columns in conspicuous type. The reader, casting his eyes from left to right, will see what portion of the planted area has reached, or is about to reach, the tapping stage, what portion has still to come into production, and the total planted area. He will then observe the market capitalisation per planted acre, which he must consider in relation to the rubber production, the output per planted acre, and the "all-in" costs shown in the succeeding columns. Also, he will note the profit earned in the last financial year and the dividends paid, indicating the margin between the distribution to shareholders and the profit earned. As regards the very important factor of liquid resources, it is satisfactory to be able to say that the balance sheets of most of the companies given below disclose quite healthy financial positions, profits in the majority of cases having been conservatively distributed. We venture to think a study of the table will open the eyes of many rubber shareholders to the value of their investments in comparison with others offering at present market prices, and will give a good idea of the number of shares that offer distinct attractions to the investor willing to take a comparatively low yield on his money now, with the almost certain prospect of a higher return later on, and the natural corollary of appreciation in capital value.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO., LTD.

COMMENTING on the results of this well-known Company for 1914 in May last, we pointed out that it was receiving great benefit from the large demands occasioned by the War. The statement receives ample justification in the accounts that have been issued this week covering the period from January 1 to July 11, 1915, the period thus being nearly 6½ months. For this period a trading profit of £267,333 is shown, which compares with £151,497 for the whole of 1914, the expansion that has occurred being evidently very great. The directors of the Company have shown themselves fully alive to the importance of keeping the works modern, and of the desirability of making sufficient extensions so as to cope with a steadily growing business, and during recent years a considerable capital expenditure has been made for this purpose. The Company has two works, one at Southampton and the other at Basingstoke, and in both places expenditure has been incurred so as to cope with an increasing output. Indeed, since 1906 the Company has expended such sums as to raise the assets from £699,804 to £1,139,874 without either increasing its share or loan capital, that is to say, the expenditure on the business has amounted to £440,070, as may be seen from the following comparison of the liabilities and assets at the dates named:—

LIABILITIES.

	1915	1906	Inc. or Dec.
	£	£	£
Issued capital:			
6% Cum. Preference shares ...	198,000	198,000	—
Ordinary shares...	148,500	148,500	—
5% 1st Mortgage Debentures ...	160,000	160,000	—
5½% 2nd Mortgage Debentures ...	100,000	100,000	—
Reserves	70,000	—	+ 70,000
Creditors, &c.	215,436	92,235	+123,201
Profit and loss	247,938	1,069	+246,869
	1,139,874	699,804	+440,070

ASSETS.

	1915	1906	Inc. or Dec.
	£	£	£
Cash	164,410	15,455	+148,955
Debtors	262,602	74,430	+188,172
Investments	7,500	8,080	— 580
Stock of stores, &c.	396,809	249,950	+140,859
Land, buildings, &c.	233,996	258,090	— 24,094
Premiums on Debentures	30,557	7,127	+ 23,430
Goodwill	50,000	86,672	— 36,672
	1,139,874	699,804	+440,070

The benefit of this large expenditure is now being reaped.

It may perhaps be desirable to add that the reason for presenting the accounts covering a broken period of 6½ months is that the business was placed under the control of the Ministry of Munitions as from July 12 last, and, accordingly, it was deemed desirable to present accounts to July 11. For 1914 the allowance for depreciation, including a sum written off for special depreciation, was £29,241. For the six months of 1915 the amount set aside is £21,830. Moreover, the capital expenditure incurred during this period has also been charged to profit and loss account, the reason being that the expenditure has been made with a view to increasing the output during the War, and the value of it at the termination of the War "is more than problematical." Practically the whole of the resources of the Company have been employed upon war work, and the total turnover of the business has been about four times the normal average. It is not surprising, therefore, that such a substantial increase has occurred in the profits. After providing for the Preference dividend there is a balance of £231,729, as compared with £95,760 for 1914, a sum which is large enough to provide for a distribution (actual) of over 300%. The amount distributed is £14,850, representing an actual dividend of 10%, or at the approximate rate of 18½ per annum, and of the balance a sum of £49,000 is set aside for the purpose of writing down the goodwill account, reducing the item to £1,000, £10,000 is transferred to the special reserve account, bringing it up to £50,000, while £90,000 is carried to the Ordinary reserve, bringing it up to £100,000. There then remains a balance of £67,879, which is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £78,148.

The comparison of the profits since 1910 is as follows:—

Year ended Dec. 31—	1915†	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit	267,333	151,497	47,158	64,971	87,190	63,915
Depreciation	21,830	29,241	19,526	18,435	18,095	18,961
Directors' fees	677	1,116	1,200	1,600	800	800
Debenture interest ...	7,157	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Net profit	237,669	107,640	12,932	31,436	54,795	30,654
Preference div. (6%) ...	5,940	11,880	11,880	11,880	29,700*	29,700*
	231,729	95,760	1,052	19,556	25,005	954
Ordinary dividend ...	14,850	11,880	3,713	7,425	7,425	—
	(10%)‡	(8%)	(2½%)	(5%)	(5%)	
	216,879	83,880	Dr.2,661	12,131	17,670	954
Reserve	100,000	40,000	—	10,000	—	—
Written off goodwill, &c.	49,000	36,672	—	—	16,993	—
	67,879	7,208	Dr.2,661	2,131	677	954
Brought forward ...	10,269	3,061	5,722	3,591	2,914	1,960
Carried forward ...	78,148	10,269	3,061	5,722	3,591	2,914

* For 2½ years. † Period ended July 11, 1915.
‡ Actual: at the rate of 18½% per annum approximately.

It is pointed out that no special provision has been made in the accounts for income-tax or excess profits tax, as in the present position of the law it is impossible to arrive at any reliable estimate of this liability.

The market was rather inclined to look for a larger distribution of profits, but it will be generally agreed that the conservative distribution of profits is distinctly wise. Thereby the Company has placed itself in a very strong position, and has eliminated possible weak points. At January 1, 1914, the goodwill, &c., stood at £86,672; this has now been written down to £1,000. The reserve and carry-forward combined amount to £228,148, an item which is very little short of both Debenture issues totalling £260,000. It will be noted that the Company has accumulated a sum of £30,557, representing premiums paid on Debenture redemption policies, by means of which the whole of the £260,000 of Debentures at present in issue will eventually be redeemed. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at July 11 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	164,110
5% 1st Mort. Debs. ...	160,000	[illegible]	262,562
[illegible]% 2nd Mort. Debs. ...	[illegible]	Investments	7,500
Reserve	10,000	Stock of stores, &c. ...	390,809
Special reserve	10,000	Land, buildings, &c. ...	233,996
Benevolent fund	20,000	Fi[illegible]	30,557
Sundry creditors	215,1[illegible]	C[illegible]sh, &c.	50,000
Profit and loss	217,[illegible]		
	1,139,874		1,139,874

Presumably as the Company is now a controlled institution, no information is given as to the amount of work on hand, but it is, of course, absolutely certain that the Company is not only extremely busy at the present time, but that it has ample work in hand to keep it busily employed for some time to come. It is also certain that, at any rate as long as war lasts, both works—at Southampton and at Basingstoke—will continue to be employed to their fullest extent, and the outlook, therefore, is for a continuance of the substantial profits reported for the first half of 1915. Moreover, by reason of the conservative distribution policy, and of keeping in hand such substantial sums, the Company is laying the foundation for continuance of prosperity after the War is brought to an end, and the abnormal Government requirements now being satisfied will no longer be forthcoming. The directors and the management are certainly to be congratulated on the excellent results now shown, and the shareholders also are to be envied for the substantial dividend they are receiving, and likewise on the probability of equally large dividends in the future.

The yields afforded by the securities are as follows:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
160,000	5% 1st Mortgage Debentures ...	100	93	5	5 11 1
100,000	5½% 2nd Mortgage Debentures ...	100	91	5½	6 4 8
198,000	6% Cum. Preference	1	17 -	6	7 6 4
148,500	Ordinary shares	1	26 -	18½*	*15 8 5

* Approximate.

SUNBEAM MOTOR CAR COMPANY.

The twelve months to August 31, 1915, have proved a very prosperous period for this well-known motor-car company, the net trading profit amounting to £277,223, as compared with £102,300. Since March last the entire energies of the Company have been used on behalf of the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Allied Governments. It has supplied a very large quantity of motor-cars and ambulances to the War Office and large numbers of aviation engines to the Admiralty. Moreover, at the further request of the Admiralty, the Company has taken up the manufacture of waterplanes. As the joint manager pointed out at the meeting, this new industry of the Sunbeam Company had not only been extended beyond all expectations, but had represented a far bigger business than had ever been done in motor-cars. "Even should there be a big slump in the motor-car trade, the Company could still easily maintain its rate of profit on aviation engines alone. Moreover, they had a third string to their bow in the building of complete flying-machines. The first complete waterplane had been delivered and had made a successful flight. The Company had in hand from the Admiralty orders for complete machines worth thousands of pounds, and this in itself would prove a very remunerative adjunct." The result of the improvement in profits during the year is that the dividend on the Ordinary shares is increased from 15% to 25%, and a sum of no less than £120,000, equivalent to a dividend of 50% on the Ordinary capital, is carried to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £220,000, while the carry-forward is increased by £55,556 to £75,667.

The profits for the past six years and the manner of distributing them may be seen from the following statement:—

Year ended Aug. 31—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross trading profit ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	105,297	67,153	38,545
Expenses	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	23,394	15,287	13,997
Net trading profit ...	277,223	102,300	134,649	81,903	51,866	24,548
Transfer fees, &c. ...	2,570	297	396	190	27	5
	279,793	102,597	135,045	82,093	51,893	24,553
Repairs and renewals ...	13,516	17,325	24,284	14,[illegible]	5,776	—
Income tax, &c. ...	9,382	7,920	4,201	802	[illegible]	612
Depreciation ...	15,539	10,109	11,651	6,100	4,724	2,641
Balance	241,356	67,243	[illegible]	60,789	40,998	21,300
Preference dividend	1,800	1,806	1,800	1,800	1,570	1,200
Ordinary dividend ...	60,000	36,000	40,000	21,667	11,859	8,000
	[illegible]	(15%)	[illegible]	(25%)	(20%)	(20%)
	179,556	29,443	53,109	37,322	27,569	12,100
Reserve	124,000	25,000	44,000	38,032	20,000	9,406
	[illegible]	[illegible]	9,109	—710	7,569	[illegible]
Brought forward ...	20,111*	15,668	[illegible]*	[illegible]	1,100*	
Carried forward ...	75,667	22,111	15,668	7,959	8,669	[illegible]

* Directors' fees deducted.

The Company is now a controlled establishment, and, consequently, the question of excess profits has to be met. By keeping in hand so substantial a proportion of the profits, the Company is well placed to meet any demand that may be made upon it in this direction. There is no doubt, of course, that it will continue to be very busily employed, and the outlook is, consequently, very bright. The £1 Ordinary share is now quoted at 46*s.*, and on the basis of the 25% dividend paid last year the yield afforded is practically 12½%. As already pointed out, last year the Company earned no less than 100% on its Ordinary capital, and, consequently, it may be anticipated that future distributions will be on a large scale.

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
[illegible]	[illegible]% Cum. Preference ...	1	—	[illegible]	
240,000	Ord. Shares	1	46 -	25*	12 3 5

* Free of tax.

"The War and Life Assurance. With-profits Policyholders' Precarious Position." By A. H. Swain. Price 2*s.* (Leicester: The Insurance Press, Limited.)

"South-West Africa." By William Eveleigh. Price 5*s.* (London: T. Fisher Unwin.) A brief but comprehensive account of the country, its history, its people, its resources, and its great possibilities.

A new and enlarged edition of Dr. Ingram's "History of Political Economy" has this week been published by Messrs. A. and C. Black, Limited. This will be welcomed both by lecturers and students of economics. The new edition contains a supplementary chapter by Wm. A. Scott, LL.D., and an introduction by Richard T. Ely, LL.D. Price 7*s.* 6*d.*

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having already contributed between 600 and 700 men to the Army, all the remaining men of military age in the London office were attested on the premises on Wednesday last, previous arrangements having been made for the doctors to attend. All men of military age in the various branches of the bank have now received permission to attest under Lord Derby's scheme.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

DURING the past fortnight a rather marked rise has occurred in the price of raw cotton, the advance amounting to about a halfpenny a pound in American qualities. Yarn and cloth quotations have been put up to a corresponding extent, and the higher rates have checked business, especially in piece-goods. The stronger tone in raw-cotton circles has been chiefly due to the abnormal conditions which prevail in the Liverpool market. Importers are meeting with very limited offerings on the part of growers in the States, and there has been competition for the available supplies in Liverpool, which to a large extent are already sold against contracts. American freight charges tend to increase and shipping is scarce. The position of affairs may be described as rather artificial, but there are few indications at the moment of any definite relief, and the general feeling is more "bullish" than a little time ago. The disorganisation of railway traffic throughout Lancashire is very pronounced. Spinners complain of delay in getting raw cotton from Liverpool, and facilities for sending yarn from the spinning mills to the weaving sheds are very restricted. Then piece-goods cannot be moved freely from the ports as vessels are in limited supply. The shortage of labour as a result of the recruiting for the Army is largely responsible for the harassing conditions, and traders at the moment are encountering more difficulties than at any time since the beginning of the War.

Towards the end of last week there was a slight improvement in the demand in cloth for certain outlets, but the higher prices which have since ruled have blocked progress. Some special contracts have been arranged in sheetings and shirtings for China, but general buying does not seem to be any nearer. The advance in silver is a favourable feature. Our customers in India continue to resist the prices ruling on this side, and seem determined to do without replacements rather than operate at the moment at current rates. In the meantime stocks in the bazaars are gradually being reduced, and the recent appreciation in values should assist clearances. Of the minor outlets, South America continues to do fairly well and business has been offering at a price for Egypt. During the last few weeks exports to certain Near Eastern outlets have been entirely stopped. The shortage of dyestuffs continues to hamper business in printing and finishing cloths. Some local home-trade houses are now engaged in stocktaking and fewer orders are being placed with manufacturers, but there is not much to complain about with regard to the way in which deliveries are being taken against old contracts.

All kinds of yarn are distinctly dearer than a fortnight ago. American spinners are in a position to put up their quotations and remain firm thereat. A large business has recently been done, and it is quite evident users have bought in excess of their immediate requirements. The fear has been general of scarcity of certain kinds of yarn, and speculative purchasing has undoubtedly occurred. The finer numbers in wefts are in short supply, and cases have been mentioned this week of fancy prices being paid for prompt delivery. American spinners as a body are enjoying a much healthier margin of profit than a month or two ago, in spite of the increased cost of production as a result of a smaller amount of machinery running. Doublers are very busy and making a lot of money. Trade in bundles for India has tapered off somewhat, the bids being unworkable. A fair amount of buying, however, has continued to take place for the Continent, especially France. Two-fold descriptions are deeply under contract. Further improvement has shown itself in Egyptian yarns, and although stocks can be found in some quarters, these are not so formidable as a little time ago, and this section as a whole is gradually getting into a more profitable condition.

COTTON SPINNING IN 1915. UNPROFITABLE YEAR.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the twelve months ending November 30, 1915. Particulars are given of 66 companies, whose total paid-up share capital amounts to £2,326,969, and loan capital is £906,185. At the beginning of the year spinners were very adversely affected by the War, but some producers of coarse yarns were doing well, owing to the active demand in heavy cloths to meet the requirements of the Government. The March stocktakings were therefore irregular, and, on the whole, disappointing. There was some improvement at the end of June, and most concerns were in a position to report small profits at the end of September. Recently the margin of profit for spinners has much improved as a result of the shortage of labour and the lessened supplies of twist and weft upon the market. The American section, on the whole, has done better than the Egyptian spinning department. The total profit for the twelve months of the 66 companies, after paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation, only amounts to £5,509. This works out at an average profit per company of £89, as compared with £57 in 1914. The percentage of profit on share capital is therefore less than 1%, and, although many companies have paid dividends out of reserve funds, the trading for the year may be described as unremunerative. The total value of plant, including machinery of these mills, is £2,698,958, and the spindles total 5,701,823. The prospects in the market are more encouraging that at any time since the beginning of the War, and the strong position in which many spinners are now situated should result in improved stocktaking reports during the next few months.

OIL AND COAL.

IMMEDIATELY prior to the outbreak of war, the Scottish shale oil industry was in a state of depression. More than one influence caused the depression; but the most important was the keen competition introduced by United States oil producers, and a consequent lowering of prices. The Scottish products were undersold to such an extent that in some cases the abandonment of production was seriously contemplated. The outbreak of war, however, brought about a change in affairs. The Navy made increased demands on the crude products—the best fuel for oil-stoked ships—and higher freights were followed by increased prices.

The result is that the Scottish shale industry is now active. The demand for every product is almost overwhelming, and though the cost of production is increased the ratio of profit is higher. Oils, for example, are 2*d.* to 3*d.* per gallon higher than they were even last year. The price of wax has increased by £7 per ton, and ammonia costs £5 more per ton. In view of these increases in price it is of interest to add that Scotland produces annually about:—

Burning oils...	**20,000,000 gallons**
Naphtha	**5,000,000 „**
Gas and lubricating oils	**25,000 000 „**
Paraffin wax	**25,000 tons**
Sulphate of ammonia	**54,000 „**

There are other less important products from shale, but all are in demand and commanding higher prices. Sufficient statistics have been given to indicate an increase in the selling prices of the total production of, roughly, £1,000,000, of which about half may be regarded as additional profit. The estimate is probably below the mark, but it serves to show that shareholders need not contemplate another year of depressing accounts.

In the Scottish coal trade business is hampered. There continues diminution of transport facilities. In some places miners may not work a full shift owing to the congestion of supplies awaiting waggons at the pit head. The shortage of empty waggons is due as much to a shortage of railway labour as to the importance of other traffic, and, with the best will in the world, the railway companies cannot do more for coalowners than they are doing now. The shortage of waggons, unfortunately, arises at a time when there is really a heavy demand for coal. Exporters, as well as home traders, have a good supply of orders on hand; but they cannot get delivery for the reason mentioned. There is little hope that better railway transport will be available before the end of the year. Shipping tonnage is also scarce, but there is sufficient available to deal with the coal supplies on hand. Indeed, more coal could be dealt with were it forthcoming. Freights are making new records daily. For example, the freight per ton to Genoa before the War was 7*s.* 6*d.*; it is now 60*s.* If carriage costs to Milan, for instance, are added, as well as the demurrage at the congested Genoese docks, and higher landing charges, the customer in Milan must pay at least £5 per ton for his Scottish coal. People in these islands are not so badly off after all.

Prices have been advancing for all classes of fuel within the limits of the Coal Prices Limitation Act. Double these prices could easily be obtained in many cases where the demand is very urgent. The situation generally is, therefore, summed up in the words, "great shortage of coal."

New Issues.

PORT ST. MARY FISHING AND CURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THIS Company has made an issue this week at par of 25,000 7½% Participating Preference shares of £1 each. The Company is formed with a capital of £50,000, divided into 49,000 Preference shares of £1 each and 20,000 Deferred shares of 1*s.* each, the former being entitled to a 7½% dividend and one-half surplus profits, after carrying to reserve 5% of the balance and such further sums as the board may from time to time determine, the Deferred shares being entitled to the balance. The Company is formed to establish a fishing business at Port St. Mary, Isle of Man, and it is considered that the present forms a satisfactory opportunity for carrying on such a business. It will be recognised that the industry is a speculative one, and doubtless applicants for shares have considered the risk run.

BAHIA BLANCA AND N. W. RAILWAY.

AFTER the disappointing showing made by the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company in 1913-14, a marked recovery occurred last year. Three years ago the traffic receipts of the line touched the maximum figure of £836,036. In 1913-14 they dropped to £542,780, notwithstanding an addition of 50 miles to the system operated, and last year, with the same mileage open, they rose to £755,753, an increase compared with the preceding year of £212,973, or nearly 40%, and a decrease compared with the maximum of £80,283 only. Passenger earnings were £6,681 better than in 1913-14, but the principal increases occurred in wheat, barley, and oats. The quantity of wheat carried amounted to 842,135 tonnes against 383,776 tonnes, and the receipts therefrom advanced from £105,614 to £245,334. Barley, oats, &c., amounted to 276,691 tonnes against 155,278 tonnes, and produced in revenue £42,579, as compared with £19,358. The total goods and live stock carried amounted to £492,244, an increase of £156,568, or 46.6%. It is interesting to note that Bahia Blanca now holds first place among the ports of the Argentine Republic in the matter of exports of wheat and oats. This will be seen from the table appended, showing the export of these cereals from the various ports between January 1 and September 23 last:—

Port.	Wheat Tonnes	Oats Tonnes
Bahia Blanca	905,628	407,381
Buenos Ayres	521,884	87,027
La Plata	156,345	14,620
Rosario	698,642	1,330
Santa Fe	106,897	
Other ports	5,419	..
	2,392,815	510,358

These figures compare with exports of 928,600 tonnes of wheat and 344,439 of oats in the previous year. The following is a comparison of the traffic receipts of the line since 1905-6:—

Year	Miles Open	Amount £	Year	Miles Open	Amount £
1914–15	874	755,753	1909–10	701	588,255
1913–14	874	542,780	1908–09	665	621,074
1912–13	824	836,036	1907–08	638	494,360
1911–12	782	692,125	1906–07	439	269,789
1910–11	722	520,823	1905–06	239	166,400

The line is worked by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, which guarantees interest upon the Company's Debenture stock and certain specified dividends on the Ordinary capital, so that the stockholders are not directly affected by the good or bad results of the year's working. Nevertheless, the figures are interesting in the bearing they have upon the position of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company. Moreover, the prospects of the division, the General Manager states, are hopeful, and better results should be secured in the current year. The price of the guaranteed stock, which is at present in receipt of 4% dividends, and which in and after the year 1917 will be receiving 4½% distributions, is now 68½, and the yield afforded is 6⅝%. The £2,000,000 5% Guaranteed shares of £10 each, which carry interest at the rate of 5% per annum until March 31, 1916, will, after that date, be converted into 4½% Guaranteed stock, in accordance with the terms of the issue. The price is about 6½, and on a 4½% dividend basis the yield afforded is about £6⅞ per cent.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

ARAMAYO FRANCKE MINES, LIMITED.

THE tenth ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the registered office of the Company, 148½ Fenchurch Street, E.C., on December 2, 1915, Mr. F. Avelino Aramayo (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. L. A. Kensington) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been circulated in due course among all the shareholders, I suppose we may take it for granted that you will consider them as read.

In rising to move the adoption of the report and accounts, it is not pleasant to have to review the results of a year overloaded with adverse circumstances, as I had occasion to point out when I last had the pleasure of addressing you.

The Effect of the War.

Our revenue account, as you will have noticed, shows a net profit of £3,504 3*s.* 2*d.* in Bolivia, before deducting charges in England, as against £135,764 17*s.* 9*d.* for the previous year ended May 31, 1914, after the usual careful valuation of stocks and plant. You will remember, however, that the sales of the previous year were enhanced by an unusual accumulation of minerals, while in the year under review we have had to contend with a partial suspension of the mines, during a period of six months, with a considerable reduction of the sales, and with a still worse factor—the prevalence of the lowest price of tin known since our existence as a Company. In addition to this, the cost price of our tin concentrates has been considerably increased by the unavoidable maintenance of preparatory work and general expenses distributed over a small output, by the high rates of sea freight and marine insurance, and by the excessive returning charges for smelting which prevail on account of the War, besides a fall in exchange, which has unfavourably affected our valuation of stocks. The result is that our total sales of black tin amounted to 2,314.16 tons, or £139,319 3*s.*, as against 4,218.16 tons, or £352,048 16*s.* 6*d.*, the year before, the difference of price realised per ton having been, on an average, £23 4*s.* 5*d.* against the year under review.

Production Results.

There were no sales of wolfram, the small output being carried over as stock. The sales of copper matte amounted to 111.5 tons, or £5,167 11*s.* 3*d.*, and the average price per ton obtained was £8 2*s.* 10*d.* less than in the previous year. The sales of bismuth were reduced by 64.07 tons on account of the lock-up of our stocks in Germany, while new refining works were established in England, but the price obtained was 11*d.* better per pound on an average. The total production of black tin amounted to 2,060.3 tons, or 1,382 tons less than in the previous year. The amount of tin ore treated was 35,774 tons, of an average yield of 5.6%, on account of the greater treatment of tailings, as against 43,366 tons, with a yield of 8%, in 1913-14. The production of wolfram was 36 tons, or 15.4 tons more, and the production of crude bismuth 73.76 tons more than in 1913-14. Only a small quantity of silver ore was obtained during development work in Chocaya. The production of copper matte amounted to 39 tons of metallic copper, or 116 tons less than in the previous year.

The Prospects.

Now, referring to the work done during the first five months of the present financial year—namely, from June to October inclusive—and to future prospects, I can only say that we have not been greatly encouraged by the price of tin and by the general conditions of the market. The returning charges for smelting have increased from £9 or £10, at which they were in normal times, to £20 and even £25 per ton of mineral. We have at present in England and afloat an accumulated stock of black tin of not less than 1,181 tons. It is only within the last few weeks that an improvement in the market for tin has been noticed, and the price has gone up about £20 per ton.

Production again Almost Normal.

Notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, we have kept the mines in active work by means of our own workmen, without recurring to tributers as before. The production has become again almost normal, and a good deal of development work has been carried on, especially in our tin and silver mines of Chocaya, where we have opened out an important field of extraction of both metals for several years to come. The lixiviation plant of Asllani in Chocaya, which I mentioned last year, is now approaching completion, and this will enable us to deal satisfactorily with the complex ores of tin and silver found here, which are almost a novelty in nature; at all events, in such conditions of abundance and richness. The tin concentration plant has, at the same time, been improved and extended, so that we may confidently expect good results from this quarter to begin shortly. Of course, the production of this section having been very small during preparatory work, it stands to reason that it has weighed heavily upon the revenue account of the year. In Chorolque we have also made additions and improvements to the general plant, and completed the installation of electric rock-drills, which will facilitate and hasten the investigation work in depth of that big mountain. In Tasna we have made additions to the driving power and improvements in the sintering and smelting plant. We have completed the tin and wolfram concentration plant, and we are approaching completion of the bismuth-fume condensation system, which has already given good results at Quechisla.

Sound Financial Position.

Our financial position is a sound one, notwithstanding the lock-up of a considerable amount of money and mineral stocks beyond our reach, to which I alluded last year, and against which may be placed our reserve account, amounting now to £40,000. As stated, we have in hand most of the stock of black tin produced during the financial year, which we may now expect to realise at a good profit over our valuation, which is at cost price; and, besides, we are having the advantage of disposing of other metals, such as bismuth and wolfram, more freely and at better prices. It is worth considering that, without taking into account the value of buildings, machinery, stores, and merchandise, our stock of minerals at cost alone represents nearly half the capital of the Company.

Dividends Paid.

As stated in the report, three dividends of 6*d.* per share, amounting to £44,781 15*s.*, have been distributed, and £20,000 of Debentures have been redeemed. We have since declared two further interim dividends of 6*d.* per share, amounting to £29,854 10*s.*, and redeemed £10,000 more Debentures on July 1 last. Now, in view of the general situation of the Company, we have every hope that, after providing for the redemption of the remaining £10,000 of Debentures on July 1 next, and for the excessive war income tax, we will be able to continue declaring interim dividends as hitherto. It is perhaps worth pointing out that our dividends, being free of income tax, represent to-day 17½% more than their actual value as compared with general incomes.

Tribute to Staff.

Before finishing, allow me to fulfil an act of justice by stating that during the trying time we have had to go through we have been most loyally and efficiently supported by our General Manager, Mr. Roberts, and by our staff in Bolivia, who deserve all our confidence and thanks. It gives me much pleasure to conclude my remarks by formally moving: "That the report and accounts be adopted, that the interim dividends already paid, amounting to 7½% on the capital for the year, be confirmed, and that the balance of £9,138 12*s.* 7*d.* be carried forward to the next year's account." If any shareholders should desire any further information I shall be pleased to afford it after the motion has been seconded.

Mr. John D. Campbell seconded the resolution.

Shareholders' Views and Questions.

Mr. James Hayes said that, considering the extraordinarily strong position of the Company as disclosed in the accounts, he was prompted to suggest that a bonus should be given to the shareholders out of the reserves. He pointed out that they had reduced the cost account by 56%, the original cost having been £390,000, and that they had with reserve, investments, and cash about £59,000 on which income tax had already been paid. Of course, he would leave his suggestion to the discretion of the capable directors of the Company, but, considering that the heavy reserves and the writing down of cost account had been provided out of the profits of the prosperous times experienced during the previous two years, he thought that in this dark year the shareholders should be considered before placing to reserves such excessive amounts. When he said "excessive" amounts, he did not mean to impute any blame to the directors, because they were taken out of the profits of prosperous times, and were very properly and soundly devoted to reserves. Income tax, which was now very heavy, had been paid on these reserves, which earned very handsome profits for the Company in the shape of interest, and on those profits further income tax would have to be paid.

Mr. Reid asked whether the 1,181 tons of black tin in England and afloat had already been sold.

The Chairman's Reply.

The Chairman, in reply, said that it had not been sold. About 800 tons were in London and 300 tons in transit. They did not try to push the sale at the present time. As he had stated in his speech, the returning charges for smelting

were excessive, and they were waiting for a better time—either for higher prices or for more favourable contracts at a lower returning charge. They had been holding back as much as possible; in fact, there was not much demand in the market for black tin, although there was a good demand for bar tin of well known marks. In reply to Mr. Hayes, of course the directors would be very pleased to be able to do what he had suggested. The question of distribution of profits was always very carefully considered by the directors when the accounts were before them. They had a certain amount of money locked up in ore in Germany which they had not been able to bring over. It figured in the accounts at about £50,000, being the cost price. They could not dispose of it, and as they had a reserve of £40,000, they put it against that, so that there was no risk whatever to be run by the shareholders. At the same time under the prevailing circumstances they could not very well set aside more funds for distribution. As already explained, 1,100 tons of black tin had not been sold, and the profit earned last year was insignificant; in fact, it had been wiped out by the payment of income tax and by the loss on exchange. Income tax accounted for about £8,000, and the loss on exchange for about £9,000. Under the circumstances he thought the directors ought to be as prudent as they had been up to the present, and not rush into paying dividends out of sums of money which they had not at their disposal.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the re-election of Mr. J. D. Campbell as a director.

Mr. Rayner seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman also proposed the election of Mr. Roberto German Ribon as a director of the Company in the place of Mr. V. Manuel Michaelis-Braun, who, he said, was residing in an alien country. Mr. Ribon was thoroughly acquainted with the business of the Company, and the directors felt sure that his co-operation would be of great assistance to them. (Applause.)

Mr. Hayes seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Messrs. Tribe, Clarke, Painter and Company were re-appointed auditors, on the motion of Colonel Suarez, seconded by Mr. Rayner.

Colonel Suarez proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the directors, and the General Manager and staff.

Mr. Rayner seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

THE STRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

THE eighth ordinary general meeting of the holders of Participating Preferred Ordinary and Deferred Ordinary shares of this Company was held on December 1 at the Trocadero Restaurant, Shaftesbury Avenue, W., Sir Joseph Lyons, D.L. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. F. Joyner) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the declaration of the dividends recommended, said: I am very pleased to be able again to occupy the chair at the annual general meeting of the Company. The accounts presented on this occasion, representing the sixth year of trading, are of special interest. In the first place, the whole of the year under review is a war period, whilst last year's figures covered but two months of the War.

Fortunate Position Despite the War.

At the last annual general meeting we could only look forward with uncertainty to the future. Those of you who were present on that occasion may remember that I then sounded a note of warning as to the increasing cost of living and the heavier burdens of taxation which would fall upon us. Those views have been verified, and the most sanguine of us cannot expect that we shall not have to face still greater burdens to ensure a successful issue to this dreadful war. Your directors, therefore—in common, I suppose, with most others in this particular class of business—have had a time of great anxiety. Difficult problems of supplies and labour have demanded the greatest care and attention. Inevitable changes in the latter will have been apparent to those of you who use the Company's hotels, a much larger proportion of women having now been brought into employment. Notwithstanding these difficulties, there is good reason for congratulation that we are in the most fortunate position of being able to record a result which abundantly surpasses anything that we could have anticipated.

Regent Palace Hotel.

The second interesting feature is the fact that the Regent Palace Hotel has been opened during this financial year. The accounts, therefore, cover from the date of that event—namely, May 26 last—the trading of that hotel, and your directors are exceedingly happy to report that the business done has been eminently satisfactory. Most of you probably know that this Regent Palace Hotel has the largest capacity of any in Europe, and the success it has proved to be cannot be wondered at when one takes into account the fact that for the modest sum of 6*s.* 6*d.* one may obtain a bedroom fitted with hot and cold water supply, provision of full table d'hôte breakfast and all attendance, including bath—and no tips—in a building which is literally a palace, as its name implies. I feel that both the shareholders and directors are justified in congratulating themselves upon the unanimous criticisms of the Press and the guests who patronise the establishment that it is absolutely the last word in popular hotels. The policy of the directors in building popular-priced hotels replete with every luxury and comfort, which has been so justified by the results of the Strand Palace Hotel, has been abundantly confirmed by the achievements of this, our second venture. At the moment we are obliged to accommodate a large number of our staff in the main building. When the staff annexe is completed, as we hope it will be in a few months, we shall transfer such staff thereto, and thereby we shall at once have accommodation for a much larger number of visitors in the hotel proper. This annexe is in Sherwood Street, opposite the main building at Piccadilly Circus. Incidentally, whilst speaking of the staff, the shareholders might be interested to know that the employees at this hotel exceed 1,000, and altogether your Company provides employment for over 1,500 people.

Issue of Balance of Preference Shares.

It is mainly to meet expenditure in completing the hotel and part of the annexe that we are issuing the balance of 25,000 of the 100,000 7% Cumulative Preference shares which were created in April last. I may say that this expenditure is in respect of pre-War commitments

Strand Palace Hotel Business Remarkably Good.

We are glad to report that the business at the Strand Palace Hotel, whilst, of course, not up to the pre-War standard, is still remarkably good. This is very gratifying, having regard to the present abnormal times. As to the Baker Street Hotel, for reasons of national policy the Metropolitan Railway Company are proceeding with the erection at a much slower rate than was originally intended (and this meets with the entire concurrence of your directors). I am not able, therefore, to give you any details of the hotel at this early date.

Profit and Loss Account.

Having dealt with the figures on the balance sheet, the Chairman proceeded: With regard to the profit and loss account, the profit for the year is £56,743, showing an increase of £15,757, and as £1,976 more was brought forward



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from last year the amount available is £17,733 higher at £66,468. Out of this sum the following provisions have been made: Debenture stock interest, plus interest on stock cancelled, £6,983. This is £2,373 more than last year, due to the new Debenture stock. The next three items are depreciation, £7,000; redemption, £1,470; and reserve, £3,000; the reserve fund now standing at the very substantial figure of £25,500. Then there is to be provided the 7% dividend on the Cumulative Preference shares from the date of opening the Regent Palace Hotel to September 30, amounting to £6,750. In June last interim payments were made on the Participating Preferred Ordinary and Deferred Ordinary shares amounting to £4,550 in each case, and your directors now propose to make the total dividend on the Participating Preferred Ordinary shares up to 9%—that is, to maintain the same rate of dividend this year as has been paid in previous years. This, of course, will be for the whole year on the original shares and from the date of opening the Regent Palace Hotel on the new shares, which takes £7,150 in the one case and £3,156 in the other. After providing a similar sum for distribution on the Deferred shares there is a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £11,552, being £1,827 in excess of the sum brought into account from last year. That concludes the figures, and I think, as I have already said, that we are fairly entitled to congratulate ourselves upon such an excellent result.

The Future.

Whilst it is impossible to make any forecast or to gauge the future with any degree of accuracy, I can only say that since the close of the financial year under review the business has been generally maintained, and the directors look forward hopefully to still greater success when conditions are, happily, normal again, which time we hope may not be far ahead.

Mr. John Balfour seconded the resolution and expressed warm appreciation of the enterprise and energy which the directors had devoted to the welfare of the Company.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and Mr. I. Gluckstein was re-elected a director.

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company were reappointed auditors, and, a hearty vote of thanks having been passed to the Chairman and directors, the Chairman announced, in connection with the issue of the remaining 25,000 7% Cumulative Preference shares, that the list was closed on the previous day, and that the applications reached such a large total that the board would be unable to allot more than a very small proportion of the number of shares applied for.

The proceedings then terminated.

LONDON NITRATE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE twenty-eighth annual meeting of the London Nitrate Company, Limited, was held in the Common Hall, Liverpool, on November 30, Mr. Frank Tobin (Chairman of Directors) presiding.

The Chairman said that the changes in the position of the nitrate industry had been almost kaleidoscopic, and the whole history of the year was full of interest. A year ago they had to report to the shareholders that on the outbreak of war there was possibly no industry harder hit than the nitrate industry. A state of absolute paralysis ensued. The selling price of nitrate fell below the cost of production. As a result the Company, taking immediate action, closed their works both at Transito and Puntunchara; the staff was put on half-pay, workmen were dismissed, and the directors had been kept occupied from August until the end of November 1914 in making things safe.

Resumption of Working.

Some months of waiting for a change in affairs ensued, but there were two factors working to bring about an improvement. One was the enormous diminution in production, and while, perhaps, this would not in itself have been sufficient to bring about the improvement, at the same time there sprang up, not all in a moment, but gradually, a very hugely increased demand for nitrate for the manufacture of explosives. These two factors made the outlook about March of the present year more hopeful. The Company took advantage of labour being very abundant to begin extracting caliche, and began to make preparations for the resumption of manufacture. Gradually the demand for explosives reached a point at which they found they could sell at what, under the circumstances, was a very satisfactory profit, and they reopened their oficinas—Transito at the beginning of May and Puntunchara just before the beginning of June, when they were able to get higher prices. The prices for sales had constantly been advancing, and the result had been that their two oficinas had been in full working ever since. The cost of production had been, and still was, moderate, and the selling prices had been good.

Benefit from the Cancellation of Contracts.

Proceeding to deal with the cancellation, upon the outbreak of war, of contracts the Company then had for forward delivery, Mr. Tobin pointed out that enormous difficulty was involved in taking delivery of nitrate at that time—the impossibility of securing freights and all sorts of difficulties. However, the contracts they had with English firms were all honourably carried out in the end, but with the German firms the process appeared to have been extremely simple. They merely sent telegrams cancelling their contracts. The most difficult problem of all had been with the Chilean firms with whom they had contracts. Their sales to the Chilean people had been considerable and at profitable rates, and the amount of nitrate involved was something like 12,000 tons. These firms pleaded *force majeure*. Eventually, having regard to the delay and other inconveniences which would have been caused by recourse to the Chilean law courts, the Company had come to an arrangement whereby they accepted payment of sums totalling £9,625, in consideration of the cancellation of the contracts, and in view of the subsequent advance in prices the Company had benefited largely by this arrangement, by which they bought back at 6*s.* 8*d.* per quintal the whole of the 12,000 tons of nitrate which they had sold at considerably higher prices, or 7*s.* 4¾*d.* And the £9,000 odd thus obtained had been made without exhausting one single quintal of raw material.

The Accounts.

During the last year they had thought proper to again write £7,500 off the value of their works and property—the same amount as they had written off in the previous year for that twelve months' working While this might be liberal, he was perfectly certain it was the only wise course to follow, and they were glad to see that the depreciation, in spite of the fact that the Company's works had only been in operation for less than four months instead of twelve, had been maintained at its former figure. In their last accounts there appeared a sum of £8,700 at the credit of a stoppage of works account, and while they had never contemplated when establishing that fund that they would ever have a year in which both their oficinas would be stopped for eight months, the fund, fortunately, had been large enough to stand even that test and leave them with a balance.

Increased Demand for Iodine.

Alluding to the Company's connection with the Iodine Combination operated in London, he said arrangements had now been made whereby they had a quota for both their oficinas. The War and the enormous increase of hospital work had brought about a very large extension of the consumption of iodine. He did not want any exaggerated figures to get abroad in the matter, but he was hopeful that their iodine profits, instead of being, as in normal years, £1,000 or £1,200, would be something very near £6,000. The demand was very large at present.

A Wise Policy.

He also mentioned that, pursuing a wise policy, the directors were always on the look-out for fresh nitrate grounds to repair their wasting asset, and, in view of the opportunity of acquiring fresh ground on advantageous terms presenting itself, and not being in possession of sufficient funds to meet the purchase price, they had approached their bankers, who had paid them the compliment of promising to provide whatever cash might be required, and to give them until six months after the termination of the War in which to repay it. (Applause.)

"Prospects more than Hopeful"

With regard to the future, as far as one could judge at present the prosperity of the nitrate industry was very considerable, and it certainly promised to continue. They were making larger profits now than they did before the War, they had made forward sales at very profitable prices for a reasonable period of a proportion of their production, and so they felt very comfortable as regarded the future—he would not say for how long, but for a couple of years at any rate. The prospects seemed absolutely hopeful, and even more than hopeful for a time. (Applause.) He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. Wm. H. Hasler seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

The meeting decided to continue the policy of paying dividends free of income tax, and also passed a resolution to the effect that the directors' fees and Secretary's salary should enjoy similar relief.

Mr. Tobin was unanimously re-elected a director of the Company, and Messrs. Harmood Banner and Sons, the auditors, were reappointed.

COLOMBIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.

THE seventeenth ordinary general meeting was held on November 30 at 9 Bishopsgate, E.C., Mr. R. Parga (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman said: With regard to the report and balance sheet under consideration, I think you will agree that the figures given are such as give cause for congratulation. The disastrous European war, affecting as it does the economic position of the whole world, acts like a crucible through which all English companies must pass. Thus far your Company has stood the test in a manner for which there is every cause for satisfaction.

The gross receipts are practically equal to those of the preceding year, which, as you will remember, proved a record one for the Company. There [illegible] working expenses, due, as you will see from the Managing Director's report, to the effecting of further improvements in the permanent way, and also to the thorough overhauling of the rolling-stock, but the ratio still remains a very low one. In allocating the net revenue you will see that a further sum of £3,000 has been placed to the reserve account, increasing it to £18,000, and there has been written off preliminary expenses £1,274 13*s.* 10*d.* Under the terms of the trust deed we have to commence this year to annually set aside 10% of the net profits to create a Debenture redemption fund, and in accordance therewith the amount of £3,172 7*s.* 9*d.* has been carried to this new account. After making these provisions there is an available balance of £43,514 11*s.* 1*d.*, and out of this the directors recommend that a dividend of 4% be paid on the share capital, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £31,514 11*s.* 1*d.* I would like to add that this Company, as you are aware, is greatly interested in the extension of the railway from Nemocon to Chiquinquira. The Government of Colombia having decided to take over the Colombian Central Railway, the construction of the extension of that line will be undertaken by the Government, and I understand from a reliable source that the Government is very desirous of carrying this out. It is to be feared, however, that during the continuance of the War it may be difficult, if not impossible, to finance the operation, and, as with similar undertakings, it will be necessary to wait until peace has been restored and a more normal Money market is established. The staff in Colombia has continued to give every satisfaction, and deserves the acknowledgment and best thanks of the Company. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts to June 30, 1915, now submitted, be and the same are hereby received and adopted, and that a dividend of 4%, payable on Wednesday, December 1, be and is hereby declared on the shares of the Company."

Mr. R. A. Vargas seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

TANDJONG RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighth annual general meeting of the shareholders was held on December 3 in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38 Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Charles Arthur Lampard (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

Mr. J. M. Kemp, on behalf of the Secretaries (Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited), having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report has been circulated for some time, and I will ask you to allow me to take it as read. In regard to the balance sheet, our capital remains the same as it was last year—namely, £150,000—and the premiums are £73,684, which is the same as appeared in the last balance sheet.

Capital Position Quite Satisfactory.

The £10,000 appearing to the credit of the reserve shows an increase, and if you agree to our proposed allocation to-day we shall add another £10,000 to that sum, which will make the total amount at the credit of premiums and reserve £93,684, which means £18 6*s.* 3*d.* per planted acre. After providing for depreciation the capital expenditure for the year has amounted to £15,494 15*s.* 5*d.*, and the total expenditure to the date of the balance sheet amounts to £227,166 11*s.* That for 5,116 acres planted, making no allowance for any reserve land, equals £44 8*s.* per acre. That is the amount of cash expended on it. Taking the premium and reserve of £18 6*s.* 3*d.*, it leaves the net book cost at £26 1*s.* 9*d.* per acre, which is the sum you have to keep in mind. (Hear, hear.) In regard to capital position, we have unexpended on capital account £16,518 to meet an estimated expenditure during the current year of £17,379, or an apparent deficit of £861, but we shall recover under depreciation a far larger amount than that, and, in addition, we have our carry forward of £7,294, so that the capital position is quite satisfactory. (Applause.) The 5,116 acres are divided, as you know, into three estates—the Tandjong Kassau of 1,802 acres planted in 1907-8, the Tandjong Merah, consisting of 1,262 acres, also planted in 1907-8, and the Tandjong Doerian of 2,052 acres planted in 1910-14. And then we have the new clearing of 250 acres which will be part of the Tandjong Merah estate. You will find all this set out clearly in the report, and I do not think that any further remarks are necessary from me with regard to them. The new clearings are a part of a programme of 500 to 600 acres, and they were undertaken with the object of keeping the labour employed until a larger area came into production.

Rubber Output and Yield per Acre.

The rubber harvested in the period under review was 800,958 lb., against 545,267 lb. last year. It realised 2*s.* 1.84*d.*, as against 2*s.* 2.73*d.* in the previous year. It cost all-in 1*s.* 2.28*d.*, as against 1*s.* 4.42*d.*, and left a profit this year of 11.56*d.* per lb., as against 10.31*d.* per lb. last year, so that it showed an increased profit. The average area in bearing, or partial bearing, was 2,622 acres, as against 2,169 acres the previous year. The yield per acre was 312 lb., against 251 lb. The whole of this planted area is absolutely clean, and the weeding cost per acre has amounted this year to 10.9*d.*, as against 1*s.* 5.8*d.* All the stumps and roots have been removed from the planted area, and the condition of the estates is excellent, while the trees show healthy and regular growth. The labour force employed was 2,501, and the European staff, including the General Manager and Doctor, amounted to 22. The health all round has been extremely good, and the visiting agent, when reporting on this subject, says: "This Company's properties rank amongst the healthiest on the East Coast of Sumatra." This is borne out by the average death-rate of the labour force being only 10 per thousand. This is due very largely, I think, to the sanitary arrangements, and to the excellent arrangements which have been made for housing our labour force. It is also due, of course, to the medical staff, the splendid up-to-date hospital, and to the general care that has been bestowed on the welfare of the people we employ. (Hear, hear.)

Profits and Dividends.

The total profits for the year amount to £39,716 15*s.* 11*d.*, against 24,176 0*s.* 7*d.* With our carry-forward of £7,577 13*s.* 2*d.*, the amount available for discussion to-day is £47,294 9*s.* 1*d.* With your consent we propose to transfer to reserve £10,000, to pay a dividend of 20%, which will absorb £30,000, and leave us a carry-forward for the current year of £7,294 9*s.* 1*d.* I hope you will consider this a satisfactory result. It is not so satisfactory possibly as it appears, because while we are distributing 20% on our nominal capital, with our reserves, our premiums, and our carry-forward, our capital instead of £150,000 is £250,000. In addition to that there is another thing which is frequently overlooked. There is the fact that this Company was started now nearly nine years ago, and that for a very long period the money was totally unproductive. To get at a correct idea of what the property has cost, you must allow for the period when the money was earning nothing at all, and on that basis I have, to get an idea of it, added the interest that would have been paid if this had been a railway construction company. They would have raised more capital than they absolutely required to develop the property in order that during its unproductive period they could have had funds out of which they could have distributed dividends. We did not do that; we went to our shareholders, and we really raised this money on the very excellent prospect we believed the industry had before it, and, believing us, the shareholders put up that money and waited during the necessary period. But all that time the interest which they had foregone is in reality a capital charge; it would have been a capital charge if we had raised the money by issuing Debentures. I mention this subject because this has a very distinct bearing on the Chancellor's proposal for taxing excess profits, which would hit the new companies unfairly unless the original scheme is revised, which I hope it will be, and I think it will be.

ALL CITY MEN and others are cordially invited to attend

A MEETING

which, by the kindness of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, will be held in

MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL,

Threadneedle Street, on

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 7th December,

at 3 o'clock,

on Behalf of the Extensive WAR WORK of the

CHURCH ARMY,

including RECREATION HUTS, TENTS, and CLUBS for the Troops overseas in France, Egypt, Salonika, the Front, Malta, and Hospitals and Rest Camps [illegible] War Hospitals, Prisoners of War Camps and Relief Centres for Allied Soldiers and Sailors, Refugees, Internees, Prisoners of war and the Interned and the Destitute and Persecuted Protestants in Germany, &c., &c.

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR

(SIR CHARLES WAKEFIELD, Bart.) will preside, supported by A. C. Carson, Esq., K.C., M.P., the Recorder of London; the Right Hon. the Earl of [illegible]; the Lord Chief Justice; M.P.; the Right Hon. Sir Edward Carson, K.C., M.P.; Major-General Sir [illegible] Lloyd [illegible] Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis; the Rev. Prebendary Carlile, D.D., Rector of St. Mary-at-Hill, Eastcheap, and Founder and Hon. Chief Secretary of the Church Army, and many others.

Collection in Aid of the Funds.

A LARGE ATTENDANCE [illegible] BUSINESS MEN, is [illegible] requested.

RESERVED SEATS [illegible] application to Prebendary Carlile, D.D., Church Army Headquarters, Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, W., who will also [illegible] DONATIONS (crossed Barclays') for announcement at the Meeting.

It will hit the young companies very hardly, while it will allow the older established companies to escape entirely.

Current Year's Output.

Turning to the current year, we estimate to harvest 1,042,000 lb. of rubber, and look for a reduction in costs. The costs cannot come down to the point we hope to get them down to eventually, because there is constantly fresh rubber coming in. While we are tapping the younger areas, this tends to keep the cost up, but we do look for a reduction in costs, and eventually we shall, as we have always told you, in this Company, produce our rubber very economically. The crop harvested up to November amounted to 462,804 lb., against 303,414 lb. harvested during the corresponding period. Of this we have sold 122,891 lb. at an average of 2*s.* 3.33*d.*; and under forward contract we have 483,840 lb. to deliver at 2*s.* 2.70*d.* I think we can rest satisfied that the prospects of the Company are in every way satisfactory. The estates are in first-class order, and, in addition, the new railway is now open, with a station on one of our divisions. Therefore the transport difficulties which we have had in the past will be entirely done away with. A cable that we have received with regard to the condition of the estates is to the effect that everything on the Tandjong Estate is in the best condition throughout.

With regard to the Excess Profits Tax, I think that from what the Chancellor of the Exchequer told the deputation of the Rubber Growers' Association, he is quite prepared to extend consideration to the industry as a whole. A point has been raised with regard to the payment of quarterly interim dividends, and, whilst I have no shadow of doubt that we are getting to a position when interim dividends may be considered by the Board, to go in for any settled policy of quarterly dividends is out of the question at the present time. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. C. E. Morrison seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved that a dividend of 20%, less income tax, be paid, and that the sum of £10,000 be placed to reserve account.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Croll and carried.

The retiring director and auditors were re-elected, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the directors, agents, and staff in the East.

A sum of £200 was voted to the Red Cross Society, and the meeting terminated.

RAND DEVELOPMENTS.

East Rand.—Recent development showings (excluding shaft sinking) have been as follows:—

		Total Feet	Footage Sampled	Average Reef Width Inches	Assay Value	Shilling-Inches
1914.	Mar. qr. ...	10,965	8,374	27	43/9	1,181
,,	June qr. ...	11,811	9,772	28	41/8	1,164
,,	Sept. qr. ...	14,163	10,263	28	40/4	1,140
,,	Dec. qr. ...	14,298	11,944	25	39/1	1,075
Year 1914* ...		51,237	40,353	22	50/7	1,111
1915.	Mar. qr. ...	12,836	11,115	25	38/3	956
,,	June qr. ...	15,229	11,125	29	34/5	1,000
,,	Sept. qr. ...	12,167	9,800	29	36/1	1,044

* Figures taken from annual report.

The September report sets out: "The values disclosed by development operations for the quarter show practically no improvement on the figures for the previous quarter, the percentage of payable ore being still slightly under 50%. The 23rd or bottom level, Driefontein, the 23rd level, East, Cason, the 23rd, 26th, 28th and 30th levels, Hercules Section, are all showing payable values. A winze from the 31st level, Hercules Section, is down 93 feet, and is in ground of high value, the figures being 21.8 dwts. over 28 inches. This working is the deepest in your mines, being 4,752 feet, vertical, below the surface."

Robinson Deep.—Development disclosures below:

	—M.R. Leader—				—South Reef—			
Period	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*
1914.								
Sept. qr.	277	23.6	51	10	813	19.3	110	0
Dec. qr.	327	26.9	71	4	884	14.8	103	4
1915.								
Mar. qr.	440	27.0	£0	9	687	17.7	75	6
June qr.	522	27.2	£5	9	£95	14.9	£6	3
Sept. qr.	456	£0.5	63	8	853	£2.9	63	8

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Developments below:—

	—Main Reef—				—South Reef—			
Period	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*
1914. Sept. qr. ...	396	19.8	50	2	224½	26.3	47	7
,, Dec. qr. ...	526½	21.5	41	10	273	26.6	68	10
1915. Mar. qr. ...	504	28.5	40	4	230	31.4	36	6
,, June qr. ...	527	23.9	45	6	413	26.3	43	9
,, Sept. qr. ...	751	28.3	40	0	336	22.1	82	0

Simmer Deep.—Quarterly developments below:—

	—Main Reef—				—M.R. Leader—				—South Reef—			
Period	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*	Dist. Exposed Feet	Width Inches	Assay *s.*	*d.*
1914.												
Sept. qr. ...	693	42.4	31	5	107	33.5	19	1	1,582	53.0	25	5
Dec. qr. ...	696	39.8	26	4	177	38.6	26	9	1,813½	43.3	25	6
1915.												
Mar. qr. ...	630	26.6	47	0	63	19.0	63	8	1,802½	37.8	31	7
June qr. ...	546½	24.1	65	4	91½	18.9	18	8	1,528	29.5	35	3
Sept qr. ...	593	41.2	42	6	80	21.7	36	6	1,156	36.2	31	10

ABBOTT (W.) AND SONS.—Dividend of 7½% on Ordinary.

ARMY AND NAVY AUXILIARY CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY.—Interim dividend at rate of 25% per annum.

ARNOLD (S. W.) AND SONS.—Dividend of 3% on Ordinary.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.—Branches of this Bank have been established at Casablanca, Morocco, and Koforidua, Gold Coast Colony.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—Dividend on the capital stock at the rate of 10% per annum for quarter. The sum of £50,000 has been added to the reserve fund, making it £2,600,000, and £111,065 has been carried forward.

BLEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—Interim dividend on Ordinary of 2½% (actual).

FRASER (JOHN) AND SONS.—Dividend of 5%, less tax, on Ordinary.

CHESTERS BREWERY CO.—Interim dividend at rate of 8% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

CUBAN-AMERICAN SUGAR CO.—Initial quarterly dividend of 2½% on Common stock.

DINNINGTON MAIN COAL CO.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* per share, less tax.

A TAX-FREE INVESTMENT

A LIFE Assurance Policy entitles to Rebate of Income Tax on the amount of the Premium up to one-sixth of the Annual Income in most cases. Moreover, such premiums are treated as deductions from income for the purpose of calculating Super-Tax. This concession applies to WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCES and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES (within certain limits) on the life of the taxpayer or his wife.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND.

FUNDS: 22 MILLIONS. CLAIMS PAID: 43 MILLIONS.

Write for the Society's Booklet.

HEAD OFFICE:
9 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

LONDON OFFICES:
28 Cornhill, E.C., and 5 Waterloo Place, S.W.

G. J. LIDSTONE,
Manager and Actuary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Carlton Main Colliery Co.—Interim dividend of 2s. per share, tax free, on Ordinary.

Dominion Bank of Toronto.—Usual quarterly dividend of 3%.

Doom Dooma Tea Co.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax.

E. C. Powder Co.—Dividend of 6d. per share.

Federated (Selangor) Rubber Co.—Second interim dividend of 12½%, less tax.

Halley's Industrial Motors.—Final dividend of 5% and a bonus of 1s. per share, tax free.

Jugra Estate.—Interim dividend of 20% on Ordinary.

Kapar Para Rubber Estates Co.—Second interim dividend of 15%, less tax.

Kurau Rubber Estate.—Second interim dividend of 15% (actual), less tax.

Linggi Plantations.—Third interim dividend on Ordinary shares of 15% (actual), less tax.

London General Investment Trust.—Interim dividend at rate of 6% per annum, less tax, on Deferred stock.

London Sumatra Rubber Estates and Produce Co.—Dividend of 2d. per share received on the Company's holding of 100,000 shares of the United Sumatra Rubber Estates, Limited. This is equivalent to 4d. on each London Sumatra share.

Madingley.—Interim dividend of 3%, less tax.

Mint, Birmingham.—Interim dividend at rate of 10% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Mortgage Company of Costa Rica.—Dividend of 10%, less tax, for year.

North Lonsdale Iron and Steel Co.—Dividend of 12½% per annum for past year.

Rubana Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend of 5% (actual), less tax.

"Sanitas" Co.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5%.

St. Louis Breweries.—Final dividend of 8s. per share, making 8% for the year, also a dividend of 2s. per share on the Ordinary shares.

Sennah Rubber Co.—Dividend of 10%.

Southern India Tea Estates.—Interim dividend of 10% on Ordinary.

South African Breweries.—Interim dividend, 5% on Ordinary shares, less tax.

Sun Insurance Office.—Interim dividend of 7s. per share, less tax.

Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co.—Interim dividend of 1s. per share, less tax.

Stanton Ironworks Co.—Interim dividend at rate of 15% per annum, less tax.

Swift and Co.—Quarterly dividend of 2%.

Third Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Final dividend on Deferred stock at rate of 4% per annum, making 4%, less tax, for the year.

Tredegar Iron and Coal Co.—Interim dividend of 5%, tax free, on the "A" and "B" shares for half-year.

The Union of London and Smiths Bank, Limited, announce that they have appointed Mr. Gerald C. Mercer Local Director and Manager of their Maidstone Branch (Kentish Bank), in succession to his father, the late Mr. W. F. Mercer.

Trust Union.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary shares.

Ulu Rantau Rubber Estates Co.—Second interim dividend of 7½%, less tax.

Union Steam Ship Co. of New Zealand.—Final dividend of 3½% on Ordinary, making a total distribution of 6% for the year.

Walker and Homfrays Brewery Co.—Dividend of 7% on Ordinary.

WEST AFRICANS.

ABBONTIAKOON.—Issued capital, £625,457 10s., in 10s. shares. Loans remaining to be cleared off, about £20,000.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Gold Value £	Gold Value Per Ton	Total Expenses £	Total Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price o Share end of Period
1912 (6 mos.)	46,415	79,284	34/2	70,409	30/4	8,875	3/8	6/3
1913 ...	108,500	235,628	43/5	146,687	27/0	88,941	16/5	7/6
1914 ...	131,762	253,757	38/6	169,229	25/9	84,528	12/9	—
1915.								
Mar.qr....	32,989	59,497*	36/1	42,819	26/0	16,678	10/1	8/9
June qr.	32,621	68,542†	42/0	43,646	26/9	24,896	15/3	8/0
Sept. qr.	32,447	59,191‡	36/6	46,043	28/5	13,148	8/1	8/0
Oct. ...	12,065	20,433	33/10	16,125	26/8	4,308	7/2	7/6

* Includes £13,837 from tube mill.
† Includes £1[illegible] 12[illegible] from tube mills.
‡ Includes £13,[illegible]84 from tube mills.

Dividends—Account 1914, May, 6d.; Nov., 6d.; Dec., 6d.; June, 6d. Total, 2s.

ABOSSO GOLD.—Issued capital, £400,000, in £1 shares.

Year ends June 30	Tons Milled	Value £	Value Per Ton	Estimated Expenses £	Estimated Expenses Per Ton	Approximate* Profit £	Approximate* Profit Per Ton	Price end of Period
1913-14 ...	87,752	152,303	34/8	122,109	27/9	26,985	6/11	¾
1914-15 ...	107,240	182,267	33/11	144,658	27/0	24,010	4/6	7/6
1915-16.								
July... ...	9,257	13,993	30/2	10,685	23/1	2,614	5/7	7/6
Aug. ...	9,276	16,[illegible]	3[illegible]/5	10,744	23/2	5,034	10/10	7/6
Sept. ...	9,315	15,226	32/8	10,812	23/2	4,115	8/11	8/6
Oct. ...	9,947	16,827	33/10	—	—	—	—	7/6

Working costs allow 4s. per ton for development redemption.
* After allowance for depreciation and taxes.
† Includes £2,000 recovered from slimes brought forward from previous month.

Dividends per cent.—1912, Dec., 5; 1913, Oct., 5; 1915, Nov., 5.

TAQUAH MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—Issued capital £349,973, in £1 shares. There are also in issue Income bonds which do not figure in the balance sheet for any nominal amount, but have rights to dividend to the equivalent of 37,500 shares.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons (2,000 lb.)	Value Amt. £	Value Per Ton	Expenses* Amt. £	Expenses* Per Ton	Profit† Amt. £	Profit† Per Ton	Price end of Period
1913-14 ...	40	58,746	178,812	60/10	114,872	39/1	43,821	14/11	¾
1914-15 ...	40	69,509	206,387	59/4	114,603	32/1	68,190	19/7	15/0
1915-16.									
July ...	40	5,926	17,674	59/7	9,630	32/6	5,953	20/1	14/0
Aug. ...	40	5,867	17,559	59/11	9,707	35/1	5,806	19/9	13/9
Sept. ...	40	5,918	17,766	60/0	9,813	33/2	5,866	19/10	15/0
Oct. ...	40	5,851	17,002	58/0	—	—	—	14/0	—

* Expenses include development redemption, London office charges and interest.
† Profit is the net profit after allowing for depreciation and taxes.

Dividends per cent.—1913-14, May, 5; 1914-15, Dec., 5; March, 5; June, 5; 1915-16, Nov., 5.

Sudan Gold Field.—Capital £63,874, in 10s. shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Gold Yield Value £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 ...	16,456	49,898	60/8	36/3	20,047	24/5	3/6
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	—	12,828	—	—	—	—	7/9
June qr....	4,3[illegible]8	12,143	55/11	—	—	—	8/6
Sept. qr....	4,188	11,426	5[illegible]/8	—	—	—	8/0
Oct. ...	1,37[illegible]	3,[illegible]98	[illegible]6/8	—	—	—	7/9

Dividends—1915, March, 1/0.

The tonnage milled, it will be noted, shows considerable increase, while the yield is lower.

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SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ...	$9,000,000

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£3,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	750,000
RESERVE FUND	685,000
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Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

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LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. / 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)
Authorised Capital, £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £925,000.

Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital ...	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.
Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.
Drafts issued and **Remittances** cabled.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, *Manager.*

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.

Capital Authorised ...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up ...	562,500
Reserve Fund	500,000

Branches:
INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS & CHINA.
The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application
Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.
On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent per annum on daily balances.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	$8,808,891.79
Assets - -	$39,077,630.77

$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.

Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.

LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	$6,880,000

President—B. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address—"FOURBANK." | London Agents—SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.
Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND	£1,175,000

LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to ...	4,000,000
Reserve Fund	525,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances, to buy and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South-West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected, Dividends and Annuities collected, Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.
London Offices { Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. / 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra).
Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Called up	£600,000
Reserve Fund	£55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.
Branches:
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.
The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.
Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices, 51 Cannon Street, in the City of London, England.—*December 4, 1915.*

The Statist,

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SALES BY AUCTION.

JOHN HOARE AND CO. will Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on

Friday, 10th December
Wednesday, 15th ,,
Tuesday, 21st ,,

7,250 Bales AUSTRALASIAN, PUNTA ARENAS and FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL.

Catalogues in due course of JOHN HOARE and CO., Wool Brokers, 73 Basinghall Street, E.C.

JACOMB, SON and CO. will OFFER by AUCTION at the WOOL EXCHANGE, Coleman Street, E.C., on Thursday, 9th, Thursday, 16th, and Tuesday, 21st December, WOOL—9,500 BALES COLONIAL.

Catalogues and further particulars of the Brokers, Moorgate House, 61 Moorgate Street, E.C.

BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(Established by Khedival Decree, June 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to bearer.)
Capital, £3,000,000 (in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.) Reserve Fund, £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. Rowlatt, Esq. Head Office: Cairo.
London Committee—
E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G. Hon. Algernon Mills.
Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Hon. Sidney Peel.
LONDON AGENCY:
6 & 7 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager: J. T. Beaty-Pownall.
Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Circular Notes issued. Every kind of Banking business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-El-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah and Zagazig; and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Said and Suakim.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange 0. 2s. per $ = £1,500,000	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Colombo, Foochow, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala, Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.

LONDON COMMITTEE.
Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., Chairman.
Henry Keswick, Esq., M.P. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.
Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP £3,703,704
RESERVE FUND £1,046,960
Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24/28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.
London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C. / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Sassari, Savona, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—
BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD. Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan, Tripoli, &c.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Peking
Bombay	London	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Calcutta	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Changchun	Lyons	Shanghai
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Sydney
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tieling
Harbin	Newchwan	Tientsin
Hong Kong	New York	Tokio
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtao
Kobe		

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS to be submitted at the Twentieth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held at Winchester House, London, E.C., on Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon.

The Directors beg to submit their Twentieth Annual Report, together with the balance sheet as at June 30, 1915, and the profit and loss account for the twelve months ended that date, and accompanied by reports of the managing director and manager on the operations at the mine during the same period.

PROFIT AND LOSS.—The net profit realised during year amounted to ... £262,143 14 7

To this has been added:—

The balance brought forward from the previous year 16,165 2 3

Making a total available profit of ... £278,308 16 10

Which has been appropriated as follows:

For payment of—

Dividend No. 22	£112,500 0 0	
Dividend No. 23	112,500 0 0	
Taxes	23,276 11 6	
Union Government War Levy (first moiety)	5,706 19 0	
Sundries, as per Appropriation Account	8,825 19 6	
		262,809 10 0

Leaving a balance to be carried forward to the current year of ... £15,499 6 10

MINING OPERATIONS.—The mill ran 332.6 days, and with accessory tube mills crushed 462,920 tons of ore, yielding 137,815,576 ounces of fine gold, of the value of £579,996 8*s.* 5*d.*, or at the rate of £1 5*s.* 0.698*d.* per ton. Working expenditure amounted to £344,298 12*s.* 0*d.*, or 14*s.* 10.501*d.* per ton milled, resulting in a profit of £235,697 16*s.* 5*d.* equal to 10*s.* 2.197*d.* per ton.

This result does not differ materially from that of the preceding year. While the ore treated has been greater in quantity by 23,020 tons, it has been of a slightly lower grade (25*s.* per ton as compared with 26*s.* 10*d.* for last year). Working expenditure, on the other hand, has been reduced from approximately 16*s.* for last year to 14*s.* 10*d.* per ton for the current year, thus showing a net reduction of 8*d.* per ton.

ORE RESERVES.—The manager's estimate of the ore reserves at the close of the financial year under review is as follows:—

Fully developed.—1,953,000 tons of an average value of 6.20 dwt. over 54 inches.

Partially developed.—18,000 tons of an average value of 9.9 dwt. over 40 inches.

In compiling the above estimates all ore of a value below 4.3 dwt., of which 1,121,000 tons have been either fully or partially developed, has been excluded and for the time being classified as unpayable. It is quite possible that a substantial portion of this tonnage will eventually prove capable of profitable handling.

The position as regards payable tonnage fully developed remains practically the same as that at the end of last year, a small decrease in quantity and a reduction of .29 dwt. per ton in value being recorded.

In accordance with custom no credit appears in the balance sheet for these reserves, the cost of which has been met out of past profits.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.—Except for an outlay of approximately £450, incurred in the fencing of our property, the expenditure on Capital Account has been confined to certain additions to our plant and machinery, of which the more important is the installation, in conformity with Government Regulations, of two new dump spraying plants. The total expenditure, amounting to, roughly, £2,500, has been provided out of current revenue.

WATER SUPPLY.—It is satisfactory to record that the position of our water supply shows a marked improvement compared with that of a year ago. In the meantime copious rains have fallen, with the result that both dams on the Company's property were filled to their utmost capacity, and a full supply of non-potable water is assured for some time to come from the Company's own sources.

DIVIDENDS.—The year's revenue has admitted of the declaration of the following dividends, which were paid on the dates set opposite each respectively, viz.:—

No. 22, of 22½ per cent. (less tax), January 11, 1915.
No. 23, of 22½ per cent. (less tax), July 15, 1915,

making, together, 45 per cent., or 9*s.* per share, for the year.

A detailed list of the dividends, amounting to £2,144,500, paid since the incorporation of the Company, will be found in the usual annexure attached to this Report.

INVESTMENTS (WAR LOAN).—The Directors have participated on behalf of the Company in the subscription of 3½ per Cent. Government War Loan stock to the amount of £100,000.

RETIRING DIRECTORS.—Under the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, Messrs. Leopold Albu and P. G. Hamilton Carvill retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company, the Auditors, retire in accordance with Clause 148 of the Articles of Association, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

GENERAL.—It is a pleasure to the Directors again to record their appreciation of the services rendered by the manager and his staff under the supervision of Sir George Albu, the Managing Director, and of the satisfactory results which continue to attend their efforts on the Company's behalf.

F. A. GILLAM, *Chairman.*
T. FREDK. THORNE, *Secretary.*

63/4 Winchester House,
Old Broad Street, London, E.C.,
December 6, 1915.

DR. ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1915.

			CR.
To Capital Authorised and Issued 500,000 Shares of £1 each, fully paid		£500,000 0	
Reserve Account		40,000 0 0	
Creditors and Credit Balances—			
South Africa	£68,677 15 7		
London	12,401 0 8		
Profits Tax	22,827 16 0		
Income Tax	7,427 10 8		
Special War Levy	5,706 19 0		
		117,041 1 11	
Bills Payable		11,000 0 0	
Unclaimed Dividend Accounts, Nos. 1 to 22		4,502 10 5	
Shareholders for Dividend No. 23		100,781 5 0	
Balance from Appropriation Account		15,499 6 10	
Contingent Liability		2,747 6 6	
		£788,824 4 2	

			CR.
By Property		£200,000 0	
Mine Equipment—			
Permanent Works	£28,437 13 1		
Machinery and Plant, Cyanide Works and Slimes Plant	272,029 7 7		
Buildings	20,000 0 0		
Reservoirs, Dams and Water Service	2,000 0 0		
	£322,467 0 8		
Less written off	2,467 0 8		
		320,000 0 0	
		£520,000 0 0	
Mine Development, 1,953,000 tons Fully Developed		Nil	
Stores		17,337 0 11	
Furniture, Live Stock, &c.		500 0 0	
Shares in other Companies		1,713 16 9	
		£539,550 17 8	
Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances		5,761 4 4	
Gold in Transit		18,060 0 0	
Cash—			
On Deposit at Bankers	£90,562 6 3		
On Current a/c at Bankers in London and South Africa, in transit and in hand	41,488 1 3		
		150,110 7 6	
£100,000 3½ per cent. War Loan, 1925-8, at cost, *Less* Depreciation written off		93,401 14 8	
		£788,824 4 2	

Signed on behalf of the Board,

F. A. GILLAM, LEOPOLD ALBU, } Directors.
T. FREDK. THORNE, Secretary.

To the Shareholders of The Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, Limited—

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers in London, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given us and as shown by the Books of the Company in London and the Audited Returns from South Africa.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS and Co.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

5 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C., 17th November, 1915.

ABRIDGED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT from 1st July, 1914, to 30th June, 1915.

DR.

Per Ton Crushed.	To Working Expenditure (462,920 tons crushed)—		CR.
£0 7 1·763	Mining	£165,421 13 11	
0 1 9·741	Milling	41,934 11 7	
0 0 6·481	Sorting, Crushing and Transport	12,500 19 0	
0 1 5·405	Cyaniding (Sands and Slimes, 462,920 tons)	33,571 0 9	
0 1 10·767	Mine Development	43,913 19 6	
0 1 1·703	General Charges (Mine)	26,431 1 7	
0 0 0·052	Permanent Works	100 10 3	
0 13 11·912			£323,873 16 7
	General Charges—		
0 0 5·332	Johannesburg		10,285 10 7
0 0 5·257	London		10,139 4 10
0 14 10·501			£344,298 12 0
0 10 2·197	Balance carried down		235,697 16 5
1 5 0·698			£579,996 8 5
			CR.
1 5 0·698	By Gold Account		£579,996 8 5
1 5 0·698			£579,996 8 5

DR.

		CR.
To Balance to Appropriation Account		£262,143 14 7
		£262,143 14 7
		CR.
By Balance brought down		£235,697 16 5
Additional Revenue		7,877 3 10
Landlords' Licenses Received		280 12 0
Mine Development Suspense Account		18,288 2 4
		£262,143 14 7

ABRIDGED APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

DR.

			CR.
To Amounts written off as under—			
Mine Equipment			£2,467 0 8
Sundries			2,080 15 11
Taxes			23,276 11 6
Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund			4,278 2 11
Dividends			
No. 22 (22½ per cent.), declared 16th Dec., 1914	£112,500 0 0		
No. 23 (22½ per cent.), declared 16th June, 1915	112,500 0 0		
		225,000 0 0	
Special War Levy by Union Government—1st moiety of 50 per cent. of Profits Tax for 1914-5		5,706 19 0	
Balance to Balance Sheet		15,499 6 10	
		£278,308 16 10	
		CR.	
By Balance at 30th June, 1914	£16,165 2 3		
Balance from Profit and Loss Account	262,143 14 7		
		£278,308 16 10	
		£278,308 16 10	

"LONDON ISSUE."]

NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN

OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic.

Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first Coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1916.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. per Fcs. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL

(Being the equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88, the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Seven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Theadneedle Street, London, E.C. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal Capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz. :—

	s. *d.*
On application	7 : —
On, or before, Monday, the 31st January, 1916	19 : —
On, or before, Tuesday, the 29th February, 1916	19 : —
On, or before, Friday, the 31st March, 1916	19 : —
Total	£3 : 4 : — @ Fcs. 27.50 per £ = Fcs. 88

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 : 3*s.* 6*d.* in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND,

with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The French Government undertake that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931; but they reserve to themselves the right to redeem the issue, in whole or in part, at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

The issue will be made in the form of Bonds to Bearer, which may, if desired, be registered or inscribed in the "Grand Livre de la Dette Publique" at the Ministry of Finance in Paris, without payment of any fee.

CONVERSION OF

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills due 16th January, 1916.
2. French Government 3½ per cent. Rentes (Redeemable).
3. French Government 3 per cent. Rentes (Irredeemable).

1. French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 16th January, 1916, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 : 3*s.* 3*d.* cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5% from the 16th November, 1915 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 16th January, 1916.

2. French Government 3½% Rentes (Redeemable) may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £3 : 6*s.* 4*d.* cash for each Fcs. 100 nominal capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 3.50 of Rente) surrendered.

3. French Government 3% Rentes (Irredeemable) may be tendered in lieu of cash, to the extent of not more than one-third of the total amount payable in respect of any allotment of this issue, where payment in full for such allotment is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bonds will be accepted at the rate of £2 : 8*s.* cash for each Fcs. 100 Nominal Capital (*i.e.*, Fcs. 3 of Rente) surrendered. The Coupon due 1st January, 1916, must be detached before Bonds are lodged for Conversion.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of all securities lodged for Conversion, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the outbreak of War, or, where issued subsequently, since the date of issue.

Applications for the Loan may be paid up

1. Entirely in cash;
2. Partly in cash and partly by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options; or
3. Entirely by the exercise of one or more of the above Conversion Options;

provided always that in no case may the sterling value of 3% Rentes surrendered exceed one-third of the whole sterling amount payable in respect of any allotment. In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Securities to be converted does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of twopence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of Cash applications, and applications for the Conversion of French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, made on forms bearing their Stamp. No commission will be paid in respect of allotments resulting from the Conversion of French Government 3½% and 3% Rentes.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London Stock Exchange of Bonds of the "London Issue." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz. :—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Securities, or both;
2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments,

may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., and at the Branches of that Bank; and at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

The List of Applications will be Closed on or before Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915.

BANK OF ENGLAND, E.C.,
29th November, 1915

THE IRTYSH CORPORATION, LIMITED.

7 Gracechurch Street,

London, E.C.,

8th December, 1915.

Dear Sir (or Madam),

I beg to send you herewith copy of a Report from the Technical Committee of the Ridder and Kirgiz Mining Companies, the Share Capital of which Companies is held by this Corporation. This Report is compiled from information collected by the Members of the Technical Committee during their recent visit to the properties.

The figures given in this Report compare very favourably with the statement made by Mr. H. H. Knox in the Prospectus of this Corporation issued a year ago. The total profit in the Ore Reserves as now estimated and calculated on the same basis used by Mr. Knox amounts to £10,800,000, as against the £7,400,000 taken in Mr. Knox's Report. This value of Ore Reserves at the present time is based on the very conservative prices for Metals used in Mr. Knox's Report, and no allowance is made for the high prices now ruling.

Unexpected difficulties have been met in shortage of labour, materials and transport facilities, but in other ways greater progress has been made than was anticipated a year ago. It is hoped that this good progress will be maintained, in which event the higher values of metals now ruling will return a much larger profit than was estimated in the Prospectus.

The Directors are glad to inform you that Treasury Permission has been received for the issue of shares reserved against options, and that there are no restrictions on the exercise of these options at par value; arrangements have been made for the Company to issue these shares within one week of notice being received from option holders. The Committee of the Stock Exchange have authorised dealings in these shares on the Stock Exchange.

Yours faithfully,

J. P. B. WEBSTER,
London Manager and Secretary.

To the Boards of

The Ridder and Kirgiz Mining Companies,
Petrograd.

Gentlemen,

Following on our visit to your properties we beg to report as follows:—

RIDDER.

Ridder Mine.—The bottom (or 160 feet) level of the old workings of the Ridder Mine has been straightened, enlarged, and timbered for its full length, and crosscuts run towards the footwall, mainly in solid sulphide ore, considerably above the average given by the boreholes.

The New or North Shaft has been sunk to a depth of 50 feet, and preparations are on the way for sinking the Main or Gregoriefsky Shaft another 100 feet. The solid sulphide available above the 160-foot level will more than supply the Mill until deeper levels are opened up for the larger operations we have in view. The shaft house at the Gregoriefsky Shaft is in course of completion, and boilers, compressor and hoist are being installed therein.

Drilling is at present confined to two holes on Sokolni, in order to husband our supplies of fuel. On the opening of the railway, coal from Ekibastus will be available for all uses. The drilling results to date are given on the accompanying schedule, which is brought so far as possible up to date, and contains the results considered of chief importance. Many scattered short sections of mineralised core have been omitted.

Ore Reserves.—A recalculation of these made in August of this year, and based on the borehole results and the assays of the old workings, gives the estimated quantity of ore within the limits of exploration and below the old 160 feet level.

	Long Tons.	Gold Ozs.	Silver. Ozs	Cu. %	Lead. %	Zinc. %	Gross Value. £
Solid Sulphide	945,000	0.47	9.7	1.5	8 1	31 2	15.3
Concentrating Ore	2,229,000	0.71	1.7	0 5	3.5	6.7	5.7
Total ...	3,174,000	0 64	4.1	0.8	7.8	14.0	8.6

This ore is contained between the vertical planes of holes " D " on the South and " K " on the North, and no additions have been made for extensions South or North of these respective planes, nor has any ore been allowed for below the level of the boreholes or for the zinc ore body in the footwall.

We give below, for the sake of comparison, Mr. H. H. Knox's estimate of November 1914:—

Solid Sulphide...	883,000 tons,	£14.9 Gross Value.
Concentrating Ore	1 565,000 ,,	4.7 ,, ,,
Total	2,448,000 ,,	£8.4 ,, ,,

The total profit in the Ore Reserves, as now estimated and calculated on the same basis of recovery and cost as used by Mr. Knox, amounts to £10,800,000, as against the £7,400,000 of his estimate. In both of these calculations prices of metals in Russia are based as below:—

	London Price.	Russian Price.
Gold, per ounce	£4	£4
Silver, ,, ,, ...	£0.1	£0.1
Lead, per ton, ...	£16.0	£20.0
Zinc, ,, ,, ...	£20.0	£24.0
Copper, ,, ,, ...	£60.0	£90 0

Sokolni Mine.—The Sokolni Mine has been sampled so far as accessible, with entirely satisfactory results. The irregular character of the old workings, and the fact that the ore exposed is largely oxidised, make it impossible to present any compre-

hensive averages of the sampling. It appears, however, that the unoxidised ore here is likely to prove similar in character and grade to the Ridder Mine. The results from bore holes are being looked for with interest, though it is far from certain that "A1" and "B1," now in progress, will cut through the main ore body, there being considerable doubt as to the true strike and dip of the deposit.

Mill.—The Test Mill has been converted into an operating unit, and was started in the beginning of November. This plant is expected to have a capacity of 1,500-2,000 tons of solid sulphide a month, producing a zinc concentrate and a lead concentrate with an intermediate material that will be reserved for further treatment. A portion of the zinc concentrates will be hauled to the Ekibastus Railway during the Winter over the snow, to supply the demands of the zinc plant until navigation opens.

Power.—A small water power plant—less than 500 yards from the Mill—is being equipped with a turbine generator. This should be put in operation during the Winter, and is expected to supply more than enough power for the mill. Pending the completion of this, steam power is being used.

General.—Quarters and buildings have been erected as follows:—

Large staff hotel and guest house for visitors.

Post Office.

Small laboratory.

Barracks for 240 single men.

Large material store, almost completed.

Food store; Carpenters' shop; Mechanics' shop.

Small Hospital (altered from existing building).

A local telephone system has been erected, and a line 60 miles long to Usk Kamenogorsk on the Irtysh River.

Railway.—This metre gauge line is to transport coal and stores to, and concentrates from, Ridder, and will be about 60 miles long. 60 to 70% of the 1,550,000 cubic yards of grading on this is completed, and the rails and rolling stock will shortly be arriving at Ust Kamenogorsk. With favourable weather conditions a portion of the rails will be laid this Winter, and it is hoped that the whole line will be in operation next Summer. Meanwhile, as already stated, arrangements will be made to transport sufficient concentrates to Ekibastus during the Winter to ensure the operation of the completed portions of the zinc plant there until the opening of navigation.

Ust Kamenogorsk.—Temporary arrangements are being made at Ust Kamenogorsk for terminal facilities for handling concentrates and coal. Meanwhile plans and estimates are being prepared for the permanent facilities on Bear Island in the river at Ust Kamenogorsk.

RIDDER MINE.

Table of the more important results from Boreholes.

Widths, Assays and Values disclosed by Diamond Drilling.

Bore.	Row.	Depth on Bore. Feet.	Width. Feet.	Gold. Oz.	Silver. Oz.	Cu. %	Lead. %	Zinc. %	Gross Value in Russia. £
SOLID SULPHIDE:									
A	1	267–290	23	0.86	7.8	2.0	19.1	29.2	16.94
	2	315–353	38	0.38	8.7	1.9	19.2	34.3	16.17
B	1	253–311.5	58.5	0.27	7.4	1.2	18.9	29.7	13.81
	2	308–340	32.	0.39	14.6	1.3	17.5	29.8	14.84
C	1	286–398	112.	0.45	12.8	1.3	17.9	33.4	15.05
	2	344–370	26.	0.12	17.2	1.2	16.9	30.7	14.03
D	1	361–379	18.	0.38	8.0	1.2	21.9	33.8	15.81
	2*	414–446	32.	0.09	4.4	.4	6.5	13.2	5.63
E	1	318–339	21.	0.24	9.2	1.7	19.5	38.3	16.50
	2	371–405	34.	0.38	13.7	1.5	18.5	29.0	14.90
G	1	363–388.5	25.5	0.49	8.7	1.4	17.8	32.0	15.33
	2	462–489	27.	0.15	12.0	1.6	14.8	26.4	12.54
K	1	386–392	6.0	0.05	18.7	1.1	10.5	24.6	11.06
P	1	487–491	4.0	0.00	3.0	7.5	14.0	16.9	13.91

* Corresponding in location to solid sulphide, but consists of mixed bands of solid and concentrating ore.

Bore.	Row.	Depth on Bore. Feet	Width. Feet.	Gold. Oz.	Silver. Oz.	Cu. %	Lead. %	Zinc. %	Gross Value in Russia. ×
CONCENTRATING ORE (Disseminated):									£
A	1	290–512	222.	0.56	1.0	0.4	3.0	5.3	4.57
		531–596	45.	0.53	0.5	0.4	1.5	5.4	4.13
		740–755	15.	0.00	0.0	1.2	0.0	14.9	4.66
A	2	353–373	20.	1.00	2.3	0.5	9.6	10.2	9.05
		373–466	93.	0.32	0.9	0.2	1.1	2.7	2.42
		550–612	62.	0.98	1.1	0.7	4.2	9.5	7.78
A	3	708.5–727	18.5	0.17	0.7	1.2	2.5	6.2	3.82
B	1	311.5–503	191.5	0.49	0.9	0.2	2.03	4.3	3.67
B	2	300–308	8.0	0.46	5.3	0.9	7.10	12.4	7.57
		340–349.25	9.25	0.26	7.0	0.7	5.20	9.4	5.67
		456–620	164.	0.65	1.8	0.5	2.70	4.3	4.80
B	3	630–634	4.	0.23	1.2	0.0	4.20	7.9	3.78
	3	731–737	6.	0.00	0.9	0.7	1.50	8.4	3.04
C	1	258–286	28.	0.10	4.0	0.3	3.70	10.8	4.40
	1	398–488	90.	0.26	1.1	0.2	3.10	6.9	3.61
C	2	338–344	6.	0.07	4.7	0.2	5.20	8.5	4.01
		449–501	52.	0.37	2.5	0.3	2.10	4.3	3.45
		531–587	56.	1.26	0.7	0.2	3.90	4.8	7.22
D	1	445–505	60.	0.25	0.4	0.6	0.30	1.9	2.10
E	1	339–420	81.	0.20	0.7	0.3	1.80	5.4	2.80
	2	495–614	119.	0.74	0.5	0.1	1.10	3.8	4.23
G	1	425.5–432	6.5	0.32	1.6	0.6	10.60	13.3	7.29
G	2	447–462	15.	0.24	2.8	0.4	6.40	11.8	5.71
	2	625–664	12.	0.02	0.7	0.1	2.80	5.0	2.00
K	1	360–386	26.	0.11	21.4	0.2	1.40	3.0	3.76
	1	475–480	5.	0.04	0.5	0.2	5.90	8.0	3.39
K	2	No ore; all	assays	low.					
N	1	326–343	17.	0.30	1.1	0.0	1.60	2.7	2.28
P	1	428–441	13.	0.56	0.4	—	—	0.6	2.4
		462–466	4.	—	0.4	0.5	5.6	3.5	2.5
		476–479	3.	—	0.9	1.6	8.7	5.6	4.6
		491–501	10.	0.95	0.5	0.2	0.5	9.9	6.5
		523–528	5.	1.16	0.7	—	0.2	2.0	5.2
		656–666	10.	1.21	0.7	—	3.4	2.0	6.1
		686–692	6.	0.58	0.4	0.3	—	0.4	2.7
		719–721	3.	0.04	2.1	7.4	0.5	0.3	7.2

Note.—It is interesting to note that "N 1" at the extreme North, and "P 1" at the extreme South, show continuation of mineralisation, these holes being some 1,500 feet apart. The mineralisation at "P 1" is widespread, showing 58 feet of profitable ore in a width of 293′, each separate band being wide enough for mining separately.

"Gross value in Russia" is calculated on the same basis as used heretofore, the details of which have been given above.

EKIBASTUS.

Coal Mine.—Developments have been entirely satisfactory. The No. 1 Voskresensky Incline Shaft has been sunk to the third level, being an incline depth of 598 feet. The old machinery has been repaired and put in working order wherever possible. A new boiler and compressor house has been built, and an air compressor of 1,100 cubic feet capacity is being installed. A new blacksmith's shop and a small repair shop, and an electric light plant have been added. The South Shaft has been cleaned out to the first level, at a vertical depth of 126 feet, and headings from here are being run. The North Shaft has been timbered down to water level, and is being unwatered. The new Incline Shaft still further North has been started, and has already reached a depth of more than 150 feet on the incline; suitable engine house and boilers are being installed here. 18,000 tons of coal have been produced to the end of September, of which 10,000 tons have been sold, the remainder being applied to our own needs.

As will be noticed from the foregoing, we have considered coal production for this season as secondary to development of the Coal Mine.

It is estimated that granted a sufficiency of labour these shafts will have a total output for 1916 of 120,000 long tons, of which 65,000 tons will be available for sale, over and above our own needs.

Coke Plant.—An experimental coke plant of four Beehive Ovens has been erected, and has satisfactorily demonstrated the good coking qualities of the coal. The coke already produced is of excellent quality. It is planned to erect further ovens in 1916 in order to supply the needs of the zinc and lead smelter. The Coke heretofore made has been from the fines of run-of-mine coal, but the machinery for a small crushing and washing plant is on the ground, and this will be installed as soon as possible.

General.—Additional quarters for workmen, and houses for employees, have been erected. In addition houses for Mine Foremen, and Mechanics, and five large barracks for Kirgiz workmen have been erected. A bakery has been started with an output of 400 loaves of bread a day, also a butcher's shop. The Trading Store has been enlarged, and supplied with a complete stock of goods.

The programme for 1916 will be naturally limited by the labour available, but in addition to normal development work on the mine it will include additional quarters and barracks.

Railway.—The 80-mile broad-gauge railway connecting the Coal Mines with Ermak on the Irtysh River has been put in good condition, and a large tonnage is being transported over it.

ZINC AND LEAD PLANT.

Power Plant.—The first section of this is nearing completion.

Roaster Building.—More than half of this has been built, including the Main Stack, 8 feet in diameter by 75 feet high; 3 Merton Furnaces in this building are nearing completion.

Retort Factory.—The main building, 50 feet by 198 feet, has been completed, and 4 Dry Rooms, 50 feet by 90 feet, are finished, with a capacity for 6,000 retorts.

Distillation Plant.—It is expected to have the first section of the Distillation Furnace building completed before the end of the year, the size being 112 feet by 120 feet, large enough to hold 2 Distillation Blocks. The distillation furnaces (Blocks "B" and "C") are expected to be completed by the end of the year, together with their producers.

Water Supply.—A water supply for the plant has been developed about two miles from the plant, and a pumping station has been erected which will deliver water to a water tower, already completed at the works.

General.—In addition to the above work on the Zinc Smelter, a Mechanical Shop and Foundry has been erected, and fully supplied with machine tools.

A firebrick factory, with a capacity of 6,000 firebricks a month, has been completed and is in operation.

A sawmill has been in operation the greater part of the year. A red-brick factory with five sheds for kilns and drying, and six brick presses were completed early in the year, and operated during the season, producing about 5,000 bricks per day.

The following buildings have been completed at the Zinc Works:—

An hotel for staff and visitors; Post Office; Laboratory and Chemists' quarters. Also a residence for the Smelter Manager, and a large number of houses for workmen with families, and for single men, together with the necessary bath houses, have been completed. A previously existing building has been rebuilt and converted into a hospital.

Lead Smelter.—A suitable site for this, not far from the Zinc Works, has been selected, and plans are being prepared.

RIVER TRANSPORT.

Along the line of the river from Ust Kamenogorsk to Ermak is 430 miles; and from Ermak to Omsk is 386 miles. During the present season we have had operating two steamers and eight barges, and have now secured an additional six steamers and thirteen barges, which are being repaired and altered during the winter and will be available during 1916.

At Koulomzino, on the West bank of the Irtysh opposite Omsk, we have secured a lease on a piece of ground with a Store House on it to facilitate handling of material between the railroad and the river.

With the opening of the new Altai Railway, however, from Novo Nikolievsk to Semipalatinsk, which occurred in October, we have secured another means of approach, both to Ust Kamenogorsk and Ermak. The question of transport on the river has caused a great deal of anxiety during the past season, but with the addition to the fleet, detailed above, we anticipate a satisfactory position in the future.

PROGRAMME FOR 1916.

The Concentration Mill has already started, and it is hoped that the first unit of the Zinc Plant will commence operations in the Spring of 1916. The present mill without alteration can supply sufficient concentrates for two or three blocks of the zinc plant, each block of the zinc plant having an estimated output at the rate of 1,600 tons of spelter a year. Our programme foresees the doubling of the present capacity of the Mill during 1916 and the addition of zinc furnaces to deal with the output of concentrates.

Plans are being got out for the Lead Plant, and it is hoped to have this in operation in the Autumn of 1916.

In order to have a clear understanding of the process involved it should be noted that the Mill produces zinc concentrates and lead concentrates, both of them carrying gold and silver, and the zinc concentrates also carrying recoverable lead. The zinc concentrates will be roasted and retorted in the zinc plant, leaving residues containing lead, gold, silver and copper. These residues will be smelted in the lead plant in conjunction with the lead concentrates for the recovery of lead, gold, silver and copper. The lead bullion will carry gold and silver as well as lead, and there will be a desilverizing plant for removing these metals from the lead. These will then be parted to separate the gold from the silver. Copper will be recovered from the lead furnace as a by-product in the form of copper-lead matte, which will be subsequently sold or treated. Thus it will be seen that the zinc plant returns merely zinc, and the lead plant, in addition to the lead, will return gold, silver and copper.

Respectfully submitted,

A. P. IVANOFF,
R. GILMAN BROWN,
T. J. JONES,
D. P. MITCHELL,
} Members of Technical Committee.

London, E.C.,
November 30th, 1915.

UNION BANK OF CANADA
Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG

Paid-up Capital	... ...	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits	...	3,600,000
Total Assets over	... ...	80,000,000

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LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel: P. W. Ashe, Esq.

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Subscribed Capital	... ...	£1,078,875	0 0
Paid-up Capital	... ...	539,437	10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	...	539,437	10 0
Reserve Fund	... ...	400,000	0 0

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E. M. JANION, Manager.

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ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid up Capital	£2,000,000	together £3,960,000
Reserve Fund	£1,960,000	
Reserve Liability of Proprietors		4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve		£7,960,000

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CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

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HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO, CANADA.
BRANCHES:
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Paid-up Capital - £308,219 3 7
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Established 1862.

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Paid-up Capital	... ...	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	... ...	2,000,000

BRANCHES.

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fe (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires).

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BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curityba, Manaos (Agency).

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BELGIUM.—Antwerp (22 Place de Meir).

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7 Princes Street, E.C.

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.
ESTABLISHED 1841. INCORPORATED 1914.
Principal Office ... BIRMINGHAM.
London Branch Office:
HALTON HOUSE, 20-23 HOLBORN, E.C.

Accumulated Funds Exceed £2,400,000. | Claims Paid Exceed £7,500,000.

Annual Valuations and Distribution of Profits.

All classes of Life Assurance and Annuity Business transacted.

Copies of the Annual and Valuation Reports, New Prospectuses, &c., may be obtained on application.

A. L. HUNT, General Manager.

PURCHASING ENGINEER,
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844 Equitable Building, New York.

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £900,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.
J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE A. HUNTER, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.
J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

TO THE HOLDERS OF THE

£4,200,000 STATE OF SAN PAULO FIVE PER CENT. TWO-YEAR TREASURY NOTES.

DUE 1st JANUARY, 1916.

Under existing circumstances it is impossible for the State of San Paulo to issue a New Loan in London to repay its Two-Year Notes falling due on the 1st January, 1916.

The State has, however, sufficient funds in London, accumulated out of the Revenue derived from the surtax charged in favour of the Notes, to repay 30 per cent thereof, and has agreed to the renewal of the remaining 70 per cent. at the price of £95 per £100.

The renewed Notes will bear interest, as before, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Holders are requested to present their Notes at our Counting-House on or after 15th December for payment on the 1st January next of £33 10s. in cash for every £100 of Notes, made up as follows:—

1. £30 in respect of repayment;
2. £3 10s. in respect of the renewal of the remaining £70 at 95 per cent.

The Coupon for £2 10s. per cent due 1st January, 1916, will be paid on the same date.

The Notes will be endorsed with a statement that 30 per cent. has been repaid, and that the date of repayment of the remaining 70 per cent. has been extended to the 1st January, 1918. There will be affixed to the Notes four new Coupons to represent the half-yearly interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the renewed amount.

The General Bond of the State securing the Notes will be extended by a Supplemental Deed to 1st January, 1918.

Notes must be left for 14 clear days and must be accompanied by the usual Declaration that they are not presented on behalf of an Alien Enemy.

J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO.
145 Leadenhall Street, E.C.,
7th December, 1915.

His Majesty's Treasury requires the following Note to be appended:—

His Majesty's Treasury have been consulted under the Notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raise no objection to this renewal. It must be distinctly understood that in considering whether they have or have not any **objections to new issues, the Treasury do not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes, or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.**

THE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY OF VICTORIA, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Debenture Transfer Books of this Company will be Closed from the 18th to the 31st inst., both dates inclusive, for the preparation of Debenture Interest Warrants

GORDON SAIES, Secretary.
255 Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.

THE MIDLAND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of this Company will be Closed from **the 18th to the 31st instant, both dates inclusive, for the preparation of Debenture Interest Warrants.**

G. SAIES, Secretary.
21 Waterloo Street. Birmingham.

THE CUNARD STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED. FIVE PER CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE STOCK AND FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Registers of the Company, except for Ordinary Share Transfers, will be Closed from the 18th to the 31st December, 1915, both dates inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the Half-yearly Dividend and Interest Warrants.

By Order of the Board,
W. DRANFIELD, Secretary.
Offices, 8 Water Street, Liverpool,
10th December, 1915.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Third Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at Winchester House (Hall No. 23), Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Friday, the 17th day of December, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive the Directors' Report and Accounts, to elect Directors and Auditors, to declare a Dividend, and to transact any other business of an Ordinary General Meeting.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer wishing to attend or vote at this Meeting must deposit their Warrants with the Company at the Registered Office in London, No. 22 Austin Friars, E.C., two clear days before the day thereof.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 10th to the 24th December, 1915, inclusive.

Dated this 6th day of December, 1915.

By Order of the Board,
ALFRED W. BERRY,
Secretary.

22 Austin Friars,
London, E.C.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

£1,500,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES.

INTEREST COUPON (No. 10) PAYABLE ON 1st JANUARY, 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Interest Coupon No. 10 of this Company's Five per Cent. Debentures, due on the 1st January, 1916, will be paid in:—

(1) LONDON: At the London Transfer Agency of the Company, 4 London Wall Buildings, E.C.
(2) PARIS: At the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 & 32 rue Taitbout, Paris.
(3) JOHANNESBURG: At the Head Office of the Company, Farrar Buildings, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.

Coupons belonging to holders resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to the deduction of the English income tax at 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £.

Coupons belonging to holders resident in France presented at the Crédit Mobilier Français, at the London Transfer Agency, or at the Head Office, will be subject to a deduction on account of the French income tax and the French transfer duty.

Coupons belonging to holders resident in foreign countries other than France must be presented at the London Transfer Agency, and, if accompanied by the usual Inland Revenue affidavits, payment of the interest will be made without deduction.

Coupons presented at the Head Office in Johannesburg must be accompanied by affidavit or statutory declaration stating the full name and address of the owner of the Debentures from which such Coupons have been detached.

Coupons must be left four clear days for examination, and can be lodged from this date at either of the above-mentioned Offices between the hours of 11 and 2 (Saturdays excepted).

Listing forms may be had on application.

By Order,
HERBERT T. HAYWARD,
London Secretary.

London Transfer Agency,
4 London Wall Buildings,
London, E.C.,
8th December, 1915.

PROVINCES OF ONTARIO THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. REGISTERED STOCK, 1946, AND FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. REGISTERED STOCK, 1945-65.

For the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants due 1st January, 1916, the balances were struck on the evening of the 1st December, 1915, after which date the Stock can only be transferred ex-dividend.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
8th December, 1915.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

ISSUE OF £525,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURE STOCK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the above Stock will be Closed from the 18th December to the 31st December, 1915, both days inclusive, for the purpose of the preparation of the Warrants for the Interest payable on the 1st January, 1916.

By Order of the Board,
JOHN PONSFORD,
Secretary.

Registered Offices—
5 & 6 Queen Street Place, London, E.C.,
9th December, 1915.

THE BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifty-seventh Ordinary General Meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Company's Offices, 132 Gresham House, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 16th of December, 1915, at Two o'clock in the afternoon precisely, for the purpose of transacting the ordinary general business of the Company required to be dealt with at such Meeting, which includes receiving the Directors' Report and Audited Statements of Accounts and Balance Sheet to 31st March, 1915, and the Auditors' Report thereon, electing Directors and Auditors in the place of those retiring in pursuance of the Articles of Association, and approving and confirming the appointment of Sir Trevredyn Rashleigh Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., as a Director of the Company.

Stockholders whose certificates are dated earlier than 1st January, 1914, are requested to send them to this office for issue of new certificates in accordance with the revised contract with the Secretary of State.

By Order of the Board,
T. R. WYNNE,
Managing Director.

132 Gresham House,
Old Broad Street,
7th December, 1915.

The Interest Warrants will be posted on Saturday, the 1st January, 1916.

THE COMMERCIAL COMPANY OF SALONICA, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-first Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at 85 Gresham Street, in the City of London, on Wednesday, December 29th, 1915, at 11 A.M., for the consideration of the Report of the Directors and the accounts of the Company for the financial year ending May 31st, 1915, for the decision as to the disposal of profits carried forward from the financial year 1913-1914, for the election of two Directors in the places of Messrs. Isac Fernandez and Alfred Misrachi, who retire by rotation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election, for the election of Auditors, and for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company.

In pursuance of Article 21 of the Articles of Association, Shareholders desiring to be present or to vote at the Meeting must deposit their Warrants at least five days before the Meeting, at the Offices of the Company in Salonica, or at the London Office of the Company, 85 Gresham Street, E.C.

By Order,
L. ALLATINI, Director.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twentieth Ordinary General Meeting of the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon,

To receive the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts to the 30th June, 1915;

To elect Directors in the place of those retiring by rotation;

To elect Auditors and fix their remuneration; and

To transact the business of an Ordinary General Meeting.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer wishing to attend and vote at the above Meeting must, three days at least previous thereto, deposit their Warrants, with all unpaid coupons attached, at one of the following places:—

LONDON: 63/4 Winchester House, E.C.;
PARIS: General Mining and Finance Corporation, Limited, 29 Rue Taitbout:

where they will receive a certificate entitling them to attend and vote at the Meeting in respect of the shares represented by the Warrant or Warrants so deposited.

By Order,
T. FREDK. THORNE,
Secretary.

63/4 Winchester House, London, E.C.,
6th December, 1915.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference Stock and Preferred Ordinary Stock of this Company will be Closed from the 15th to the 31st December, both days inclusive, for payment of Dividends.

By Order,
A. W. BOLDEN.
Secretary.

1 Broad Street Place, E.C.,
8th December, 1915.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock of the above Company will be Closed from the 15th to the 31st December, both days inclusive, for payment of interest.

By Order,
A. W. BOLDEN.
Secretary.

1 Broad Street Place, E.C.,
8th December, 1915.

AGUAS BLANCAS RAILWAY. (COMPANIA FERRO CARRIL DE AGUAS BLANCAS.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four-and-a-half per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture Stock of the above-named Company will be Closed from the 15th to the 31st December, both days inclusive, for payment of interest.

By Order,
A. W. BOLDEN.
Secretary, London Agency.

1 Broad Street Place, E.C.,
8th December, 1915.

THOMAS TILLING, LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that for the preparation of Dividend and Interest the Transfer Books of this Company will be Closed as follows: For the Preference Shares from the 16th to the 30th inst. inclusive, and for the First Mortgage Debentures from the 23rd to the 30th inclusive.

C. LOVERIDGE,
Secretary.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

HOLBORN & FRASCATI, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock will be Closed from the 18th to the 31st December, both days inclusive, for the preparation of Interest Warrants payable on the 1st January, 1916

By Order,
ARTHUR G. CHIFFERIEL,
Secretary.

32 Oxford Street, W.,
9th December, 1915.

GOLDSBROUGH, MORT & CO., LIMITED (incorporated in Victoria, Australia), Give Notice that the Transfer Books of "A" and "B" Debenture Stocks will be Closed from the 18th to the 31st instant, both days inclusive, for preparation of Warrants for Interest payable 1st prox.

By Order,
ARTHUR J. PUGH,
London Manager and Secretary

Leadenhall Buildings, E.C.,
9th December, 1915.

THE LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Register of the Four per Cent. Debenture Stock of this Company will be Closed from the 17th to the 31st inst., both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915.

By Order,
J. H. DRURY,
Secretary.

Offices of the Company—
3 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
9th December, 1915.

JAMES W. COOK & CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Preference Shares will be Closed from 20th to 31st inst., both days inclusive.

By Order,
ERNEST G. DEVITT, Secretary

130-5 Minories, E.C.,
9th December, 1915.

LIVERPOOL COURIER

The newspaper of the business man of Lancashire and Cheshire. No business house of any standing is without it.

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An application to the London Manager, 187 Fleet Street, E.C., will bring details of Charges. Private wire to Liverpool is open day and night.

The Liverpool Courier

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

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Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

THE FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four per Cent. First Mortgage Perpetual Debenture Stock of this Company will be Closed from the 17th to 31st December, 1915, both days inclusive, for the preparation of Interest Warrants.

By Order of the Board,
A. MACMURCHY,
Secretary.

Hotel Russell,
Russell Square, London, W.C.,
December 8th, 1915.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.
INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 Share on Coupon No. 54 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1915, at Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, 1 Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54 Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated, Alexandria, 22nd November, 1915.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Manager.

THE AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Five per Cent. "A" Debenture Stock and Four per Cent. "B" Debenture Stock of the above Company will be Closed from the 18th to 31st December, 1915, both days inclusive, for the preparation of Interest Warrants payable on 1st January, 1916.

By Order of the Board,
A. W. STEVENS,
Secretary.

Offices of the Company—
96 Leadenhall Street, E.C.,
9th December, 1915.

BEYER PEACOCK AND CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that WARRANTS for INTEREST on the 4½% Debenture Stock for the six months ending the 31st December, 1915, will be posted on the 31st December, 1915, and will be payable at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67 Lombard Street, E.C., on and after the 1st January, 1916.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books in respect of Debenture stock will be closed from the 24th to the 31st December, 1915, inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
A. F. HALSTEAD,
Manager and Secretary.

Gorton Foundry, Manchester,
9th December, 1915.

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce GIVE NOTICE that the Directors of the above Company have DECLARED a QUARTERLY DIVIDEND of 1¾% for the three months ending 31st December, 1915, on the Common Stock of the Company to shareholders of record on 15th December.

The Dividend is payable on the 1st day of January, 1916.

The Transfer Books of the Company will not be closed.

For The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Registrars of the Canadian General Electric Company, Limited.

C. CAMBIE.

2 Lombard Street, E.C.,
11th December, 1915.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
Sub-Governor—ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
Deputy Governor CHARLES S. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.
Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq. Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ORDINARY and INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.
LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bonus Policy is designed specially to meet present conditions, and provides for old age or for widow and orphans in case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3,840,000.

Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated in Canada 1851.

Paid-up Capital £513,698. **Total Losses Paid exceed £12,600,000.**

FIRE Consequential Fire Loss **MARINE**
Insurances granted at Current Rates.

British and Foreign Office - 14 CORNHILL, E.C.
W. A. MILES, Fire Manager. H. M. BENTLEY, Assistant Fire Manager
R. H. R. BURDER, Underwriter and Secretary.

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000

ROYAL LONDON
INSURANCE OFFICES.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.
ROYAL LONDON AUXILIARY INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

LIFE, FIRE, ACCIDENT.

Head Office:
ROYAL LONDON HOUSE, FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.
JOHN PEAKE, HENRY DUDGEON, *Managing Directors.*

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(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

POINTS
from the
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

for the Year ending 20th November, 1914.

Mortality experience... ... 72½%
Expense Ratio 10.2%
Rate of Interest, less Tax ... £4 1 10%

WRITE FOR FREE COPY TO 48 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED

Head Office: 71 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Capital Subscribed		£31,304,200
Capital Paid up		5,008,672
Reserve Fund		3,600,000
Deposits	June 1915	134,524,366
Advances	June 1915	59,740,811

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.

The services of the Bank, with its widespread system of Branches, are at the disposal of the public for the deposit of savings, however small. Interest will be allowed on terms as to rate, withdrawal, &c., which can be obtained on application

900 OFFICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

French Auxiliary:
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED.
Offices at Paris, Bordeaux, Biarritz and Havre.

SPECIAL INSURANCE NUMBER.

The Annual Insurance Number of THE STATIST will be issued on December 18.

The work is the most important of its kind, and places at the disposal of everyone accurate knowledge concerning the really important phases of Life Assurance. Every undertaking is dealt with adequately, and clearly shows the intending assurant the benefits offered by and the position of each Company. The great importance of Insurance has been further demonstrated during the current War, and intending assurants will find our Special Issue of great value in helping them to decide upon the offices from which they may obtain the best results.

Orders for extra copies should be sent in before date of issue.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Friday Evening, December 10, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

Dates Fixed.	Bank of England Rate.	Deposit Rates.—Banks, Notice.	Discount Houses—Call.	Discount Houses—Notice.
	%	%	%	%
Nov. 29, 1915...	—	—	4	4¼
Sept. 2, „ ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 Months.	6 Months.	9 Months.	12 Months.
Price	...£98 15s. 0¾d.	£97 9s. 10¼d.	£96 4s. 8d.	£95
Discount Rate	5%	5%	5%	5%

Discount Rates:—

	60 Days.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5	5⅛	5⅛	5¼
Trade Bills	—	5½-6	5½-6	5⅝-6

MONEY.

The Money market shows very little change. The supply of money is abundant, but bills are scarce. And were it not that bankers can obtain as many Treasury Bills as they want at 5%, discount rates would undoubtedly be much lower than 5⅛% for three months' bills and somewhat higher for four and six months' drafts. It is true that the quantity of Treasury Bills taken by bankers is expanding rapidly, and that the total amount now outstanding is no less than 335 millions. But the money thus taken from the market by purchasers of Treasury Bills is retained for only a few hours, and bankers' balances expand with the increase of Government debt. The deposits would be reduced by gold shipments were it not for the issue from week to week of substantial amounts of currency notes.

The exports of gold consequently have no effect upon the floating balances, and the country is not compelled to restrict its consumption. Of course, it is obvious that this process cannot go on indefinitely, and that sooner or later a very sharp restriction of consumption will become necessary. The market hopes that the measures which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is now considering will have the effect of restricting consumption and of checking the export of gold. For the moment the export of gold has been reduced to relatively small proportions by the recent Government loan in the United States, by the creation of the new banking credits and by the heavy selling of American securities that is now in progress by British investors. But all the measures that have been taken have not stopped the gold exports. It is hoped, however, that these measures will prevent any substantial export of gold until the new loan comes to be issued early next year and the country is induced to become much more economical and efficient, and thus to bring the adverse trade balance within manageable proportions.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

On balance for the week the Bank of England received from abroad £544,000 in gold, but inasmuch as £1,510,000 in gold was withdrawn for the country, the net loss of gold was £966,000. This reduced the sum held to £50,273,000, which is slightly less than was held in June last, and some £10,000,000 greater than the amount held in July of last year. The loss of reserve was £846,000, which brought the amount to £34,567,000, a figure which compares with about £29,000,000 prior to the War. The note circulation declined £120,000 to £34,155,000. The public deposits increased £2,083,000 to £52,444,000, and the "other" deposits have been reduced £3,506,000 to £90,019,000. There was an increase of £3,000,000 in Government securities, which nearly neutralised a decline of £3,571,000 in "other" securities. In the last fortnight the increase in Government securities has been nearly £14,000,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is slightly lower at 24.26%.

FINANCING THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government's disbursements last week were very heavy, amounting to £70,079,000. Doubtless these payments were due to the fact that recently disbursements have been exceptionally small. It would seem, however, that the Government's payments are now up to date. Towards providing this money the revenue contributed £3,816,000, and the balance was found by the issue of nearly £42,000,000 of Treasury bills, by the creation of £20,000,000 of Ways and Means advances, and by the receipt of nearly £12,000,000 from the American loan. The cash balance increased nearly £8,000,000 to £31,882,000. The amount of Treasury bills in issue on Saturday last was £335,394,000, and the amount of Ways and Means advances was £61,046,000.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

Gold continues to arrive in the United States, and since the beginning of the year the sum received is calculated to amount to about £80,000,000. In view of the enormous balances at the disposal of bankers it is not surprising that money remains cheap, notwithstanding the great expansion in their loans and deposits. Last week the reserves of the Associated Banks were practically unaltered, while their loans were reduced about £1,000,000 and their deposits £900,000. Their surplus reserves increased about £100,000 to £36,088,000. During the past week the sight exchange upon London has risen from 4.70⅞ to 4.72⅛, the sales of American securities by British holders having been heavy, at the same time that the Government has been meeting disbursements in the United States out of the proceeds of the Anglo-French loan, and bankers have been willing to sell exchange against the British credit recently created.

The Irving National Bank of New York notify us by cable that the following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—		Rate Dec. 9	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London ...	sight	$4 72	4 86⅓ dollars for £1	2·9
„ ...	cables	$4 72⅛		
„ ...	60 days	$4 67⅛		
Amsterdam	sight	42.70c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 4·5
Berlin ...	sight	79c.	95 cents for 4 marks	16·8
Copenhagen	cheques	27.70c.	26⅓ cents for 1 kronen	Prem. 3·5
Italy ...	sight	6.00l.	5.18 lire for $1	15·8
Paris ...	sight	5 84½fr.	5.18 francs for $1	12·9
Petrograd	sight	31c.	51½ cents for 1 rouble	39·8
Switzerland	sight	5 33½fr.	5.18½ francs for $1	2·8
Vienna ...	sight	13 80c.	20¼ cents for 1 kroner	31·0

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Dec. 9, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ... 2%
Dec. 11, 1914 ...	„ „ ...	4½-5%	„ „ ... 3½ 4%

POSITION IN INDIA.

The demand for money in India continues to expand, and no difficulty is experienced in selling the 50 lacs of Council drafts offered. Exchange is firm at 1s. 4 1/32d. The efflux of coined silver from the Currency Department last week amounted to 57 lacs, which brought the aggregate amount to 3,360 lacs. The highest point reached at the beginning of August was 4,015 lacs, so that this season, so far, there has been an efflux of 655 lacs. Last year at this time the stock of silver was 3,069 lacs, while the highest total reached was 3,800 lacs at the end of August.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | **Bengal** ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, December 8, are:—

BILLS.				TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	*s. d.*	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	11,50,000	1,28,000	11	1 4 1/16	8,00,000	8,00,000	100
—	—	—	—	1 4 3/32	1,55,00,000	17,29,000	11
—	—	—	—	1 4	2,10,00,000*	23,43,000	11
Total ...	11,50,000	1,28,000	—	Total ...	3,73,00,000	48,72,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000 ...	Rs. 3,84,50,000 ...	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta	... 11,000	1/4	1/4	6,02,000*	1/4	1/4
				2,79,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32
Bombay	... 15,000	1/4	1/4	12,74,000*	1/4	1/4
				18,50,000	1/4.044	1/4 3/32
Madras	...1,02,000	1/4	1/4	4,67,000*	1/4	1/4
				4,00,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32

* Deferred.

From **April 1** to **December 7** inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs.10,10,85,435**, realising **£6,742,297**. Up to **December 8** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,35,41,861**, realising **£4,245,093**. The total sales for the week ended **December 7** amounted to **Rs. 69,99,374**, realising **£467,613**. The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be **50** lacs.

SILVER.

THE price of silver, which late last week fell to 26 7/16*d.*, sharply recovered on Monday to 27 1/16*d.*, from which it has since fallen to 26¾*d.* The rise was due to buying for India and difficulty in completing the orders. But in the last few days there has been more willingness to sell. The market is, however, quite firm; and, having regard to the scarcity of supplies, a fresh rise in price would seem to be probable.

	Dec. 3	4	6	7	8	9	10
London ...	26 7/16	26 1/16	27 1/16	26 5/8	26¾	26⅝	26¾
India ...	Rs.68¼	66⅝	67 1/16	68¼	69¼	68¼	68¼
Exchange ...	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32

Stock Exchange.

Settlement of pre-War open position deferred to a year after peace declaration.—*Vide* Emergency Rules as to conditions.

	TICKET DAY.	PAY DAY.	CONSOLS.
Settlement Days	Tues., Dec. 14 / Wed., Dec. 29	Wed., Dec. 15 / Thurs., Dec. 30	Wed., Jan. 5 / —

ON balance for the week British Government issues show little change in prices, quotations being now approximately: Consols 58½, 3½% War Loan 90, and 4½% War Loan 97¼. Business in the various markets for Foreign Government, &c., and Home and other railway issues has been very restricted. Shipping shares have perhaps been the most actively dealt in of home securities. Rubber shares have generally further improved, with a less active state of the market and a sustained rise in the price of rubber, given little heed to.

The main activity, with some large business put through, has been in American Railway shares and bonds, the latter especially. An incident of the week is the relaxation of regulations as to "physical possession," heretofore restricted to residents in the United Kingdom. Owners in neutral countries of such securities are now permitted to effect sales through English brokers; all bargains, however, having to be inquired into by a sub-committee of the Stock Exchange Committee, who, according to circumstances, permit or refuse permission for transactions to be carried out.

INTEROCEANIC RY. OF MEXICO.

THE annual report of the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico, covering the twelve months to June last, contains little of an encouraging character. The control of the railway and its leased lines is still in the hands of the Government, and as no accounts or remittances have been received from Mexico in respect of the period subsequent to July 1, 1914, the directors are unable to present any revenue account or balance sheet for the twelve months to June last. At the date of making up the last accounts—viz., June 30, 1914—the net revenue account showed a debit balance of £54,314, and this has since been increased to £295,803, which represents the amount due in respect of interest charges, rents, administration expenses, &c., up to June 30, 1915. The Moratorium of one year granted to the Company by the Debenture stockholders and others in June 1914 has had to be extended for a further period of two years, in consequence of the continued unsettled state of affairs in Mexico; and although nothing definite is known as to the immediate future, the recent recognition by the United States Government of General Carranza appears, the directors state, to be an important step towards the restoration of normal conditions. Moreover, the announcement in the House of Commons on Thursday by Lord Robert Cecil that the British Government had also formally recognised the existence of the *de facto* Government of the Republic of Mexico, is another hopeful sign which may go a long way towards restoring confidence. As regards the railway itself, private advices are to the effect that the Company's property is not being properly maintained, that the permanent way has considerably deteriorated, and that some of the stations and a number of locomotives and wagons have been destroyed or damaged. The temporary bridge at San Francisco, some 20 kilometres from Vera Cruz, which was erected to replace the permanent bridge destroyed by the National troops on the occupation of Vera Cruz by the forces of the United States Government in 1914, is reported to have been recently washed away by floods.

VILLA MARIA AND RUFINO RY.

THE Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company operates and manages the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway, and in return for the gross receipts guarantees certain specified dividends on the Company's capital issues. The capital consists of £673,500 4% Debenture stock and £393,750 Guaranteed stock, entitled to dividends of 4% till June 30, 1917, and 4½% thereafter. The price of the 4% Debenture stock is 70¼, and allowing for accrued interest the yield is £5 7/8 per cent. The Guaranteed stock is nominally quoted about 83, and on a 4½% dividend basis the yield afforded is a trifle over £5½ per cent. The guarantee is well secured, and both stocks may be regarded as relatively safe investments. The Buenos Ayres and Pacific is not likely to experience a worse year than it did in 1914-15, and in that period its total fixed charges, including rentals, &c., were covered with a margin of £231,000. The interest on Villa Maria stocks alone require only £43,000.

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Mining Topics.

THE firmness displayed last week in the Mining department continued for a day or two in the leading sections, but there came a pause, and the market thereafter presented a wearied appearance. Those persons who had bought speculatively in some cases elected to take profits, and would-be new buyers hold aloof till they see signs of a brightening of the international situation. By the close of the week, where improvements had earlier occurred, there were set-backs, and in most other cases declines were shown compared with a week ago.

Comparatively speaking the volume of business has been much restricted, and certainly, for the moment, no disposition to make purchases is evident. As regards the Rand, from the point of view of intrinsic mining conditions, the position is quite good. Strenuous and successful efforts are being made to increase output, profits are in many cases expanding, and increases are expected to be shown in many of the December dividend announcements, now due. The programme for 1916 is for a steady augmentation of the tonnage treated and of the output.

The City and Suburban's dividend of 6¼% for December compares with 7½% a year ago.

Partly as a consequence of the recent good discoveries and movement in the price of Springs shares and a mild excitement in respect of Daggafontein shares, a feature of the week has been a fidget in the market for small-priced shares of Far Eastern Rand companies. We set out in the table below the approximate present prices of shares, capital, and reference to the areas possessed by individual companies. Later we may set out further detail.

Area		Capital Issued £	Approx. Present Price
956 claims	Boksburg (New)	540,000	1/-
2,101 ,,	Cinderella	1,159,450 and 500,000 5½% Debentures.	5/-
799 ,,	Cloverfield	355,000	6/-
See "Statist," Dec. 4.	Daggafontein (reconstructing).		8/3
347 ,,	East Rand Deep	50,000(2/- shs.)	1/-
Various	East Rand Mng. Est.	450,000	8/-
729 morgen	Geyserle	52,662	4/-
See "Statist," Oct. 16.	New Goch'l Deep	30,000 (2 - shs.)	2/9
5,910 ac. coal, 828 clms. gold	Rand Collieries	631,250	2/6
1000 claims mynpacht	Rand Klips	432,336	5/6
Various	S. Africa Land & Expl.	399,000	2/9
2,701 morgen, 912 claims	Van Dyk	500,000	2/6
5,471 acres, 1,240 claims	Welgedacht	156,750	16/-

All above are shares of £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Diamond descriptions have scarcely been mentioned, but in miscellaneous gold mining shares there has been a somewhat steadier market for Rhodesians.

Among base metal companies the two outstanding features of the week have been the distinct recovery in Burma Corporation and the demand for Tanganyika Concessions, alleged to be on American account. Broken Hill shares have also been firm, in some cases showing a distinct improvement in price. We elsewhere deal with the position of three important American copper companies.

Russian shares have been quiet, virtually no changes in quotations being shown. We subsequently comment upon the latest pronouncement as to the position of the Irtysh Corporation.

Champion Reefs have been a poor market, receding at one time to below 9s., the reference to developments in the Annual Report just issued not being regarded as of an inspiriting nature.

In our Correspondence columns subsequently will be found reference to remarks we gave last week upon the subject of the Canadian Mining Corporation.

Daggafontein.—An official circular dated December 8 has been issued that confirms the main particulars we gave last week. The capitalisation will be modified to 178,835 shares in a new company—one new share for each old £1 share, 100,000 £1 shares to be issued at par, and provision for the right to create £400,000 6% First Mortgage Convertible Debenture bonds. Full particulars will be submitted to shareholders at a later date.

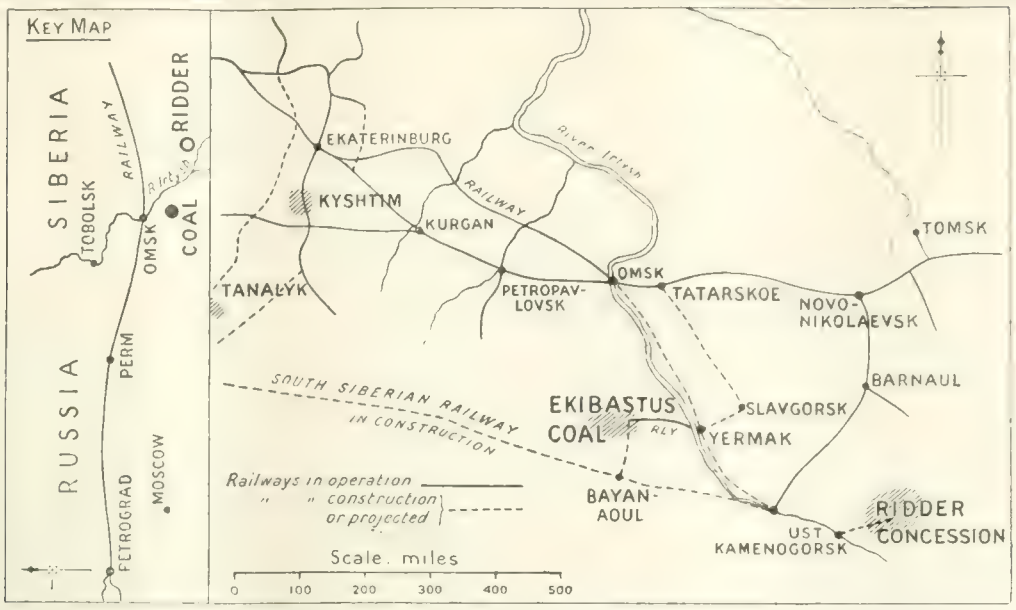
IRTYSH CORPORATION.

PROFIT VALUE ESTIMATE, £10,400,000.

A BASE-METAL mining property worked in bygone days in a shallow manner, and which, with the appliances then known, could not be operated in depth, has in recent years been resuscitated and attacked with the most up-to-date development procedure. It is very difficult indeed to bring home to any ordinary investor the importance of proofs afforded of the extent and value of discoveries effected. With many men absolute indifference is felt on the subject of developments, but with the same men, when the era of production comes to be attained, interest is aroused. Readers of THE STATIST have over the past two or three years been informed as to the discoveries made at the Ridder mine, in Central Siberia, now arriving at the stage of production.

We recur this week to the subject of the operations of the Irtysh Corporation, which in December 1914 took over concessions in Central Siberia that had belonged to the Russo-Asiatic Corporation. The *pro forma* report and accounts of the Russo-Asiatic Corporation have been issued to the shareholders this week, and accompanying the report is a circular giving the most recent information as to the progress of the Irtysh Corporation, which through the Russian-formed Ridder Company acquired the mineral concession over 1,600 square miles of the Altai Imperial Estates, with exclusive right until 1919 and preferential right until 1924 to take up mining claims within the area. The Corporation also, through another Russian Company—the Kirgiz Mining Company—acquired the Ekibastus Coalfield, paying a nominal yearly rental to the Russian Government till exhaustion, and simultaneously acquired an 80-mile broad-gauge equipped railway connecting the coal mine with the Irtysh River. All the capital of both Russian Companies is held by the Irtysh Corporation.

A great many people marvelled at the issue of a prospectus in war period at end of 1914 offering £500,000 6% Debentures of the Irtysh Corporation, and they still more marvelled when, despite the state of war, the whole of the Debentures were promptly subscribed. Except for shares passed to the vendor Russo-Asiatic Corporation, none had been issued.



The allocation of the Irtysh Corporation's share capital in £1 shares was as under:—

1,100,000	shares	issued fully paid to Vendors.
200,000	"	reserved against exchange of Debentures at rate of £2 10*s.* of Debenture for the £1 share. *i.e.*—40 shares for £100 Debenture.
250,000	"	reserved against the right given to allottees of Debentures to subscribe for shares at par—one share in respect of each £2 Debenture.
250,000	"	reserved against right to subscribe granted to guarantors of Debenture issue.
200,000	"	reserved for future issue.
2,000,000	...	Total authorised shares.

It will be noted from the above that 500,000 shares may be subscribed for by allottees of Debentures who have paid up in full and the guarantors. Only a few have been so subscribed. In the circumstances of calls on the Debentures of £12 10*s.* per quarter being spread up to and inclusive of the last call due September 1916, not many allottees have exercised their rights. Although dealings in the shares have taken place in recent months between the range of $1\frac{5}{8}$ and 2 for the £1 share, it is only last week that the position was regularised by the following Stock Exchange official notice:

"Dealings in the following securities have been approved by the Treasury and specially allowed by the Stock Exchange Committee under Temporary Regulation 4 (3):

Irtysh Corporation—500,000 shares of £1 each, Nos. 1,100,008 to 1,600,007."

The December 1914 prospectus and the response thereto were all in order. Treasury restrictions and Stock Exchange regulations based thereon only came into operation with the reopening of the Stock Exchange on January 4, 1915. Surprise has been expressed that recognition should now be given to so large and important an amount as 500,000 shares. In reference to this matter it has to be recollected that this country is financially assisting the Governments of our Allies as much as it can. The Russian Government for its Munitions Department requires supplies of base metals and coal; the Irtysh Corporation is doing its utmost to meet the demand, and has attained the stage of erection of a first instalment of concentrating mill at the mineral mine and is pushing on construction of smelting plant at the coal-mine for supplying the Russian Government with zinc and lead derived from its Ridder and Sokolny metal-mines. It is also pressing on development work in the coal mine and on equipment for turning out a large output. No patriotic investor need have any qualms of conscience in doing the best he can in helping the Company financially, and thereby furthering the aims of the two Governments.

Those persons who have closely studied the position of the enterprise from a commercial point of view hold strong opinions of great prosperity for the Irtysh Corporation, controlling as it does an enormous stretch of base-metal-impregnated ground and a huge coal property, also owning its own railway facilities and river transport tugs and barges.

In the autumn of 1914, after a large amount of preliminary boring and development operations, the services were secured of a high expert to make an independent investigation and check the work that had been initiated at Ridder and Ekibastus by the Russo-Asiatic Corporation. As an outcome of his examination Mr. Knox made a very cautious and conservative estimate of the profit value of quantity of ore the borehole showings had brought into sight. On very conservative lines, in the direction of quantities, costs, and certainly so in calculations as to values, he came to a set of figures to which we will refer. In the year's interval since further testing work has been done, both laterally and in depth. Various technical experts of the Corporation have faced the dangers of visits this year to the properties. In the circular we have referred to is the report of the four members of the technical committee as to the position of the mine and the programme as to railway and river communication, erection of mills, smelters, &c., at both the metal property and the coal-mine. They have estimated the further quantities of ore brought into sight by additional boring operations made since Mr. Knox's examination, and on the same conservative price-lines as Mr. Knox, *e.g.*, silver, 24*d.* per ounce, lead and zinc—Russian prices—respectively £20 and £24, the contrast between the estimate of 1914 and that of 1915 is set out below:—

		Estimated Quantity Tons	Profit Value £
November 1914	...	2,448,000	7,400,000
November 1915	...	3,174,000	10,800,000

The view is entertained that there is continuance of metal-impregnated ground for a long stretch of country—perhaps 25 to 30 miles from about north and to south. To a south-easterly direction from the Ridder operations testing on the Sokolny, formerly worked and rich in zinc, has been successfully effected. Nothing is included in the reserves as to possible Sokolny ore. Although the bores actually sunk in the region of the Ridder Mine have proved continuance of impregnated country along a stretch of 1,500 feet from N1 (north) to P1 (south) the estimated ore contents above referred to are only in respect of half that length from Bore K1 (north) to Bore D1 (south), and those who are interested in the matter will like to have their memory refreshed by referring to the diagram we

gave in THE STATIST of May 1, 1915, and use such diagram in reading the up-to-date detail of the widths, assays, and values disclosed by diamond drilling on the Ridder Mine set out in the circular we now call attention to, and particulars of which are given in our advertisement pages.

Before summing up we may note that the first unit of a concentrating mill at Ridder has already started. The object of the mill is to concentrate zinc and lead (both carrying gold and silver). Zinc concentrates also carry recoverable lead. Zinc concentrates despatched to the coal-mine region are there to be roasted and retorted in zinc plant, leaving residues containing lead, gold, silver, and copper. These residues will be smelted in the lead plant in conjunction with the lead concentrates.

Efforts are now being made to bring into operation the first unit of zinc plant by about March next. Plans are being got out for lead plant, and it is hoped to have a first instalment of this in operation in the autumn of next year.

The experimental concentration mill is able at present to deal with apparently at the rate of some 1,500 to 2,000 tons of *ore* monthly, the concentrates of which will go to the smelters, and the units of smelters—at present three—can deal with about 1,600 tons of concentrates per annum each. It is proposed during 1916 to double the capacity of both the mill and smelters. But doubtless at the meeting to be held of the Russo-Asiatic Corporation on December 16 reference will be made to the attainments and the expectations of extensions of plant.

It is very gratifying to find how, despite all the war discomforts, the loss of labourers, the calling-off of skilled men, &c., so much progress has been made this year as is evidenced by the virtual arrival at the first stage of production. Reading between the lines it is clear that the Government has given the undertaking all the facilities it can, and the prospects of the Corporation even in war-times appear encouraging.

It is to be recollected the Company is spending heavily on developments, material and construction, and the outlays, in the main, are in Russia. A very considerable proportion of the money that should be derived from Debentures comes in slowly by driblets as calls fall due. Until the Debentures are fully paid those who are entitled to exercise options and subscribe for a £1 share per £2 of Debenture are few. Yet with the exchange rate for sterling as it is now it will be beneficial if shareholders come forward and enable the Corporation to receive the present abnormal large number of roubles payable in London for the £ sterling and cheaply lay down cash resources in Russia.

We will conclude our remarks by an observation on a market aspect. With the shares that have been issued to vendors, assuming Debentures that have been issued to be all converted into shares and that all the earmarked shares that can be are subscribed, the total issued share capital of the Company, with no debt, would be £1,800,000, and apart from potentialities of further discoveries we have the technical committee reporting on most conservative lines a profit value in sight—not a gross value, but a profit value—of £10,400,000. Dividing an issued 1,800,000 shares into such estimated profit value, we arrive at the rough-and-ready sum of, say, £6 per share. *Quid plura?*

CAM AND MOTOR.

THE report for the year to June 30, 1915, reflects great discomforts, mainly arising from operations with a plant that required modification. The plant prior to alteration secured a disappointingly low rate of extraction of the gold contents of the ore; indeed, the average of April and May 1915 had fallen to approximately 64½% recovery only. By June, the last month of the Company's financial year, a change was consummated through the completion of the modified plant, the extraction of that month rising to very close to 83%. The mine having operated during a war period, and the denudation of labour consequent on events in South Africa, hampered operations. The cost of materials used was enhanced and the tonnage treated, through inadequacy of white supervision, was not up to the capacity of the mill. For the twelve months 142,700 tons were dealt with, but the profit results, for the reasons above referred to, were no better than 6*s.* 4*d.* per ton. A contrast of results to June 30 and since is given below in the manner in which we intermittently give the crushing results of the Company:—

Cam and Motor.—Capital £617,500, in £1 shares.

Year ends June 30 1913-14.	Tons Treated	Value £	Value Per Ton	Expenses £	Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
Feb. 28-June 30...	56,130	53,376	19/0	—	—	—	—	19/6
1914-15	142,702	222,067	31/2	176,981	24/10	45,086	6/4	14.3
1915-16.								
Sept. qr. ...	37,428	62,475	33/5	48,123	25/8	14,352	7/9	13/0
Oct.	12,108	19,577	32/4	15,566	25/9	4,011	6/7	13/9

The detail of the year's operations is set out below:—

Year to June 30		1915 £	1915
Gold yield	(142,702 tons)	222,067	31/2
Mine expenses and royalty		176,981	24/10
		45,086	6/4
Sundry revenue...		109	
		45,195	
Appropriations—			
Administration	£2,203		
Debenture interest, &c.	6,413		
Depreciation	21,066		
		29,682	
		15,513	
Balance brought forward		697	
Carried forward		16,210	

Consequent on events there was but a limited amount of development accomplished, and the Company had mainly to rely upon its ore reserves for the mill supply. What development work was done, mainly on the No. 6 level, showed, according to the General Manager, "the ore body to be continuing down strongly, and containing highly payable values over a great width." Much of the altered plant was only *put into efficient operation quite at the close of the financial year.* Reference is made to it having run most satisfactorily since it was installed, and it is to be hoped benefit will result from the higher efficiency in the current year. At June 30, 1914, the Motor ore reserves were returned as 867,032 tons, of an average assay value of about 44*s.* 5*d.* per ton. At June 30, 1915, the quantity was reduced to 739,844 tons, with a lower average assay value of 41*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

As to the Company's finances it will be noted that at June 30, 1915, after clearing off the bulk of the large indebtedness of a year previously by the issue of Debentures for £50,000 and the sale of the northern half of the property for £50,000, there remained a debt of approximately £70,000. Per contra, the Company has owed to it by debtors about £22,000, bullion in hand £22,000, and cash at bank or in hand some £6,000. Any balance of floating indebtedness must be cleared off out of future profits before the dividend stage can be attained.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS.

THE report of this, the richest West African gold mine, for the year ended June 30, 1915, is a very satisfactory one. The ore milled in the year increased to 131,236 tons, in comparison with 117,867 tons in the preceding twelve months, and though the yield per ton declined from 73*s.* 6*d.* to 68*s.* 1*d.*, this was nearly offset by the reduction in working costs to 37*s.* 6*d.* per ton, against 42*s.* 5*d.*, with the result that the working profit for the year rose to £201,158, or

£17,400 more than in 1913-14. After including sundry receipts, and deducting Government royalty, depreciation, and directors' extra remuneration, the net profit of the past year was £159,656, against £145,731 in respect of 1913-14. The total dividend of 68¾% paid for the past year absorbed £151,670 and £8,000 is added to the carry-forward. In respect of 1913-14 the same rate of dividend was paid, but the amount absorbed exceeded the profit available by about £1,600, and the carry-forward was reduced to that extent.

The conservative distribution of the past year's profits and the liberal allowance for depreciation have had the effect of further strengthening the already strong financial position, and the surplus liquid assets at June 30, 1915, consequently amounted to £63,827, against £51,500 a year previously. In comparison the issued capital of £220,611 figures favourably. The following table gives a contrast of the results of operations during the last six years and shows the profits earned and the manner of their allocation:—

	Years ended June 30—					
	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gold production...	447,257	423,683	460,531	474,365	428,130	306,323
Working costs* ...	246,102	249,927	247,305	230,595	229,653	147,768
Working profit ...	201,155	183,756	213,226	243,770	198,478	158,545
Sundry receipts ...	5,542	7,970†	10,522†	12,300†	2,649	3,270
Brought forward	62,213	63,809	76,168	60,682	69,068	49,545
Total available ...	268,910	255,535	299,916	316,752	270,195	211,370
Allocations:						
Depreciation, &c.	22,794	21,237	20,533	17,927	24,808	18,271
Govt. royalty ...	22,363	21,684	23,021	23,718	21,407	15,316
Directors' extra remuneration...	1,884	3,074	5,042	11,937	10,346	8,143
Debenture charges	—	—	—	—	—	1,217
Dividends paid ...	151,670 (68¾%)	147,327 (68¾%)	187,506 (87½%)	187,002 (87½%)	152,952 (75%)	99,355 (50%)
Carried forward ...	70,199	62,213	63,809	76,168	60,682	69,068
	268,910	255,535	299,916	316,752	270,195	211,370
Tons milled ...	131,236	117,867	148,447	153,554	124,554	101,763
Yield per ton ...	68*s.* 1*d.*	73*s.* 6*d.*	62*s.*	61*s.* 9*d.*	68*s.* 7*d.*	60*s.* 2*d.*
Aver. extraction	93·1%	93·2%	92·6%	87·5%	91%	91%
Costs per ton ...	37*s.* 6*d.*	42*s.* 5*d.*	33*s.* 4*d.*	30*s.*	36*s.* 10*d.*	29*s.*
Profit per ton ...	30*s.* 7*d.*	31*s.* 1*d.*	28*s.* 8*d.*	31*s.* 9*d.*	31*s.* 9*d.*	31*s.* 2*d.*
Ore reserves (tons)	433,900	432,500	565,300	392,840	508,200	543,834
Value per ton ...	91*s.* 6*d.*	83*s.* 1*d.*	82*s.* 6*d.*	75*s.* 2*d.*	66*s.* 1*d.*	70*s.* 1*d.*
Issued capital ...	£220,611	£220,611	£214,293	£214,293	£210,897	£200,900
Net liquid resources	£63,827	£51,500	£44,311	£84,005	£84,946	£26,250
Price of 4*s.* shares at end of Company's year ...	15*s.* 6*d.*	15*s.* 6*d.*	16*s.*	£1 1/16	£1⅛	£2¼

* Prior to the year 1911-12 working costs included only a portion of outlay on mine development.
† Including profit on re-treatment of old tailings.

It will be noted from the table that the ore reserve position shows very material improvement. The quantity of ore in sight at September 30, 1915, amounting to 433,900 tons, shows an increase of only 1,400 tons on the year, but the average value has improved as much as 8*s.* 5*d.* per ton, to 91*s.* 6*d.* This is despite the treatment during the year of 131,000 tons of ore, averaging 73*s.* 2*d.* per ton. As a result of the increase in the gold contents of the ore reserves their estimated profit value is now £176,000 more than a year ago. The contributions of the different sections of the property to the ore reserves of this year and 1914 will be seen from the following:—

Ore Reserves.

	—At Sept. 30. 1915—			—At Sept. 30, 1914—		
	Tons	Assay Value Dwt.	Profit Value £	Tons	Assay Value Dwt.	Profit Value £
Ashanti main workings	22 000	20 0	46.000	34.100	21 08	64 400
„ Obuasi chute ...	266 900	28 0	761.500	213 400	27 3	563.700
Ayeinm mine	80 000	9 0	10.100	120 000	10 0	13 200
Justice's mine	65.000	11 0	11.500	65.000	11 0	11 800
Totals	433.900	21 55	829.700	432.500	19 56	653.100

It will be noted that the main reliance of the Company is the Obuasi chute, and that the improvement in the ore reserve position is entirely due to the very satisfactory manner in which this ore body is opening up. The Consulting Engineer reports that the four bottom levels—Nos. 12 to 15—have all contributed to the improvement. No. 12 level, for 560 feet driven along the chute, shows over 58,000 tons, value 30 dwt. per ton, as against 30,000 tons of the same value a year previously, although a fair proportion of ore has been taken out of the level during the twelve months. At No. 13 level, the 1914 provisional estimate of 20,200 tons of ore averaging 27 dwt. has been increased to 55,000 tons of 29-dwt ore. At the two new levels of the year—Nos. 14 and 15—for the part of the chute developed the provisional estimates aggregate 48,000 tons, of a value of over 25 dwt. per ton.

Having regard to the strength of the ore reserve position, it is certain the output and profits could be increased but for one drawback. The working conditions at the Ashanti mine, especially in the matter of ventilation, limit the output capacity to that attained in the past year, and the Consulting Engineer, consequently, does not look for any further improvement in production and earnings. Indeed, he apparently looks for some decline, as will be seen from the following contrast of his forecast of output per month for the current financial year with the actual performance of the past year:—

	1915-16 Proposed Output —per Month—		1914-15 Actual Output per Month	
	Tons	Yield £	Tons	Yield £
Ashanti mine	6,200	28,500	6,207	28,164
Ayeinm mine	3,500	5,600	3,770	6,700
Outside sources	1,500	2,100	1,546	2,496
Totals	11,200	36,400	11,523	37,360

The Consulting Engineer states that the rate of output proposed should represent a profit of well over £150,000 for the year, apparently after deduction of all expenses and royalty, but not depreciation. He adds that if conditions permit of increasing the rate of mining from the Ashanti mine with safety this estimate will, of course, be exceeded. In this connection it may be pointed out that according to the monthly returns the tonnage milled for the first four months of the current financial year amounted to 46,977 tons, giving a gold yield of £152,107, or 64*s.* 9*d.* per ton, the working profit for the four months, after deduction of depreciation, being £54,361. This rate of profit is equal to about £180,000 per annum before allowance for depreciation; but it would be as well not to rely too much upon such a figure, for, as the sources of ore supply outside the main reliance—the Ashanti mine—become exhausted the Ashanti workings will alone have to feed the mill, and, as before said, their condition is not at present such as to enable a larger output to be attained. In conclusion the Consulting Engineer says:—

> The technical difficulties in the way of accelerating stoping in Ashanti mine, so as, in the first place, to provide against the falling-off in yield from outside sources, and, in the second place, to permit of distributing the £829,000 of present visible profit more rapidly than at the current rate of approximately £150,000 per annum, are probably not insuperable. If, at worst, they cannot be overcome, then it will merely mean that the present ore reserve represents over five years' profit-earning at, roughly, £150,000 per annum instead of a shorter terms of production at a higher rate.

If £150,000 should prove to be the future rate of annual profits, the surplus available for distribution after deduction of, say, £20,000 per annum for depreciation would be sufficient to enable the payment of 60% annual dividends. For the current year two distributions, aggregating 50%, have already been announced, and it looks as if the total for the twelve months will be the same as for the past two years, viz., 68¾%. The price of the Company's 4*s.* shares is now about 18*s.*, and even if for the technical mining reasons above mentioned the rate of earnings permits of only 60% annual dividends in the future, the yield to the purchaser would still be nearly 13⅓%. The ore reserve position is very strong, and as development results on the Obuasi chute, which is a rich and substantial body of ore, continue to be good, the shares do not appear to be over-valued. The market capitalisation is, roughly, £1,000,000, against which may be placed the estimated profit value of the ore reserves, namely, £829,700. The margin not in sight is not a great one, therefore.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE.

THERE is little feature of interest in the report of this Company for the year to June 30 last. A comparison of the profits and appropriations of the last two years is given below:—

Year to June 30.	1915		Per	1914		Per
		£	Ton.		£	Ton.
Gross receipts ...	(462,920 tons)	579,996	25/0	(439,900 tons)	590,129	26/10
Expenses		344,298	14/10		351,143	16/0
		235,698	10/2		238,986	10/10
Sundry revenue		8,158			15,540	
Mines development suspense ...		18,288			—	
		262,144			254,526	
Writings off	£4,548			£3,237		
Taxes	20,277			23,637		
War levy	5,107			—		
Phthisis	4,278			4,705		
Dividends ...	(45%) 225,000			(45%) 225,000		
		262,810			256,579	
Surplus or deficit		Def. 666			Surp. 1,947	
Balance brought forward ...		16,165			18,218	
Balance carried forward ...		15,499			16,165	

The ore reserves position is somewhat weaker than a year previously, the contrast at June 30 being as under:—

	1915			1914		
	Tons	Assay	Stoping Width Inches	Tons	Assay	Stoping Width Inches
Fully developed ...	1,953,000	26.4	54	1,975,312	27/7	55
Partially ,, ...	18,000	42/1	40	80,556	48/1	62

Van Ryn.—£500,000, in £1 shares Batteries, 180 stamps. Six tube mills. Present capacity about rate of 450,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sort- ing %	Revenue Amt. £	Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Per ton	Profit Amt £	Per ton	Price ended Period
1913–14	138	av. 439,900	8¼	590,129	26/10	351,143	16 0	238,986	10/10	3⅝
1914-15	140	462,920	7½	581,044	25 1	352,645	14/4	248,369	10/9	3 1/16
1915–16.										
Sept.qr.	140	115,160	7¼	147,017	23/10	81,731	14 2	65,286	9/7	2 11/16
Oct. ...	140	38,810	—	46,989	24 5	27,582	14,1	19,407	10 2	2⅜
Nov....	—	38,100	—	46,763	24/7	27,103	14,3	19,680	10,4	2 11/16

Dividends—1914, June, 22½; Dec., 22½ per cent.
1915, June, 22½ per cent.

AMERICAN COPPER COMPANIES.

As an outcome of the prosperity being enjoyed by the great American copper-producing companies, instances have occurred where there has been either restoration or increase of dividends in 1915 compared with previously. Even the Utah Copper Company, after a continuance for some years of a quarterly distribution of 75 cents, improved its dividend in the June and September quarters to $1, and has this week announced an increase of dividend to $1½ per $10 share. The probability is that the Ray and Chino Companies, in view of the progress made to the end of the September quarter, will raise their distribution. We deal below with the results of the first nine months of 1915 as to each company.

In considering variations shown by the big American copper corporations as regards outputs and selling prices it is necessary to bear in mind the kaleidoscopic changes that have occurred in supply and demand. In the second half of 1914 there was complete demoralisation of all markets, and producers of copper, in great part, shut down productivity. There was an *immense restriction of production*, and further, much uncertainty as to whether supplies sent to Europe from America would meet with responsive absorption. The seas, too, were not free from danger, and nervousness prevailed. As the war went on, despite the hemming in of the Central Powers, the demands of the Entente and Neutral Powers became increasingly large, so much so that, with restriction of output, the demand attained the stage of being larger than the output for the time being. At the beginning of 1915 American producers at first relaxed restrictive measures and afterwards rapidly increased their outputs to the best of their ability quite early in the year. Such expansion policy has been continued, accelerated by the overflow of large orders from Europe to the United States for munitions of war in which copper figures.

About the middle of the year there was a wavering. Production had been greatly increased and prices carried to high figures. As production still continued at a high figure a reaction in prices occurred. Still the large demand continued and again in recent months we have witnessed an appreciable advance in prices, in the main, doubtless, due to the big orders for munitions, and also in part due to the seasonal orders falling due late in the year at the time when general traders begin to lay in stocks so as to be able to meet the demands of the thousand and one home customers all over the country. It is impossible to form any definite idea of what will be the course of the market in the near future. We certainly have the fact that an enormously high rate of profit is being shown which will undoubtedly stimulate output, but the market is liable on any definite signs of conclusion of war to a severe set-back. With a price of near to 20 cents per pound for electrolytic copper efforts to bring about a further advance may react upon those who make the efforts.

UTAH, RAY, AND CHINO COPPER COMPANIES.

The Utah Copper Company entered the dividend stage in 1910, and has passed through a series of alternate poor and good years. During the latter part of last year and the beginning of this, with the uncertain outlook prevailing, the Company adhered steadily to the continuance of quarterly dividends at the rate of 75 cents per $10 share. Such progress, however, was made this year that for the June quarter, and again in September, the quarterly distribution was raised to a dollar, and this week has been further increased for the December quarter to $1½ per share. For the September quarter the maximum quantities as to tonnage of ore and yield of copper obtained have been shown, and the conservative nature of the directors' policy is evidenced by the fact that the earnings of the nine months to September 30 were, in round figures, $11,000,000, the dividends distributed called for some $4,500,00, and the surplus unappropriated profit for the nine months exceeded $6,500,000.

In January last the price of the shares in London momentarily was as low as 10⅛; at present the price is about 17. The New York quotation by latest advice is reported 80. The shareholder in New York, on a maintenance of a quarterly distribution of a dollar per share, obtains at price of about $80 per share a yield of under 5¼% on his investment, while if distributions of $1½ per share are continued the yield is improved to 7½%.

Recent Progress of the Utah Copper Company.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons (2,000 Lb.) Mined	Grade %	Gross Quantity Copper Lb.	Price Realised Cents per Lb.	Operating Costs Cents per Lb.	Income $
Year 1914...	6 47 ,166	1 425	121,779,401	13.26	8.037	(a)7,1?2,989
Quarterly dividends paid (75c., 75c., 75c., 75c.), int. and res. ...						5,38?,?97
Unappropriated						1,7?9,592
(a) Special income from sale of securities is not included in above.						
1915.						
Mar. qr. ...	1,396,341	1.44	26,?15,995	14.93	8.19	2,167,415
June qr. ...	2,215,159	1.42	4?,?89,?25	16.98	7.49	4,?12,298
Sept. qr. ...	2,498,100	1.41	41,766,841	15 25	7.64	4,14?,?63
Nine months						10,994,276
Quarterly dividends paid (75c., ?', $1						4,467,347
Surplus—gross						6,526,929

The Ray Consolidated Company in 1915 has not put forward so great an effort to expand its output as other American copper companies. In the first half of 1914 the output was close to 37,000,000 lb. of copper; for the first half of 1915 it was approximately 29,000,000 lb. only. Notwithstanding the smaller quantity, however, the income of 1915 was somewhat larger than that of 1914, say, $2,080,000 against $1,?27,000. The increase was derived from a high level of price of copper sold in the June quarter.

The September return refers to the expectation of early completion of betterments as to reduction plant and the hope that operating results in the near future will be more satisfactory "than ever before in your Company's history."

It may be recalled the Company entered the dividend stage in 1913 and paid three dividends of 37½ cents each for the last three quarters. In 1914 it continued its 37½ cents per share distribution for the first two quarters; then stopped paying dividends and did not resume them until the June quarter of 1915. For each of the June and September quarters the amount distributed was 37½ cents, and it will be noted from the figures given below that appropriations for dividends absorbed, in round figures, $1,100,000, and, again in round figures, the surplus income set aside exceeded $1,700,000. From this it looks as if quarterly distributions at the rate of $1.50 per annum in respect of the $10 shares are likely to be continued for some while ahead, especially as in the current quarter an appreciable further rise has occurred in the price of copper.

At the present time the New York quotation is in the region of $26, and at this price, allowing for accrued dividend, the yield to the investor, on the continuance of a distribution of 37½ cents quarterly on the $10 share, is approximately 6%. With the surplus so much over the amount required for dividend the outlook is for an increase in quarterly rate.

Recent Progress of the Ray Consolidated Copper Company.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons (2,000 Lb.) Mined	Grade %	Gross Quantity Copper Lb.	Price Realised Cents per Lb.	Operating Costs Cents per Lb.	Net Income $
Yr. 1914 ..	2,427,700	—	59,044,700	—	—	2,655,163
Dividends paid 1914 (37½c., 37½c., Nil, Nil) interest and reserve ...						1,873,606
Unappropriated						781,557
1915.						
March qr.	656,652	1.67	14,463,213	14.32	8.84	741,539
June qr. ...	679,004	1.67	14,524,380	18.63	9.06	1,340,886
Sept. qr. ...	716,211	1.66	14,931,388	15.71	10.20	781,272
						2,863,697
Dividends paid (Nil, 37½c., 37½c.)...						1,094,837
Surplus...						1,768,860

The September quarterly report of the Chino Copper Company is a poor one. The ore extracted was of lower grade, and the quantity of metal secured, notwithstanding about 100,000 additional tons of ore in September over the June quarter, was much the same for both quarters. The costs of the September quarter were higher; the price realised for the metal produced was 16 cents only, against 17½ cents per pound for the previous quarter. Still, the Company for the nine months shows that after distributing dividends of, say, $1,740,000, there was an undivided surplus of $2,713,000. The three quarterly dividends were respectively 50, 75 and 75 cents. The contrast of results is set out below:—

Recent Progress of the Chino Copper Company.

	Ore Treated Tons (2,000 Lb.)	Grade %	Metal Produced Lb.	Price Realised per Lb. Cents	Cost Returned per Lb. Cents	Total Income $
Year 1914 ..	1,907,300		54,748,954	13.325	—	3,254,410
Quarterly dividends paid 1914 (75c., 75c., 50c., 50c.) int. & reserve						2,431,176
Surplus						823,234
1915.						
March qr.	406,000	2.19	11,732,578	14.37	6.38	890,638
June qr. ...	592,000	2.18	18,455,502	17.54	6.10	2,006,548
Sept. qr. ...	690,400	1.98	18,545,638	16.00	7.18	1,555,414
Nine months						4,452,600
Quarterly dividends paid 1915 (50c., 75c., 75c.)						1,739,880
Surplus						2,712,720

The latest mail advice gives the price of the $5 share as about $55½, and at such a price, on the basis of 60% dividends—*i.e.*, $3 per $5 share per annum—the yield to the investor is about 5½%. The probabilities are for the quarterly distributions to be increased.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Aurora West United.—There are in issue 212,705 10*s.* shares, and a favourable opportunity will be taken for a further issue to deal with floating debt, the total authorised capital being £300,000, in 600,000 10*s.* shares. Net floating indebtedness at December 31 about £105,000. Plant—80 stamps and a tube mill; capacity increased to 15,000 tons monthly.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	80	164,791	16½	2[illegible],317	24 7	163,198	19 10	39,119	4 9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	42,160	13½	52,[illegible]72	24 11	40,9[illegible]2	19 5	11,[illegible]20	5 6	⅜
June qr.	80	43,190	14	[illegible],123	24/7	4[illegible],474	19 0	12,[illegible]49	5 7	⅜
Sept. qr.	80	45,296	14¾	54,181	23/11	41,945	18/6	12,236	5/5	8/0
*Oct. ...	80	15,200	—	16,828	22/2	13,706	18/1	3,122	4/1	8 9
Nov. ...	—	12,2[illegible]0	—	1[illegible],[illegible]1	24 9	13,377	21/ 9	[illegible],[illegible]74	2 11	9 0

* Operations adversely affected by a breakdown at the end of September of one of the compressors, which was in process of repair during October.

The November return adds: "The change over to the new incline shaft, headgear and winding engine was satisfactorily effected during the month. This work involved the suspension of milling operations for four days, with a consequent reduction in tonnage and profit."

Bantjes Consolidated.—Capital issued £502,306, in £1 shares. Three tube mills. Capacity of plant 30,000 tons per month.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps	Tons Milled	Sorting	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	279,190	—	320,650	22/11	289,911	20/9	30,739	2 2	—
1915.										
Mar qr.	100	47,750	9½	51,523	21/7	61,648	25 9	7[illegible],125*	4 2*	17/32
June qr.	100	61,000	8½	77,22[illegible]	25/3	62,644	20 6	14,5[illegible]1	4 9	7/16
Sept. qr.	100	62,300	8	66,[illegible]13	21/2	63,015	20 3	2,993	- 11	3/32
Oct. ...	—	20,490	—	22,389	21/ 0	2[illegible],631	21 1	759	- 9	5/16
Nov. ...	—	20,780	—	22,1[illegible]	21 3	2[illegible],990	21/2	190	- 1	¼

* Loss due to central shaft breakdown.

Dividends—1914, June, 2½; Dec., 2½ per cent.
1915, June, nil.

Brakpan.—Capital issued, 750,000 £1 shares; 160 stamps. Ten tube mills now working.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	140	621,573	13½	859,116	27 7	575,660	18/6	283,456	9 1	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	150	167,910	10½	232 802	27 8	155,539	18/6	77,2[illegible]3	9 2	2⅛
June qr.	150	181,010	10	246,856	27/3	160,0[illegible]2	17/8	86,854	9/7	2 1/16
Sept. qr.	140	190,500	12	265,623	27/11	169,6[illegible]8	17/10	96,015	10/1	3⅛
Oct. ...	—	64,000	—	9[illegible],038	28/1	56,9[illegible]7	17/9	33,111	10 4	3 3/32
Nov. ...	—	6[illegible],900	—	87,8[illegible]2	28 10	55,532	18 3	32,330	10.7	3 5/16

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

(*Continued on page* 708.)

MINE SHARE VALUATIONS.

A CRITIC writing in a Johannesburg technical paper criticises the recent change made by THE STATIST in valuations of Rand mining shares. Previously to the War we used to give the present value of a share on assumption the investor desired 7% income, and a return at end of life of the mine of the money invested through a sinking fund, bearing 4% interest, being accumulated from the excess of dividends over amount used as income. This basis we changed to 10% income, and our critic considers the change we made as "scarcely justified." While we hold that money employable in safe securities commands so much higher a rate than previous to the War, we made the change as to mining shares not only for that reason, but also as a measure convenient to assume and liable to modification according to individual opinion. If one is content with less than 10% on a reasonably assured investment in a proved mine with prospect of long life, he can, on inspection of what the 10% income basis shows as to present value of the share, gauge whether the actual market price is attractive or otherwise. In the table below examples are given of valuations based on the investor in a mine £1 share with probable dividend to average 20% for life of 20 years, looking for 7, 8, 9, and 10% income, and return of his money at end of a life of 20 years through investment at 5% compound interest of dividends in excess of what will satisfy his income requirement:—

Income yield required	7%	8%	9%	10%
Present value of £1 share ...	£2	£1 16 3	£1 15 3	£1 [illegible]3

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, December 8, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£68,585,765	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	50,135,765
	£68,585,765		£68,585,765

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£32,840,075
Rest	3,285,537	Other Securities	92,910,363
Public Deposits	52,443,879	Notes	34,431,405
Other Deposits	90,018,941	Gold and Silver Coin	136,983
Seven-day and other Bills	16,469		
	£160,317,826		£160,317,826

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	28.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅛
1915.										
Nov. 3	33.4	56.6	46.5	95.8	18.9	98.5	41.7	29·49	5	4⅞
— 10	33.2	55.3	48.9	90.4	18.9	97.6	40.6	29·13	—	4⅞
— 17	33.0	53.6	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	—	5⅛
— 24	33 3	52.4	52.1	84.6	18.9	98.1	37.6	27·48	—	5⅛
Dec. 1	34.3	51.2	50.3	93.5	29.8	96.5	35.4	24·61	—	5⅛
— 8	34.1	50·3	52.4	90.0	32.8	92.9	34.6	24·26	—	—

* July 30, 14 + to 4 %; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1 10 %; Aug. 8, 6 %; Aug 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Nov. 10 ...	219 031 655	131,341,266	87.690,389	28.500,000	32·5
Week to „ 17 ...	4,704,238	3.843.361	88.551.276	28.500.000	32·2
„ „ 24 ...	5,212.887	3,538.486	90.225 657	28,500,000	31·6
„ Dec. 1 ...	5.428.408	3.740,057	91.913 999	28.500.000	31·0
„ „ 8 .	5.905.079	3,527.378	94,291,700	28,500,000	30·2

II.—Balance Sheet, December 8, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	65,933,937	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	22.667,763	Other Bankers	159.000
Certificates outstanding ...	5,700.000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	734,892	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28.500.000
		Government Securities ...	54,620 563
		Balance at Bank of England ...	11,498,029
Total	95.026.592	Total	95,026,592

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.		*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Dec.	2, Thursday ...	500,000 sovs.	5,000 sovs. U.S. 34,000 Canada. 200,000 Holland.
„	3, Friday ...	6,000 bars.	100,000 Egypt.* 200,000 sovs. Spain. 60,000 S. America.
„	4, Saturday ...	Nil.	Nil.
„	6, Monday ...	Nil.	100,000 Japan.
„	7, Tuesday ...	Nil.	334,000 sovs. U.S. 33,000 Continent.
„	8, Wednesday	1,209,000 bars.	100,000 Egypt.* 5,000 sovs. U.S.
	Total for week ...	1,715.000	1,171,000
	Net aggregate ...	[544,000 *influx* for week.]	
Dec.	9, Thursday ...	8,000 bars.	200,000 bars. 67,000 Canada. 25,000 Uruguay. 20,000 S. America.
„	10, Friday ...	Nil.	261,000 U.S.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£28 9	£28,4	£28.6	£35,8	£34 1
Public Deposits	12,1	11 2	7.9	45,0	52 4
Other Deposits ...	41,3	39,3	39.5	120,9	90 0
Government Securities	17.0	13.0	11,2	11.9	32 8
Other Securities	32 8	31 0	27.5	117.6	92.9
Reserve	21,4	24 3	26 5	54.2	34,6
Ratio to Liabilities	40 %	48·03%	55·85%	32 64%	24·26%
Bullion (both Departments) ...	31,9	34.2	36,6	71,4	50,3
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London ...	4%	4⅛-4⅜%	4⅛-4⅜%	2⅛-⅜%	5⅛%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 15	25 21	25 32	24 55	27 64½
Hamburg 8 days	20 42½	20 45	20 48½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 80·85	4 81	4 84½	4 69
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4⅛	1/4⅜	1/4⅜	1/3⅛	1/4 3/32
Prices:					
Consols 2½ % Cash	88⅞	74⅞	71⅞	68½	58½
French Rente 3 % Money	99 75	89 67	86 15	72 50	64 50
Silver, London spot oz.	-/29	-/29⅜	-/26⅜	-/23½	-/26⅜
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr	27/10	31/0	31 2	42 2	53/7
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/6·07	/7·07	-/7·24	-/4·34	-/7·77
Iron Scotch pig ton	57/0	73.0	55/7½	58/3	80/9

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Nov. 3, 1915	Pesos 235,444,987
Oct. 27, 1915	234,179,911
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Sept. 25 to Nov. 6, 1915	£5,093,284
Sept. 17, 1915	5.221.324
Dec. 31 1914	9.230,525
Dec. 31 1913	18.400,501
Feb. 19. 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS.

[In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£6,197	£786	£8,693	£47
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,860	1,915
Nov. 30, 1915 ...	5,931	228	6,159	3,670	3,360	12,267	1,342
Nov. 30 1914 ...	4,334	189	4,523	6,713	1,188	11,727	377
Nov. 29. 1913 ...	—	—	4,280	4,541	1,255	8,166	112

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
July 30, 1914†	£165 854	£25,013	£190,867	£97,768	£267,327	£15,302	£77,903
Dec. 2, 1915...	195.101	14,344	209,445	12,950	671 640	4 072	107,607
Dec. 9, 1915...	197,601	14,260	211,861	12,632	662,819	6,234	117,618
Dec. 10 1914 ..	165,670	14,041	179 711	154 032	399,442	7.062	106 978
Dec. 11, 1913	140.801	25,814	166,415	76 522	227,993	8,574	26,808

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23,'14†	£87.843	£18.727	£84.570	£5.279	£40.055	£94.545	£47,193
Nov. 30,'15...	121,763	1.865	123,628	33,889	234 376	299 971	79.392
Dec. 7,'15...	121,810	1,796	123,606	23.856	250.275	302.014	83,363
Dec. 7,'14...	100,947	2.084	103.031	35.189	154.066	211.498	74,228
Dec. 8,'13...	60.088	13.788	73.856	4.140	45 553	97 593	31.082

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1 1914† ...	£13.496	£249	£13 745	£13.422	£10,332	£35.660	£1 437
Nov. 27, 1915 ...	34 291	315	34.606	6.333	7.602	47.123	2.724
Dec. 4, 1915 ...	34,756	291	35.047	6.414	7.555	47.399	3 046
Dec. 5, 1914 ...	16 053	394	16 452	14,591	11.057	39 799	1,822
Dec. 6, 1913 ...	12.457	695	13,153	7.561	8 800	26.348	368

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31 '14†...	—	—	—£48,456—		£25.017	£69 904	£3 387
Oct. 31, '15 ...	£44.957	£4.338	49 295	4.794	29.079	115 928	49 356
Nov. 10, '15 ...	44 659	4.267	48 928	4.337	27.388	116 662	30 052
Nov. 10, '14 ...	—	—	—49.0 7—		36 662	85.904	18 955
Nov. 10, '13 ...	—	—	48.441		24 .66	71.390	6 696

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1.621
Oct. 23, '15...	21.361	539	6,553	30,868	22.219	7,188
Oct. 30, '15	21.699	499	6.794	34.346	21,878	4.669
Oct. 31, '14...	21.465	2,193	8.601	32.580	11,717	1,705
Nov. 1, '13	21.704	3.937	9.630	36,095	17,108	898

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£99 888	£411.238	£387,185	£8.318	£1 720
Nov. 27, '15 ..	£103.416	£43.658	147.072	627.841	672.218	7,018	35,988
Dec. 4, '15 ...	103.466	43.562	147 028	628.566	671.332	7.020	36.088
Dec. 5, '14 ..	68.240	24.740	92 980	433.800	410 180	14.140	25,430
Dec. 6, 13 ..	—	—	77.010	375.303	338 863	8.940	499

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31 1914†	£2.960	£1.678	£493	£4.868	£6.752	£793
Nov. 22, 1915...	3.693	3 630	781	4.337	8.289	1.584
Nov. 30, 1915...	3 659	3.694	781	4.200	8.416	1.317
Nov. 30 1914...	2 450	1.591	508	6.583	7.243	1.128
Nov. 29 1913...	2.577	1 538	504	4.076	5.838	435

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21,'14†	£174.509	£7.383	£181.892	£6.589	£76.081	£163.411	£109 911
Nov. 14, '15...	173.333	2.750	176 083	9.346	451.696	504.054	147.619
Nov. 21,'15...	173.891	2.855	176.746	7.052	489.464	511.348	154.777
Nov. 21,'14...	176.540	4 348	180.888	9.476	166.646	280.524	99 283
Nov. 21,'13...	168.336	5.897	174.233	7.610	99 958	169 890	110,099

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug 1 '14†	£21.804	£29.187	£50.991	£40.572	£13,778	£77.557	£13.955
Nov. 27, 15	33.737	30.113	63.850	41.276	13,777	82 330	27.137
Dec. 4, 15.	34.197	30.010	64,207	41.496	13.777	82,886	27.036
Dec. 5, 14	22.614	28.121	50.735	48 612	13.777	78.404	23.913
Dec. 6, 13...	19.042	28.919	47.961	41.952	13.778	76.304	18.800

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 14† —	£5,717	£8.150	£1.555	£7.495	£13.432	£3.903
Nov. 20, '15 ...	6.295	7 217	2.929	4,747	16 827	4.760
Nov. 27, '15 ...	8.294	7.581	2.918	4.604	15 971	5.496
Nov. 28, '14 ..	5.801	2.954	1.474	8.7 6	15.081	3 787
Nov. 29. 13 ..	5.691	4.833	1.337	7.545	12.2.7	3 6?2

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7.675	£238	£7.913	£10.391	£16.371	£3.128
Nov. 23, 1915	9.898	2,262	12.160	6.565	16 702	2 930
Nov. 30, 1915...	9.902	2,211	12.113	8.973	17.098	2.983
Nov. 30. 1914...	9.508	821	10.329	8.232	16.557	2.571
Nov. 29, 1913	6.855	1.031	7.886	4.996	10.995	2.016

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash.— Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash.— Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Nov. 5, 1915..	£58.943	£65.256	£8.625	£69.213	£2.732	£86.544	81·4%
Nov. 12, 1915...	59.489	65.851	8.630	71.863	2.601	89.2-8	80 1%
Nov. 19, 1915...	63.195	69.830	8.030	78.989	2.585	94.365	79·8%
Nov. 20, 1914...	40.683	48.145	1.121	45.428	243	49.285	—

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates		A Year Ago	
	%	Date Fixed	%	Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	8	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	8	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne...	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 26, '14	4½	Oct. 26, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-5	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess of Expenditure	Other Income including Loans & Advances	Other Expend. including Loans & Advances Repaid	Treasury Balance +or— for Period Amt.	Treasury Balance +or— for Period £	Treasury Bills Outstand'g £
7 days to Nov. 20	7,144	24,153	17,009	40,827	17,309	25,843	+6,509	277,636
7 „ Nov. 27	3,364	34,004	30,640	44,590	15,828	23,965	−1,878	293,812
7 „ Dec. 4	3,816	70,079	66,265	92,635	18,455	31,882	+7,917	335,394
241 „ Dec. 4	146,115	976,255	830,140	1,167,654	389,083	31,882	−51,569*	+258,244*
1914.								
242 „ Dec. 5	106,935	252,640	145,705	158,498	20,938	2,290	−8,145*	+87,100*

* Increase or decrease compared with April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15	Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15
Holland ..... 3 mos.	11 31	11 44½	11 45	11 40
— ..... Cable	11 11	11 24½	11 25	11 20
Italy ..... 3 mos.	31 50	31 20	31 00	30 85
— ..... Cable	31 05	30 75	30 55	30 42½
Lisbon & Oporto do.	34½	33⅞	34	34
New York..... do.	4 72½	4 70⅞	4 70	4 70⅛
— ..... Cheques	4 73⅛	4 71⅝	4 70½	4 71
Paris ..... 3 mos.	28 05	27 97½	28 20	28 10
— ..... Cable	27 65½	27 57½	27 78	27 70
Petrograd ..... do.	149⅜	149	145⅜	146
Scandinavia ..... do.	17 12½	16 75	17 00	17 30
Spain (Bank places) 3 mos.	46½	46½	46	46
— ..... Cable	25 15	25 00	25 16½	25 05
Switzerland ..... 3 mos.	25 60	25 65	25 50	25 45
— ..... Cable	25 20	25 25	25 10	25 05

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15	Nov. 26, '15	Nov. 19, '15
Alexandria ..... Sight	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.
Amsterdam ..... Sight	11fl. 10c.	11fl. 25c.	11fl. 24c.	11fl. 20c.
Bombay ..... Transfers	1s. 4 3/16d	1s. 4 3/16d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Buenos Ayres ... 90 days	49 5/8d.	49 5/8d.	49 4d.	49 7/8d.
Calcutta..... Transfers	1s. 4 3/16d.	1s. 4 3/16d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong ..... Transfers	1s 11½d.	1s. 11½d.	1s. 10⅞d.	1s. 10 5/8d.
Italy ..... Sight	31lr. 10c.	30lr. 75c.	30lr. 50c.	30lr. 45c.
Lisbon ..... Sight	34⅜	34	34	33⅝
Madrid ..... Sight	25p. 10	25p. 00	25p. 15	25p. 05
Montevideo ..... 90 days	54½d.	54½d.	54½d.	54¼
Montreal ..... Cables	$4 72⅜	$4 71	$4 70⅞	$4 70⅛
New York..... Sight†	$4 72*	$4 70⅛	$4 69⅜	$4 69⅛
— ..... 60 days†	$4 67⅛*	$4 67⅛	$4 66⅛	$4 66
— ..... Cables†	$4 74⅜*	$4 71⅞	$4 70⅜	$4 70⅛
— on Paris Sight†	5.84¾f.*	5.85¼f.	5.91f.	5.91f.
— on Berlin Sight†	79c.*	78¼c.	80½c.	80⅜c.
—on Amst'd'm Sight†	42 7/16c.*	42c.	42c.	41 9/16c.
— on Mexico Silver $	42⅜c. U.S.*	42½c. U.S.	43c. U.S.	39⅜c. U.S.
Paris ..... Cheques	27f. 65c.	27f. 55c.	27f. 77½c.	27f. 68c.
Petrograd ..... Sight	150	149	145⅜	145⅛
Rio de Janeiro... 90 days	12¼d.	12 7/16d.	12 5/16d.	12 3/16d.
Scandinavia ..... Sight	17kr. 20	16kr. 80	17kr. 00	17kr. 20
Shanghai ..... Transfers	2s. 7¼d	2s. 7d.	2s. 6¾d.	2s. 5¾d.
Switzerland ..... Sight	25f. 20c.	25f. 22½c.	25f. 15c.	25f. 07½c.
Valparaiso ..... 90 days	9 3/16d.	9 1/16d.	9 3/16d.	9 1/16d.

* Previous day's rates. † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.*	1915 Agg.	Inc. or Dec.*
	1915.	£	£	£	£ %
BIRMINGHAM...	Dec. 4	2,726,651	+ 879,404	83,584,347	+11,851,130 + 16·5
BRISTOL.....	„ 4	909,000	+ 172,000	37,491,000	+ 2,659,000 + 7·6
DUBLIN	„ 4	3,651,800	+ 199,000	180,491,000	+15,900,200 + 9·6
LEEDS	„ 4	850,675	+ 129,338	30,628,079	+ 6,141,125 + 25·0
LEICESTER.....	„ 4	433,014	+ 13,342	19,137,852	+ 4,427,846 + 30·1
LIVERPOOL ...	„ 4	8,210,903	+ 2,007,353	270,207,750	+56,810,434 + 26·6
MANCHESTER ...	„ 4	8,216,970	+ 1,778,485	328,589,541	+24,982,636 + 7·1
NEWCASTLE ...	„ 4	1,630,500	+ 388,500	71,023,500	+16,852,200 + 30·7
NOTTINGHAM ...	„ 4	483,036	+ 94,340	17,544,103	+ 317,321 + 1·8
SHEFFIELD ...	„ 4	1,207,885	+ 475,382	29,111,009	+ 5,557,379 + 23·6
LONDON—	1915.	(000's omitted from the London clearings.)			
TOWN	Dec. 8	216,425	+ 26,103	10,262,700	− 1,633,345 −14·1
METROPOLITAN	„ 8	19,862	+ 1,239	875,214	+ 62,836 + 7·7
COUNTRY	„ 8	35,154	+ 2,231	1,475,873	+ 183,731 +14·1
TOTAL.....	„ 8	271,441	+ 29,643	12,613,787	− 1,437,778 −10·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days.			Consols Settling Days.			"Fourth" of the Month.		
1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*	1915	£	+ or −*
Oct. 28	44,402	—	Oct. 1	52,018	—	Oct. 4	47,178	+ 6,718
Nov. 12	46,793	—	Nov. 5	47,524	—	Nov. 4	43,924	+ 15,593
Nov. 26	41,581	—	Dec. 1	58,096	—	Dec. 4	41,073	+ 4,650
1915 agg.	926,308	—		589,654	—		549,116	− 83,410

* Compared with a year ago.

VI.—FREIGHTS.—According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	40/0	9/8	9/8
Australia to U.K.	95/0	—	31/6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.....	—	—	—
Bombay to p.p. d w.	81/3	17/0 d.w.	18/9
Burmah o.c.....	120/0	—	24/3
Calcutta to p.p. d.w.	105/0 d.w.	27/0 d.w.	20/0
Danube to A.R.....	—	—	8/9
Odessa to L.H.A.R. ...	—	—	8/0
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	115/0	38/3	13/6
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	155/0	57/6	30/0

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	15/0	7/0	1/10½
N.O. to L.H. (cotton)	—	—	—
N.O. to U.K. (cotton & gr.)	—	25/0	12/0

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	—	62/6	39/0	—
1914...	20/0	20/0	20/3	16/1½	—
1913...	10/6	10/0	7/3	13/6	8/3

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

DEC. 11.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ...ton	80 9	58 3	55 7½
— Middlesbro' warrants .....ton	74/6	52/2½	49/9½
— Hematite warrants .....ton	115/0	65 0	61/0
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£13 10	£9	£9
— Common bars .....ton	£12 17/6	£7 7/6	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro'.....tons	123,755	103,313	144,961
Steel Rails ... .ton	£10	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard .....ton	£76 15	£58 12/6	£65 5
— Stock, Europe & afl., Nov. 30 tons	30,003	35,749	28,757
Tin—English ingots.....ton	£169	£151—£152	£174 10
— Straits .....ton	£174	£148	£171 5
Tinplates—Coke I.C. .....box	22/6—22/9	12/6 -12 7½	12/9
Lead—Soft Foreign .....ton	£27 12 6	£19 10	£13
Spelter—Ord. Foreign .....ton	£78	£28—£28 5	£21 3/9
Quicksilver—(75lb.) .....bottle	£16 10	£11 5	£20 17 6
Aluminium .....ton	nom	£82—£84	£81—£83
Antimony—Regulus .....ton	nom	£50—£55	£28—£29
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	20/9	21/3
— — (best) Newcastle .....ton	20/9	13/3	15/6
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/6—14/9	10/9	10/9
Soda—Crystals ex ship .. ..ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9—1/10	2/1—2/6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits .....ton	£30	£24 15—£25	£31—£31 7/6
Gambier—Good marks .....cwt	£3 0	21/9	17/7½—17/9
Indigo—Bengal good to fine ..lb.	14/6—15/0	12/0—14/0	3/0—3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ton	£34 7/6	£23	£24
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb.	70 0	47/0	45 6
Olive Oil—Spanish.....tun	£52	£54	£47—£48
Palm Oil—Lagos .....ton	£39 10	£30 3	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	/10	/7½	/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£44 10	£33	£31 5
Soya Oil .....ton	£33 5	£22	£26 5
Tallow—Aust. mixed .....cwt.	52 0	27/6—30/6	33/0—34/9
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit .cwt.	45 9	33/6	31/9
Rape Seed—Toria .....416lb.	62 6	51/0	49/1½
Rubber—Para, spot.....lb.	2/11½	2/9½	3/0½
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe)lb	3/5½—3/6½	2/1	2/3
—World's Vis. sup (all kinds) Augton	20,009	21,210	13,907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair...cwt.	78 0	63/0—64/0	84/0—85/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	/7·77	/4·34	/7·24
— Egyptian good fair .....lb	/9 55	/8·20	/9 80
— Pernambuco, fair.....lb.	/8 59	/4·75	/7·55
— Mid. Upl. New York .....lb.	12 40c.	7.40c.	13.40c.
— Stock, Liverpool. Dec. 3 bales	884,830	736,800	789,760
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol .....ton	£75	£45	£32
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£36 10	£24 5	£27
— Manila, Fair strips .....ton	£44	£23 15	£27 15
Jute—First Marks, spot .....ton	£37 10	£19	£35 12/6
— Red SOC..... .....ton	£24	£17	£31
Silk—Blue Elephant.....lb.	13/0	9/3	11/3—11/8
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	/11½—1/0½	/11—1/0
— Lincoln Half Hogs .....lb.	1/7	1/2—1/2½	1/0½—1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	/8½	/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides .....lb.	2/1—2/7	2/0—2/6	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Dec. 6 bus	60,847,000	74,906,000	72,127,000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	129½c	nom.	101c
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	53 7	42 2	31 2
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	49 0	39 6	29 6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr.	48 11	30 2	28 8
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr.	30/11	25 9	18 4
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb.	nom.	71c	nom.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	9/2—9/3	7/2½	4/11
— La Plata .. ..480lb. qr.	41/9	29/3	23/9—24/3
Potatoes—Kents .....ton	95/0—105/0	70/0—75/0	80/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	41,339	28,430	11,456
— Deliveries do. .....tons	27,462	25,108	13,772
— Stock .....tons	20,852	6,017	5,049
— Price, Bassein .....cwt.	18/0	17/0	7/9—8/1½
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ..cwt.	19 6	15/0—21/0	14/0—17 6
Hay—Best.....2,016lb. load	120/0—135/0	85/0—92/6	77/6—87/6
Hops—English .....cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3 5—£5 5	£8 10—£10
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 8lb	4/10—5 1	4/3	3/2—3/6
— Scotch sides 8lb	5/4—5/6	4/11	4/4—4/8
— English 8lb	4/10—5/2	4 7	3/8—4/3
Mutton—Scotch 8lb	5 8—6 2	5 2	5/4—5/8
— English wethers 8lb	5/4—5/8	5/0	4/8—5/0
— New Zealand frozen 8lb	4/4—4/10	3/9	3/2—3/5
Pork—English .....8lb.	5/8—8/4	4/0—4/8	4/4—5/0
Bacon—Irish .....cwt	91/0—103/0	70/0—78/0	66/0—76/0
— Danish .....cwt	91/0—103/0	66/0—74/0	64/0—74/0
Hams—Amer. long cut .....cwt	94/0—100/0	72/0—78/0	64/0—76/0
— — short cut .....cwt	96/0—98/0	70/0—74/0	66/0—76/0
Lard—Amer. pails .....cwt.	58/3—59/0	55/3—56/0	58/8—57/0
Butter—Danish.....cwt.	176/0—182/0	150/0—154/0	130/0—133/0
— Siberian.....cwt.	100/0—140/0	118/0—128/0	88/0—114/0
— French... .....cwt	118/0—180/0	116/0—130/0	110/0—130/0
— New Zealand .....cwt.	180/0—188/0	—	128/0—130/0
— Australian .....cwt.	130/0—184/0	128/0—138/0	100/0—120/0
Cheese—Canadian .....cwt.	91/0—93/0	77/0—80/0	85/0—88/0
— New Zealand (white) .....cwt.	89/0—91/0	—	64/0—65/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	608,053	785,050	827,048
— Deliveries do. .....tons	798,440	746,805	805,174
— Stock .....tons	33,144	154,440	77,748
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. .....cwt	18/6	18/0	10/9
— — Mauritius, crystals.....cwt.	nom	26/0—27/0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ...cwt	40/6	31/0	18/0
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	60,897	48,554	36,845
— Home consumption do. ...tons	18,481	14,743	14,073
— Exports do.....tons	22,893	27,201	20,565
— Stock .....tons	32,329	15,088	10,399
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt	70/0—90/0	75/0—85/0	82/0—92/6
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt	39 7½	43 3	45 4½
Tea—Imports ..(for 11 months)lb	395,880,258	302,849,031	324,178,052
— Home consumption do.....lb.	292,418,345	295,458,127	280,998,014
— Exports do. .....lb	56,339,310	65,475,134	53,126,490
— Stock, Nov. 30 .....lb	151,918,000	74,486,000	125,434,000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb	/8½	/9	/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek., Soug. Ord. ..lb	/9	/9½	/8½
— — Common Congou... ... ..lb.	/7½	/7	/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	88/0-92/0	62/0—63/0	68/0—70/0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Dec. 3	80	—	£2.887	+ 199	48	171.881	+ 9.042
CorkBan.&S.C.	Dec. 3	103	—	2.123	− 8	48	101.613	+ 4.596
Dublin & S.E.	Dec. 3	160	—	4.772	− 335	48	265.791	+ 1.457
Gt. Northern	Dec. 3	561	—	24.290	+ 1,240	48	1,116.420	+ 23.220
Gt.S.&Western	Dec. 3	1,130	—	32.362	− 348	48	1,804.300	+ 91.456
Mid. Gt. West.	Dec. 3	538	—	12.843	+ 410	48	621.892	+ 10.007

*** *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Oct. 30	882	+11	1.45 000	− 1.292	5	5.32.000	+ 14.304
Barsi Light ...	Nov. 6	118	—	9.400	− 14.800	6	8.00 800	− 68.200
Bengal & N.W.	Oct. 30	2.041	+12	3 33.630	− 13.904	5	12.67.130	+ 6.423
Bengal Dooars	Nov. 6	153	—	49.737	+ 12.693	6	2.06.686	+ 20.127
Beng. Nagpur	Nov. 6	2,885	+ 9	7.88 000	+ 72.000	32	2.39.67.562	+ 5.38.428
Bomb. Baroda	Dec. 4	2.859	+32	13 39.000	+ 1.36.000	10	1.10.96.000	+ 9.15.000
Burma	Oct. 30	1,342	—	3.71.037	− 23.298	31	1.09 37.957	− 11.23 134
East Indian ...	Dec. 4	2.716	—	21.42.000	+ 75.000	10	1.35.87.000	− 1.74.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Nov. 27	3.112½	+132½	19.44.900	+ 4.74.600	9	1.31.17.700	+ 15.46.389
Madras & S.M.	Nov. 6	3.131½	−1½	7.55.000	+ 78.573	6	40.20.000	+ 3.67.499
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 30	797	—	1.86 847	+ 30.592	4	7.16.429	+ 40 870
Rob.&Kumaon	Oct. 30	545	+ 1	68 974	+ 2.282	5	2.63.934	− 7.208
South Indian	Nov. 6	1,763	+10	5.13.891	+ 79.359	6	27.89 071	+ 5.18.386
South Punjab	M.of July	823	—	9.50.845	+ 2,79.300	4†	29.77.119	+ 3.18.670

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Nov. 30	7,280	—	$ 1.139 000	+ 482.000	8	7.213.700	+ 2.407.400
Can. Pacific...	Nov. 30	12.921	+602	4.104.000	+ 1.796.000	21	53.527.000	+ 5.033.000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Nov. 30	916	—	£52.710	+ 30.864	21	556.796	+ 130 950
Grand Trunk	Dec. 7	4.008	—	152.917	+ 12.297	48	7.562.887	− 484.773
Grd. Trunk W.	Dec. 7	338	—	40.993	+ 13.952	48	1.495 828	+ 118.550
Det. Grd. Ha.	Dec. 7	189	—	14.102	+ 4.013	48	544.258	+ 52.014
Mashonaland	M.ofSept.	751	—	52.800	+ 10.533	12†	501.481	− 230 139
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofSept.	277	—	5.653	− 2.359	3†	16.721	− 9.720
New CapeCent.	Oct. 30	205	—	1.601	− 89	44	76 944	+ 670
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofSept.	1.397	—	74.243	+ 4.313	12†	788.930	− 235.997

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Nov. 27	33	—	Ps. 18.000	− 4.000	48	668.200	− 33.550
Antofagasta ...	Dec. 5	819	—	£ 29.950	+ 11.070	49	1.194 835	− 270.420
Arauco	M.of Oct.	84½	—	£ 9.225	+ 2.400	10†	67.800	− 6.449
Arg. N. East...	Dec. 4	752	+ 85	£ 5.187	− 113	23	150 563	+ 46.166
Arg. Transand.	Nov. 20	111	—	£ 690	− 80	21	8.500	+ 550
Bolivar	M. of Nov.	110	—	£ 9.000	+ 4.457	5†	39.634	+ 13.961
Brazil	M.ofSept.	3,428	+ 64	M 3.498.000	+ 1076.517	9†	29.319.000	+ 1.864 564
Paulista.....	M.ofSept.	721	—	M 2.200.000	+ 947.978	9†	20.150.000	+ 2.549 989
Mogyana ...	M.ofSept.	1.131	—	M 2.395.000	+ 432.733	9†	17.474.000	+ 2.182.215
B.A. & Pacific	Dec. 4	3.536	+ 1	£ 78.000	− 4.000	23	1.769.000	+ 304.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Dec. 5	3.792	+ 63	£ 118.000	+ 15.000	23	2.048.908	+ 374.867
B.A. Western	Dec. 5	1.867	+ 75	£ 54.000	+ 2.000	23	1.038.000	+ 181.000
Cent.Argentine	Dec. 4	3.307	+ 45	£ 106 600	− 2.900	23	2.518 600	+ 247 590
Cent. Uruguay	Dec. 4	271	—	£ 15.084	+ 1.219	23	259 945	+ 51.846
„ (E. Ext.)	Dec. 4	311	—	£ 4.565	+ 100	23	82.538	+ 20.430
„ (N. Ext.)	Dec. 4	185	—	£ 1 907	+ 65	23	42.972	+ 11 403
„ (W. Ext.	Dec. 4	211	—	£ 3 080	+ 676	23	41 076	+ 9.224
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Nov.	88	—	£ 10.560	+ 1.560	11†	114 802	+ 2 691
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Oct.	65½	—	£ 17.438	− 1.782	4†	82.473	− 8.227
Cord. Central	Dec. 4	1,186	—	£ 27.000	− 4.670	23	684.100	− 141.595
Cuban Central	Dec. 4	354	+ 9	£ 9.790	+ 3.326	23	178.670	+ 29.240
Dorada Ext....	M.ofNov.	71	—	£ 8.900	− 600	11†	85.300	− 5.900
EgyptianDelta	Nov. 10	616	− 7	£ 6.641	+ 1.241	31	100.679	− 15 529
Entre Rios...	Dec. 4	730	—	£ 10.400	+ 2.200	23	215 600	+ 40.700
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 20	104	—	Ps. 63.358	+ 10.224	47	2.783.921	− 289 484
Gt. W. Brazil	Dec. 4	1,010	—	£ 14.200	− 900	49	474.400	− 116 500
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Nov.	23	—	£ 6.750	+ 1.750	11†	74 500	− 19.000
Leopoldina ...	Dec. 4	1,809	+ 20	£ 28.746	+ 482	49	1.437.086	+ 13.438
Manila South	Dec. 4	315	+ 2	£ 4.005	− 735	49	240 298	− 44.781
„ North	Dec. 4	268	+ 81	£ 3.137	− 895	49	176 544	+ 10 687
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	319	—	£ 8.723	− 999	5†	50.743	+ 9 619
Nitrate(2wks.)	Nov. 30	368	—	£ 21.680	+ 14.148	48	378 837	− 192 925
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	113	—	$ 22.200	+ 2.810	5†	114.763	+ 28.491
ParaguayCent.	Dec. 4	255	—	c 483.000	+ 81.000	23	10.469.000	+ 4.770.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Nov.	1,059	—	d 751.720	+ 121.176	5†	3.857.777	+ 353.574
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept	26	—	£ 2.792	+ 837	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Dec. 4	100	—	$ 16 820	− 1.680	23	432.070	+ 53.914
San Paulo.....	Nov. 28	163½	—	£ 37.267	+ 887	22	807.851	+ 183 854
Taltal	M.of Nov.	186	—	£ 17.318	+ 8.213	5†	82.779	+ 10 861
U. of Havana	Dec. 4	581	—	£ 27.045	+ 4.839	23	560.033	+ 124.634
Urug.Northern	M. of Nov.	73	—	£ 1.857	+ 393	5†	8.595	+ 2.215
W. of Havana	Dec. 4	147	—	£ 4.888	+ 80	23	108.255	− 5.962
Zafra & Hiva.	M.of Oct.	112	—	£ 11.346	+ 1.684	10†	84.319	− 41.591

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Dec. 2	389½	+21½	$ 61.954	− 782	48	2.449.039	− 135.179
Auckland(4wks)	Oct. 22	25½	—	£ 20.831	+ 1.054	13	83.128	− 2.001
Brasil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	M.	6.494.000	+ 397.060	9†	57.457.110	+ 2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306 964	+ 18.333
Bristol.....	Dec. 3	31	—	£ 9.776	+ 1.316	48	480.949	+ 46.965
BritishColumbia	M. of Oct.	242	+ 5½	$ 538 828	− 122.174	4†	3.073.697	− 602.654
Calcutta	Dec. 4	35½	—	R 67.400	+ 4.343	49	31.69.708	− 44.224
Cape Electric...	M.of Nov.	42.3½	—	£ 16 980	+ 1.015	5†	85.649	+ 7.606
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Nov.	8	—	£ 2.090	+ 711	11†	19 839	− 4.228
Cork Electric...	Dec. 2	9½	—	£ 1.432	+ 60	49	54.471	+ 101
Dublin United	Dec. 3	54½	—	£ 5.624	+ 93	48	293 029	+ 10.645
Havana Electric	Sept. 28	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.884.501	− 80.930
Isle of Thanet...	Nov. 27	12½	− 6	£ 211	− 42	8	2.246	− 793
Kalgoorlie	M.of Sept.	20½	—	£ 2.997	+ 133	9†	25.116	+ 1.136
Lanarkshire ...	Dec. 2	28½	—	£ 1.901	+ 250	48	95.094	+ 5.312
Madras Electric	Nov. 30	—	—	R 25.837	+ 1 279	47	6.44.161	+ 33.427
Manila Electric	M.of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1,100.024	− 114.058
Provincial	Dec. 4	21½	—	£ 1.867	− 6	8	19.056	+ 1.005
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
U.of Montevideo	M. of Nov.	90	—	£ 28.407	+ 1,396	1†	—	—
Yorks.W.Riding	Dec. 5	24½	—	£ 1.371	+ 56	49	77.133	+ 8.223

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 245,132 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‖) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross.	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
474 Cos. (000's omitted)	Sept.	(e) $294.241	+ $17.783	$111.728	+ $18.548
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	(f) *837,080*	+ *25,380*	*299,126*	+ *38,436*
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Sept.	408.000	—	119.000	+ 50.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,208,000*	− *78,000*	*371,000*	+ *89,000*
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac. :					
Ala. & Vicksburg ... a	Oct.	150.000	+ 10.000	34.000	+ 18.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*537,000*	− *14,000*	*99,000*	+ *35,000*
New Orleans & N.E. a	Oct.	377.000	+ 90.000	121.000	+ 81.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*1,256,000*	+ *26,000*	*329,000*	+ *166,000*
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Oct.	164.000	+ 26.000	33.000	+ 20.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*533,000*	+ *5,000*	*90,000*	+ *32,000*
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Oct.	11.385.000	+ 503.000	3.755.000	+ 100.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*43 506.000*	+ *2,210,000*	*14,344,000*	+ *787,000*
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Oct.	2.672.000	+ 119.000	600.000	+ 223.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*9,126,000*	− *266,000*	*1,364,000*	+ *478 000*
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Oct.	10.004.000	+ 2.048.000	3.161.000	+ 1,203.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*37.642,000*	+ *4,055,000*	*12,827,000*	+ *3,195,000*
Canadian Northern ... b	Oct.	3.678.500	+ 1,100.200	1.257.000	+ 537.800
Canadian Pacific..... b	Oct.	13.443.000	+ 4,160.000	6 579.000	+ 3,268.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*40,413,000*	− *24,000*	*17 567.000*	+ *2,737,000*
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Oct.	3.977.000	+ 572.000	1.391.000	+ 411.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*15.638,000*	+ *1,936,000*	*5 645.000*	+ *1,451,000*
Chicago & N. Western...a	Oct.	8 457.000	+ 744.000	2 870.000	+ 688.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*31 991,000*	+ *438,000*	*9.517,000*	+ *376 000*
Chic. Burl. & Quincy.. b	Sept.	8 907.000	+ 327.000	3.773.000	+ 386.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*24,428,000*	− *755,000*	*9.116,000*	− *537,000*
Chicago Great Western b	Oct.	1.312.000	+ 6.000	369.000	+ 35.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*4,926,000*	− *119,000*	*1,322,000*	− *95,000*
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Oct.	9.516.000	+ 642.000	3.435.000	+ 751.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*35.282,000*	+ *1,163,000*	*12,124,000*	+ *1,690,000*
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Sept.	6.573.000	− 308.000	1.401.000	− 360.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*18,626,000*	− *959,000*	*3,328,000*	− *1,052,000*
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Sept.	1.734.000	+ 13.000	479.000	− 23.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*4,666,000*	− *344,000*	*1,216,000*	− *274,000*
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Oct.	3.653.000	+ 415.000	1.139.000	+ 190.000
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*31,035,000*	+ *1,330,000*	*6,947,000*	+ *3,113,000*
Colorado & Southern... a	Oct.	1.486.000	+ 94.000	659.000	+ 100.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*5,171,000*	+ *234,000*	*1,525,000*	+ *236,000*
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Sept.	412.000	+ 98.000	169.000	+ 47.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept	*1,248,000*	+ *208,000*	*576,000*	+ *161,000*
Delaware & Hudson... a	Sept.	2.073.000	+ 4.000	827.000	+ 48.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*17.030,000*	+ *108,000*	*5,726,000*	+ *604,000*
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Oct.	2.554.000	+ 245.000	977.000	+ 149.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*9 243,000*	+ *552,000*	*3,258,000*	+ *775,000*
Erie Railroad..... a	Oct.	6.567.000	+ 1.028.000	2.591.000	+ 1.215.000
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*54,013,000*	+ *3,657,000*	*15,571,000*	+ *4,210 000*
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Oct	£798.200	+ £24 700	£235.150	+ £28 350
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*7,251.650*	− *479 000*	*2,004,500*	+ *103,100*
Grand Trunk Western a	Oct.	160.700	+ 29.200	45.100	+ 37 300
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*1,981,450*	+ *49,800*	*176,050*	+ *134,600*
Great Northern ..... a	Sept.	$7.882.000	− $219.000	$4.040 000	− $298.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*19,882,000*	− *1,955,000*	*9,029,000*	− *1,429,000*
Hocking Valley..... b	Sept.	660.000	− 71.000	295.000	+ 1.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*1,873,000*	− *40,000*	*833,000*	+ *143,000*
Illinois Central ..... a	Oct.	6.093.000	+ 573.000	1.209.000	+ 130.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*22,258,000*	− *32,000*	*4,191,000*	− *114,000*
Kansas City Southern a	Oct.	977.000	+ 97.000	381.000	+ 137.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*3,486,000*	− *83,000*	*1,308,000*	+ *213,000*
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Oct.	4.639 000	+ 528.000	1.370.000	+ 17.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*16 097.000*	+ *716,000*	*4 639,000*	+ *115,000*
Louisville & Nashville a	Oct.	5 024.000	+ 477.000	1 531.000	+ 805.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*19 000,000*	− *343,000*	*5,532,000*	+ *1,572,000*
Michigan Central..... a	Sept.	3.342.000	+ 201.000	1.097.000	+ 159.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*26 193,000*	+ *931,000*	*6,325,000*	+ *1,177,000*
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Sept.	3.099.000	+ 170.000	1.267.000	+ 133.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*8.027,000*	+ *152,000*	*2,860 000*	+ *345,000*
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Oct.	2.946.000	− 183.000	905.000	− 158.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*10,745,000*	− *494,000*	*2.639,000*	− *366,000*
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Sept.	5.228.000	− 200.000	1.217.000	− 370.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*15,102,000*	− *932,000*	*3 309,000*	− *1,078,000*
New York Central..... a	Oct.	16.141.000	+ 2.632.000	5.811.000	+ 2.280.000
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*135,357,000*	+ *7,808,000*	*38,863,000*	+ *12,883,000*
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Sept.	8.313.000	+ 511.000	2.182.000	+ 382.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*18,824,000*	− *1,510,000*	*6,470,000*	+ *1,497,000*
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Oct.	765.000	+ 8.000	108.000	+ 52.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*3,367,000*	− *206 000*	*1,024,000*	+ *56,000*
Norfolk & Western..... a	Oct.	4.888.000	+ 1,362.000	2 046.000	+ 1,039.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*18,874,000*	+ *3,499,000*	*7 444,000*	+ *2,690,000*
Northern Pacific..... a	Oct.	7.166.000	+ 517.000	3 379.000	+ 798.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*25,360,000*	+ *110,000*	*10,255,000*	+ *1,784,000*
Pennsylvania System :					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Oct.	24.090.000	+ 3.086.000	6 506.000	+ 1.864.000
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*206,664,000*	+ *2,229,000*	*47,831,000*	+ *6 641,000*
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Oct.	12.115.000	+ 2.183 000	3.699.000	+ 1,729 000
10 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*97,767,000*	+ *2,140,000*	*23,018,000*	+ *4,795,000*
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Sept.	3.889.000	+ 169.000	1 085.000	+ 49.000
9 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*29,466,000*	− *481,000*	*6,052 000*	+ *223,000*
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Oct.	5.230.000	+ 977.000	1.429.000	+ 752.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct	*18,905,000*	+ *1,510,000*	*5,951,000*	+ *1,467,000*
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Sept.	2.125.000	− 672.000	Def. 24.000	− 232.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*6,916,000*	− *1,181,000*	Def *229,000*	− *319,000*
St. L. & San Francisco a	Sept.	3.900 000	+ 225.000	1.060 000	− 28.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*11,203,000*	− *133,000*	*3,168,000*	− *159,000*
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Sept.	1.695.000	+ 119.000	403.000	+ 100 000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*4,899,000*	− *200,000*	*1,127,000*	+ *87,000*
Southern Pacific..... a	Sept.	13.282.000	+ 1,341.000	4.738.000	+ 828.000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*39,453,000*	+ *4,307,000*	*13,928,000*	+ *3,382,000*
Southern ..... a	Oct.	6.028.000	+ 496.000	1.820.000	+ 820.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*22 169,000*	− *266,000*	*6,207,000*	+ *1,695,000*
Union Pacific ..... a	Oct.	10.275.000	− 1.074 000	4 669.000	+ 783.000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*35,720,000*	+ *1,329,000*	*14 848,000*	+ *907,000*
Wabash ..... b	Oct.	2.985.000	+ 406.000	919.000	+ 315 000
4 *mos.*	*to* Oct.	*11,096,000*	+ *428,000*	*3,266,000*	− *302,000*
Western Pacific..... a	Sept.	681.000	+ 85.000	268.000	+ 86 000
3 *mos.*	*to* Sept.	*2,105,000*	+ *393,000*	*826,000*	+ *414,000*

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Nov. 14	$107.000	+ $23.000	19	$1.893.000	+ $68.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 30	1.325.000	+ 445.000	21	19.450.000	+ 2 865.000
Chicago Great Western	Nov. 30	316.000	+ 21.000	21	6.233.000	+ 30.000
Colorado & Southern	Nov. 14	347.000	+ 3.000	19	5.843.000	+ 235.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Nov. 30	656.000	+ 135.000	21	11.464.000	+ 817.000
Great Northern	M.of Nov.	8.776.000	+ 2.669.000	5†	37.480.000	+ 1.797.000
Illinois Central	M of Nov.	5.910.000	+ 833.000	5†	28.168.000	+ 801.000
Louisville & Nashville	Nov. 30	1.559.000	+ 401.000	21	24.0c5.000	+ 692.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Nov. 21	879.000	+ 289.000	20	14.165.000	+ 1.390.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Nov. 30	969.000	+ 68.000	21	13.777.000	− 493.000
Missouri Pacific	Nov. 21	1.329.000	+ 172.000	19	24.709.000	− 313.000
Northern Pacific	M.of Nov.	7.030.000	+ 1,382.000	5†	32.390.000	+ 1.492.000
Southern Railway	Nov. 30	1.8c7.000	+ 342.000	21	28.059.000	+ 577.000

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The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1915.

FINANCING THE WAR.

PROCESS OF MOBILISATION.

THE American Exchange has advanced this week to over 4.72, and the amount of gold sent to the United States has been inconsiderable. It is true that a fair amount of gold has been exported to a number of miscellaneous countries, including Spain, Holland, Egypt, Japan and South America, but the aggregate has not been great, and has been fully provided by arrivals from South Africa and elsewhere. On balance there has been a small addition to the Bank's stock of gold during the past week. The strength of the American Exchange arises not merely from the recent loan of £50,000,000 and the creation of the banking credit, but by large sales of American securities by British investors now that the investing public are becoming aware of the service they can render to their country by assisting it to pay for the great quantity of goods it is buying from abroad by the sale of American bonds and stocks. The action of the Carnegie Trustees for the Universities of Scotland, the Hero Fund and the Dunfermline Trust in deciding to sell about £5,000,000 of United States Steel Corporation bonds is an example which a great many people will follow, not because they doubt the value of their American investments, but because of their desire to assist their country in its need.

Last week we appealed to the leaders of industry to assist their country at the present time in devising some plan by which they and the working classes would co-operate together for the purpose of keeping down the country's great expenditures which, if not restricted, would bring about a further great rise in prices, not only of home goods but of foreign goods also, to the great disadvantage of the whole nation. In making this appeal to them we realised that in keeping their mills and factories working night and day they are animated by a desire to render the greatest possible service to the nation in the present struggle. And just as we expressed our conviction that the capitalist classes would render this most valuable assistance, so we now anticipate that our investors who possess great or small quantities of American securities will be willing to place them at the disposal of the Government for meeting the great adverse balance of trade, or will be willing to sell their securities and to place the proceeds in the forthcoming Government loan or in Treasury Bills, which can be bought at the Bank of England in amounts of £1,000 to give a return of over 5%.

Most people now understand that the country not only needs to prevent a further rise in prices and a fresh expansion in the value of our imports, but requires to reduce its consumption and thereby to bring about a decline in imports and an expansion in exports, as well as to sell a substantial part of its American securities. Possibly later on, when the new great munition factories get into working order, we may not need to buy abroad as much ammunition as we do at present, but as far as can now be seen this country and our Allies will need to buy from the United States, from Canada, and from other countries all the supplies those countries are prepared to sell to us, and in order to make payment for these purchases it is essential that we should restrict within the smallest possible compass our consumption of all unnecessary things, and should be willing to make payment for the balance that cannot be paid for by exports or by services by selling securities which other countries are prepared to buy from us. At the present moment American securities and Canadian Pacific shares alone become free of income tax when sold to foreign investors, and therefore these securities are specially needed to provide the necessary money.

Beyond the measures the Chancellor of the Exchequer is taking to induce holders of American securities to provide them for exchange purposes and beyond the additional banking credits that are being created, he is also devising measures to induce the country to become more economical and to meet a larger part of the expenditure on the War by means of its additional savings. This week he has appointed a strong Committee to consider the question of obtaining contributions to War Loans from the working classes. The Committee includes not only representatives of the Government, of the Treasury and of bankers, but men who are specially acquainted with the working classes and whose knowledge should be of special value for the purpose in view. The Chairman of the Committee is the Financial Secretary of the Treasury, the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, who, since the War began, has been specially active in endeavouring to solve the many financial difficulties that have had to be overcome. As the question of inducing the working classes to provide much greater sums for the War than hitherto is one of great moment, not merely as regards the immediate object to be accomplished, but also as regards the restriction of consumption and the provision of means by which they may successfully surmount the trade depression which may come after the War, we append the names of the Committee:—

The Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., who will preside; the Governor of the Bank of England; Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.; Mr. Henry Bell, general manager of Lloyds Bank; Sir John Bradbury, K.C.B., Permanent Secretary to the Treasury; Mr. J. Burn, actuary to the Prudential Assurance Company; Mr. Alexander Cargill, actuary to the Edinburgh Savings Bank; Mr. F. W. Goldstone, M.P.; Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P.; Mr. D. T. Holmes, M.P.; Mr. Hedley F. Le Bas, Caxton Publishing Company; Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P.; Mr. H. J. May, secretary to Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress; Mr. C. T. Needham, M.P.; and Mr. W. Tyson Wilson, M.P.

In November some improvement has occurred in the foreign trade situation. Nevertheless, the extent of the improvement needs to be very much greater and much more rapid in future than it has been hitherto. Roughly speaking, the country needs to reduce its imports by about £15,000,000 a month, and to increase its exports by £10,000,000 a month in order to meet its foreign payments, and to honour

the credits it is granting its Allies and the Colonies. And after this rectification of the foreign trade balance has been brought about it will still be necessary for the country to sell from week to week large amounts of securities, and to borrow substantial sums abroad. In fact, the situation demands that we should meet our great war expenses, including loans to our Allies and the Colonies, in every feasible manner by working harder and more efficiently, by greater economy by all classes, including the working classes, and by selling those of our securities that can be sold.

Our Colonies realise the greatness of the task before us, and are also willing to do everything within their power to assist us both in men and money. The Canadian Government Loan for 50 million dollars has been subscribed twice over, and the Government is understood to have decided to accept the whole of the subscriptions, so that Canada has already provided herself with £20,000,000 of the money she will require for War purposes. Again, Australia is raising at home all the money she is capable of providing for War purposes. As every member of the British Empire, capitalists and workmen, men and women alike, are desirous of doing everything within their power, no one can doubt that all the economy essential will be effected, and that all the great sums of money required for the successful conduct of the War will be forthcoming. The awakening of all classes to the financial needs of the country, clearly indicated by the events that follow one upon the other from day to day, shows that, just as in 1915 when every penny of the vast sums of money needed for the War have been supplied, in 1916 the still greater sums that will then be necessary will be forthcoming.

HOME RAILWAY YIELDS.

Home Railway stocks have been out of favour with the public for some time past, and a further considerable decline in prices has taken place. As a clue to the movement that has occurred and the higher yield that is now afforded we contrast prices of about April 1, and yields based on dividends of the whole of 1914, with present prices and yields on the dividends of the twelve months to June 30, 1915. In respect of Deferred stocks there is an unknown quantity, and we do not attempt any showing of the yield, as it cannot be indicated until the results of the December half of 1915 are known. Still, the table gives an approximate idea of the great change that has come over the market:—

	Yield April 1, 1915, on —Dividends of 1914—, Yield					Yield Dec. 1915, on —1914-15 Dividends—, Yield				
	Div.	Price	£	s.	d.	Div.	Price	£	s.	d.
Barry Defd.	5½	82	6	18	9	5½	74⅜	7	5	0
,, 4% Prefd. Ord. ...	4	79½	5	3	3	4	71½	5	14	0
Caledonian Ord.	3⅜	56	6	3	3	3⅜	48	7	5	0
Furness	1	28½	3	10	10	2	28½	7	1	6
Glas. & S. West Defd. ...	2	32½	6	5	0	2½	30½	7	15	0
,, ,, Pref.Ord.	2½	51	4	19	3	2½	42⅜	6	2	0
Gt. Central 4% Pref. 1891	4	53	7	13	10	?	48½		—	
Gt. Eastern Ord.... ...	2½	40	6	7	0	2⅜	36⅜	6	15	6
Gt. Northern Defd. Ord.	2½	41½	6	15	3	?	39½		—	
,, Pref. Ord.	4	79⅜	5	1	7	4	71⅜	5	15	0
Gt. Western	6	105½	5	15	9	5½	92½	6	7	9
Hull and Barnsley ...	2	48½	4	3	9	2	40½	5	2	0
Lanc. and Yorks. . .	4½	74½	6	3	0	4⅝	70	6	19	0
Ld. and N.-Western ...	6	114½	5	6	6	6	102½	6	0	0
Ld. and S.-West. Ord. ...	5½	104½	5	9	3	5⅝	92	6	5	0
,, ,, Defd. ...	1½	27	6	2	1	?	24½		—	
,, ,, Prefd.	4	78½	5	3	7	4	69⅜	5	18	6
L. B. & S.C. Ord. ...	4½	84½	5	14	3	4½	71½	6	18	6
,, ,, Def. Ord. ...	3½	62½	5	13	6	?	56		—	
L., Chat. & Dov. 1st Pref.	4½	65	7	1	0	4	56½	7	5	0
Metropolitan Ord. ...	¼	29	4	6	11	1	24⅜	4	3	6
,, Surp. Lands	2¾	55	5	1	5	2¾	50½	5	12	6
Midland Defd.	4	63	6	9	1	4	58½	7	1	6
,, Prefd.	2½	53	4	15	6	2½	48	5	6	6
N. British Defd.	1	18⅝	5	9	7	?	16½		—	
N. Eastern Consols ...	6½	115½	5	16	6	6½	102½	6	9	6
North Stafford	4⅜	74½	5	19	2	4½	64½	6	16	6
Rhymney Ord.	8½	108	5	2	6	8½	147½	5	18	0
South-Eastern Ord. ...	3½	62½	5	13	6	3½	50½	7	5	0
,, Defd. Ord.	1	29½	3	7	10	?	25½		—	
,, Pref. Ord.	6	95½	6	8	0	6	86⅛	7	5	0
Taff Vale	3¾	64	5	19	0	3½	55	6	10	6

THE GREEK KING AND THE GREEK STATESMAN.

Our readers have, no doubt, carefully perused the report of the interview granted on Monday last to a newspaper correspondent by the Greek King. It is an exceedingly interesting human document as well as a valuable State paper. The King stated in strong language that he had been disappointed and grieved at the criticism to which he had been subjected in England; that, as a matter of fact, he preferred England to all other foreign countries; but that he is King of Greece, and, besides, was actually born in the country; that, therefore, as the supreme ruler and a native-born Greek, his first duties are to Greece. The matter is put exceedingly neatly, and everybody must admit that it carries great weight with it. We have, however, no desire to criticise the statement. In the first place, we think that a large proportion of the British Press is unfair in its criticism of neutral and hostile nations; and, in the second place, we hold that the British people are strong enough, and are confident enough of their own rightful conduct throughout this War, to avoid the contemptible—for it often is contemptible—tone in which enemies are spoken of. The Governments of the Entente Allies have all, without exception, pledged themselves to put down Prussian militarism, to punish the guilty for the crimes committed against Belgium, Serbia, and other downtrodden nations, and not to make peace without common approval, no one of them entering into negotiations with the enemy separately. All this ought to be quite enough for a proud and a self-respecting people, and any tittle-tattle, mean suspicions, and unfounded charges lower us in the eyes of the world instead of raising us. But while we avoid all partisan criticism of King Constantine's statement, we point to it as proof of the immense influence which fear exercises in the political world to-day as well as in the past. Furthermore, we refer to it as showing that the Kaiser and his advisers, from their own low and inhuman standpoint, did not count wrongly when they anticipated that their treatment of Belgium and of the occupied portions of France would strike terror into the hearts of the small nations. The world does not recognise that fear is the strongest of all human passions; and especially the members of our own Government have not sufficient knowledge of human nature to recognise that not only is such the case, but that it was their bounden duty, as the greatest of the Allies, to take measures to inspire confidence into the small nations. We have singled out our own Government because the British Empire is the largest and the greatest the world has ever seen; because it could put in the field forces sufficient to crush the two Central European Empires in a very few months; and because it is showing that it disposes of wealth almost unimaginable. But we should be sorry to confine our comment to our own Government. It is perfectly clear that all the Governments of the Entente Allies misunderstood the situation, and did not take the right measures to ensure that, as they were fighting the battles of the small nations, so it was their duty to gather the small nations round them and put them in a position to deserve the protection that was being extended to them.

In contrast with the interview granted by King Constantine, there was published in all the papers on Tuesday morning an address by M. Venezelos to his constituents. We are very great admirers of M. Venezelos, and we have hitherto found little in his conduct to pick holes in. But we confess that this address to his constituents disappoints us. Greece is offered an opportunity to become great which, in all human probability, will never recur. She is an aspirant for the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. So is Italy. Italy is fighting gallantly against the common enemy. And the King of Greece prevents

his people from taking action that would promise, at all events, to fulfil their aspirations. Furthermore, Greece has been offered one great island which would be handed over to her without firing a shot or paying a penny. And she has preferred to remain neutral. She has thrown back in the face of England the gift proffered. Moreover, M. Venezelos himself has been treated with a contumely which few men would have the self-control to submit to quietly. Yet M. Venezelos now tells his fellow countrymen that the party which follows him blindly is resolved not to stand at the present elections because, forsooth, the elections are unconstitutional, and, even in this Day of Fate, M. Venezelos will not by any act of his seem to countenance unconstitutional conduct. He may be perfectly right. He has hitherto rescued Greece from difficulties that seemed overwhelming. He has even compelled the King, after dismissing him, to recall him to his councils. He may prove once more that he is the leader of the vast majority of the people in Greece, and that he knows that he is acting in a manner to win the great victory which he sees before him. All that is quite possible. We do not in the least aspire to the rôle of prophet. We do not in the least pretend to know more of Greece than does M. Venezelos. But we do not believe that a great people ever was rescued from a most formidable difficulty by throwing up the sponge and allowing the adversary to play his part as he pleases. It was not by conduct of that kind that Thermopylæ has been celebrated for thousands of years. Nor was it by such conduct that Salamis was won. It is not for foreign journalists to lecture the leaders of a free people and tell them what they ought to do. We are merely expressing our own disappointment, which may turn out to be no more than our own ignorance. But we frankly confess that the withdrawal in such a crisis of M. Venezelos seems to us unworthy of a great statesman and likely to severely injure the cause of Greece. When things are brought to the worst pass and a country stands face to face with the gravest dangers, it appears to us that it is the duty of every good citizen to throw aside parliamentary platitudes and constitutional inanities, and to stand forward in the gap to defend the country as best it may be defended. Clearly the Greek King has, for the time, at all events, matters in his own hands, and can disregard constitutional opposition. It remains to be seen whether the Entente Allies will bring together a force sufficiently strong to convince the Balkan States that on their side victory lies. If they do not, the German kings of the Balkans evidently have the power to do as they like with their States.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S MESSAGE.

President Wilson has endeavoured as straightforwardly and as patiently as any man could do to observe a rigid neutrality between the belligerents in the present great War. Sometimes, indeed he has been accused by a wing of his critics of yielding too much to German arrogance and taking advantage of British friendliness. We do not make the charge ourselves. We think it is quite undeserved. But we remind our readers of it on this occasion because it shows how the most painstaking efforts to observe an honest neutrality utterly fail. There is in the United States a very large proportion of Germans, very many of them born in Germany, but now naturalised citizens of the United States. A larger number still are of German descent. A very considerable proportion, it is said, of the native-born Germans are now using their rights as American citizens to involve the United States in hostilities with other Powers; to set its laws at defiance; and to undo the carefully adopted policy of the country. The President speaks strongly in his Message, but not too strongly, for it is, indeed, a very grave thing to find enriched men taking advantage of the great privileges bestowed by a free Republic to defeat the policy of that Republic and to involve it in hostilities which it wishes to avoid. It is not surprising, then, to find that the President is obliged to announce that such a state of things cannot continue. Up to now the good sense and the great privileges enjoyed by naturalised citizens of the United States had constrained them to hold back exuberant sympathy for their native countries, and to bow to the laws of the United States. But now it is found that no laws sufficiently restrictive exist; and, therefore, that such laws must be proposed. As a matter of course they will be passed. But whether they will be found stringent enough to restrain the evil-doers is a question that can be decided only by experience. All Liberals in every country are liable to make one grave mistake. Their faith in freedom is so great that they forget there are men whose passions are stronger than their reason, and whose sympathies, once aroused, run away with their judgment. In the United States, Germans whose sympathy with the country of their birth or of their descent is stronger than their sense of duty, look around them and see that so large a proportion of the whole population of the United States is, partially at least, of German descent that they forget the restraining influence of judgment and of duty, and jump to the conclusion that if only the whole of the German-Americans can be sufficiently aroused the President's policy will be defeated, and the United States will be compelled, if not to assist, at all events to wink at assistance being given to the two Central European Empires. It is a kind of reasoning which is to be found at all times and in all countries among persons whose sympathies are strongly aroused. And it is to be feared that President Wilson will find, if the War lasts long, that he will have to resort to much stronger restrictive measures than he now thinks of proposing.

Probably if the facts could be ascertained the number of law-breaking Germans in the United States is not very great. Of course, it is to be borne in mind that nationality is an exceedingly strong feeling. It is curious, considering its strength at present, how comparatively novel the feeling is. Up to about a hundred years ago, or little more, nationality seemed to exercise little or no influence upon human conduct. Even members of the same State were often ready to join with foreigners to put down a section of their own fellow-citizens. But during the course of the nineteenth century the nationality idea grew in prevalence and in strength to such an extent that it moulded largely the map of Europe. And at the present time everything seems to point to the conclusion that the strength of the nationality idea is increasing and will have greater effect upon the map of the world than at present is widely believed. Moreover, it is never to be forgotten that Germany, as it now exists, was the outcome of the nationality idea. The sufferings of Germany during the great Revolutionary wars and the Napoleonic wars were such that a longing grew up for a union amongst all speakers of German. The result was that Prussia was adopted as the one Power most likely to build up the longed-for new Empire. And Prussia has succeeded. There is, therefore, not only the general strength of the nationality idea, but there is the approbation given by experience to that idea to strengthen its influence in Germany. Lastly, all the German Governments, from the Imperial down, make it their business to inculcate in every teaching establishment the theory that the State is superior to all other institutions; that it is above all laws for it has no superiors, and law requires superiors to enforce it. Therefore, the teaching of Germany, from the highest universities down to the lowest schools, has been that the State is above all law; that it is a law to itself; and that every citizen subject to the State is bound to obey its laws whatever they may be. Consequently, we have to bear in mind under all circumstances that

Germans who emigrate carry with them the principles which have been instilled into them during their educational years. They never doubt the truth of those principles; and very many of them are ready to act upon them on all favourable occasions. Owing to this President Wilson will find the task before him an exceedingly difficult one. He will find that the worship of the State is very like the worship of different religions by different bodies; that the Germans will hold that as Germans their first duty is to the State which gave them birth and gave them education, and that whatever other law interferes is an unjust law to be set at defiance. It will be in the estimation of German-Americans an attempt to break down German belief in Germany and Germany's teaching, and they will offer to it, it is to be feared, an extremely strong opposition.

The President has discovered that not only is the United States not provided with laws to meet the present grave emergency, but that there are multitudes of dangers emerging which are entirely unprovided for. For example, he points, amongst other things, to the Monroe Doctrine. Since the days of President Monroe, that doctrine has been one of the guiding principles of all American Administrations. And of recent years it has been pushed farther than ever before. President Wilson points out, furthermore, that in the case of Mexico he has extended it to the utmost limit; that, contrary to the opinion of many of his own fellow-citizens, he allowed Mexico to welter in all kinds of lawlessness in the hope that she would work out her own salvation. Apparently he is doubtful whether the result would be quite so favourable as for a long time he trusted it would be. But however that may be, he still does not repent of the policy he pursued, and he still is able to point to his policy in Mexico as proof that the Monroe Doctrine not only is a doctrine of impartiality on the part of the United States, but that it is a beneficent policy so far as other American States are concerned, since it allows them, if they cannot settle their own differences in any other way, to fight them out. But even that policy, strongly as he holds to it, and determined as he is to defend his own policy, he feels required to be backed up. And in the Congress which he was addressing he is determined to bring forward a large number of Bills to strengthen the hands of the Government in regard to lawless men who would attempt to defeat its policy, and, likewise, to provide the Government with means of carrying out incidental policies which he believes to be good, not only for the United States, but for the whole American continent. Therefore it is probable that we shall see a very busy Congress at work. It is to be recollected that the existing Congress will come to an end next year, or rather in the following March. But the election of a new Congress and a new President will take place in November next. And whatever policy the present Administration has to complete must be fortified by such legislation as is requisite before November next. There will be a short Session of Congress beginning in December and ending at noon on the 4th of the following March. If the elections are favourable to the existing Administration, it, no doubt, will be able to carry what further laws it may require. But if the elections are not favourable, then the policy of the existing Administration will have to rest upon whatever laws are in existence at the close of the present Session of Congress.

USEFUL AND MISCHIEVOUS CRITICISM.

A portion of the Press, which rumour asserts has lost very heavily by the War, and is, in consequence, fishing in troubled waters in the hope of attracting stray coppers, is continuing that mischievous kind of criticism which is alarming the weak-nerved part of the public and is inspiring the enemy with confidence. For example, we have, as the week is drawing to a close, an outburst of censure upon the Government, firstly, for having muddled the negotiations with the Balkan States; secondly, for not having foreseen the action of Bulgaria; thirdly, for not having been prepared to counter that action immediately; and, fourthly, because as yet the Central European Empires, the Turks, and the Bulgars are superior in numbers, are over-running Serbia, and are compelling the Entente Allies to retreat. We cannot conceive any kind of criticism more mischievous at the present time. In the first place, the British Government alone is not responsible. It is one of a large number of Allies. It has to work as amicably and as agreeably with the other Allies as it can. And, so far as the world knows, there has never been any real agreement between the Allied Governments as to the steps that ought to have been taken in the Balkans. There were very strong reasons indeed why an attempt should be made to open the Dardanelles. One was that in some countries, when the War broke out, the crops were a complete failure, while the closing of the Dardanelles prevented Russia from selling to Western Europe her magnificent crop. Thus an artificial shortness of food was created, and a real requirement brought into existence for some effectual action to be taken. Whether the action taken was the best possible under the circumstances, or whether the various Allies were willing to agree to any alternative action, the public at large is utterly ignorant. If things had been normal—if, for example, the Manchurian war had never taken place—Russia would have been in a very much better condition than she was to deal with her enemies. Or if Russia had thrown herself with heart and soul, as soon as the Manchurian war ended, to reorganise her army and reconstitute her fleet, things also might have been very different. As it was, the whole world knew—Russia herself did not even attempt to deny—that she had not finished the reorganisation and reconstitution of her armies and her fleets, and that, therefore, she was not prepared for a great war. The facts being so, none of us are in a position to even guess why the course actually adopted was taken in regard to the Dardanelles. Furthermore, Russia has for nearly two centuries been the patroness of the Balkan States. She spent in rescuing them from slavery both blood and treasure in immense amounts. And therefore she had the first and clearly the most powerful voice to decide how the Balkan States ought to be dealt with. We cannot, any of us, tell what line Russia advised or what course France and England adopted before they decided upon the attempt to open the Dardanelles by ships alone. Is it, therefore, either common-sense or common loyalty to the State to try to fix blame upon the British Government—whether it be the original Government that entered into the War or the present Coalition Government makes no difference; the British Government, however constituted—when we know that it was its duty to act as far as it could in harmony with France, Russia and Italy, and to do nothing that might create, we will not say displeasure, but even disappointment, in the minds of any of the other Governments? The time will come when the conduct of the War will have to be reviewed and criticised. If serious errors have been made, those who committed them will be censured, and will be held up to posterity as unfit for the great places they occupied. But until we have proof that grievous errors were committed our plain duty is to assume that among a great number of Governments there were sure to be differences of opinion, and when no one Government was so manifestly superior to all the others in wealth, in numbers, in actual armies fit to send into the field, and in preparation to command what should be done, it is little short of treason to try to stir up dissatisfaction in the country. Our duty at present—all of us, old and young, rich and poor—is to criticise respectfully, reasonably, and with full recognition of all the difficulties ahead, what we believe to be wanting in the conduct of our rulers; to

urge them to act faithfully upon the new policy, the policy which pledges all the Allies to agree upon a fixed course of action; and to carry that out to the utmost of their power. The new policy is only a few weeks old. One cannot call into existence armies and navies and transport them from one side of the world to the other in a few weeks. Time must be given for the new policy to work. The Government should be made to understand, not by nagging, or bullying, or sowing apprehensions in the minds of the weak, but by honest and well-reasoned argument, that the country expects not only its own Government, but the Governments of the Allies altogether, to act in accordance with their new agreement; to carefully study the situation as it exists; to take the measures necessary to lead to a successful termination of the War; and to call upon the public to support them to the very utmost in whatsoever is adopted by all.

THE TRADE BALANCE.

THE most satisfactory feature about our foreign trade in November was the increase in the value of the exports of British goods to the highest level attained since war began, the amount reaching £35,639,000 in comparison with £24,602,000 in November last year and £44,756,000 in November 1913. Of course we must not attach too much importance to one month's trade, for in the previous month of October the value was less than £32,000,000. Nevertheless, the fact that the value has broken a new record since war began is a hopeful sign that our export trade next year will show substantial expansion over its value in the current year if strenuous efforts are made to promote exports and all unnecessary impediments to expansion are removed. If the level in November could be maintained for twelve months the value of British exports would exceed £430,000,000, against an actual export in the past twelve months of £377,000,000. There is, fortunately, no difficulty in selling our goods abroad, for the demand for many of them is much greater than we can at present supply. The difficulty lies with the shortage of labour and the shortage of tonnage, as well as with other factors which practical people assert are unnecessarily hampering our export trade and which improved organisation and greater co-ordination might remove. If anything could be done to increase the efficiency of labour by improved methods of production or otherwise, or to increase the quantity of shipping available for our trade, or to set free more machinery for production of goods for export, a very substantial expansion in our export trade would be witnessed.

Our imports in November were about the monthly average of the current year, having reached £71,647,000 in value, against £55,518,000 last year and £68,467,000 two years ago. For the past twelve months the value of our imports has been £850,000,000—by far the greatest aggregate ever hitherto reached. It compares with only £696,000,000 in the calendar year 1914 and £769,000,000 in 1913.

Our re-exports in November were valued at £8,313,000, against £5,643,000 last year and £8,001,000 two years ago. For the last twelve months our re-exports have been £97,000,000 in value, against £95,000,000 in 1914 and £110,000,000 in 1913. Hence our net imports reached the great sum of £753,000,000 in the last twelve months, in comparison with £601,000,000 in 1914 and £659,000,000 in 1913.

For the month of November the excess of imports over exports was £27,695,000, making a total excess for the past twelve months of £376,000,000, against an excess in the calendar year of 1914 of £170,000,000 and an excess in 1913 of only £134,000,000.

It is now evident that for the calendar year 1915 the excess of imports over exports will be in the neighbourhood of £370,000,000.

For the purpose of showing the greatness of our imports and the relative smallness of our exports in the current eleven months, in comparison with the corresponding values last year and in 1913, we give the following contrast:—

Trade of the United Kingdom, Eleven months.
000 omitted.

	1915	1914	1913	Inc. or Dec. Compared with 1913
	£	£	£	£
Imports	782,941	629,254	697,920	+ 85,021
Re-exports ..	91,095	89,619	99,927	— 8,832
Net imports ..	691,846	539,635	597,993	+ 93,853
Exports of British goods	350,700	403,952	482,134	— 131,434
Excess of imports ..	341,146	135,683	115,859	+225,287

The trade balance for the whole of 1915 in comparison with the balances of 1914 and 1913 is approximately as follows:—

Excess of Imports over Exports, Twelve months.
000 omitted.

	1915	1914	1913	Increase on 1913
	£	£	£	£
11 months ..	341,146	135,683	115,859	+225,287
December ..	27,696*	35,167	18,060	+ 9,636
12 months ..	368,842	170,850	133,919	+234,923

* As in November.

If we could maintain our exports in future at nearly £36,000,000 a month and refrain from purchasing from abroad on balance goods of a greater value than £63,000,000, as in November, the excess of imports over exports for twelve months will be at the rate of £332,000,000, against an actual excess for 1915 of nearly £370,000,000. But before we can be certain that the improvement in the trade balance is permanent we must await further results. It is, however, of very great importance that everything possible should be done to render the improvement permanent and to cause the trade balance against us to fall to a very much smaller figure even than £332,000,000.

Beyond the adverse balance as shown by the trade returns we must of course take into account the large quantity of stores and supplies which the Government has imported during the past twelve months, and which do not figure in the trade returns.

How great this has been it is very difficult to calculate, as some of the Government stores imported are in the foreign trade accounts and some of them are not. Thus it is known that our imports of horses from abroad during the current year reached a very large figure, but the number returned as imported is only 8,000, or less than in 1913. Again, it is understood that we have imported large quantities of explosives of various kinds. The foreign trade returns contain no record of them whatever. On the other hand the orders that are known to have been placed abroad for goods of all kinds and descriptions are no guide to the actual deliveries, for it is understood that foreign and colonial manufacturers have experienced as much delay in completing orders as have our home manufacturers. Then, beyond the goods brought to this country in Government ships or on Government account many are sent direct from the producing countries to the lands in which the British armies are situated. Lastly, a good deal of money has to be remitted to our expeditionary forces for goods and services supplied locally. The available information upon all these points caused us to calculate that our invisible imports in the first year of war were in the neighbourhood of £10,000,000 a month, and that since that date they had been at the rate of about £20,000,000 a month. Having regard, however, to the delays in the delivery of goods ordered

abroad we have come to the conclusion that the value of our invisible imports for the calendar year 1915 has not exceeded £10,000,000 a month, and that for the whole twelve months the excess of our imports over our exports has been rather less than £500,000,000.

From this sum has now to be deducted our income from interest on capital invested abroad, shipping, and other services. At the beginning of the War there was serious danger that our income from capital invested abroad would show heavy decline, but the great prosperity that has come to all the young countries in which the greater part of our foreign capital is invested has removed this danger. It is true that certain of our investments in Mexico, in Brazil, and in the United States have not given their normal income, but the aggregate loss of income has not been a great matter. Beyond the loss of income arising from funding and similar operations, we have to allow for the reduction in our income due to our withdrawal of floating capital from other countries. It is true that, against the loss of interest which this has imposed upon us, must be placed the gain from our additional investments in France, in Russia, in Italy, and elsewhere; but during the War we shall probably take our interest on these new investments in additional securities, and consequently we cannot calculate the receipt of actual income from them. After making ample allowance for all these factors, we feel justified in calculating that our income from interest on British capital invested abroad has fallen only from about £200,000,000 before the War to about £175,000,000 per annum in the past year. On the other hand, our income from shipping has increased enormously. Exactly how much of our shipping has been employed at the high rates it is difficult to ascertain. The amount of shipping permanently taken over by the Government is understood to be about 25%, but beyond this the Government charters additional boats as it needs them, and some calculations place the amount of shipping taken up by the Government at about 50% of the total tonnage. If, however, the foreign trade returns may be regarded as a guide to the reduction in the quantity of British shipping available for commerce the reduction has been less than 50%. In the eleven months the tonnage of British shipping entered with cargoes was 21,000,000, in comparison with 29,500,000 in the corresponding period of 1913, a reduction of about 8,500,000 tons, or about 29%. The quantity of British shipping cleared with cargoes, however, has been only 18,787,000 tons in the eleven months, against 36,815,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1913, and here the reduction is nearly 50%. It is possible that the reduction in British shipping in the foreign trade is greater than these figures indicate, as efforts have been made to prevent British ships from plying between foreign countries to the injury of British trade. After taking all these various considerations into account, the very high freight rates now received, and the reduction in passenger traffic, we have come to the conclusion that our income from shipping has risen from a sum of about £100,000,000 a year prior to the War to something like £225,000,000 per annum during the past year, and that the income we are getting from our foreign investments and from our shipping is now yielding an annual sum of about £400,000,000 in place of a normal £300,000,000. The other income we derive from miscellaneous services of all kinds and descriptions performed for foreign countries has probably fallen. For instance, the Stock Exchange, which usually derives a very large income from foreign business, is at present earning practically nothing from this source. Further, the number of foreign visitors to England has been very greatly reduced, and although, on the other hand, English touring abroad has also practically ceased on balance our income has probably suffered on balance. Nevertheless, having regard to the income our bankers derive from their services to foreign and Colonial countries, to the substantial sums paid in this country for offices, directors' fees, clerical staffs, &c., by foreign and Colonial companies, to the commission gained on re-exports, and to the income which our fire and other insurance offices obtain from foreign countries, it is evident that our income from services other than interest on capital and shipping has not fallen below £25,000,000. Hence in the aggregate we calculate that what are termed our invisible exports have brought the country an income of something like £425,000,000 in the current year.

Thus, against our excess of imports over exports of some £490,000,000 we have credits for about £425,000,000, and the amount that has had to be provided by sales of securities or by exports of gold to meet this adverse balance has not been more than £65,000,000. Beyond this sum, however, we have had to find loans of money for our Allies and Colonies. Exactly how much this has been is unknown. The Bank of England in July was repaid £160,000,000 of the money it advanced to the Government, and presumably a large part of this money consisted of loans which the country had made to Allies and Colonies. Then, again, Mr. Asquith in November told us that the Government had repaid to the Bank of England another £104,000,000, and that beyond this £58,900,000 had been lent to the Allies and £39,400,000 to the Dominions. Thus the repayments to the Bank of England altogether up to November 6 amounted to £264,000,000, while the loans to the Allies and Dominions were nearly £100,000,000, making a total of a little over £360,000,000. A part of this money was for other purposes than for loans to Allies and Colonies, but the greater part of the money was for that object. Then beyond the sums that the Government has lent to other countries is the money that has been lent by private investors which for the eleven months has amounted to £51,000,000, excluding the investment of new money in connection with the recent French Loan. If we assume that a substantial part of the money advanced by the Bank of England to the Government was not in connection with loans to Allies and Colonies, it is still evident that the capital we have supplied to foreign and Colonial countries in the current year has exceeded £300,000,000, and that for the whole twelve months the country has had to find in one way or another on balance about £400,000,000 of money for the purpose of paying for the goods it has bought from abroad and making loans to our Allies, Colonies, and customers.

This large sum of money has been found in part by drawing in floating capital from abroad, which has been possible as business throughout the world is to-day being conducted on a cash basis in a manner that has not been witnessed for a great many years, and as much of the money that we usually employ in financing international commerce is therefore no longer needed for the purpose. Again, we have supplied ourselves with a part of the money by selling some of our investments in the United States. The amount of these sales, we believe, is much less than currently assumed, and the balance of the money has been found, first, by means of the British loan of £50,000,000 and by the new bankers' credits in the United States, and, secondly, by the export of gold. The amount of gold imported into the United States since the beginning of the year has been about £80,000,000, but a large part of this has been provided out of the new gold raised in South Africa, Australia, India, and elsewhere, and a substantial amount of it has been supplied by the banks of France and of Russia. The net loss of gold by this country since the beginning of the year has not been as great as was the amount of gold it received from abroad in the first few months of war, and on balance the stock of gold in Great Britain is probably greater than it was before the War started.

This is the situation of the foreign trade balance

in the year 1915. In considering the foreign trade balance at any given moment, however, it is usual to calculate the existing monthly rate in favour or against any country. The current monthly rate of loans to foreign countries and our Colonies is now greater than it was early in the year, and, moreover, our imports of Government stores and munitions are still expanding. Hence the amount of money to be found from month to month, to pay for our balance of imports, including Government stores, and to make loans to our Allies and Colonies, is much heavier than the rate at which we have had to find money for these purposes in the last twelve months, and it is evident that in order to meet this larger trade balance the country not only needs to mobilise the securities it can sell abroad, but also to keep down its imports and to cause its exports to show still greater recovery both by economy and by greater efficiency.

THE COST OF LIVING.

OUR INDEX-NUMBERS OF PRICES.

(In continuation of Sauerbeck's Figures.)

THE following are THE STATIST'S index-numbers of the prices of 45 commodities, the average for the 11 years 1867-77 being 100:—

Annual Numbers.

Period	Average
1825	117
1873	111
1878-87	79
1890-99	66
1905-14	79
1880	88
1896	61
1905	72
1906	77
1907	80
1908	73
1909	74
1910	78
1911	80
1912	85
1913	85
1914	86

Monthly Numbers.

Month	Index-No.
June 1914	81.2
July 1914	82.4
August 1914	87.9
September 1914 ...	89.3
October 1914 ...	89.8
November 1914 ...	88.8
December 1914 ...	91.6
January 1915 ...	96.4
February 1915 ...	100.9
March 1915	103.7
April 1915	105.9
May 1915	107.2
June and July 1915...	106.4
August 1915	107.0
September 1915 ...	107.8
October 1915 ...	110.0
November 1915 ...	113.1

The advance in prices continues, and our index-number has now risen to 113.1, showing a further rise of 3.1, or nearly 3% in November, and a rise of 39.3% since June 1914. In some measure the rise in prices in November was accidental. There is an abundance of cereal food in the world this year, the crops being very large, and the supply of wheat in particular is plentiful, nevertheless, there has been a substantial advance in the price of wheat. This has been due, in part at any rate, to a sudden and heavy demand for Canadian wheat, which caused a maximum amount of disturbance to the wheat market. The index-number of all vegetable foods has consequently risen nearly 3%. The prices of animal foods have further declined 2.4%, making a total decline in the index-number of over 8% since August. The prices of sugar and coffee have slightly advanced, but tea is somewhat cheaper. Prices of practically all materials have advanced. The rise in minerals for the month is 5.7%, in textiles 4.5%, and in sundries 3.9%.

Comparison of the prices of the various classes last month with previous periods is made below:—

	Veg. Food (Corn, &c.)	Animal Food (Meat & Butter)	Sugar, Coffee & Tea	Minerals	Textiles	Sundries	Total
Year 1873 ...	**106**	**109**	**106**	**141**	**103**	**106**	**111**
Aver. 1878–87 ...	79	95	76	73	71	81	79
„ 1890–99 ...	61	80	63	71	56	66	66
„ 1905–14 ...	70	92	53	97	75	78	79
June 1914 ...	**66.5**	**97.5**	**51.8**	**96.7**	**80.6**	**82.5**	**81.2**
May 1915 ...	110.1	134.5	72.0	119.6	86.5	107.5	107.2
June „ ...	103.0	127.5	73.4	126.6	90.6	106.2	106.4
July „ ...	105.4	130.3	72.9	121.2	89.6	107.1	106.4
Aug. „ ...	105.6	131.8	71.4	119.6	92.6	107.7	107.0
Sept. „ ...	101.1	129.3	71.5	121.6	98.3	110.2	107.8
Oct. „ ...	110.3	123.4	67.7	123.9	100.2	114.7	110.0
Nov. „ ...	**113.3**	**120.4**	**68.5**	**130.9**	**104.7**	**119.2**	**113.1**
+or− % Nov....	+2.7	− 2.4	+1.2	+5.7	+4.5	+3.9	+2.8
Do. last 17 mos.	+70.0	+23.5	+32.2	+35.4	+29.9	+44.5	+39.3

In the aggregate the price of food is only slightly higher, while the index-number for materials has advanced 4.6%. Since war began the rise in foodstuffs has been 42.4%, and in materials 37.7%.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index-numbers for last month compare thus (1866-77=100 in both cases):—

	Foodstuffs	Materials		Foodstuffs	Materials
Year 1873 ...	**107**	**114**	June 1915 ...	105.8	106.9
Aver. 1878-87 ...	84	76	July „ ...	107.7	105.5
„ 1890-99 ...	68	64	Aug. „ ...	108.1	106.3
„ 1905-14 ...	75	82	Sept. „ ...	105.2	109.6
July 1896 ...	60.0	58.6	Oct „ ...	106.2	112.7
May 1907 ...	73.5	88.9	Nov. „ ...	**106.5**	**117.9**
Feb. 1909 ...	70.8	72.6			
June 1914 ...	74 8	85 7	Rise % in Nov....	+0.3	+ 4.6
May 1915 ...	111.1	104.3	Do. last 17 mos.	+42.4	+ 37.7

A substantial advance has occurred in the price of silver, bringing the quotation to 27$\frac{3}{16}$*d.* This rise was due to the discovery that the stock of silver in London had fallen to a very low figure, that the demand was exceeding the supply, and that there were prospects of continuance of a good demand for the Continent, and possibly for the East, with relatively short supplies from the United States and Mexico.

The price and index-number of silver for last month compare as follows (60.84*d.* per oz. being the parity of 1 gold to 15½ silver=100):—

	Price *d.*	Index-No.	End of	Price *d.*	Index-No.
Average 1873 ...	59¼	= 97.4	Dec. 1906 ...	32$\frac{5}{16}$	= 53.1
Average 1890-99	34	= 55.8	June 1914 ...	26	= 42.7
Average 1905-14	26$\frac{11}{16}$	= 43.9	Oct. 1914 ...	22$\frac{3}{16}$	= 36.5
Average 1893 ...	35$\frac{5}{8}$	= 58.6	Dec. 1914 ...	22$\frac{11}{16}$	= 37.3
Average 1909 ...	23$\frac{11}{16}$	= 38.9	Sept. 1915 ...	23$\frac{3}{4}$	= 39.0
Average 1914 ...	25$\frac{1}{16}$	= 41.6	Oct. 1915 ...	24$\frac{1}{16}$	= 39.6
Lowest, Nov. 1902	21$\frac{1}{16}$	= 35.6	Nov. 1915 ...	27$\frac{3}{16}$	= 44.7

Gold has continued to be exported on a considerable scale, notwithstanding the creation of substantial credits in the United States, and the aggregate export for the month has reached £13,554,000. On the other hand the imports of gold have been £6,530,000. Therefore on balance over £7,000,000 of gold has been exported. The stock of gold in the Bank of England at the end of November was still about £51,000,000, against £40,000,000 prior to the outbreak of war.

VENEZUELA CENTRAL RAILWAY.

THE progress of the Venezuela Central Railway Company has received a check. The exceptional causes arising from the War, added to the plague of locusts and the heavy rains experienced, are the main reasons for the set-back. The report for the year 1914, recently issued, showed that the gross earnings declined from £29,531 to £24,673, and the net earnings from £10,786 to £5,123. Such a sum is insufficient by about £9,000 to pay the 6% interest on the First Debentures, and an arrangement has been come to whereby stockholders have agreed to receive as and from October 1, 1915, reduced interest at the rate of 3% per annum, or more should the net earnings of the railway warrant it, but not to exceed 6% per annum, and that as soon as the full 6% has been paid for three consecutive years, then the full amount of 6% per annum should be thereafter payable. The first section of the line was only opened in January 1911, and a further extension in November 1913, and until war broke out fair progress was shown. The railway is now 73 kilometres in length extending from Caracas as far as Yare, and whilst further extensions are contemplated, it is considered inadvisible to proceed beyond Yare at present owing to the high cost of fuel and other circumstances caused by the War. It is satisfactory to note that the recovery in earnings has now set in and for the first nine months of the current year the improvement is £2,771 or 14.7%.

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Financial Notes.

JUST now the position in Argentina is very interesting, and those whose connection with the country is at all large or valuable will do well to watch the course of events. Argentina, as everybody knows, has been selling to the Entente Powers on an immense scale. In consequence, her most pressing difficulties have been removed, and not a few have jumped to the conclusion that the present season would see the end of those difficulties, and usher in a more promising, as well as a more satisfactory, situation. There is, of course, much force in the argument, and doubtless Argentina will profit if hostilities continue. But in attempting to measure the importance of those advantages it will be well to keep in mind three very serious considerations.

In the first place, Argentina had fine crops last year, which the world was eager to buy almost at the country's own prices. The British Government, in particular, bought on an immense scale, not only for its own subjects, but for its Allies. On the other hand, last year the harvest of Australia was a failure. It was an exceedingly bad year for the island continent. We are glad to say the present year has seen the reverse of the medal, and Australia will be once more a competitor, which is a matter of great importance not to the island continent alone, nor to the British Empire alone, but to the food consumers of all the world. Reasonably we ought, in consequence of this, to be able to obtain our food supplies somewhat more cheaply. Particularly there ought to be a marked cheapening if the Entente Allies at last have awakened from the mistaken policy that bound them so strangely in regard to the Dardanelles and the Balkans, and are now taking measures which will give access to Russia.

In the second place, it is understood that the British Government is now confining its purchases for itself, for the Daughter Countries, and for its Allies, as far as circumstances permit, to the countries within the Empire. The policy is a wise one. It will be in the recollection of our readers that it was begun last year, when, through the Indian Government, purchases were made of nearly all the saleable wheat in India. The price was thereby kept at a very reasonable level so far as the Indian sellers were concerned, and it was also kept at a reasonable level so far as those for whom the British Government was acting were concerned. Satisfied with the result of last year's experience in India, the Government now is extending its policy very considerably. That will help, we trust, to enable the Empire to bear the costs of the War better than it otherwise could. It will give to the Empire a full market for all its products, and it will give such a reasonable price as will afford a handsome profit to the sellers and yet not press unduly upon the buyers.

In the third place, the British Government is confining shipments as far as possible, if we are rightly informed, to British shipping, which naturally has the result of keeping up British freights. But it makes exceptions where foreign vessels obtain from it special permission. In those cases we are informed that the price is raised. It seems rather surprising that it should be so, but we presume, as the British Government only grants permission in special cases, that where the special cases occur the freights are advanced, as naturally would be the case supposing that such shipping had been excluded altogether and now is admitted into the competition on special terms. In any event, the whole combination of circumstances tends to lessen the imports of all kinds of produce from Argentina to the United Kingdom, and to increase from other quarters the imports of those productions into the British Empire. It is the converse of a policy which is very desirable in the general interests of the Empire. Since hostilities began this country has been buying immensely increased quantities, especially of things intended for the War. That must go on as long as hostilities continue. And when the decisive fighting begins, as presumably it will begin in early spring, the consumption of all kinds of munitions must be on an enormous scale; and the imports from abroad continue excessive.

Therefore it is in the highest degree desirable that the exports from the United Kingdom should be stimulated by every legitimate means. Clearly, the taxation of the country will yield higher if the exports are inflated than if the exports are kept down. We are aware, of course, that in the past month there has been an improvement in the exports; but there has also been an increase in the imports. What we want to see is a much more marked increase in the exports. It is worth the attention of our Government to give thought and study to this matter. The exports of the country can be augmented greatly if the proper steps are taken. Manifestly, if the exports are largely increased they will enable the public to subscribe more handsomely to the War Loans and to pay increased taxes with much more ease to themselves than any of the wild schemes so freely put forward for ending the War successfully can be.

There has been some talk of locusts in Argentina already, and we believe that, as a matter of fact, some damage has been done in Cordoba. But up to the present we have heard of no indications that the damage has been serious or is likely to become so. Of course, it is to be recollected that while the wheat harvest is being gathered in and is proving a fine one, the maize crop is still in an early stage. It is soft and green, and is very attractive to the locusts. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that locusts have

made their appearance already. But there are very few seasons in which one does not hear of some damage being done by locusts. If the neighbouring South American Governments would combine to drain the districts where locusts are bred no doubt the pest could be put an end to. But while there is no Government that has sufficient foresight to take the measures necessary to put an end to the destruction of wealth we are afraid that the locusts will continue to pester farmers in Argentina. The time is not far past when it was believed Havana, and a very large part of Cuba as well, was hopelessly handed over by Providence to pestilence. Yet the short time the Americans occupied the island enabled them to show that the belief was a pure prejudice—that science can very easily get rid of yellow fever. In the same way, locusts can be got rid of whenever the breeding-places are attacked in earnest and the right measures are adopted to get rid of the pest.

It may be added in support of the statement just made that when the British first became acquainted with Uganda they were convinced that the tsetse fly was invincible, and that, whatever steps might be taken, it would continue to poison man. Doctors, however, had more faith in science than politicians, and although by no means enough has been done, yet sufficient measures have been taken to prove conclusively that the tsetse fly, just like yellow fever in Havana, is due to the neglect of Governments and their agents.

RUBBER CROP RETURNS.—Figures represent the weight in pounds (dry).

Company	Nov. Crop	Nov. 1914	Inc. (+) Decr. (−)	Financial Year to Date	Total for Same Period Last Year	Inc.
Anglo-Malay ...	115,110	119,087	+24,023	1,281,316(*II*)	1 2 0,172	131,134
Pataling ...	52,427	52,624	— 197	542,108(*II*)	524,364	17,244
London Asiatic...	110,576	110,771	— 195	1,127,657(*II*)	1,015,684	111,973
Golden Hope ...	17,542	18,565	— 1,023	180,946(*II*)	154.136	26,810
Selaba	46,588	41,631	+ 4,957	520,298(*II*)	481,643	38,655
Bikam	24,000	18,987	+ 5,013	248,700(*II*)	218,327	30,313
Sungkai-Chumor	36,600	27,750	+ 8,850	184,390(5)	156,850	27,540
Seaport ...	28,629	25,215	+ 3,414	130,664(5)	110,060	20,604
Rubber Estates of Johore ...	54,895	54,484	— 411	594,393(*II*)	487,010	107,383
Tangkah ...	29,734	18,097	+11,637	59,094(2)	39,263	19,831
North Labis ...	4,210	—	—	12,887(5)	—	—
Victoria... ...	5,485	1,600	+ 3,885	17,807(5)	7,306	10,501

NOTE. Figures in parentheses ( ) denote number of months of output.

SUMATRA COS.						
United Serdang	254,582	207,923	46,659	748,532(3)	595,743	152,789
Tandjong ...	96,656	60,971	35,685	462,804(5)	303,414	159,390
Sialang	80,879	52,866	28,015	651,274(*II*)	371,543	279,731
Asahan	19,753	10,012	9,741	74,134(*I*)	34,278	39,856
The Bah Lias Tobacco & Rubber	9,473	270	9,203	9,473(*I*)	270	9,203
Toerangie (Sumatra)						
JAVA COS.						
Langen ...	68,000* lb. Rubber	34,152	+33,848	158,377(3)	86,852	71,525
Djasinga ...	17,000* lb. Rubber	11,205	+ 5,795	56,581(5)	36,296	20,285
	14,000* lb. Tea	14,763	— 763	82,761	19,143	63,618
Bajoekidoel	10,000* lb. Rubber	3,675	+ 6,325	83,594(8)	34,102	49,492
	100 piculs Coffee	1,146	— 746	10,193	13,665	3,472
Kasintoe ...	8,000* lb. Rubber	4,573	+ 3,427	58,171(*II*)	30,895	27,276

* Approximate.

INDIAN CO.						
The Malayalam Rubber and Produce Co., Ltd.						
Rubber ...	100,741	80,955	+19,786	604,831(*II*)	446,864	157,967
Tea	136,775	100,935	+35,840	1,316,866	1,138,596	178,270

	Nov. 1915	Nov. 1914	Lb.	Total 1915 Lb.	Total Lb.	Lb.
Rikap	26,260	23,243	+ 4,017	139,449(5)	116,606	+22,843
Ceylon Para ...	60,336	72,300	−11,964	591,009(*II*)	512,560	+78,449
Jong-Landor ...	42,136	30,365	+11,771	203,788(5)	139,684	+64,104
Sunnygama ...	65,257	78,351	−13,094	668,466(*II*)	613,688	+54,778

There is no more deserving object of support than the Soldiers' and Sailors' Free Buffet at Victoria Station. Thousands of our fighting men are supplied daily by willing and voluntary hands with meals and comforts to help them on their journeys to and from the Front. Funds are urgently needed to carry on the good work, which is certainly worthy of generous public support. Contributions may be sent to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Free Buffet, Victoria Station, London, S.W., or to Major-General Sir Francis Lloyd, Commanding London District.



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American Topics.

MISSOURI, KANSAS AND TEXAS RY.

IN the spring of this year the Board had under consideration a comprehensive plan for readjusting the Company's finances, but it was deemed expedient, in view of conditions which then prevailed, to ask holders of the $19,000,000 of 5% Notes due in May to extend their Notes for twelve months at 6% interest. This, it was hoped, would afford more time for the Board to devise a financial plan with which to provide the funds necessary to pay off the Notes and some $2,733,000 of Bank loans, and to furnish the undertaking with additional working capital. It was essential if the plans of the directors were to meet with success that the whole of the Noteholders should agree to the extension proposal. Holders of about 95% responded to the request and deposited their Notes with trustees for extension, but the remaining 5% insisted upon payment in cash, and brought suits which threatened the interests of other creditors and the integrity of the working capital. In these circumstances the directors decided that the interests of all would be best served by the appointment of a Receiver. Fortunately the Court consented to the appointment as sole Receiver of Mr. C. E. Schaff, who, during the few years he has been President has already succeeded in effecting great economies in dealing with the traffic and who enjoys the confidence of all interests. It has long been recognised that the Company's interest charges absorb an undue proportion of the net income, and that some scheme of financial readjustment was essential in order to reduce those charges. Further, the amount of Common stock is very large, and, although the outlook is for larger traffic, revenues, and profits in the coming years, it will be practically impossible to earn a dividend large enough to enable the issue of new Common stock at par.

Few American railways have had more difficulties to contend with during the last few years than the Missouri, Kansas and Texas. First, there has been the confiscatory policy of the legislatures of the States through which the Company's lines run, more especially of Texas; secondly, harmful restrictions under the guise of regulation; thirdly, compulsory reductions of rates and fares; and, fourthly, not only unusual and severe droughts, but a succession of floods of great severity which caused interruptions to traffic and expensive replacement work. On the top of all these disturbing influences, and just at a time when plans were being framed to take care of the maturing Notes, came the European War.

Although not possessing the shortest route between

Income Statement of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway.

Yr. to June 30	Aver. Miles.	Gross Earnings.	Operating Expenses.	Ratio.	Net Earnings.	Misc. Income.	Net Income.	Taxes.	Fixed Charges.	Net Profit.	Div. on 4% Prefd. Earned	Div. on 4% Prefd. Paid	Div. on Com. Balance.	Div. on Com. Earn.	Div. on Com. Paid	Div. on Com. Balance.
		$	$	%	$	$	$	$	$	$	%	$	$	%	%	$
1915	3,865	32,899,000	22,968,000	69·81	9,931,000	215,000	10,146,000	1,328,000	7,343,000	1,475,000	4	Nil	1,475,000	1·51	Nil	1,475,000
1914	3,825	31,918,000	23,227,000	72·77	8,691,000	217,000	8,908,000	1,500,000	6,869,000	539,000	4	2	279,000	0·03	Nil	279,000
1913	3,677	32,833,000	23,350,000	71·12	9,483,000	666,000	10,149,000	1,288,000	6,544,000	2,317,000	4	4	1,797,000	2·84	Nil	1,797,000
1912	3,398	28,760,000	21,814,000	75·85	6,946,000	321,000	7,267,000	1,060,000	6,190,000	17,000	Nil	4	5 3, 00†	Nil	Nil	5 3, †
1911	3,377	29,638,000	21,185,000	71·48	8,453,000	431,000	8,884,000	1,005,000	5,978,000	1,901,000	4	4	1,381,000	1·96	Nil	1,381,000
1910	3,072	27,061,000	19,700,000	72·79	7,361,000	310,000	7,671,000	1,013,000	5,633,000	1,025,000	4	4	505,000	0·80	Nil	505,000
1909	3,072	25,861,000	18,240,000	70·53	7,621,000	194,000	7,815,000	967,000	5,474,000	1,374,000	4	4	854,000	1·35	Nil	854,000
1908	3,072	23,771,000	16,919,000	71·18	6,852,000	381,000	7,233,000	688,000	5,210,000	1,335,000	4	4	815,000	1·29	Nil	815,000
1907	3,072	26,184,000	16,731,000	63·90	9,453,000	177,000	9,630,000	426,000	5,003,000	4,201,000	4	4	3,681,000	5·81	Nil	3,681,000
1906	3,043	21,159,000	14,990,000	70·85	6,169,000	409,000	6,578,000	424,000	4,501,000	1,653,000	4	2	1,393,000	1·79	Nil	1,393,000
1905	3,043	20,041,000	14,568,000	72·69	5,473,000	425,000	5,898,000	$69,000	4,262,000	1,267,000	4	Nil	1,267,000	1·18	Nil	1,267,000

† Deficit.

any two important centres the road serves a territory which is developing as rapidly as any portion of the United States and reaches all of the important cities of Texas and some of the most progressive in the South West. So far as the volume of its freight business is concerned the growth has been satisfactory, the expansion during the past decade having been 80%. At the same time gross receipts have risen from $20,041,000 to $32,900,000, or by 64%. Owing, however, to the causes already specified, and the great increase in interest and other charges, the net profit last year was only $210,000 greater than ten years ago.

Notwithstanding the abnormal conditions of last year the "Katy" obtained gross receipts higher than in the previous year. The factors chiefly responsible for this were the great development that took place in the petroleum industry (the quantity of crude petroleum conveyed having risen in the year from 199,000 tons to 1,056,000 tons), the plentiful grain crops, and comparison with a period when traffic was badly interfered with by floods and wash-outs. For the year freight receipts expanded $2,169,000, or 11%. On the other hand, passenger traffic suffered severely from the adverse business conditions, the loss in passenger earnings having been $1,009,000, or 11%, although the service afforded was practically the same as in the previous year. In the aggregate there was an expansion of $980,000, or 3.1%, in the gross receipts. Floods and wash-outs were again prevalent last spring interrupting traffic and increasing expenses of operation. Nevertheless the acquisition of a large number of more powerful locomotives, which permitted of the movement of freight trains of greater weight, enabled the officers to effect a saving of $259,000, or 1%, in operating expenses. Consequently there was an expansion of $1,240,000, or 14% in net earnings. Miscellaneous income was practically unchanged, while taxes were $172,000 lower. Interest and other charges were $474,000 higher, increases having occurred under all heads, but more particularly on account of hire of equipment. On balance the addition to the net profit was $936,000, raising the figure to $1,475,000, a sum equal to the full 4% dividend on the Preferred stock and to 1½% on the Common stock. No dividend has been paid on the Preferred stock since October 1913. The improved results of last year, and the failure of the great growth in gross earnings that has occurred in the past ten years to give additional net profit, will be evident from the Income Statement herewith.

One of the most satisfactory features concerning the past year's operations was the fact that the expansion of $981,000 in gross receipts was accompanied by an actual diminution of $445,000 in the cost of conducting transportation, as a result of which the ratio of conducting transportation was reduced from 40.72% to 38.15%. The good work of the existing management is shown by a comparison of the gross receipts and conducting transportation costs last year and in 1911-12. In these three years gross receipts have expanded no less than $4,139,000, or 14.4%, but the increase in the cost of conducting transportation has been only $164,000, or 1.3%. By this means a reduction of nearly five points has been effected in the conducting transportation ratio, which for 1911-12 was 43.07% and for last year 38.15%, notwithstanding the fact that in the interval freight rates and passenger fares were reduced and the Company has had to bear the burden of higher wages and various other increased expenses. When the present management took over the line it was discovered that the system had been most unevenly developed, and that while certain sections of the road were in fairly good shape the facilities for the economical handling of traffic on other sections were most inadequate. They therefore set to work to modernise the system and to remodel the organisation in order that better operating results could be obtained. Gradients have been reduced, more powerful locomotives and higher-capacity freight cars acquired, heavier rails laid, bridges and roadbed strengthened, and various improvements effected to the system, including better terminal facilities, with the result that the average freight-train load, which prior to 1911-12 had shown little improvement, has risen since that year from 241 tons to 310 tons, an expansion of 28%. To have accomplished this during a period when the conditions have not been altogether favourable, and when the state of its finances has left much to be desired, is exceedingly gratifying. Such results, it is to be hoped, afford a good criterion of the further benefits that will be derived when by means of reorganisation of capital the Company's credit has been strengthened and the task of improving the physical condition of the property has been completed. Last year the Company expended more money upon maintenance of equipment, both actually and in proportion to gross receipts, than ever before. Upon maintenance of the road and equipment combined the expenditures represented 27.71% of the gross receipts, against 26.66% in 1913-14. How the expenses of last year compared with those for previous periods, and the savings that have been effected in conducting transportation, will be apparent from the subjoined statements:—

Operating Expenses of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Ry.

Year to June 30	Gross Earnings.	Maintenance of Way.	Maintenance of Equipment.	Cond. Trans-portation.	Gen & Misc. Expenses.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915 ...	32,899,000	4,503,000	4,579,000	12,551,000	1,335,000	22,968,000
1914 ...	31,918,000	4,575,000	3,934,000	12,996,000	1,722,000	23,227,000
1913 ...	32,833,000	4,637,000	4,101,000	13,011,000	1,601,000	23,350,000
1912 ...	28,760,000	4,129,000	3,745,000	12,387,000	1,553,000	21,814,000
1911 ...	29,638,000	3,901,000	3,550,000	12,152,000	1,583,000	21,185,000
1910 ...	27,061,000	4,096,000	3,311,000	10,888,000	1,405,000	19,700,000
1909 ...	25,861,000	3,370,000	3,379,000	10,084,000	1,407,000	18,240,000
1908 ...	23,771,000	3,109,000	3,040,000	9,644,000	1,126,000	16,919,000
1907 ...	26,184,000	2,950,000	2,915,000	9,904,000	962,000	16,731,000
1906 ...	21,159,000	3,746,000	2,044,000	8,224,000	976,000	14,990,000
1905 ...	20,041,000	3,643,000	1,925,000	8,114,000	888,000	14,568,000

Ratio of Expenses to Gross Receipts, Miss., Kansas & Texas Ry.

		%	%	%	%	%
1915	... ...	13·69	13·92	38·15	4·05	69·81
1914	... ...	14·33	12·33	40·72	5·39	72·77
1913	... ...	14·12	12·49	39·63	4·88	71·12
1912	... ...	14·36	13·02	43·07	5·40	75·85
1911	... ...	13·16	11·97	41·00	5·35	71·48
1910	... ...	15·14	12·24	40·23	5·18	72·79
1909	... ...	13·03	13·07	38·99	5·44	70·53
1908	... ...	13·08	12·79	60·57	4·74	71·18
1907	... ...	11·27	11·13	37·82	3·68	63·90
1906	... ...	17·71	9·66	38·87	4·61	70·85
1905	... ...	18·17	9·61	40·49	4·42	72·69

In the first few months of the current year the Company has again been unfortunate, as the Texas Coast has been visited by severe storms, which did considerable damage and seriously impeded export

traffic. For the four months to October gross receipts declined $495,000 and net earnings decreased $366,000. The decline in gross receipts now seems to have been arrested, and traffic appears likely to come forward in greater volume during the remaining months of the year. Last year farmers enjoyed considerable prosperity from the high prices at which they were able to dispose of the unprecedented crops gathered, and a similar state of affairs exists this year. The corn crop in the States through which the Company's lines run is far greater than in any previous year, the oats crop is larger than ever before, and the wheat crop, while not as abundant as the unprecedented crop of 1914, is, however, largely in excess of that for any other year. A comparison of the principal crops for the past three years in the States served is given below:—

Principal Crops Gathered in States Served by "Katy" Ry.

States.	Miles.	CORN CROP. 1915	CORN CROP. 1914	CORN CROP. 1913	OATS. 1915	OATS. 1914	OATS. 1913	WINTER WHEAT. 1915	WINTER WHEAT. 1914	WINTER WHEAT. 1913
		bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*	bush.*
Texas ...	1,773	176,0	124,8	163,2	39,0	22,5	32,5	21,1	14,1	13,7
Oklahoma	1,036	127,4	50,0	52,3	35,6	30,3	18,5	38,8	48,0	17,5
Missouri ...	543	210,2	158,4	129,1	30,9	25,8	26,5	34,1	43,5	39,6
Kansas ...	494	170,2	108,2	23,4	44,4	59,0	34,3	118,6	176,3	86,5
Total ...	—	683·8	441,4	366,0	149,9	137,6	111,8	212,6	281,7	157,3

* 00,000's omitted.

One important point that must not be ignored is the change of sentiment now being displayed by the State and Federal authorities towards the railways. A change of this character is especially welcome when one is considering the affairs of an undertaking such as the "Katy," for few companies have been harder hit by unwise legislation affecting railways.

The amounts of, together with the yields afforded by, the Company's principal securities are shown below:—

Yields Afforded by Principal Securities of M., K. & T. Ry.

Description.	Amount Outstanding. $	Date of Redemption.	Int. Rate. %	Div. Paid. 1st of	Price.	Yield% per An. £ s. d.
1st Mortgage bonds ...	39,999,500	June 1990	4	J. & D.	83*	4 16 5
2nd „ „ ...	20,000,000	June 1990	4	F. & A.	63†	6 17 11
Gen. Mt. 4½% Sinking Fund	10,525,000	Jan. 1936	4½	J. & J.	48½	9 5 6
4% 1st and Ref. Mort. ...	9,992,000	Sept. 2004	4	M. & S.	55*	7 5 6
M.K. & Okl. 1st Mort. ...	5,468,000	May 1942	5	M. & N.	85*	5 17 8
M.K. & T. of Texas 1st Mt.	4,505,000	Sept. 1942	5	M. & S.	72½*	6 17 11
M.K. & T. 1-Yr. 6% Notes...	19,000,000	May 1916	6	M. & N.	—	—
4% Non.-Cum. Pref. Stk.	13,000,000	—	Nil	—	17⅞†	—
Common stock	63,287,257	—	Nil	—	7⅛†	—

* New York price. (†) London price. (*n*) Not allowing for redemption of bonds at par at maturity.

ARGENTINE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

THE Argentine North Eastern Railway Company is passing through one of the most trying periods in its history. Until the recent set-back rapid strides were being made, but the commercial crisis in Argentina which commenced some three years back has told heavily against the Company, and the outbreak of war in Europe last year greatly aggravated the situation. Added to this, weather conditions have been very unsatisfactory, causing heavy mortality among the flocks and serious damage to property. Consequently, whereas two years ago the net income of the line amounted to nearly £147,000, a sum equal to the full 5% on the "A" and "B" Debentures, and 2⅜% on the "C" Debentures, now the net revenue balance is only about £78,000, or not much more than sufficient to pay interest on the 5% "A" Debentures and Debenture stock. The inability of the Company to meet either the service of the "B" Debentures and stock due on June 30 last, or the interest due June 1 on a loan of £320,000, necessitated a scheme of arrangement whereby interest on the "B" Debentures and stock, as and when necessary, is to be satisfied in the next two years by the issue of Funding scrip, as well as interest to the extent of 4% per annum on the loan referred to up to September 1, 1917. The scheme further provides that any scrip unredeemed on September 1, 1917, together with all interest thereon not previously paid in cash, is to be satisfied by new "B" Debenture stock at par which the directors have been authorised to issue to the extent of £165,063. Funding scrip certificates have been issued in satisfaction of the six months' interest due July 1 last on the "B" Debentures and stock, and also in satisfaction of four months' interest at the rate of 4% per annum on the loan of £320,000 up to the same date. Moreover, the dividend of 2⅜% declared last year on the "C" Debentures and stock, requiring £23,809, has been satisfied by the issue of an equivalent amount of "C" Debenture stock at par. The net result of the past year's working, after providing interest on the "A" and "B" Debentures and stock, interest on loans, &c., is a debit balance of £55,589, which is further increased to £61,213 by the expenditure of £5,624 on special renewals.

A satisfactory feature of the year has been the substantial reduction in working charges, for with a decline of £88,861 in gross receipts, the net receipts at £74,920 show a diminution of only £36,108. The saving of £52,753 in working expenses occurred mainly in the cost of conducting transportation, for whereas maintenance outlays were reduced by £14,206, running and traffic expenses absorbed some £31,400 less than in 1913-14. The number of trains run was greatly reduced, and the saving in train mileage was consequently as much as 28.4%. The outlays of the various spending departments in the last two years contrast as under:—

Working Expenses.

	1914–15 £	1913–14 £	Difference £	Difference %
Maint. of way, works, &c. ...	40,770	46,008	— 5,238	—11·4
„ of rolling stock	25,511	34,479	— 8,968	—26·0
Total maintenance	66,281	80,487	—14,206	—17·6
Running expenses	52,656	72,593	—19,937	—27·5
Traffic expenses	32,351	43,820	—11,469	—26·2
Total transportation...	85,007	116,413	—31,406	—27·0
General charges	28,897	36,340	— 7,443	—20·5
Steamboats	102	100	+ 2	+ 1·6
Ferry service	4,420	4,120*	+ 300	+ 7·3
Total expenses	184,707	237,460	—52,753	—22·2

* These figures are only for 8 months 10 days.

The revenue statement of the Company for the past four years is set out beneath:—

Revenue Statement, Argentine North-Eastern Railway.

	1914–15 £	1913–14 £	1912–13 £	1911–12 £
Gross earnings	259,627	348,488	367,024	319,312
Expenses	184,707	237,460	222,226	195,882
Ratio	(71,14)	(68,14)	(60,55)	(61,35)
Net earnings	74,920	111,028	144,798	123,430
Miscellaneous income ...	3,028	35,968*a*	28,353*a*	9,582
Total net income	77,948	146,996	173,151	133,012
Fixed charges	83,985*c*	71,000	55,309	59,086
Net profit	6,037	75,996	117,842	73,926
Div. on "B" Debentures ...	49,611*d*	49,611	49,612	49,612
Balance	Def. 55,648	26,385	68,230	24,314
Div. on "C" Debentures ...	—	23,809*b*	50,000	25,000
Balance	Def. 55,648	2,576	18,230	Dr.686
Brought forward	59	14,899	16,668	27,354
	Def. 55,589	17,475	34,898	26,668
Renewal account	5,624	17,475	20,000	10,000
Carried forward ...	Def. 61,213	—	14,898	16,668

(*a*) Includes a transfer of £33,146 from subvention account, against £20,000 in 1912–13.

(*b*) Equal to a dividend of 2⅜%, the payment of which was subsequently satisfied by the issue of an equivalent amount of "C" [illegible].

(*c*) Includes interest [illegible] amounting to £2,000, [illegible] was satisfied by 5% Funding scrip under scheme of arrangement dated July 21, 1915.

(*d*) Of this amount £24,806 has been satisfied by 5% Funding scrip under [illegible] scheme of arrangement.

The immediate outlook is fortunately much more promising. Locally the weather conditions have improved, and the prospects for the current financial year are reported to be bright. The camps are in good condition, and the lambing season is said to have been satisfactory. The improved conditions are already reflected in the traffic returns now coming to hand, for since the beginning of July there has been an increase in receipts of £46,166, or 44%, as against a falling off of £52,824, or 33%, in the correspond-

ing period last year. A turn in the tide has therefore apparently set in. Taking Argentina as a whole the outlook indeed could not be better. Not only are the crops abundant, but they are in demand at exceptionally high prices; and this, too, applies to the other products of the country, such as cattle, sheep, dead meat, wool, &c., which, owing to the War, are in great request everywhere. In the coming twelve months, therefore, the wealth of the nation promises to be further enormously increased. In the particular district served by the Argentine North Eastern Railway some little time may yet elapse before general conditions improve, but there is no doubt that the greater prosperity of the country generally will eventually filter through to every part; and, by the law of averages, the provinces of Corientes and Entre Rios should, after their long spell of bad weather, now enjoy better climatic conditions and reap a series of more bountiful harvests.

Stockholders may therefore regard the present setback, although severe, as a temporary matter, and now that the turn has come, the recovery of prosperity may be rapid. At present the Company is only in the initial stages of development, and as a consequence it has felt the crisis more severely than the longer established and more developed undertakings. The history of the Company has not, it is true, been of a very brilliant character, for whilst over a quarter of a century has passed since the line was originally constructed, no distribution has yet been made on the capital stock. Established in 1887, the Company in the early years of its existence struggled valiantly against adversity, and it was not until 1907, when the East Argentine Railway was acquired, that any real progress was made. The acquisition of the East Argentine was expected to be followed by an amalgamation with the Entre Rios Railways, the three lines being physically connected and complementary one to the other. A fusion in its true sense was, however, never brought about, but the large interest which the Entre Rios Railways Company now has in the North Eastern Company practically amounts to copartnership, and certainly assures amicable working arrangements between them. It is now announced that a joint general manager of the two lines has been appointed, subject to the control of a joint committee of the two boards in London. It is hoped that this arrangement will lead not only to economy in administration and the avoidance of wasteful competition, but to the improvement of facilities to the public using the railways. Ultimately a fusion of the two companies in its widest sense may be possible.

To appreciate the possibilities of the future it is necessary first of all to grasp the geographical position of the railway as it exists to-day, and, secondly, to realise the efforts which have been and are being made to consolidate and develop the important railway system now extending from Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, to Buenos Ayres, the capital of Argentina. Starting at Buenos Ayres, the Entre Rios Railways radiate throughout the province of Entre Rios and stretch as far north as Concordia. Here the system is carried further northward by means of the Argentine North Eastern line to Monte Caseros, in the province of Corientes. From thence it is divided into two sections—the Western branch, extending to the city of Corientes, the capital of the province, and to Goya, on the river Parana; and the Eastern branch, taking the course of the Upper Uruguay River as far as Apostoles, and on to Posadas, immediately opposite the Encarnacion terminus of the Paraguay Central Railway recently constructed. Here the Company has provided a steam ferry and loading facilities, whereby trains (passenger and goods) can be exchanged with the Paraguay Central Railway without breaking bulk or changing of carriage or gauge. The ferry-boat connection with Paraguay was inaugurated in October 1913, and although traffic over the new route has not so far come up to expectation owing to the depression in trade, there is little doubt that when things mend the ferry route will be remunerative.

Other concessions have been granted the Company for the extension of its system, the most important being the prolongation of the line southward from Concordia to Concepcion del Uruguay, on the River Uruguay, where the National Government has constructed a port capable of accommodating ocean-going shipping. Now that this extension has been completed, capital expenditure has, practically speaking, ceased, and inasmuch as it is hoped that the Argentine Government will grant a further extension of time for the construction of the branch to Federal, it is not expected that any fresh capital expenditure will have to be incurred in the near future.

The traffic of the line is of a varied character. About one-third of the gross receipts is derived from passengers and two-thirds from goods and live stock. The goods traffic is made up of a variety of commodities, cereals at present forming but a small proportion of the total. Agriculture is, however, slowly spreading in the province, and a steady development of cereal traffic may be expected to result. The orange traffic is attaining considerable proportions. The varied nature of the freight traffic may be seen from the appended summary:—

Freight Traffic—Argentine North-Eastern Railway.

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13	1911–12	1910–11
Goods—	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sleepers, posts, timber, &c.	23,573	31,013	29,659	21,761	24,198
Flour, bran	21,130	24,922	22,564	20,019	18,618
Oranges and tangerines ...	15,684	15,903	12,939	11,629	13,855
Maize	12,696	13,653	15,762	10,028	11,481
Salt	5,678	7,828	9,937	8,412	7,635
Jerked beef, &c.	5,023	9,589	8,869	7,801	2,097
Stone, sand, lime, bricks ...	4,467	14,400	14,691	12,443	9,840
Wool and hair	4,199	4,423	6,165	8,241	6,721
Fruit and vegetables ...	3,574	4,946	4,813	4,022	5,032
Charcoal	2,206	2,970	3,682	2,500	1,608
Hay	2,096	4,214	3,507	2,196	4,035
General merchandise ...	32,947	60,642	57,266	41,702	42,449
Miscellaneous	18,875	17,281	12,252	12,114	13,876
Total goods	151,848	211,784	202,106	162,868	161,445
Live Stock—	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Horned cattle	137,991	125,925	178,981	160,127	161,975
Sheep	49,147	91,921	155,334	107,704	79,762
Horses	4,078	7,140	7,083	5,951	5,784
Pigs	2,528	3,054	5,898	3,877	1,278
Total live stock ...	193,744	228,040	347,296	277,659	248,799

Although the set-back of the last two years has reduced the gross and net earnings to a relatively low level, a glance at the accompanying table clearly shows the substantial progress which the Company was making prior to the present crisis:—

Income Statement, Argentine North-Eastern Railway.

Year	Miles Open	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings
		£	£	%	£
1914–15	752	259,627	184,707	71.14	74,920
1913–14	667	348,488	237,461	68.14	111,028
1912–13	665	367,024	222,226	60.55	144,798
1911–12	665	319,312	195,882	61.35	123,430
1910–11	614	293,023	164,758	56.23	128,265
1909–10	560	245,533	140,281	57.13	105,252
1908–09	510	210,026	120,075	57.17	89,951
1907–08	510	174,682	111,155	63.63	63,527
1906–07	510	184,405	120,047	65.10	64,357
1905*	510	146,895	95,932	65.30	50,963
1904*	510	136,647	98,977	72.45	37,670

* Combined results of the East Argentine and Argentine North-Eastern Railway Companies prior to amalgamation.

It is obvious, therefore, that the property is a valuable one, and likely to grow in prosperity as time passes. The combination of adverse events of the past two years may possibly never recur, and now that a change for the better has set in, the recuperation of the undertaking may be rapid and pronounced. Stockholders should therefore retain their interest in the Company pending the advent of better times. The capital of the Company is as follows:—

	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ s. d.
5% "A" Debenture stock ...	842,500	5	85	6 0 6
5% "A" Debentures (bearer) ...	357,500	5	85	6 0 6
5% "B" Debenture stock ...	290,428	5*	63	8 1 3
5% "B" Debentures (bearer) ...	701,800	5*	89†	—
5% "C" Debenture stock ...	34,100	—	73½††	—
5% "C" Debentures (bearer) ...	965,900	—	45	—
Capital stock	2,768,500	—	21	—
Total capital	5,960,728			

* Dividends to be paid wholly or in part in Funding Scrip bearing 5% interest for the next two years.

† Quotations at the end of July 1914, no transactions having taken place since.

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Insurance Notes.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.

FEW British life offices had transacted business in countries with which we are now at war, but the Gresham Life office did so to a large extent, particularly in Austria. The balance sheet as at December 31, 1914, shows that securities representing nearly one-eighth of the Company's assets were deposited in that country, and from the speech of the Chairman at the annual meeting it appears that these securities were within the limits of the actuarial liability on policies there effected. Consequently the War must have more seriously affected the Company's new business returns than it did those of its contemporaries. Under these circumstances, and looking to the dislocation of business at home and in other countries, the amount of new assurances transacted in 1914 shows a smaller reduction from the figures of 1913 than might have been anticipated. The sum covered by new life policies last year was £1,871,717, of which £108,310 was reassured, the net retention at the Company's sole risk thus being £1,763,407, as compared with £2,337,419 in 1913. About half of the Company's net new business of last year seems to have been effected in the United Kingdom and British colonies and dependencies, and the remainder in foreign countries. The Company has branches in Canada, South Africa, India and Egypt, as well as in several countries in Europe and South America. The net amount of the purely British new business in 1914 was £351,277, as compared with £455,462 in 1913.

The Company's net total premium income in 1914 amounted to £1,022,817, which is less by £32,814 than in the previous year. The business within the United Kingdom only accounts for less than one-sixth of the premiums, and as colonial and foreign business involves a higher rate of expenditure, this fact should be taken into account in comparing the Company's expense ratio with that of other life offices. Nevertheless, this ratio is higher than seems desirable; in 1914 it was about 22% of the premiums, which is a big handicap from a profit-producing standpoint. The Company received in 1914 £37,069 as consideration for new annuities granted, and it paid out £146,980 in annuities. Claims by death amounting to £422,573 are reported as having been within the actuarial estimate. Policies for £610,117 matured by survivance. At the close of the year the life assurance fund amounted to £10,309,966; the leasehold assurance fund to £21,058; the investment reserve fund to £120,000, and the reserve against outstanding premiums and agents' balances to £20,000. The rate of interest realised on the funds, after deduction of income tax, is reported as having been £4 3*s.* 5*d.* per cent., which shows a profitable margin of 13*s.* 5*d.* per cent., as the rate assumed at the last valuation was £3 10*s.* per cent.

The total assets amount to £10,870,808, as shown in the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, to which the following note is appended: "The securities have been taken at or under the values at which they were taken at last quinquennial valuation, and at or under cost price in the case of investments since made. The aggregate book value of the investments at December 31, 1914, after deducting the investment reserve, exceeds the market value at December 31, 1913, which date for valuation is adopted with the concurrence of the Board of Trade. The provision of any further reserve which may be found necessary at the quinquennial valuation at December 31, 1915, to make good depreciation is deferred until the definite ascertainment at that time of the amount required."

UNIVERSITY LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT AND QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION.

This Company was established 90 years ago for the purpose of assuring the lives of past and present members of the Universities and of other approved educational institutions. This imposes a limitation on the operations; but benefit has accrued through the assured belonging to a select class, the incidence of mortality having been very favourable, and the profits to participating policyholders during the whole history of the Society have been at a satisfactory standard. A quinquennial valuation fell due on April 30, 1915, and the results arising therefrom are announced in the directors' report for the financial year ending on that date.

The amount of the new assurances reported for that year, £142,557, is little less than the corresponding figures of the previous year; but a larger amount of reassurance was effected, and the net amount retained at the sole risk of the Society, £107,557, shows a decrease of £29,860. Nevertheless the total net premium income was increased by £1,474 to £69,976, while the expense ratio was reduced from 11.7 to 11.3 per cent. Claims by death during the last financial year amounted to £64,355, the original sums assured under the respective policies being £43,756, and the bonus additions thereto being £20,599. Thus on the average each £1,000 of assurance in cases of death claims has been increased by profits to about £1,470. The amount of death claims (including bonuses) provided for by the mortality tables on which the Society's reserves are based was larger by £13,262 than that which actually became due. Policies for £4,194 inclusive of bonus, matured by survivance. The average rate of interest earned on the funds during the last financial year was £4 0*s.* 2*d.* per cent., after deduction of income tax. The directors report that, in view of the valuation and distribution of profits, the securities were carefully reviewed, and that the amounts at which the various mortgages and loans

stood in the books were, in their opinion, adequately secured. The Stock Exchange securities were written down to their market values on April 30, 1914 (twelve months antecedent to the valuation) or taken at cost in case of those acquired since that date, the amount of depreciation written off being £30,178, whilst in order to provide for subsequent depreciation the sum of £25,000 was transferred to investment reserve from the life assurance fund, which after these adjustments amounted on April 30, 1915, to £952,120. At the same date the total assets shown in the balance sheet amounted to £1,030,143, and the directors certified that in their belief they were in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less the investment reserve fund taken into account.

The quinquennial valuation was made by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table of Mortality in combination with net premiums and 2¾% interest, special reserves being made in respect of paid-up and limited-payment policies, and for immediate payment of claims after proof of death and title. The same mortality table was adopted in 1910, but the rate of interest then assumed was 2½%. In view of the special circumstances of the financial position the assumption of 2¾% interest seems unobjectionable, for the earning power of money has increased, and it will be seen that this basis is less by 1¼% than the actual interest yield realised by the Company during the last financial year.

The surplus shown in the life fund by the valuation on these lines amounted on April 30 last to £68,316, while during the quinquennium £17,226 had been allowed as interim bonuses or as reductions of premium, and £1,460 had been paid to proprietors in excess of the rate of 5% per annum on the paid-up capital fixed by the Society's by-laws.

It was decided to apportion £65,204 of the valuation surplus amongst shareholders and participating policyholders, the amounts apportioned to these two classes being respectively £6,929 and £58,275, after taking into account sums distributed during the quinquennium.

The subscribed capital amounts to £598,000, of which £29,900 is paid up, in 5,980 shares of £100 each with £5 paid. In addition to the usual dividend of 5%, the bonus to proprietors arising from the quinquennial valuation is 24*s.* per share. The bonuses to fully participating policyholders, in reversionary form, are at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, these bonuses vesting at once as regards policies on which six years' premiums have been paid, and on payment of the sixth year's premium in the case of more recently effected policies.

These rates of distribution are the same in both cases (proprietors and policyholders) as were declared five years ago.

J. AND P. COATS, LIMITED.

TWELVE months ago the directors of this well-known combination of sewing-cotton manufacturers were distinctly pessimistic as to the outlook. Though the profits for the twelve months to June 1914 were slightly less than those for the previous year, nevertheless the amount available for the ordinary distribution was £220,000 in excess of the amount necessary to provide for the 35% that was distributed for the previous year. Nevertheless the distribution was reduced to 30%, and the board warned the shareholders that it was not unlikely that the dividend on the Ordinary shares for the twelve months to June 30, 1915, would have to be reduced or even suspended. Attention was drawn to the fact that it was not possible to make any provision or even an estimate of the amount of the losses sustained subsequent to June 1914. Not only, however, had there been considerable depreciation in cotton and other materials, but a considerable loss was expected on outstanding accounts in consequence of debtors being unable to pay and of the fall in the foreign exchanges. Beyond all this a number of mills belonging to companies in which J. and P. Coats, Limited, are interested are closed, and short time was being generally worked. In spite of the gloomy anticipations thus alluded to the twelve months to June 30, 1915, while they are less than any year since 1905, have proved very little less prosperous than for the previous year, and the net result is that the Ordinary dividend of 30% is easily maintained, and is, consequently, distributed. As a matter of fact the chief result of the smaller profits for each of the past two years is to be witnessed in an absence of the usually large allocations to reserve or other purposes. Twelve months ago the only draft on profits was a sum of £40,830 written off as depreciation on the Ferguslie Thread Works. For the past year, in addition to a similar item of £39,343, a sum of £30,000 has been debited against profits and carried to suspense account as provision against depreciation of investments. The result of not specificially allocating profits is that the carry-forward has been increased in two years from £607,909 to £1,379,112.

The allocations to reserve, &c., have rightly been on a liberal scale, as may be gathered from the following statement showing the special allocations, &c., for the past 16 years:—

Year to June 30	Deprec'n on Ferguslie Thread Wks. £	Reserve £	Underwriting Fund £	Suspense Acct. for Deprec'n of Invests. £	Deb. Prem. Redemption Acct. £	Dividend Reserve Fund £	Pension Fund £	Carried Forw'd £
1915	39,343	—	—	30,000	—	—	—	1,379,112
1914	40,830	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,016,493
1913	39,293	500,000	—	—	—	—	—	607,909
1912	42,049	500,000	—	—	26,441	—	—	658,911
1911	40,273	—	—	—	—	525,000	42,500	840,462
1910	27,619	—	—	—	500,000	175,000	25,000	777,915
1909	45,624	500,000	—	—	—	—	32,522	774,638
1908	43,919	500,000	—	—	—	—	6,588	838,334
1907	42,447	500,000	100,000	—	25,000	—	50,964	853,921
1906	41,797	—	149,528	—	25,000	450,000	120,101	700,083
1905	41,136	500,000	50,000	—	10,000	—	50,000	479,908
1904	40,585	700,000	—	—	—	—	50,000	486,806
1903	36,965	700,000	—	100,000	—	—	50,000	420,720
1902	35,766	290,000	—	—	3,000	450,000	100,000	370,464
1901	35,003	606,440	40,000	100,000	99,000	—	—	308,781
1900	39,198	350,000	150,000	—	—	—	—	272,105

It will be gathered from the above, even if it were not previously known, that the business is on a very large scale. This may further be gathered from the fact that the gross trading profit, &c., for the past twelve months has reached a total of £2,685,395, and that this is the smallest reported during the past 10 years, while the highest amount shown was for the twelve months to June 1910, the figures then reaching £3,279,457. Further proof of the magnitude of the business is the amount of the share capital in issue, which totals £10,000,000, of which £2,500,000 consists of 6% Preference shares, £3,000,000 of Preferred Ordinary stock, and the balance of £4,500,000 of Ordinary shares.

To indicate the manner in which the capital has varied in recent years, together with the gross and net profits reported by the Company, we set out the following:—

	Capital £	Profits Gross £	Profits Net £
Year ended June 30, 1915 ...	10,000,000	2,685,395	2,492,619
" " 1914 ...	10,000,000	2,731,897	2,508,585
" " 1913 ...	10,000,000	3,003,326	2,773,998
" " 1912 ...	10,000,000	2,900,725	2,669,889
" " 1911 ...	10,504,242	3,205,971	2,955,047
" " 1910 ...	10,513,542	3,279,457	3,028,277
" " 1909 ...	10,514,417	3,026,191	2,795,926
" " 1908 ...	10,516,617	2,808,075	2,588,901
" " 1907 ...	10,517,817	3,157,421	2,929,802
" " 1906 ...	10,917,420	3,062,856	2,839,804
" " 1905 ...	11,107,320	2,469,790	2,253,102
" " 1904 ...	11,130,980	2,673,624	2,466,086
" " 1903 ...	11,134,090	2,774,601	2,550,256
" " 1902 ...	11,180,730	2,698,179	2,554,683
" " 1901 ...	11,998,680	2,715,155	2,523,038
" " 1900 ...	10,853,240*	2,425,499	2,339,787

* Includes £3,353,560 premium on shares issued.

For the past twelve months, after providing for sundry expenses and depreciation on the Ferguslie

Works, there is a balance of £2,492,619, as compared with £2,508,585 twelve months ago. After providing for the Preference and Preferred Ordinary dividends there is a balance of £1,742,619. The 30% distributed on the Ordinary shares calls for £1,350,000, and after deduction of the £30,000 set aside for depreciation of investments the undivided surplus of £362,619 is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £1,379,112.

We show below the distribution of the profits for the past four years:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Trading profits, divs., int., &c. ...	2,685,395	2,731,897	3,003,326	2,900,725
Sundry expenses	153,433	182,482	190,035	188,787
	2,531,962	2,549,415	2,813,291	2,711,938
Depre'n on Fergusiie Works ...	39,343	40,830	39,293	42,049
Net profit	2,492,619	2,508,585	2,773,998	2,669,889
Preference div. (6%)	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
	2,342,619	2,358,585	2,623,998	2,519,889
Preferred Ordinary div.	600,000 (20%)	600,000 (20%)	600,000 (20%)	600,000 (20%)
	1,742,619	1,758,585	2,023,998	1,919,889
Ordinary dividend	1,350,000 (30%)	1,350,000 (30%)	1,575,000 (35%)	1,575,000 (35%)
Surplus	392,619	408,585	448,998	344,889
Sundry appropriations	30,000	—	—	26,441
	362,619	408,585	448,998	318,448
To reserve	—	—	500,000	500,000
	362,619	408,585	−51,002	−181,552
Brought forward	1,016,493	607,908	658,910	840,462
Carried forward	1,379,112	1,016,493	607,908	658,910

As already indicated, the total capital in issue is £10,000,000. The Company has accumulated a marine and fire underwriting account of £600,000, while there has also been set aside £500,000 as pension and compensation fund for employees. The reserve fund amounts to £5,500,000; there is also a dividend reserve of £2,100,000; and with the latest addition the provision against investment depreciation reaches £165,393, while the sum carried forward is, as pointed out above, £1,379,112. The total of the reserve, dividend reserve, suspense account, and the carry-forward is £10,144,505, or a sum in excess of the total outstanding share capital. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at June 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	10,000,000	Capital expenditure ...	11,231,820
Sundry creditors	677,912	Sundry debtors	2,263,883
Underwriting account ...	600,000	Stock of goods	1,888,696
Reserve fund	5,500,000	Cash at bankers	1,601,985
Div. reserve fund	2,100,000	Bills receivable	297,776
Pension, &c., fund ...	500,000	Investments	1,963,733
Suspense account	135,393	Advances	2,162,024
Profit and loss	1,896,612		
	21,409,917		21,409,917

As regards the cash in hand, the balance sheet divides this item into two, differentiating the cash in banks in foreign countries at war, amounting to £749,653, from the cash in hand elsewhere, amounting to £852,332. The auditors point out that no estimate is possible as to the effect of the War on the value of certain of the assets, and no alteration has accordingly been made for the present in the book values. It must be assumed, however, that the losses are likely to be very great. The Company has mills in Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Poland. In view of all the facts of the case, it must be acknowledged that the results for the past twelve months are most distinctly satisfactory, and though it is likely that considerable losses have already occurred, and will have to be provided for in the future, the Company has built up so strong a position by reason of its conservative financial policy that the future can be regarded with a certain amount of equanimity. The large reserves accumulated should be more than sufficient to provide for any losses that have occurred, and with the excellent management shown the business should have a strong recuperative power as soon as events generally take a turn for the better. On the Preference shares a yield of 5½% may be obtained, and on the Preferred Ordinary shares one of about 5⅝%. The £1 Ordinary share stands at 5¼, and on the basis of a 30% distribution the yield is just over 5¾%, which is a very much higher return than is obtainable in normal times. Herewith we summarise the capital, prices and yields afforded:—

Amount	Description.	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
2,500,000	6% Preference Shares	10	11⅛	6	5 11 5
3,000,000	Preferred Ordinary	100	362½	20	5 12 0
4,500,000	Ordinary Shares	1	5¼	30	5 16 0

RUBBER TOPICS.

THE topic of forward sales has again been the subject of discussion in the Rubber market this week, owing to the publication of figures of production and sale prices of the group of companies shown below:—

Company	Crop to Nov. lb.	Amount Sold to Date lb.	Gross Average Realised s. d.	From Current Crop Year's lb.	Forward Contracts — Gross Average Price s. d.	Next Year's Crop lb.	Gross Average Price s. d.
Bagan Serai	240,233(11)	160,360	2 2·64	34,720	2 0·47	94,080	2 1·75
Batak Rabit	96,120(10)	10,578	2 5·03	103,040	2 1·71	28,080	2 1·79
Kuran ...	255,298(11)	176,210	2 2·02	22,400	2 0·44	73,920	2 1·75
Rubana ...	317,681(7)	165,455	2 1·46	183,680	2 1·85	124,080	2 2·18
Straits ...	1,850,641(11)	1,215,301	2 1·71	434,560	2 0·77	819,840	2 1·14
Tali Ayer.	361,980(7)	148,040	2 2·79	178,080	2 1·92	127,680	2 2·63

Figures in parentheses ( ) indicate number of months of output.

The advantages to the companies individually, and to the industry in particular, resulting from the sale of a large proportion of the crops for forward delivery were clearly indicated by Mr. C. A. Lampard at the meeting of the Tandjong Rubber Company last week. He said:

> So long as the price obtained shows a reasonable profit it is wise to hedge against an uncertainty by selling a proportion of the expected output. Secondly, manufacturers require to buy forward in order to cover their own contracts which they enter into for the delivery of manufactured goods extending over a very long period. . . . Manufacturers cannot go on accepting orders for manufactured goods to be delivered over a long period without covering their supplies of the raw material. By selling forward a portion of the crop the business of manufacturers is facilitated and the factories are encouraged to use plantation rubber. . . . Furthermore, by selling forward a certain proportion of their output the companies secure a certain profit on a proportion of their output, and if the market rises above the prices at which they originally made their contracts, then they have a proportion of their crop on which they will benefit, while, on the other hand, if the market falls, their forward contracts tend to average the price.

BUKIT SEMBAWANG.—In our table last week we gave this Company's market capitalisation at 2*s.* 9*d.* per share as £69 per planted acre. The correct figure should have been £54. This is on the basis of 8,000 planted acres. However, options on 200,000 shares at par extended to December 8, 1915, have probably now been exercised, and if so, this would give the Company £20,000 additional funds, and increase the issued capital to £334,956. The effect would be to increase the market capitalisation per planted acre, taking the price of the shares at 3*s.* to £63. This is a very low figure, but the financial position at the date of the last balance sheet was weak. After allowing for the 3% dividend declared for the year, the current liabilities exceeded the liquid assets at the end of 1914 by over £12,000. The issue of the 200,000 shares under option would bring in £20,000; but expenditure on the immature area has to be allowed for, and this in 1914 cost £17,328. The rubber crop of the current year ending December 31 will probably be about 530,000 lb., against 307,000 lb. in 1914; and for the next few years there should be further increases in output.

STRAITS RUBBER.—We regret that in our tabular analysis of last week and also of November 27 we wrongly gave this Company's market capitalisation per planted acre as £187. The proper figure at the market quotation of 4⅛ should be £144, as the Company holds 145,000 shares of the Rubana Rubber Estates, Ltd.

TANDJONG RUBBER.

THE annual report of this Sumatra Rubber Company for the financial year ended June 30, 1915, disclosed very satisfactory progress, the production for the twelve months amounting to 800,958 lb. against 545,267 lb. in the previous year. Of the planted area of 5,116 acres (4,513 acres planted prior to 1912), an average of 2,622 acres, or a little more than half, were tapped during the year, the yield per acre tapped being 312 lb., against 251 lb. in 1913-14. The yield per planted acre for the past year was only 156 lb.—due, of course, to the large proportion of the area still to come into bearing. The price obtained for rubber was slightly lower last year than in the preceding twelve months, but reduction in "all-in" costs, despite war risk insurance, more than offset this factor, with the result that the profit obtained per lb. was 11¼*d.* in the year ended June 30, 1915, against 10¼*d.* in the previous year. Including sundry receipts and the amount brought forward, the total available for the past year reached £47,294, in comparison with £29,578 in respect of 1913-14. A sum of £10,000 has again been transferred to reserve, and for the past year a dividend of 20%, calling for £30,000, has been declared against 8%, requiring £12,000, for the previous year. The carry-forward is very slightly reduced.

The following table gives a good idea of the progress of the Company:—

	Years ended June 30—			
	1915	1914	1913	1912
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Area suitable for rubber	7,103	7,103	7,103	7,103
Planted area	5,116	5,116	4,603	4,459
Average acreage tapped	2,622	2,168	1,384	523
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Rubber output	800,958	545,267	217,823	34,864
Yield per acre tapped	312	251	157	108
Yield per acre planted	156	106	47	8
Gross price realised per lb. ...	2/1·84	2/2·73	3/6·58	4 4·46
"All-in" cost per lb.	1 2·28	1/4·42	2 8·63	3 2·18
Profit per lb.	-/11·56	-/10·31	-/2·95	1 2·28
	£	£	£	£
Value of rubber	85,858	57,606	35,784	7,621
Total revenue expenditure ...	46,938	34,101	26,998	6,698
Net profit	38,920	23,505	8,786	923
Sundry receipts	796	671	416	1,910
Brought forward	7,578	5,402	2,141	—
Total available	47,294	29,578	11,343	2,833
Allocations—				
Capital expenditure written off	—	—	—	692
Transferred to reserve ..	10,000	10,000	—	—
Dividend paid	30,000 (20%)	12,000 (8%)	5,941 (5%)	—
Carry-forward	7,294	7,578	5,402	2,141
Issued capital	150,000	150,000	125,870	97,105
Surplus liquid assets	14,850	18,025	11,400	3,371

Present price of shares, 3 1/16 d. Market capitalisation per planted acre, £83.

As regards the current year the estimated output is 1,042,200 lb., and a further reduction in costs is officially looked for. In the five months to end November 462,804 lb. have been harvested, so that the estimate for the year is well on the way to being realised. 606,731 lb. of the crop have been sold forward at prices averaging about 2*s.* 2*d.* per lb., and in view of the present market price of over 3*s.* per lb. it looks as if a profit of at least 1*s.* per lb. can be anticipated, representing, on the estimated output, a net profit of £52,100 for the current year. As regards capital expenditure, the estimated outlay is £17,379, a sum amply covered by the surplus funds in hand plus the depreciation allowed in cost of production. The prospect, therefore, is for the current year's dividend to be increased to at least 25%, leaving a considerable surplus for excess profits tax.

The shares at the present price of 3 1/16 *cum* div. afford a yield of 7% on last year's dividend of 20%, and of 8¾% should the dividend be increased to 25%. Eventually, however, when the whole of the planted area, now increased to 5,366 acres, is in bearing, a much higher dividend than 25% should be forthcoming on the basis of a selling price of 2*s.* per lb. for rubber. The yield per acre tapped—much of it young rubber—for the past year was 312 lb. At full maturity the whole planted area of 5,366 acres should yield 350 lb. per acre, which would give an annual output of 1,800,000 lb. With rubber at 2*s.* per lb. and "all-in" costs reduced to 1*s.*, this full maturity production would give a profit of £90,000, or sufficient to pay an annual dividend of 50% with £10,000 to reserve. At their present price, therefore, the shares are attractive. This fact is reflected in the low market capitalisation of about £80 per planted acre.

SENNAH RUBBER.

THE shareholders of this Sumatra rubber Company have reason to congratulate the manager of their estates on the achievement of what is tantamount to a record for a comparatively young producer. With only 2,462 acres in bearing, of a total planted area of 7,183 acres, the output for the year to June 30, 1915, amounted to 980,253 lb., equal to the very high yield of 402 lb. per acre tapped. The total number of trees contained in the planted estate of 7,183 acres is 807,690, and the 1914-15 output was obtained from an average of 294,370 trees, or from only 36% of the total number planted, and the average yield per tree tapped was as high as 3⅓ lb.—a notable performance having regard to the young age of the plantations, as shown below:—

Years of Planting							
1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	Total
Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
553	930	1,500	336	2,202	960	702	7,183

Another satisfactory feature of the year's work is the further reduction in cost of production, bringing the "all-in" figure down—notwithstanding extra war charges—to 1*s.* 2.37*d.* per pound, against 1*s.* 3.46*d.* in 1914. The output realised an average of 2*s.* 2.8*d.* per pound, and the resultant profit of a little over 1*s.* per pound enabled the Company to earn a net profit of £50,670—after deduction of directors' extra remuneration—or, including sundry receipts, £52,111. Out of this a dividend of 10%, free of income tax, is to be paid, calling for £45,250, and a sum of £20,000 is added to the reserve, reducing the carry-forward from £25,543 to £12,404.

The balance sheet at June 30, 1915, shows surplus liquid assets amounting to over £37,000, but nearly £40,000 of the Company's cash is with bankers in Antwerp, subject to moratorium, and, consequently, at June 30 a loan of £23,442 had been obtained from the Company's agents in Amsterdam. The releasing of the Antwerp funds, however, would much more than provide for the liquidation of the temporary loan. The following table shows the progress of the undertaking in the past three years:—

	Years ended June 30—		
	1915	1914	1913
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total area	10,500	10,500	10,500
Planted area	7,183	7,183	7,183
Average acreage tapped	2,462	—	—
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Rubber output	980,253	692,845	380,045
Yield per acre tapped	402	—	—
Yield per acre planted	136	97	53
Gross price realised per lb.	2 2·8	2/2·97	3/2·21
"All-in" cost per lb.	1/2·37	1/3·46	2 1·01
Profit per lb.	1/0·43	-/11·51	1/1·20
	£	£	£
Value of rubber...	109,321	78,038	60,510
Total revenue expenditure	58,551	45,822	39,611
Net profit	50,670	32,216	20,899
Sundry receipts	1,441	2,756	807
Brought forward	25,543	10,571	4,584
Total available	77,654	45,543	26,290
Allocations—			
Capital expenditure written off ...	—	—	15,719*
Transferred to reserve	20,000	20,000	—
Dividend paid	45,250 (10%)	—	—
Carry-forward	12,404	25,543	10,571
Issued capital	452,500	452,500	411,487
Surplus liquid assets	37,252†	59,940	45,585

Present price of £1 shares, 1xd. Market capitalisation per planted acre, £84.

* Preliminary expenses and underwriting commission.
† Including £39,497 in Antwerp subject to moratorium.

The 452,500 £1 shares of the Company have a market quotation of 28*s.* 6*d.* *cum* div., so that the net market capitalisation per planted acre

works out at about £84—a very low figure having regard to the evidence of high rubber yield per acre. At full maturity the production of the estates should be at least 2,500,000 lb., and may, indeed, very well reach to 3,000,000 lb. per annum. On the very conservative assumption of only 2,500,000 lb. full maturity output per annum, 1*s.* per pound profit would give a net income of £125,000, or sufficient to pay 25% dividends and leave £12,000 for reserves, &c. If 3,000,000 lb. be the ultimate full maturity yield, even brighter prospects are in store for shareholders. Consequently the £1 shares at about 1⅞ ex div. look cheap.

The output for the current year is estimated to be 1,350,000 lb., and of this 543,346 lb. have been produced in the five months to end November, the yield for last month being as much as 117,000 lb. Next financial year there should be a further very large increase in output, for the 2,202 acres planted in 1911 will then be in bearing.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

In view of the agreement entered into in May 1914 between the Admiralty and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and also of recent events in Persia and the neighbourhood, the position of the Company is of distinct interest at the present time. The Company was formed in 1909 with the object of working a concession obtained from the Persian Government in 1901, running for 60 years from May of that year, and giving the exclusive right to drill for, produce, pipe, and carry away oil and petroleum products throughout the Persian Empire except in five provinces, the Company's capital consisting of £2,000,000 in shares and £600,000 in Debentures, practically the whole of the Ordinary shares of £1,000,000 belonging to the Burmah Oil Company. The agreement with the British Government was brought about by the desirability of the Admiralty having independent control of considerable supplies of natural petroleum in consequence of the adoption of the use of oil as an alternative to and probably as an ultimate substitute for coal in the Navy, and the agreement provided, *inter alia*, for the introduction of Government capital on a large scale for the purpose of enabling the Company to extend very largely its operations.

The agreement provided that His Majesty's Government shall subscribe to the capital of the Company as follows:—

	£
Ordinary shares	2,000,000
Preference shares	1,000
Total share capital to be held by Government	2,001,000
First Debentures, ranking *pari passu* with existing Debentures	199,000
Total Government subscription	2,200,000

The total share capital and Debentures of the Company will ultimately be as follows:—

	£
Ordinary shares	1,000,000
Preference shares	999,000
Total share capital held other than by Government... ...	1,999,000
Total share capital to be held by Government as shown above	2,001,000
Total authorised share capital	4,000,000
Debentures	600,000
Debentures to be held by Government	199,000
Aggregate of proposed share capital and Debentures ...	4,799,000

At March 31 last the issued capital was £2,750,000, as against £1,900,000 twelve months previously. The total assets were valued at £3,737,895, of which the concession, &c., stood at £1,635,312, the other main item being the value of the refinery, installations, &c., standing at £1,420,280. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at March 31 last:—

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Issued share capital .	2,750,000	Concessions and Debs. in other Companies ...	1,635,312
5% Debenture Stock .	[illegible]	Refinery, Bank installations, Tanks, &c.	1,420,280
Sundry Creditors .	2[illegible]	Stocks of crude oil, &c. ...	104,484
Bill payable .	70,459	Sundry debtors	291,942
Profit and Loss .	54,515	Preliminary expenses ...	14,400
		Cash	128,033
	3,737,895		3,737,895

In February last a portion of the Company's pipe-line was damaged by local Persian tribesmen, and the transport of oil was rendered impracticable thereby for a period of about four and a half months, so that refining operations had to be suspended for about a corresponding period. The Persian Government is liable for the consequent loss, but no credit is taken therefor in the accounts now submitted. The claim for the loss sustained is to be presented in due course, and the amount thereof will be recovered from the royalties payable. A further loss amounting to £51,004 was sustained by the Turkish Government requisitioning oil and other property before the outbreak of hostilities. It is expected that the greater part of this amount will be recovered, but no credit has naturally been taken for it so far. The various extensions for which capital has been provided by the British Government are being proceeded with as expeditiously as possible. The laying of an additional pipe-line has been delayed by the local disturbances already referred to and the consequent shortage of transport facilities. The crude output of the subsidiary companies has not been affected by the unsettled conditions prevailing, but owing to the damage to the pipe-line the whole of the production from the flowing wells in excess of the storage capacity had to be burned during the period that the pipe-line was out of use. Further drilling for reserve production has not been prosecuted so vigorously as was intended owing to the delay which has occurred in laying the new pipe-line and to the excessive production from existing wells. It was anticipated by the Chairman last year that the Company would be able to earn its Preference dividend during the twelve months to March 1915. The trading profit for the twelve months has amounted to £171,083, as against £20,668, and after providing for depreciation, Debenture interest, &c., there is a net profit of £90,431. The Preference dividend requires £55,842, so that it will be seen the Chairman's anticipation of twelve months ago has been amply verified. The Burmah Oil Company guaranteed the payment of the Preference dividend, and the total amount paid by the Burmah Company under the guarantee is £192,152, which sum is repayable out of future profits. Not only has the Preference dividend been earned and paid, but the debit balance of £26,711 brought forward from the previous year is converted into a credit balance of £7,878. This may be seen from the following:—

Year ended March 30—	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	£	£	£
Trading profit	171,083	20,668	+150,415
Transfer fees	161	117	+ 44
Total income . . .	171,244	20,785	+150,459
Depreciation	40,000		+ 40,000
Directors' fees, &c. .	9,876	8,536	+ 1,340
Debenture and other interest	30,937	18,000	+ 12,937
Net profit	90,431	Dr. 26,711	+117,142
Preference dividend (6%)	55,842	—	+ 55,842
	34,589	Dr. 26,711	+ 61,300
Brought forward	Dr. 26,711	—	+ 26,711
Carried forward	7,878	Dr. 26,711	+ 34,589

Naturally, the outlook is uncertain having regard to the unsettlement of the country, and the shareholders will look forward with considerable interest to the views of the board to be expressed by the Chairman at the meeting on December 20. The public is only interested in the position of the Debenture stock and Preference shares, the former being quoted at 97½, and the latter at 17*s.* 6*d.* for the £1 share. The Preference shares are entitled to 6%, and participate for a further 2% after 6% has been paid on the Ordinary shares. They have considerable attractions as an oil investment provided the risks are recognised.

VULCAN MOTOR AND ENGINEERING.

One of the smaller motor-manufacturing companies that has experienced very considerable benefit from working under war conditions is the Vulcan Motor and Engineering Company, of Southport. Their sales have gone up from £158,831 for the twelve months to September 30, 1914, to £217,253 for the past year, while the net profit has risen from £20,699 to £45,781. This enables the dividend on the Ordinary shares to be raised from 10% to 30%, leaving a surplus of £22,493, or practically half the net profit, which is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £28,044. The Company's record for the past four years is as follows:—

Year ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Sales and receipts	217,253	158,831	143,835	117,086
Stock on hand	80,745	66,804	59,037	43,788
Discounts	1,616	2,300	2,000	1,053
Total income	299,614	227,935	204,872	161,927
Stock on hand	66,804	59,037	43,788	34,570
Materials purchased	119,159	89,740	89,849	67,513
Wages	43,900	39,436	38,059	29,190
Depreciation, &c.	4,338	3,345	2,743	5,123
General expenses	19,632	15,678	14,806	15,156
Total expenses	253,833	207,236	189,245	151,552
Net profit	45,781	20,699	15,627	10,375
Preference dividend	665	717	669	544
Ordinary dividend	22,623 (30%)	6,834 (10%)	5,556 (10%)	4,125 (7½%)
Reserve	—	15,000	10,000	—
Surplus	22,493	Dr. 1,852	Dr. 598	5,706
Brought forward	5,551	7,406	8,004	2,298
Carried forward	28,044	5,554	7,406	8,004

The issued share capital is £88,464, of which £12,714 consists of 6% Preference shares, the balance of £75,750 being Ordinary shares. There is a reserve fund of £25,000, while the carry-forward, as pointed out, is £28,044. A summary of the liabilities and assets is appended:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital	88,464	Buildings	33,650
Sundry creditors	24,368	Machinery, plant, &c.	42,768
Reserves	28,487	Stock on hand	80,744
Profit and loss	39,740	Sundry debtors	7,755
		Cash	6,142
		Investments	10,000
	181,059		181,059

Since the end of the financial year the Company has become a controlled establishment, and doubtless, therefore, it will continue to be fully occupied with business during the ensuing twelve months, and there should be little difficulty in providing for the excess profits tax, and yet be able to maintain the dividend at 30% if so large a distribution is thought desirable. The £1 share is quoted at 27*s.*, and on the basis of a 30% distribution the yield afforded is about 25%. As the Company has built up a good reputation for its manufactures it should be able to earn substantial profits even when working under normal conditions.

HALLEY'S INDUSTRIAL MOTORS.

War conditions have proved of great benefit to this Company. Current accounts cover a period of nine months only, inasmuch as the works were placed under control of the Minister of Munitions on October 2 last, and, consequently, it was thought desirable to close the accounts on September 30. For the nine months under review a profit of £67,442 was secured, as compared with £53,255 for the whole of 1914, and £26,551 for 1913. An actual dividend of 15% for the nine months, or at the rate of 20% per annum, is paid, and a sum of £10,000 is carried to the reserve fund, while £25,000 is set aside to a special reserve fund "against Finance Act legislation and other contingencies due to the War." There then remains undivided £9,266, which is added to the carry-forward, bringing it up to £21,296. The Company's profit record for the past five years is as follows:—

Year ended Dec. 31—	1915*	1914	1913	1912	1911
	£	£	£	£	£
Profit	67,444	53,255	26,551	24,004	15,095
Depreciation	7,428	7,001	4,512	3,331	2,735
Net profit	60,016	46,254	22,039	20,673	12,360
Dividend	15,750 (15%)†	16,333 (20%)	9,500 (15%)	6,391 (15%)	3,435 (10%)
	44,266	29,921	12,539	14,282	8,925
Reserves, &c.	35,000	15,000	8,000	8,000	6,000
	9,266	14,921	4,539	6,282	2,925
Brought forward	12,030	5,122‡	4,390‡	1,762‡	1,074‡
Carried forward	21,296	20,043	8,929	8,044	3,999

* Period ended September 30, 1915. † Actual. ‡ After deducting directors' fees, &c.

The issued share capital is £105,000, and there have been accumulated reserve funds totalling £99,528, while there is also an undivided balance, as pointed out, of £21,296. The assets are valued at £257,679, the stock and work in progress standing at £83,071, as compared with £65,653 twelve months ago. The cash in hand was £40,330, and the Company had made an investment of £30,000 in the War Loan. A summary of the liabilities and assets is appended:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital	105,000	Buildings, machinery, plant, &c.	87,521
Sundry creditors	21,355	Stock of work	83,071
Reserve fund	74,528	Sundry debtors	16,757
Special reserve	25,000	War Loan investment	30,000
Profit and loss	31,796	Cash	40,330
	257,679		257,679

The outlook is, naturally, for another busy and prosperous year. The £1 share may be obtained at about 53*s.*, and on the basis of a 20% distribution the yield afforded is practically 8%. In view of the very strong position built up, and of the conservative financial policy carried out, the shares have distinct attractions.

P. AND O. MEETING.

At the meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on December 8 Lord Inchcape referred very briefly indeed to the recent policy adopted by the board as regards the form of the accounts, and stated that the plan had been adopted deliberately because it was conceived to be in the best interests of the proprietors. Possibly, however, Government requirements have also had weight. He added: "Were the accounts to be seen by our stockholders alone we should have no hesitation in presenting them in a much more detailed form, but in view of the keen competition which we may expect in the near future from neutral shipowners who have been coining money during the war free from Budget levies, and in view of the renewed attacks upon our trade which we may anticipate not only from Germany and Austria but from others when the war is over, we see no advantage, but very much the reverse, in publishing your private affairs to the world." Needless to say, Lord Inchcape very discreetly ignored the acknowledgment of twelve months ago only, that the public is entitled to possess information "such as the amount of depreciation, insurance, mail subsidy, &c." He did, however, state that ample provision had been made for depreciation both in the ships and in the securities, and he also pointed out that no matter what the dividend may be, whether it remains as at present, whether it is increased, or whether it is reduced, the shareholders may feel perfectly satisfied "that not a penny will ever be distributed beyond the amount which the Company, after making ample allowance for depreciation and all contingencies, can well afford to pay." While we regret the decision of the board to withhold information hitherto available, and consider that its pessimism is not justified, as the shareholders have approved the decision taken, there is, perhaps, nothing further to be said unless it should be necessary to appeal to the public for further capital, in which case presumably some of the information now withheld would be forthcoming.

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Commercial.

COPPER.

WHILE the strength of the refined Copper market has continued without interruption, the tone of standard copper has been variable and a rather substantial reduction has been seen from the highest points which were touched during the upward move. A good many people seem unable to understand why standard copper should recede while refined copper advances, but there are several factors which account for this. In the first place, owing to exceptional conditions which have arisen, largely in consequence of the War, standard copper is hardly a merchantable commodity at the present time, because it cannot be exported except under permits (which permits are frequently refused), while it cannot be converted into refined material in this country save in limited quantities. It thus comes about that its value as a hedge has been largely withdrawn. In the old times dealers, when they made a sale of refined copper, hedged it in standard copper, and vice versa, because in those days the markets for standard and refined moved to a large extent upon parallel lines, and the former was therefore a very useful medium for those dealing in the latter. The actual difference in value between standard and electro is about £6 to £8 a ton, but within the last few days we have seen standard copper at £80 a ton and electrolytic at £98 to £99 a ton. Speculative interest in standard copper is now of only trifling dimensions. The article has, as stated, fallen into disfavour as a hedging medium, while it is largely unusable in this country for conversion into refined, and in addition to the foregoing the Government is keeping a very keen watch upon all the metal markets with a view of stopping excessive speculation. Under all the conditions which obtain, therefore, it will be seen that there is nothing in the situation inducing an extension of speculative dealings in the standard copper market. Within the last few months the stocks in England and France have gone down very sharply, as will be seen from the following table, which is abstracted from the returns of Messrs. H. R. Merton and Company:—

1915	Stocks of Standard Copper in England and Wales Tons	Total Copper Stocks in England and France Tons
Aug. 14	24,323	29,943
,, 31	21,151	29,564
Sept. 14	20,457	27,427
,, 30	19,382	25,158
Oct. 14	16,643	19,992
,, 31	17,200	20,335
Nov. 14	14,453	17,113
,, 30	12,694	15,045

The total reduction during the period tabulated above is not far short of 50%, and this for itself fully accounts for the refusal of the authorities to permit exports of rough copper to America. It was all very well to allow this material to be shipped freely across the Atlantic for refining purposes when there was an abundance of such material available here, but conditions being reversed it becomes a duty to conserve the supplies if only for the sake of protecting the visible stock in this country, which is already far too small in relation to consumption. Meantime American producers are able to enforce their own terms for refined copper, and this notwithstanding the fact that production is being pressed to the utmost capacity. It is to be remembered, however, that a good deal of output has been shut off across the Atlantic owing to strikes and other local causes. The big refinery, for instance, of the Nichols Copper Company was closed down for a period last month owing to a strike for higher wages, while supplies of raw material for the electrolytic plants are restricted owing to the suspension of operations at leading mines in Arizona and Mexico. As far as can be traced in the absence of all reliable statistics, it seems reasonable to assume that there is no accumulation now proceeding in refiners' stocks of electrolytic copper, while, as consumption is practically limited to war purposes, price is a factor which has ceased to operate.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday.

THE upward movement in cotton which has continued throughout the fortnight has been in reality the natural economic effort of this market to attract its

share of the crop to this country. Unfortunately, contemporaneously with the advance in prices here, ocean freights have also risen—as much as 200 cents per 100 lb. having been paid—and the financial prosperity of the South has encouraged planters in America to hold for higher rates, so that although during the fortnight the price of American cotton has risen ½*d.* per lb., the difficulties which importers have to overcome in bringing cotton to Liverpool have not diminished. Occasionally some lines of import cotton are thrown on the market, with the result that prices break sharply, as, for instance, yesterday afternon, when prices, after being very firm all day, reacted fully 10 points in a few minutes under hedge-selling against actual cotton bought in America. This afternoon, again, a similar decline was observed. At the moment there appear to be only two possibilities which might keep the market in check. The first is a widening in the parity between this market and those in America, sufficient to attract cotton here and to avert the shortage in supplies for Lancashire, with which we are threatened unless some means are found to enable importers to bring the raw material to this country. The other possibility is a change in the disposition of Southern holders and a willingness on their part to sell at lower rates. It is probable that both these causes will operate gradually, but under the present outlook there does not appear to be much hope for cheap cotton, and it seems evident that, unless we are prepared to pay a good price for what we require, we shall not succeed in accumulating a stock here large enough to render the position of consumers comfortable. The difficulty is one of distribution only. We believe if supplies could be divided in normal proportions amongst the consuming countries there would be ample to go round, but we fear that for some time we shall see plenty in America and comparative prospective scarcity here.

The ginning reports continue to confirm crop estimates of about 12,000,000 bales. The sixth report for the season was issued yesterday, and gave as ginned to November 30 9,711,000 bales against 8,777,000 a fortnight ago and 13,066,000 up to November 30, 1914. Several crop estimates have been promulgated in America round about 11,000,000 bales, but our own information is still that the crop is likely to total 12,000,000 or a little more.

Correspondence.

OUR MONEY METHODS: THEIR COST TO THE TAXPAYER.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—At the present time, when plans for the raising further loans in the United States are being considered by the Government for the purpose of meeting the depreciation in the credit of British money as expressed in the exchange with New York, the question arises why the taxpayer should have the burden cast upon him of any loan for such a purpose.

There is not a sign of any loss of credit in our money within the country itself. Depreciation appears only in the international exchanges.

Our gold money cannot depreciate in the exchanges. It will secure to-day exactly the same equivalent quantity of, say, United States gold money that it did before the War. Depreciation can arise only if we have not, or do not use, enough gold to pay our international debts. The fall in the New York Exchange is therefore due to a deficiency in the quantity of gold required to pay the balance of indebtedness which we owe.

This deficiency can only arise from our internal credit money which, until the outbreak of the War, consisted of statutory (Bank of England) notes, and the deposit and cheque money of our banks. The State can scarcely be blamed if there is any shortage in the quantity of gold held against this credit money. Under the Bank Act the amount of statutory money which could be created on credit was limited to a well-defined maximum, while in the case of bank money the amount that could be created on credit was limited only by such discretion as the authorities of each institution exercised. We know the amount of notes that have been issued and the amount of gold held against them. But although we can gather from the published balance sheets of the banks the amount of their deposits, the amount of gold or Bank notes held against them is, in the case of many of the banks, not ascertainable. But we know enough in other ways to be able to say that the amount of the statutory money issued on credit is insignificant compared with the amount of the deposit and cheque money based on credit. How then can the Government be responsible for the gold deficiency, and be called upon to help to such a large extent in squaring the international accounts?

We may deplore the increase in our imports at a time when our exports have fallen off, but the importers pay for them in the ordinary way, and it is plainly the business of those who manage our credit money to convert the money so paid into gold when wanted for settling foreign debts.

Credit money, of course, economises gold and is profitable. The Exchequer last year received from the profits on the note issue the sum of £186,731—an amount which is infinitesimal compared with the profits earned by the banks on their credit money. Is it fair that the taxpayer who derives so diminutive a return on the State's small portion of the country's credit money should be called upon to bear the cost of raising enormous loans to make up a deficiency in the gold reserves? He has already been

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made to stand behind the banks by the credits created in their favour under the authority of the Currency and Bank Notes Act of last year—a responsibility which, in the existing state of the foreign Exchanges, appears to be more onerous than is generally recognised. He has also to bear the burden of half of the debt created by the Franco-British American loan.

It is true there are the precedents for the suspension of the Bank Act which might be taken to justify the banks in relying upon this form of assistance in a crisis, and in the Government conceding it. But the precedents were not adhered to by the new Currency Act, and there is no precedent in this country for the Government incurring permanent debt for exchange purposes.

If it is urged that the occasion is unprecedented and requires unprecedented ameliorative measures, the taxpayer can reply that in other ways he has to meet unprecedented demands.

In some quarters it appears to be held that the rectification of the exchanges is only a phase of the war expenditure. If that is so there does not appear to be such an equitable adjustment of liabilities to meet this expenditure as could be looked for as between the banks and the taxpayer. And if the American loan is to be taken as war expenditure, why was it put forward in the House of Commons as a trade loan and an exchange loan?

It may be that in the present very abnormal circumstances there is no alternative to action by the Government. Of that the public are not in a position to form an opinion in the absence of definite information respecting the strength of the reserves of gold. But if such is the case the Government can hardly take over such enormous responsibilities unconditionally.

The credit of British money may be saved by doing so. The danger of a further loss of credit may be averted, but another danger is created. That danger is that the taxpayer may not acquiesce in an unequal division of profits and losses in respect of our credit money.

I enclose my card, and subscribe myself

December 7, 1915. TAXPAYER.

CANADIAN MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

To the Editor of THE STATIST.

SIR,—We have seen your article on the Canadian Mining Corporation in your issue of December 4, 1915, and desire the opportunity of answering your criticisms of the board of this Company, which, we feel, are due to a misapprehension of the conditions.

Primarily, the difference between mining in Cobalt and most other important fields must be fully appreciated in order to fairly criticise. These differences, which have been pointed out more than once by the consulting engineers of Cobalt Companies, cannot be too strongly emphasised on this occasion, and may be explained in a few words. In most large mines elsewhere the life of the undertaking depends on the development of more or less known ore bodies, and the extent and direction of this work is clearly indicated between narrow limits. Exploration in such cases is a secondary matter, and is a comparatively small item in the operations.

At Cobalt, on account of the relatively small tonnage and short life of individual veins, the reverse is the case, and the life and proper development of large properties there depend upon the discovery of new veins by exploration work, which forms a comparatively large proportion of the operating expense. Thus, the geologic conditions and limits of the favourable areas for development being definitely known (as in the case of the Mining Corporation's property), the intersection of new veins by exploratory cross-cuts can hardly be looked upon as an unusual or unexpected occurrence, but, on the other hand, is the natural outcome and object of the routine exploration work continually under way. Where this work is being carried on in an area containing a multiplicity of veins and "stringers," usual on such properties as the Coniagas, Townsite, or City, for example, official publication on each occasion when the cross-cuts encounter a vein, would be a futile practice.

Anyone versed in Cobalt history will recall the publications in the local papers in the "boom days" of startling headlines giving the widths and assays of almost daily discoveries of new veins. The object of these continual "puffs" was to attract wide attention to the camp, while the result was immediately reflected in the increased business of the brokers' offices of Toronto, Boston, and New York. Engineers, and others familiar with the uncertain character of Cobalt veins, and the sudden and unexpected appearance and disappearance of high-grade ore, as work progresses, will readily appreciate that announcements of such discoveries without an estimate or forecast of the amount of ore and silver developed in each case, are not only no indication of the conditions of the property, but are distinctly misleading. To arrive at such an estimate would mean giving estimates of the ore reserves on each occasion. As the underground workings of the Mining Corporation aggregate over 84,000 feet, or nearly 16 miles, not including the shafts and thousands of cubic feet of stoping, it will be readily seen that "four-weekly" estimates of ore reserves, such as would be necessitated by the practice advocated, would be not only entirely impracticable, but contrary to custom. The object of the amalgamation of the properties now comprised in the Mining Corporation, besides the attainment of a higher economic efficiency by consolidated management and greater distribution of fixed charges, was to secure as regular a production as compatible in a form of mining inherently speculative. It is doubtless difficult for those acquainted only with mining like that carried on at Rio Tinto, the "porphyry coppers," or on the Rand to fully grasp Cobalt conditions, but the soundness of the policy outlined above (which is being rigorously followed by the Canadian Corporation) will, we feel confident, be endorsed by all competent professional opinion.

Your statement that the administration of the Company is slack, that official information is altogether lacking, and that regular four-weekly statements are spasmodic and belated, appear to us unmerited and unfair.

Present methods of reduction and marketing of the products of these mines entail the smelting of all of the high-grade ore and the bulk of the silver (in form of concentrates) of the low-grade (milling) ore, and, due to the customary nature of smelter contracts, returns are not received until five or six weeks after the completion of the four-weekly periods. Attempts at *estimation* of the production have, in the past, proved unsatisfactory, and, to ensure regularity in the published returns, the custom followed is to issue these returns six weeks after the close of each period. When it is recalled that these mines are situated over 4,000 miles from London, where all the products are marketed, and that constant interference with the cable and shipping service exists, due to war conditions, we contend that the issue of these returns to the Press, as shown in the table below, are the reverse of "spasmodic and belated":—

Completion of the Four-weekly Period	Six Weeks after Completion of Period	Date of Issue to Press of Returns
Jan. 28, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915
Feb. 25, ..	April 8, ..	April 9, ..
Mar. 25, ..	May 6, ..	May 7, ..
April 22, ..	June 3, ..	June 12, ..
May 20, ..	July 1, ..	July 2, ..
June 17, ..	July 29, ..	July 30, ..
July 15, ..	Aug. 26, ..	Aug. 27, ..
Aug. 12, ..	Sept. 23, ..	Sept. 27, ..
Sept. 9, ..	Oct. 21, ..	Oct 25, ..
Oct. 7, ..	Nov. 18, ..	Nov. 24, ..

Before the publication of your article, in order to make sure that shareholders, who had by any chance not seen the published statements, should receive the returns promptly, the board had commenced to send these returns to each individual shareholder by post.

With regard to publishing the proportion of silver produced in high-grade ore, past records of the larger companies show that over an annual period this does not vary greatly, though for short periods, such as monthly or four-weekly, fluctuation is bound to occur, due to the very nature of the class of mining involved. Only averages over long periods give a fair idea of results at Cobalt, and that is the reason why companies, who have adopted a sound mining policy there, consider that "scrappy" information intermittently given would, in the case of this camp, have pernicious results.

On the other hand, it is the practice and intention of the Canadian Mining Corporation, in their annual reports, to give as full and complete information as is available.

That the "holders of large numbers of shares" should control an undertaking does not strike us as unusual or undesirable.

In conclusion, we would refer you to the reports of the Consulting Engineer of the Canadian Company, published in June 1914 and June 1915, where the factors mentioned above are emphasised.—Yours faithfully,

CANADIAN MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.
V. LAYMAN, Secretary.

Balfour House, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., December 9, 1915.

[The introduction of the above very lengthy letter conveys that the opinion is held that THE STATIST is unaware of mining conditions in the Cobalt field. But it is consequent on knowledge, that, in no inimical spirit, we controvert some of the statements and still press for more information to be afforded to shareholders.

The letter says: "The life and proper development of large properties there [at Cobalt] depend upon the discovery of new veins by exploration work," which bears out what we said last week, viz.:—

> "It is particularly important that high-grade ore should continue to be found, and consequently, if very rich discoveries have been effected since the last annual reports, official silence in the matter is inexcusable."

Therefore we contend that information in regard to current development results should not be entirely withheld, as it is at present. The mine manager makes periodical reports on the progress of development work and the results shown, and shareholders are surely entitled to a summary of these reports, say every three months, instead of being compelled to wait until the annual report is issued some months after the close of the year in which the work is done. We did not mention anything about a "four-weekly statement of ore reserves," and we certainly did not advocate the "futile practice" of publishing the news "on each occasion when the cross-cuts encounter a vein." Neither did we say that "the administration of the Company is slack," or that "official information is altogether lacking." We said there was slackness of "the administration of the Company *in the matter of issuing reports*," and that "official information *in regard to current development results* is altogether lacking." As to the spasmodic appearance of the monthly returns, this has been our experience, notwithstanding correspondence in the past with the Company and its press agents.

We do not see why the Company should not give the amount of the high-grade ore shipped each month and the silver contents of same. In this way only can the fluctuations in the monthly receipts and profits be explained. The absence of the information prevents the proper understanding of the Company's progress. The information given in the Corporation's four-weekly returns is certainly "scrappy," to borrow a word from the letter. At present this four-weekly statement takes the following form:—

CANADIAN MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.
The following cable states:—

For the Four Weeks ended August 12, 1915.

Value of production and profits of Reduction Co.		£40,420
Operating cost at mines	£19,479	
Special expenditure	1,669	21,148
Profit at mines		£19,272
Total footage	1,256	
*Total tonnage	10,473	

*Earlier returns gave "Tonnage milled."

Does this give the proper information to shareholders? We hold it does not. Was the milling ore responsible for the whole of the revenue? Of course not. The high-grade ore, not mentioned, was the principal contributor. Then should not the quantity of this high-grade ore be given? How was the revenue obtained? Of course from silver. Is anything said about silver? No! Why should not the silver production be given? Again, why should the receipts from silver production and profits of Reduction Company be lumped in one item? The value of the silver output should be stated separately, as well as the output of silver in ounces, which would show the price realised—a very important consideration. The receipts from the Reduction Company should be shown apart—strictly speaking, they should be deducted from the working expenditure, as the Reduction Company makes its profits by charging too much for the milling of the Corporation's ores and then repays those profits to the Corporation.

If the directors of the Corporation really desire to meet our criticisms there should be issued, say every three months, a summary of the Mine Manager's reports on the results of current development work, and there should be an alteration of the four-weekly return of earnings and profits so as to give a true picture of the results, say as follows:—

		Tons.
High-grade ore shipped		
Ore milled		
Total ore		
		Oz.
Silver output from high-grade ore		
Silver output from milling ore		
Total silver output		
		£
Value of total silver output		
Add profits from Reduction Co.		
Total revenue		
Operating cost at mines	£	
Special expenditure	£	
Total expenditure		
Profit at mines		

With reference to the fast paragraph but one of the letter, we did not say it was unusual or undesirable that holders of large numbers of shares should control an undertaking. We said:—

> Official information in regard to current development results is altogether lacking; and this is a serious matter for individual shareholders and the Stock Exchange, having regard to the fact that the holders of large numbers of shares have the controlling of the undertaking, and, therefore, know the development disclosures not officially published. In making these remarks we have in mind the fact that in recent months rumours in Canada and newspaper paragraphs have appeared stating that rich development disclosures have been made, especially in the City section of the properties, and also beneath the Cobalt Lake, now drained of its water. But we have seen no official confirmation or denial, and we are informed by the London office that current development results are not published.

ED. "THE STATIST."]

MISSOURI, KANSAS AND TEXAS RAILWAY.

REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

St. Louis, Missouri, September 15, 1915.

To the Stockholders:

The directors and officers of your Company submit herewith their report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915.

The operations of the Lines named—

	Miles.
Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company	1,744.41
The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company of Texas	1,791.98
The Wichita Falls & North-Western Railway Company	328.68
Total miles operated June 30, 1915	3,865.07

were as follows :—

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR.

Intercorporate items are excluded	$	Inc. or Dec. $	Inc. or Dec. %
Operating revenues	32,898,758 59	+ 980,834 54	+ 3
Operating expenses	22,967,591 84	− 259,240 60	− 1
Net operating revenue	9,931,166 75	+1,240,075 14	+ 14
Taxes	1,327,870 97	− 171,649 92	− 11
Operating income, taxes deducted	8,603,295 78	+1,411,725 06	+ 20
Miscellaneous income	214,834 37	− 2,444 18	− 1
	8,818,130 15	+1,409,280 88	+ 19
Rentals and other payments ...	862,679 88	+ 312,929 04	+ 57
Income available for interest ...	7,955,450 27	+1,096,351 84	+ 16
Interest (81 per cent. of amount available)	6,480,465 19	+ 160,593 50	+ 3
Net income	1,474,985 08	+ 935,758 34	+174
Dividends declared during year on subsidiary cos.' stock outstanding...	1,012 52	—	—

Comparisons include restatement of 1914 figures to conform with I. C. C. Classification effective July 1, 1914.

MILEAGE.

There was no change in mileage owned or operated. Table 1, pages 15 and 16 [of Pamphlet Report], shows the mileage in detail.

OPERATIONS.

Table 2, on page 17, contains the classified income account.

Revenue from freight traffic increased $2,169,026.95, or 11%, chiefly from grain, cotton, oil, and miscellaneous freight. This increase would have been considerably greater if the European situation had not so seriously affected business conditions in the Southwest, particularly in Texas and Oklahoma, by depressing the price of cotton and seriously impairing the purchasing power of the country. This condition, and the interruption of international commerce, stagnated trade.

Passenger traffic suffered severely from the adverse business conditions, the loss in passenger earnings amounting to $1,009,178.83, or 11%, while the service rendered was practically the same as in the preceding year.

The decrease of $101,032.62, or 11.7%, in express revenues resulted almost wholly from the reductions in express rates made by the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

Floods and washouts were again prevalent during the spring months, interrupting traffic and increasing expenses of operation, but the operating results for the year show a satisfactory decrease in the expenses, as a whole, particularly in the transportation expenses, and a reduction in the operating ratio from 72.77% to 69.81%. The acquisition of thirty new Mikado-type freight engines, which were placed in service during July 1914, enabled the movement of heavier tonnage trains and contributed to the results obtained.

Under the decision of a board of arbitrators, increased wages were awarded engineers and firemen of the Western railways, involving an additional expense to your Company, ranging from $40,000 to $60,000 per annum, effective May 11, 1915.

FINANCIAL.

The changes in outstanding capital stock during the year, as shown by the balance sheet, were as follows :—

	Increase. $
Wichita Falls & Southern Railway Co.	$100 00
San Antonio Belt & Terminal Ry. Co.	800 00
Net increase	$900 00

The changes in funded debt in hands of the public during the year were as follows :—

	Inc. or Dec.
M., K. & T. Ry. Co. 5% Equipment Notes	−190,000 00
Boonville RR. Bridge Co. 1st Mortgage 4% Bonds	− 11,000 00
South-Western Coal & Improvement Co. 1st Mortgage 6% Bonds	− 90,000 00
M., K. & T. Ry. Co. of Texas 10-Year Equipment Notes, Series A, 5% Serial of 1914	+646,000 00
W. F. & N. W. Ry. Co. 1st Mortgage 5% Bonds	− 34,000 00
W. F. & N. W. Ry. Co. 1st Lien Collateral Trust Mortgage 5% Bonds	− 13,000 00
W. F. & Southern Ry. Co. 1st Mortgage 5% Bonds	− 12,000 00
M., K. & T. General Mortgage 4½% Sinking Fund Gold Bonds purchased for Sinking Fund (held alive by Trustee of the Mortgage)	−675,000 00
Net Decrease	$379,000 00

Other changes in Funded Debt as shown by condensed balance sheet of June 30, 1915, published on a subsequent page were :—

	Increase.
M., K. & T. Ry. Co. Consolidated Mortgage 5% Bonds ...	$1,432,000
which were issued for the following purposes :—	
In reimbursement of expenditures made for additions and betterments	$503,000
Against M., K. & T. Ry. Co. General Mortgage Bonds retired by Sinking Fund	675,000
Against Boonville Railroad Bridge Company First Mortgage Bonds retired by Sinking Fund	8,000
Against the pledge of First and Refunding Mortgage Bonds of the Wichita Falls & North-Western Railway Company acquired during the year	38,000
Against M., K. & T. Ry. Co. Equipment Notes of 1913 retired ...	208,000
Total	$1,432,000

All of the above-mentioned Consolidated Mortgage Bonds were pledged as collateral for loans.

An equipment trust for $680,000, dated July 15, 1914, covering 30 Mikado-type freight locomotives and 200 convertible ballast cars costing $900,610.75 was created by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas. The equipment trust notes bear 5% interest, and mature $34,000 semi-annually, on January 15 and July 15 until 1924.

$19,000,000 Two-Year 5% Secured Gold Notes of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company matured May 1, 1915. Conditions did not, at the time, permit of a sale of long-time bonds or other securities of your Company in sufficient amount to pay off the maturing notes, and your Directors accordingly requested the note holders to extend their notes for one year at 6% per annum instead of 5%. Holders of about 95% of the notes responded to this request and deposited their notes with the Trustee for extension. Your Company also arranged at the same time to extend for one year, at 6% interest, payment of $2,733,250 short-time bank loans which had matured. In connection with the extension of the maturing notes and loans, your directors announced that a Committee of Directors of the Company have under consideration plans for the readjustment of its financial position.

ROLLING STOCK.

The equipment inventory as of June 30, 1915, was as follows :—

Locomotives	668	Increase 12
Passenger-train cars	507	Decrease 4
Freight-train and miscell. cars owned and leased ...	26,280	Decrease 518

Thirty new Mikado freight locomotives and 200 convertible ballast cars were received and placed in service during July 1914.

The average amounts expended for repairs to equipment in service were :—

		Inc. or Dec. $	Inc. or Dec. %
Locomotives	$2,508 16	+ $379 21	+17.81
Passenger-train cars	658 18	− 36 65	− 5.27
Freight-train and miscell. cars ...	60 22	+ 3 69	+ 6.52

Satisfactory progress has been made in reducing deferred maintenance of equipment, particularly locomotives, 530 having been rebuilt or given general repairs; 129 locomotives, or 19.3% of the number owned, and 1,667 freight cars, or 6.73% of the number owned, were undergoing or awaiting repairs at the close of the year.

The average tractive power of locomotives in service increased 1,413 pounds, or 5%. The average capacity of freight cars in service increased 810 pounds, or 1.3%.

Locomotives and cars are being equipped with safety appliances and mail cars are being changed according to requirements of the Federal Government.

Eighteen locomotives, 5 passenger cars, 1,049 freight cars, including cabooses, and 29 work cars were retired from service during the year.

There was expended during the year for the purchase and construction of new equipment $1,061,821.11. The value of equipment retired during the year was $712,706.50, leaving a net increase of $349,114.61 in the value of equipment owned.

The value of equipment to be replaced as of June 30, 1915, was $843,000.59, which value will be replaced as rapidly as practicable.

The annual rate of depreciation on equipment was fixed at 2% on February 1, 1915, and the amount charged to operating expenses for depreciation during the year was $341,637.43, an increase of $238,673.10 over the preceding year. The amount of accumulated depreciation on June 30, 1915, was $1,493,531.97, an increase of $273,643.73. This charge for depreciation was in addition to the amount charged to operating expenses on account of retirements during the year.

ROADWAY AND STRUCTURES.

Heavy rains which continued over practically the entire line during the last four months of the year resulted in daamge to roadway to the extent of $142,500.

During the year $1,493,612.16 was spent for permanent

additions and betterments to the property, exclusive of equipment. The more important items of improvement were as follows :—

Twenty-eight miles of new 85-pound rail was laid, replacing 66-pound rail on main line of the San Antonio and Houston Divisions. The 66-pound rail released was used on lighter traffic lines of the Greenville and Stamford Divisions, releasing 56-pound rail requiring renewal.

Fifty-nine miles of new ballast was applied and 254 miles of track was reballasted.

Tie renewals were heavy during the year, 1,665,156 cross ties and 748 sets of switch ties having been used.

There were 19 miles of yard and industrial tracks constructed.

Eighteen miles of embankments were widened and 43 miles of ditching was done.

Eight miles of new right-of-way fence was constructed and 255 miles of old fence rebuilt.

A number of bridges have been replaced with heavier structures, and many wooden structures have been renewed with concrete, reducing fire hazard and maintenance cost.

New passenger station at Cushing was finished June 7, 1915. New depots were also provided at Burleson, Como, and Calera; also a number of miscellaneous small buildings for Company service at different points. Various other depots, Company buildings, and station platforms were remodelled or extended to meet growing traffic requirements.

Interlocking plants have been installed jointly with the St. Louis South-western Railway at Whitewright, Texas, and with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway at Erie, Kansas.

Stock pens, with scales, where required for development of traffic, have been provided at a number of points.

Considerable reconstruction and general repairs of telegraphic lines on the property have been done.

SAN ANTONIO BELT AND TERMINAL RY. CO.

Since its entrance into San Antonio the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas has used the terminals of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway Company (Southern Pacific). They are inadequate to the needs of both companies, and your management has long faced the necessity of providing separate and independent terminals at San Antonio. With this in view, the San Antonio Belt and Terminal Railway Company was organised May 2, 1912, with a capital stock of $175,000, all of which is owned by your Company. This Terminal Company has acquired land for freight and passenger stations, industries, and outside yards at convenient and accessible points. The site for the freight and passenger stations is in the centre of the city and more conveniently located than the stations of any other railway entering San Antonio. A franchise has recently been obtained from the city of San Antonio, and the work of constructing the terminal will be prosecuted with such expedition as your Company's finances will permit. The estimated cost of the project is $1,300,000, of which $774,906.38 has already been expended.

San Antonio is an important city of 96,614 people (Census of 1910), growing rapidly, and its location with respect to South-west Texas and Mexico insures its future commercial expansion. Your Company expects that its San Antonio earnings will be largely increased by providing its own terminals.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The new Union Station at Kansas City was completed and opened for service November 1, 1914. The new terminal has greatly facilitated the movement of traffic through this gateway.

The construction of the new union passenger station and facilities at Dallas is progressing satisfactorily, and it is expected the new terminal will be ready for use early in 1916.

A new three-storey General Office Building at Parsons was completed May 20, 1915.

The suit of your Company to recover from the United States a grant of land through the old Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, of a probable value of $60,000,000, which has been prosecuted in various United States Courts for the past eleven years, was finally decided against your Company by the United States Supreme Court. In effect, the Court held that the land covered by the terms of the grant never became "public land" of the United States within the meaning of the Act, and for that reason the Company acquired no rights therein or thereto.

The Supreme Court of Missouri has decided in favour of the railroads the suits brought by the Attorney-General of the State against the railroads of Missouri for refunds growing out of the old Missouri rate case. The effect of this decision is that the Attorney-General cannot prosecute suits on behalf of shippers and passengers.

A suit brought by the State of Kansas, on account of alleged violation of the Kansas laws pertaining to general offices, was compromised and a final judgment pursuant thereto entered of record. This compromise agreement and decree have been carried out by the construction of a general office building at Parsons, and by the establishment therein of the offices and office forces required.

Determined efforts are being made by the railways of the South-west to procure increased passenger and freight rates. Applications are now pending before the Inter-State Commerce Commission, the Public Service Commission of Missouri, the Public Utilities Commisson of Kansas, and the Railroad Commission of Texas. The railroads have submitted their evidence and decisions are expected this fall.

In the suit pending in the Federal Court involving the two-cent passenger rate established by the State of Oklahoma, the taking of testimony has been under way for some time, and it is hoped that the trial will be concluded this autumn.

In the Western advanced freight-rate case, decided by the Inter-State Commerce Commission August 10, 1915, increased rates were granted on certain freight traffic which will add probably $133,000 a year to your Company's net revenue.

On August 16, 1915, the Texas Gulf Coast was visited by a severe storm, causing considerable loss of life and enormous property damage in the City of Galveston, as well as at Texas City and other Gulf points. The Galveston causeway was partially destroyed and railroad communication with the island was cut off for a period of 17 days, during which time export traffic was seriously impeded.

During the year Messrs. Henry E. Huntington, Alfred J. Poor, E. B. Stevens, and Frank A. Vanderlip retired from the board. The following were elected directors to fill vacancies :—

Messrs. W. W. Brown, of Parsons, Kansas; Edward A. Faust, of Saint Louis, Missouri; Lewis B. Franklin and A. J. Miller, of New York City; D. W. Mulvane, of Topeka, Kansas; George W. Simmons, of Saint Louis, Missouri; Edward R. Tinker, of New York City.

Messrs. Harry S. Black and Frank H. Davis were elected members of the Executive Committee.

Mr. W. A. Webb, formerly General Manager, was appointed Vice-President on February 1, 1915.

Statements and tables of accounts and operations are appended to this report.

By order of the Board of Directors,

FRANK TRUMBULL, *Chairman.*
C. E. SCHAFF, *President.*

GENERAL INCOME ACCOUNT.

Year to June 30—	191[illegible]	1914	Inc. or Dec.
Average mileage operated ...	3,865.07	3,824.82	+ 40.25
Operating Revenues:	$	$	$
Freight traffic	22,397,364 15	20,228,337 20	+2,169,026 95
Passenger traffic	8,096,963 03	9,105,241 86	−1,008,278 83
Transportation of mails ...	767,444 93	667,532 42	+ 99,912 51
Transportation of express	858,994 21	960,026 83	− 101,032 62
Miscellaneous	778,892 27	956,785 74	− 177,893 47
Total operating revs.	32,898,758 59	31,917,924 05	+ 980,834 54
Operating Expenses:			
Maint. of way & structs.	4,502,566 60	4,574,726 37	− 72,159 77
Maintenance of equipment	4,579,463 75	3,934,118 75	+ 645,345 00
Traffic	657,215 40	737,766 02	− 80,550 62
Transportation	12,080,328 28	12,408,687 72	− 328,359 44
Miscellaneous operations...	297,515 34	504,713 20	− 207,197 85
General	1,037,434 09	1,217,008 67	− 179,574 58
	23,154,523 46	23,377,020 73	− 222,497 27
Transportation for inv. credit	186,931 62	150,188 29	− 36,743 33
Total operating exp.	22,967,591 84	23,226,832 44	− 259,240 60
Operating ratio	(69.81%)	(72.77%)	(−2.96%)
Net operating revenue	9,931,166 75	8,691,091 61	+1,240,075 14
Income from other sources:			
Interest from investments	71,693 97	24,273 75	+ 47,420 22
Interest, general account	19,588 16	67,789 53	− 48,201 37
Sundry items	123,552 24	125,215 27	− 1,663 03
Total	214,834 37	217,278 55	− 2,444 18
Gross income ...	10,146,001 12	8,908,370 16	+1,237,630 96
Deductions from Income:			
Interest on funded debt ...	6,165,862 76	6,124,370 12	+ 41,492 64
Other interest	206,484 38	103,668 24	+ 102,816 14
Hire of equipment ...	186,497 55	18,544 29	+ 167,953 26
Interest on equip. trust ...	108,118 05	91,833 33	+ 16,284 72
Taxes	1,327,870 97	1,499,520 89	− 171,649 92
Rental leased roads, joint tracks, &c.	643,556 14	523,807 31	+ 119,748 83
Other d ductions	32,626 19	7,399 24	+ 25,226 95
Total deductions ...	8,671,016 04	8,369,143 42	+ 301,872 62
Net income	1,474,985 08	539,226 74	+ 935,758 34

Comparisons include restatement of 1914 figures to conform with I. C. C. Classification effective July 1 1914.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Balance to credit of Profit and Loss, June 30, 1914	$4,832,457 30
Additions:	
Balance for year brought forward from Income Account ...	1,474,985 08
Adjustment of Cost of $2,615,000, face amount of General Mortgage Bonds, purchased for Sinking Fund to bring them to par	462,942 50
Adjustment of Cost of other Bonds purchased for Sinking Funds to bring them to par	5,611 25
Donations received for construction industry tracks ...	12,531 45
Miscellaneous Credits	65,547 74
Total	$6,854,075 32
Deductions:	
Depreciation prior to July 1, 1907, on equipment destroyed ...	$178 470 49
Side tracks and other property abandoned	64,558 58
Uncollectible accounts charged off and reserve	117,930 25
Expenses of security issues...	50,866 32
Dividends on capital stock...	1,012 52
South-Western Coal & Improvement Co. Sinking Fund transferred to "Appropriated Surplus"	33,156 60
	$445,994 76
Balance to credit of Profit and Loss, June 30, 1915	$6,408,080 56

New York, October 15, 1915.

Since the preparation of the foregoing report, Mr. Charles E. Schaff has been appointed Receiver of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company by the United States District Court at St. Louis, Mo., and Receiver of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company of Texas by the United States District Court at Dallas, Texas, effective public on September 27, 1915 :

The board made the following announcement to the public on September 27, 1915 :

"The directors reluctantly acquiesce in the receivership, but as several suits have been brought against the Company by holders of unextended notes, aided in several cases by attachment proceedings, and other suits have been threatened, it was decided that the interests of all would be best served by assenting to the taking charge of the property by the Court.

"The directors and officers were hopeful last spring—when they asked for an extension of these notes for one year—that they would be able to work out a plan of refinancing that would enable the Company to pay them off, and they have been continuously, since then, endeavouring to accomplish this, but, owing to apathy of investors towards railroads and to the heavy losses in the Galveston storm and continued floods in the South-west, which have impaired the earnings of the Company and increased its expenses, it has been impossible to accomplish what the directors set out to do. They are, however, still proceeding, in co-operation with bankers, with the preparation of a plan for readjusting the finances of the Company and providing for its future requirements.

"The board is gratified that the Court has appointed Mr. Schaff as sole Receiver. He enjoys and deserves the confidence of all interests."

FRANK TRUMBULL, *Chairman.*

CONDENSED GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1915.

ASSETS.

Property Investment:		
Cost of road and equipment		$227,291,769 49
Less accrued depreciation on existing equipment (credit)		1,493,531 97
		$225,798,237 52
Securities of proprietary, affiliated and controlled companies—pledged		$955,907 30
Miscellaneous investments:		
Physical property	$212,286 95	
Securities pledged under bills payable	738,466 67	
Other miscellaneous investments	2,252 17	
		953,005 79
		$1,908,913 09
Securities issued or assumed—pledged:		
Consolidated mortgage bonds (under 2-Year Notes)		$25,825,000 00
Consolidated mortgage bonds (under bills payable)		4,467,000 00
		$30,292,000 00
Cash and securities in sinking and redemption funds		2,844,146 80
		$260,843,297 41
Working Assets:		
Cash		*$1,039,161 02
Loans and bills receivable		11,842 31
Traffic and car service balances receivable		277,756 29
Net balance receivable from agents and conductors		316,138 73
Miscellaneous accounts receivable		1,476,805 19
Material and supplies		2,492,827 76
Other working assets		200,930 68
Special deposits		23,040 60
		$5,838,502 58
Securities in Treasury—unpledged:		
Securities of and advances to proprietary, affiliated and controlled companies		$307,385 79
Securities issued or assumed		17,043 00
		$324,428 79
		$6,162,931 37
Deferred Assets:		
Interest and dividends receivable		$62,078 62
Working funds—advanced		1,962 12
Rents and insurance paid in advance		49,192 05
Other deferred debit items		713,828 84
		$827,061 66
Total		$267,833,290 44
* Includes cash	542,261 27	
Cash on deposit for interest	496,899 75	

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock:	
Common Stock, M., K. & T. Ry. Co., held by the public	$63,283,257 00
Preferred Stock, M., K. & T. Ry. Co., held by the public	13,000,000 00
Common Stock, M., K. & T. Ry. Co., held by the Company	17,043 00
Stock, subsidiary companies	2[illegible],000 00
Funded Debt:	$76,326,[illegible]00 00
Bonds and notes	140,404,500 00
	$216,731,400 00
Consolidated mortgage bonds	$30,292,000 00
General mortgage bonds in sinking fund	2,645,000 00
	$32,937,000 00
	$249,668,400 00
Working Liabilities:	
Loans and bills payable	$2,809,948 34
Traffic and car service balances payable	559,134 50
Vouchers unpaid	2,705,281 77
Wages unpaid	1,088,561 82
Miscellaneous accounts payable	[illegible] 83
Matured interest and dividends unpaid	669,887 06
Funded debt matured unpaid	3,000 00
Other current liabilities	41,201 87
	$7,972,028 79
Deferred Liabilities:	
Unmatured interest, dividends and rents	$1,219,468 46
Taxes accrued	401,626 52
Other deferred credit items	327,450 56
	$1,948,545 54
Appropriated Surplus:	
Additions to property since June 30, 1907, through income	$1,563,429 84
Reserves invested in sinking and redemption funds	272,805 71
	$1,836,235 55
Profit and Loss balance	6,408,080 56
	$8,244,316 11
Total	$267,833,290 44

The Company is also guarantor of	
Kansas City Terminal R. Co. 1st mort. bonds, due 1960 (jointly with eleven other railway companies)	$41,761,000
Union Terminal Co. (of Dallas, Texas), 1st mort. bonds, due 1942 (jointly with seven other railway companies)	2,193,000
Joplin Union Depot Co. 1st mort. bonds, due 1940 (jointly with three other railway companies)	650,000
Houston & Brazos Valley R. Co. 1st mort. bonds, due 1937	210,000

NOTE.—There exists a possible liability in connection with State rate cases under appeal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ADELAIDE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY.—Final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 2 per cent., both tax free, on Ordinary.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 4*s.* per share, tax free.

ATTAREE KHAT TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.—Branches of this Bank have been established at Casablanca, Morocco, and Kofo-ridua, Gold Coast Colony.

BARGANG TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BORELLI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BORBHEEL TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BORDUBI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BREWERS' SUGAR COMPANY.—Dividend of 14*s.* per share, tax free, on Ordinary.

BRITISH INDIAN TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

BRITISH TOBACCO COMPANY (AUSTRALIA).—Interim dividend of 3 per cent. on Ordinary.

CASTLEMAINE BREWERY, MELBOURNE.—Further dividend of 3½ per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year.

CHICAGO BREWERIES.—Dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., less tax.

DHENDAI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

DOOARS TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* 3*d.* per share.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—Third quarterly interim dividend of 1¼ per cent. on the Ordinary stock, tax free.

EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 9*d.* per share.

GHOIR ALLIE TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 40 per cent., tax free, on Ordinary.

GOLDSBROUGH MORT AND COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

HARPENDEN (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—Third interim dividend of 25 per cent., less tax.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.—Interim dividend on the 5% Cumulative Preference shares of the Company will be paid on January 1, 1916.

HUGGINS AND CO.—Dividend of 1*s.* per share on Ordinary.

IMPERIAL COLONIAL FINANCE AND AGENCY CORPN.—Interim dividend at rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax.

INGERSOLL-RAND COMPANY.—Cash dividend of 10 per cent. on Ordinary stock.

JAVA PARA RUBBER.—Interim dividend of 5per cent.

KACHARIGAON TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

KEPONG (MALAY) RUBBER ESTATES.—Third interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax.

LANKAPARA TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., tax free, on Ordinary.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE AND GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—Dividend and bonus for half year of 1*s.* 6*d.* per share.

SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY.

REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

Portsmouth, Va., October 28, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the Seaboard Air Line Railway:

The Board of Directors submits the following report of the operations of the property for the year ended June 30, 1915:—

INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.

	1915.	1914.	Inc. or Dec.
	$	$	$
Gross Revenue	21,280,462 79	25,420,503 24	−4,140,040 45
Oper. Expenses & Taxes	15,984,781 03	18,462,705 92	−2,477,924 89
Net Operating Revenue (after Taxes)... ...	5,295,681 76	6,957,797 32	−1,662,115 56
Uncollectible Rail. Rev.	8,902 94	—	+ 8,902 94
Operating Income ...	5,286,778 82	6,957,797 32	−1,671,018 50
Other Income	348,227 69	298,996 38	+ 49,231 31
Hire of Equipment ...	(Cr.) 85,616 97	(Dr.) 266,223 68	+ 351,840 65
Gross Income	5,720,623 48	6,990,570 02	−1,269,946 54
Rents and other Charges	200,735 63	172,418 35	+ 28,317 28
Applicable to Interest ...	5,519,887 85	6,818,151 67	−1,298,263 82
Fixed Interest Charges	3,928,255 49	3,893,935 91	+ 34,319 58
Balance	1,591,632 36	2,924,215 76	−1,332,583 40
Full 5% Interest on Adjustment (Income) Bonds	1,250,000 00	1,250,000 00	—
Net Income	341,632 36	1,674,215 76	−1,332,583 40

NOTE.—Revenue and Expense figures for the year 1914 have been revised for comparative purposes to agree with the Inter-State Commerce Commission's classification, effective July 1, 1914.

The Gross Revenue decreased 16.29%, Operating Expenses decreased 14.55%, Taxes increased 6.33%, Operating Expenses and Taxes decreased 13.42%, and Operating Income decreased 24.02%.

The Operating Expenses, exclusive of Taxes, were 70.12% of the Gross Revenue, as compared with 68.70% the previous year, and including Taxes, 75.11% of Gross Revenue, as compared with 72.63% for the preceding year.

MILEAGE OPERATED.

The mileage of the Seaboard Air Line Railway in operation on June 30, 1914, was		3,097.55
Extensions, &c., constructed during the year	26.41	
Less Spur Tracks taken up	.82	
		25.59
Mileage in operation June 30, 1915		3,123.14

CAPITAL STOCK AND FUNDED DEBT UNMATURED.

There has been no change in the capital stock or in the funded debt during the year.

EQUIPMENT.

An Equipment Agreement, Series "Q," was entered into on July 1, 1914, for the purchase of 10 Mountain Type Passenger Locomotives; 19 Mikado Type Freight Locomotives; 7 All-Steel Passenger Coaches, with reclining chairs; 8 All-Steel Passenger Coaches, with Walkover Seats; 5 All-Steel Mail and Baggage Cars; 7 All-Steel Postal Cars; 9 All-Steel Passenger and Baggage Cars; 9 All-Steel Express Cars; 462 Steel Upper and Underframe Ventilated Box Cars; for which $160,043.81 was paid in cash, and equipment trust obligations aggregating $1,440,000.00 were issued, payable in twenty consecutive semi-annual instalments of $72,000.00 each, bearing interest at the rate of 5% per annum. All of this equipment was received during the fiscal year.

EXTENSIONS.

Extensions to the Company's lines in Florida were completed during the year as follows: From Bartow, Fla., to Baynard, Fla. (Lake Wales Extension), 22.04 miles; Connor and Shallenberger Spur off Lake Wales Extension, 0.78; Pembroke, Fla., to Jumeau Phosphate Plant, 3.59; total, 26.41 miles; Spurs removed during the year, 0.82; net increase, 25.59 miles.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

ROADWAY, TRACK, AND STRUCTURES.—Roadway, track, and structures of the railway have been properly maintained at a cost of $2,414,866.20, which represents an expenditure per mile of road of $777.59. (See General Remarks below.)

SIDE TRACKS.—13.07 miles of new sidings and extensions of existing sidings were constructed, and there were deducted by removal and changes of old sidings 5.33 miles, making a net increase over previous year of 7.74 miles. There were also added 1.75 miles leased sidings.

TIE RENEWALS.—Tie renewals were 1,328,761 cross ties and 745 sets of switch ties, and the cost, $583,594.83, was charged to Operating Expenses.

RAIL.—11.67 miles of new 85-lb. steel rail were laid in the main line, releasing therefrom 68 and 80-lb. worn rail, and there was charged net to Operating Expenses therefor $8,904.66, and to Capital Account $21,906.86. In addition, 11.31 miles of released 80-lb. steel rail were laid on branch lines, releasing 60-lb. and lighter rail, and there was charged to Operating Expenses therefor $3,117.62, and to Capital Account $14,898.98. There has also been received and distributed along the main line ready to lay 34 track miles of new 90-lb. and 26.5 track miles of new 85-lb. steel rail.

BALLAST.—73,269 cubic yards of gravel and slag ballast were put under main-line track, and of the total cost thereof $27,108.11 was charged to Capital Account.

TRESTLES FILLED.—990 lineal feet of wooden trestles were filled in during the year, and of the total cost thereof, including culverts, $11,141.48 was charged to Operating Expenses.

TRESTLES REBUILT AND BALLAST DECKED.—There were built during the year out of creosoted timber 2,904 lineal feet of ballast-decked trestles, replacing old open-deck trestles, and the cost thereof, $40,427.95, was charged to Operating Expenses.

TRESTLES STRENGTHENED.—Additional stringers were put in 19 trestles between Columbia, S.C., and Jacksonville, Fla., on the South Carolina Division, during the year to provide for the use of heavier power, the cost of which, $1,768.37, was charged to Capital Account.

BRIDGES.—Work has been done on sixteen bridges, repairing, adding signals, replacing with steel or strengthening them for heavier power. Of this number fourteen have been completed. Seven of the above bridges were authorised during this year, and five of the seven have been completed. One of the uncompleted bridges is a reinforced concrete viaduct for highway and street railway traffic on Duval Street, Jacksonville, Fla., over Hogan's Creek, and the tracks of the Seaboard Air Line Railway and the St. John's River Terminal Company. This viaduct will be completed during the coming year, and will be approximately 1,418 feet long, with a total width of 42 feet. Of the bridges completed the principal ones are: Fourth Street, Wilmington, N.C., reinforced concrete highway overpass, 70 feet; Alston Avenue, Durham, N.C., highway underpass, deck girders on concrete masonry, 90 feet; Eleventh Street, Charlotte, N.C., highway overpass, creosoted timber, concrete foundations, 89 feet; Armour, Ga., reinforced concrete double-track extension, Southern Railway overpass, 78 feet; Whitford Avenue, Atlanta, Ga., highway underpass, eye-beams on pile foundations, 56 feet; Howells Mill Road, near Atlanta, Ga., highway overpass, plate girders on creosoted timber foundations, 120 feet; Gaston Street, Chester, S.C., highway overpass, timber construction with concrete masonry, 80 feet. The total expenditures for bridge work during the year were $72,776.47, of which $71,046.92 was charged to Capital Account and $1,729.55 to Operating Expenses.

RAIL IN MAIN LINE.

The total operated main-line single-track mileage of the system, 3,123.14 miles, is laid with steel rails of the following weights:—

Miles.	Weight.	Miles.	Weight.
11.45	90-lb. rail	60.48... ...	63.5-lb. rail
361.08	85 „	3.95... ...	60.5 „
84.41	80 „	493.55... ...	60 „
1,211.76	75 „	34.95... ...	60 „ (resawed)
166.48	70 „	221.38... ...	58 „
201.05	68 „	256.73... ...	56 „ and lighter
18.87	65 „		

The above does not include:—

SECOND TRACK.—Northward from Hamlet, N.C.: 9.09 miles, 90-lb. rail; .52 mile, 75-lb. rail. At Birmingham, Ala.: 1.43 miles, 75-lb. rail; 1.62 miles, 60-lb. rail. Raleigh, N.C., to Cary, N.C.: 5.88 miles, 85-lb. rail; 1.71 miles, 75-lb. rail. At Tampa, Fla.: 1.32 miles, 75-lb. rail.

LEASED LINES.—Silver Springs Branch: 1.20 miles, 60-lb. rail; .70 mile, 56-lb. rail. Amelia Beach Branch: 2.00 miles, 50-lb. rail.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The equipment of the railway was properly maintained during the year at a cost of $3,175,642.45. (See General Remarks below.)

Included in the cost of maintenance is $28,614.49, representing value of equipment destroyed or retired from service during the year and credited to cost of equipment.

There was also included in the cost of maintenance $412,626 for depreciation, which was credited to reserve for accrued depreciation.

The cost of maintenance per article owned was as follows:—

Average cost per annum per Locomotive owned	$2,095 69
Average cost per annum per Passenger Car owned	733 77
Average cost per annum per Freight Car owned...	54 11

GENERAL REMARKS.

On account of the European War the important agricultural and industrial activities served by your lines were affected, resulting in a decrease in gross revenues of $4,140,040, or 16.29%, as compared with the previous year.

This decrease was largely caused by the interruption of

the exportation of certain commodities, consisting principally of cotton, phosphate rock and naval stores, and the importation of fertiliser materials. The business depression resulting from the War also caused decreases in movements of lumber, fertiliser, general merchandise, and practically all other commodities. Weather conditions in Florida unfavourable to trucking also caused a decrease in the perishable vegetable shipments.

The general business depression caused also a decrease in passenger business.

As an offset against the decrease in revenue above shown a reduction was made in operating expenses amounting to $2,541,172, or 14.55%. The greatest item of reduction was made in transportation expenses, consisting of $1,577,776, or 16.8%.

Realising at the outset of the European War that there was a necessity for the greatest possible economy, consistent with safety and proper upkeep, a careful and searching analysis was made of the proposed expenditures for maintenance of way and structures and maintenance of equipment for this fiscal year, and a plan laid out by which only such expenditures were made as were absolutely necessary to comply with the conditions above outlined. By these means your property has been fully maintained.

Extensive improvements and additions have been made to the general office building at Portsmouth, Va., which consisted of remodelling, with fireproof construction, the original building, adding two storeys thereto, and thereby providing modern office facilities. No promise has been made for the occupancy of these offices for any stipulated period, but it is felt that as long as the present conditions last the arrangement is of advantage to the Company.

During this year a contract was entered into with the Southern Railway, providing for the joint use of the Seaboard Air line and the Southern Railway's tracks between Raleigh, N.C., and Cary, N.C., as a double track, these tracks being immediately parallel for the entire distance.

1.32 miles of double track have been put into service at Tampa, Fla., from Tampa Northern Junction to Twigg Street.

A Union station at Bartow, Fla., has been built during the year, and the one at Hurtsboro, Ala., mentioned in last year's report, has been completed.

A passenger station has been completed at Marston, N.C., and the one at Rockingham, N.C., mentioned in last year's report, has been finished.

Combination passenger and freight stations have been constructed during the year at North, N.C., Terra Ceia, Fla., and Kingsland, Ga.

The freight depôt at Carrsville, Va., has been extended, providing passenger facilities therein. A freight depôt has been built during the year at Hawthorne, Fla.

At Apex, N.C., both a passenger station and a freight station have been provided, together with necessary track changes and additions to serve same.

The passenger shelter shed and granolithic walks at Portsmouth, Va., mentioned in last year's report, have been completed.

At Wake Forest, N.C., an umbella shed has been provided in connection with present passenger facilities.

A passenger shed has been provided at South Clinton, S.C.

A car repair shed has been provided at Cayce, S.C., in connection with other shop facilities.

Necessary dredging has been done at Jacksonville, Fla., in slip between Warehouse No. 2 and No. 3, to maintain proper depth of water, and necessary dredging is now in progress in slips 1, 2, and 3, and river front, at Hutchinson's Island, Savannah, Ga.

The reinforced concrete coal elevator with 300-ton storage bin at Savannah, Ga., mentioned in last year's report, has been completed.

The 100,000-gallon capacity steel tank, together with pipe lines for auxiliary fire protection, at Hutchinson's Island, Savannah, Ga., mentioned in last year's report, has been completed and put into service.

Modern interlocking plants have been provided at Burroughs, Ga., and Bartow, Fla., and the one at Pembroke, N.C., mentioned in last year's report, has been completed.

A wooden cotton platform has been provided at Greenwood, S.C., and a reinforced concrete cotton platform provided at Maxton, N.C.

Paving and street work have been done at Henderson, N.C., Columbia, S.C., Cordele, Ga., Columbus, Ga., Manatee, Fla., Bradentown, Fla., and at several other points on the system, to comply with municipal requirements.

Crossing gates have been installed at Hermitage Road, near Richmond, Va., and on Elmwood Avenue, Columbia, S.C.

A coal trestle has been built jointly with the Durham and Southern Railway at Durham, N.C., during the year.

Additional storage tracks have been provided during the year at Nitrolee, S.C.

Interchange tracks have been provided with the Maxton, Alma and Southbound Railroad at Alma, N.C., with the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company at Charlotte, N.C., and the Southern Railway at Franklin, Va.

Three track scales were rebuilt with concrete foundations and steel "I" beams, replacing wood.

Three old water tanks at McKenny, Va., Collins, Ga., and Palmetto, Fla., were replaced with modern 50,000-gallon tanks and suitable pumping facilities provided.

New water station has been provided at Schofield, S.C.

Sixty-five industrial sidings and extensions to industrial sidings already existing have been constructed or are in process of construction.

Forty depôts and freight stations have been constructed or substantially added to during the year.

Seventeen passing tracks have been constructed or extended or are in process of construction.

The use of creosoted piling has been continued in maintenance work on docks, wharves, and trestles.

The work of the Valuation Committee, created in connection with Section 19-A of the Federal Act to Regulate Commerce, referred to in the last annual report, was continued during the year at a cost of $57,215.39, which was charged to General Expenses—an increase of $42,232.10 over the preceding year.

W. J. HARAHAN, *President.*

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915.

ASSETS.

Investment in Road and Equipment:		
Road	$141,831,824 51	
Equipment	25,118,520 79	
General Expenditures	[illegible]	$166,979,221 96
Sinking Funds		56,420 65
Deposits in Lieu of Mortgaged Property Sold		7,989 36
Misc. Physical Property		506,644 11
Investments in Affiliated Companies:—Stocks—Pledged, $[illegible]; Stocks—Unpledged, $[illegible]; Notes, $425,282.58; Advances, $284,[illegible]		2[illegible]
Other Investments: Stocks—Pledged, $281,750.70; Stocks, —Unpledged, $44,400; Bonds—Unpledged, $929,156; Notes, $482,152.22; Advances, $284,581.42; Misc., $90,480		2,112,550 34
Total		$172,304,400 45
Current Assets:—Cash with Treasurer, $762,710.40; Cash in Transit, $293,[illegible]		$1,055,883 90
Special Deposits:—Cash with Fiscal Agencies		839,298 10
Loans & Bills Receivable		20,998 08
Traffic & Car Service Balances Receivable		406,445 98
Net Balances Receivable from Agents & Conductors		181,391 23
Misc. Accounts Receivable:—Individuals & Cos., $752,992.60; U.S. Gov., $59,934.89; Other Cos. for Claims, $38,973.47		851,900 96
Materials and Supplies		1,381,613 46
Interest Receivable		47,396 96
Other Current Assets		179,654 44
Total		$5,024,583 11
Deferred Assets:—Working Fund Advances		29,374 40
Unadjusted Debits:—Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance, $60,823.35; Discount on Funded Debt, $10,062,085.02; Claims in Suspense, $322,231.90; Other Unadjusted Debits, $264,206.57		[illegible] 64
Total		$188,067,704 60

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock:—Common Capital Stock issued, $37,516,000; Less: In Treasury, $[illegible]	$37,019,400 00
Preferred Capital Stock issued, $25,000,000; Less: In Treasury, $1,105,900	23,894,100 00
Total	$60,913,500 00
Funded Debt Unmatured:—Equipment Obligations	6,902,000 00
Mortgage Bonds Proprietary Companies, $39,665,000: Less: Pledged as Collateral, $2,[illegible]	37,055,000 00
S.A.L. Ry. First Mortgage Bonds, $39,775,000; Less: Pledged as Collateral, $27,000,000	12,775,000 00
S.A.L. Ry. Refunding Mortgage Bonds, $42,820,000; Less: Pledged as Collateral, $12,864,000; In Treasury, $5,946,000	24,010,000 00
S.A.L. Ry. Three-Year Gold Notes	6,000,000 00
S.A.L. Ry. Adjustment Mortgage Bonds	25,000,000 00
Total	$111,742,000 00
Current Liabilities:—Loans & Bills Payable	$503,900 00
Traffic & Car Service Balances Payable	358,321 99
Audited Accounts & Wages Payable:—Audited Vouchers Unpaid, $768,153.07; Wages Unpaid, $607,302.64	1,375,455 71
Misc. Accounts Payable:—Individuals & Cos., $50,245.61; Agents' Traffic Drafts, $84,882.88; Claim Authorities, $46,253.49	181,381 98
Interest Matured Unpaid:—Funded Debt, $712,502.50; Equipment Trust Obligations, $38,775	751,277 50
Divs. Matured Unpaid	20 00
Equipment Obligations Matured: Unpaid	$8,000 00
Unmatured Interest Accrued:—Equipment Trust Obligations, $85,431.26; Funded Debt, $585,179.17; Adjustment Mort. Bonds, $[illegible]	1,[illegible] 77
Unmatured Rents Accrued	[illegible] 18
Other Current Liabilities	57,000 00
Total	$4,829,558 13
Deferred Liabilities	7,895 01
Accrued Depreciation—Equipment, $[illegible]; Reserve for Outstanding Stock of Proprietary Companies, $26,226.41; Interchangeable Mileage Tickets, $158,607.52; Other Unadjusted Credits, $[illegible]	3,511,480 66
Profit and Loss:—Surplus	7,063,270 80
Total	$188,067,704 60

Terms Company is lessee of the following properties: Durham Terminal Co. 1st Mt. [illegible]; Georgia Northern Ry. 1st Mt. Series "A" and "B" $1,[illegible]; Jacksonville Terminal Co. 1st Mt. $[illegible]; Macon, Dublin & Savannah RR. 1st Mt. $1,[illegible]; Norfolk & South Carolina 1st Mt. $1,[illegible]; Raleigh & Charleston RR. 1st Div. and Gen. Mt. $[illegible]; Richmond-Washington Co. Coll. Trust Mt. (Seaboard proportion) $1,[illegible]; Savannah & Statesboro RR. 1st Mt. $1[illegible]; South Carolina Western Extension 4th 1st Mt., $[illegible]; Tampa Northern RR. Notes, $[illegible]; Tampa & Gulf Coast RR. 1st Mt., $750,000; Wilmington Railway Bridge Co. (Seaboard proportion) $[illegible].

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

THE seventy-fifth ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the offices, 122 Leadenhall Street, E.C., on December 8, the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet to-day under exceptional circumstances. Sir Thomas Sutherland, who occupied the Chair at our last meeting, and who had directed the affairs of the P. & O. Company for four-and-thirty years, retired a year ago. He brought the Company out of what might be described as a "slough of despond," and by his energy and ability he left it a sound and prosperous concern. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him long life and happiness in his retirement, and if the P. & O. Company has any success in the future it will never be forgotten that it was owing to the masterful management of Sir Thomas Sutherland in its days of depression. He has left us a splendid legacy. With the loyal assistance of our staff it will be our earnest endeavour to carry on the administration of the P. & O. Company, not only to your satisfaction, but to the satisfaction of the Government and the public.

Good Service for the Country.

The year under review has been quite abnormal, owing to the War. No less than 42 steamers of the P. & O. fleet have been taken from their usual work from time to time, and 31 are still being made use of by the Government. The Board have in consequence had a considerable strain put upon them to maintain the regular mail services, but you will be glad to know that so far they have not been obliged to cancel a single departure.

Something like 480 of the P. & O. and British India officers and engineers have gallantly joined His Majesty's Service, mostly afloat, and are fighting for their country. Sixteen have been wounded, 27 have been killed. You will be glad to hear that one—a P. & O. cadet—the son of Mr. Drewry, our Works Superintendent, a boy of 18—has won the V.C. His father tells me the boy says he intends to return to the P. & O. Company after the War. Let us hope that he will win through and rise eventually to be Commodore of the P. & O. Fleet. The positions of our men for the most part remain open for them after the War, and meantime, as a rule, they don't suffer pecuniarily. The directors desire to express their appreciation publicly of the manner in which those who remain with us, who are doing good public service and running great risks, have responded loyally to the work, though the ships have in almost every instance been obliged to go to sea with less than their usual complement of officers and engineers. Their only complaint has been that they have not had an opportunity of doing more for their country. But when you consider that 42 ships out of our fleet of 60 have been engaged in Government service at one time or another, and that the ships which have remained to us have been carrying the mails and keeping up communications, I am satisfied you will consider that the men in the P. & O. vessels engaged in the Company's ordinary work have been doing good service for the country.

Increased Cost of Operating.

The cost of operating the ships has increased by leaps and bounds; wages have risen; the suppliers of stores of all descriptions have raised their prices, in some cases by 50%; while the cost of supplying coal at Port Said is nearly three times what it was before the outbreak of the War. Some six months ago we raised our passage rates two or three pounds to help to meet, to some extent, the increased cost of working, and, reluctant as we shall be to make any further increase, I am afraid this may be forced upon us.

Taxation.

The Budget will take something out of the Company's earnings, and what is left of the surplus over the average of the two or three preceding years will in all probability be to a great extent swallowed up in the impending overhauls of the ships through being hard-driven, and through difficulty in getting labour to do the repairs. We do not know what the future has in store in the shape of additional levies which will be made on you to meet the expenditure involved by the War. Whatever these may be they have to be met, and as our men of a fighting age are giving their lives, so must we give our property to the nation. No sacrifice is too great to secure that victory without which life would be intolerable. The levy of 30 millions on capital indicated by the Budget—a very moderate estimate, I think—will be lost to reproductive enterprise in this country. While it may help to pay the expenses of the War for the moment, I think it is recognised that it is not in the interests of the country to withdraw large sums from earning taxable revenue. When the War is over a large income will be required to meet obligations incurred by the War, to carry on the administration of the country and to pay for the country's defence. I am glad to observe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that the special levy on an increase in profits instituted in this emergency is not to form an integral part of the fiscal system of the country.

When Victory Comes.

When the War is crowned with victory for the Allies, as it will be, the resources of the country, the intelligence, the energy, the industry, and, let us hope, the thrift of the people will reassert themselves, and Great Britain will continue to be, as she still remains despite the demands upon her, the financial centre of the world.

No Fear of the Future.

There is no doubt that most shipping companies have made money during the last twelve months owing to the rise in freights, brought about by so many ships belonging to ourselves and our Allies having been engaged for the purposes of the War, and through the German and Austrian mercantile marine having been driven from the sea. The aftermath of the War has to be reckoned with, and the future of the shipping industry of Great Britain will doubtless have much to contend with, especially as neutral and some other shipowners who have been reaping a far richer harvest than British shipping will find themselves in a much better position to develop than will be the case with British shipowners; but, speaking for myself and for the P. & O. and British India Companies, I have no fear for the future. It may be an anticipation of coming bad times that is inducing some shipowners in this country to take advantage of the present inflated prices of ships to dispose of them and to retire from business. For the P. & O. and British India Companies there is no such *dolce far niente*. They are carrying on a national work, and they could not, if they would, wind up and go into retirement. On the contrary, they must and will continue to develop; they must endeavour, and they will endeavour, to maintain their services to the satisfaction of the Government and of the public. They must make provision for their employees when the time comes for them to coil up their ropes ashore; they must lay by ample depreciation for reinvestment in up-to-date vessels, and they must set aside a good margin of surplus profits in fat years to provide for the contingency of lean periods; and you must rest content with a return in the way of dividend which can only be described as moderate for the risks you run and for the capital you employ in your undertakings.

The Admiralty and the Mercantile Marine.

The steamers which have been commandeered by Government as armed cruisers, transports, and hospital ships are being paid for at rates leaving but a very moderate margin when everything is taken into consideration. The shipowners have met the Government fairly and reasonably, their disposition having been to aid the country in this national emergency. Only the other day a suggestion was made by the Admiralty to reduce rates for certain classes of ships which had been under charter for a considerable time, and despite the fact that freights in ordinary trades had advanced considerably, the shipowners agreed to the suggestion of the Admiralty. On the 2nd of last month I heard the Prime Minister's historic statement in the House of Commons as to our position after 15 months of war. He alluded to the fact that the Transport Department of the Admiralty had, since the War began, carried across the seas 2,500,000 officers and men, 320,000 sick and wounded and nurses, 800,000 horses, mules and camels, and 2,500,000 tons of stores and munitions. He said that these operations had involved thousands of voyages, and that they had been performed with less than one-tenth per cent. loss of life. He also said that these figures were exclusive of millions of tons of stores, mainly coal and oil, which had been carried for Allied Governments. I was delighted to hear the well-earned praise bestowed on the Transport Department of the Admiralty, the work of which has been enormous, and, if I may venture to say so, the way it has been carried out reflects the greatest credit on the Director, Mr. Graeme Thomson, and his lieutenants. I am sure in eulogising the Government Transport Department the Prime Minister meant to include the Mercantile Marine, which had provided the means of doing this service for the country and for our Allies. The shipowners by their enterprise provided the ships; they placed them at the disposal of the Government and maintained them in efficiency. The masters and

officers navigated them; the engineers did their duty below, bearing the greatest risk from submarines; and the crews have borne themselves with that courage which has always characterised not only the British seaman but the Lascar. Without the British Mercantile Marine where would the country have been in this War? The British Government did not possess a single transport, a single vessel adapted for the conveyance of munitions or stores or horses or mules or camels, or a single hospital ship. Why did the Admiralty not possess a fleet capable of doing that magnificent work of which Mr. Asquith spoke in such glowing terms the other night? I will tell you why. The Admiralty had far more sense. They had the plans and they knew the dimensions, the capacity, the equipment, the speed of every British ship afloat, and her whereabouts. They had been scheduling these in their own quiet way for years. They recognised that the most economical, in fact, the only possible plan, was to let the shipowners go on building vessels on their own account, running them in their ordinary trades without a farthing of expense to the country, because they knew when the hour struck and the Admiralty required their services, the ships would be at the disposal of the nation on perfectly reasonable terms, and in this they were right. There has long been a curious disposition on the part of some politicians and others to be what I might call in homely parlance "down" on the British shipowner. I don't know why, unless it is because a certain amount of success has attended his efforts, his energies and his enterprise. Unaided by Government favour, in spite of obstructions and difficulties which he has constantly had to encounter, he has built up a fleet and an organisation which is the envy of the world, and which the German Emperor was always urging Herr Ballin and other German shipowners to follow and surpass. The encouragement given by the German authorities was not only moral, but material.

The Suez Canal.

Between the months of November 1914 and February 1915 there were a few delays in the transit of steamers through the Suez Canal, caused by the action of the enemy, but thanks to our naval and military forces and to the resource and energy of the Canal Company's officials the delays were infinitesimal. The President and directors of the Canal Company invest their officials in Egypt with wide discretionary powers, unfettered by red tape, and these powers are invariably exercised for the benefit and convenience of the ships using the Canal, the attitude of the officials being invariably courteous and helpful. The advance of the Suez Canal Company's receipts has been checked by the War. In that Company's prosperity the shipowners hitherto have shared, advances in the rate of dividend having been accompanied by reductions in dues. For the year 1914 the Suez Canal dividend had to be reduced by 45 francs per share, but the shareholders accepted the reduction uncomplainingly, and the dues were not increased. For 1915 the reduced dividend will again operate, and it can only be maintained at the 1914 rate by wiping out the reserve set aside in the previous year. For 1916 the outlook is not bright, and the Canal Company propose to raise their charge by 50 centimes per ton from April 1 next; that is from 6.25 to 6.75 francs per ton. This will involve the P. & O. and British India Companies in a considerably larger expenditure for passing through the Canal. But I don't think we can reasonably raise any objection. The expenses of operating the Canal have increased considerably owing to the rise in cost of coal and stores, the standing charge can only be slightly reduced, while the franc is worth a good deal less in sterling than it was before the War, and the dues, as you know, are paid in francs. If the traffic decreases further we may have to face another rise, but if the traffic does not further decrease, or improves, as we hope it may, the 6.75 franc rate should remain. When normal conditions return we hope the Canal Company will be able to revert to the 6.25 rate, and we look forward to a gradual reduction from that figure to the 5 francs which we trust may be ultimately established. The Suez Canal Company has dealt reasonably and fairly with the shipowners in the past, and I feel satisfied that the shipowners will be disposed to meet the Company in the same spirit in the unfortunate position in which the Company finds itself placed owing to the War. The gallant French nation is making great sacrifices in blood and treasure to secure that victory on which we are all determined, and which will come to us in due time. A dividend of 120 francs per share will yield something under 3% on the value at which the shares have been bought by the great majority of the present shareholders, and this, I am sure, no one on this side of the Channel will grudge.

The Mail Service.

I have mentioned that over 50% of our steamers are in Government service. The bulk of the remainder of our fleet has been hard run, maintaining our onerous mail contract, and the demands on the limited space of our fast ships for the carriage of mails have been altogether unprecedented. Owing to dislocations in other quarters, and for other reasons, our ordinary mails have increased in bulk, while the letter and parcel mail to the Mediterranean and Egypt is ten times greater than it was some six or eight months ago. Our vessels have now to find accommodation for mails frequently occupying 1,200 to 1,800 tons of space, which leaves very little room for cargo, and we are obliged under our contract to carry all mails that are offered to us. We find ourselves in consequence under a considerable disability, but I make these remarks in no spirit of complaint; on the contrary, we have the satisfaction of feeling that we are doing our duty by the Post Office, which we have served now for an unbroken period of 78 years. I am sure the proprietors will support the Board in the attitude of reasonableness which they have adopted towards H.M. Government at the present time, even at some very considerable loss to themselves. To use the formula which was wont to appear in the good old days in the gracious speeches from the Throne, the P. & O. Company is at peace with all with whom it does business—the Admiralty, the Post Office, its fellow shipowners, its cargo constituents, its passengers, and its employees.

New Ships.

The War has made it impossible to lay down any new ships for early delivery in the past twelve months, all the yards being for the most part occupied with Government work, and the only vessels we have under construction are two high-class mail steamers. The Board, however, have an extensive building programme in view, and as soon as circumstances permit we shall arrange for the construction of a number of vessels, the plans and arrangements of which are being carefully considered, and the directors hope that before long circumstances may permit of their being able to place contracts for a number of vessels which will enable the Company to carry on its mail, passenger and cargo services to the satisfaction of the Government and the public, and to meet developments. The prices we shall have to pay will be high, but the directors feel that this should not deter them from keeping the fleet up to concert-pitch.

Ships Lost.

I regret to say that our cargo steamer *Socotra* has been wrecked in the English Channel since the issue of our report. She was homeward bound from Australia, and had no passengers on board, and there was no loss of life. Being 18 years old she stands at a low value in the Company's books, but she was a very useful ship, and can ill be spared at the present time. I am also sorry to say that a fine new British India steamer of 5,312 tons, the *Umeta*, of which we only got delivery from the builders a year ago, and which was engaged in Government service, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean within the last few hours. The loss of this vessel falls upon the Government, but she cannot be replaced for many months. The fate of nearly half of the crew is not yet ascertained—they are reported as missing—while the other half has been landed at a Mediterranean port.

An Extremely Anxious Year.

You will realise that, with vessels constantly in the danger zone, the past year has been an extremely anxious one for the directors, and their anxieties do not grow less as time goes on and the danger zone enlarges. But I am glad to say that week after week, with unfailing regularity without exception, all through these sixteen months of war, the P. & O. mail steamers have started on their voyages from this country to the far ends of the earth with their usual complement of passengers just as in the times of peace. In seeing them leave Tilbury Dock with crowds on deck and handkerchiefs waving, in going up and down Channel with them, as I have frequently done, it has come home to me very closely how enormously we are indebted to the organisation of the Trade Division of the War Staff Department of the Admiralty, to its Chief, Captain Richard Webb, and to the British Navy generally for the protection of our ships. The Admiralty's confidential instructions to the Masters, which naturally I see in confidence, are marvels of thought, conciseness and simplicity, and it is to the strict observance of these by our Commanders and to the watchful care of our Navy that our freedom from disaster so far—in a good hour be it spoken—is to be attributed.

Gratitude to the Navy.

We cannot be too grateful to the Admiralty and to the Navy for the complete immunity from casualty from enemy ships with which the P. & O. vessels, their passengers, and their ships' companies have been able to sail the seas all through this War. Now that German intentions have been disclosed, the position in which this country would have found itself without an overwhelmingly strong Navy is not pleasant to contemplate. But for the Navy we should in these islands have been at the mercy of our enemy, and but for our sea power the British Empire would have been broken up. In looking back we can appreciate how justified was the public pressure which

was brought to bear from time to time to keep the Navy up to a high standard. The country owes a deep debt of gratitude to our Naval officers, and to Lord Fisher in particular, for their determination and foresight in planning that provision of naval defence which was necessary for our protection. To Mr. McKenna, above all others, we are indebted for the sea power which in the end, under the able direction, genius, and skill of Sir John Jellicoe, and those under him, will bring us out of this War with victory.

The Amalgamation with the B.I. Co.—Antioipations Realised.

You will be glad to know that the amalgamation of the P. & O. and British India Companies, which was completed about fifteen months ago, is working in every respect satisfactorily, and that considerable advantages have already been realised by the complete fusion of interests, and as time goes on these should be increased. After a year's experience of the administration of the two Companies, I am glad to say that the anticipations of eighteen months ago which led the directors to bring about the amalgamation are being realised. Our basis has been broadened, our interests are now in all respects identical, the combined experience of our staffs is a most valuable asset, while the financial assistance which one Company can render to the other has material advantages. It may be that in some years the P. & O. section of the combine will be good and the British India section will be poor, while the reverse may possibly happen; but we are sanguine enough to hope that, taken together, we shall be able to average out a modest return to the proprietors on what is, considering the intrinsic value and earning power of our joint assets, a very small capital.

Dividends and Income Tax.

When paying the interim dividend on our Deferred stock in the spring the board gave it—perhaps you may think too generously—free of income tax. The tax was then half-a-crown in the pound. Now it is considerably more, but having started on what you may regard as a rake's progress we propose, with your approval, to apply it to the final dividend and bonus, at least for this year. In speaking of income tax there is one small matter, personal to the board, which I must bring to your notice. Ever since the Company was established, or income tax introduced, the remuneration of the directors has been paid free of the tax, but though there is probably a resolution by the proprietors to this effect in the dark ages, so far I have failed to find it. As the tax has gradually gone up from 2*d.* in the pound to the figure at which it stands to-day, the directors think the matter should be brought to your notice and regularised.

Ample Depreciation Provided For.

The directors have made ample provision for depreciation, both in our ships and in our securities. Every penny not required in the business of both Companies has been lent to the Government to assist in financing the War, and on this course it is our intention to continue.

The Form of the Accounts.

In submitting our accounts to you to-day I hope you will accept them in the form in which they are presented by the board. I will forestall any criticism as to the absence of detail by saying at once that we have adopted this plan deliberately because we conceive it to be in the best interests of the proprietors. Were the accounts to be seen by our shareholders alone we should have no hesitation in presenting them in a much more detailed form, but in view of the keen competition which we may expect in the near future from neutral shipowners who have been coining money during the War, free from Budget levies, and in view of the renewed attacks upon our trade which we may anticipate not only from Germany and from Austria, but from others when the War is over, we see no advantage, but very much the reverse, in publishing your private affairs to the world. I feel satisfied that you will approve of the course we have adopted. So long as the directors have the confidence of the proprietors nothing more is required. No matter what the dividend may be, whether it remains as at present, whether it is increased or whether it is reduced, you may feel perfectly satisfied that not a penny will ever be distributed beyond the amount which the Company, after making ample allowance for depreciation and all contingencies, can well afford to pay. I beg to propose that the report and accounts be adopted.

Sir William Adamson, C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½% on the Preferred stock, less income tax, and a dividend of 5%, with a bonus of 5%, on the Deferred stock, free of income tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment of the same be made on and after the 16th instant."

Mr. W. G. Rathbone seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and a cordial vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, directors, and staff for their continued successful management of the Company's business, the meeting at the same time authorising the payment of the directors' remuneration free of income tax, and confirming the payment of such tax by the Company in the past.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE HORDEN COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held at the registered offices of the Company on Friday, November 26, 1915, Sir Hugh Bell, Bart., Chairman of the Directors, in the chair.

The Secretary (Mr. T. W. Marley) read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report.

The Chairman: I have now to ask you to take as read the report and balance sheet, and to adopt the same. In doing so I am going briefly to call your attention to the position of the Company as it now stands. When I had the pleasure of meeting you a year ago we were just at the beginning of the period of the War in which we still find ourselves plunged. We had a couple of months' experience or thereabouts of changed conditions which none of us had anticipated. We were in that great confusion which had ensued upon the changed conditions under which work had to be carried on, and in that year the operations of which I had to present to you there were six or eight weeks of that condition of confusion. I was speaking then, as I am speaking now, two months or more after the conclusion of the period with which our accounts dealt, and one was able to say that things were settling down into what you may call the normal conditions in such abnormal circumstances. I have now to review a year the whole of which has passed under war conditions, and I think I may at once congratulate the shareholders in this Company on the way in which we have been able to meet the very untoward circumstances in which we found ourselves placed. It will be necessary to call your attention to figures which show how seriously we have been affected by them, and it is all the more to the credit of those who are directly charged with the management of your affairs that, in spite of these untoward circumstances, we are able to show so satisfactory a result.

The Balance Sheet

I ask you to turn to the balance sheet and see precisely what has happened in the twelve months. The first figure that meets one's eye is the figure of the nominal share capital of the Company, which now stands at a million. The £800,000 which stood in last year's balance sheet is now a million. You will recollect that, in spite of the circumstances which had arisen prior to the time I addressed you a year ago and after the circular to the shareholders in May, we determined, not without hesitation, to carry on the policy which we had then laid down and invite you to subscribe for the remaining 20,000 of the Company's shares. I need not recall to you the exceptionally favourable conditions under which we offered these shares to the shareholders. I am glad to say that our trust in your support has been amply fulfilled, and with the exception of a very small amount the whole of the shares we offered for your subscription was accepted. There remained a small balance, which we disposed of in the open market at a price above par, the effect being that the whole cost of the issue, which was not very great, was paid by the premiums we got on that small balance. The balance sheet shows that the share capital of the Company now stands at £931,060. There are some calls paid in advance—£5.917 10*s.*—making the total share capital at the moment the balance sheet was drawn up £936,977 10*s.* That figure will remain incomplete for a good many years to come, as, you recollect, we provided for the payment of the full amount of the new capital over a period of between four and five years, unless, indeed, the shareholders are pleased to pay their calls in advance. The Debenture stock amounts to £300,000, or with accrued interest £303,750. I think it is worth while adding these two figures together, because, after all, the real capital of the Company is not only the share capital but the borrowed money, and therefore you have invested in your undertaking the sum of a million and a quarter in round figures. Perhaps I ought to add to that amount the loans outstanding of £241,646. If I add that, you have in round figures a million and a half as the capital necessary to bring your undertaking to its present position. The next item is the loans which I have just mentioned, which are secured in part on the houses of the Company to the extent of £133,000 this year, against £126,000 last year, and the deposit loans £107,000 this year against £106,000 last year. That is an item on which I dwelt on former occasions, and I think it is a very creditable item to the Company. Our shareholders and others are ready to deposit money with us on terms which I think are very fair to them and very convenient to us, and there does not appear to be any disposition on their part to withdraw the credit they are willing to repose in our management. In regard to the debts due by the Company there is little to be said. Last year, for reasons that I gave, we specified separately the debts due by the Company on capital account and those due on ordinary working account. These circumstances no longer obtain, and we now state them in one amount—namely, £69,000. Your reserve

account, by the operation of your resolution, has been raised from £50,000 to £70,000. The profit and loss account I will postpone for the moment and will deal with it later.

Capital Expenditure.

On the other side of the balance sheet the first two figures calling for comment stand as before. On the Horden Colliery last year the expenditure stood at £591,826 16*s.* 11*d.*, and of that a sum of £38,885 has been written off. The Shotton Colliery expenditure stood at £274,290, to which we have added £14,528, and it now stands at £288,818 17*s.* We have written off £52,714. At Shotton we had expended a very large sum of money in the preceding year in completing the coke ovens. These are now completed, and the expenditure, therefore, is very much smaller than it was last year. At Blackhall the expenditure was £344,307 10*s.* 5*d.*, and we have spent £55,684 18*s.*, and it now stands within a few pounds of £400,000. In regard to these three items, I think it only right to say to the shareholders that, without committing ourselves in any way as to the circumstances that may arise to alter our present opinion, we are disposed to regard these three capital accounts as closed. The development of Horden is complete. Shotton with its coke works is now a complete undertaking. Blackhall is still in the process of development, but so nearly has it reached full development that we have thought we might properly put any further expenditure in development to working expenses. I am careful to say that I do not commit myself categorically to this proposition, but at the same time I think you may safely assume that unless something quite unexpected arises you will find very little change in the figures under these three heads.

The Building of Houses.

When I turn to the land and houses the circumstances are rather different. We cannot expect to cease the building of houses. We have not yet arrived at the full output of our pits, and as the output increases so it will be necessary to find accommodation for the men who are getting that increase of output, and accordingly I have no doubt that in the future you will find additions in that column for an increase of houses. Except Blackhall and Hardwick, practically the whole of the £438,269 is for houses. We have disposed of, under circumstances you are aware of, £190,765, and there remains £247,503 invested in houses, from which we have written off £1,000. There are now in course of construction 59 houses at Blackhall, and that will bring the total number built at all three places up to 2,170. We shall have to increase that number, and therefore there will be further expenditure under that head. You know the way in which we have dealt with these houses. We have so far as possible sold them and taken leases of them under circumstances which I think are favourable to the shareholders, and I hope I may appeal to the shareholders once more to assist us in our financial arrangements by purchasing houses from us as they have done in the past. Any action of that kind resembles the quality of mercy—it blesses him that gives and him that takes. You assist our finances, and we give you in return so good an investment that I may safely commend it to your consideration. The other items on the balance sheet refer to rents recoverable under colliery leases, debts due to the Company, £62,923; and stocks, £39,633; and finally cash at bankers, £45,383 7*s.* 1*d.* I am always glad when I owe my banker and he does not owe me. By paying the dividend, if you are good enough to agree to the proposition which I shall make shortly, you will probably place yourselves in the position of being in your banker's debt.

The Profit and Loss Account.

The net result of the year's working is shown in the profit and loss account. The profit on the collieries amounted to £102,502 14*s.* 1*d.*, compared with £128,847 11*s.* 6*d.* There has been a considerable fall in the total amount of the profits of the concern. That is due to the fact that the output of coal has considerably diminished. It might be expected that the price obtained for coal would largely increase, but that I shall be able to show is not the case. The fact of the matter is, we were a developing undertaking last year, with the prospect of an increasing output. We were obliged to provide for that development. We were selling in anticipation coal that we were justified in expecting to get. The War came, and instead of getting the coal our output is very seriously diminished. Although we did get some enhanced price for the coal, we had very large pre-War contracts which we shall have to implement, and the effect of all that is to reduce your profits by something like 25% between last year (of which only two months were in the War period) and this year, the whole of which is in the War period. There are sundry items which bring the total profit up to £103,895 18*s.* 4*d.*, against £130,219 last year.

Allocation of Profits.

In regard to its disposal we have set aside £10,220 for general depreciation, against £8,588 last year, and for freehold minerals £1,545. We have provided £6,000 for income tax—an item in regard to which there is uncertainty, as no one knows what it is going to be. That leaves £86,130 14*s.* 7*d.*, against £116,624 last year. There is considerable interest on Debenture stock and on new capital. This, with the interim dividend, absorbed £39,375. We paid an interim dividend of 2%. That was not paid without some hesitation on the part of the board. When the time came to determine what we would do with the surplus revenues we had received the conditions were very perplexing, and we hesitated whether we ought to pay any dividend at all. We came to the conclusion that it was right we should pay a dividend. We felt that many persons must be very seriously prejudiced by their income falling off, and we made a strenuous endeavour to remedy it as far as we could, and accordingly decided to pay you a dividend of 2%. I am glad to say the sanguine views that we took have been justified, and I am now able to inform you that, after placing a further sum of £10,000 to the reserve account, raising it to £80,000, we are able to declare a dividend of 5%, making 7% for the year. In reviewing the dividends we have paid in the past, I do not think anyone can say that this concern has paid undue amounts to its shareholders. We had a long period of development, lasting a considerable number of years, in which the shareholders had patiently to wait for a return on their investment. Since we were able to declare dividends these have varied from 4 to 12%. But since the beginning of the undertaking the shareholders have received on an average 5¾% per annum. In that are included the dead years of development. As time goes on the dead years of development will become a smaller proportion to the total period, and that figure will gradually become a larger one.

Mr. H. G. Stobart: Does that include the 7% of to-day?

The Chairman: Yes, it includes this year's dividend. I do not think that anyone will consider that is other than a very moderate remuneration to you for the risks that you undertook when you went into this concern.

Progress of the Company.

I have once or twice submitted to you some figures as to the distribution of the proceeds of industries such as that in which you are engaged. It may interest you that since the beginning of your undertaking you have paid in malt and meal—wages—to the extent of £2,927,253, or nearly £3,000,000. This includes not only the wages paid in cash to the men, but also cottage rents which you pay and are part of wages, and coals which are supplied to the men and are as much part of the wages as the cash they get. We very often hear loud complaints as to the amount received by royalty owners. You belong to this class yourselves, so that any condemnation falls on you who have a good deal of freehold of your own. The total amount paid to royalty owners was £201,215, so that if the whole amount paid had gone to wages it would not have come to 7% to the men in our employment.

Another figure of interest is the turn-over of a concern like ours, and it is of particular interest just now when you are in abnormal conditions. The net sales for last year amounted to something under £600,000 in round figures. Now, I have taken out the figures for various concerns in which I am interested, and in round figures the great productive industries in this country turn over their capital once a year. If you turned over yours once a year your income ought not to have been £600,000, but as near as may be doubled. It has not doubled and for two reasons. In the first place, in consequence of the War your output instead of growing last year has diminished.

The following figures show your progress since 1911 :—

Year.	Tons.
1911	1,124,289
1912	1,149,998
1913	1,313,812
1914	1,346,595

and if nothing had prevented us it is fair to assume it would have been fully a million and a half in the year ending September 1915, whereas it reached only 1,075,235.

But that is not all. The second point is, you have not reached anything like your full development. Mr. Prest tells me that when the development of the collieries is completed your total capacity of output will be something like two and a half millions, and that you will probably get two and a quarter millions. If you had that two and a quarter millions you will find that I shall not be far wrong if I say you will be turning your capital over once a year—including bye-products and everything.

The Future.

That, gentlemen, is the statement I have to make to you as to the position of your undertaking for the past year. One does not like to look into the future. We are still in the midst of a desperate conflict the ultimate outcome of which none of us doubts. If it is necessary to go on for another year we are prepared to go on for another year, and if that second twelve months is to be followed by yet another year we are willing to go on for another year, and then by yet another. The only thing we are not willing to do is to give up until we have got to the point at which we can have a durable peace. Now, if things continue as at present, that means very great sacrifices on the part of us all.

I think I may confidently anticipate that the readiness to make sacrifices will not be absent from those interested

in Horden. That that has been shown in the past is quite certain. Since the outbreak of the War nearly 2,000 of our men have responded to the call which the country made upon them. Of course, the effect of that appeal has been very prejudicial to you in the output of the collieries; but there is another consideration to which I think it is right to draw the attention of the shareholders, and that is that while a certain relaxation of the recruiting rules is being applied to men actually engaged in getting coal, these are not as yet being applied, as we think they should be, to men whose services are absolutely essential to the getting of coal—clerks and others, without whom we cannot carry on our work, are still being called upon to offer their services. At the present moment we are in negotiation with the authorities with the view to specifying those men that may be taken and distinguishing them from the men that may not be taken. We all have suffered very seriously from the way in which men very necessary to the carrying on of work have been taken on the ground that they do not come within the class who have been relieved from the obligation to enlist. That does not mean that the man who insists on going may not go, but it does mean that we want to have the right to say to a particular man, "No, you cannot go; you are essential to the carrying on of our work, and we must ask you to remain." There can be no doubt that is quite a reasonable contention on our part, because the efficiency of the nation for carrying on the War is dependent upon our being able to produce munitions of war, and without fuel we cannot do this, and therefore we are obliged to press on the Government the necessity of distinguishing these men who cannot properly be spared.

Government Interference.

And that brings me to another matter which I thought ought to be presented to you to-day; that is, the very serious interference that there has been with our freedom of action on the other side of the account—namely, in dealing with the produce of the pits. I am not complaining at all, but it is to be observed that in recent months the Government has interfered in all sorts of ways with our freedom of action. You may not ship coals without a permit. You may not sell coals for home consumption at more than a certain price above the figure you got at a certain period in the past, and so on and so on. Those who have had control in this matter have no doubt given this question careful consideration, but it is somewhat odd that at this moment, when the one thing we are desiring is to increase the exports of the country, difficulties should be put in the way of one of the most important exports—namely, coal. I have once or twice called attention to the number of persons interested in our proceedings, and it may be of interest to you to know that we have now 1,312 shareholders, of whom 1,116 hold under 100 shares each. Many of these are people whose income from your undertaking is an important thing for them, and whom we ought carefully to consider, and it was for that reason I made the remarks I did at an earlier period as to the distribution of profits. We have in addition 475 Debenture-holders, of whom 390 hold under £1,000 each. I do not know that we need be so much concerned about them, but in regard to the Ordinary shareholders I would like to add this, that in the recent distribution of shares among the shareholders we offered them at par. The reason we did that was that we felt these persons who had borne the heat and burden of the day in getting the enterprise on its feet ought to have their share of the realisation of profits. No doubt we made a present to the shareholders of something like £3 in respect of each new share. We were not unwilling to do that for the reason given. I am glad to think our action has met the approval of the shareholders.

Help for the Red Cross Fund.

Before I conclude I have a letter from our valued colleague Mr. Temple. With your permission I will read some extracts from it. He regrets that his condition of health renders it impossible for him to travel. He says: "I meant to have made a personal appeal to the shareholders, especially those who are not in some way helping the active service of our country, to support some of the many necessary societies and organisations which have been founded by large-hearted people to help to alleviate the trouble and suffering which this terrible War has caused; and I was going to say that, as we are enabled to declare so much larger a dividend than any of us thought possible at the beginning of the year, might I suggest that a little of that should be given at once to some of the organisations which may commend themselves to each shareholder? I feel it will be a gift—an investment, if you like—which we shall never regret." I leave it there, merely adding my own words of commendation of Mr. Temple's suggestions to your favourable consideration. It is only right to add that at a recent meeting of the Durham Coal Owners we heard an address from Lieut. Denis Bailey on the Red Cross. The coal trade of the United Kingdom has been asked to contribute a sum of £1 in respect of each thousand tons got last year, and the Durham Coal Trade, without binding any members of the trade, agreed to follow the example of other districts and make this contribution. If it is universally adopted—and I believe it has been very generally adopted—that will produce from Northumberland and Durham something like £50,000. We have agreed to give our contribution, which will come to something under £1,300. It will be just one donation, not an annual contribution. The purpose is to supply ambulance cars for use at the Front. Now, in the ordinary way of carrying on the War there is an ample supply of cars, but every now and then, when such events take place as the great battle of Loos in September, then the resources of the ambulance arrangements are sorely taxed. I am sure we should all be willing to give anything we possessed to prevent the suffering involved by men being left unattended for a moment longer than necessary. I feel certain it will commend itself to every one of you that we in our corporate capacity should contribute towards this very desirable object.

I hope I may allude without impropriety to the loss sustained by my friend on my left, who has learned of the death of his second grandson, who was left wounded on the field, and subsequently his body was recovered after several weeks. No one can doubt that any one of you here would have given anything in your power if it had been possible to recover that young man while still wounded. Mr. Hopkins will forgive me for alluding to his personal grief, and I offer him on your behalf and my own our sympathy.

Mr. W. R. Innes Hopkins: Sir Hugh Bell has not mentioned the matter to me, but I feel extremely grateful for his remarks.

The Chairman: I have now to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and I call upon the Managing Director to second.

"Taking Away with Both Hands."

Mr. E. R. Whitwell: Before seconding the resolution, I wish to associate myself not only with what the Chairman has said about the Red Cross Fund, but the way in which collieries have been treated by the Government. First of all, they raise our costs very seriously by their legislation, and in addition put obstacles in the way of getting ships for our coal which still further handicap us, and when they have done that they pass a law that we are not to sell our coals at more than a fixed sum above what it was two or three years before. It is not therefore a case of giving with one hand and taking back with the other, but of taking away with both hands! The Chairman's admirable remarks have left me very little to add. He has already named the reduced output, which has decreased 25%, instead of increasing 25%. That makes a great difference in the profits. Twenty-five per cent. added to our profits would have very nearly equalled what we made last year. Though we cannot grudge the men, we must remember that their absence means more houses and increased cost, because the wives of pitmen are still living in the houses and they get their coal free, and we are glad that this should be so. I admire the patriotism of those who have joined the Army, but this does not alter the fact that the quantity of coal raised in the past year is not two-thirds of what would have been the case, and that the development of Blackhall has been seriously delayed.

You will be pleased to hear that we have got a year's supply of pit timber in hand, as it is very hard to obtain, but, of course, we have had to pay very highly for it. One of the difficulties caused by the War is the scarcity of suitable timber.

As regards the coke ovens, I am glad to say they are working well and making a good quality of coke, for which there is a great demand. In the sales we have a great pull because all our seams are very exceptionally free from phosphorus, and for making hematite especially that is a most important point. The bye-products are exceptionally favourable in our case also, so that the coke ovens are doing very well.

I now have pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by the Chairman.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Chairman then moved that a final dividend of 5% be paid, making 7% for the year, to the shareholders registered in the books of the Company on October 22, 1915, in respect of the share capital called up on or before October 1, 1914.

Mr. Whitwell seconded, and the motion was carried.

Re-election of Directors.

Mr. R. Grant, in moving the re-election of Sir Hugh Bell as a director of the Company, said he cordially endorsed the remarks of the Chairman as to the admirable way in which the executive had carried on the business of the Company during these troublous times; but he thought they would agree with him that the Chairman was a little modest, because, while the executive had had very anxious times, it had also been an anxious time for the Chairman and the other directors. The statement showed how excellently they had managed the concern for the past twelve months, and they were all indebted to them for that and also for the dividend they were now paying. He was very pleased to hear that the coal trade were making a contribution to the Red Cross Fund. He should personally have been very glad if the resolution had been that this contribution was to be continued not for one year only but to the end of the War. They had all, no doubt, in their small way done their little bit for all these associations to which Mr. Temple

had alluded in his letter; and he thought it was their bounden duty to do everything they could to assuage the suffering of their fellow-men in the conduct of this War. He should therefore have been only too glad if the coal trade had made it to the end of the War, and he trusted they would at the end of the twelve months continue it.

Mr. Robert Green seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he was very much obliged to Mr. Grant for his kind remarks. He added that it was their duty to elect a director in the place of Mr. Temple. That gentleman had written to say that he was up for re-election, and that he was by no means sure that he was a "fit and proper person," as age came in so much, but he must leave himself in their hands entirely. If Mr. Temple did that, his colleagues on the board had no doubt about his being a "fit and proper person."

Mr. J. B. Smith then moved and Mr. S. T. Coulson seconded the re-election of Mr. Temple as a director, and this was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. B. Atkinson moved and Mr. M. Turnbull seconded the re-election of Messrs. W. B. Peat and Company as auditors, at a remuneration of £150 per annum, free of income tax, and this was carried unanimously.

Mr. B. C. Fry moved a vote of thanks to Sir Hugh Bell for his conduct in the chair, which was carried.

The Chairman, in reply, said he had already given testimony to the way in which the business of the Company was carried on, but he did not think they could separate without mentioning the admirable services rendered by Mr. Whitwell, the Managing Director, and Mr. Prest, and other members of the staff. They were unremitting in their attention to business, as was shown in the results obtained. He did not make any forecast in his remarks. It was said, "Never prophesy unless you know." He did not know whether anybody knew what was going to happen in the future. All one could say at present was that the present outlook of the coal trade in this country was not unsatisfactory, and he hoped when they met twelve months hence they might be able to report as well on the twelve months ending September 1916 as in 1915.

Mr. Whitwell: I am very much obliged to you on behalf of myself and the staff.

The meeting then concluded.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on December 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. John E. Thornycroft, M.Inst.N.A. (Managing Director), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The position shown by the balance sheet is a very satisfactory one. You will note that the application money has been paid in respect of £50,000 War Loan stock, which has since been paid for in full under discount. The item of freehold and leasehold land and buildings, &c., formerly included patterns, drawings, and patent rights. As no value remains in the books in respect of these latter items the descriptive heading has now been included with the goodwill, which item now appears as goodwill, patterns, drawings, and patent rights, and stands in the accounts at the figure of £50,000. By reference to the report it will be seen that we propose to write off £49,000 of this amount, leaving the goodwill, patterns, drawings, and patent rights standing in the accounts for the future at the nominal sum of £1,000.

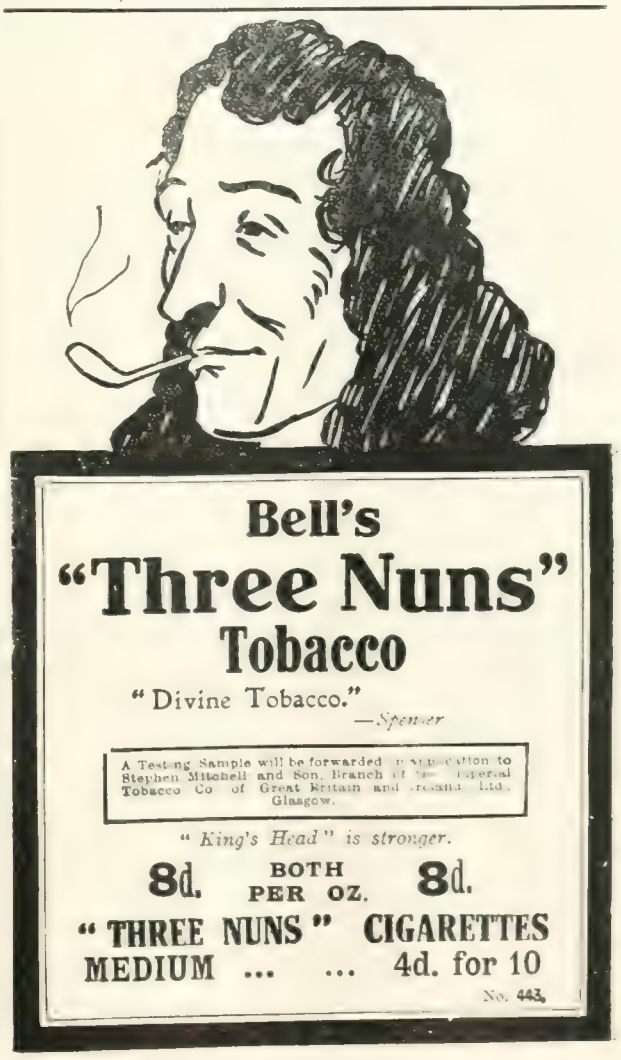
Profits and Dividend.

The net profits of the Company for the period covered by the accounts amounted to £244,826, and although our proposed method of dealing with these profits is clearly shown in the directors' report, I think some further explanation is necessary. Ordinary shareholders may rightly say that only a small proportion of the profits goes to them in the shape of dividends, although they are undoubtedly entitled to great consideration in consequence of the very lean years through which they have passed, when frequently they have received no dividends at all. Last May I referred to the fact that £90,000 had been spent in additions to buildings, plant, &c., since 1911. The necessary cash for this expenditure has been provided by the writing down of such items as Debenture issue expenses, patterns, drawings, patent rights, &c., out of profits, so that it may be said fairly that the whole outlay has been made at the expense of the Ordinary shareholders. The effect of this and further outlay during the War period has been to put the Company in a position to deal with an enormously increased output on a profitable basis. I want also to emphasise the fact that on all our work we are getting no better prices than our competitors. Within a month or two of the outbreak of war, and when we had been able to estimate to some extent the future prospects of business, we took the risk of placing very large contracts for material, and the period covered by the accounts now before you has benefited greatly by such contracts. Our turnover, as mentioned in the report, has been about four times the normal average, and this has been done and is still being carried on without any increase of issued capital or borrowed money. If you turn to the balance sheet, you will see that our capital in the business—that is to say, the assets, less the liabilities—is, roughly, £900,000 at July 11, 1915, being an increase over the 1913 figure of over £250,000, and this sum is provided out of profits, which means that such profits cannot be distributed, but must be kept in the business by writing down assets such as goodwill or creating reserve funds. A large working capital is necessary at the present moment, but after the War it will be still more necessary, so that we may have a good fighting fund to win back our commercial vehicle connection in particular, which has been built up with so much hard work and at such great expense, and now very largely lost by reason of American competition at a time when we are unable to supply by reason of Government work. Our works are in first-class condition to enable us to produce economically, and we shall have no fear of competition after the War, if only we are allowed to retain sufficient funds in the business.

War Taxation.

The last and most serious point which arises is the question of war taxation. The excess profits clauses of the Finance Bill are very complicated, and a basis of taxation can be arrived at only by negotiations in our case. Under those circumstances, it was felt that a very large amount must be transferred to a reserve fund in addition to the carrying forward of about £78,000. For the various reasons which I have referred to we did not consider it advisable to recommend payment of a larger dividend, and I hope that the shareholders will accept that view. Since the accounts were made up the turnover of the business has tended to increase still further, but there is very little likelihood that the profits will be on the same scale as during the first six months of this year. I have explained that we were in an especially advantageous position as regards contracts for purchase of material. This alone will make a very considerable difference to the results. There is every prospect of good profits being made while the present turnover continues, and, although the position as regards taxation under the income tax, excess profits tax, and controlled tax is by no means certain, shareholders may rely upon our doing our best to retain sufficient funds in the business to enable reasonable dividends to be paid and to enable us to build up a reserve to meet exceptional difficulties which will arise after the War by reason of heavy, and perhaps to some extent unsaleable, stocks. I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors now produced, together with the annexed statement of accounts at July 11, 1915, duly audited, be and they are hereby received, approved, and adopted."

Mr. Alexander Glegg, J.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares was declared.



PEKIN SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on December 6 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Thomas A. Barson presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Gilbert) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : Gentlemen,—I take it that you will adopt the usual practice of considering the report and accounts as read. On the debit side of the balance sheet the only item requiring any comment is "Liabilities on capital uncalled on shares," amounting to £294,008, an increase of £44,000 since the last balance sheet. This increase is our share of the uncalled capital in the Fu Chung Corporation, about which I shall have more to say later. On the credit side, you will observe that the cash at bankers and in hand amounted to £57,966, a decrease of about £112,000, which is mainly accounted for by the increase in the next three items, consisting of investments, shares in other companies, and debtor balances, while there is on the other side a decrease of over £17,000 in sundry creditors and credit balances. You will find a complete list of the investments embodied in the report, and you will be pleased to notice that the amount which has had to be written off for depreciation is only £27,446, against £63,389 last year. The securities may be regarded as first class and easily convertible into cash when occasion arises under normal conditions. The next item that claims attention is stock of coal and mining stores, which shows a reduction of £43,000 in the value of the coal in hand. This is mainly accounted for by, first : The policy forced on us of selling the stocks in hand, even at a loss, in order to maintain the position of the Syndicate in the negotiations which preceded the formation of the Fu Chung Corporation. Secondly, increased boiler consumption, amounting to over 34,000 tons. Moreover, and here a correction in the wording of the item is necessary, coal stocks are now valued at the price actually obtainable at the date of the balance sheet, instead of at the estimated cost, the basis previously adopted. Mining stores only are taken in at cost. As to the s.s. *Sir Richard Awdry*, you have read that she was sunk by enemy craft in the Mediterranean. The vessel was fully insured, not only to cover her cost, but also the substantial profit due to us from the charter made for her Mediterranean voyage. We shall receive payment on the 9th instant. After allowing the usual 5% for depreciation, there was a loss of £351 on the year's work ended June 30, and I do not think, with our past experiences as shipowners, we shall embark on a similar adventure again. (Hear, hear.)

Expenditure on Land, &c.

Leaving for a moment the item of concession, we come to the expenditure on land, property, machinery, plant, &c., which stands in at £682,361, representing an outlay during the year of £63,200. Included in this item is the loss on sales, amounting to nearly £35,000, incurred while sparring for position during the negotiations already referred to, and the balance is due to actual expenditure on the mines. Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see the London expenditure has been segregated under three headings instead of being lumped together as formerly. The total expenses have been reduced by £1,800, which I think you will regard as satisfactory if you consider the important negotiations which have been brought to a successful issue and the difficult conditions under which the business has been conducted. I am hopeful that in time it will be possible to reduce administration expenses still further, but our motto must be efficiency first, economy afterwards, and as business men you will understand that it is generally futile to attempt to reverse that order. Included in the item of China expenditure of £9,050 is £4,502 in respect of converting into sterling the value of floating assets and liabilities in China at June 30, the tael value having fallen from 2*s.* 7¾*d.* to 2*s.* 4§*d.* The balance of £4,548 consists of European and Chinese salaries, consulting engineers' fees, bank charges, the £351 loss on the steamer, rent, and general expenses.

Cut-throat Competition Abolished.

I must now revert to the Honan Concession item, which remains at £133,733. There is an addition to the description in the accounts, which reads as follows : "Part of the rights under this concession have been transferred to the Fu Chung Corporation, in which the Syndicate holds a half interest, the remainder being represented by the coalfields at Ja-Hei-Sen." The agreement with the Fu Chung Corporation was announced in the circular issued last June, and it is also dealt with in the report now submitted, but you may wonder why, as we have disposed of certain interests to this Corporation, the concession should still figure in the balance sheet at the same valuation. You must remember that in the past the amount represented a proposition that was to a large extent unworkable, whereas now we shall share the benefit of the natural wealth of the whole of the concession; therefore it is safe to consider the amount apportioned as being now more approximately its value than it was under the old conditions. Among the advantages of the new arrangement, arrived at with the support and sanction of both the Central and Provincial Governments and the British Minister at Pekin, we abolish at a stroke the cut-throat competition we have had to face for the past few years from the native producers. Certain railway rates are reduced to an extent that will allow us to considerably extend our marketable area—a most important factor—and a definite agreement that no permits to mine in the Province of Honan will be granted to any other person or corporation during the 60 years' term of this agreement. The Syndicate's concession is extended 10 years beyond the original date of expiration. We also have the right to select and work an extra five square miles of territory adjoining our red and yellow permits. These are substantial benefits to set off against the rights transferred. So far we have every reason to be satisfied with the arrangement. Everything is working smoothly, and although during the transition stage the results cannot be taken as a criterion of the future, you will be pleased to hear that Mr. Kenrick, our agent-general, writes in one of his last letters home, "The result of the first two months' working augurs well for the future, and I am perfectly satisfied."

More Favourable Results.

I may mention that the very last results to hand are even more favourable than those I have just referred to, but, as I said before, these early results cannot be taken as a basis. As you are aware, the negotiations which have resulted in the deal with the Fu Chung Corporation have been as delicate as they have been protracted. There are always difficulties in dealing with a country the size of China, where the Central Government cannot be in such close touch with the provincial authorities as, for instance, the British Government is with the London County Council, and misunderstandings have constantly occurred. To be perfectly frank with you, it is not easy, nor would it be discreet, to tell much of the story in open meeting. Occasions arise when there must be diplomatic reserve in business as well as in politics, especially when the interests of third parties are involved. The Syndicate in the past has had to face a great deal of friction and opposition, which has had the effect of seriously obstructing the development of its resources, the disposal of its output, and the extension of its energies. All this is now changed by the creation of the Fu Chung Corporation, analogous to the Kailan Administration of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, which has proved eminently successful, and we are now assured of the hearty co-operation of all the influential people who count in Chinese political and commercial affairs.

The Outlook.

As to the past, mistakes have been made, sometimes costly ones, and I am afraid that a proportion of the expenditure on exploitation, prospecting and development may ultimately have to be written off if the coal properties are to show an adequate profit on the capital involved. But the transition stage between the old policy and the new renders it impossible to make even an approximate valuation of present and future prospects. When the Fu Chung Corporation is in proper working order we shall be able to do so. Our standing with the Chinese authorities is excellent, and we are thankful for the support we are receiving from the British Minister at Pekin. The President of the Republic is proving himself a most able and just administrator. We are hopeful that he will solve the present political tangle, and that under his guidance the country will make rapid progress. Moreover, the close alliance between Britain and France smooths away the little jealousies which, with all due respect to my French colleagues, might possibly have interfered with the energetic prosecution of the Company's business. China is gradually waking up, and there should be magnificent opportunities for a Company like ours, with abundant cash resources, to obtain concessions for railways and other public utilities as soon as world conditions right themselves. I cannot attempt, for obvious reasons, while negotiations are still pending, to enlarge on the hint given in the report as to the fresh businesses we are studying, but I may say that if they materialise they should prove of a remunerative nature. In these projects we are favoured by the fact that not only has German competition received a severe check, but because of the excellent relations established with the Governments and also our late competitors. We have sufficient cash, or its equivalent, to finance any likely project until, in the future, conditions again become normal. For these and other reasons I think we may justifiably consider the Syndicate's prospects as most encouraging.

Mr. André Berthelot (Managing Director) seconded the resolution, which was carried, with four dissentients.

MANAOS HARBOUR, LIMITED.

THE thirteenth ordinary general meeting of this Company was held at 11 Adelphi Terrace, Strand, W.C., on December 9, the Rt. Hon. Charles Booth (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. Percy W. Crisp) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: The report of the year's work to June 30, 1915, and the accounts have been in your hands for some days, and with your permission I will take them as read. Before moving their adoption I have a few remarks to make, and shall heartily welcome any questions which may help to elucidate the position, unfavourable as it is.

Depression in Brazil.

Apart from contracted trade in the Amazon itself, we suffer from a general depression in Brazil, resulting in a fall in the value of the milreis, upon which a large proportion of our revenue depends. The fall was persistent up to the end of the financial year (June 30 last). The rate is now fairly steady at about the level then reached; no immediate improvement can be expected. The War is largely responsible for the fall in exchange, but as regards the trade of the Amazon the War has had little, if any, effect. Rubber fell during the first six months of the War, but has since recovered considerably; and it may be doubted whether the value would have been as great as it is now if there had been no war.

Working Expenses Heavily Reduced.

Such are the difficulties with which we have had to contend. We have met them as far as we could. Working expenses have been reduced from £92,000 to £65,000, and no capital expenditure has been incurred that could be avoided. The final result, however, is that the net earnings fall short by £6,000 of providing the Debenture interest, and consequently the dividend due on the Preference shares stands over and accumulates.

Distinct Trade Improvement.

With regard to the future, we find comfort in a distinct trade improvement since June 30, and we may hope that the end of the year, the results of which we are considering to-day, may prove the turning point. I think it will. Our relations with the Federal State and Municipal Authorities continue excellent, and we are most efficiently served at Rio by our representatives, Drs. Alvaro de Carvalho and Noemio da Silveira. I would also recognise gratefully the faithful work of our Manáos and London staffs.

Directors Forgo Remuneration.

I have one word to add, and that is that the directors do not like to receive any remuneration in this concern so long as the dividend on the Preference shares is not paid. Last year, when we hoped the non-payment of the dividend would be temporary, and that this year we should be able to pay it, we reduced our remuneration by one-half, and we now propose not to draw anything so long as the dividend on the Preference shares is not paid. I will now move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the financial year ended June 30, 1915, now presented, be and they are hereby approved and adopted."

Mr. Bernard Byrne: I beg to second that.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Byrne: I beg to move: "That the Rt. Hon. Charles Booth and Mr. George M. Booth be and they are hereby re-appointed members of the board of directors."

Mr. E. H. Tootal seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company were re-appointed auditors for the ensuing year, on the motion of Mr. A. L. Baxter, seconded by Mr. R. G. Sanceau.

The proceedings then terminated.

Help the Homeless People of Poland

by contributing to the

GREAT BRITAIN TO POLAND FUND

(with which is affiliated the British Moscow Relief Committee).

THE devastation of Poland is one of the greatest tragedies of the war. People who once were well-to-do stand in silent, anxious crowds waiting their turn while the soup kitchens pass along. Thousands are living in trucks and sleeping on the stone floors of railway stations Women, with children in their arms, have walked hundreds of miles to escape the horrors of German invasion, and have arrived at their destination so dazed and tired that the joy of seeing a friendly face, or hearing a friendly voice, has been denied them. "It is the saddest sight I have ever seen," states a writer, in a letter from Moscow, and to all who feel compassion for the victims of the war—broken men and women, and starving children—an earnest appeal is made to send what help they can to—

EVELEIGH NASH, Esq., Hon. Treasurer,
Great Britain to Poland Fund,
Berkeley Hotel, Piccadilly, London.

Twenty Shillings will keep 20 people from starvation for a week.

Committees have been established in all the principal cities of the U.K.

Patrons:
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.
THE EARL OF ROSEBERY.
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR G. W. BUCHANAN
(British Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Petrograd).

Chairman of the London Committee:
PRINCESS BARIATINSKY.

Acting Chairman:
THE LADY BYRON.

Hon. Secretary:
C. W. NICHOLSON, Esq.

Hon. President:
THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.
SIR HORACE PLUNKETT.
THE VISCOUNT BRYCE.
SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK, Bart.
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON CUNNINGHAM.

Hon. President Edinburgh Committee:
THE LORD DUNEDIN.

Hon. President Glasgow Committee:
THE LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW.

Hon. President Manchester Committee:
THE LORD MAYOR OF MANCHESTER.

Patrons Liverpool Committee:
THE LORD MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL.
THE EARL OF DERBY.

Hon. Treasurer:
EVELEIGH NASH, Esq.,
Berkeley Hotel, Piccadilly, London.

Bankers: THE RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK, 64 Old Broad Street, E.C.
Cheques should be made payable to "Great Britain to Poland Fund.

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD

THE eighteenth ordinary general meeting was held on December 6, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. C. Macrae (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: As you will recollect, all our anticipations of the beneficial results that we had been led to believe would follow on the purchase of the undertaking of the Northern Navigation Company, and through that purchase the carriage of the goods of the Northern Commercial Company, were entirely upset by the outbreak of the War, which caught us just at the commencement of August, August and September being the two heaviest and busiest months of the four working months of this Company's operations on the Yukon, and all the estimates were completely upset, depriving us of the greater part of the tonnage which we should undoubtedly have received had it not been for the outbreak of war, the stoppage of credit on the Pacific Coast, and so on. The result, as you know, was that we were compelled to go to the Debenture-holders and ask their forbearance to our funding their coupons for the following year, that is, the year to June 30, 1915. I regret, more than I can express, to tell you that it would have been wise if, instead of asking merely that the interest on the Debentures should be dealt with for one year, we had then asked and endeavoured to obtain from the Debenture-holders forbearance for a longer period. The reason we did not do so was that which has so often proved a broken reed to me—the estimates and anticipations of the experts and of our advisers in the Yukon as to what would be the probable result of the trading in 1915. There is only one thing in the report and accounts to which I wish to draw your particular attention. If you look at the first item on the credit side of the profit and loss account for the year, you will see a credit given for £52,944, stated to be "By interest on securities of the local companies accrued to date." Now, I do not know whether it has occurred to any of you that there is something wanting in that statement. There is indeed, gentlemen. What we have happily been able to set against the corresponding item in every previous account presented to you has been "By interest on securities of the local companies paid and accrued to date." This year we are not able to insert the words "paid and," because it has not been paid; not one farthing of that £52,944 credited there has been received on this side.

Negotiations with Debenture holders.

Well, gentlemen, that state of things brings you face to face with disaster, and there is nothing for us but again to go to the Debenture-holders. I had hoped that I might have been able to-day to outline to you the proposal that we intend to make to the Debenture-holders, but unfortunately I am not able to do so, because although we have been in constant negotiation with representatives of the Debenture-holders during the last three weeks, we have not yet been able to arrive at what I may call a formulated proposal. I trust I am not over-sanguine in my belief that in principle we are agreed, but the proposal has not yet passed the formal stage which would justify me in making any statement to you at this meeting; I should only do harm instead of good. Therefore, all I can tell you is that it is absolutely necessaray to go to the Debenture-holders and ask their forbearance, and in doing so, as obviously occurs to you, it is necessary to ask for sacrifices from the shareholders, because they can hope for nothing from the Debenture-holders without at least something being done in that direction. Gentlemen, I do not dare to say more on that than that in the exceedingly difficult position in which my colleagues and I find ourselves we must ask you to trust us to do our best.

Effect of the War.

In view of the very disappointing results following the purchase of the undertaking and the fleet of the Northern Navigation Company by the American Yukon Navigation Company, as compared with everything we were led to believe would have followed from it, I confess that my mind has been sorely exercised as to whether that purchase was a wise one. Gentlemen, the answer is, as I told you at the time, that some such arrangement was absolutely necessary, because our business was being cut into so severely by the competition of that undertaking that unless we could come to terms with them it was certain we should have gone on the rocks. Now that has been avoided, and that is really the justification, and the amplest justification, for what was done. But now mark, that purchase was effected on a basis of what was ascertained to be the average of five years' operating of the Company whose business was taken over, and that average of five years showed that they ought to be able to give us 25,000 tons a year of freight traffic. As all our experts have told us, there was every reason to believe that that estimate would have been fully justified and obtained from the first, and so far facts justified that opinion, because in the early part of the season of 1914—June and July—the tonnage of the previous year was nearly doubled. Then suddenly came as a thunderbolt out of the blue the War, and in a moment all was shut down, and instead of getting 25,000 tons we got little more than 15,000 tons. The same has occurred this year, with the same result, and the consequence is that it has made all the difference between prosperity and disaster. If we had obtained the additional 10,000 tons there would have been no need to go to the Debenture-holders; you would have earned enough to pay that interest and provide for the sinking fund.

The Actual Position.

And now, gentlemen, to conclude, the position is this: We stand face to face with financial trouble of a most acute kind. On the other side, we have an undertaking which all whose advice we must take and rely on in these matters believe to be one that should be prosperous in normal times, and if we can come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Debenture-holders no trouble will arise from those who were formerly our competitors in the Yukon, for their interests are, to a large extent, ours. It is as much to their interest that the traffic should be of the largest possible proportions as to ours, and that they should put every ton that they can into the Northern Commercial Company's stores, and I have no doubt whatever that no effort on their part will be wanting to do it. You cannot reasonably expect a change for the better while the War goes on, and during that time we may not be in a position to obtain the wherewithal to meet our Debenture interest. I shall conclude by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts, but I trust that I have not been over-doleful or, on the other hand, over-hopeful. I have endeavoured to state to you, as I said at the commencement, frankly what I know of the actual position, and I have given it to you in the general observations which I have made. I have now before me the most unpleasant and most difficult task of trying to persuade and get the Debenture-holders to agree to such terms as may leave, at any rate, some possible reversion of hope for the much-tried shareholders in this Company, for whom we have worked to the best of our ability for a good many years. It is one of the most disappointing things that has occurred to me in my business experience that I should have been compelled for two years running to present so unhappy a state of affairs to the shareholders.

Mr. Edward F. North: I beg to second the resolution, and in doing so I support every word that our Chairman has said. I think he has put the case most fairly before you all, and I regret as much as he does, and as much as everybody else on this side of the table does, that circumstances should have led us into this very unexpected and unhappy position for the time being.

The resolution was carried without comment.

SHEBA GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE eleventh ordinary general meeting was held on December 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. F. Rowsell (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the net result of the year's operations, after deducting all charges at the mine, &c., was a profit of £38,160, as compared with £49,549 last year. Two dividends had been paid on account of the year 1914-15, each of 5%. Mine development now stood at the figure of £3,000, and as this was represented by ore reserves amounting to over 100,000 tons he did not think it was at all satisfactory. The financial position of the Company, he thought, might be considered a satisfactory one. Dealing with the position at the mine, he regretted that it had not improved since last year. It was due to the serious decrease in the value of the ore from the Zwartzkopje mine (now about 2.35 dwt. per ton) that the profits of the Company had been so greatly affected. Coming to the Intombi mine, work on that property had increased the ore reserves by 3,400 tons, 28,138 tons having been developed during the year. The ore reserves in this mine were placed at a value of 9 dwt. per ton. Acting on the recommendation of the Consulting Engineer, they had secured a block of claims adjoining their own property into which the Intombi reef dipped, and, as before long their workings would reach the level where they would enter these claims, he thought they were to be congratulated upon having secured them on what, according to the Consulting Engineer's advices, were satisfactory terms. Every possible care was being given to the question of the development of the Intombi mine, and he was satisfied that no step was being left untaken to follow all favourable indications. With regard to the Southern Cross, Mr. Milligan estimated, on the basis of an average stoping width of 48 in., the tonnage to be 20,000, of an estimated value of 9 dwt. per ton. The summary of ore reserves given in that report was interesting—namely, 10,700 tons in the Zwartzkopje mine, 53,400 tons in the Intombi mine, 20,000 tons in the Southern Cross mine, 14,500 tons in the Insimbi mine and 1,500 tons in the Margaret mine, making a total of 100,100 tons. Of course, the average value of the ore had been reduced. The

Sheba ore had always been a refractory one, and the ore in the Intombi mine was extremely refractory. It was therefore necessary to alter their reduction plant in order to obtain a fair recovery. This question had been before the directors for a considerable time, and many experiments had been conducted with a view to improving the result. He hoped that before meeting the shareholders again next year they would be able to report that they had succeeded in solving this somewhat difficult problem and that their profits, as a result, were again on an increasing scale.

Mr. H. D. Lewis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

UNITED RHODESIA GOLD FIELDS, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of this Company was held on December 6 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. F. Rowsell, Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the board had very carefully studied the question of expense, and felt that it was impossible to reduce it much lower without interfering with the efficiency of the management, both in London and in Rhodesia. The result of the year's working was a loss of £17,714. They had a balance to the credit of profit and loss account last year of £2,503, so that the result was that at the present time their profit and loss account stood in debit to the amount of £15,211. Dealing with "Shares and Debentures in other companies," he said that the Cam and Motor Gold Mining Company, Limited, in which their Company held 11,750 shares, had now successfully overcome the difficulty as to extraction which they had when first operating their plant. That Company was making substantial profits, and he had every hope that it would be able to enter the dividend-paying stage within a year. The Golden Kopje Proprietary Mines, Limited, in which they held 37,934 shares, was now producing. The latest information pointed to its being able to earn satisfactory profits. The Jumbo Gold Mining Company, Limited, continued crushing, and it had still ore ahead of the mill. The Lonely Reef Gold Mining Company, in which they held a small interest, paid 20% last year. The Mayo (Rhodesia) Development Company (1908), Limited, was the largest interest which they held. It was entirely managed by the United Rhodesia staff in London and Rhodesia, and had paid away to its shareholders during the past few years dividends amounting in all to 70%. In common, however, with many other companies of a similar character, the very depressed times which preceded and had continued throughout the War had greatly affected the market value of its interests, but he did not think that the intrinsic values had been diminished to anything like the extent which the market valuation would suggest. He had a very high opinion of Rhodesia Lands, Limited, which had a nominal capital of 68,757 shares of £1 each, of which their Company held 55,007 shares. So far that Company's sales had been at an average of 16*s.* 4*d.* per acre, and for the year 1914 at 19*s.* 2*d.* per acre; but, taking the land at 10*s.* per acre, they had a total value for the assets of the Company of £161,253. Deducting Debentures and creditors to the value of £35,421, they got a total of £125,833, which represented nearly £2 per share. From time to time the United Rhodesia's holdings of claims were capable of being realised, but at the same time it was very difficult to place any definite value upon the properties they held.

Mr. G. Seymour Fort seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

SLATERS, LIMITED.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting was held on December 10 at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, W.C., Sir David Burnett, Bart. (Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Chairman said that the past year had been one of great anxiety to the Board, and had entailed considerably increased labour, and that labour had been increased by the death of their late colleague, Mr. Alfred Slater, and the difficulty of finding a suitable director to take his place. Further, Colonel L. T. Burnett had volunteered for foreign service on the outbreak of War, and left England within two or three weeks of that event. It should be remembered that they paid their accounts weekly, and consequently every week during the past year he (the speaker) had had to sign some 400 to 500 cheques. On several occasions, also, he had visited every one of their branch establishments, and that work had been entirely without remuneration. He was content and willing to serve the Company as long as he had the confidence of the shareholders and until the Company resumed its prosperity, when he would take a rest. He believed that the present position was caused entirely by the War. He gave that as his opinion, and he thought it would be agreed that it was a sincere opinion, because he had never parted with a share, but had actually increased his holding, until, he believed, he was the second largest shareholder in the Company. Most of his shares had been acquired at a premium. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. G. Bean (managing director) seconded the motion.

Mr. W. E. Catesby, J.P., moved as an amendment that the directors' report and accounts be received, but not adopted.

Mrs. L. Samson seconded the amendment, which was carried by a large majority.

The original resolution, as amended, was then put as a substantive resolution and carried.

Mr. Catesby moved, "That a committee of five shareholders be appointed to investigate the affairs of the Company, with authority to engage professional assistance and to report to an adjourned meeting of shareholders, and that this meeting stands adjourned to receive the committee's report, a copy of which report, together with notice calling such general meeting, shall in due course be issued by the Company to the shareholders."

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Samson and carried.

A committee consisting of Mr. W. E. Catesby, Mr. Thomas Bickerton, Mrs. Louisa Samson, Mr. John McLaren, and Mr. John Salter Cox was then appointed.

Mr. J. G. Bean said he welcomed the appointment of the committee, and thought that when that committee reported to the shareholders they would not have anything very serious to say against the directors of the Company.

MASHONALAND AGENCY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held at Salisbury House, London Wall, on December 3 to consider a proposal to reduce the capital of the Company. Mr. H. L. Stokes (Chairman and Managing Director) presided.

The Chairman referred to the reconstruction proposals brought forward by the directors last August, and stated that they thought that the proposition would have placed the Company in an excellent and strong position, and with a fair amount of working capital available for the further development of the Company's assets. However, the conditions in the depressed markets prevailing were peculiar, and a small section of shareholders dissented from the proposals. In the opinion of the board the cost to the Company to settle with those dissentients would have been too great a drain upon the Company's cash resources, and detrimental to the interest of the general body of shareholders. Further, it would have restricted the development of the Company's important land assets, for which a large amount of capital would be required. In these circumstances the board had no option but to abandon their proposals, which was done with great regret.

The Proposal for Reduction of Capital

The board, however, appreciating the position, had realised that the capital of the Company could not remain at its present amount in the permanently altered circumstances, and appreciated that the only way to meet the situation was to reduce the capital in the manner now proposed—namely, by a distribution of a proportion of the Company's shareholding in the Wankie Colliery Company, Limited, and by cancelling lost capital. Such a proposal was considered by the board before the reconstruction proposition was arrived at, and had, indeed, been advocated by Mr. Oakley before the last extraordinary meeting, but for reasons of which the shareholders were familiar the board could not see its way to parting with this asset. The so-called lost capital, amounting to £126,342, was made up partly by the amount written off certain gold-mining claims and partly by the difference between the cost standing in their books of certain blocks of shares as compared with present-day values. The large bulk of the shareholdings represented properties acquired in the ordinary way and turned over to subsidiary concerns after a certain amount of expenditure on their development, the shares being the consideration for sale and the cost thereof representing expenditure borne by the Company in the original acquisition of the properties and in the exploiting work carried out before flotation. The Mashonaland Agency was, he believed, the only Rhodesian Company that had never been obliged to ask for more money or to reconstruct; further, they had never issued debentures, and the present proposal for reduction of capital was only a convenience and not a necessity, the financial position being absolutely sound.

Distribution of Wankie Coal.

Coming to the distribution of one 10*s.* Wankie Colliery share, now quoted at 17*s.* each for every three Mashonaland Agency £1 shares, the Chairman stated that the Wankie share at 17*s.* divided amongst three Mashonaland Agency shares meant 5*s.* 8*d.* a share, to which was to be added the 6*d.* cash distribution per share which was proposed, making 6*s.* 2*d.* distributed in respect of each Mashonaland Agency share now held. The Wankie Company paid last year 25% dividend on its old capital, or equal to 12½% on its present increased capital. If that Company continued to make similar distribution by way of dividends (and it had already paid two 5% interim dividends this year), it would mean that the shareholders would receive regular dividends of 5*d.* for every one Mashonaland Agency share now held, and the dividends accruing should be looked upon as coming from their investment in the Mashonaland Agency. With regard to the distribution of 6*d.* per share in cash, equal to the sum, roundly, of £10,000, as their available cash was, roundly,

some £50,000, they would have left a balance of, say, £40,000, to carry on the business of the Company, and for this amount of working capital they had ample necessity for developing their many valuable assets. They were not a mere rent and revenue collecting concern, but a Company with an active forward policy of development of assets until maturity was reached—a policy calling for expert knowledge and experience, and which could not be expected to be successful if cheapness were considered of more importance than efficiency.

The Remaining Assets.

The development of the remaining assets called for as much work and control of expenditure as ever—the distribution of Wankie shares obviously making no difference in this respect—the partly developed condition of the remaining assets being as important as before. Further, there were companies in which they were already interested that might be requiring financial assistance, and prepared to give good terms in return. Until the able direction of Mr. Steuart Richardson they had now completed the development of the Lochard Estate of 30,000 acres. Having carried out this work they had now turned their attention to the next conveniently situated block of land known as Blackwaters (14,600 acres); and having assured themselves by sinking wells of an ample water supply, they were also fencing and developing that estate to serve as an overflow from Lochard. They also proposed adding to the herds by purchases of further cattle. Mr. Wrey, the General Manager, had given especial attention to the policy of their land development and ranching. The success of their ranching, so far as it had gone, had been most encouraging. The question of further markets for cattle as the herds increased in Rhodesia had been receiving careful study and attention. He had merely touched on these matters as indicating the necessity for financing their business with adequate capital, and not distributing what the directors considered to be an excessive amount. He concluded by proposing the resolution.

Sir Leigh Hoskyns, Bart., seconded the motion.

Shareholders' Views.

Mr. Cross submitted that the directors' scheme as now proposed was the result of correspondence which had passed between his Company and the board. The latter had now agreed to a distribution of shares in the Wankie Colliery Company, Limited, whch they formerly opposed. He afterwards contended that the proposed cash distribution should be increased from 6*d.* to 1*s.* per share, which would leave the directors with £30,000 of available cash to carry on the business of the Company, and he maintained that that sum would be quite sufficient to proceed with any reasonable developments. The only thing he could legally do in proposing his amendment was to ask the directors to pay the shareholders 1*s.* per share cash instead of 6*d.* out of the £50,000 in hand, but he desired to have an assurance from them that the management expenses should be reduced.

Mr. Oakley seconded the amendment, and congratulated the board on the decision at which they had arrived as regarded the distribution of shares in the Wankie Company.

Mr. Brailsford and other shareholders having spoken in support of the views expressed by Mr. Cross,

Mr Edmund Davis's Suggestion.

Mr. Edmund Davis (the Chairman of the Wankie Colliery Company) stated that he had for a long time advocated the distribution of the Wankie shares held by the Mashonaland Agency. He spoke in sanguine terms of the position and prospects of the colliery, and afterwards remarked that he valued the assets of the Agency at a much higher figure than the directors had set before the meeting that day. After giving particulars of certain items representing, according to his valuation, a total of £300,000, he suggested the appointment of five shareholders to confer with the directors, to adjourn the meeting for a week, and in the interval to endeavour to come to some arrangement which would meet with the approval of all of them.

Mr. H. Wilson Fox stated that the directors had a full reply to all the points which had been raised in the discussion, but he was unwilling in a time of war to say all that he would have to say in their defence. If an adjustment of the various points at issue could be effected in any other way, he and his colleagues on the board were ready to assent to the suggestion made by Mr. Edmund Davis. He desired, however, to state emphatically that the directors had a complete answer to the points raised by Mr. Cross, and if the proposed negotiations with the directors did not succeed, he should consider it his duty to give a very full explanation. They had nothing to conceal or to fear.

After some further discussion, the suggestion of Mr. Davis was agreed to in the form of an amendment, Mr. Austen, Mr. Snell, Mr. Oakley, Mr. Foster-Melliar, and Mr. Edmund Davis being appointed to confer with the directors and to report to the adjourned meeting on the 10th inst.

The meeting then stood adjourned.

THE ADJOURNED MEETING.

The adjourned meeting was held on December 10, Mr. Stokes again presiding.

The Chairman stated that in the best interests of the shareholders the directors had kept in view the importance of unanimity, and this policy had directed them throughout. Mr. Davis would read a statement setting forth the whole position and the conclusions arrived at.

Mr. Edmund Davis stated that the committee were satisfied, now that they had looked into the position of the Company and had had an opportunity of discussing it with the board, that the past operations had been carried on in accordance with the general run of similar development undertakings, and the expenditure under the circumstances which had prevailed had not been and was not exorbitant. The London and South African expenses had shown a steady decrease since 1911, and the committee thought that the shareholders might rest assured that the directors would continue to devote their attention to cutting down expenditure wherever possible, provided such action did not tend to injure the business of the Company. The reconstruction scheme now proposed in agreement with the board would mean, if carried out, a distribution in cash and a holding in the Wankie shares which should bring in a steady income in the future to those who retained them.

Amended Proposals Agreed to.

The arrangement come to in agreement with the board was as follows: (1) The distribution in cash of 1*s.* per share; (2) the distribution of 132,992 fully-paid Wankie shares—that was, at the rate of one Wankie Colliery Company share for every three Mashonaland Agency shares (3) the reduction of each member of the board's fees from £200 to £150 per annum; (4) the reduction of managing director's remuneration from £500 to £350 per annum; (5) the reduction of secretarial and office charges to £750, inclusive, instead of £1,500 per annum, subject to varying deductions for work done for other companies; (6) the reduction of £250 per annum in African expenditure so soon as feasible, bearing in mind existing arrangements; (7) the formation of a new Company with a capital of £150,000, divided into 400,000 shares of 7*s.* 6*d.* each, one such share fully paid to be allotted in exchange for each fully-paid share now issued in the Mashonaland Agency. The distribution of Wankie shares was to be subject to those receiving the same paying stamp and transfer fees, which would mean a saving to the Company of about £1,200, though, on the other hand, the shareholders would receive an additional £10,000 by way of distribution, making a net increase to them of £8,800.

A long discussion followed, generally in favour of the scheme outlined by Mr. Davis, but some shareholders thought that it would be more advisable if the cash distribution originally proposed by the directors had not been increased, as more money would have remained in the hands of the Company.

Eventually the amendment proposed at the last meeting was withdrawn with the consent of the meeting, as was also the original resolution proposed on that occasion by the Chairman.

The Chairman afterwards took the sense of the meeting by a show of hands as to carrying out the committee's proposal, which he declared to be carried "by a very large majority." He added that due notice would be given of the further extraordinary meetings, which would be convened within a reasonable time.

On the motion of Mr. Vere H. Smith, a vote of thanks was passed to the committee and the board.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

(*Continued from page* 667.)

Consolidated Main Reef.—£924,364, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; three tube mills.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15	95½	av.294,766	12½	432,649	30/0	304,384	20/7	138,265	9/5	19/0
1915–16.										
Sept.qr.	110	84,380	13	120,497	28/6	82,610	19/7	37,887	8/11	19/9
Oct. ...	—	29,130	—	42,022	28/10	28,088	19/4	13,934	9/6	19/6
Nov. ...	—	28,470	—	42 474	29/11	28,162	19/10	14,312	10/1	20/0

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 6¼ per cent.
1915, June, 6¼ per cent.

City Deep.—Capital £1,250,000, in £1 shares. 200 stamps and tube-mill accessories were designed to have a capacity of about 800,000 tons per annum when in full operation.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	150	505,300	7¼	965,710	38/2	566,933	22/5	398,777	15/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	144	137,800	12½	261,894	38/0	152,749	22/2	109,145	15 10	2 3/32
June qr.	154	171,000	13¼	325,406	38/0	174,703	20/5	150,703	17 7	3
Sept. qr.	—	183,400	—	362,721	39/7	178,212	19/5	184,509	20 2	3 7/32
Oct. ...	—	63,000	—	122,688	38/11	62,167	19/9	60,561	19 2	3 13/32
Nov. ...	—	61,000	—	121,408	39/9	60,968	19/11	60,440	19/10	3 7/16

Dividends—1914, June, 11¼; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 13¾ per cent.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—£950,000, in £1 shares. £195,000 5½% Debentures. 100 new stamps and 10 tubes. About £300 monthly sundry revenue included below.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt. £	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	92½	578,100	2½	739,704	25/7	423,799	14/8	315,905	10/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	100	155,900	3	201,042	25/9	109,405	14/0	91,637	11/9	1 3/32
June qr.	100	154,100	5	202,867	26/4	108,353	14/1	94,514	12/3	1 7/8
Sept. qr.	100	160,030	4½	208,565	26/0	116,333	14/6	92,232	11/6	1 5/8
Oct. ...	—	54,100	—	68,618	25/4	40,495	15/4	28,123	10/0	1 5/8
Nov. ...	—	57,200	—	69,534	24/4	40,907	14/6	28,627	9/10	1 27/32

* Includes slimes profit and sundry revenue.

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 12½ per cent.

Crown Mines.—Capital £1,000,000, in 2,000,000 shares of 10*s.* each; issued, 1,880,212. £842,850 Five per Cent. Debentures. Milling capacity about 232,000 tons per month. 1913 figures and since include accumulated slimes.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	660	2,286,875	10½	2,976,989	26/1	1,783,477	15/7	1,193,512	10/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	660	598,000	10½	750,121	25/1	475,527	15/11	•274,594	9/2	4¼
June qr.	660	638,000	10½	825,459	25/11	490,959	15/6	334,500	10/5	4⅛
Sept. qr.	660	620,000	—	798,144	25/9	503,980	16/3	294,164	9/6	3⅞
Oct. ...	—	221,000	—	270,050	24/5	172,719	15/7	97,331	8/10	3⅝
Nov. ...	—	211,000	—	266,153	25/2	184,377†	17/5	81,776	7/9	3½

* Poor results due entirely to disappointing yield, which continues considerably below what is indicated by ore reserves values. "The cause of this difference is being carefully investigated."

† The increase in costs is due to large increase of native labour force and considerable additional expenditure on excess evelopment.

Dividends—1914, June, 55; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 35 per cent.

East Rand Proprietary Mines.—Capital issued, £2,445,897, in £1 shares; £1,192,170 Convertible Five per Cent. Debentures in issue. Twenty-five tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	820	1,831,950	8½	2,579,172	28/0	1,785,208	19/6	793,964	8/6	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	820	418,200	10	586,089	28/0	424,453	20/3	161,636	7/9	1 23/32
June qr.	820	484,100	10	635,818	26/3	461,928	19/1	173,890	7/2	1 7/8
Sept. qr.	820	519,000	8½	660,540	25/5	493,932	19/0	166,608	6/5	1 3/32
Nov. ...	820	187,700	—	224,603	23/11	171,557	18/3	53,046	5/8	1 5/32

Accumulated slimes profits included throughout.

Dividends—1914, June, 7½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 6¼ per cent.

Ferreira Deep.—£980,000, in £1 shares. Mills, 280 stamps and 7 tubes.

Year ends Sept. 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	261av.	668,530	11	1,236,633	36/11	584,475	17/5	652,158	19/6	—
1914-15	280	624,900	9½	1,070,786	34/3	608,714	19/5	462,072	14/10	2 3/32
1915-16.										
Oct.*...	—	57,880	—	101,482	35/1	58,451	20/3	43,031	14/10	2⅛
Nov.†...	—	54,430	—	97,465	35/9	58,304	21/5	39,161	14/4	2

* Reduced profit due to exceptional expenditure and decreased recovery.

† Reduced profit due to decrease in tonnage milled and increased expenditure No. 2 shaft.

Profits from accumulated slimes treated are included in profits.

Dividends—1914, March, 25; Sept., 25; Dec. (bonus), 25
1915, March, 25; Sept., 17½ per cent.

Geduld Proprietary.—The capital authorised is £1,000,000; issued, £970,000, in £1 shares. Sixty stamps and five tubes, having a capacity of 26,000 tons a month. Increase of plant to 40,000 tons a month was decided on on October 1, 1915, expected to become operative late in 1916.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	53½av.	244,585	10½	395,457	32/4	298,489	24/5	96,968	7/11	—
[Profit irrespective of £10,647 miscellaneous revenue in 1914.]										
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	71,330	9½	113,683	31/10	78,412	21/11	35,271	9/11	24/0
June qr.	60	74,760	9½	113,713	30/5	78,525	21/0	35,188	9/5	28/9
Sept. qr.	60	77,950	7	120,669	30/11	80,559	20/8	40,110	10/3	32/6
Oct. ...	—	27,200	—	43,534	32/0	29,339	21/7	14,195	10/5	32 3
Nov. ...	—	26,200	—	42,126	32/2	28,122	21/5	14,004	10/9	35/0

Gold reserve: 4,431 oz. July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov.

Monthly and quarterly profits include sundry revenue.

The sorting in this mine is both on surface and underground; very slight on surface.

Dividends—1914, Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Capital, £600,000; issued, 585,753 £1 shares. 300 stamps, 7 tube mills. Capacity, 720,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	300	570,600	10½	781,568	27/5	652,471	22/10	130,019	4/7	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	150,700	12	192,858	25/7	164,608	21/10	28,250	3/9	1⅛
June qr.	300	151,900	12½	196,548	25/10	167,317	22/0	29,231	3/10	1 1/16
Sept. qr.	300	160,200	12	202,100	25/3	174,621	21/10	27,479	3/5	1
Oct. ...	—	59,000	—	74,597	25/3	60,767	20/7	13,830	4/8	1
Nov. ...	—	58,000	—	73,821	25/5	59,304	20/5	14,517	5/0	

1914 returns and since include yield from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 8¾; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Ginsberg.—210,000 £1 shares issued. One tube mill.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	77½	179,089	26	204,522	22/9	159,961	17/10	44,561	4/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	45,100	18¾	49,044	21/9	39,697	17/7	9,347	4/2	9/16
June qr.	75	46,444	15½	51,099	22/0	39,675	17/1	11,424	4/11	9/16
Sept. qr.	75	46,960	12	53,498	22/9	41,066	17/6	12,432	5/3	9/0
Oct. ...	—	15,800	—	17,911	22/8	13,872	17/8	4,039	5/0	9/0
Nov. ...	—	15,635	—	17,472	22/4	13,920	18/0	3,552	4/4	9/6

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 7½ per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Goch.—£550,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps; four tube mills. Sundry revenue, about £2,000 a year, included.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	360,000	10	381,143	21/2	258,983	14/5	122,160	6/9	—
1915.									
Mar. qr.	90,500	10½	84,959	18/9	62,431	13/10	22,528	4/11	13/0
June qr.	91,450	12¾	88,175	19/3	63,249	13/10	24,926	5/5	15/9
Sept. qr.	90,700	14½	87,902	19/4	63,366	13/11	24,536	5/5	15/0
Oct. ...	30,700	—	29,468	19/2	20,895	13/7	8,573	5/7	15/3
Nov. ...	29,850	—	27,977	18/9	20,924	14/0	7,053	4/9	15/0

Dividends—1911, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Government Areas.—Capital £1,400,000, in £1 shares. At December 31, 1914, floating debt about £240,000. 100 stamps, 10 tube mills. Plant ordered to be doubled, or total raised to rate of near 1,100,000 tons a year. The returns include sundry revenue.

Year ends Dec 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914. Oct. 16 to Dec. 31	...90	97,700	13½	80,965	16/6	105,433	21/6	23,468*	4/9*	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	93½	140,400	14½	145,132	20/8	122,691	17/6	22,441	3/2	21/6
June qr.	100	142,000	13	171,265	24/0	132,415	18/7	38,850	5/5	1 3/32
Sept. qr.	100	142,100	9½	196,818	27/8	146,155	20/7	50,663	7/1	26/9
Oct. ...	—	56,200	—	70,276	28/0	54,217	21/9	16,059	6/3	26/6
Nov. ...	—	51,700	—	69,350	26/10	52,097	20/4	17,253	6/6	28/6

* Loss.

Knight Central.—£900,000, in £1 shares. 120 stamps. Three tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ..	103¾av.	284,960	3	316,076	22/2	273,325	19/2	42,751	3/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	113	76,400	—	82,339	21/6	71,029	18/7	11,310	2/11	6/6
June qr.	115	79,260	—	84,111	21/2	73,195	18/5	10,916	2/9	6/6
Sept. qr.	110	79,130	—	85,999	21/9	75,993	19/2	10,006	2/7	11/6
Oct. ...	—	29,020	—	31,557	21/9	27,504	19/0	4,053	2/9	12/9
Nov. ...	—	29,100	—	31,508	21/7	27,107	18/7	4,401	3/0	11/6

Dividends—1910, Dec., 5 per cent. Nil since.

Langlaagte Estate.—Capital £950,000; issued, 886,500 £1 shares. 200 stamps; five tubes.

Year to Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	589,619	710,257	24/0	530,843	18/0	185,854	6/4	—
[Profits include estate, &c., revenue for 1914, £6,481.]								
1915.								
6 months ...	299,366	356,581	23/10	271,272	18/1	85,308	5/9	18/9
Sept. qr. ...	157,365	185,008	23/10	140,298	17/9	39,710	5/1	18/0
Oct. ...	52,608	61,280	23/11	46,215	17/7	14,035	5/4	18/0
Nov. ...	50,038	57,548	23/0	44,045	17/7	13,503	5/5	19/3

* For April and since ounces produced are given. The value has been calculated on the basis of £4½ per fine ounce being secured, but the official profit result is calculated at £4 3*s.* 2*d.* per ounce to allow for "war charges."

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 7½ per cent.

Main Reef West.—Capital, £491,188, in £1 shares; £256,223 Six per Cent. Debentures. 120 stamps, three tube mills; capacity, 25,000 tons monthly.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15	100	269,520	10½	316,713	23/8	267,838	19/11	50,875	3/9	7/0
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	110	75,100	10½	85,297	22/8	73,595	19/7	11,702	3/1	7/0
Oct. ...	—	26,520	—	28,276	21/4	24,437	18/5	3,839	2/11	7½
Nov. ...	—	25,830	—	28,084	21/9	23,891	18/6	4,193	3/3	6/6

Dividends—1912, June, 7½; Dec., 5 per cent. Nil since.

Meyer and Charlton.—Capital £200,000, in £1 shares. Two tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	75	177,156	3¼	408,479	46/1	163,170	17/3	235,309	28/10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	75	43,462	2	98,603	45/4	39,825	18/4	58,778	27/0	5
June qr.	75	43,954	3½	100,575	45/10	39,195	17/11	61,380	27/11	5⅝
Sept. qr.	75	44,550	4½	101,749	45/8	40,456	18/2	61,292	27/6	5¼
Oct. ...	—	14,990	—	33,952	45/4	13,121	17/6	20,831	27/10	5⅛
Nov. ...	—	14,469	—	33,465	46/3	13,547	18/8	19,913	27/7	5⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 35; Dec., 35 per cent.
1915, June, 40 per cent.

Modder Deep. — Capital £500,000, in £1 shares. Sixty-stamp mill—six tubes—started December 14, 1914. Capacity of plant at present about 35,000 tons monthly. Arrangements made to increase to total of 40,000 tons monthly. Sorting both below ground and on surface. In table below only the above-ground sorting percentage is given.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit* Amt. £	Profit* Per ton	Price end of Period
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	86,050	8	125,769	29/3	79,191	18/5	46,578	10/10	3½
June qr.	60	97,000	11	167,246	34/5	80,819	16/7	86,427	17/10	4⅜
Sept. qr.	60	103,000	11¾	189,383	36/9	84,796	16/6	104,593	20/3	5
Oct. ...	—	34,700	—	63,581	36/7	29,022	16/9	34,559	19/10	5¼
Nov. ...	60	34,450	—	63,277	36/8	28,122	16/3	35,155	20/5	5⅜

* Profits include sundry revenue.

Dividends—1915, June, 10 per cent.

Modderfontein.—Capital, £1,400,000, in £4 shares. Six tube mills in use. Present capacity of plant, 52,500 tons per month. Additional plant of capacity of 40,000 tons monthly arranged for, to raise total capacity to about 1,100,000 tons a year.

Year to June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	180	510,350	4½	990,352	38/9	437,663	17/1	552,689	21/8	13⅛
1914-15	180	611,500	17	1,169,691	38/3	486,241	15/11	683,450	22/4	14½
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	180	156,000	17½	297,983	38/2	133,912	17/2	164,071	21/0	15⅞
Oct. ...	—	53,000	—	104,394	39/4	45,963	17/4	58,431	22/0	15⅞
Nov. ...	—	52,000	—	104,091	40/0	44,972	17/3	59,119	22/9	15½

Returns include profit from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 16¼ per cent.

Modderfontein B.—Issued capital £700,000, in £1 shares. Plant of capacity to deal with 540,000 tons a year.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	88⅔	440,000	10	790,132	35/11	342,328	15/7	447,804	20/4	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	96	120,700	12	231,021	38/3	93,922	15/7	137,099	22/8	4¾
June qr.	96	123,200	17½	241,979	39/3	99,978	16/2	142,001	23/1	5⅛
Sept. qr.	96	130,500	17	268,302	41/1	100,768	15/5	167,534	25/8	5⅝
Oct. ...	—	45,500	—	98,774	43/5	34,592	15/3	64,182	28/2	5⅝
Nov. ...	—	44,850	—	93,033	41/6	36,444	16/3	56,589	25/3	5⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 25; Dec., 30 per cent.
1915, June, 32½ per cent.

Nourse Mines. — Issued capital £827,821, in £1 shares. Mill, 260 stamps, 7 tube mills, making capacity about 60,000 tons for the month.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	260	539,500	14½	764,608	28/4	572,381	21/3	192,226	7/1	1½
1914-15...	260	602,100	14	789,481	26/3	631,438	21/0	158,043	5/3	1⅛
1915-16.										
Sept. qr.	260	173,000		201,872	23/4	172,904	20/0	28,968	3/4	1⅛
Oct. ...	—	59,300	—	71,843	24/3	58,554	19/9	13,289	4/6	20/0
Nov. ...	—	57,900	—	67,064	23/2	56,795	19/8	10,269	3/6	19/6

Monthly profits include revenue from accumulated slimes.

Dividends—1914, June, 8¾; Dec., 8¾ per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Primrose.—£325,000, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, say £390 per month, included in 1915 figures. Two tubes since December 1912. No sorting done.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
914 ...	157½av.	275,800	Nil	307,452	22/3	172,518	12/6	134,934	9/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	140	59,800	Nil	58,814	19/7	40,657	13/7	18,157	6/0	13/6
June qr.	140	66,350	Nil	61,289	18/5	39,448	11/10	21,841	6/7	⅞
Sept. qr.	140	68,200	Nil	57,573	16/8	40,162	11/7	17,411	5/1	8/6
Oct. ...	—	22,500	—	18,293	16/3	13,277	11/11	5,016	4/4	9/0
Nov. ...	—	21,200	—	16,824	15/10	12,923	12/5	3,901	3/5	9/3

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 20 per cent.
1915, June, 20 per cent.

Randfontein Central.—Capital, £4,500,000; issued, £4,343,700 in £1 shares. £2,918,400 of 6% Debentures, repayable at rate of £150,000 per annum. Plant: 1,000 stamps, 29 tube mills.

Year ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914...	907 av.	2,493,384	2,885,599	23/2	2,071,825	16/7	813,774	6/6	—
1915.									
6 mos.*	902av.	1,200,939	1,365,489	22/9	1,063,142	17/8	302,347	5/1	11/6
Sept. qr.	956½av.	625,563	740,426	23/8	553,333	18/1	177,093	5/7	11/9
Oct. ...	—	247,400	284,834	24/4	198,212	18/3	66,622	6/1	11/0
Nov. ...	—	213,647	259,734	24/4	202,977	19/0	56,757	5/4	19/3

* Mining operations considerably hampered by flooding of several of principal shafts, due to abnormally heavy rains.

† Monthly value estimated at £4 5s. per fine oz.; the official profit is based on a value of £4 3s. 2d. per oz. in order to allow for war charges.

Dividends—1912, Dec., 5 per cent. 1913, June, 7½ per cent.; Dec., 2½ per cent. 1914, June, nil; Dec., nil. 1915 June, 2½ per cent.

Robinson Deep. — £1,000,000, in £1 shares; 200 stamps and 10 tube mills, capacity 65,000 tons.

Year ends Mar. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15...	119av.	585,730	8½av.	827,214	28/3	510,155	17/5	317,059	10/10	1⅝
1915-16.										
June qr.	130	162,000	6½	224,663	27/8	148,269	18/3	76,394	9/5	1½
Sept. qr.	155¾av.	164,150	7	228,368	27/9	150,943	18/9	72,425	9/0	1⅝
Oct. ...	—	59,200	—	77,462	25/2	52,275	17/8	25,087	8/6	1⅞
Nov. ...	—	58,600	—	78,773	26/11	52,459	17/11	26,314	9/0	1⅝

Reserve gold: Sept., Oct., 2,230 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Robinson G.M.—£2,750,000, in £5 shares. Six tube mills. Sundry revenue and accumulated slimes profit not included in yearly figures.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	250	638,000	6½	1,027,092	32/2	454,906	14/3	572,186	17/11	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	250	170,400	4½	247,178	29/0	115,464	13/7	131,715	15/5	1⅜
June qr.	250	175,900	4¾	256,856	29/2	117,076	13/4	139,780	15/10	1¼
Sept. qr.	250	165,800	3½	231,373	27/11	118,058	14/3	113,315	13/8	1¼
Oct. ...	—	61,700	—	76,923	25/4	39,726	13/1	37,197	12/3	1⅛
Nov. ...	—	58,000	—	74,700	25/9	39,653	13/8	35,047	12/1	1⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 9 per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent.
Dec., 9 per cent.
1915, June, 8 per cent.

Rose Deep.—Capital, £700,000, in £1 shares, all issued. Seven tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	300	735,122	14½	895,976	24/4	610,562	16/7	285,414	7/9	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	300	179,300	13¾	221,848	24/9	154,870	17/3	66,978	7/6	1⅝
June qr.	300	198,400	13½	244,615	24/8	166,232	16/9	78,383	7/11	1⅛
Sept. qr.	300	204,600	13	234,846	22/11	171,627	16/9	63,219	6/2	1⅛
Oct. ...	—	70,100	—	80,474	22/11	56,660	16/8	21,814	6/3	1⅛
Nov. ...	—	69,300	—	83,355	24/1	59,121	17/1	24,235	7/0	1⅛

Dividends—1914, June, 20; Dec., 15 per cent.
1915, June, 17½ per cent.

An earnest appeal is being made on behalf of the homeless people of Poland, and contributions to the Great Britain to Poland Fund are solicited by the influential committees now established throughout the United Kingdom. The Hon. Treasurer, to whom cheques may be sent, is Eveleigh Nash, Esq., Berkeley Hotel, Piccadilly, London, W.

LINGGI PLANTATIONS.—Third interim dividend on Ordinary of 15 per cent. (actual).

MAJULI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

MELBOURNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY.—Final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, tax free, on Consolidated Ordinary stock.

MOABUND TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

MOLSONS BANK.—Dividend of 2¾ per cent. upon capital stock.

NATIONAL TRUST.—Quarterly dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

NEW INVESTMENT.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax.

NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY.—Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary stock.

OREGON MORTGAGE COMPANY.—Interim dividend at rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax.

ORIENTAL RUBBER COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 1*s.* per share.

PENNSYLVANIA WATER AND POWER.—Quarterly dividend of 1 per cent. on Common stock.

PORT MADRYN (ARGENTINA).—Dividend of 3 per cent., less tax.

RAJMAI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 12 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

RICHARDSON (J. N.), SONS AND OWDEN.—Dividend of 2½ per cent., tax free, on Ordinary, making 5 per cent. for the year.

ROMAI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

RUPAJULI TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN MORTGAGE.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

SINGLO TEA COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 5*s.* per share.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND MORTGAGE AND AGENCY COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 2½ per cent., tax free.

SOUTH HETTON COAL COMPANY.—Interim dividend of 5*s.* per share, tax free, on Ordinary.

STARKEY KNIGHT AND FORD.—Dividend of 6 per cent. on Ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, with a bonus of 15*s.* per share.

SUNGEI KRIAN.—Second interim dividend of 6 per cent. on Ordinary shares, less tax.

WARWICKS AND RICHARDSONS.—Dividend of 8 per cent.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—First quarterly interim dividend of 3*s.* per share, tax free.

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An Ideal country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

NEW ZEALAND is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD and SILVER.

Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of Interest.

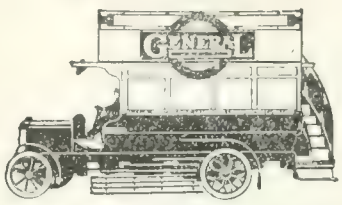
The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

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D A 29A

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Hereunder are given the service intervals on the country motor-bus routes, operating on Sundays only.

ROUTE NO.
10 Elephant & Castle and Woodford Bridge — Buses every 15 mins.
10A Elephant & Castle and Loughton — Buses every 16 mins.
10B Elephant & Castle and Epping Town — Buses every 16 mins.
21 Wood Green and Sidcup — Buses every 10 mins.
25A Victoria and Chadwell Heath — Buses every 7 mins.
37A Herne Hill and Hampton Court — Buses every 9 mins.
59A Camden Town and Caterham — Buses every 15 mins.
81 Hounslow Barracks Station and Windsor — Buses every 30 mins.
84 Golders Green Station and St. Albans — Buses every 15 mins.
105A Ealing (UNDERGROUND) and Leatherhead — Buses every 20 mins.
107A Clapham Common Station and Dorking — Buses every 30 mins.
142 Kilburn (UNDERGROUND) and Watford — Buses every 10 mins.
160 Stockwell (UNDERGROUND) and Reigate — Buses every 30 mins.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

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EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

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(Established 1776),
Bush Lane House, Bush Lane, Cannon St.,
LONDON.
Status Inquiries made as to the position and standing of Traders and others.

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BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,293,952.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.

R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.

General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.

LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and
9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised	-	$25,000,000
Capital Paid up	-	$11,560,000
Reserve Funds	-	$13,000,000
Aggregate Assets	-	$180,000,000

Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, E. L. PEASE.
President. Vice-President and General Manager.
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.

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Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

HEAD OFFICE ... ... TORONTO.

Paid-up Capital ... $15,000,000 (£3,082,192)
Reserve Fund ... $13,500,000 (£2,773,972)
President: SIR EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L.
General Manager: JOHN AIRD.
Assistant General Manager: H. V. F. JONES.

Over 370 Branches throughout CANADA, and in NEWFOUNDLAND, THE UNITED STATES and MEXICO.

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A general Banking Business conducted with ALL POINTS IN NORTH AMERICA.

C. CAMBELL, Manager

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED $10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP $7,000,000
RESERVE FUND $7,000,000

Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.

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Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.

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CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1840.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £620,000.
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

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J. H. Brodie.	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mayne Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whatman.

Special Facilities for Collection of Bills &c.
Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.

ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
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Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.

LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England, National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.

Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALE

Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,600,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,600,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital ... £250,000 0 0
(25,000 Shares of £10 each)
Reserve Fund £680,000 0 0
Reserved Profits ... £24,087 0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,
The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits } $8,808,891.79
Assets - - $39,077,630.77
$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.

Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.

LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID $3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ... $3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ... $6,880,000

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Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
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Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.

Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.

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THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra).
Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital £1,500,000
Called up £600,000
Reserve Fund £55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager*

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD.

Registered in the Transvaal.
With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ... £2,788,040
With power to increase to ... 4,000,000
Reserve Fund 525,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.

Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.

The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances, to buy and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South-West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected, Dividends and Annuities collected, Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

London Offices { Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. / 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

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BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1830.

Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES,
£2,411,983.

GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & CO., LTD., at 5 New Street Square, E.C., and Published by the Proprietors of "The Statist" at their Offices 51 Cannon Street, in the City of London, England.—*December* 11, 1915.

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Wednesday, 15th ,,
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7,250 Bales AUSTRALASIAN, PUNTA ARENAS and FALKLAND ISLANDS WOOL.

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	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received

BANCA ITALIANA DI SCONTO.

(With which are incorporated the Società Bancaria Italiana and the Società Italiana di Credito Provinciale.)

Authorised Capital	Lires 70 millions
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	,, 65 millions
Deposits and Current Accounts, (October 31, 1915) ..	,, 300 millions
Cash in Hand and with the Bank (October 31, 1915)	,, 22½ millions

Central Management and Head Office:
ROME.

Branches at:—Genoa, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Turin, Venice, Bologna, Busto Arsizio, Florence, Ancona, Biella, Como, Monza, Sanremo, Verona, and 50 others in the CHIEF CENTRES OF ITALY.

Current Accounts and Shipping Credits opened, Letters of Credit Department, Collection of Clean and Documentary Drafts, and every description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted.
Correspondence invited.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Authorised Capital	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£240,000

Head Office ... AMSTERDAM.
London Agency... 2 GT. WINCHESTER ST., E.C.
London Manager J. COST BUDDE.

All descriptions of Banking Business connected with South Africa transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up	$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange 2s. per $ = £1,500,000	$15,000,000
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000
	$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...	$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton Colombo, Foochow, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.

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H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.

9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,046,960

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And over 100 Branches in Russia.

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Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

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COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

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Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.

London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

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Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
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Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
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CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.

MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.

THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.

COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.

PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.

DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.

EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.

FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C. / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.

Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,888.

Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley. / A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Sassari, Savona, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona; AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.

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SOCIETA COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan, Tripoli, &c.

Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.580,000
Reserve Fund	£P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Cuzco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital fully paid and Reserve ... £3,460,000

Head Office: MILAN.

The Bank has Branches at Genoa, Rome, Turin, Naples, Florence, Catania, Bari, and numerous other important towns in Italy.

LONDON BRANCH:
22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.
Managers { I. GEORGE MANZI-FE / DAVID A. HORNER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having Correspondents in all European Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.
Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cable, London."
Telephones: 7802, 7803 City.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Bombay	London	San Francisco
Calcutta	Los Angeles	Shanghai
Changchun	Lyons	Sydney
Dairen (Dalny)	Fengtien (Mukden)	Tieling
Hankow	Nagasaki	Tientsin
Harbin	Newchwan	Tokio
Hong Kong	New York	Tsinanfu
Honolulu	Osaka	Tsingtau
Kobe	Peking	

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

WITH SPECIAL INSURANCE SECTION.

THE TANALYK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

To be presented to the Shareholders at the Third Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, to be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1915.

The Directors present herewith the Third Annual Report of the Corporation, together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 13th January, 1915.

The Interest and Commission Receipts, &c., for the period amounted to £16,650 6*s.* 11*d.* The Directors' Fees and Office Expenses amounted to £3,677 3*s.* 11*d.* and Debenture Interest to 11,965 15*s.* 3*d.*; there is therefore a Credit Balance of £391 0*s.* 7*d.* carried forward.

Since the last meeting 9,451 shares have been issued for £23,421 4*s.* 2*d.*

The capital of the Corporation at the present date is as follows:—

SHARE CAPITAL—		
Original Issue	300,000	Shares.
Since issued for Cash	43,451	,,
,, in exchange for Debenture Stock	540	,,
Reserved for exchange of balance of Debenture Stock	65,460	,,
Under option to 1st November, 1916, at £3 per share	40,549	,,
Total	450,000	,,
DEBENTURE STOCK—		
Authorised and Issued	£200,000	
Since redeemed by exchange for Shares	£1,643	
Outstanding	£198,357	

As Shareholders are aware, this Corporation holds the share capital of The South Urals Mining and Smelting Co. Reports of the progress of that Company's operations have been sent to Shareholders monthly and a general report from Mr. R. Gilman Brown dealing with the work at Tanalyk is attached hereto, to which particular attention is drawn.

The Directors retiring by rotation, Mr. V. V. Romanoff and Captain C. A. Reid Scott, are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Board,
J. P. B. WEBSTER,
London Manager and Secretary.

7 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.,
10th December, 1915.

From the CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT on operations to October, 1915, based on data received.

SUMMARY.—Ore Reserves amount to from 98,000 to 108,000 tons of solid sulphide, and 140,000 tons of Semeonovsky gossan (gold ore). This is sufficient to supply the Smelter and Cyanide Plant at their full present capacity for about three years, or at the rate of 600 tons annual output of copper for five years.

Ulali has become a valuable mine, with higher copper contents than any of the other mines.

The Tuba Prospect, discovered by the Geological Department, is showing phenomenal values in the shallow workings, and presents several features that justify the hope of having discovered here the outcrop of a valuable copper ore body.

Shortage of labour is serious, and continually hampers our work.

The Tuba is situate some 25 miles North of Tanalyk. The outcrop is over 1,000 feet long, and we have now proved some 270 feet in length of this, 60 feet below the surface. The vein is here oxidised, and consists of baritic sands and gossan, the evidence, so far collected, pointing to its being the oxidised form of a pyritic vein. Samples for 160 feet of this drive have been received, showing an average assay of 1.1% Copper, 76 dwt. Gold and 23 oz. Silver, over a 6-foot width. This is highly characteristic of a pyrite body, and gives ground for encouragement. It is recognised that the greater part of the copper has been leached out, and that the gold and silver values have been relatively enriched. The average width given above represents the width of the drive, but opposite one of the shafts a 40 feet width of material has been proved, similar in character and value, and at another point a cross-cut has proved 12 feet.

ORE RESERVES.—On April 1st, 1915, they were calculated as follows:—

Mambet	65,800 T.	averaging 2.3% Copper, 7.1 dwt. Gold, and 7.4 oz. Silver.
Tanalyk	10,000 T.	averaging 3.5% Copper, 3.4 dwt. Gold, and 2.0 oz. Silver.
Graffsky	5,500 T.	averaging 2.1% Copper, 6.6 dwt. Gold, and 3.9 oz. Silver.
Ulali	10,000 T.	averaging 7.9% Copper, 3.4 dwt. Gold, and 1.2 oz. Silver.
Total, Sulphide	91,300 T.	averaging 3.0% Copper, 6.2 dwt. Gold, and 5.9 oz. Silver.
Semeonovsky, Gossan	140,000 T.	averaging — Copper, 12.0 dwt. Gold, and 0.7 oz. Silver.

In addition to the foregoing we have recently received a fresh estimate of the Sulphide ore reserves prepared at the mine in August. This is given below:—

	Tons.
Mambet	71,000
Tanalyk	6,000
Graffsky	3,000
Ulali	28,000
Total Sulphide	108,000

SMELTER.—The Smelter has produced in twelve months from 32,000 tons of Sulphide and Gold Ore, 573 tons of Blister Copper, assaying 98% Copper, 21 oz. Gold and 186 oz. Silver. Two small Blast Furnaces have been added to the Plant for treatment of the pyrite ore from Ulali, but shortage of coke has prevented continuous operation, and to the end of September but 600 tons had been put through this part of the plant.

CYANIDE PLANT.—The Cyanide Plant was started in August. Detailed reports on its operation have not been received, but it has been satisfactory, and from the first 30 days' run 383 oz. of gold were recovered. Difficulty in obtaining zinc for precipitation has been great, and one stoppage of two weeks for this reason has already been notified.

The 1916 estimates from the mine provide for an output of copper at the rate of 1,000 tons per annum, but in view of present conditions I should consider it a safer assumption to say that we shall produce at the rate of about 600 tons of blister during next year, which represents, in conjunction with the curtailed operations of the cyanide plant, a profit at present prices in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10,00,000.

BALANCE SHEET, 13th January, 1915.

To	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capital Authorised—						
450,000 Shares of £1 each	450,000	0	0			
,, Capital Issued				334,243	0	0
,, 6% Convertible Debenture Stock Authorised	200,000	0	0			
,, Do. do. outstanding				199,257	0	0
,, Share Premium Account				67,241	12	11
,, South Urals Mining and Smelting Co., Ltd.				60,886	17	9
,, Loan from Discount Bank, Petrograd				30,969	17	11
,, Sundry Creditors and Accrued Debenture Interest				6,887	9	7
,, Balance from Income and Expenditure Account—						
Per last Account	2,017	2	5			
Present Account	391	0	7			
				2,408	3	0
				£701,894	1	2

By	£	s.	d.
Shares in South Urals Mining and Smelting Co., Ltd., at Cost	695,263	3	2
,, Sundry Debtors	36	9	2
,, Cash in Hand and at Banks	6,594	8	10
	£701,894	1	2

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 13th January, 1915.

To	£	s.	d.
Debenture Interest	11,965	15	3
,, Trustees' Fees	400	0	0
,, Income Tax	216	7	2
,, Directors' Fees	1,505	1	11
,, Office Expenses	2,172	2	0
,, Balance to Balance Sheet	391	0	7
	£16,650	6	11

By	£	s.	d.
Interest, Commission and Sundry Receipts	16,650	6	11
	£16,650	6	11

J. P. B. WEBSTER,
London Manager and Secretary.

LESLIE URQUHART,
T. BLAIR REYNOLDS, } Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE TANALYK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

We have audited the above Balance Sheet, dated 13th January, 1915, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the Books of the Company.

5 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
6th December, 1915.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., } *Auditors.*
Chartered Accountants.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

EXCHEQUER BONDS.

Per Acts 29 Vict. c. 25; 52 Vict. c. 6; and 5 & 6 Geo. V. c. 55.

Bearing Interest from the date of purchase at £5 per cent. per annum, payable Half-yearly on the 1st June and the 1st December.

REPAYABLE AT PAR ON THE 1st DECEMBER, 1920.

Price of Issue fixed by H.M. Treasury at £100 per cent.

THE GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to receive until further notice applications for Exchequer Bonds as above.

The Principal and Interest of the Bonds are chargeable on the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Bonds will be issued in denominations of £100, £200, £500, £1,000, and £5,000, and will bear interest at £5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly by Coupon, the first Coupon on each Bond representing interest to the 1st June, 1916, from the date upon which payment for the Bond is made.

In the event of future loans (other than issues made abroad or issues of Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, or similar short-dated securities) being raised by His Majesty's Government for the purpose of carrying on the War Bonds of this issue will be accepted, together with all undue Coupons, as the equivalent of cash to the amount of their face value for the purpose of subscription to any such loan. Interest accrued to the date of the surrender of a Bond will be paid in cash.

Bonds of this issue, and the Interest payable from time to time in respect thereof, will be exempt from all British taxation, present or future, if it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of a person who is neither domiciled, nor ordinarily resident, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Where a Bond belongs to such a holder, the relative Coupons will be paid without deduction for Income Tax, or other taxes, if accompanied by a declaration of ownership in such form as may be required by the Treasury.

Applications for Bonds, which must in every case be accompanied by payment of the full amount payable in respect of the Bonds applied for, may be lodged by hand at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, E.C., on any business day between the hours of 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. (Saturdays between 10 A.M. and 12 noon); or they may be forwarded to the Bank through the post. Where payment is made otherwise than in cash or Banker's draft on the Bank of England, the amount of interest payable in respect of the relative Bonds on the 1st June, 1916, will be calculated as from the date on which the proceeds of the payment are actually received by the Bank.

In all cases in which the Bank are asked to forward Bonds by post, the Bonds will be dispatched by Registered Post at the risk of the Applicant, who must himself effect any insurance that may be desired.

A provisional receipt, exchangeable in due course for the Definitive Bonds, will be issued in respect of each application.

Bonds of this issue (ex the Coupon payable 1st June, 1916, for interest in respect of the broken period) may be lodged for registration in the books of the Bank of England, on payment of a fee of one shilling per Bond. Holdings of Registered Bonds, which will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of £100, in the same manner as Inscribed Stock, may be reconverted at any time into Bonds to Bearer without payment of any fee.

Dividends on registered holdings will be paid by warrants which will be trasmitted by post.

Applications must be made upon the printed forms which may be obtained, together with copies of this Prospectus, at the Bank of England, at the Bank of Ireland; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13 George Street, Mansion House, E.C.; and at any Bank, Money Order Office, or Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

Bank of England, London,
16th December, 1915.

SIGN THIS FORM TO-DAY.

EXCHEQUER BONDS.

Bearing Interest at £5 per cent. per Annum, payable half-yearly, Repayable at Par on the 1st December, 1920.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£100 PER CENT.

To the Governor and Company of the Bank of England,

In terms of the Prospectus dated the 16th December, 1915, I/we hereby apply for (*a*) £ ..... say, ... pounds of the above-mentioned Bonds as detailed below, and I/we agree to accept that, or any less amount which you may allot to me/us.

The sum of (*b*) £ ....., being the amount of the required payment (namely £100 for every £100 of Bonds applied for), is enclosed herewith.

.....	Bonds of £100	£...
...	do. £200	£...
...	do. £500	£...
...	do. £1,000	£...
...	do. £5,000	£...
	TOTAL	£...

Name in full and Address (.....) (Signature of Applicant)

Date ....., 191

(*a*) Applications must be for not less than £100, and must be for multiples of £100.
(*b*) Cheques should be made payable to "bearer," *not* to "order," and should be *crossed* :—"Bank of England, a/c Exchequer Bonds."

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 24.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors have this day declared an Interim Dividend for the current financial year of 17½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per Share), less Income Tax (at the rate of 3s. 5d. in the £), payable to Shareholders registered on the 31st December, 1915, and to the holders of Coupon No. 24 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders (other than those resident in enemy territory) on the European Register, from London, on the 17th January, 1916, and to Shareholders on the South African Register, from Johannesburg, at or about the beginning of February.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer will receive payment of this Dividend on or after **the 18th January, 1916, on presentation of Coupon No. 24 at either of the undermentioned** places, viz.:—

In London: At the Registered Office of the Company, 63-64 Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

In Paris: At the Crédit Lyonnais, 19 Boulevard des Italiens.

Coupons presented in London must be left four clear days and in Paris ten clear days for examination, and may be lodged any day (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of eleven and three o'clock. Listing forms may be obtained on application.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 1st to 15th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

ISSUE OF NEW COUPONS.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are invited, with the presentation for payment of Coupon No. 24, to surrender the Talon attached to their several Share Warrants for the purpose of obtaining a further supply of Coupons providing for the payment of future Dividends. The Talons must be accompanied by a signed form of application, copies of which can be obtained at either of the addresses mentioned above.

By Order,
T. FREDK. THORNE, Secretary.
63-64 Winchester House, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C., 15th December, 1915.

DURBAN ROODEPOORT DEEP LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 12.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Dividend of 3¾ per cent. (ninepence per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 12 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English Income Tax.

Coupon No. 12 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid, and, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue Declarations, they will be subject to a deduction of English Income Tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR,
London Secretary.

London Office:
No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

BRYANT AND MAY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Four per Cent. Debenture Stock will be Closed from the 18th to 31st instant, both days inclusive.

By Order,
JOSEPH H. G. REED,
Secretary.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 Share on Coupon No. 54 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1915, at Messrs. Barclay & Company, Limited, 1 Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54 Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated, Alexandria, 22nd November, 1915.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN
Manager.

CROWN MINES, LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 29.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 30 per cent. (3s. per 10s. share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 29 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one, or even possibly two, weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 29 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

RAND MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 25.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an Interim Dividend of 80 per cent. (Four shillings per 5s. Share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the Books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 25 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 10th of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English Income Tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French Transfer Duty and Income Tax.

Coupon No. 25 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 11th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue Declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English Income Tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français will be subject to a deduction on account of French Transfer Duty and Income Tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR,
London Secretary.

London Office:
No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS AND COLLS AND SONS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Register of this Company will be Closed from 18th December to 31st December, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
O. NEWLING, F.C.I.S., Secretary.
5 Coleman Street, E.C., 15th December, 1915.

SWISS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS FOUR PER CENT. LOAN, 1912-14.
(GOTHARD RAILWAY PURCHASE.)

The Swiss Bankverein Hereby Gives Notice that the half-yearly Coupon due 31st instant on the above-mentioned Loan will be payable on and after that date at their Offices, 43 Lothbury, E.C., and 11c Regent Street, Waterloo Place, S.W., at the current rate of exchange. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

London, 15th December, 1915.

GELDENHUIS DEEP, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 32.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 32 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 32 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

CITY DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 7.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 20 per cent. (4s. per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 7 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 7 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

HOWARD & BULLOUGH, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Debenture Stock will be Closed from December 18th to December 31st, 1915, both dates inclusive.

Interest Warrants for this Stock will be posted on December 31st, 1915.

GEO. ORMEROD, Secretary.
Globe Works, Accrington,
13th December, 1915.

SWISS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. LOAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the half-yearly Coupon due 31st instant will be payable on and after that date at the current rate of exchange at the offices of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67 Lombard Street, E.C., and of the Swiss Bankverein, 43 Lothbury, E.C., and 11c Regent Street, Waterloo Place, S.W. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

London, 15th December, 1915.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY.

TO HOLDERS OF PREFERRED STOCK.

The undersigned COMMITTEE was CONSTITUTED and is acting under a Deposit Agreement dated September 24, 1915. It calls for the DEPOSIT of PREFERRED STOCK in order that the interests of the Preferred Stockholders may be protected through concert of action. The Committee is firm in its opinion that the Preferred Stockholders are entitled to a reorganisation to a very much larger interest than the present plan accords. There has been deposited under said agreement in New York over 60 per cent. of the outstanding Preferred Stock.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, No. 33 Lombard Street, London, E.C., has been appointed Sub-Depositary under the Deposit Agreement of September 24, 1915, and holders of Preferred Stock desiring to secure the benefits of said Deposit Agreement may deposit their stock certificates with same, said Depositary, at its said office in London, on or before the close of business on January 5, 1916. All stock certificates must be endorsed in blank for transfer or be accompanied by appropriate transfers in blank. At the time of deposit there must be paid to said Sub-Depositary, on account of American taxes for transfers of stock, the sum of four cents for each share deposited, and in addition depositors will at the same time be required to pay any English tax stamps upon such deposit and the issuance of certificates of deposit therefor.

Dated New York, 15th December, 1915.

JAMES N. WALLACE, Chairman
HENRY EVANS,
HARRY BRONNER,
FREDERICK W. SCOTT,
CHARLES H. SABIN,
Committee.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4% LOAN OF 1899.

COUPONS DUE 31st DECEMBER, 1915.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4% LOAN OF 1905.

COUPONS DUE 1st JANUARY, 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above Coupons will be paid on and after the 31st December, 1915, and 3rd January, 1916, respectively (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3 at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where Lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
16th December, 1915.

SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

4½% STERLING BONDS DUE 1st JANUARY, 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above Coupons will be paid on and after the 3rd January, 1916 (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of eleven and three at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
16th December, 1915.

CINCINNATI HAMILTON AND DAYTON GENERAL MORTGAGE BONDS.

With reference to the Circular of December 1st of the New York Bondholders Committee, Holders of the above Bonds are urgently invited to communicate without delay with the undersigned before assenting by deposit of their bonds to the proposal made in terms of the said circular.

L. A. MOUAT JONES,
Secretary Provisional Committee.

32 Moorgate Street, E.C.,
December 16th, 1915.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED, FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. BONDS OF 1933.

The Coupon falling due on 1st January, 1916, will be paid on and after that date:—

In London: At the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, 41 Lothbury, E.C.

In New York: At the New York Trust Company.

In Amsterdam: At the Associatie Cassa.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

W. E. MANDELICK,
Secretary.

Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.,
December 14th, 1915.

BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DIVIDEND No. 8.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 22½ per cent. (4s. 6d. per Share) has been declared, payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on the 31st December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 8 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

Dividend Warrants will be dispatched as soon as possible after the final returns have been received and verified at the Head Office in Johannesburg.

Further intimation will be given by advertisement to holders of Share Warrants to Bearer as to the date on which their Coupons may be presented for payment.

Coupons and Dividend Warrants paid by the London Transfer Office to Shareholders resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to deduction of English income tax.

Coupons and Dividend Warrants paid by the London Transfer Office to Shareholders resident in France, and Coupons paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, Paris, will be subject to a deduction on account of French income tax and French transfer duty.

By Order,
J. H. JEFFERYS,
Secretary to the London Committee.

London Transfer Office—
5 London Wall Buildings,
Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.,
14th December, 1915.

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. AND FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st January, 1916, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented on and after the 13th inst., between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
13th December, 1915.

CITY OF QUEBEC FOUR PER CENT. AND FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st January, 1916, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented, on and after the 13th inst., between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

No. 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
13th December, 1915.

CITY OF SASKATOON FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st January, 1916, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented on and after the 13th inst., between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

No. 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
13th December, 1915.

STATE OF SAN PAULO FIVE PER CENT. TREASURY BONDS, 1915.

The half-yearly Interest due 1st January next on the above Bonds will be paid on that and any succeeding day at the Counting House of Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co., 145 London Wall Street, E.C., between the hours of 11 and 3 o'clock.

The Coupons must be left for examination three clear days.

London, 15th December, 1915.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD FIVE PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE BONDS.

The Quarterly Coupons due 1st January, 1916, in New York on the above Bonds will be cashed on and after that day at the exchange of $4.85 per pound at the Counting House of the undersigned.

ROBERT BENSON AND CO.

No. 26 Old Broad Street, E.C.

VILLAGE DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 15.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 11¼ per cent. (2s. 3d. per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of this Dividend on or about 4th of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 15 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

ROSE DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 29.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 15 per cent. (3s. per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 29 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 29 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

CONSOLIDATED GAS ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY OF BALTIMORE.

REDEMPTION OF $[illegible] 5% TWO-YEAR CONVERTIBLE NOTES, DATED 15th MARCH, 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Company have under and in accordance with the terms of the issue called the above Notes for Redemption at par on the 7th January next, and holders are reminded that the 3rd January is therefore the last day for exercising the right attaching to their Notes of conversion into Common Shares of the Company, and that notice of intention to convert must be in the hands of the Company in Baltimore not later than the said 3rd January.

JOHN L. BAILEY, Treasurer.

MUNICIPALITY OF PARA IMPROVEMENTS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Meeting of the Holders of Debentures of the above named Company, secured by the Trust Deed, dated the 3rd day of February, 1910, and made between the said Company of the one part, and Sir Gordon Blennerhassett Voules and Sir John Leach as Trustees of the other part, will be held at The Great Eastern Railway Hotel, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, on Monday, the Tenth day of January, 1916, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing as Extraordinary Resolutions, and with or without amendment the subjoined Resolutions:—

RESOLUTIONS.

1. The Debenture Holders hereby authorise and direct Sir Gordon Blennerhassett Voules and Sir John Leach the Trustees of the Trust Deed dated the 3rd day of February, 1910, to enter into an Agreement in the terms of the draft expressed to be made between the above named Company of the first part, the said Trustees of the second part, James Drayson Austen Norris of the third part, and the Ethelburga Syndicate, Limited, of the fourth part (which has been submitted to the Meeting convened to pass these Resolutions and a copy of which has for the purpose of identification been initialled by one of the said Trustees) with such modifications (if any) as may be agreed upon by the parties thereto and also be sanctioned by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and hereby consent to any modification or release of their rights under the said Trust Deed which may be necessary for enabling the said agreement (with or without any such modifications as aforesaid) to be carried into effect.

2. For the purpose of enabling the said agreement (with or without such modifications as aforesaid) to be carried into effect the Debenture Holders agree to waive and release all claims against the Company in respect of any interest upon their said Debentures from the 1st July, 1915, and to accept in discharge of their claims against the Company in respect of the principal moneys secured by the Debentures held by them respectively and otherwise 5 per cent. Funding Bonds of the Municipality of Para at the rate of £13 6*s.* 8*d.* for every £20 of Debentures held by them respectively, and that the Debenture Holders agree to surrender to the Ethelburga Syndicate, Limited, or to such other person or persons on such date, at such place and generally in such manner as shall be determined by the said Trustees in accordance with the said Agreement the Debentures held by them respectively in exchange for the Bonds mentioned in this Resolution.

3. That the Trustees be authorised and they are hereby directed to concur with the Company in executing and doing all such documents acts and things as they may deem necessary or expedient for giving effect to these Resolutions.

This Notice is issued pursuant to the provisions contained in the First and Second Schedules to the said Trust Deed.

A copy of the said draft Agreement may during business hours be inspected at any time before the Meeting, at the Office of Mr. W. R. Southeard, the Solicitor for the Trustees, 65, Bishopsgate, in the City of London at which time and place any Debenture Holder may upon application obtain a print of the Report of the said Trustees relating to the circumstances which have made it expedient to call such Meeting, and propose such Resolutions, and containing directions as to the method in which any such Debenture Holder may qualify himself to attend, and vote at such Meeting.

GORDON B. VOULES.
JOHN LEACH,
Trustees for Debenture Holders.

10th December, 1915.

RIO DE JANEIRO TRAMWAY LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

FIRST MORTGAGE FIVE PER CENT. 30-YEAR GOLD BONDS.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce will pay on and after 1st January, 1916, Coupon No. 22 for Interest due on that date. Coupons must be left at the Bank three days for examination.

2 Lombard Street, E.C.,
17th December, 1915.

COMPANHIA FERRO CARRIL DO JARDIM BOTANICO FIVE PER CENT. FORTY-YEAR FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce will pay on and after 1st January, 1916, Coupon No. 9 for Interest due on that date. Coupons must be left at the Bank three days for examination.

2 Lombard Street, E.C.,
17th December, 1915.

MODDERFONTEIN B. GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND NO. 7.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 35 per cent. (7*s.* per share) has been declared by the Board for the period ending 31st of December, 1915, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 31st of December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 7 attached to Share Warrants.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 7th of January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the Warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about 3rd of February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks. Those despatched from the London Office to persons resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to a deduction of English income tax, and those despatched to persons resident in France will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

Coupon No. 7 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after 4th of February, 1916, at the London Office of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days before being paid.

Coupons paid by the London Office, unless accompanied by Inland Revenue declarations, will be subject to a deduction of English income tax. Coupons paid by the London Office to or on account of persons resident in France, and those paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, will be subject to a deduction on account of French transfer duty and income tax.

By Order of the Board,
A. MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office—
No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.,
15th December, 1915.

SAO PAULO ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

5% 50-YEAR FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce give notice that they will pay on and after 1st January, 1916, Coupon No. 8 for Interest due on that date. Coupons must be left at the Bank three days for examination.

2 Lombard Street, E.C.,
17th December, 1915.

THE MODDERFONTEIN DEEP LEVELS, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Limited Liability Laws of the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 1st January to 7th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

H. ROGERS, London Secretary.

London Transfer Office, Pinner's Hall
Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
18th December, 1915.

GEDULD PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Limited Liability Laws of the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 1st January to 7th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

H. ROGERS, London Secretary.

London Transfer Office, Pinners Hall,
Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
18th December, 1915.

CUBAN TELEPHONE COMPANY.

On and after January 1st, 1916, and until further notice, Interest Coupons due on the First Mortgage Bonds issued by the above-named Company will be paid on presentation at the Banking House of Morgan, Grenfell and Company, London, England, or at the Banking House of J. P. Morgan and Company, New York City, New York. Coupons presented for payment in London must be left three clear days for examination.

Cuban Telephone Company,
By HUGH S. JARVIS, Treasurer.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED - £90,000,000
CLAIMS PAID - - £118,000,000

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S

Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.

are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

SOUTH EASTERN & CHATHAM RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th.

SPECIAL LATE TRAINS.

Leaving	Mdt.	Leaving	Mdt.
Charing Cross ...	12 15	Victoria ...	12 40
Waterloo ...	12 17	Holborn ...	12 35
Cannon Street ...	12 22	St. Paul's ...	12 36
London Bridge ...	12 28	Herne Hill ...	12 50
New Cross ...	12 37		
Arriving	a.m.	Arriving	a.m.
Sevenoaks ...	1 11	Chatham ...	1 46
Tonbridge ...	1 23	Sittingbourne ...	2 7
Tunbridge Wells ...	1 40	Sheerness Dockyard ...	2 32
Bexhill ...	2 29	Faversham ...	2 19
West St. Leonards	2 26	Whitstable Town ...	2 32
St. Leonards ...	2 31	Herne Bay ...	2 41
Hastings ...	2 36	Birchington ...	2 57
Paddock Wood ...	1 55	Westgate ...	3 3
Maidstone ...	2 15	Margate West ...	3 9
Ashford ...	2 14	Broadstairs ...	3 19
Canterbury West ...	3 5	Ramsgate Harbour	3 23
Ramsgate Town ...	3 40	Canterbury East ...	2 44
Margate Sands ...	3 56	Kearsney ...	3 8
Shorncliffe ...	2 41	Martin Mill ...	3 25
Folkestone Central	2 46	Walmer ...	3 31
Folkestone Junction ...	2 51	Deal ...	3 36
Dover Harbour ...	3 2	Sandwich ...	3 45

CHRISTMAS DAY.—The Ordinary Sunday Service will run, with certain exceptions

For full particulars as to Train Services during the Holidays, see Special Train Service Supplement.

FRANCIS H. DENT, General Manager.

AUSTRALIA BY THE ORIENT LINE

Under Contract to carry His Majesty's Mails to

FREMANTLE, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY and BRISBANE,

Calling at

Gibraltar, Port Said and Colombo.

Through Booking to

NEW ZEALAND and TASMANIA.

Tickets interchangeable with P. & O. Line.

Twin sc. steamers.	Tons.	London	Toulon.	Naples.
ORONTES	9,023	Jan 15	Jan 23	Jan 24
OMRAH	8,130	Feb. 12	Feb 20	Feb. 21

Managers—F. Green & Co. and Anderson, Anderson & Co.

For passage apply to the latter firm at 5 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., or to the Branch Office, 28 Cockspur Street, S.W.

B.I. REGULAR SERVICES TO

EGYPT, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, EAST AFRICA, MAURITIUS, BURMAH, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

WELL-APPOINTED STEAMERS.

For further information please apply:—GRAY, DAWES & Co., 23 Great Winchester Street, E.C., and 16 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.; or GELLATLY, HANKEY & Co., Dock House, Billiter Street, E.C., and 62, Pall Mall, S.W.

NATIONAL BENEFIT

LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE Co. Ltd.,

All classes of INSURANCE, including LIFE, FIRE, ACCIDENT, MARINE, WAR RISKS, &c., at very favourable rates.
PROSPECTUS ON APPLICATION.

INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED £650,000.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: J. FRANCIS, J.P., F.S.S.
Head Offices: NATIONAL HOUSE, NEWGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Agents required in all districts. Special Terms offered.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT Society (A.M.P.)

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire. Est. 1849.
FUNDS—£34,000,000. ANNUAL INCOME—£4,000,000.
MODERATE PREMIUMS. LIBERAL CONDITIONS. WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.
EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR.
Whole-Life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.
Endowment Assurance Results also unsurpassed.
37 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE CENTURY
AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT POLICY
Offers LARGE BENEFITS at a LOW PREMIUM and affords a sense of personal protection that is most valuable to the BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL MAN.

Send postcard for particulars to:

CENTURY
INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.,
27 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C., or
18 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.
Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

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Payable in Advance.

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(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 | HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8
(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,
51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENT.

"THE STATIST" will be published on Friday next, December 24, instead of on Saturday.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915.

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Friday Evening, December 17, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

DATES FIXED.	BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.	DEPOSIT RATES.—BANKS. NOTICE.	DEPOSIT RATES.—DISCOUNT HOUSES. CALL.	DEPOSIT RATES.—DISCOUNT HOUSES. NOTICE.
	%	%	%	%
Nov. 29, 1915...	—	—	4	4¼
Sept. 2, „ ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ...	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2½	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 15s. 0¾d.	£97 9s. 10¼d.	£96 4s. 11½d.	£95
Discount Rate	5 %	5 %	5 %	5 %

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛	5⅛-⅝
Trade Bills	—	5⅛-6	5⅛-6	5⅛-6

THE MONEY OUTLOOK.

THERE is practically no change to report in the Money market. Short loans remain at about 4 to 4½%, while discount rates are still at about 5¼-5⅜%, for three months' bills, 5⅛% for four months', and 5⅛%-5⅜% for six months' drafts. The rates for Treasury Bills of all currencies are unchanged at 5%. The main factor in the situation is the strength of the American Exchange and the preparations that are being made to provide all the money needed to meet our foreign purchases in the next few months.

Gold continues to be exported in moderate amount even to the United States, although the exports are nearly balanced by imports. The countries to which gold has been sent in the past week include the United States, Canada, Spain, Egypt, Uruguay, Holland, and South America generally. It is possible, however, that the new Exchequer bonds, which are free of income tax to foreign holders, will very materially

assist in checking the gold shipments to those miscellaneous countries. Hitherto it has been somewhat difficult to find securities which other countries would take in payment of their trade balances, but now that they can buy British Exchequer bonds to give them a return of 5% over and above the great profits they are making on our purchases, no very great difficulty should be experienced in meeting the adverse balance of trade.

Obviously, if all countries which are selling goods to us in such large amounts at the present time were to ask for payment in gold, the British people would immediately reduce their purchases of foreign goods, as they very easily could do, and if other nations wish to sell goods as freely to this country in the future as they are now doing, it is obvious they must take payment for a large part of them in securities. Hence the new Exchequer bonds or British Treasury bills, which are also free of income tax, are specially adapted for this purpose. Of course it will be realised that large amounts of gold are being produced in South Africa, Australia, and elsewhere, and are available for the payment of foreign goods bought by this country, that Great Britain still possesses a large amount of gold, and that further supplies can be obtained from France and Russia. Nevertheless, the purchases of goods by the Allied nations from foreign countries are so large that the amount cannot possibly be maintained at the present level unless those countries are willing to take payment in securities after the manner of the United States.

In the current year America's favourable trade balance will probably reach £350,000,000, and, allowing for foreign payments for interest, shipping, gold imports, &c., a balance of nearly £200,000,000 has been settled in securities by this and other countries. Probably next year the balance in favour of the States will be still greater, and this again will be settled in securities. It will be obvious that the Allied nations cannot continue to purchase the great quantity of goods they are now buying unless they pay mainly in securities. Having regard to this well-known fact, we anticipate that the new issue of 5% Five-Year Exchequer bonds at par will have a very substantial effect in strengthening the foreign exchanges not only with the United States but with other countries also.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

On balance for the week ended Wednesday £445,000 in gold was withdrawn from the Bank of England for export, but against this £453,000 came in from the country, and the total gold held thus showed an increase of £8,000 for the week. The amount is now £50,281,000. The reserve declined £103,000 to £34,464 000 in consequence of an expansion of £112,000 in the note circulation. There was an increase of £4,150,000 in the "other" deposits in consequence of an addition of £3,955,000 to the "other" securities, and the public deposits declined £308,000. The amount of the public deposits is now £52,136,000, of "other" deposits £94,169,000, and "other" securities £96,865,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is slightly lower at 24·55%.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

The exchange is firm, and is now about 4 72, after having fallen during the week to 4 71⅜. The strength of the exchange arises from the substantial sales in New York of British-owned American securities and from the payment of American goods bought by the British Government out of the proceeds of the Anglo-French loan. The bankers' credit of £10,000,000, which was drawn by eight of the largest London banks, four of whom are each good for $7,500,000 of the credit, and the other four for $5,000,000 each, is also instrumental in maintaining the exchange. Beyond this bankers' credit of £10,000,000 it is understood that two further credits of £10,000,000 each, making £30,000,000 in all, will be created if necessary by the Exchange Committee, so that at the present moment, what with the Anglo-French loan, of £100,000,000, the bankers' credits of £30,000,000, and the sales of American securities, both direct to America and to the Treasury, the amount of money available for purchase of American goods is very large, and will take care of the situation for some time to come. It should, however, be recognised that this country is practically responsible for America's entire trade balance, and that the amount of exchange needed to supply the balance during the coming few months will be very large. The reserves of the New York banks last week showed very little change, but inasmuch as their loans increased £3,500,000, and their deposits increased £3,000,000, the surplus reserves were reduced over £400,000 to £35,604,000. Money in New York is practically a drug, and loans for the day are obtainable at 2% and under.

The Irving National Bank of New York notify us by cable that the following rates of exchange are current in New York:—

New York on—		Rate Dec. 16	Par as usually quoted	Discount %
London ...	sight	$4 72	4 86⅓ dollars for £1	2·9
,, ...	cables	$4 72⅜		
,, ...	60 days	$4 67⅛		
Amsterdam	sight	40⅛c.	40¼ cents for 1 guilder	Prem. 7·4
Berlin ...	sight	76⅜c.	95 cents for 4 marks	19·5
Copenhagen	cheques	27.75c.	26⅝ cents for 1 kronen	Prem. 3·7
Italy ...	sight	6.57½l.	5.18 lire for $1	26·9
Paris ...	sight	5 85½fr.	5.18 francs for $1	13·1
Petrograd	sight	31.70c.	61½ cents for 1 rouble	38·4
Switzerland	sight	5 31fr.	5.18½ francs for $1	2·4
Vienna ...	sight	13 33c.	20¼ cents for 1 kroner	34·1

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Dec. 16, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ...	2%
Dec. 18, 1914 ...	,, ,, ...	4-4½%	,, ,, ...	3-3½%

SILVER.

The price of Silver has fallen sharply this week from 26⅞*d.* to 25⅛*d.* in consequence of heavy selling from China, supplemented by offerings from India. Apparently the selling from China is due to the political situation in that country and to the decision of the President to accept the title of Emperor. It would appear, however, that China desires this change, and that, inasmuch as the ceremony is to be postponed until a favourable opportunity occurs, the change will be effected without serious opposition.

	Dec. 10	11	13	14	15	16	17
London ...	26⅞	26⅝	26 1/16	26 1/16	26⅛	25 15/16	25 15/16
India ...	Rs.68¼	69 2/5	68½	68½	67 13/16	67⅞	67⅞
Exchange ...	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32

POSITION IN INDIA.

Exchange from India remains firm at 1*s.* 4 3/32*d.*, and the applications for the 50 lacs of Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to nearly 451 lacs. The trade balance in favour of India under normal circumstances would call for very much larger remittances than are now being made, but evidently a large part of the money realised from the sale of Indian goods in this country is being retained here. In October the imports of goods into India were valued at 11½ crores, while exports were worth nearly 18 crores, so that there was an excess of 6½ crores of exports over imports. Last year in October the imports were over 12 crores and the exports no more than 10 crores. A favourable balance of over 6 crores of rupees in one month indicates that India is in a position to import a very large amount of treasure. In the seven months to the end of October the value of the net imports was only 74 crores, against 84 crores last year, while the exports were nearly 110 crores, or half a crore larger than last year. Hence this year the excess of exports was no less than 35 crores, against 24 crores in the corresponding months of last year. With this movement of trade the net imports of treasure amounted this year in the seven months to only 9 crores, against 17 crores last year. All this indicates that the withdrawal of British floating capital from India in the current year has been very substantial, and that when a normal situation is resumed and a great outward movement of British capital

occurs, the imports into India will show great increase, and that probably the imports of treasure, both gold and silver, may be substantial. The stock of silver in the Currency Department fell 173 lacs last week to 3,187 lacs. On the other hand, the gold held increased 200 lacs to 1,037 lacs. At this time last year the stock of coined silver was 3,006 lacs and the stock of gold 874 lacs.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, December 15, are:—

Bills				Telegraphic Transfers			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4	13,00,000	—	—	1 4	1,66,00,000*	—	—
1 4 3/32	85,000	56,000	65	1 4 3/32	53,00,000*	34,71,000	65
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	1,94,00,000	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	24,00,000	14,73,000	65
Total ...	13,85,000	56,000	—	Total ...	4,37,00,000	49,44,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000 ...	Rs. 4,50,85,000 ...	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	9,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	10,00,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32
Bombay ...	38,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	10,00,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32
				14,73,000	1/4.062	1 4 1/16
Madras ...	9,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	14,71,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32

* Deferred.

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Transfers on Calcutta (Immediate)	1,50,000	1/4 3/32

From **April 1** to **December 14** inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs. 10,61,00,377**, realising **£7,077,064.** Up to **December 15** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs. 6,57,94,861**, realising **£4,388,476.** The total sales for the week ended **December 14** amounted to **Rs. 50,14,942**, realising **£334,767.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

Stock Exchange.

Settlement Days	Ticket Day.	Pay Day.	Consols.
	Wed., Dec. 29	Thurs., Dec. 30	Wed., Jan. 5

We believe the fixing of a Stock Exchange holiday upon December 24 is an unprecedented occurrence. Usually the day before Christmas has been one of the three days given to the completion of the Settlement; especially has this been so when Christmas has fallen upon a Saturday. But there is no occasion this year to fix up matters regarding a date which usually falls on a day when contangos are arranged.

There are two points in connection with the American department. One is the desire that the rate of exchange shall be steadied and strengthened by the sale to the Americans of their securities. Shares and bonds of railway, industrial, &c., companies are in great request in the United States, consequent on the prosperity of the country as a whole. This has not been confined to the manufacturers both directly and indirectly engaged in the supply of European munition, food, &c., requirements, but has also been enjoyed by the farming community, which, in addition to securing enormous crops, has the ability to sell them at very good prices indeed.

The pourparlers as between the British Government and the big institutions, such as insurance companies and trusts, holding American securities, especially bonds, are conducted by men who understand exactly what they are doing and who need no advice; but there is a large class of investors who do not enter into direct negotiations, but to whom the advice may be given that they will assist this country if they dispose of their American investments and so contribute to the strengthening of the exchange rate between the United States and this country.

The Stock Exchange Committee, in accordance with arrangements made with the Treasury, have relaxed the hard-and-fast rule hitherto existent as to "physical possession," and it is now permissible for inhabitants of neutral and Allied countries to effect realisations of American securities through the London Stock Exchange. This relaxation is to apply comprehensively to "North American" securities; consequently, besides the mass of American railway and industrial shares and bonds, it also applies to some large Canadian issues in which there are free international transactions. It also applies to Mexican securities, but here there is little likelihood of any appreciable business being conducted. Those who hold Mexican securities at the current range of prices will be indisposed to cut losses.

What is tersely known as the mobilisation plan in connection with American securities has been much discussed in the Stock Exchange. We have ourselves in the past dealt with this subject, and recur again to it elsewhere this week, but it will be of interest to a great number of persons to take note of how prices of representative American shares and bonds stand now in contrast with what prices were immediately before the declaration of war. We give the table below:—

	July 1914	Dec. 1915
Atchison Common	97	112
,, 5% Pref.	101	107
,, 4% Bonds	99	100
Baltimore & Ohio Common	79	97
,, 4% Pref.	75	81
,, 4% Bonds	96½	97
Chesapeake & Ohio Common	45½	65½
,, 4½% Conv. Bonds	80½	93½
Chic., Milwaukee Common	96	98½
,, 4% Bonds "A"	98	99
Illinois Central Common	113	113
,, Leased 4%	82½	80
,, 4% Bonds	95½	96
Louisville & Nashville Common	138	134
,, 4% Bonds	98	99
New York Central Common	84½	111
,, 4% Bonds	93	98
Norfolk & Western Common	105½	128½
,, ,, 4% Pref.	87½	89½
,, ,, 4% Bonds	98	99
Northern Pacific Common...	106¼	122
,, ,, 3% Bonds	68	70
Pennsylvania Common	55½	62
Pennsylvania Co. 4½% Bonds	104	106
Reading Common	81½	87½
,, 4% Bonds	97	101
Southern Pacific Common	94¾	106½
,, 4% Bonds	89	96
Union Pacific Common	156½	145*
,, ,, 4% Pref.	82	81¼
,, ,, 4% Conv. Bonds	90½	100

URUGUAY EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Like other parts of Uruguay, the district served by the Uruguay East Coast Railway has suffered in the past two years from the adverse trade conditions as well as from bad weather, and the European War has naturally accentuated the depression. In 1913-14 the gross receipts of the line declined $18,678, or 9.6%; and in the past twelve months there has been a further diminution of $31,256, or 17.9%. By the exercise of the strictest economy a considerable saving in working expenses has been effected; nevertheless, the net earnings at $19,327 show a loss of no less than $21,662, of 52.8%, compared with 1913-14, and of over $20,000 compared with two years ago. In sterling, the net receipts amount to £4,112, as against £8,721 last year, and £8,384 in 1912-13. Including the Government guarantee and sundry other items, the total net income for the year reaches £24,226, which is some £2,680 short of the sum needed for interest charges, taxes, &c. Moreover, no amount has been set aside for sinking fund purposes during the year, and the directors, after consultation with some of the larger bond and stock holders, are preparing a scheme of arrangement which, it is hoped, will meet with the approval of all concerned.

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Mining Topics.

For the better part of the week the market for Rand mining descriptions presented a heavy appearance, and the feature we last week called attention to—of realisations of profits, in Eastern Rand shares in particular, was this week again noticeable. Subsequently, however, there were rallies in this section, though not to the extent of the previous falls. Shares of mining companies operating in the Central Rand have also been dull; City Deep momentarily descending to a trifle under 3½. In part this may have been due to the reduction in the City and Suburban dividend from 7½% December last year to 6¼% this. The City Deep itself earned considerably more than the dividend of 20% which it declared, which contrasts with 12½% last year. Both the Modderfontein and the Modder B have increased their dividends; the Modderfontein declaring 16¼%, making 32½% for the twelve months to December 31, against 30% for the corresponding period last year; the financial year, however, ends June 30. The Modder B distributes 35%, against 30% a year ago. The Modder Deep 25%, added to 10% in June, makes the first year's dividend 35%. Geduld conservatively distributes only 5%, making 10% for the year. In June last the Crown Mines increased its dividend rate from 30% in December 1914 to 35%, and it now announces for December a 30% distribution. As the Rand Mines has a very large holding in the Crown Mines its dividend is necessarily affected, being 80% against 90% last year. Another descent in dividend is that of the Robinson G.M. Co., which distributes only 6% against 9% last year, making 14% for the whole of 1915, against 28% (including bonus) for 1914. This is a Company owning a mine with a very short life. Much disappointment has been felt at the drastic cutting down of the Van Ryn dividend from 22½% December last year to its present declaration of 17½%. Witwatersrand Deep has also reduced its dividend, being 13¾%, against 17½%. An improvement is shown by the Brakpan dividend, which is 22½% against 17½% last year. The record of dividends in contrast with the three previous half-years, and giving also the total dividends for 1913 and 1914, is set out below:—

Dividends.—In the following table we contrast the South African dividends so far announced in 1915 with the distributions of each half of and full year 1914 and year 1913:—

	1913	1914			1915		
	Total	1st Half	2nd Half	Total	1st Half	2nd Half	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Apex		—	7½	7½	5	10	15
Bantjes Consolidated ...	7½	2½	2½	5	Nil	—	—
Brakpan	32½	12½	17½	30	17½	22½	40
City & Suburban, £4 sh.	15	7½	7½	15	7½	6¼	13¾
City Deep...	17½	11¼	12½	23¾	13¼	20	33¾
Consolidate l Langlaagte	10	10	10	20	12½	—	—
Consolidated Main Reef	10	5	6¼	11¼	6¼	6¼	12½
Crown Mines ...	110	55	30	85	35	30	65
DurbanRoodepoort Deep	5	3¾	3¼	7½	3¼	3¾	7½
East Rand Proprietary	25	7½	10	17½	6¼	—	—
Geduld	—	—	5	5	5	5	10
Geldenhuis Deep ...	17½	8¾	10	18¾	10	10	20
Ginsburg	35	10	7½	17½	7½	—	—
Glencairn	5	Nil	5	5	Nil	—	—
Goch	—	—	—	—	5		
Heriot	70	30	35	65	40	—	—
Johannesburg Con. Inv.	5	5	—	5	5	—	—
Kleintontein	7½	5	5	10	5	5	10
Knights Deep	17½	5	5	10	7½	7½	15
Langlaagte Estate ...	10	5	5	10	7½	—	—
May Consolidated ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—
Meyer and Charlton ...	70	35	35	70	40	—	—
Modderfontein, £4 sh. ...	30	15	15	30	16¼	16¼	32½
Modderfontein B ...	45	25	30	55	32	35	67
Modderfontein Deep ...	—	—	—	—	10	25	35
New Era	10	—	10	10	—	10	10
Nigel	15	Nil	7½	7½	5	—	—
Nourse	20	8¼	8¼	17½	5	5	10
Primrose	60	20	20	40	10	—	—
Rand Mines, 5s. sh. ...	220	110	90	200	80	80	160
Randfontein Central ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	2½	—	—
Randfontein Estates ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	2½	—	—
Rietfontein	2½	Nil	2½	2½	Nil	—	—
Robinson Deep	27½	12½	10	22½	10	—	—
Robinson G.M., £5 sh. ...	15	19‡	9	28	8	6	14
Rose Deep	42½	20	15	35	17½	15	32
Simmer and Jack ...	15¼	5	5	10	5	5	10
Sub Nigel	5	2½	2½	5	2½	2½	5
Transvaal Coal Trust ...	17½	7½	8¾	16¼	8¾	—	—
Unified Main Reef ...	20	10	10	20	10	—	—
Van Ryn	47½	22½	22½	45	22½	17½	40
Van Ryn Deep	7½	12½	12½	25	15	—	—
Village Deep	15	10	11¼	21¼	10	11¼	21¼
Village Main Reef ...	70	35	35	70	20	Nil	20
Witwatersrand	50	25	25	50	25	—	—
Do. Deep ...	35	15	17½	32½	15	13¾	28¾
Wolhuter	10	6¼	6¼	12½	6¼	—	—

‡ 10% bonus included.

The May distributes a 1s. dividend. This is derived from the Company's shareholding in Modder Deep.

Nothing of import has occurred in the Rhodesian market. The Shamva has declared another dividend of 7½%, making a total so far for the current year of 27½%.

There have been few features in the Miscellaneous departments. Copper descriptions have varied but slightly; the movement in the price of the metal does not affect the market to the extent it used to do in normal days, the reason being that the price for

"standard" copper is not such a criterion of the state of the industry as it used to be, as explained in THE STATIST of December 11.

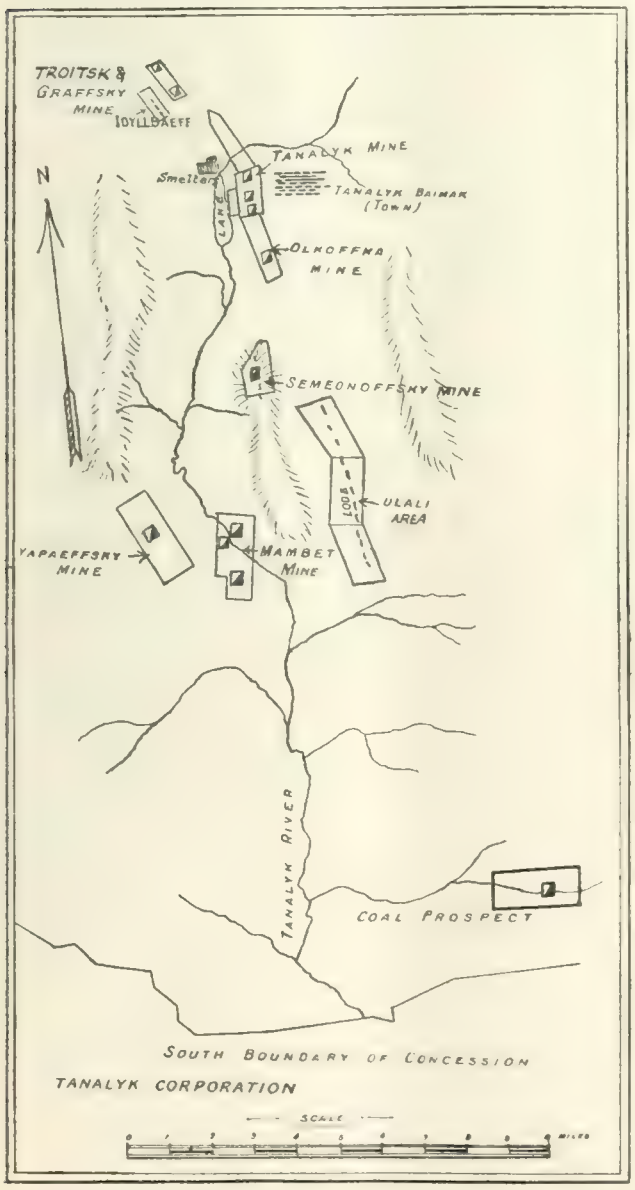
Broken Hill shares have reacted after their recent fairly protracted spell of strength.

A feature of the week has been the rise in Alaska United shares to 4⅜ on reported buying from America. We dealt fully with the Company's improved prospects on August 7, when the price of the shares was 3⅛, and explained an important new development discovery on September 25.

TANALYK CORPORATION.

WHILE it is true this Company in the past year has progressed in production, the War discomforts notwithstanding, much has yet to be ascertained as to the nature of the various ore deposits opened upon. In a direction from north to south lode matter has been attacked from Graffsky to Mambet and Ulali, the deposits covering a distance of about 13 miles, the approximate relative positions being indicated in the plan given herewith.

It is to be noted disappointment has been experienced regarding the coal deposit about 10 miles south-east of Mambet, which it was hoped would be so useful to the Company. It is now stated, however, that the dangerous character of the ground in the region of such deposit necessitates its abandonment, and investigation is being conducted in another region, about 30 miles distant from the mines.



From the financial point of view the report is a disappointing one. As regards income and expenditure there is about an equilibrium, but the disappointment comes in when the balance sheet is referred to and it is found the Company has a floating debt of some £90,000. The Company's accounts are made up to January 13, 1915.

There are two outstanding favourable features: (1) the satisfactory emergence of the Ulali from what was a mere "prospect" to what is now developing into a mine with a good grade of copper and some gold contents; (2) the quite new discovery, termed the Tuba, about 25 miles to the north of the Tanalyk mine. From the development work done the Tuba deposit seems to be a very rich discovery. It is made up of baritic sands and gossan; the outcrop is a thousand feet in length, and the deposit is being attacked by shaft sinking, and driving at a depth of about 60 feet below surface. So far, apparently, of 270 feet driven, samples have been received in respect of 160 feet; for the 6-feet width of the drive the assays in respect of 160 feet of driving averaged 76 dwt. gold contents. Opposite one of the shafts the width of the deposit was found to be 40 feet, and at another point a cross-cut proved 12 feet of width. The original copper contents in the present oxidised zone have been leached out, leaving gold and silver and a little copper. The centrally situated Semeonoffsky outcrop gossan, it may be recalled, is utilised as a flux in smelting the pyritic ore of the copper mines. The Semeonoffsky outcrop is barren of copper contents, but, according to the ore reserves statement, 140,000 tons brought into sight averages 12 dwt. gold contents to the ton.

It had been hoped that for 1916 there might have been the attainment of an output of 1,000 tons of copper, but circumstances are such that it is considered prudent to reduce this estimate of 1916 output to 600 tons. With the war conditions there is delay in effecting desired extension of plant. The output for the past year is returned as 573 tons of blister copper, and the detail of developments, &c., above referred to is set out below:—

Mambet.

At 327-foot level of drive, 100 feet long, 80 feet averaged, for width 5.3 feet—copper, 2.3%; gold, 4.6 dwt.; silver, 4.8 oz.

The ore channel followed in depth for a distance of 100 feet.

Tanaly's

At 274-foot level ore body exposed for 240 feet length, width of 2.3 feet—copper, 4.3%; gold, 3.2 dwt.; silver, 3.2 oz.

Graffsky.

At 247-foot level, Troitsk section, ore exposed for 100 feet length, width 3.2 feet—copper, 2%; gold, 7 dwt.; silver, 3.7 oz.

Ulali.

At 140-foot level of drive, 525 feet length, assays taken in respect of 485 feet for width 4.6 feet—copper, 7.2%; gold, 2.8 dwt.; silver, .8 oz.

The main cross-cut disclosed 15 feet width of ore—copper, 7.5%; gold, 3.5 dwt.; silver, 1.2 oz.

At 210-foot level assay returns for 43 feet length for width averaging 7 feet—copper, 3.5%; gold, 1.2 dwt.; silver, 1.2 oz.

Semeonoffsky.

Gossan outcrop deposit used as auriferous flux for smelter. 140,000 tons in sight, averaging 12 dwt. gold per ton.

Tuba (25 miles north of Tanalyk).

Outcrop over 1,000 feet long.

At 60-foot level, 270 feet driven in baritic sands and gossan (oxidised form of pyritic vein). Samples received for 160 feet of such distance for 6 feet width of drive showed—copper, 1.1%; gold, 76 dwt.; silver, 23 oz.

Opposite one of the shafts 40 feet width of deposit proved, and at another point cross-cut proved 12 feet width.

In twelve months to October 1915—period of construction—the smelter produced 573 tons of

blister copper from 32,000 tons of sulphide ore and gold-bearing gossan flux. Each ton of copper contained 21 oz. gold and 186 oz. silver. Recently two small blast furnaces have been added to plant for treatment of Ulali ore, but shortage of coke has prevented continuous operation.

Ore Reserves.

August 1915		April 1, 1915			
Tons		Tons	Copper %	Gold Dwt.	Silver Oz.
71,000	Mambet	65,800	2·3	7·1	7·4
6,000	Tanalyk	10,000	3·5	5·4	2
3,000	Graffsky	5,500	2·1	6·6	3·9
28,000	Ulali	10,000	7·9	3·4	1·2
108,000	Total (sulphide) and average	91,300	3·0	6·2	5·9
	Semeonoffsky (gossan) ...	140,000	—	12·0	·7

CANADIAN MINING INDUSTRY.

After proof had been afforded of the richness of the Cobalt silver deposits, surprise was expressed at the absence of investment of British capital in the field, and it is known that but a comparatively small amount of such capital has been embarked in the various gold-mining enterprises that have since been formed in different regions of Ontario. An explanation of the indifference of English investors to Canadian mining enterprises, even to those of distinct promise, is that in the initial stages of companies for dealing with Canadian properties, the English investor, where he had been induced to take an interest, found he had been "had." Companies formed for the purpose of manufacturing scrip and disposing of it to a credulous public were momentarily successful in the nefarious aims of obtaining good money for the output of the printing press, or, at best, the public was induced to secure an interest at extravagant prices in what were called mines, but which were only prospects. The same features in respect of Klondyke, Canadian, and American concerns were repeated as to Cobalt, and sought to be repeated in respect of some recent gold-bearing regions. Yet companies honestly conceived and soberly-working gold and silver properties are making rapid strides, and much is likely to be heard in the not far off future as to the increase of production of both gold and silver in Northern Ontario.

We dealt very fully with the position and outlook of the Hollinger Gold Mine in The Statist of February 27, 1915. This mine, which shows a gross profit of $184,768 for the four weeks period ending November 4 from 28,401 tons of $10.34 per ton, is still the largest producer in the Porcupine Gold Area of Northern Ontario, and will probably continue to hold its position for some considerable time, although many persons are of the opinion that the recent developments at the Dome Mine must eventually make the Dome the most important mine. On both properties new main working shafts, with an average daily capacity of 5,000 tons, are being put down, and elaborate plans to increase the milling capacity have been made.

The success of these properties, more particularly the Hollinger, which in 1910 was a mere prospect, has attracted considerable attention to the district, with the result that several properties have now been opened up with profit; the Porcupine Crown, the Schumacher, and Acme are already on a dividend-paying basis, while it is anticipated that the Porcupine Vipond and McIntyre Companies will each pay a first dividend in 1916.

With all these undertakings underground development work has been pushed forward, so that their ore supplies are far ahead of mill requirements. In many cases veins have been opened up in depth which do not apex at surface—this is particularly remarkable at the Dome, Hollinger and McIntyre Mines, where important ore bodies, ascertained by diamond drilling, have been found.

Development work is going on at the Dixon, North Thompson, Dome Lake, Dome Extension, and several other properties, details of which are not available.

Further considerable areas of promise have been taken up in this district on which practically no development has been or is being done. The Bewick Moreing interests control several such locations. Capital for these properties will no doubt gradually be found either in America or Canada, where the bulk of the money already invested in Porcupine has been raised.

With increasing returns from mines already producing, and the steady addition to the producing list of properties presently being developed, Porcupine promises to be a district of great importance.

The results so far attained, and the future prospects, should be particularly gratifying to the Ontario Government, that made the development of Porcupine possible by its far-sighted policy in extending a branch from its main line at Porquois Junction to Timmins, thus affording the necessary facilities for the introduction of labour and supplies to the different mining camps. Spurs from this branch line have already been extended to the Hollinger and Dome properties; the McIntyre and Schumacher mines are served by the branch line itself.

At Kirkland Lake progress has been slow, due principally to lack of capital, except at the Tough-Oakes, where satisfactory development has been steadily proceeded with. The latest reports from this property are to the effect that on the 400 feet level a vein has been opened up, which it is stated is five feet in width carrying an average value of £14 per ton. The new mill is almost completed, and the Canadian Company paid its first dividend of 12½ cents in November; a further similar dividend is to be paid on January 3 next.

New goldfields are being prospected near Kowkash, Boston Creek and Matheson. Remarkably rich ore was found on the Dobie Claim near the latter point, while most interesting developments are reported at Boston Creek. It is too soon yet to judge whether any of these districts will prove big producers.

Cobalt Silver Mining Companies have taken considerable interest in gold-mining properties lately. The Porcupine Crown Mines are practically owned by the Crown Reserve Silver Mining Company. The Nipissing Company has examined a number of properties and is interested in several. The Buffalo Company is presently developing the Teck-Hughes and other properties in the Kirkland Lake district, while the Dobie Claim already referred to has been taken over by interests connected with the Dominion Reduction Company of Cobalt.

Respecting some of the Kirkland Lake propositions, there is a lamentable state of indefiniteness as to what are the interests of London-formed companies initiated on supposition of their having secured a controlling interest in Canadian-formed companies, such as Tough-Oakes and Burnside, both having what are believed to be good properties. The English shareholders in these and associated companies ought to bestir themselves and have an inquiry to ascertain how they stand.

RHODESIA BROKEN HILL.

Those who have taken an interest in Rhodesian affairs will be aware that years ago an immense deposit of zinc-lead ore formation in two kopjes or hills was discovered. It has remained fallow for years pending investigation as to the proper process for profitably extracting the metal. Preparations were made last year, and have been brought to maturity, as to a first unit of plant for concentrating and smelting. The smelter was started in June 1915, and the remaining plant, designed to be capable of treating 50 tons of ore per day, was reported as completed in September 1915. To the end of November 354 tons of lead had been produced. It is to be hoped that the process the Company has taken up will prove satisfactory in view of the quantities of metals reported to be in sight. At No. 1 kopje 140,000 tons of ore are exposed of about 26% lead and 22% zinc contents. In No. 2 kopje, mainly composed of zinc with iron ores and limestone, 300,000 to 320,000 tons are reported as

exposed, containing 32% zinc. The Company's consulting engineer, Mr. Speak, of Messrs. Hooper, Speak and Company, left this country for South Africa on September 4, and is "now due" to arrive in London. It is hoped that at the annual meeting on Monday, December 20, Mr. Speak will be present and will report fully and give his impressions of what he has inspected. The present issued capital of the Rhodesia Broken Hill Development Company, Limited, is 641,083 5*s.* shares; say £160,270, the capital having been scaled down in 1910 by the giving of one new 5*s.* share for each former £1 share. On August 31, 1915, the end of the Company's financial year, the Company had a floating debt of about £18,000, and since that date further money must have been spent, an arrangement having been made for borrowing further resources.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.

The Sulphide Corporation having, like the Broken Hill Proprietary, its own smelting works, has been able, by producing an easily marketable product, to reap great advantage from the high prices ruling for lead and zinc since the commencement of the War. The Company has its own Broken Hill mine, containing a large body of silver-lead-zinc ore. Its lead and zinc concentrating plants, from treatment of the mine ore and tailings residues, respectively produce lead and zinc concentrates in much the same way as do all the Broken Hill companies. But the Sulphide Corporation, in addition, is able at its own smelting works to smelt the lead concentrates as well as purchased ores, and produce lead bullion containing gold, silver, and lead in easily marketable form. The zinc concentrates the Company is not able to treat itself; but luckily it has been found possible, the directors' report just issued states, to find new markets for the sale of a substantial part of the zinc concentrates produced in the past year to June 30, 1915. Thus it comes to pass that the high prices of lead and zinc during the period have enabled the Company to earn a larger profit than ever before.

The quantity of mined ore milled during the past year was slightly less than in the preceding twelve months, but the lead and silver contents were appreciably higher, as shown below:—

Year to June 30	Tons Raised	Assay Value Lead %	Assay Value Silver Oz.	Assay Value Zinc %	Tons Treated	Products in Lead-Concentrates per Ton of Crudes— Lead %	Silver Oz.	Lead Recovery %
1910 ...	231,748	18·5	11·6	18·4	231,339	13·7	6·3	74·2
1911 ...	222,483	16·3	11·1	17·3	226,768	11·8	5·3	72·2
1912 ...	220,450	15·7	11·8	17·7	218,365	12·1(*a*)	6·1(*a*)	77·0(*a*)
1913 ...	211,593	14·3	11·8	16·7	210,440	11·2(*a*)	5·0(*a*)	77·9(*a*)
1914 ...	208,538	14·4	12·1	17·0	209,074	10·9(*a*)	5·1(*a*)	75·5(*a*)
1915 ...	200,079	15·5	12·6	17·0	197,180	12·0(*a*)	6·4(*a*)	77·8(*a*)

(*a*) Including results from de-leading plant.

The increased lead values in the ore milled enabled the Company, despite the slightly smaller quantity of ore dealt with, to produce a larger tonnage of lead concentrates, and, party as a consequence, the cost of production declined considerably. In addition, the average price of lead for the year at £19⅞ per ton was higher than for very many years past, and the same applies to the average price of over £40 per ton for zinc. Largely as a result of these very high metal prices the value of the Company's produce in the past year rose to £1,312,940, against £1,060,178 for the previous twelve months:—

Year ended June 30	Lead Section Concentrates Produced Tons	Total Zinc Concentrates Produced Tons	Lead Bullion Produced Tons	Value of Produce £	Av. Metal Prices— Lead per Ton £	Silver per Oz. *d.*	Zinc per Ton £	Cost of Lead-Concentrates Per Ton £ *s.* *d.*
1906 ...	24,607	37,231	21,558	988,790	15⅝	31·4	26¾	--
1907 ...	12,918†	61,082	19,516	1,318,550	19½	33·7	26½	--
1908 ...	33,674	99,039	21,813	1,130,941	15½	31·4	26½	6 10 4
1909 ...	42,354	83,554*	17,170	1,093,719	15½	25·5	20½	4 16 8
1910 ...	51,342	98,931*	20,050	1,105,111	13	25·8	22½	4 9 8
1911 ...	43,446	71,664	18,271	982,595	13	26·7	22¾	5 6 8
1912 ...	40,977	69,826	18,100	1,091,886	15⅝	28	26½	6 15 0
1913 ...	35,158	66,518	13,410	1,028,516	18⅝	30·6	25¾	8 1 8
1914 ...	34,317	64,798	25,319	1,060,178	18¾	29·1	21¼	8 6 7
1915 ...	36,849	61,247	28,969	1,312,940	19⅞	25·5	40⅞	6 14 4

* Includes zincy-lead concentrates.
† Output of emergency plant to May 11, 1907, and from new plant thereafter.

Naturally, having regard to the very large increase in the value of the produce and the reduction in the cost of producing lead concentrates, the gross working profit was very appreciably benefited, rising to £435,161 for the past year, in comparison with £245,735 for the previous twelve months. After deduction of amortisation, the net working profit for the year comes out as £401,689, in comparison with £208,493 in the year to June 30, 1914. Allowing for general, office, and other charges, including £96,000 for taxes and reserve for excess profits duty, the net profit of the past year is shown in the accounts as £286,000, in comparison with £165,227 for the previous year, when, however, taxes only figured for £22,153. Dividends of 20% for the past year have been declared on both the Preference and Ordinary shares—the issued capital being £962,500, comprising 550,000 Preference £1 shares and 550,000 Ordinary 15*s.* shares—in comparison with 10% for the year 1913-14. In addition, the carry-forward is increased by nearly £60,000 to £287,463:—

Year to June 30	1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £	1910 £
Working profit ...	435,161	245,735	381,050†	381,750	247,058	267,276
Allocations –						
Amortisation ...	35,472	37,994	29,570	33,870	35,944	36,518
Written off capital expenditure ...	—	1,148	41,941	-	-	-
Debenture interest ...	—	—	1,422	2,963	3,056	3,537
General office and sundry expenses ...	115,688	43,366*	27,116	33,890*	30,614	25,588
Total charges ...	149,161	80,508	100,102	70,523	67,610	62,443
Net profit ...	286,000	165,227	280,948	311,227	179,448	204,833
Balance brought forward	229,463	178,934	122,986	138,009	122,096	87,067
Total for appropriation	515,463	344,161	403,934	449,236	301,544	291,900
Dividend on Pref. ...	110,000 (20%)	55,000 (10%)	110,000 (20%)	165,000 (30%)	82,500 (15%)	82,500 (15%)
Dividend on Ord. ...	82,500 (30%)	41,250 (10%)	82,500 (20%)	123,750 (30%)	61,875 (15%)	61,875 (15%)
Directors' percentage ...	7,500	3,448	7,500	7,500	5,160	5,429
Contingency fund ...	28,000	15,000	25,000	30,000	15,000	20,000
Balance carried forward	287,463	229,463	178,934	122,986	138,009	122,096

* Large increase in income tax in Australia.
† Includes £65,834 on account of cancelled slimes contract.
(*a*) In latter £96,000 reserved for Australian and English taxes and excess profits duty.

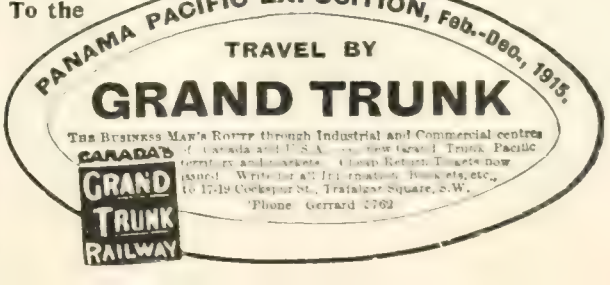
The very conservative distribution of the past year's profits shown above has had the effect of further strengthening the already very strong financial position of the Company, and at June 30, 1915, the surplus liquid assets, excluding the value of stores, amounted to £262,833, against £173,068 at June 30, 1914, and £105,283 at June 30, 1913, the figures being made up as follows:—

Surplus Liquid Assets.

	June 30, 1915 £	June 30, 1914 £	June 30, 1913 £
Liquid Assets:—			
Products in transit ...	165,639*	51,101*	147,319
Products on hand	125,525	108,188	60,614
Purchase ores in stock	20,291	36,197	22,773
Sundry debtors ...	227,020	90,446	89,839
Investments at cost†	64,719	49,091	49,091
Cash	29,400	27,702	53,653
Total Liquid Assets	642,593	362,619	423,289
Current Liabilities:—	£	£	£
Creditors	179,670	89,843	118,006
Dividends payable ...	192,500	96,250	132,000
Directors' percentage	7,500	3,448	7,5003
	379,670	189,541	18,006
Surplus	262,833	173,068	105,283

* Products in transit [illegible] "Investments".

The latest figure of surplus liquid assets is before allowance for payment of excess profits duty, but seeing that very good results were obtained by the Company in 1911-12 and 1912-13, the duty payable should not be a very onerous one. On the other hand, taxes in Australia have been rising rapidly recently.



As regards the position of the Company's mine, the quantity of ore in sight is very large, amounting to over 2,000,000 tons, representing about 10 years' supply for the recent rate of consumption. It has to be noted, however, that there has been a steady decline in the ore reserves tonnage since 1909. In his report for the year to June 30, 1909, the General Manager said:—

Future developments are not expected to balance the extraction for some considerable time, owing to the contraction of the lode at depth; nevertheless, from both the appearance of the walls and the general formation of the lode, there are strong indications that a further mass of ore may be discovered below the present workings.

The lowest level then was the 1,100-foot. The 1,200-foot and 1,300-foot levels have since opened up a considerable quantity of ore, but not nearly so much as the levels above. Another level at 1,400 feet is now to be commenced. In 1896 the ore reserves amounted to 2,690,620 tons, and in the 19 years since 3,683,777 tons have been extracted from the mine, and still the ore in sight is 2,039,200 tons.

Ore Reserves.

Year Ends June 30	Development Footage	Ore Developed Tons	Ore Mined Tons	Ore Reserves at June 30 Tons	Lowest Level ft.
1896	--	-	-	2,690,620	600
13 years, 1896–1909	—	2,496,186	2,382,886	2,803,920	1,100
1910	6,303	129,828	231,748	2,702,000	1,200
1911	4,566	182,883	228,483	2,656,400	1,200
1912 . .	3,828	63,600	220,450	2,499,600	1,200
1913	4,725	64,100	211,593	2,352,400	1,200
1914 . .	1,958	67,738	208,538	2,211,600	1,300
1915	4,074	27,679	260,079	2,039,200	1,300

As to the future, it has to be borne in mind that prices of the metals exert a very great influence on the Company's profits. During the War it is probable that high quotations will continue to rule, but what will happen thereafter is an unknown quantity. Still, at the present time the £1 Preference shares, at the market price of about 32*s.* *cum* 2*s.* dividend, return the investor about 13¼% on the basis of the past year's dividend of 20%, and the 15*s.* Ordinary shares at, say, 21*s.* 6*d.* xd give a yield of about 14%. The Preference are the better purchase, consequent on their preferential 10% dividend, after payment of which the Ordinary receive 10% and then both classes share alike. The manner in which the shares have fluctuated in the past few years should be noted from the following:—

Highest and Lowest Prices.

		1915*	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	Present Price
Pref. (£1)	H.	31/3	38 3	45 0	44 0	38 9	34/0	31/0	32 0
	L.	22 6	30 0	30 0	28 6	27/6	24/0	19/6	
Ord. (15/-)	H.	21 0	28 0	32 6	32 0	24/0	24/0	21/6	23 0
	L.	12/6	21 6	22 0	19/0	17/6	16/6	8/6	

* To mid-November.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Although at first sight it looks as if the gold output for November showed a decrease compared with October, when the difference in days is taken into account, it will be found that for October the output was £104,587 per day; whereas for November, with 30 days, it amounted to slightly more than in October—namely £106,073 per day. In other words, when allowance is made for the reduced number of days in November, the gold output was at a greater rate than for a very long time past.

	Tons Milled and Yield per Ton		Value
	Tons	Yield	£
1912	25,486,361	29/0	37,182,746
1913	25,628,432	27.9	35,812,605
1914.			
First half	12,308,282	26 11	16,609,705
Second half	12,393,672	26/3	17,514,729
Year 1914	25,701,954	26/7	34,124,434
1915.			
6 months	13,734,393	26/4	18,066,014
July	2,395,397	26/4	3,153,980
August	2,418,447	25/11	3,183.981
September	2,413,863	26/4	3,182,548
October	—	—	3,269,893
November	—	—	3,201,112

The returns of natives recently employed in gold mining are as follows:—

1915							
Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July	June	May	April
210,068	210,017	204,833	196,866	190,026	184,155	183,961	186,941

American Copper Companies.—Last week, dealing with the positions of the Utah, Ray, and Chino Companies, we mentioned that the Utah, for the December quarter, had increased its dividend from $1, paid for the two previous quarters, to a distribution of $1½. On the day our remarks appeared, the Ray and Chino Companies also announced increased dividends; in the case of the Ray from 37½ cents to 50 cents, and Chino from 75 cents, paid in each of the two previous quarters, to $1 for the December quarter. Assuming ability to maintain the increased rates of dividends now declared, the yields on the quotations given last week will be Utah 7½%, Ray about 7¾%, and a little over 7¼% in the case of Chino.

Burma Corporation.—The internal shaft has now reached the desired depth—*i.e.*, the random of the Tiger Tunnel at 500 feet below the 171-foot level. From 491 feet to 496 feet the values average 14 oz. silver, 17% lead, and 26% zinc. Extraordinarily high metal contents continue to be reported at nearly all points, especially at the 300-foot and 430-foot levels. For instance, at the 430-foot level, in rise 1,292 feet south, from 35 feet to 40 feet, averages 40 oz. silver, 50% lead, and 40% zinc. This is surely the superlative of richness for a base-metal bearing ore.

El Oro.—The directors' report issued this week covers the two years ended June 30, 1914 and 1915. For the year 1913-14 the profit and loss account shows a profit of £103,690 after writing off £25,000 for depreciation and £23,242 loss on exchange. The year to June 30, 1915, was a very bad one indeed, owing to the revolutionary conditions. The Company was compelled by the party in power to restart its mill on October 1, 1914—it had been shut down since April 28, 1914—and to continue operations till February 27, 1915, when work once more ceased on account of invasion of the camp by revolutionaries. No work has been done since except maintenance of workings and the keeping of them free from water and the property generally undamaged. In the circumstances a loss of £78,397, after writing off £46,343 for depreciation and £20,444 for loss on exchange, is not surprising. It is satisfactory to note the strength of the balance sheet at June 30, 1915, cash, Treasury bills and bullion exceeding current liabilities by £98,554. The report states that economic conditions in Mexico as yet show no improvement, and present advices do not justify optimism in this direction for the immediate future. It is to be noted, however, that no damage has been done to the mine or works; but the railway has suffered some damage, as some of the locomotives and other rolling-stock which were commandeered are in a bad state of repair.

Witwatersrand (Knight's).—£469,625, in £1 shares. Sundry revenue, say £2,000 a month, included in profits below. Mill 225 stamps; five tubes added October 1913; total capacity about 45,000 tons per month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914...	211½	av.503,150	14	607,225	24/1	323,212	12/10	284,013	11/3	—
1915.										
Mar.qr.	210	121,550	19¾	162,028	26/8	86,625	14/3	75,403	12/5	2 13/16
June qr.	210	127,010	14½	159,580	25/1	84,381	13/3	75,199	11/10	3¼
Sept.qr.	215	128,260	15¼	160,794	25/0	86,118	13/5	74,676	11/7	2⅝
Oct. ...	—	43,130	—	55,222	25/7	30,012	14/9	25,210	10/10	2⅞
Nov. ...	—	42,400	—	54,882	25/11	29,926	15/0	24,956	10/11	2 13/16

Dividends—1914, June, 25; Dec., 25 per cent.
1915, June, 25 per cent.

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, December 15, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£88,596,630	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	60,146,630
	£88,596,630		£88,596,630

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£32,840,075
Rest	3,296,508	Other Securities	96,865,303
Public Deposits	52,136,389	Notes	34,329,820
Other Deposits	94,169,276	Gold and Silver Coin	134,552
Seven-day and other Bills	14,597		
	£164,169,750		£164,169,750

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 29	29.7	38.1	12.7	54.4	11.0	47.3	26.9	40·03	4	4⅜
1915.										
Nov. 10	33.2	55.3	43.9	90.4	18.9	97.6	40.6	29·13	5	4½
— 17	33.0	53.6	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	—	5¼
— 24	33.3	52.4	52.1	84.6	18.9	98.1	37.6	27·48	—	5⅛
Dec. 1	34.3	51.2	50.3	93.5	29.8	96.5	35.4	24·61	—	5⅛
— 8	34.1	50.3	52.4	90.0	32.8	92.9	34.6	24·26	—	5⅛
— 15	34.2	50.3	52.1	94.0	32.8	96.9	34.4	23·55	—	5½

* July 30, '14 + to 4%; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10%; Aug. 6, 8%; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below:—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Nov. 17 ...	223,735,893	135,184,617	88,551,276	28,500,000	32·2
Week to „ 24 ...	5,212,857	3,538,486	90,225,657	28,500,000	31·6
„ Dec. 1 ...	5,428,408	3,740,067	91,913,999	28,500,000	31·0
„ „ 8 ...	5,905,079	3,527,378	94,291,700	28,500,000	30·2
„ „ 15 ...	5,801,909	2,948,833	97,144,775	28,500,000	29·3

II.—Balance Sheet, December 15, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	68,152,444	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	23,442,331	Other Bankers	159,000
Certificates outstanding ...	5,550,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	734,893	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	54,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ..	14,351,105
Total	97,879,668	Total	97,879,668

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows:—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Dec. 9, Thursday ...	8,000 bars.	200,000 bars. 67,000 Canada. 25,000 Uruguay. 20,000 S. America.
„ 10, Friday ...	Nil.	261,000 U.S.
„ 11, Saturday ...	14,000 bars.	100,000 Egypt.* 85,000 U.S. 50,000 Switzerland.*
„ 13, Monday ...	Nil.	100,000 Egypt.*
„ 14, Tuesday ...	225,000 sovs. Misc. a/c.	100,000 Uruguay. 100,000 Egypt.*
„ 15, Wednesday	750,000 sovs. 136,000 bars.	300,000 Continent. 170,000 sovs. U.S.
Total for week ...	1,133,000	1,578,000
Net aggregate ...	[445,000 *efflux* for week.]	
Dec. 16, Thursday ...	629,000 bars.	250,000 Spain 125,000 S. America. 32,000 Canada 20,000 U.S.A.
„ 17, Friday ...	Nil.	315,000 sovs. U.S.

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted):					
Circulation	£28,8	£28,7	£28,8	£35,6	£34.2
Public Deposits	6,4	11,3	8,0	43,2	52.1
Other Deposits	48,9	40,2	37,5	122,7	94.0
Government Securities	17,2	13,0	11,2	11,9	32.8
Other Securities	33,7	34,1	27.0	116,5	96,9
Reserve	22.2	22.2	25.1	55,3	34,4
Ratio to Liabilities	40½%	42·98%	55·10%	33·31%	23·55%
Bullion (both Departments)	32,5	32,5	35,4	72,4	50,3
Money:—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	4%	4⅛%	4⅛-4⅜%	2½%	5⅛%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 11	25 20½	25 31½	25 07½	27 68½
Hamburg 8 days	20 37½	20 44	20 48½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82½	4 81	4 81	4 84½	4 69½
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4 5/8	1/4⅛	1/4 3/16	1/3⅛	1/4 5/16
Prices:					
Consols 2½% Cash	88⅛	74⅜	71 7/16	68½	57⅛
French Rente 3% Money	99 95	89 22	85 22	70 25	63 75
Silver, London spot oz.	-/30 1/16	-/29⅛	-/26	-/22⅜	-/25
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	28/6	30/8	31/2	42/1	52/10
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/6·23	-/7·13	-/7·13	-/4·39	-/7·53
Iron, Scotch pig ton	58/3	72/9	56/1½	59 4½	83/10½

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Nov. 17, 1915	Pesos 235,44 ,006
Nov. 10, 1915	235,445,480
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Nov. 20, 1915	£5,015,397
Sept. 25 to Nov. 13, 1915	5,093,284
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS.

[In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,197	£788	£8,893	£47
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4,030	3,323	12,880	1,216
Nov. 30, 1915 ...	5,931	228	6,159	3,870	3,360	12,287	1,342
Nov. 30, 1914 ...	4,334	189	4,523	6,713	1,186	11,727	377
Nov. 29, 1913 ...	—	—	4,260	4,541	1,255	8,168	112

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
July 30, 1914†	£165,854	£25,013	£190,867	£97,768	£267,327	£15,302	£37,903
Dec. 9, 1915 ...	197,601	14,260	211,861	12,632	662,819	6,234	117,618
Dec. 16, 1915 ...	201,056	14,309	215,365	14,670	637,930	89,470	88,566
Dec. 10, 1914 ..	165,670	14,041	179,711	154,032	399,442	7,062	108,378
Dec. 18, 1913	140,984	26,033	167,017	58,886	227,881	8,095	26,862

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23, '14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,198
Nov. 30, '15 ...	121,783	1,886	123,628	33,899	234,378	299,971	79,392
Dec. 7, '15 ...	121,810	1,796	123,866	23,856	250,275	302,044	83,363
Dec. 7, '14 ...	100,947	2,034	103,031	35,189	154,086	211,498	74,228
Dec. 8, '13 ...	60,068	13,788	73,856	4,140	45,553	97,593	31,082

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1 1914† ...	£13,496	£249	£13,745	£13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Dec. 4, 1915 ...	34,756	291	35,047	6,414	7,556	47,399	3,046
Dec. 11, 1915 ...	35,059	335	35,394	8,419	7,432	47,103	3,809
Dec. 12, 1914 ...	16,302	484	16,786	14,227	10,863	39,525	1,284
Dec. 13, 1913 ...	12,458	757	13,213	7,330	6,974	26,187	300

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Discnts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456	£25,017	£69,204	£3,887	
Oct. 31, '15 ...	£44,957	£4,338	49,295	4,794	29,079	115,929	£9,356
Nov. 10, '15 ...	44,659	4,267	48,926	4,337	27,388	116,662	30,052
Nov. 10, '14 ...	—	—	49,077	36,562	85,924	18,955	
Nov. 10, '13 ...	—	—	48,441	24,166	71,390	6,696	

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Oct. 30, '15 ...	21,699	499	6,794	34,346	21,878	4,669
Nov. 6, '15	21,774	494	6,207	31,362	23,208	6,238
Nov. 7, '14 ...	21,351	1,753	7,907	29,035	13,326	2,454
Nov. 8, '13 ...	21,729	2,249	9,611	32,280	18,448	1,341

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	—	—	£39,883	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1,720
Dec. 4, '15 ...	£103,486	£43,562	147,028	626,586	671,332	7,020	36,038
Dec. 11, '15 ...	103,916	43,130	147,043	630,082	674,378	7,022	35,804
Dec. 12, '14 ...	67,146	24,789	91,935	435,967	412,570	12,344	23,940
Dec. 13 '13 ...	—	—	77,997	370,602	335,198	8,924	2,220

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,960	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Nov. 30, 1915 ...	3,659	3,694	781	4,200	8,416	1,317
Dec. 7, 1915 ...	3,526	3,788	781	4,314	8,404	1,377
Dec. 7, 1914 ...	2,374	1,563	508	6,435	7,103	1,021
Dec. 8, 1913 ...	2,580	1,617	504	4,005	5,800	455

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£8,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Nov. 21, '15 ...	173,891	2,855	176,746	7,052	489,484	511,348	154,777
Nov. 29, '15 ...	193,680	3,043	186,723	7,438	481,464	516,482	153,139
Nov. 29, '14 ...	176,942	4,442	181,384	8,529	182,244	231,470	98,291
Nov. 29, '13 ...	168,336	5,897	174,233	7,610	99,958	169,890	110,099

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4%	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Dec. 4, '15 ...	34,197	30,010	64,207	41,496	13,777	82,886	27,036
Dec. 11, '15 ...	34,406	30,117	64,523	41,340	13,777	82,541	27,536
Dec. 12, '14 ...	22,837	28,253	51,090	48,533	13,777	78,188	23,757
Dec. 13, '13 ...	19,070	28,942	48,012	42,044	13,777	76,498	17,155

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£5,717	£8,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Nov. 27, '15 ...	6,294	7,581	2,918	4,604	15,971	5,296
Dec. 4, '15 ...	6,291	7,980	2,908	4,931	16,883	5,150
Dec. 5, '14 ...	5,807	2,902	1,473	9,948	15,712	4,210
Dec. 6, '13 ...	5,689	4,821	1,534	7,933	12,074	4,255

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£18,371	£3,128
Nov. 30, 1915 ...	9,902	2,211	12,113	6,973	17,098	2,983
Dec. 7, 1915 ...	8,899	3,174	12,073	6,914	16,897	3,368
Dec. 7, 1914 ...	9,511	882	10,393	8,145	18,277	2,834
Dec. 6, 1913 ...	6,856	999	7,855	4,722	10,820	1,897

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources.	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Nov. 12, 1915 ...	£59,489	£65,851	£8,930	£71,883	£2,801	£89,238	80·1%
Nov. 19, 1915 ...	63,195	69,630	9,030	78,999	2,585	94,355	79·8%
Nov. 26 1915 ...	64,214	71,656	9,795	79,590	2,677	97,088	77·9%
Nov. 27, 1914 ...	45,568	52,494	1,477	49,854	540	54,004	—

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin	5	Dec. 23, '14	6	Aug. 1, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 28, '14
Petrograd	8	July 27, '14	8	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5	May 26, '15	5½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	4½	Oct. 28, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3-5	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess of Expenditure	Other Income including Loans & Advances	Other Expend. including Loans & Advances Repaid	Treasury Balance +or— Amt.	Treasury Balance +or— for Period	Treasury Bills Outstand'g
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
7 days to Nov. 27	3,364	34,004	30,640	44,590	15,828	23,965	−1,878	293,812
7 „ Dec. 4	3,816	70,079	66,233	92,635	18,455	31,882	+7,917	335,394
7 „ Dec. 11	5,813	27,569	21,756	31,567	8,843	32,851	+ 969	358,394
248 „ Dec. 11 1914.	151,928	1,003,824	851,896	1,199,221	397,926	32,851	−50,600*	+281,244*
249 „ Dec. 12	110,414	266,419	156,005	226,611	41,719	39,322	+28,887*	+87,100*

* Increase or decrease compared with April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Dec. 17, '15	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15	Nov. 26, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 11⅛	11 31	11 44½	11 45
—	Cable	10 90⅛	11 11	11 24½	11 25
Italy	3 mos.	31 48½	31 50	31 20	31 00
— —	Cable	31 05	31 05	30 75	30 55
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34½	34½	33¾	34
New York	do.	4 72⅜	4 72½	4 70½	4 70
—	Cheques	4 73⅛	4 73½	4 71⅛	4 70½
Paris	3 mos.	28 10	28 05	27 97½	28 20
—	Cable	27 67½	27 62½	27 57½	27 78
Petrograd	do.	149½	149½	149	145⅝
Scandinavia	do.	17 00	17 12½	16 75	17 00
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46⅝	46⅛	46¼	46
—	Cable	25 12½	25 15	25 00	25 16½
Switzerland	3 mos.	25 25	25 60	25 65	25 50
—	Cable	24 85	25 20	25 25	25 10

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Dec. 17, '15	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15	Nov. 26, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.	97⅛pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	11fl. 90c.	11fl. 10c.	11fl. 25c.	11fl. 24c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4 1-16d.	1s. 4 1-16d	1s. 4 1-16d.	1s. 4 1.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49⅛d.	49 5-16d.	49 5-16d.	49⅛d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4 1-16d.	1s. 4 1-16d.	1s. 4 1-16d.	1s. 4d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10⅛d.	1s. 11⅛d.	1s. 11⅛d.	1s. 10⅛d.
Italy	Sight	31lr. 05c.	31lr. 10c.	30lr. 75c.	30lr. 50c.
Lisbon	Sight	34½	34⅝	34	34
Madrid	Sight	25p 12½	25p. 10	25p. 00	25p. 15
Montevideo	90 days	54⅛d.	54⅛d.	54⅛d.	54⅛d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 72⅛	$4 72⅜	$4 71	$4 70⅞
New York	Sight†	$4 72*	$4 72⅜	$4 70½	$4 69⅝
—	60 days†	$4 67⅛*	$4 69	$4 67½	$4 66⅞
—	Cables†	$4 72⅝*	$4 72⅞	$4 71½	$4 70⅞
—	on Paris	5.85⅜f.*	5.84¼f.	5.85¼f.	5.91f.
—	on Berlin	76⅜c.*	78⅜c.	78⅛c.	80⅛c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight†	43⅛*	42⅜c.	42c	42c.
—	on Mexico Silver $	41⅛c. U.S.*	42⅜c. U.S.	42⅛c. U.S.	43c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 66c.	27f. 65c.	27f 55c.	27f. 77½c.
Petrograd	Sight	150	150	149	145⅜
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12 1-32d.	12⅛ i.	12 3-32d.	12 5-32d.
Scandinavia	Sight	16kr. 80	17kr. 20	16kr. 80	17kr. 00
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 6⅛ i.	2s. 7⅛ i	2s. 7d.	2s. 6⅜ i.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 90c.	25f. 20c.	25f. 22½c.	25f. 15c.
Valparaiso	90 days	8⅞d.	9 3-16d.	9 1-32d.	9 3-16d.

* Previous day's rates. † Foreign exchanges current in New York, according to cable advices from Irving National Bank of that city.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
BIRMINGHAM	Dec. 11	1,867,206 +	489,521	85,221,553	+12,320,651	+ 16·9
BRISTOL	„ 11	783 000 +	88.000	38.274.000	+ 2.747·000	+ 7·7
DUBLIN	„ 11	4.063.500 +	62.200	184.554 000	+15,962,400	+ 9·4
LEEDS	„ 11	443,727 +	14.560	31 071.808	+ 6.155 675	+ 24·7
LEICESTER	„ 11	440.052 +	60.194	19 577.704	+ 4.438.045	+ 29·7
LIVERPOOL	„ 11	5 855.034 +	2.032.580	276 062 784	+58.842.994	+ 27·1
MANCHESTER	„ 11	7.339.946 +	2 100,303	335,929 487	+24.062.938	+ 7·7
NEWCASTLE	„ 11	1.368.600 +	303.600	72 390 100	+16.955 800	+ 30·6
NOTTINGHAM	„ 11	441.805 +	132,881	17.935 908	+ 450.202	+ 2·6
SHEFFIELD	„ 11	506,368 +	181.154	29.617.377	+ 5.738 533	+ 24·1
LONDON—	1915.	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
TOWN	Dec. 15	206 434 +	48.645	10,469.134	− 1,634.701	−13·5
METROPOLITAN	„ 15	17.616 +	1.590	892.860	+ 84.426	+ 7·7
COUNTRY	„ 15	31,363 +	1,382	1.507.226	+ 184,113	+13·9
TOTAL	„ 15	255,433 +	51.616	12.869.220	− 1,366.162	− 9·7

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or —*	Consols Settling Days. 1915	£	+ or —*	"Fourth" of the Month. 1915	£	+ or —*
Nov. 12	46.793	—	Oct. 1	52.016	—	Oct. 4	47.178	+ 8.718
Nov. 28	41.581	—	Nov. 5	47.524	—	Nov. 4	48.934	+ 15.593
Dec. 15	48.457	—	Dec. 1	58.006	—	Dec. 4	41.073	+ 4.650
1915 agg.	974.765	—		589.654	—		549.116	− 63.410

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.—According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

HOMEWARDS.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	40/0	11/0	7/3
Australia to U.K.	95/0	—	30/6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	—
Bombay to p.p. d.w.	95/0	1 w.22/0	d.w 18/3
Burmah o.o.	125/0	—	23/9
Calcutta to p.p.	—d.w.	27/0	d.w. 20/6
Danube to A.R.	—	—	9/9
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	7/3
R. Plate to U.K Cont.	118/9	37/6	13/0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	—	70/0	30/0

Homewards—*cont.*	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	16/6	7/3	1/9
N.O. to L.H. (cotton &gr.)	—	25/0	12/0
N.O. to U.K. (cotton &gr.)	—	—	—

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915	—	—	62/6	33/6	—
1914	20/0	21/0	21/0	15/3	—
1913	10 0	9·6	7/3	12/9	—

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

DEC. 18.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	83/10½	59/4½	56/1½
— Middlesbro' warrants ....ton	77/2	53 4½	50/1
— Hematite warrants....ton	115/0	86 0	61/0
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£13 10	£9	£8
— Common bars ....ton	£13 2/6	£7 7/6	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro'....tons	122.049	102.592	142.608
Steel Rails ....ton	£11	£8 7/6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ....ton	£80 15	£56 12/6	£63 15
— Stock, Europe&afit., Nov. 30 tons	30.009	35.749	26.757
Tin—English ingots ....ton	£172	£153 10-£154 10	£172 10
— Straits ....ton	£168	£151	£170 10
Tinplates—Coke I.C. ....box	24/6	13/6 17/9	13/6—18 0
Lead—Soft Foreign ....ton	£28 15	£19 7/6	£17 17/6
Spelter—Ord. Foreign ....ton	£88	£27 10—£27 15	£21 10
Quicksilver—(75lb.) ....bottle	£16 10	£11 5	£7 10
Aluminium ....ton	nom.	£92—£94	£81—£85
Antimony—Regulus ....ton	nom	£49—£53	£28—£30
Coal—Steam (best) Cardiff ...ton	nom.	20/6	21/3
— — (best) Newcastle ....ton	22/0	13/3	15/6
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/6—14/9	10/9	10/9
Soda—Crystals ex ship ....ton	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5	£2 2/6—£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9—1 10	2/1—2 6	1/10—2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ....ton	£29	£24 15—£25	£31—£31 7/6
Gambier—Good marks ....cwt.	17 6	21/9	17/7½—17/9
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/6—15 0	12 6—14 0	3/0 3/6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels ...ton	£33 10	£22 5	£25—£25 5
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb.	72/0	49/6	43/3
Olive Oil—Spanish ....tun	£52	£54	£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ....ton	£38 10	£29 17—£30	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	-/10	-/7½	-/8½
Rape Oil—Refined English ..ton	£45	£34 10	£31 15
Soya Oil ....ton	£34	£33	£28 2/6
Tallow—Aust. mixed ....cwt.	48/0	31/6—32/6	33/0—34/6
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit ..cwt.	46 4½	34 7½	32/0
Rape Seed—Toria ....416lb.	62/6	43/6	47/6
Rubber—Para, spot ....lb.	3/1½	2/9½	3/1
— Fine plantation (standard crepe)lb.	3/6—3/6½	2/0	2/2½
—World's Vis. sup. all kinds) August	20.009	21.210	13.907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair...cwt.	80/0	63/0—84/0	84/0—85/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland ....lb.	-/7 53	-/4 39	-/7 13
— Egyptian good fair ....lb.	-/9 55	/6 05	-/9 70
— Pernambuco, fair ....lb.	-/8 35	-/4 80	-/7 42
— Mid. Upl. New York ....lb.	12 40c.	7.40	18.90c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Dec. 10 bales	859.060	693.550	807.500
Flax—Petrograd, Riga and ....ton	—	£43	£32
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£37 15	£24 10	£28
— Manila, Fair strips ....ton	£44 10	£25 10	£28 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ....ton	£27 10	£18 10	£35
— Red SHC ....ton	£24 10	£17	£32
Silk—Blue Elephant ....lb.	12 9	9 3	11/3—11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0—1/1	-/9½—/10½	-/11—1/0
— Lincoln Half Hogs ....lb	1/7	1/2—1/2½	1/0½—1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	-/8½	-/8½	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ....lb.	2/1—2/7	2/1—2/7	1/4—1/8
VEG. FOOD. CORN. &c.			
Wheat—Vis. sup. U.S. Dec. 13 bus	57,253.000	80.498.000	71.690.000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	129½	nom	101c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr	52 10	42 1	31 2
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	49/0	40/6	29/6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	4 7/10	29/11	28 5
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr	30/4	25 9	18 6
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb.	nom.	72½	nom.
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ..100lb.	9/0—9/2	7 2½	5/0½
— La Plata ....480lb. qr.	42/6	29/9—30/0	24/6—26/6
Potatoes—Kents ....ton	100 0	75 0—80 0	60/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1 ...tons	41.667	27.412	11.591
— Deliveries do. ....tons	28.112	25.628	14.183
— Stock ....tons	20.530	6.479	4.763
— Price, Bassein ....cwt.	18/0	17/0	7/7½—7/10½
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ....cwt.	19/0—20/0	13/0—20/0	14/0—17/6
Hay—Best ....2,016lb. load	120/0—135/0	87/6—95/0	77/6—87/6
Hops—English ....cwt.	£5 15—£7	£3 5—£5 5	£8 10—£10
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 81b	5/4—5/8	4/10	3/3—3/7
— Scotch sides 81b	5/6—5/8	5/2	4 4—4/6
— English 81b	5/0—5/6	4/11	3/8—4/4
Mutton—Scotch 81b	5/8—6/4	5/0	5/0—5/4
— English wethers 81b	5/6—6 0	4/10	4/8—5/0
— New Zealand frozen 81b	4/4—4/11	3/8	2/9—3/5
Pork—English ....81b.	6/0—6/4	4/0—4/8	4/4—5/0
Bacon—Irish ....cwt.	94/0—103/0	72/0—78/0	64/0—76/0
— Danish ....cwt	94/0—103/0	83/0—74/0	64/0—74/0
Hams—Amer long cut ....cwt.	95/0—99/0	70/0—74/0	64/0—75/0
— — short cut ....cwt	96/0—98/0	70/0—74/0	66/0—75/0
Lard—Amer. pails ....cwt.	59/3—60/3	57/6—59/0	56/6—56/9
Butter—Danish ....cwt.	170/0—174/0	150/0—154/0	130/0—133/0
— Siberian ....cwt.	98/0—134/0	120/0—130/0	88/0—114/0
— French ....cwt.	112/0—180/0	120/0—134/0	110/0—130/0
— New Zealand ....cwt.	154/0—182/0	132/0—138/0	124/0—128/0
— Australian ....cwt.	150/0—158/0	132/0—138 0	100/0—116/0
Cheese—Canadian ....cwt.	90/0—94/0	77/0—79/0	65/0—68/0
— New Zealand (white) ....cwt.	90/0—92/0	75/0—77/0	64/0—65/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	612.095	819.852	850.303
— Deliveries do. ....tons	809.081	761.485	816 582
— Stock ....tons	26.540	174.382	89.593
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ....cwt.	18/6	18 0	10/9
— — Mauritius, crystals....cwt.	nom.	26/0—27/0	15/0—15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ....cwt.	40/6	31/0	17/9
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	61.327	48.718	36.975
— Home consumption do. ...tons	19.001	14.994	14.316
— Exports do. ....tons	23.462	28.368	20.844
— Stock ....tons	31.875	13.842	10.197
— Price Costa Rica gd. to fine cwt.	68/0—75/0	75/0—85/0	82/0—92/6
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ...cwt.	39/6	42/0	44 7½
Tea—Imports...(for 11 months)lb.	395.880.258	302.849.031	324.178.052
— Home consumption do. ....lb.	292.418.345	295.458.127	280.898.014
— Exports do. ....lb.	56.329.310	65.413.134	53.128.490
— Stock, Nov. 30 ....lb.	161.948.000	74.486.000	125.434.000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb.	-/8	-/8	-/8½
— — Ceylon, Pek., Soug. Ord....lb.	-/9½	-/9½	-/8½
— — Common Congou....lb.	-/7½	-/7½	-/4½—/5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	88/0-90/0	73/0—74/0	61/0—62/0

* Prices more or less nominal owing to exceptional conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Dec. 10	80	—	£2,763	+ 130	49	177,644	+ 9,172
CorkBan.&S.C.	Dec. 10	103	—	2,091	− 67	49	103,701	+ 4,529
Dublin & S.E.	Dec. 10	160	—	4,789	+ 314	49	270,680	+ 1,771
Gt. Northern	Dec. 10	561	—	20,985	+ 1,435	49	1,137,405	+ 24,655
Gt.S.&Western	Dec. 10	1,130	—	28,926	+ 1,187	49	1,634,228	+ 92,643
Mid. Gt. West.	Dec. 10	538	—	13,583	+ 620	49	635,485	+ 10,627

**** *On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Nov. 6	662	+11	1,42,000	− 4,482	5	6,74,000	− 18,786
Barsi Light ...	Nov. 20	116	—	12,100	− 1,000	8	6,23,690	− 71,990
Bengal & N.W.	Nov. 6	2,066	+37	2,97,210	− 1,30,932	5	15,64,340	− 1,24,509
Bengal Dooars	Nov. 20	163	—	48,187	+ 9,781	8	2,97,553	+ 34,166
Beng. Nagpur	Nov. 13	2,885	+ 9	7,39,000	− 5,000	33	2,47,06,562	− 5,33,354
Bomb. Baroda	Dec. 11	2,869	+32	13 32,000	+ 1,26,000	11	1,24,28,000	+10,41,000
Burma	Nov. 13	1,342	—	3,34,504	− 22,073	33	1,16,22,904	−11,50,246
East Indian ...	Dec. 11	2,716	—	20,73,000	+ 7,000	11	2,06,60,000	− 1,67,000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Dec. 4	3,112½	+132½	22,69,700	+ 9,89,700	10	1,53,87,400	+24,17,236
Madras & S.M.	Nov. 13	3,131½	−1½	7,40,000	+ 29,380	7	47,60,000	+ 3,96,879
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 30	797	—	1,86,847	+ 30,592	4	7,16,429	+ 40,870
Roh.&Kumaon	Oct. 30	545	+ 1	68,974	+ 2,282	5	2,63,934	− 7,208
South Indian	Nov. 13	1,763	+10	4,98,496	+ 26,578	7	32,87,567	+ 5,43,964
South Punjab	M.of Aug.	823	—	7,15,774	+ 1,65,843	5†	36,91,893	− 3,83,513

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Can. Northern	Dec. 7	7,280	—	$830,600	+ 327,900	9	8,044,300	+2,735,300
Can. Pacific...	Dec. 7	12,921	+602	3,046,000	+1,280,000	22	56,573,000	+6,313,000
Gd.Trunk Pac.	Dec. 7	918	—	£45,296	+ 32,185	22	601,692	+ 163,135
Grand Trunk	Dec. 14	4,008	—	155,468	+ 16,714	49	7,718,153	− 466,059
Grd. Trunk W.	Dec. 14	338	—	40,849	+ 10,828	49	1,536,677	+ 129,378
Det. Grd. Ha.	Dec. 14	189	—	13,979	+ 3,787	49	568,257	+ 55,801
Mashonaland	M.ofSept.	751	—	52,800	+ 10,533	12†	501,481	− 230,139
Mid. W. Aust.	M ofSept.	277	—	5,653	− 2,359	3†	16,721	− 9,720
New CapeCent.	Nov. 13	205	—	1,601	+ 93	45	80,679	+ 905
Rhodesia Rlys.	M.ofSept.	1,397	—	74,243	+ 4,313	12†	788,930	− 235,997

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Dec. 11	33	—	Ps. 8,000	− 3,000	50	607,700	− 40,050
Antofagasta ...	Dec. 12	819	—	£ 35,990	+ 16,980	50	1,230 825	− 253,460
Arauco	M.of Oct.	64½	—	£ 9,225	+ 2,400	10†	67,800	− 6,449
Arg. N. East...	Dec. 11	752	+ 85	£ 5,823	+ 1,773	24	156,376	+ 47,939
Arg. Transand.	Nov. 20	111	—	£ 690	− 60	21	8,500	+ 550
Bolivar	M. ofNov.	110	—	£ 9,000	+ 4,457	5†	39,634	+ 13,961
Brazil	M.ofSept.	3,428	+ 64	M 3,498,000	+1076,517	9†	29,319,000	+1,864,954
Paulista.....	M.ofSept.	721	—	M 3,200,000	+ 947,978	9†	20,160,000	+2,549,989
Mogyana ...	M.ofSept.	1,131	—	M 2,395,000	+ 432,733	9†	17,474,000	+2,182,215
B.A. & Pacific	Dec. 11	3,536	+ 1	£ 82,000	− 5,000	24	1,341,000	+ 299,000
B.A. Gt. So....	Dec. 12	3,792	+ 63	£ 127,000	+ 22,000	24	2,175,908	+ 396,967
B.A. Western	Dec. 12	1,867	+ 75	£ 55,000	+ 2,000	24	1,093,000	+ 163,000
Cent.Argentine	Dec. 11	3,307	+ 45	£ 97,100	− 10,100	24	2,615,700	+ 237,400
Cent. Uruguay	Dec. 11	271	—	£ 12,696	+ 294	24	272,641	+ 52,140
„ (E. Ext.)	Dec. 11	311	—	£ 4,295	+ 107	24	86,983	+ 20,537
„ (N. Ext.)	Dec. 11	186	—	£ 1,879	− 122	24	44,851	+ 11,281
„ (W. Ext.	Dec. 11	211	—	£ 2,447	+ 159	24	43,523	+ 9,383
Colomb. Nat.	M. ofNov.	86	—	£ 10,560	+ 1,560	11†	114,802	+ 2,691
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Oct.	65½	—	£ 17,438	− 1,762	4†	82,473	− 8,227
Cord. Central	Dec. 11	1,186	—	£ 26,300	− 4,450	24	710,400	− 146,045
Cuban Central	Dec. 4	354	+ 9	£ 9,790	+ 3,326	23	178,670	+ 29,240
Dorada Ext....	M.of Nov.	71	—	£ 6,900	− 500	11†	85,300	− 5,900
EgyptianDelta	Nov. 20	616	− 7	£ 6,687	+ 554	32	107,366	− 14,975
Entre Rios....	Dec. 11	730	—	£ 11,100	+ 2,900	24	226,700	+ 43,600
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 20	104	—	Ps. 63,358	+ 10,224	47	2,783,921	− 269,484
Gt. W. Brazil	Dec. 11	1,010	—	£ 12,800	− 1,900	50	487,200	− 118,400
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Nov.	23	—	£ 6,750	+ 1,750	11†	74,500	− 19,000
Leopoldina ...	Dec. 11	1,806	+ 20	£ 26,928	− 4,361	50	1,464,014	+ 9,077
Manila North	Dec. 11	315	+ 2	£ 4,071	− 976	50	244,369	− 45,757
„ South	Dec. 11	266	+ 91	£ 1,314	− 3,169	50	177,858	+ 7,518
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	318	—	£ 8,723	− 999	5†	50,743	+ 9,619
Nitrate(2wks.)	Nov. 30	366	—	£ 21,680	+ 14,148	46	326 837	− 192,925
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	113	—	$ 22,200	+ 2,810	5†	114,763	+ 28,491
ParaguayCent.	Dec. 11	255	—	c 567,000	+ 246,000	24	11,026,000	+5,016,000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Nov.	1,058	—	d 751,720	+ 121,176	5†	3,857,777	+ 353,574
Puerto Cabello	M.ofSept.	24	—	£ 2,792	+ 837	9†	32,216	− 508
Salvador	Dec. 4	100	—	$ 16,820	− 1,680	23	432,070	+ 53,914
Sao Paulo.....	Dec. 5	153½	—	£ 33,718	− 2,274	23	841,572	+ 181,580
Taltal	M.of Nov.	184	—	£ 17,318	+ 8,213	5†	82,779	+ 10,861
U. of Havana	Dec. 11	681	—	£ 29,401	+ 6,342	24	589,434	+ 130,976
Urug.Northern	M. ofNov.	73	—	£ 1,857	+ 393	5†	8,595	+ 2,215
W. of Havana	Dec. 11	147	—	£ 4,842	− 188	24	113 097	− 6,150
Zafra & Hva.	M.of Nov.	112	—	£ 9,780	+ 1,818	11†	94,099	+ 39,772

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Dec. 9	369½	+21½	£ 54.110	+ 1.998	49	2,603,149	− 133,181
Auckland(4wks)	Nov. 19	25½	—	£ 20.910	+ 1,519	14	104.036	− 482
Brazil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	—	M. 6.494.000	+397.060	9†	57,457.110	+2,287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306.954	+ 18.333
Bristol.....	Dec. 10	31	—	£ 10.023	+ 2.103	49	470.972	+ 49.069
BritishColumbia	M. of Oct.	242	+ 5½	$ 538.826	−122.174	4†	3.073,897	− 602.654
Calcutta	Dec. 11	35½	—	R 66.940	+ 4.751	50	32.26.846	− 39.467
Cape Electric...	M.of Nov.	42·3	—	£ 16 980	+ 1,015	5†	85.549	+ 7.606
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Nov.	9	—	£ 2.090	+ 711	11†	19.839	− 4.228
Cork Electric...	Dec. 9	9½	—	£ 1.435	+ 77	50	55.906	+ 178
Dublin United	Dec. 10	54½	—	£ 5.755	+ 260	49	288.785	+ 10.870
Havana Electric	Sept. 28	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1,184	39	1.884.601	− 80.930
Isle of Thanet...	Dec. 11	13‡	− 5	£ 236	− 30	9	2.684	− 883
Kalgoorlie	M.of Sept.	20½	—	£ 2.897	+ 133	9†	25.116	+ 1,136
Lanarkshire ..	Dec. 9	28½	—	£ 1.864	+ 163	49	96.956	+ 5.475
Madras Electric	Nov. 30	—	—	R 25.831	+ 1 279	47	6.44.161	+ 33.427
Manila Electric	M of Sept.	—	—	$ 123.946	+ 7.646	9†	1,100.024	− 114.056
Provincial	Dec. 11	21½	—	£ 1.998	+ 225	10	21,054	+ 220
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2,442
U.of Montevideo	M. of Nov.	90	—	£ 28.407	+ 1,376	1†	—	—
Yorks.W.Riding	Dec. 12	24½	—	£ 1.610	+ 297	50	78,743	+ 6.521

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 245,132 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‖) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or−*
474 Cos. (000's omitted)	Sept. (e)	$284,241	+ $17,783	$111,728	+ $18,548
3 mos.	to Sept. (f)	837,080	+ 26,380	299,126	+ 38,436
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Oct.	491,000	+ 103,000	161,000	+ 86,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	1,699,000	+ 24,000	532,000	+ 174,000
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.:					
Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Oct.	150,000	+ 10,000	34,000	+ 18,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	537,000	− 14,000	99,000	+ 35,000
New Orleans & N.E. a	Oct.	377,000	+ 90,000	121,000	+ 81,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	1,256,000	+ 26,000	329,000	+ 156,000
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Oct.	164,000	+ 26,000	33,000	+ 20,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	533,000	+ 5,000	90,000	+ 32,000
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Oct.	11,385,000	+ 503,000	3,755,000	+ 100,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	43,507,000	+ 2,210,000	14,345,000	+ 786,000
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Oct.	2,572,000	+ 119,000	600,000	+ 223,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,126,000	− 266,000	1,368,000	+ 479,000
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Oct.	10,004,000	+ 2,048,000	3,161,000	+ 1,203,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	37,642,000	+ 4,057,000	12,827,000	+ 3,194,000
Canadian Northern ... b	Oct.	3,678,500	+ 1,100,200	1,267,000	+ 537,800
Canadian Pacific..... b	Oct.	13,443,000	+ 4,160,000	6,579,000	+ 3,268,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	40,413,000	− 24,000	17,567,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Oct.	3,977,000	+ 572,000	1,391,000	+ 411,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	15,638,000	+ 1,936,000	5,646,000	+ 1,451,000
Chicago & N. Western...a	Oct.	8,616,000	+ 732,000	2,829,000	+ 558,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	32,150,000	+ 427,000	9,676,000	+ 863,000
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...b	Sept.	8,907,000	+ 327,000	3,773,000	+ 386,000
3 mos.	to Sept.	24,428,000	− 765,000	9,116,000	− 537,000
Chicago Great Western b	Oct.	1,312,000	+ 6,000	369,000	+ 35,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	4,926,000	− 119,000	1,322,000	− 95,000
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Oct.	9,516,000	+ 842,000	3,435,000	+ 751,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	35,282,000	+ 1,163,000	12,124,000	+ 1,690,000
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Sept.	6,573,000	− 308,000	1,401,000	− 360,000
3 mos.	to Sept.	18,626,000	− 969,000	3,328,000	− 1,052,000
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Oct.	1,845,000	+ 94,000	381,000	+ 80,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	6,512,000	− 250,000	866,000	− 238,000
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Oct.	3,653,000	+ 415,000	1,139,000	+ 190,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	31,035,000	+ 1,330,000	6,947,000	+ 3,113,000
Colorado & Southern... a	Oct.	1,486,000	+ 94,000	559,000	+ 100,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	5,171,000	+ 234,000	1,523,000	+ 236,000
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Oct.	391,000	+ 114,000	142,000	+ 28,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	1,640,000	+ 322,000	718,000	+ 187,000
Delaware & Hudson... a	Sept.	2,073,000	+ 4,000	827,000	+ 46,000
9 mos.	to Sept.	17,030,000	+ 108,000	5,726,000	+ 604,000
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Oct.	2,554,000	+ 245,000	977,000	+ 149,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,243,000	+ 552,000	3,258,000	+ 775,000
Erie Railroad..... a	Oct.	8,567,000	+ 1,028,000	2,591,000	+ 1,215,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	84,053,000	+ 3,657,000	18,572,000	+ 4,209,000
Grand Trunk Railway¶a	Oct	£798,200	+ £24,700	£235,150	+ £28,350
10 mos.	to Oct	7,251,650	− 479,000	2,004,500	+ 103,100
Grand Trunk Western a	Oct.	160,700	+ 29,200	45,100	+ 37,300
10 mos.	to Oct.	1,281,450	+ 49,800	176,050	+ 134,600
Great Northern ..... a	Oct.	88,386,000	+$1,196,000	$4,801,000	+ $730,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	28,868,000	− 759,000	13,830,000	− 699,000
Hocking Valley..... b	Oct.	699,000	+ 14,000	286,000	+ 41,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	2,672,000	− 26,000	1,119,000	+ 185,000
Illinois Central ..... a	Oct.	6,093,000	+ 573,000	1,209,000	+ 130,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	22,258,000	− 33,000	4,191,000	− 114,000
Kansas City Southern a	Oct.	977,000	+ 97,000	381,000	+ 137,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	3,486,000	− 83,000	1,308,000	+ 213,000
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Oct.	4,639,000	+ 529,000	1,370,000	+ 117,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	16,097,000	+ 718,000	4,639,000	+ 215,000
Louisville & Nashville a	Oct.	5,024,000	+ 477,000	1 531,000	+ 605,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	19 000,000	+ 343,000	5,532,000	+ 1,572,000
Michigan Central..... a	Oct.	3,464,000	+ 447,000	1,102,000	+ 397,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	29 658,000	+ 1,376,000	7,428,000	+ 1,574,000
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Oct.	3,805,000	+ 485,000	1,696,000	+ 439,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	11,632,000	+ 636,000	4,540 000	+ 783,000
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Oct.	2,946,000	− 183,000	905,000	− 158,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	10,744,000	− 494,000	2,639,000	− 366,000
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Oct.	5,597,000	+ 133,000	1,445,000	− 10,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	20,699,000	− 799,000	4,751,000	− 1,088,000
New York Central..... a	Oct.	16,141,000	+ 2,632,000	5,811,000	+ 2,280,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	135,367,000	+ 7,808,000	38,863,000	+ 12,884,000
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Oct.	6,533,000	+ 893,000	2,197,000	+ 665,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	25,358,000	+ 2,404,000	8,667,000	+ 2,162,000
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Oct.	765,000	+ 9,000	198,000	+ 52,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	3,367,000	− 206,000	1,174,000	+ 56,000
Norfolk & Western..... a	Oct.	4,888,000	+ 1,362,000	2,046,000	+ 1,039,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	18,874,000	+ 3,499,000	7,444,000	+ 2,690,000
Northern Pacific..... a	Oct.	7,166,000	+ 517,000	3,379,000	+ 798,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	25,360,000	+ 109,000	10,255,000	+ 1,784,000
Pennsylvania System:					
E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Oct.	24,090,000	+ 3,066,000	6,506,000	+ 1,854,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	206,664,000	+ 2,228,000	47,834,000	+ 6,743,000
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Oct.	12,115,000	+ 2,183,000	3,699,000	+ 1,729,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	97,758,000	+ 2,140,000	23,018,000	+ 4,796,000
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Oct.	4,071,000	+ 610,000	1,215,000	+ 510,000
10 mos.	to Oct.	33,537,000	+ 128,000	7,267 000	+ 734,000
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Oct.	5,230,000	+ 977,000	2,199,000	+ 753,000
4 mos.	to Oct	18,005,000	+ 1,510,000	6,721,000	+ 1,467,000
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Oct.	3,599,000	+ 647,000	316,000	+ 166,000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,515,000	− 634,000	87,000	− 153,000
St. L. & San Francisco a	Sept.	3,900 000	+ 225,000	1,060,000	− 26,000
3 mos.	to Sept.	11,203,000	− 133,000	3,168,000	− 159,000
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Oct.	1,896,000	+ 184,000	534,000	+ 124 000
4 mos.	to Oct.	6,796,000	− 15,000	1,660,000	+ 151,000
Southern Pacific..... a	Oct.	14.133.000	+ 2.128.000	5.283.000	+ 1.200.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	53,586,000	+ 6,335,000	19,210,000	+ 4,582,000
Southern ..... a	Oct.	6.028.000	+ 496.000	1.820.000	+ 620.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	22.169,000	− 266,000	6,207,000	+ 1,695,000
Union Pacific ..... a	Oct.	10.275,000	− 1.074.000	4.669.000	+ 783.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	35,720,000	+ 1,329,000	14,348,000	+ 907,000
Wabash ..... a	Oct.	2.985.000	+ 406.000	919.000	+ 315.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	11,696,000	+ 428,000	3,017,000	+ 305,000
Western Pacific..... b	Oct.	687.000	+ 133.000	241.000	+ 143.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	2,792,000	+ 526,000	1,067,000	+ 557,000

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Nov. 21	$114.000	+ $30.000	20	$2,025.000	+$101.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Dec. 7	763.000	+ 111.000	22	20.213.000	+2.976.000
Chicago Great Western	Dec. 7	280.000	+ 32.000	22	8.513.000	+ 62.000
Colorado & Southern	Dec. 7	—	+ 14.000	22	—	+ 325,900
Denver & Rio Grande	Dec. 7	462.000	+ 84.000	22	11.916.000	+1.001.000
Great Northern	M.ofNov.	8,726.000	+2.869.000	5†	37.594.000	+1.910.000
Illinois Central	M.ofNov.	5.910.000	+ 833.000	5†	28.168.000	+ 801.000
Louisville & Nashville	Dec. 7	1.171.000	+ 202.000	22	25.156.000	+1.580.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Nov. 21	879.000	+ 289.000	20	14.324.000	+1.502.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Dec. 7	632.000	+ 49.000	22	14.409.000	− 443.000
Northern Pacific	M.ofNov.	7,030.000	+1.382.000	5†	32.390.000	+1.492.000
Southern Railway	Dec. 7	1,331.000	+ 141.000	22	29.390.000	+ 718.000

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENT.

"THE STATIST" will be published on Friday next, December 24, instead of on Saturday.

The Statist.
LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915.

FINANCING THE WAR.

ANOTHER ATTRACTIVE ISSUE.

SINCE the 4½% War Loan was paid up in full at the end of October the War has been financed by sales of Treasury bills and by the creation of Ways and Means advances. The demand for Treasury bills has been very large, and on Saturday last the amount outstanding was as much as £358,394,000. From the extent of the demand for Treasury bills it became evident that many people were anxious to invest money for short periods, and would be prepared to subscribe for short-dated obligations. To meet this demand the Lords of the Treasury have authorised the Bank of England to receive until further notice applications for Exchequer bonds bearing interest from the date of purchase at 5% per annum, payable half-yearly on June 1 and December 1, and repayable on December 1, 1920. Beyond the attractiveness of a bond repayable in five years, and which cannot, therefore, depreciate in value, the holders, in the event of future loans (other than issues made abroad or issues of Exchequer bonds, Treasury bills, or similar short-dated securities raised for the purpose of carrying on the war), will have the right to convert the bonds at their face value. Furthermore, the bonds will be exempt from all British taxation, present or future, if it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of a person who is neither domiciled, nor ordinarily resident, in the United Kingdom. Where a bond belongs to such a holder the coupons will be paid without deduction for income tax, or other taxes, if accompanied by a declaration of ownership in such form as may be required by the Treasury. The bonds are to be in amounts to £100, £200, £500, £1,000, and £5,000, and it will be possible to register the holdings in order that warrants may be transmitted by post. Intending subscribers can obtain prospectuses from any post-office, bank, or stock exchange throughout the country.

It is quite unnecessary to dilate upon the attractiveness of these bonds. It will be sufficient for us to point out to our readers that the country needs all the money that can be subscribed, and that it is of the highest importance for every citizen to endeavour to make the new issue a very great success, not only by subscribing immediately as large a sum as possible, but by endeavouring to make repeated subscriptions from month to month as profits or savings are accumulated, or other capital becomes liquid, as well as by encouraging neighbours and friends to act in a similar manner. Moreover, no one will have any difficulty in securing bankers' loans for the purpose of subscription. Yet another and a new method of making subscription for the bonds has been opened up by the plan placed before Parliament this week by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request holders of American securities throughout the country to sell their securities to him and to invest the proceeds in these 5% Exchequer bonds. The amount of American securities held by British investors is large, and the request of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will undoubtedly cause a very large amount of American securities to be exchanged for Exchequer bonds.

Moreover, the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to American securities is intended not merely to provide money for the War by assisting persons who hold American bonds to sell them in order to subscribe for Exchequer bonds, but also to provide the exchange needed to meet our great payments to the United States. And to effect this purpose the Chancellor is prepared to borrow American securities [illegible] to issue a marketable certificate entitling the owners not only to the interest which their securities give, but to one-half per cent. interest over and above such return. The deposited securities would be used as collateral for temporary loans raised in the United States.

It is obvious that of the two methods the sale of the securities and the investment of the proceeds in the new issue of Exchequer bonds is much to be preferred, as this will prevent the creation of floating debt in the United States, and any problems that might arise from such creation.

As the measure for mobilising British investments in American securities is a very important one, and specially appeals to the readers of THE STATIST who possess large amounts of bonds and stocks, we reproduce the essential portions of the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he explained the measure to the House of Commons:—

"The scheme divides itself into two parts. We primarily propose under the scheme to purchase all the securities held in this country which are suitable for the Government. I may say at once the kind of securities which we have in view are American and Canadian securities. In our opinion the simplest and best course to pursue is to purchase. Accordingly, where the holder of Canadian and American securities is in a position to sell his securities outright, the Treasury desire to purchase such of them as are in their opinion suitable for the purpose in view at the current market price, the purchase money to be paid in five-year 5% Exchequer bonds at par.

"In the case of securities reported on the New York Stock Exchange, the middle price of the closing New York Stock Exchange quotation of the day on which the securities are purchased will normally be taken at the current market price for the purpose. In the case of unquoted securities, or in the case of quoted securities in respect of which the current quotation may not be regarded as representing the true market value, the price will be fixed by agreement with the person tendering the securities. The Exchequer bonds will carry interest from the day following that on which the purchase is made. Where a quotation does not include accrued interest or dividend to date, such accrued interest or dividend will be added to the price. The price being payable in sterling, the New York dollar price will be reckoned in sterling at the exchange of to-day. That is the purchase scheme.

"We offer to any holder to buy such American and Canadian dollar securities as are suitable for our purpose at the market price of the day, without commission, without brokerage, for middle market price of the day, and to pay in 5% five-year Exchequer bonds. Hon. members will realise what that means when I say we are giving British credit—the market price of the day of American securities—we are giving British credit of 5%. Anyone will appreciate at the present moment American securities are at a good price. British securities, on the other hand, owing to the War, not owing to any failure of credit, but owing to our having to make such large payments—British securities are comparatively very low, consequently, when we offer 5% Exchequer bonds in exchange for American and Canadian dollar securities at the prices of the day, we are making an offer which would only be justified by the absolute necessity for us to mobilise our American securities and to make them of the utmost value to the nation as a whole.

"We recognise that there are some holders of the securities I have named who, however anxious they might be to assist the Government by selling, are not in a position to sell their securities outright. In order to meet their position, an alternative scheme is suggested. Where a person is unable or unwilling to sell, the Treasury are willing to accept securities on deposit, subject to the right of purchase by the Treasury in certain contingencies on the following terms:—

"1. These securities are to be transferred to the Treasury for a period of two years from the date of transfer.

"2. While securities are on deposit under this arrangement, the lender is to receive from the Treasury all interests and dividends paid in respect of them, and also, by way of consideration for the loan, payment at the rate of half of 1% per annum, calculated on the face of the securities.

"3. The Treasury is to undertake, at the request of the depositor at any time during the currency of the loan, to sell the securities on his behalf in New York and pay over to him the proceeds in sterling at the exchange of the day without deduction for brokerage or commission; or, if the depositor prefers it, to allow him to make his own arrangements for sale on condition that the proceeds are remitted to the United Kingdom through the Treasury agents in New York.

"4. The Treasury, if they find it necessary to sell all or any of the securities deposited, is to have the right at any time, when such necessity may arise during the currency of the loan by sending a notification to the depositor of their intention to do so, to purchase the securities from the depositor for the purpose of such sale. In the event of this right being exercised, the Treasury is to pay to the depositor the value of the security in question calculated at the middle price of the New York Stock Exchange closing quotation of the day, on which the notification is sent, with the addition of 2½% on the value so calculated, payment to be made in London in sterling at the exchange of the day without any deduction for brokerage and commission against the surrender of the Treasury certificate of deposit. That fourth condition is a condition about which I shall have something to say in a moment. Fifthly, at the end of two years from the date of the deposit the remaining securities are to be returned to the depositor in exchange for the Treasury certificate. It is intended to make arrangements for dealing on the Stock Exchange in Treasury certificates of deposit, and to set up a Treasury register for transferring the deposited securities from one holder to another. Lastly, this arrangement will not involve any additional liability for Stamp Duties."

"Shortly summarised, the conditions are that the holder of any securities which the Government may consider useful for the purpose in view may lend those securities upon the condition that he receives all the interest or dividend ordinarily payable upon the securities, together with ½%. He may at any time sell his securities and receive the full market value of the day. So far, of course, the arrangement would be one which would be altogether favourable to the holder of the securities. He would have complete control of the security, and he would have the complete benefit of the security. He would have perfect freedom to sell, and would receive the whole of the dividends and interest, and, in addition, the ½%. Therefore, so far, the bargain would be one, I will not say exclusively, but very much, to the benefit of the holder of the securities. There is, however, this further condition that we are bound to import, although it is a condition which, in my judgment, as long as it is there, would never in fact have to be taken advantage of. It is a condition which, in the last resort, gives the Treasury the power to sell. I think hon. Members will very quickly realise why a condition of that kind is indispensable.

"Unless a condition of the kind exists, the British Government might find itself very awkwardly placed. These securities will, or may be, used, if not by the Government itself—it may not be the Government at all—by institutions over here as collateral security in borrowing money in the United States. If the lender knew that the borrower in no circumstances would consent to the realisation of the security, the borrower might find himself in great difficulties in dealing with the lender; at any rate, the borrower could not deal with the lender upon a footing of equality. It is really essential to put the two parties to the bargain on the same footing, so that the borrower should be in the position, if needs must, to sell the securities. I do not think the borrower will ever want to sell, and he would not be authorised under this condition to sell merely because he desired to sell. He could only sell if necessity arose. I do not think either that the lender ever would really want the borrower to sell. On the contrary, it would be most undesirable in many respects to put upon the American market a very large number of these securities in too short a time. Therefore, both parties, in the last resort, are of the same mind, that they do not want the sale to take place. Nevertheless, it is necessary for the borrower to be in a position to defend himself, and he can only defend himself if he is in a position to sell. Consequently, we have to have a condition of this kind. Then it is argued that if you have a condition of this kind you ought to have the condition upon terms more favourable to the British holder of the security. But if the terms are more favourable to the British holder of the security, the borrower in the United States is not really independent. These terms bind him, and the lender in the United States knows that the borrower is bound by these terms. The borrower in the United States must have freedom. That is in the public interest.

"I now come to the last point—namely, how far is the lender in this country injured? If we notify the lender of the security that we are going to sell, the lender can himself buy the security back. If the British Government—I will not say the British Government, but the borrower over here is going to sell this security in New York, or wherever it may be, nothing stands in the way of the original owner of the security himself buying it back, and if it is at a depreciated price he buys it back very much cheaper. We allow 2½% margin, and we think that that margin would be more than sufficient to cover any difficulties which might arise with regard to the exchange. If there be critics of the scheme, if there be those who do not think the second part of the scheme good for themselves—personally, I do not agree with them—I should unhesitatingly work under that second part of the scheme myself; but if there be those who feel that, I would remind them that primarily we put forward purchase as our main object, and the whole is voluntary."

THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS.

The Balkan policy of the Entente Powers is gradually developing. It is reported from Rome, for example, that an Italian expedition has actually landed in Albania intended to protect Serbia; that it proceeded safely to its destination; and that everything worked like clockwork. It will be recollected that M. Vivianni, while still French Premier, intimated that he had good reasons for expecting that Italy would co-operate in the defence of Serbia. Therefore the present announcement comes as a surprise to none of us. It is not for that reason, however, the less welcome, for it is an intimation that before very long the Central European Empires will have cause to regret the rashness of their strategy. Furthermore, it is reported that, with the approval of the two Central European Empires, an agreement has been entered into between Bulgaria and Greece, in accordance with which the Bulgarians pledge themselves not to invade Greek territory. The agreement, of course, does not bind either Germany or Austria-Hungary. Therefore we must wait and see how they will act in regard to it. Much, no doubt, will depend upon the strength which the Entente Allies will in the immediate future be able to show, and especially upon the more or less rapid action of Russia. Reinforcements, we are told, are steadily reaching the British and the French, who clearly for the moment have taken up a position which they are strong enough to hold. Respecting Russia, it is always to be borne in mind that, though she has an immense superiority of men over her antagonists, she yet has been, up to the present, hopelessly outmatched by the immense supplies of munitions possessed by her opponents. On the other hand, we must never forget that Russia is working with might and main to make up for past delays; that she has entered into important engagements with Japan for the supply from the latter of munitions needed by her; and that she is likewise being furnished with such both by our own country and by the United States. Therefore we have every reason to expect that Russia, if not already, will at a very early date be in a position to take decisive action. Whether she will approach by land or by sea is not yet known, or whether she may adopt both courses. But whenever she does move it is reasonably certain that the Balkan Question will be settled without serious delay in a satisfactory manner for the Entente Powers.

HOW WE STAND.

The discussion on peace in the Reichstag last week had not very much apparent significance, for the Government affected full confidence, and there was no movement throughout the country to indicate regret because something had not been agreed upon to hasten peace. Still, the fact that Germany hurried on the War, leaving neither her Ally, Austria-Hungary, nor her opponent Russia an opportunity to exchange views lest the determination upon war might be defeated, must not be forgotten when we see that, in spite of the whole influence of the Government, there is a party in Germany strong enough to compel a discussion upon peace at such a time. A little while ago a discussion upon peace would have been impossible. The Government would not have listened to it. The people would have supported the Government in its determination to stop a discussion which might encourage the enemy, and the whole matter would have been closed without a serious debate. Now we find that though the Government expresses itself so hopefully it is incapable of preventing discussion. It is worth while, then, to consider how the several parties to this great struggle stand when we are approaching the end of the first seventeen months of it. The great value in war of preparation is being distinctly proved by the strong position that the two Central European Empires hold even after nearly seventeen months of the conflict. Practically Poland is in their hands—both Russian and Austrian Poland, as well as Prussian. Practically, also, the whole of Belgium is under their heels. And a considerable portion of France is, likewise, held. In addition to this, the two Central European Empires have been able to persuade a man like the King of Bulgaria, who certainly would not risk his own objects for love of any man in the world, that they will win, and that his best chance, therefore, of obtaining Macedonia is to fight for them. Furthermore, they have not merely attached Turkey to them, but they are apparently rallying a considerable Mohammedan feeling in their support. It would be childish to affect to despise this long catalogue of successes, or to deny that the two Central European Empires did not merely brag when they preached that they could dominate the world. Nevertheless, it would be faint-hearted in the extreme, as well as blind and fatuous, to conclude that the Central European Empires have not been defeated, and that their ultimate decisive defeat is not as certain now as anything which has not been finished can be considered in this world.

The first point to appreciate is that preparation is of immense assistance to those who make it carefully and thoroughly before they venture upon a great risk; but that preparation is only one of the ingredients of success in war. Preparation has very strict limits, and one of those limits is marked out by the numbers which a prepared belligerent can bring to bear upon unprepared opponents. Now if there is anything certain in this world it is that the populations of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria are hopelessly inferior to the populations of the enemies arrayed against them; that the preparations made by the two Central European Empires have now nearly exhausted themselves; while the preparations made by the British Empire and Russia are only now coming to the form when they can be used with full effect. Germany, if she had been able to throw another half-million, or possibly even a quarter of a million, of men into the field, would probably have succeeded in capturing Paris. As it was, she found France unprepared; and she found England with practically nothing to resist her, only the small Expeditionary Force. Had she been able to throw upon the Expeditionary Force double the number of men that she actually did throw, she would probably have cut it to pieces. And if the British Army had been broken up completely, the reasonable conjecture is that Paris would have fallen, or, at all events, that the German Army would have reached Paris, whatever the French Government and General Joffre had decided with regard to the employment of the French Army. Germany, then, though she had prepared upon a great scale, though she had blinded the Magyars, and convinced them that it was their interest to join her, and though for months together Italy did not declare war upon her, yet failed. Great as her preparations were, they were not great enough. France, luckily for herself, found in 1914 what, unfortunately, she failed to find in 1870—a capable general; and the incapable commanders of Corps and Divisions were quickly got rid of; competent men were put in their places, and the whole fighting male population of France was called out, and answered to a man. France since has been slowly but steadily forcing back her enemy.

It is true that just now there are signs that Germany recognises that her adventure in the Balkans is a reckless one, and may lead to disaster. Therefore she appears to be preparing for another great offensive movement either in France or in Belgium. But France is fully prepared. She has a larger force than Germany, while we, who had only a few divisions at the beginning of the conflict, have now in France alone over a million of men. If, then, Germany

decides upon a great offensive movement in the middle of the winter, either in France or in Belgium, the Entente Allies can wish for nothing better. It will wear away what troops she still has. It will weaken her power to assist the Bulgarians. And, if Russia finds enough of munitions to begin operations in Poland, the position of the Germans in that country will be critical indeed. The Entente Allies are now happily in the closest communication with one another, and we may be very sure, therefore, that they are exceedingly well informed as to the movements and the numbers of the enemy both in France and in Belgium. We may conclude, therefore, that they are prepared for an offensive movement should it take place. There is an impression that the Entente Powers are purposely delaying the offensive movement upon which they have decided until the spring, and that then it will be undertaken upon such a scale as in all reasonable probability to bring the great conflict to an early and a satisfactory conclusion. All these impressions are, of course, intangible things. Who sets them going is not known, and how far they represent the real intentions of those to whom they are attributed, it would be difficult indeed to say. Therefore we do not put them forward as more than mere rumours. At the same time, everybody must see that spring would be a more favourable time for a great offensive movement than the present so far as the Entente Allies are concerned. It is quite easy to understand that the two Central European Empires having to guard a front altogether extending over 1,200 miles, may be extremely anxious lest their manhood should fade away too rapidly during the winter, and that in the spring they should no longer be in a position to act with vigour. But if it be true that the Entente Allies dispose of the immense numbers now attributed to them, and if it be further true that the outturn of munitions is upon such a scale that Russia in a very short time will be able to put in the field overwhelming numbers, then it clearly would be an advantage to the Entente Allies if they could put off the offensive for a few months more and only begin when the roads are favourable for moving great armies.

Apparently, then, it is the interest of the Entente Powers not to assume the offensive, while it is clearly the interest of the two Central European Empires if the thing is practicable. Whether it is practicable will depend, of course, upon a great many circumstances. In the first place, the Entente Allies are, or at all events ought to be, well acquainted with the ability of Turkey and Bulgaria to play a formidable part in the Balkans or in Mesopotamia. If the Entente Allies can checkmate both, or can decisively defeat both, then it ought to be easy either to postpone or to undertake at once the offensive elsewhere. Still more, it is plain that if Italy is prepared to assist the Entente Allies effectively in the Balkans the whole aspect of things there will be changed. Lastly, it is clear that if Russia has now sufficient munitions to fit out an expedition capable of dealing effectively with the Bulgarians, one of the serious difficulties of the position of the Entente Allies will be removed, and they will have ample opportunity for considering the course they ought to pursue in all its aspects, and either waiting or hurrying on an offensive movement. The public is so ill-informed respecting all the aspects of the case that it is not in a position to decide what ought to be done; and therefore we may satisfy ourselves with saying that, although Germany has not lost any very considerable hold upon the portions of the disputed territories which she seized during the course of the War up to the present, her power of maintaining her position is growing less and less every day; that her fighting manhood is being utterly wasted; and that, so far as Austria-Hungary is concerned, more than half the Empire is hostile to its policy, and would welcome an invasion by the Entente Allies if it were undertaken in sufficient force. In their turn the Allies are growing in strength every day. Last week's enlistments exhibit this to us unmistakably. Even at the end of nearly seventeen months the eagerness to enlist was almost indescribable, and we have now a force greater than anybody thought likely would have to be raised by England, while we have practically not touched our great dependency, India. The power of the Entente Allies, then, will not really be exerted until the spring, and in the spring the reader who studies the matter for himself can easily determine whether Germany will be in a position to act as she would have acted in August and September of last year.

SIR G. REID ON IMPERIAL UNION.

At a dinner given to him at Claridge's Hotel on Tuesday evening Sir George Reid referred to a question which must occupy a prominent place in the minds of all British statesmen, and which we congratulate Sir George upon having taken so favourable an opportunity to bring at this notable time prominently to the notice of the whole public of the Empire. Sir George has filled the office of High Commissioner for Australia with great efficiency. His term is nearly expiring, and, as he expressed it himself, he will very soon be in a position of freedom, in which he can fully, frankly, and legitimately discuss all great questions of British policy. Reminding his hearers of the loyalty, as well as the gallantry, with which the portions of the Empire which have not yet acquired full self-government have acted during the great War, Sir George expressed the opinion that every statesman must recognise that there were many cognate questions which must be discussed and settled before long; and he left very little doubt in the minds of any of his hearers respecting his own opinion of what the solution ought to be. We ourselves have long advocated the extension of self-government at the earliest possible occasion to every portion of the Empire. We have even sometimes incurred the danger of giving offence to the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths, and Unions by the attitude which we took up. We need hardly say to readers of The Statist that nothing was farther from our mind than in any way to give offence to the self-governing portions of the Empire. Our object was to reason with them; to persuade them if we could; to put before them plainly, at all events, what seemed to us the strong arguments in favour of change. But offence was the last thing we had intended to give. We welcome, therefore, as the first beneficent sign of a really important change the statement of Sir George Reid on Tuesday evening. He has occupied a great position in Australia. He has discharged his Australian functions in London with exemplary success and ability. He will, therefore, be able to speak with an authority that no mere Britisher can pretend to. Therefore we hail his announcement, and we cannot doubt that he will carry with him the majority of his people. The time is most favourable. In the first place, this War, whatever else it has taught, has convinced every man who is capable of conviction that the only way for founding and maintaining a great Empire is by extending to the whole people the blessings of self-government. We have seen Ireland, which for so many centuries has been a danger in time of war, as eager as England herself to put down the aggressor on this occasion. We have seen India, which has been connected with us only about a century and a half, offering her sons and her wealth with lavish patriotism to maintain the honour and the dignity of the Empire. And, most convincing sign of all, we have seen those gallant Dutchmen who fought so valiantly against us during the wars which ended 13 years ago fighting by our side with equal gallantry. No man who is not a slave to his prejudices can shut his mind to the teaching of these great examples. Everybody must see that generous treatment begets generous feeling, and ultimately, loyalty. In the case of Australia, the

desire for a more friendly attitude towards the people of India is perhaps more desirable than anywhere else. The great Island Continent is, it may be said without much exaggeration, capable of maintaining a population not far short of that of the whole British Empire at present. Yet to-day its inhabitants are only about equal to those of Greater London. At the present rate of growth it will take, no man can say how long, for Australia to be really self-dependent. And yet by a wiser and more generous policy she might imitate the United States, and in little more than a century perhaps have a population of one hundred millions of souls. We do not care, however, to dwell upon either the figures or the needs. If Sir George Reid, as his speech on Tuesday evening seems to promise, has really made up his mind to take up this question in real earnest, we are satisfied that we can leave it to him, in full confidence that he will be able easily to bring over to his own view the great majority of his people.

JAPANESE FINANCE.

Mr. Taketomi, Finance Minister of Japan, presented his Budget statement for the year 1916-17 to the House of Representatives on the 7th instant. The total revenue is estimated at about £55,350,000, of which the amount of the ordinary is £52,302,000 and that of the extraordinary £3,047,000. The expenditure balances the revenue at the same total figure, of which the amount of the ordinary expenditure is £39,745,000 and that of the extraordinary £15,605,000. So far, therefore, as the ordinary revenue and expenditure are concerned the excess of revenue will amount to £12,557,000. As compared with the Budget in force for the year 1915-16 there is a decrease of £3,407,000 in both the revenue and expenditure. In the revenue there is a decrease of £490,000 in Customs duties, due to the effects of the present War, while, on the other hand, the receipts from public undertakings and State property are increased by £497,000. An alteration of the naval programme is intended, so that, in addition to the amount previously sanctioned, a further sum of £4,532,000 will be devoted, spread over four financial years. The instalment of this sum applied to the year 1916-17 is £588,000. The revenue has not yet returned to a normal figure and it is impossible to foresee the future of the present War. The Japanese Government, therefore, considering the situation, has taken precautions in order to curtail the expenditure. The economic conditions this year, though still feeling the influence of the War, are gradually on the way to amelioration. In some industries, especially those concerned in shipbuilding, navigation, the manufacture of munitions, and other goods hitherto imported, there have been revealed signs of prosperity. The cheerful tone, too, in the American market has produced a recovery in the silk exports. As regards foreign trade, the exports during the eleven months of the current year amounted to £63,600,000, and the imports to £48,800,000, the excess in the exports therefore amounting to £14,800,000. As compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, the gross total of the imports and exports shows an increase of £3,200,000, the imports decreasing by £6,500,000, while the exports increased by £9,700,000. As a result of the favourable trade balance, Japan is in the position to command a considerable quantity of gold. While it is the intention of the Government to strengthen the gold reserve, at the same time it is felt advisable to avail itself of the opportunity for reducing the external debt so far as circumstances may allow.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are sending out a useful case for holding Treasury notes neatly bound in leather. The device for securing the notes in their place is both simple and ingenious.

THE SUPPLY OF SUGAR.

Singularly little attention in 1915 has been devoted to the sugar question. It has been regarded as in the hands of the Government, and, therefore, beyond discussion. The rise in the price has been treated as inevitable under such circumstances, and interest has been largely directed to doing without the staple, except for human consumption. This, however, is not a treatment of the matter which can serve the nation or even the market. We must face the effect of Government intervention first. With that Government a coalition the result when opinions differ must be a policy of *quieta non movere*, which with regard to sugar-growing is rather, unfortunately, a policy in itself. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George, when the Liberals were in sole power, laid down a perfectly intelligible line of action. It gave us cheap beet-sugar at the price of making us practically tributary to Germany and Austria-Hungary. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law, when the Unionists were in Opposition, specifically adopted the Chamber of Agriculture policy as laid before Parliament by Mr. Courthope, M.P., the then Chairman of the Chamber. This policy would have given to sugar-beet growing in England that margin of advantage required by those who, on being assured it, were prepared to put up the requisite factories. For sugar-beet growing is a form of agricultural industry which requires a big industrial industry to precede it. The factories which convert the beets into sugar, feeding-mash, fibre, &c., are costly; £100,000 is about the sum. Now it is clear that when the four statesmen named are all in the same Cabinet those govern whose policy is in possession. No effort has been made to get sugar-beet growing encouraged in this country, and so long as the Coalition holds together it is fairly obvious that no effort can be set on foot. The Government may fall over other matters, but there will be no critical division over sugar-beet.

Because this fact is unpalatable in agricultural circles it has been in effect tabooed therein. Motions over sugar-beet have not been tabled at county or other gatherings. We have to acquiesce, it has been said, in war conditions during war time. Commerce however, is compelled to see where the sugar supply as a whole is to come from. The farmer, if prevented from growing it, has no further concern than to see how best he can replace the cheap foods with a sugar basis which, for want of that basis, have disappeared.

Now, commercially there is, in the first place, the actual effect of the price advanced on the consumption of sugar. Whatever the reduction in the sale of the by-products may have been, whatever the falling-off in the use of liquid sugar as a mere saturant, the ordinary consumption of sugar itself has not been reduced. It is likely to work out at about 35 million cwt., an almost entirely normal figure, for the year. The stocks are likely to be about 2½ million cwt. smaller this Christmas than last, but this is only because the use of the sugar has not been checked even by occasional periods of short arrivals. One way and another about 8 million cwt. extra supply of cane-sugar has been secured, and this has gone by far the greatest part of the way in balancing the loss of the beet-sugar usually derived from the Continent. The rise in sugar prices may be sufficiently indicated in a brief table in which *A* column gives the price of ordinary cheapest feeding sugar; *B* that of fine table sugar; and *C* the ratio of *B* to *C*. All prices per cwt.

	A	B	C
	s. d.	s. d.	
November 1915	18 6	40 6	1 : 2·18
„ 1914	18 0	31 0	1 : 1·72
„ 1913	11 0	18 0	1 : 1·65
Ten Years Ago 1905	11 6	19 0	1 : 1·65

It will be seen that the rise in luxury sugar is much steeper than that in feeding and utility sugar. This has happened despite an increased supply of the cane-sugar, which, speaking broadly, may be called the luxury type.

This maintenance of the total consumption throughout fifteen months of the most expensive of wars is a very remarkable circumstance, with which economists will later on have to concern themselves, but in the meanwhile it gives us a somewhat unexpected element of stability, and enables us to look to the sources of supply with some confidence in their being duly drawn upon. In the first place it will be useful to note the production of alien enemy countries, and as such withdrawn from our sources of supply. They are set forth in the following table, the average of the last five years' production in cwt. being given:—

Beet.—Germany	45,600,000	cwt. Raw Sugar
,, Austria-Hungary	29,260,000	,, ,, ,,
,, Bulgaria	5,100,000	,, ,, ,,
Total	79,960,000	

The 80 million cwt. lost to us as a fund or stock on which to draw consists exclusively of low quality sugar. The second group is of friendly or neutral but war-hindered countries, regions whence sugar reaches us hardly, if at all. This group is composed as follows:—

Beet.—Belgium	5,200,000	cwt. Raw Sugar
,, Roumania	75,000	,, ,, ,,
,, Russia	30,000,000	,, ,, ,,
Cane.—Mexico	2,000,000	,, ,, ,,
Total	37,350,000	

Mexican supply is cut off by civil war, Russia and Roumania by geographical position and war blockade, unhappy Belgium by direct ravages of war. Serbia, we fear, must be held this year to have lost her beet-crop, which gave as a rule 200,000 cwt. of raw sugar. The French production must be held to have been reduced by war; the extent cannot yet be estimated.

France produces in an ordinary year about 15,000,000 cwt. of raw sugar from beet. After a good yield like that of 1912-13 she is an exporter, but for the next twelve months we shall not expect her to be more than self-supporting.

We now come to the Allied and neutral countries on which we can draw, and there it will be useful to consider not only their mean but their maximum and minimum production. It will be sufficient on this very broad view to indicate totals in millions of cwt. The 10 years are 1904-14 inclusive:—

		Maximum	Average	Minimum
Raw Beet Sugar.—Spain		3·4	2·0	1·2
,, ,, ,, Italy		6·0	3·0	1·6
,, ,, ,, Holland		4·8	4·0	2·5
,, ,, ,, U.S.A.		15·0	10·0	5·0
,, Cane ,, ,, ...		22·0	20·8	17·0
,, ,, ,, Cuba		52·0	34·0	27·0
,, ,, ,, India		52·5	44·0	35·0
,, ,, ,, Philippines ...		4·5	2·9	2·3
,, ,, ,, Egypt		1·5	1·0	·5
,, ,, ,, Mauritius ...		5·0	4·0	2·8
,, ,, ,, Java		29·3	24·0	19·0
,, ,, ,, Australia ...		4·6	3·7	2·6

While these remarkable crop fluctuations between the different seasons make it impossible to grow beet-sugar in England without some provision against dumping, they show possibilities of surplus production, of which it is to be hoped the Government in the present crisis is taking advantage wherever there is an opening for early purchase. The British Guiana cane fields are spoken of as well worthy of special development; and if with improved agriculture Indian average production could be raised to the maximum attained of a recent year the situation would obviously be much improved on those best of all lines, production within the Empire. On December 10 there was great official rejoicing in India over the opening up to agriculture of 2,250,000 acres of land which for want of water had been desert for ages. The irrigation works represent years of labour. It has been assumed that this important accession of agricultural area would be devoted to wheat, but with the large Canadian and Australian wheat surpluses at our disposal the application of the bulk of the additional area to growth of sugar has serious claims. Sugar is much more above a peace price than is wheat.

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Financial Notes.

MR. VANDERLIP, President of the National City Bank of New York, describing the business condition of the United States as "running at a speed and with a power never exceeded," attributed to the War much of the activity, but warned his hearers that when the War ends the problem of the United States will be to get themselves independent of the War business as quickly as possible. With the country's widely diversified resources, and its products and industries so well balanced that they are more nearly mutually supporting than those of any other country of the world, Mr. Vanderlip looks to Europe for capital to finance every great movement in her development. If, he argued, conditions can be created that will give confidence to capital, so that the owners of it will be disposed to invest it freely, both in internal development and in granting external credits, the country will become quite independent of war orders.

A good deal of this is no doubt true. The United States already has a population of over 100 millions of souls. The population, or at all events a large proportion of it, is exceptionally devoted to peace, to trade, and to business. Great as the population is, it is still small compared with the extent of the country, and, consequently, there is much room remaining for further settlement. The United States, therefore, will continue to grow rapidly for a considerable time to come. But Mr. Vanderlip, we venture to think, is over-sanguine in looking for large investments of capital from Europe in the United States, at least for some years after the War. The War, conducted as it has been by Germany, has been exceptionally destructive, and Europe will need a vast amount of its own savings to replace what has been destroyed. The United States, therefore, will have to look more to her own savings than in the past, while it is to be hoped that Europe will take a more correct view of its own interests than it has done hitherto.

Mr. J. E. Rovensky, Assistant Cashier of the National Bank of Commerce in New York, takes a

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much more hopeful view of the new banking system of the United States than is generally taken by close observes. He affirms that though there are twelve District Banks, they are practically governed by a single board; and that, therefore, to all intents and purposes they perform the functions which would be performed by one great central institution. It is worth while quoting the opinion, not because any single individual can yet be in a position to pronounce confidently upon a new experiment, but because there is so much doubt in the United States regarding the experiment that it is well to find one confident observer, and one, moreover, who is engaged in banking business himself. Our own inclination is to regard the experiment as entirely in its very early stage as yet; that, therefore, it is impossible for any cautious man to form a definite opinion respecting it; and that it will be much more useful, and much more instructive, to learn what is thought when the War not only has come to a conclusion, but the revulsion in all forms of business that will follow the end of the War has had time to reveal itself.

All high-grade wheat stored in elevators in Canada, from Fort William to the Atlantic Coast, was taken possession of by the Dominion Government on November 28. The wheat so taken consisted of grades 1, 2, and 3 Northern. It is estimated that the quantity taken over was about 17 million bushels, and was owned by grain shippers and millers. According to a Montreal paper of the following day, the grain-growers in Canada still hold nearly 200 million bushels of wheat. The portion taken possession of by the Canadian Government, therefore, is only a small fraction of the whole growth of the Dominion, and probably will not have very much influence upon the condition of the country.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY.

A COMMITTEE consisting of James N. Wallace, Henry Evans, Harry Bronner, Frederick W. Scott, and Charles H. Sabin has been constituted, and is acting under a deposit agreement dated September 21, 1915. It asks for the deposit of Preferred stock in order that the interests of the Preferred stockholders may be protected through concert of action. The committee is firm in its opinion that the Preferred stockholders are entitled in any reorganisation to a very much larger interest than the present plan accords. There has been deposited under said agreement in New York over 66% of the outstanding Preferred stock.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 33 Lombard Street, London, E.C., has been appointed Sub-Depositary under the deposit agreement of September 21, 1915, and holders of Preferred stock desiring to share in the benefits of said deposit agreement may deposit their stock certificates with said Sub-Depositary at its said office in London on or before the close of business on January 3, 1916. All stock certificates must be endorsed in blank for transfer or be accompanied by appropriate transfers in blank. At the time of deposit there must be paid to said Sub-Depositary on account of American taxes for transfers of stock the sum of 4 cents for each share deposited, and in addition depositors will at the same time be required to pay any English tax imposed upon such deposit and the insurance of certificates of deposit therefor.

GLENSHIEL.—Rubber harvested for the eleven months ended November 30, 1915, approximately 197,120 lb., of which 136,086 lb. have been sold at a gross average of 2*s*. 2½*d*. per lb., and approximately 36,960 lb. remain to be delivered at a gross average of 2*s*. 1*d*. per lb. Of next year's crop, approximately 115,360 lb. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2*s*. 2·28*d*. per lb.



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PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

No better guide exists as to the trend of business in the United States than is afforded by the course of the earnings of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which not only serves most of the important centres of industry —mining and manufacturing—lying between the Atlantic coast and Chicago, but also conveys vast quantities of agricultural products both to local markets and to the seaboard. Whereas during 1914 the volume of traffic declined considerably, the position now has completely changed and the railways have such a tremendous quantity of business to deal with that in the case of several of the companies embargoes have had to be imposed upon certain classes of traffic. At the present time the United States is enjoying great prosperity from the unprecedented volume and exceedingly high value of the cereal crops gathered this year, as well as from the unprecedented expansion in exports to all the world. This, of course, is helping the general trade of the country very considerably. Probably the most noteworthy instance of activity now prevailing is in the coal, iron and steel trades. Of course, in a large measure the busier conditions here are the result of the immense orders for manufactured materials of almost every kind for use in belligerent countries; but in no small degree the activity has been aided by the increased demands for domestic purposes, more particularly on behalf of the railways, who ordinarily are the chief customers of the great iron, steel and equipment concerns. During the period of doubt that existed as to whether or not the Interstate Commerce Commission would grant higher freight rates, and the industrial depression of 1913-14 the railways bought but sparingly of rails, new equipment, &c., but with the marked improvement in economic conditions, and with the still greater business that is anticipated in future, it has become imperative for the great railroads again to purchase freely all kinds of materials and supplies. The position of the railways has also been helped by the rise in freight rates and by the more reasonable attitude of the authorities towards the transportation industry.

The unfavourable conditions experienced by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1914 continued well into the present year, and for the first five months of the

year to May gross earnings showed a decline of $4,224,000. Owing, however, to increased skill in operating the traffic this loss was slightly more than offset and net earnings showed the small gain of $268,000. Commencing with June the pendulum as far as gross earnings were concerned began to swing forward; and this movement has become more pronounced from month to month, the gross receipts having expanded nearly $6,000,000 in the second five months of the year. For the ten months to October the gain in gross receipts was thus $1,732,000, and by means of a saving of $4,056,000 in expenses an expansion of as much as $5,788,000, or 16%, was brought about in net earnings. This increase in net earnings does not, however, represent the addition to the net profit of the Company in the current year, for account has to be taken of the large amount of new bonded indebtedness recently created. Hitherto the Pennsylvania has not published monthly figures of miscellaneous income and interest charges, but, commencing with October, these data have been given, and the stockholders will now be informed month by month, not only as to the gross and net earnings, but as to the net profit also. This action of the Pennsylvania will be very highly appreciated by stockholders. While the trend of gross earnings is of interest to the general community, as indicating the course of trade, the course of the net profit, after meeting all expenses and interest charges, is of special interest both to stockholders and to investors generally.

Miscellaneous income for the ten months to October was $1,689,000 higher, while taxes were $121,000 less than in 1914. The expansion in net income for the period was thus almost $7,600,000. The issue of $49,000,000 of 4½% First Mortgage Bonds in January last and of $65,000,000 of 4½% General Mortgage Bonds in May last was mainly for the purpose of redeeming $87,000,000 of Convertible Bonds maturing on October 1. Nevertheless the interest charges for the ten months showed an increase of $5,117,000. The gain in net profit for the ten months to October was thus $2,481,000. The net profit earned by the Railroad for the year 1914 amounted to $32,306,000, so that, apart from any further addition to net profit in the last two months of this year, the net profit for 1915 will be $34,787,000, a sum equal to 7·3% upon the $500,000,000 of Common stock. This is after allowing for the same appropriation as last year, namely $1,785,000, to sinking funds.

For the relatively satisfactory net results secured for the current year the officers of the road are deserving of high praise, the whole of the reduction in expenses having been due to their successful efforts to economise in the matter of conducting transportation. Doubtless this achievement is the result of cutting down the freight-train mileage and of adding still further to the average load of freight trains. Outlays upon maintenance of way, etc., were $455,000 higher than a year ago, but the proportion of these expenses showed little variation. Conducting transportation outlays, however, were reduced as much as $4,549,000, with the result that the ratio of this item of expenditure to gross receipts was brought down from 39·4% to 36·1%. In no year since 1901, with the single exception of 1909, has the conducting transportation ratio been lower than for 1915, although in the current twelve months the rate of wages is higher than ever before. How the earnings, expenses, charges and profits for the ten months to October last compare with those for the corresponding period of 1914 will be apparent from the following Income Statement:—

Results of Pennsylvania RR. 10 Months to October.

	1915. $	1915. % of Gross.	1914. $	1914. % of Gross.	Inc. or Dec. $
Gross receipts ...	159,859,000	—	158,107,000	—	+1,732,000
Oper. Expenses:					
Maint. of way ...	24,772,000	15·6	20,956,000	13·2	− 178,000
Do. equipment ...	31,552,000	19·7	30,899,000	19·6	+ 633,000
Cond. transportation ...	57,784,000	36·1	62,333,000	39·4	−4,549,000
Gen. & Misc. expenses ...	6,111,000	4·0	6,373,000	4·0	+ 38,000
Total	116,433,000	72·8	120,555,000	76·2	−4,056,000
Net earnings ...	43,540,000	—	37,552,000	—	+5,788,000
Misc. income ...	15,467,000	—	13,778,000	—	+1,689,000
Less taxes	6,515,000	—	6,454,000	—	− 121,000
Net income ...	52,494,000	—	44,896,000	—	+7,598,000
Int. and other charges ...	21,458,000	—	16,341,000	—	+5,117,000
Net profit	31,036,000	—	28,555,000	—	+2,481,000

For the year 1914, owing to a variety of adverse factors, the profits of the Pennsylvania *Company* declined to $2,816,000, after allowing for sinking funds. This sum was equal to 3·5% on the stock, but the *Company* distributed two dividends aggregating 4%, 3% having been paid in June 1914 and 1% in December last. In the current calendar year the *Company* is doing very much better, and for the ten months to October has secured an additional $2,050,000 of profit, making a net profit of $4,866,000 for 1915, irrespective of further gain in November and December. This indicated profit is equal to a dividend of over 6% upon the stock of the *Company*, the whole of which is owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The only dividend received this year by the *Railroad* upon the Pennsylvania *Company's* stock was 2% in June last, which brought in $2,400,000, against $3,200,000 received in June 1914. In view of the improved results of the *Company*, another dividend of 2% is likely to be forthcoming at the end of this month, and the additional income that will thus be derived by the *Railroad* will go a long way towards offsetting the increase in interest charges for the last two months of 1915, so that it may reasonably be assumed that the increase in net earnings for November and December will practically represent the increase in net profit for the period, and it would not be surprising if for the whole of 1915 the profit earned is equal to about 8% on the stock.

Then, again, the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, commonly known as the "Panhandle," the majority of whose Preferred and Common stocks is held by the Pennsylvania *Company*, is likewise benefiting very considerably from the greater activity prevailing in the iron, steel, and coal industries. Whereas for 1914 the profit of the line amounted to only $1,434,000, which was equal to 4% on the Preferred and to less than 1% on the Common stock, for 1915, ignoring improvement in November and December, the profit amounts to $2,476,000. This latter sum is equal to 4% on the Preferred and to almost 3½% on the Common stock.

How the present indicated profits for 1915, that is without allowing for any further improvement in November and December, compare with those for 1914 will be evident from the following statement:—

	Profit 1914* $	= % on Stock. %	Inc. in Profit 10 Mos. to Oct. 1915 $	Profit 1915 apart from Gain in Nov. and Dec. $	= % on Stock %
Penn. RR. ...	32,306,000	= 6·5	+2,481,000	34,787,000	= 7·0
Penn. Co. ...	2,816,000	= 3·5	+2,050,000	4,866,000	= 6·1
"Panhandle"	1,434,000	= (4 Prefd.) (0·4 Com.)	+1,042,000	2,476,000	= (4 Prefd. (3·4 Com.

* After appropriations for sinking funds as follows: Penn. RR. $1,785,000; Penn. Co. $1,912,000; "Panhandle" $880,000.

The course of earnings and expenses in recent months and the results with which comparison will

(*Continued on page* 825.)

"The Statist."

SPECIAL INSURANCE SECTION.

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INSURANCE AND THE WAR.

Never have the advantages and benefits of insurance been so apparent and so widely recognised as during the present War, and it is evident that one of the many consequences of the War will be a great extension of insurance in all its branches. At the beginning of the War, when a part of the enemy's fleet was still at large, and when ocean transit presented unknown dangers, no merchant ships would leave port or harbour until a scheme of insurance had been arranged to provide against war risks. And even when the plan was arranged, few vessels would venture forth until the war-risk premiums on hull and cargo had been reduced to rates that were not too burdensome. In this way the British people are indebted in no small measure to the system of insurance which the Government introduced for the regular supply during the War of the food and raw material upon which their welfare so completely rests. But what is so apparent in war, and is less obvious in peace, is equally effective both in peace and war. The British people would have been unable to build up their great commerce and to obtain so large a part of their supplies of food and material from countries over the seas had not the present system of maritime insurance enabled shipowners to pool their risks and to reduce individual losses to relatively small payments for insurance.

Another object-lesson in the value of insurance has been given by the damage from Zeppelin raids, and by the peace of mind enjoyed by persons whose property is insured against injury from this method of warfare.

Furthermore, the advantages of life assurance have been more keenly recognised than ever by insured persons who never expected to become soldiers, and who, at their country's call, have volunteered for the fighting-line.

The events that have followed one upon the other so rapidly since the summer of last year have brought home to the world the uncertainties of life as they were never realised before, and have elevated into great prominence the value of insurance as a safeguard against the monetary consequences of the major and infrequent evils, as well as of the minor misfortunes of life of everyday occurrence. And the wide recognition of the benefit of insurance during the present War cannot fail to bring about a much greater and more rapid extension of its principles in the coming years. Indeed, even greater benefits may yet be conferred upon the country by means of insurance in the present crisis. For instance, it may be possible to induce the greater part of our people, now that they are enjoying exceptionally large incomes, to insure against unemployment, which cannot fail to come after peace is concluded and the Army is disbanded, and by so doing not only provide themselves with the great sum of money they will need in order to get through the period of severe trade depression, but to supply the country immediately with a large amount of funds for the prosecution of the War. Roughly speaking, there are about 21,000,000 persons employed in this country in one form of industry or another, and of this total only about 2½ millions are assured against unemployment under the State scheme, while the total number of members of trade unions which receive unemployment allowances is under 4,000,000, including those insured against unemployment by the State. In view of the chances of a large amount of unemployment when the War is over, it should not be difficult to induce a great many persons to pay, in this period of full employment, substantial sums of money for insurance premiums against the risk of unemployment after the War. The payment of 1*s.* per employed person per week would, in a single twelve months, provide after the War an additional sum of about £44,000,000 for unemployment pay or other benefits to the wage-earning classes.

Thus insurance has already settled some of the problems which the country has had to face, and it may well be that its beneficent action may again be brought into play in order to overcome further difficulties, which otherwise may prove to be insurmountable.

While the immediate action of insurance has enabled the country to meet some of the difficulties arising out of this great War, and may render still greater assistance to it in future, one must not overlook the part that insurance has played in the work of building up the wealth and income of the country, and in thus enabling it to meet its present vast expenditures.

The wealth accumulated and held by our life offices alone now reaches the great sum of £551,000,000; but this is only a very small part of the wealth accumulated by means of assurance. The total sum saved annually by means of life insurance premiums by individual insurants in British offices is £50,536,000, and to this should be added the income derived from interest on investments, which now amounts annually to £17,325,000, so that the total sum saved is £67,861,000 per annum. From this amount must be deducted expenses of management and commissions, which reach £12,185,000. This leaves a net annual sum of no less than £55,676,000 accumulated by means of life assurance in the course of the year. Of this amount about £15,000,000 was employed by the companies in the purchase of new securities, and this sum was the direct contribution to the wealth of the nation in the past year through assurance. But beyond this sum a large part of the remaining £40,000,000, which was paid away to assurants in claims, was invested by the recipients of the money in one way or another, and, without running the risk of over-statement, it is obvious that for every £1 of wealth accumulated directly by the insurance offices £2 of wealth has been amassed through them by insurants whose policies have matured, and who reinvest a large part of the great sums they receive each year. Hence the total wealth accumulated in this country by means of life assurance, and that exists in one form or another to-day, is not only the £551,000,000 of funds possessed by the life offices, but something like £1,000,000,000 of additional wealth possessed by persons, or the heirs of such persons, to whom the sums assured have been paid since life insurance was introduced. In other words, the country is probably indebted to insurance for something like £1,500,000,000 of the great wealth it possesses to-day. The investment of this great sum of capital has, moreover, added largely to the national income, and has thus contributed in no small degree to the ability of the nation to meet its existing enormous war expenditures. Moreover, beyond the powerful assistance thus indirectly afforded by our insurance offices to the country at this time, they are directly assisting it to meet its expenditures by investing not only the new funds they accumulate from day to day in various kinds of Government loans, but also a substantial part of their old funds, which were previously placed in American and other securities, and which they can realise abroad, and reinvest at home to the great advantage of themselves and of the country.

In no small measure the ability of the country to pay for the goods bought from America in the past year arises from the transfer of the funds of our insurance offices from American to British securities.

Thus our insurance offices are playing a great part

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in assisting the country to solve the unprecedented financial and economic problems with which it is faced at the present time, and it is evident that the wider experience now being gained of the advantages of insurance will bring about its still more rapid extension in future. Indeed, not improbably the principles of insurance will be applied in a much fuller manner than hitherto, as a precaution against unavoidable misfortunes, the effect of which can be largely neutralised by foresight and by prudent preparation.

No one can doubt the country's power to pay out of its income year by year much greater sums for assurance than it is now doing. Indeed, it is remarkable that the nation devotes so little of its income to assurance. True, the amount has shown enormous expansion in the past generation, for in 1885 the premiums paid for life assurance were only £16,000,000, whereas in 1915 they are £51,000,000, an expansion in 30 years of as much as 220%. But when one recollects that the national income has nearly doubled since 1885, and that it is now about £2,400,000,000 a year, one realises that the nation is still devoting only about 2% of its great income to assurance, and that the amount ought to be much greater. It is interesting to note that persons with an aggregate taxable income of £907,000,000 in 1912-13 only claimed allowances in respect of £12,500,000 of life assurance premiums, this sum representing no more than 1½% of their incomes. We imagine, however, that many people were either ignorant of the concession which the Government allows in respect of life-assurance premiums when assessing income to taxation, or were too lazy to claim the allowance, and that the total sum paid in insurance premiums by payers of income tax was a great deal more than £12,500,000. If, however, we assume that all the premiums paid for ordinary assurance, amounting to £32,300,000, come from persons with incomes of over £160 a year the proportion would be only about 3% of the income existing prior to the War. Inasmuch as a large number of persons with incomes below the income-tax level are insured in the "ordinary" section, it is obvious that even among the well-to-do less than £3 per cent. per annum of income is on the average devoted to assurance.

Of course many persons devote a much larger percentage of their income to assurance, and it follows that a large section even of the persons that pay income tax are not assured at all, or are assured for very inadequate sums. The number of persons with incomes of over £160 a year and liable to income tax is calculated to be about 1,250,000, and, including the very large number of persons who do not pay income tax and who are insured in the ordinary section, it is doubtful if the number of "ordinary" policyholders is over 1,500,000. It is true that the number of "ordinary" policies issued is about 3,200,000, but most people have several policies, and the actual number of persons insured in the ordinary section is less than half the number of policies issued.

In brief, the sum devoted to assurance even by the relatively wealthy is extraordinarily small, being substantially less than 3% of their incomes.

When we come to the working classes the situation is in some respects more satisfactory, although in others there is abundant scope for improvement. Roughly speaking, the number of persons—men, women, and children—with incomes below the income-tax level is about 40,000,000, and of this great total nearly 38,000,000 are assured in the "industrial" section. Doubtless some persons have more than one "industrial" policy; nevertheless, substantially the whole of the working classes of this country are insured for small sums. As regards recognition of the value of insurance, therefore, the situation is highly satisfactory. But when one comes to the average sum assured the situation is far from satisfactory. The total sum paid for life assurance by the working and lower-middle classes is no more than £18,000,000 per annum, or less than 1½% of their incomes, while the average amount assured per policy is less than £10. This situation shows wonderful improvement since 1885, for in that year the premiums paid for industrial assurance reached only £3,289,000, so that in 30 years there has been a growth of nearly 500%, with an increase of less than 100% in income. Nevertheless, hitherto there has been practically no life assurance among the working classes at all. Assurance to them still merely means assurance of burial expenses for each member of the family—there is no provision for wife or family if the breadwinner dies. There are thousands, indeed millions, of working men, whose incomes are now large enough to enable them to insure their lives for substantial sums, who devote no more than a few pence a week to assurance, and who are merely waiting for some society to create a form of assurance that will meet their special needs in order to provide substantial sums for assurance. Would it not be possible to create a sort of omnibus policy, by means of which a working man would be insured against sickness, accident, unemployment, death and old age, and all the overlapping and expense which now come from separate organisations and separate commissions for each of these purposes would be avoided? For such a policy a working man would be warranted in paying away a substantial percentage of his income. But at present, if he takes out a life policy he may run into illness or unemployment and be unable to maintain the premiums, and possibly may have to surrender his policy. Already a working man is actually assured in one way or another against these things, either by the State, his employer, or himself, and the only step that needs to be taken is to consolidate, to simplify, to cheapen, and to extend, the extension being for the purpose of inducing the whole of the working classes to assure against unemployment and death in a much more comprehensive manner than hitherto. The work of inducing the working classes with incomes over the poverty line to devote 10% of their wages to insurance with all these objects in view should not be an impossible one, especially as such a payment would be supplemented by the contributions of employers and of the State in respect of accidents, unemployment, ill-health, and old age, and would assure them very substantial sums against all the greater misfortunes of life. If such a plan were adopted the sums devoted to life assurance premiums each year would be substantially greater than £51,000,000, or a little over £1 1*s.* 9*d.* per head of population, and only a little over 2% of the nation's income.

Not only from the individual, but from the national, standpoint, is a great increase of assurance desirable both among the wealthier and the working classes. The money saved by means of assurance will not only bring the individual insurants themselves very great advantage, but it will be of immense benefit to the State. During the current crisis the insurance offices have rendered the country valuable service by selling their investments in American railway and other foreign and colonial securities, and lending the proceeds to the Government to meet the war payments, and before the War is won they may render still greater assistance in this manner. It is very desirable that during the War insurance offices should increase their business to the greatest extent possible, and so not only help to provide the Government with the loans it needs for the War, but at the same time place themselves in a position to buy back from the United States after the War the securities they are now selling, or to lend money to the Government to pay off any temporary loans it may raise in the United States or elsewhere. Moreover, it is essential to remember that the nation as a whole is spending upon war the £400,000,000 per annum of savings which otherwise it would use for reproductive purposes, and

that after the War is over much greater savings should be made for a number of years in order to recover the savings thus expended. If after the War the nation were to save £600,000,000 a year instead of £400,000,000—and such saving could easily be effected if the need for it were recognised—the savings spent upon war in two years would be recovered in four years; while if the War were to last three years, and to involve the expenditure of £1,200,000,000 of money that otherwise would have been saved, the whole of the loss would be recovered in six years. In other words, at the end of six years the nation would be as wealthy as if there had been no war. It is of very great importance that such savings should be effected, and that the economic consequences of the War should be obliterated at the earliest moment possible. A survey of the field of insurance reveals clearly that the insurance offices, by inducing both the wealthy and the working classes to make greater provision than hitherto for wives, children, or old age, can greatly assist the nation to save much larger sums in future than it has in the past, and so to replace the savings now being expended upon war. The growth in the premium income of life offices in the last 30 years has been 220%. Such a rate of growth in future would carry the premium income of our offices from £50,500,000 at present to £162,000,000 in 1945. If, however, the offices were to realise the importance of inducing the community to save by insurance much greater sums in future, the amount of insurance would speedily be doubled, and the extra premiums would provide a substantial part of the extra saving of £200,000,000 a year which the country needs to make not only during, but after, the War.

In the past the growth of insurance was in some measure checked by the constant fall in the rate of interest up to about 1889. This meant that the new funds accumulated had to be invested at lower rates of interest than old funds, and that, the greater the increase of business, the smaller the rate of bonus distribution. This situation is now completely reversed, for new business and an expanding premium income mean the investment of even greater sums at the high and profitable rates of interest now current, and that new business will mean not reduced, but increased, bonuses. Moreover, not only will the rate of interest be profitable, but there is the prospect of a great rise in the values of the investments after the close of the War.

The substantial rate of growth in assurance since 1885, when the advantages of the nation's new system of universal education began to be reaped, will be evident from the following contrast:—

	1915.	1885.	Increase.	
	£	£	£	%
Premium income of life offices	50,536,000	15,845,000	+34,691,000	+220
Population ...	46,450,000	36,016,000	+10,434,000	+ 29
Per head ...	£1.09	£0.44	+ £0.65	+148

The reduction in the rate of interest on insurance investments between 1895 and 1905, and the recovery up to last year, are shown by the following:—

	Mean Life and Annuity Funds.	Interest and Dividends.*	Rate per Cent.
	£	£	
1915	448,848,000	17,326,000	3.86
1905	313,078,000	11,391,000	3.64
1895	203,391,000	7,791,000	3.83

* After deducting income tax.

The reinvestment of a large amount of money realised from the sale of American funds and the investment of new money should shortly bring the average rate of interest to over 4%. Of course, beyond the advantage derived from the safety of money invested in insurance policies is the fact that insurance premiums are free of income tax—an important consideration with the rate of tax now 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £, and with the tax likely to be maintained at a high figure for many years to come.

The following statement will show very clearly how greatly the popularity of endowment assurance among the middle and working classes has contributed to the growth of "ordinary" insurance in the last 20 years:—

*"Ordinary" Business.**

Year.	Whole Term of Life.	Endowment Assurances.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1915 ...	**483,259,436**	**331,251,864**	**57,602,276**	**872,113,576**
1914 ...	483,179,135	320,616,905	51,186,748	854,982,788
1913 ...	478,728,250	316,651,625	40,858,825	836,238,700
1912 ...	477,190,673	307,374 304	42,572,493	827,137,470
1911 ...	470,149,166	291,443,250	38,623,090	800,215,506
1910 ...	468,723,371	269,395,014	44,080,146	782,198,531
1909 ...	462,659,611	262,510,535	42,474,313	767,644,459
1908 ...	466,608,737	249,317,144	41,122 286	757,048,167
1907 ...	459,359,546	228,836,816	38,178.647	726,875,009
1906 ...	453,824,217	217,663,718	37,003,848	713,491,783
1905 ...	**456,289,088**	**205,548,656**	**35,789,384**	**697,627,128**
1895 ...	**423,344,137**	**85,144,665**	**20,695,542**	**529,184,344**
Inc., 20 years	**+ 59,915,299**	**+246,107,199**	**+36,906,734**	**+342,929,232**
Do. per cent.	**+14%**	**+290%**	**+178%**	**+65%**

* The above figures are based on returns deposited for the most part during the five years prior to the years given, and are, therefore, merely an approximation to the amount of contracts in force. Those for 1915 are our own computations, based on the valuation returns issued up to date.

Here is the comparison of the number of policies in force, the amounts insured, and the average per policy of the "ordinary" companies:—

Ordinary Companies.

Year.	Number of Policies.	Amount Insured.	Average per Policy.
		£	£
1915	**3,194,365**	**872,113,576**	**273**
1905	**2,303,422**	**697,627,128**	**303**
1895	**1,428,137**	**529,184,344**	**370**
Inc. or dec., 20 years	**+1,766,228**	**+342,929,232**	**— 97**
Do. per cent. ...	**+124%**	**+65%**	**—26%**

To indicate the very large number of endowment assurances, or old-age policies, their small amount per policy, as well as the relatively small number of whole-term-of-life policies, and the large amount per policy, we give the following statement:—

"Ordinary" Business.

	Number of Policies.	Amount.	Average per Policy.
		£	£
Whole term of life...	1,083,444	483,259,436	446
Endowment assurances (*a*) ...	1,960,060	331,251,864	167
Other	150,861	57,602,276	381
Total	3,194,365	872,113,576	273

(*a*) Payable at death or at the end of a fixed period.

The great growth of the "industrial" assurance business since 1895 will be seen from the following comparison of the value of the policies issued according to the valuation returns of the last 20 years:—

*"Industrial" Business.**

Year.	Whole Term of Life.	Endowment Assurances.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1915 ...	**320,224,886**	**15,683,600**	**27,418,303**	**363,326,739**
1914 ...	320,231.091	14,935,454	27,588,445	362,754,990
1913 ...	301,746,652	14,583,443	42.801 989	359,538.089
1912 ...	297.871.609	14,444.706	40.893.387	353,109.702
1911 ...	260,140,172	13,903,945	36,925,002	310,069,119
1910 ...	255.032,125	8,589,693	29,067,319	292,689,157
1909 ...	249,683,108	7,998,353	28,126,158	285,807,599
1908 ...	243,516,968	7,735,417	27,192,116	278,444,501
1907 ...	234,571,308	6,276,904	26,621.401	267,469.613
1906 ...	220.706,385	6.088,817	24,758,747	251,553,949
1905 ...	**213,087,579**	**5,321,787**	**23,457,615**	**241,866,981**
1895 ...	**137,090,222**	**1,612,181**	**5,440,166**	**144,142,569**
20 yrs.	**+181,329,500**	**+13,723,541**	**+40.006.681**	**+235.059,722**
per cent.	**+149%**	**+839%**	**+840%**	**+183%**

* The above figures are based on returns deposited for the most part during five years prior to the years given, and are, therefore, merely an approximation to the amount of contracts in force. Those for 1915 are our own computations, based on the valuation returns issued up to date. Those for 1914 are also partly computed, owing to the official statement for the year being, as regards endowment a ces, in a new form, not comparable with previous figures.

The immense increase since 1895 in the number of policies issued by the industrial companies for sums of about £10 per policy is shown in the following statement:—

Industrial Companies.

Year.	Number of Policies.	Amount Insured. £	Average per Policy. £
1915	37,579,905	363,326,789	9·67
1905	24 668,532	241,869,649	9.80
1895	14,990,581	144,142,569	9.61
Increase, 20 years ...	+22,589,324	+219,184,220	+0.06
Do. per cent. ...	+151%	+152%	+00.6%

The rapidity with which the funds of the offices are accumulating is shown in the following comparison covering a period of 30 years:—

*Accumulated Balances.**

Returns.	Total Balance. £	Addition for Year. £
1915	**449,916,465**	**12,261,783**
1914	437,654,682	14,956,271
1913	422,698,411	13,682,372
1912	409,016,039	13,972,734
1911	395,043,305	11.023.872
1910	384,014,433	13,646,773
1909	370.367,660	12,047.626
1908	358,320,034	13,172,483
1907	345,147,551	14,032,401
1906	331.115,150	14,026.207
1905	**317,088,943**	**12,440,691**
1895	**209,300,435**	**9,052,476**
1885	148,351,762	4,653,705

* Includes capital of companies whose business is limited to life assurance.
† But for the removal of capital from life account in the case of two companies transacting other business in the return for 1900 the accumulated balances would have been £251,818,506, and the addition for the year would have been £10,476,718. This is the real addition for comparative purposes.

The nature of the securities in which the great funds of the insurance offices are placed is shown by the following statement of the investments according to the latest reports, in comparison with those published last year, in 1905, and in 1895:—

Insurance Fund Investments.

	Year—1915. £	1914. £	1905. £	1895. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £
Mortgages ...	113,891,928	113,878,037	96,094,511	84,837,431	+ 17,797,417
Loans on rates, &c.	30,766,742	31,399,788	42,636,310	27,945,482	− 11,869,568
Loans on policies & personal security	32,621,554	31,518,305	19,364,110	12,141,048	+ 13,257,444
British Gov. securities	6,067,472	5,314,421	9,365,537	5,716,926	− 3,298,065
Indian & Colonial Gov.securities, &c.	45,291,138	42,242,016	19,856,348	17,112,534	+ 25,434,790
Foreign Gov. securities	44,781,581	39,353.328	10,386,646	4,602,789	+ 34,394,935
Debentures ...	135,443,742	132,410,657	65,326,393	30,777,410	+ 70,117,349
Stocks and shares	50,468,200	49,167,154	41,125,975	16,875,132	+ 9,342,225
Land and house property and ground-rents ...	47,679,441	46,121,104	35,802,654	19,283.369	+ 11,876,787
Life interests and reversions ...	11,371,266	11,573,477	9,396,923	4,806,120	+ 1,974,343
Agents' balances, &c.	15,585,138	13,343,018	6,912,073	5,426 367	+ 8,673,065
Accrued interest	4,430,037	4,407 983	3.446.540	2,318.587	+ 983 497
Cash, stamps, &c.	11,104.189	8.321,616	5,904.354	7,987,462	+ 5,199,835
Miscellaneous ...	1,647,934	1,696,181	1,098,764	567,209	+ 549,170
Total ...	551,150.362	530,647,085	366,717,138	240,397,866	+184,433,224

The changes in the form of investments made by life assurance undertakings are indicated by the following table, based on the above figures. It shows the percentage of the funds invested now and 10 years ago in various categories of securities. The outstanding features are the decline in low interest-bearing investments and the increase in Debentures, on which excellent yields are now obtainable:—

	Per Cent. of Total Investments. 1915. %	1905. %	Change, 10 Years. %
Mortgages and loans	34·2	45·3	−11·1
British and Indian Govt. loans	9·9	8 3	+1·6
Foreign Government securities	8·7	3 0	+5·7
Debentures	26·1	18·7	+7·4
Stocks and shares	9·7	11·8	−2·1
Land, property, &c.	9·2	10·2	−1·0
Life interests and reversions ...	2·2	2·7	−0·5
	100·0	100·0	

To show the proprietary capital invested in life assurance business, the life and annuity funds, the fire and marine funds of the companies transacting life business, the reserve and other funds, &c., we set out the liabilities of insurance companies, according to the latest reports, in contrast with the liabilities according to the returns for 1914, 1905, and 1895, and we add the increase for the past 10 years:—

Liabilities of Insurance Companies.

	Year—1915. £	1914. £	1905. £	1895. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £
Capital	19,202,818	19,381,993	13,702,531	12,227,006	+ 5,500,287
Life and annuity funds	448,827,971	436,702,389	313,078,233	203,391.610	+135,749,738
Fire insurance funds	22,261,673	22,159,674	14,422.783	9,753,995	+ 7,838,890
Accident and employers' liability funds ...	2,935,936	2,712,297	—	—	+ 2,935,936
Sinking fund and capital redemption fund ...	6,170.831	5,624,178	—	—	+ 6,170.831
Marine and general funds ...	15,664,554	13,699,989	4,555,289	1,588,008	+11,109.265
Profit and loss balances ...	7,435,285	7,592,805	4,809,335	3,280,762	+ 2,625,950
General reserve and investment reserve... ...	12,426,931	10,478,100	8.678,702	4,964,609	+ 3,748,229
Outstand'g claims	8,265,165	6,152,666	4,426,366	3,456,776	+ 3,838,797
Outstanding accounts... ...	4,187,750	3.583,739	961,437	474,195	+ 3,226,313
Miscellaneous ...	3,771,450	2,559,255	2,082,462	1,260,595	+ 1,688,988
Total ...	551,150,362	530,647,085	366,717,138	240,397,866	+184,433,224

To show the accumulations by means of "ordinary" assurance we set out the aggregate annual income and outgo, the surplus and accumulated balances of the "ordinary" companies, for the past two years, for 1905, and for 1895, together with 10 years' growth:—

"Ordinary" Companies.—Income and Outgo.

	Year—1915. £	1914. £	1905. £	1895. £	Increase 10 Years. £	%
Income ...	50,074.939	48,999,699	37,107,741	27.015,991	+ 12.967,198	+35
Outgo ...	40,697,931	37,691,016	26,774,603	19,378,144	+ 13,923,328	+52
Balance ...	9,377 008	11,308.683	10,333.138	7.637,847	− 956.130	− 9
Brought forwd.	381,873,743	370,565,060	277,366,226	188 372,536	+104,597,517	—
Carried forwd.	391,250,751	381,873,743	287,699,364	196,010,383	+103,551,387	—

The accumulation of funds by the "industrial" offices will be seen from the following contrast of their income and outgo for the past two years, for 1905, and for 1895:—

"Industrial" Companies.—Income and Outgo.

	Year—1915. £	1914. £	1905. £	1895. £	Increase 10 Years. £	%
Income ...	20,449,860	19,653,978	12,255,257	6,938,354	+ 8,194,603	+66
Outgo ...	17,565,085	16.923,247	9,935,661	5,523,725	+ 7,629,424	+77
Balance ...	2,884,775	2,730.731	2,319,596	1,414,629	+ 565,179	+20
Brought forwd.	55,780,939	53,050,208	27,069.983	11,875,423	+28,710,956	—
Carried forwd.	58,665,714	55,780,939	29,389,579	13,290,052	+29,276,135	—

The economy of the "ordinary" offices becomes greater year by year, and in the past twelve months the percentage of expenses and commission to premium income has been only 13.3 per cent., in comparison with 13.5 per cent. 10 years ago and 14.2 per cent. 20 years ago.

To show the relatively small proportion of the premium income of "ordinary" companies absorbed for commission, expenses of management, and interest and dividends on proprietors' capital, according to the latest reports, in comparison with those of 10 years and 20 years ago, we give the following statement:—

"ORDINARY" COMPANIES.

Proportions of Premium Income Absorbed by Commission, Expenses, and Interest on Capital.

Year.	Commission. %	Expenses of Management. %	Interest and Dividends on Capital. %	Total. %
1915 ...	5·4	7·9	1·6	14·9
1905 ...	5·2	8·3	1·9	15·4
1895 ...	5·2	9·0	3·5	17·7

We would point out that the above is merely the percentage of the premium income absorbed for expenses, commission, and interest. The proportion of the expenses to the total income, including income from investments and consideration for annuities, is only 9.5 per cent.—a very low figure. How small is the proportion of the total income of the "ordinary"

life offices absorbed for expenses will be evident from the following statement:—

Economy of "Ordinary" Assurance.

Income.	£	£
Premium income	32,314,000	
Consideration for annuities ...	1,993,000	
Interest and dividends, less tax ...	15,209,000	
Total income		49,513,000
Expenses.		
Commission	1,641,000	
Expenses	2,555,000	
Interest and dividends on capital ...	528,000	
Total expenses...		4,724,000
Proportion of expenses to income ...		9·5 %

For the purpose of showing the total sums annually received by the "ordinary" companies as premium income, interest, and also for annuities, we contrast beneath the details of their income for the past two years and for 1905 and 1895:—

"Ordinary" Companies.—Income.

	Year—1915.	1914.	1905.	1895.	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. %
	£	£	£	£		
Premiums	32,313,620	31,501,687	24,547,873	17,637,683	+ 7,765,747	+31
Consideration for annuities ..	1,993,268	2,373,315	1,793,736	1,742,387	+ 199,531	—
Interest and dividends, less tax ...	15,208,783	14,916,467	10,456,303	7,393,739	+ 4,752,480	+45
Increase in value of investments ...	229,044	—	169,897	198,286	+ 59,147	—
Capital paid up ...	—	—	25 000	368	– 25,000	—
Miscellaneous ...	330 224	208,230	114,932	43,528	+ 215,292	—
Total	50,074,939	48,999,699	37,107,741	27,015,991	+12,967,198	+35

That the reader may appreciate how relatively small are the sums paid for commission, expenses of management, dividends on capital, &c., in proportion to the income we set out herewith a contrast of the outgo of the "ordinary" companies, according to the latest reports, in comparison with those for the previous year and with 1905 and 1895:—

"Ordinary" Companies —Outgo.

	Year—1915.	1914.	1905.	1895.	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. %
	£	£	£	£		
Claims	23.611,574	23,591,110	17,866,469	12,792,252	+8,745,105	+49
Cash bonuses and reductions of premiums	1,022,654	1,339,427	879,546	1,054,089	+ 143,108	+16
Surrenders	2·03 221	2.55 ,949	1.636 373	981,465	+ 966,848	+59
Annuities	2.782 9·4	2.714,537	2,082,473	1,135,2·2	+ 700.441	+33
Commission .	1,640,905	1,714,6·4	1.278,681	990 651	+ 3·2.224	+29
Do. % of premium income	(5·4)	(5·4)	(5·2)	(5·2)	+ (0·2)	—
Expenses of management ...	2,555,478	2,623,860	2,034,624	1,593,984	+ 520,854	+25
Do. % of premium income	(7·9)	(8·3)	(8·3)	(9·0)	– (0·4)	—
Depreen. in value of investments,&c.	2,947,854	2,621,803	516,974	179,591	+2,430,880	—
Shareholders' dividends and profits	528,046	503,706	467,445	616,696	+ 60,601	+13
Do. % of premium income	(1·6)	(1·6)	(1·9)	(3·5)	– (0·3)	—
Miscellaneous ...	5,285	—	12,018	34,134	– 6,733	—
Total	40,697,931	37,691,016	26,774,603	19,378,144	+13,923,328	+52

The growth of the premium income of the "industrial" offices in the last 10 and 20 years has been enormous. This will be apparent from the following contrast:—

"Industrial" Companies.—Income.

	Year—1915.	1914.	1905.	1895.	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. %
	£	£	£	£		
Premiums	17,973,981	17,328,255	11,093,268	6,382,927	+6,880,713	+62
Consideration for annuities ...	—	—	3,846	10,550	– 3,846	—
Interest and dividends (less tax)...	2,116,794	2,025,049	934,706	396,850	+1,182 088	+126
Capital paid up ...	—	—	102,986	104,48 ·	– 102.986	—
Miscellaneous ...	359 085	360.674	120 451	43,53 ·	+ 238,634	—
Total	20,449,860	19,653,978	12,255,257	6,938 354	+8,194,603	+66

The cost of "industrial" assurance is, of course, very heavy. In the following table we set out in detail the sums paid by the "industrial" companies for claims, cash bonuses, commission, expenses of management, dividends on capital, &c., according to the reports published in the present year, in 1914, 1905, and 1895:—

"Industrial" Companies.—Outgo.

	Year—1915.	1914.	1905.	1895.	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. £	Inc. or Dec. 10 Years. %
	£	£	£	£		
Claims	7,798,878	7.248.056	4,255,966	2,418,754	+3,542.912	+83
Surrenders	271,739	274,224	79,775	25,220	+ 191 964	—
Annuities	—	—	12 690	3,806	– 12,690	—
Commission ...	4 619,168	4,512,005	2,788,315	1,708,887	+1,830 853	+70
Do. % of premium income	(25·7)	(26·0)	(25·1)	(26·7)	+ (0·6)	—
Expenses of management	3,369,838	3,463,577	2,039,335	1,080,028	+1,33·,503	+65
Do. % of premium income	(18·7)	(20·0)	(18·4)	(17·0)	+ (0·3)	—
Shareholders' dividends and profits	728.662	758,784	557.282	286,119	+ 171 380	+30
Do. % of premium income	(4·0)	(4·4)	(5·0)	(4·5)	+ (1·0)	—
Miscellaneous ...	776,800	666,601	202,298	911	+ 574,502	—
Total	17,565,085	16,923,247	9,935,661	5,523,725	+7,629,424	+77

The proportion of expenses for commission, management, and interest on capital to the premium income amounts to no less than 48.4 per cent. This will be seen from the statement appended:—

COST OF "INDUSTRIAL" ASSURANCE.

Ratio of Premium Income paid for Commission, Expenses, and Interest.

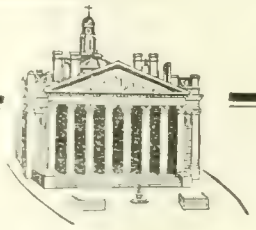
Year.	Commission. %	Expenses of Management. %	Int. & Divs. on Capital. %	Total. %
1915 ...	25·7	18·7	4·0	48·4
1905 ...	25·1	18·4	5·0	48·5
1895 ...	26·7	17·0	4·5	48·2

Including the whole of the income from premiums, annuities, and interest, the proportion of expenses of all kinds to the income is as high as 43.3 per cent.

The expensiveness of "industrial" assurance will be apparent from the following statement:—

Expensiveness of "Industrial" Assurance.

Income.	£	£
Premium income	17,974,000	
Interest and dividends...	2,117,000	
Total Income		20,091,000
Expenses.		
Commission	4,619,000	
Expenses of management	3,370,000	
Interest and dividends on capital to shareholders	728,000	
Total expenses		8,717,000
Proportion of expenses to income ..		43·3 %



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INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES.

HOW A DECADE'S GROWTH OF BUSINESS WAS DISTRIBUTED.

In the succeeding sections we analyse from various points of view the position of various companies transacting life assurance business, with the object of affording useful information in a classified form to assurants and would-be assurants. Here, by way of preliminary, we consider them only from the broad point of view of showing how the steady and satisfactory increase in the volume of business has been distributed during the last decade, the object being to show which undertakings most attract the assuring public, and on what lines future developments may be expected. Reference to former Supplements will show that for many years past certain institutions have been prominently in favour.

It is necessary, however, at the outset to emphasise the fact that increase in premium income alone is by no means a safe criterion in making choice of an office likely to give the best ultimate results. In this, as in all other directions, mere expansion of business does not necessarily mean corresponding profits. Sometimes such an increase is secured by extravagant expenditure, or by lack of due scrutiny of risks, and both of these tend to reduce, and not to augment, the sources from which bonuses are derived. Indeed, expansion of premium income is only necessary and beneficial so long as it is fully to counterbalance the wastage from deaths, surrenders and lapses. Any increase beyond this point is only desirable so far as it can safely be obtained without undue cost. It is therefore clear that rapid expansion in business is no determining test in the selection of an office. From the general economic point of view, however, it is interesting to see which companies secure the greatest proportion of the growth in income.

In order to show the growth of income and its distribution between the various offices we have classified them under various categories, according to the increase in premium income which has occurred during the past 10 years, a time which is, in the majority of cases, sufficiently long to eliminate exceptional fluctuations from year to year. It is, however, necessary to point out again that mere comparison of figures over a decade may present any particular company in too favourable or unfavourable a light. Contraction after a long period of heavy outlay may be not only prudent but necessary, and a decline in premium income in such a case is a sign of health, and not of weakness. On the other hand, as events have often proved in the past, a very rapid increase in premium income may be bought too dearly, and may lead in the long run to the weakening of the financial position.

The principle on which the following tables are constructed is to contrast in the case of each office the premium income in 1914 with that earned in 1904, columns being appended to show the actual percentage increase or decrease. These are followed by a similar comparison of the sums earned in the way of interest on the accumulated funds. This is, of course, a matter of great importance. Most of the leading offices which have been working over a lengthened period have managed their affairs so prudently that out of the premiums they have received in the past they have accumulated funds so considerable that in some cases they amount to from 50 to 100 per cent. of the annual premium income. It is obvious, of course, that earnings from interest are altogether to the good from the policyholder's point of view, because, as we show later, the premiums are based upon calculations which provide for the return of the sum stipulated at the outset, and also for expenses and contingencies. Clearly, therefore, if as much as, or even a considerable proportion of, the amount of the premium income is earned yearly from outside sources, not only is the financial stability very much greater, but bonus prospects may be regarded as extremely satisfactory. From this point of view the aggregate figures given below are decidedly interesting and welcome.

They show that 61 companies had an aggregate premium income in 1914 of no less than 38,037,000 millions sterling, which was nearly 41 per cent. larger than 10 years earlier. Further, the total aggregate net interest which they earned was £17,830,000, or a gain of nearly 57 per cent. on 1904. Thus both financial stability and bonus prospects are, speaking broadly, much better than they were 10 years ago, apart altogether from the fact that the rate of interest which the companies can obtain on new investments has for some years past been very much higher than it was in 1904.

The companies are divided into sections according to the amount of their growth of net premium income during the past 10 years. It will be noticed that in the first and most important category the increase has been more than twice as much as in any other, and it is worthy of remark that four of the companies included therein are Colonial offices, and that, for the most part, the working expenses are on a moderate basis. The second section also contains a Colonial office and various other companies of the highest rank; while in the third, fourth, and fifth sections many excellent companies are placed. In the sixth section there is a certain proportion of what may be described as special offices: that is, those which cater principally for certain categories of the community, or conduct their business in particular ways; while the seventh is the only instance of companies which record decreases. The following summary of the tables dealt with enables a bird's-eye view to be taken of the growth of income and funds:—

		Premium Income. (000's omitted.)				Interest Earned (Less Tax). (000's omitted.)			
	Cos.	1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.		1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.	
Increase over		£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
£500,000 ..	7	14,548	8,579	+5,969	+69·4	5,632	2,629	+3,003	+114·2
Increase £200,000 to £500,000 ...	9	8 019	5 091	+2,928	+57·4	3,858	2,366	+1,492	+ 62·0
Increase £100,000 to £200 000 ...	8	3,348	2,376	+ 972	+40·5	1,593	1,024	+ 569	+ 55·8
Increase £60,000 to £100,000 ...	7	2,186	1,611	+ 575	+35·9	1,179	788	+ 391	+ 48·9
Increase £40,000 to £60,000 ...	8	2,833	2,458	+ 375	+15·2	1,595	1,283	+ 312	+ 24·4
Increase £20,000 to £40,000 ...	8	3,280	3,039	+ 241	+ 8·0	1,783	1,458	+ 325	+ 22·3
Increase under £20,000 ...	8	2,213	2 135	+ 78	+ 3·2	1,273	1,029	+ 244	+ 23·7
Decrease	6	1,610	1,749	— 139	— 8·0	917	782	+ 135	+ 17·4
Grand total	61	38,037	27,038	+10,999	+40·8	17,830	11,359	+6,471	+ 56·9

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Life Premium Income—combined		Life Assurance Funds—combined		Total Claims Paid to Date
1901—£22,308	...	£9,175	..	£39,900
1908—£64,436	...	£42,253	...	£146,839
1915—£92,869	...	£106,545	...	£350,000

GROWTH OF INCOME.

Increase in Premium Income over £500,000 (7 Companies).	Date of Formation.	Net Premium Income (000's omitted). 1914. £	1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Interest Earned, less Tax (000's omitted). 1914. £	1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Ratio of Expenses to Premium Income. 1914. %	1904. %	Inc. or Dec. %
Sun Life of Canada ...	1865	1.855	736	+ 1.119	+152·0	769	154	+ 615	+399·4	28·40	30·68	– 2·28 – 7·43
Prudential (Ord.) ...	1848	5.036	3.969	+ 1.067	+ 26·7	1.901	947	+ 954	+100·8	8·21	8·62	– 0·41 – 4·7
Norwich Union... ...	1808	1.649	665	+ 984	+145·1	499	214	+ 285	+132·2	13·81	15·55	– 1·74 – 11·1
Aust. Mut. Provident ...	1849	2,612	1 748	+ 891	+ 51·1	1,450	906	+ 544	+ 60·4	12·74	13·59*	– 0·85 – 6·3
Refuge (Ord.)	1864	1.308	525	+ 783	+156·6	279	76	+ 203	+267·1	10·00	10·00	– —
Legal and General ...	1836	1,015	442	+ 573	+143·7	329	142	+ 187	+131·7	11·34	14·31	– 2·97 – 20·8
Nat. Mutual of Australasia	1869	1,043	494	+ 549	+109·8	405	190	+ 215	+113·1	17·03	26·03	– 9·00 – 34·6
Total		14,548	8,579	+ 5,969	+ 69·4	5,632	2,629	+3,003	+114·2			

* Including valuation expenses.

Increase in Premium Inc. £200,000 to £500,000 (9 Companies).												
Commercial Union ...	1861	658	262	+ 396	+151·1	246	112	+ 134	+119·7	12·13	13·83	– 1·70 – 12·3
Sun	1810	980	586	+ 394	+ 67·2	429	218	+ 211	+ 96·8	14·56	16·68	– 2·12 – 12·7
Mutual Life and Citizens'	1886	796	420*	+ 376	+ 89·5	366	116*	+ 250	+215·5	12·81	29·63*	–16·82 – 57·1
Pearl (Ord.)	1864	591	232*	+ 359	+154·8	143	140*	+ 3	+ 2·1	14·49	14·54*	– 0·05 – 0·3
Scottish Widows' ...	1815	1.455	1.098	+ 357	+ 32·5	857	627	+ 230	+ 36·7	11·53‡	9·84	+ 1·79 + 18·1
North Brit. & Mercantile	1809	1.244	928	+ 316	+ 34·0	697	513	+ 184	+ 35·8	13·72	13·62	+ 0·10 + 0·7
Alliance	1824	1.173	886*	+ 287	+ 32·4	716	353*	+ 363	+102·8	9·83	11·71*	– 1·83 – 15·6
Salvation Army (Ord.)...	1867	364	157	+ 207	+131·9	20	6	+ 14	+233·3	15·40	†	— —
U. K. Provident	1840	758	522	+ 236	+ 45·2	384	281	+ 103	+ 36·9	10·48	11·52	– 1·04 – 9·0
Total		8,019	5,091	+ 2,928	+ 57·4	3,858	2,366	+1,492	+ 62·0			

* Total figures of companies now amalgamated under above title. † Figures not available. ‡ Including valuation expenses.

Increase in Premium Inc. £100,000 to £200,000 (8 Companies).												
Royal	1845	836	661	+ 175	+ 26·5	443	319	+ 124	+ 38·7	12·78	12·21	+ 0·57 + 4·7
Scottish Amicable ...	1826	430	289	+ 141	+ 48·8	243	176	+ 67	+ 38·1	12·32	13·87	– 1·55 – 11·1
Colonial Mutual... ...	1873	457	338	+ 119	+ 35·2	155	117	+ 38	+ 32·5	23·69	26·60	– 2·91 – 10·9
Royal Exchange... ...	1720	368	250	+ 118	+ 47·2	183	111	+ 72	+ 65·5	14·69	14·28	+ 0·41 + 2·9
London and Lancashire	1862	400	293	+ 107	+ 36·5	147	72	+ 75	+104·1	21·34	20·52	+ 0·82 + 4·0
Clerical, Med. and Gen.	1824	438	332	+ 106	+ 31·9	233	150	+ 83	+ 55·3	13·21	12·80	+ 0·41 + 3·2
Yorkshire	1824	210	106	+ 104	+ 98·1	104	45	+ 59	+131·1	14·51	17·54	+ 3·03 + 17·3
Scottish Life	1881	209	107	+ 102	+ 95·3	85	34	+ 51	+150·0	15·73	16·54	– 0·81 – 4·9
Total		3,348	2,376	+ 972	+ 40·5	1,593	1,024	+ 569	+ 55·8			

Increase in Premium Inc. £60,000 to £100,000 (7 Companies).												
Britannic (Ord.) ...	1866	252	153	+ 99	+ 64·6	64	18	+ 46	+255·5	14·09	20·55	– 6·46 – 31·4
Scottish Temperance ...	1883	231	133	+ 98	+ 73·5	86	35	+ 51	+145·6	14·51	15·91	– 1·40 – 8·8
Scottish Provident ...	1837	746	649	+ 97	+ 14·9	600	475	+ 125	+ 26·3	14·15*	11·68	+ 2·47 + 21·1
London Life	1806	449	369	+ 80	+ 21·7	227	174	+ 53	+ 30·5	4·30	4·59	– 0·29 – 6·3
Century	1885	110	31	+ 79	+222·9	31	3	+ 28	+933·3	10·30	15·75	– 5·45 – 34·6
Abstainers & Gen. (Ord.)	1883	112	51	+ 61	+119·6	28	8	+ 20	+250·0	19·94	27·62	– 7·68 – 27·8
Caledonian	1833	286	225	+ 61	+ 27·1	143	75	+ 68	+ 90·7	13·91	13·94	– 0·03 – 0·2
Total		2,186	1,611	+ 575	+ 35·9	1,179	788	+ 391	+ 48·9			

* Including valuation expenses.

Increase in Premium Inc. £40,000 to £60,000 (8 Companies).												
National Provident ...	1835	516	460	+ 56	+ 12·2	293	228	+ 65	+ 27·3	10·25	10·73	– 0·48 – 4·5
Provident Clerks' ...	1840	220	170	+ 50	+ 29·4	115	83	+ 32	+ 38·5	14·57	14·52	+ 0·05 + 0·3
Guardian...	1821	275	226	+ 49	+ 21·7	147	119	+ 28	+ 23·4	15·65†	14·96	+ 0·69 + 4·6
Atlas	1808	213	166	+ 47	+ 28·3	90	64	+ 26	+ 40·6	12·66	13·72	– 1·06 – 7·6
Liverpl. & Lond. & Globe	1836	288	241	+ 47	+ 19·6	184	199	– 15	– 7·5	9·97	10·00	– 0·03 – 0·3
Scottish Equitable ...	1831	427	383	+ 44	+ 11·5	243	180	+ 63	+ 35·0	13·24	13·81	– 0·57 – 4·1
Marine & General ...	1852	167	125	+ 42	+ 33·5	88	49	+ 39	+ 79·6	16·00	18·48	– 2·48 – 13·4
Phœnix	1782	727	687*	+ 40	+ 5·8	435	361*	+ 74	+ 20·6	12·93	12·48*	– 0·45 – 3·3
Total		2.833	2,458	+ 375	+ 15·2	1,595	1,283	+ 312	+ 24·4			

* Total figures of companies now amalgamated under above title. † Including valuation expenses.

Increase in Premium Inc. £20,000 to £40,000 (8 Companies).												
London Assurance ...	1720	210	171	+ 39	+ 23·0	107	84	+ 23	+ 27·4	11·37	12·38	– 1·01 – 8·6
Equitable	1762	224	190	+ 34	+ 17·9	207	172	+ 35	+ 20·3	7·55*	7·91	– 0·36 – 4·5
National Mutual ...	1830	211	180	+ 31	+ 17·2	127	97	+ 30	+ 30·9	16·12*	16·01	+ 0·11 + 0·7
Clergy Mutual	1829	277	247	+ 30	+ 12·1	174	152	+ 22	+ 14·5	6·83	6·90	– 0·07 – 1·0
Gresham...	1848	1.023	993	+ 30	+ 3·0	423	355	+ 68	+ 19·1	22·02	18·87	+ 3·15 + 16·7
Northern...	1836	294	268	+ 26	+ 9·7	197	148	+ 49	+ 33·1	10·00	10·00	— —
Scottish Insurance ...	1877	43	17	+ 26	+153·0	12	2	+ 10	+500·0	15·20	16·05	– 0·85 – 5·3
Standard	1825	998	973	+ 25	+ 2·6	536	448	+ 88	+ 19·6	19·23	21·21	– 1·98 – 9·3
Total		3,280	3,039	+ 241	+ 8·0	1,783	1,458	+ 325	+ 22·3			

* Including valuation expenses.

GROWTH OF INCOME (*continued*)

Increase in Premium Income under £20,000 (8 Companies).	Date of Formation	Net Premium Income (000's omitted). 1914. £	1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Interest Earned, less Tax (000's omitted). 1914. £	1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Ratio of Expenses to Premium Income. 1914. %	1904. %	Inc. or Dec. %
Equity and Law ...	1844	346	327	+ 19	+ 5·8	165	129	+ 36	+ 27·9	10·79	10·62	+ 0·17 + 1·6
Law Union and Rock ...	1806	591	572*	+ 19	+ 3·3	343	271*	+ 72	+ 26·7	16·77	15·63*	+ 1·14 + 7·3
Metropolitan	1835	173	158	+ 15	+ 9·5	93	79	+ 14	+ 17·7	6·52	7·07	− 0·55 − 7·8
Friends' Provident ...	1832	187	178	+ 9	+ 5·1	133	116	+ 17	+ 14·7	11·49	9·62	+ 1·87 + 19·3
University	1825	70	61	+ 9	+ 14·7	40	36	+ 4	+ 11·1	11·31	13·68	+ 2·37 + 17·3
Sceptre	1834	74	71	+ 3	+ 4·2	49	38	+ 11	+ 29·7	14·43†	14·90	− 0·47 − 3·1
English & Scottish Law	1839	233	231	+ 2	+ 0·9	123	101	+ 22	+ 21·8	16·70	16·77	− 0·07 − 4·2
Scottish Union and Nat.	1824	539	537*	+ 2	+ 0·4	327	259*	+ 68	+ 26·2	14·60	14·85*	− 0·25 − 1·7
Total		2,213	2,135	+ 78	+ 3·2	1,273	1,029	+ 244	+ 23·7			

* Total figures of companies now amalgamated under above title. † Including valuation expenses.

Decrease in Premium Income (6 Companies).												
Edinburgh	1823	295	301	− 6	− 2·0	197	151	+ 46	+ 30·6	15·87	15·27	+ 0·60 + 3·3
Eagle	1807	166	174	− 8	− 4·6	76	96	− 20	− 20·9	16·47	18·06	+ 1·59 + 8·8
General	1837	177	192	− 15	− 8·0	75	67	+ 8	+ 11·9	17·50	17·92	+ 0·42 + 2·3
British Equitable ...	1854	108	130	− 22	− 17·0	60	70	− 10	− 14·3	22·61*	25·91	− 3·30 − 11·2
Life Assoc. of Scotland...	1838	357	384	− 27	− 7·0	228	195	+ 33	+ 16·9	16·08	14·19	+ 1·89 + 13·3
Star	1843	507	568	− 61	− 10·8	281	203	+ 78	+ 38·9	16·08*	17·05	+ 1·03 + 6·9
Total		1,610	1,749	− 139	− 8·0	917	782	+ 135	+ 17·4			
Grand Total (61 Companies) ...		38,037	27,038	+10,999	+ 40·8	17,830	11,359	+6,471	+ 56·9			

* Including valuation expenses.

THE GROWTH OF ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE.

In the earlier portion of this Supplement we have given aggregate figures which show very clearly the enormous growth of endowment assurance during the past 20 years, and in succeeding pages we explain the various ends which it can be made to serve. At this stage it is desirable to point out, by means of statistics obtained from the valuation returns of the various offices, what the developments of individual companies have been in this direction. The method we adopt is to set out with regard to each undertaking the comparative position of the policies in force at the last valuation and 10 years previously, separating endowment assurances from whole-life and miscellaneous policies. The latter are given first, with the actual and percentage increase or decrease, followed by similar figures with regard to the former and statistics on the same basis relative to the total policies in force. The total figures show, as in previous years, a considerable increase, but the figures relating to endowment assurance are specially striking. While there was an increase of 28 per cent. in whole-life and miscellaneous assurance, which is an adequate and satisfactory improvement, the growth in endowment assurances was much more rapid. A gain is recorded of no less than 77 per cent., or more than two and-a-half times the rate of increase in other kinds of policies. The value of the endowment assurances in force at the date of the latest valuations is nearly 41 per cent. of that of whole-life and miscellaneous policies issued, and it seems probable that within a comparatively short time it will reach 50 per cent.

We draw attention elsewhere to the fact that the great growth of life assurance during recent years is mainly due to the success which has attended systematic efforts to cater for the small policyholder, who formerly was considered hardly worth attention. From this point of view it is significant that assurants for relatively small amounts are contributing largely to swell endowment assurance figures, an important indication of the extent to which habits of thrift are increasing among those with very limited means. Those acquainted with the character of the business done by the various offices will readily discern this from a perusal of the full statistics given below, but, for the sake of others less familiar with the individual connections of the companies, we extract the following particulars of offices which in the 10 years preceding the last valuation secured an increase in the amount of endowment assurance at risk of over two millions sterling.

Twenty-two offices, or about a third of those with regard to whom particulars are given below, fall into this category. The actual and percentage increases recorded during the past decade are as follows, the companies being ranged according to their individual expansion in endowment assurance business:—

	Increase. Actual. £	Per Cent.
Prudential (Ordinary)	27,214 000	55
Australian Mutual Prov. (Ord)...	10,623,000	48
Norwich Union	9,477,000	296
Refuge (Ordinary)	8,458,000	229
National Mutual of Australia ...	7,828,000	157½
Scottish Widows'...	6,510.000	98
Pearl (Ordinary)...	6.374.000	472
Standard	6,209,000	173
Sun	4,715.000	138½
Colonial Mutual	4,069,000	127
Alliance	3 862.000	113½
Legal and General	3,755.000	469
North British and Mercantile ...	3,643,000	68
Commercial Union	3,617,000	252
National Provident	3,373,000	63½
Royal	3,026,000	46
Gresham	2,427,000	19½
Law Union and Rock	2,236,000	60¾
United Kingdom Provident ...	2 236.000	43
Wesleyan and General (Ord.) ...	2,155,000	326
Scottish Amicable	2,024,000	208
Royal Exchange	2,005,000	139
Total	125,836,000	

The 22 offices just specified secured more than 80 per cent. of the total aggregate increase in endowment assurances as recorded in the grand total figures below. It is, moreover, noteworthy that four of the five offices which head the list have important industrial departments, and cater in their ordinary branches largely for small policyholders. These are responsible for about 54 millions of the total increase registered. The remaining 71 millions are more equally divided among companies providing for the requirements of different classes of the community; but attention may be directed to the fact that considerable increases in endowment assurances are shown by the Sun, the National Provident, the Gresham, the United Kingdom Provident, and the Wesleyan and General, all offices which largely cater for persons of moderate means. The distribution of this form of assurance, therefore, as well as its actual growth, is on very satisfactory lines and clearly indicates the wise and increasing thrift of all classes.

AMOUNT OF POLICIES IN FORCE (PLUS BONUSES). (000's omitted.)

Name of Company.	Whole Life and Mixed. Amount.		Inc or Dec.		Endowment Assurances. Amount.		Inc. or Dec.		Total Sums Assured. Amount.		Inc or Dec.		Average Annual Growth in Total Sum Assured.
	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	£
Last Valuation Year													
	1910.	1900.			1910	1900.			1910.	1900.			
Eng. & Scot. Law...	5.596	6.095	– 103	– 2	1.823	1.391	+ 432	+ 31	7.779	7.450	+ 329	+ 4½	+ 33
Gresham	10.118	12.425	– 2,307	– 19	14.889	12,462	+ 2,427	+ 19½	25.007	24,887	+ 120	+ ½	+ 12
London Assur. ...	5,381	5.391	– 10	...	1.407	674	+ 733	+ 109	6.788	6.065	+ 723	+ 12	+ 72
North Brit. & Merc.*	26.740	22,809	+ 3.931	+ 17	8,969	5.326	+ 3,643	+ 68	35.709	28.135	+ 7,574	+ 27	+ 757
Northern	5.529	6 028	– 499	– 8	3.917	2.853	+ 1.064	+ 37	9.446	8.881	+ 565	+ 6	+ 56
Phœnix	7.567	3 978†	+ 3.589	+ 90	2.325	634†	+ 1 641	+ 240	9.892	4 662†	+ 5,230	+ 112	+ 523
Refuge (Ord.) ...	4.345	2,600	+ 1.745	+ 67	12.148	3,690	+ 8.458	+ 229	16.493	6 290	+ 10 203	+ 161	+ 1,020
Refuge (Ind.) ...	30.662	19.328	+ 11.334	+ 59	1.483	595	+ 888	+ 149	32.145	19 923	+ 12 222	+ 61	+ 1,222
Royal Exchange ...	6.913	6.108	+ 805	+ 13	3.450	1.445	+ 2 005	+ 139	10.363	7.553	+ 2 810	+ 37	+ 281
Scottish Amicable	9.065	7,989	+ 1,076	+ 14	2.999	975	+ 2.024	+ 208	12 064	8.964	+ 3,100	+ 34½	+ 310
Scottish Insurance	568	63	+ 505	+ 801	474	247	+ 227	+ 91	1 042	310	+ 732	+ 244	+ 31
Scottish Life ...	3 294	1.863	+ 1.431	+ 77	2.081	594	+ 1.487	+ 250	5.375	2.457	+ 2.918	+ 119	+ 292
Standard ...	21.363	23.486	– 2 123	– 9	9.807	3 598	+ 6.209	+ 173	31.170	27 084	+ 4.086	+ 15	+ 409
U. K. Provident ...	14.978	11.206	+ 3.702	+ 33	7.438	5.202	+ 2.236	+ 43	22.416	16.408	+ 6.008	+ 38	+ 601
University ...	1.823	1.672	+ 151	+ 9	486	197	+ 289	+ 147	2,309	1.869	+ 440	+ 24	+ 44
Yorkshire... ...	3.680	2,100	+ 1,580	+ 75	1,371	569	+ 802	+ 141	5.051	2.669	+ 2,382	+ 89	+ 238
Total ...	157,982	133,105	+ 24.877	+ 18¾	75.067	40.502	+ 34.565	+ 85¼	233,049	173,607	+ 59,442	+ 34¼	+ 5,944

* Home business only. † Pelican figures.

Last Valuation Year													
	1911.	1901.			1911.	1901.			1911.	1901.			
Aust. Mut. Prov. (Ord.)	54 238	36.757	+ 17,471	+ 47½	32.700	22.077	+ 10,623	+ 48	86,938	58.834	+ 28,104	+ 48	+ 2 810
		1903.				1903.				1903.			
City of Glasgow...	5,216	5.803	– 587	– 101	2,733	1.950	+ 783	+ 402	7,949	7,753	+ 196	+ 25	+ 25
		1901.				1901.				1901.			
Clergy Mutual ...	8,433	8.655	– 222	– 2½	1.193	412	+ 781	+ 189⅓	9.626	9, 67	+ 559	+ 6	+ 56
Clericl. Med. & Gen.	12,512	9.411	+ 3.101	+ 34	1.623	797	+ 826	+ 103½	14,135	10.208	+ 3.927	+ 38½	+ 393
Legal and Gen. ...	24 638	9 983	+ 14.655	+ 146¾	4,556	801	+ 3.755*	+ 468½	29.194	10.784	+ 18.410	+ 170¾	+ 1,841
Life Assn. of Scot.	13.119	14 699	– 1.580	+ 10¾	2 273	1.947	+ 326	+ 16¾	15 392	16.646	– 1,254	– 7½	– 125
Norwich Union ...	22 925†	12.015*	+ 10.910	+ 90¾	12.685†	3 208*	+ 9.477	+ 29⅔	35,610†	15.223*	+ 20.387	+ 134	+ 2.038
Prudential (Ord.)	23.175	23 525	– 358	– 1½	76 470	49.256	+ 27.214	+ 55	99.645	72.781	+ 26 864	+ 37	+ 2 686
Prudential (Ind.)	187.945	141.390	+ 46 555	+ 33	1.484	752	+ 732	+ 97½	89.429	142.142	+ 47 287	+ 31	+ 4,729
Sun	15.411	11,048	+ 4.363	+ 38½	8,117	3.402	+ 4,715	+ 138⅓	23.528	14,450	+ 9.078	+ 63	+ 908
Total ...	367,712	273,286	+ 94,426	+ 34½	143,834	84,602	+ 59,232	+ 70	511,546	357,888	+ 153,658	+ 43	+ 15,367

* Not including Reliance figures. † Not including Reliance and Victoria Mutual figures.

Last Valuation Year													
	1912	1903.			1912	1903.			1912.	1903.			
Caledonian ...	5.756	5.217	+ 539	+ 10¼	3 460	2.334	+ 1.126	+ 49	9 216	7 551	+ 1.665	+ 22	+ 168½
Century	716	144	+ 572	+ 397	1.614	421	+ 1,193	+ 283¼	2,330	565	+ 1 765	+ 312¼	+ 176½
Commercial Union	12 279	6.851	+ 5,428	+ 79½	5.052	1.435	+ 3.617	+ 252	17,331	8 286	+ 9.045	+ 109	+ 904½
Eagle	5.076	5.408	– 332	– 6	784	646	+ 138	+ 21⅓	5.860	6,054	– 194	– 3¼	– 19½
Edinburgh ...	7.901	6.972*	+ 929	+ 13	3.361	2,377*	+ 937	+ 41½	11.265	9.349*	+ 1,916	+ 20½	+ 191½
Friends' Provident	5.369	5.686	– 317	– 5½	952	635	+ 327	+ 54⅓	6.331	6.321	+ 10	+ ⅙	+ 1
General	4.017	4,738	– 721	– 14¾	1 670	1.498	+ 172	+ 11½	5.687	6.236	– 549	– 8¾	– 5½
Lond. and Lancs....	5.455	4.182	+ 1 273	+ 30¼	4 009	3.499	+ 510	+ 14¾	9.464	7.681	+ 1,783	+ 23	+ 18
Nat. Provident ...	5 946	7.857	– 1.911	– 24½	8,719	5.346	+ 3,373	+ 63⅔	14.665	13 203	+ 1.462	+ 11	+ 146
Provident Clerks'...	3.734	4.153	– 419	– 10¾	3.142	1,688	+ 1,454	+ 85⅔	6 876	5.841	+ 1.035	+ 18	+ 103½
Scottish Temp. ...	2,837	1 537	+ 1,300	+ 86¾	3,182	1,971	+ 1.211	+ 61½	6.019	3,508	+ 2,511	+ 71¾	+ 251
Total	59,086	52,745	+ 6,341	+ 12	35.958	21.850	+ 14,108	+ 68	95,044	74,595	+ 20,449	+ 27½	+ 2,045

* After deducting reassurances.

Last Valuation Year													
	1913.	1903.			1913.	1903.			1913	1903.			
Alliance*	16.567	10.907	+ 5.660	+ 52	7.275	3,413	+ 3.862	+ 113½	23.842	14.320	+ 9 522	+ 66½	+ 952
L'pool. Lon. & Globe	7.159	1.344	+ 5.789	+ 430½	2.272	1.292	+ 979	+ 75	9 431	2.636	+ 6,768	+ 260	+ 677
National Mutual ...	5,674	5.310	+ 364	+ 6½	1,753	1 036	+ 717	+ 72	7,427	6.346	+ 1,081	+ 17	+ 108
		1901.				1901.				1901.			
Nat. Mut. of Aust.	15,124	6,438	+ 8,686	+ 135	12.798	4.970	+ 7,828	+ 157½	27,922	11,408	+ 16,514	+ 145	+ 165
		1900.				1900.				1900.			
Pearl (Ord.) ...	4.350	1.026	+ 3.324	+ 332	7,723	1.349	+ 6,374	+ 472	12.073	2.375	+ 9.698	+ 404	+ 238
Pearl (Ind.) ...	38,023	15.488	+ 22.535	+ 145½	781	242	+ 539	+ 222½	38.804	15.730	+ 23.074	+ 147½	+ 1,572
		1903.				1903.				1903.			
Sceptre	1.879	1.766	+ 113	+ 6	740	555	+ 185	+ 33¼	2,619	2.321	+ 298	+ 13	+ 30
Scottish Equitable	9,715	10,069	– 354	– 3½	5,054	3.331	+ 1,723	+ 52¼	14,769	13,400	+ 1,369	+ 10¼	+ 137
		1901.				1901.				1901.			
Scot. Provident ...	26,648†	23.813	+ 2 835	+ 12	3.902†	1,953	+ 1,949	+ 100	30,550†	25.766	+ 4,784	+ 18½	+ 478
Scot. Widows' ...	34,644	29 659	+ 4,985	+ 16½	13.151	6,641	+ 6,510	+ 98¾	47,795	36.300	+ 11,495	+ 31¾	+ 1,149
		1903.				1903.				1903.			
Star	10,067	10.888	– 821	– 7½	6,587	6.714	– 127	– 2	16,654	17,602	– 948	– 54	– 95
Wes. & Gen. (Ord.)	1 400	870	+ 530	+ 61	2 816	661	+ 2,155	+ 326½	4,216	1,531	+ 2,685	+ 179	+ 268
Wes. & Gen. (Ind.)	14,679	10,078	+ 4,601	+ 46	465	131	+ 334	+ 257	15,144	10,209	+ 4,935	+ 48½	+ 493
Total... ...	185,929	127,656	+ 58,273	+ 45¾	65,317	32,288	+ 33,029	+ 102¼	251,236	159,971	+ 91,302	+ 57½	+ 9,130

* Not including Imperial, Provident and Economic figures. † After deducting reassurances.

AMOUNT OF POLICIES IN FORCE (PLUS BONUSES). (000's omitted)—*Continued.*

Name of Company.	Whole Life and Mixed. Amount.		Inc. or Dec.		Endowment Assurances. Amount.		Inc. or Dec.		Total Sums Assured. Amount.		Inc. or Dec.		Average Annual Growth in Total Sum Assured.
	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	£
Last Valuation Year													
1914.	**1914.**	**1904.**			**1914.**	**1904.**			**1914.**	**1904.**			
Atlas	5,574	4,840	+ 734	+ 15	1,692	980	+ 712	+ 72½	7,266	5,820	+ 1,446	+ 25	+ 144½
British Equitable	1,826	3,756	– 1,930	– 51	1,871	737	+ 1,134	+ 151	3,697	4,493	– 796	– 17¾	– 79½
Colonial Mutual ...	7,300	7,937	– 637	– 8	7,279	3,210	+ 4,069	+ 127	14,579	11,147	+ 3,432	+ 30¾	+ 343
Equitable ...	8,477	7,860	+ 617	+ 8	855	426	+ 429	+ 100¾	9,332	8,286	+ 1,046	+ 12½	+ 105½
Equity and Law ...	9,792	8,803	+ 989	+ 11¼	3,106	2,884	+ 222	+ 7¾	12,898	11,687	+ 1,211	+ 10⅓	+ 121
Guardian	6,950	6,612	+ 338	+ 5	2,812	1,603	+ 1,209	+ 75½	9,762	8,215	+ 1,547	+ 19	+ 154¾
Law Union & Rock	16,022	17,540*	– 1,518	– 8½	5,915	3,679*	+ 2,236	+ 60¾	21,937	21,219*	+ 718	+ 3½	+ 72
London Life ...	10,807	10,006	+ 801	+ 8	1,338	434	+ 904	+ 209	12,145	10,440	+ 1,705	+ 16¼	+ 170½
Marine & General	3,367	2,553	+ 814	+ 2	1,825	1,190	+ 635	+ 53	5,192	3,743	+ 1,449	+ 38¾	+ 145
	1903.				**1903.**				**1903.**				
Metropolitan ...	5,115	5,078	+ 37	+ 7¼	492	132	+ 360	+ 27¼	5,607	5,210	+ 397	+ 7¾	+ 39¾
	1904.				**1904.**				**1904.**				
Royal	17,816	15,855	+ 1,961	+ 12½	9,588	6,562	+ 3,026	+ 46	27,404	22,417	+ 4,987	+ 22¼	+ 498¾
Scot. Union & Nat.†	16,445	8,964	+ 7,481	+ 83½	2,857	2,026	+ 831	+ 41	19,302	10,990	+ 8,312	+ 75¾	+ 831
Total ...	109,491	99,804	+ 9,687	+ 9¾	39,630	23,863	+ 15,767	+ 66	149,121	123,667	+ 25,454	+ 20½	+ 2,545½
Grand Total	880,200	686,596	+ 193,604	+ 28	359,806	203,105	+ 156,701	+ 77	1,240,006	889,701	+ 350,305	+ 39½	+ 35,030½

* Combined figures of offices now amalgamated. † Not including City of Glasgow figures.

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BENEFITS OF OFFICES COMPARED.

WHAT AN ANNUAL PAYMENT OF £10 WILL PRODUCE.

The great expansion during the last decade has been already set out and emphasised, but there is one point in connection with it which remains to be noticed. This is that the growth which has been and is still taking place has occurred in the face of the existence of considerable practical difficulties in the way of obtaining a policy on the most desirable terms. It is in large measure for the purpose of explaining and removing such difficulties that we annually deal so fully with every phase of life assurance, and furnish a large mass of varied data from which sound conclusions can be formed. We are glad also to recognise that the offices themselves are making increasing efforts to educate the public. Formerly it was too much the rule for prospectuses to contain little more than tabular matter and vague general statements, affording but little assistance to the inquiring novice, but nowadays such and kindred documents are much more attractive and informative. This is the more necessary because the difficulties of a would-be life assurer are very real and very complicated, even when he has got over the preliminary decision, and has wisely determined that life assurance is a profitable investment. These difficulties are enhanced by the fact, universally admitted by those who understand the matter, that the earlier a policy is taken out the better. This means in the majority of cases that an office has to be determined upon when business experience is limited, and consequently when the difficulty of making a wise choice is at its greatest. Then, too, the nature of a life assurance contract is not one which makes a strong appeal in an early period of life, when old age is regarded as belonging to an indefinite future, and when vague hopes predominate over sound apprehension of business principles. The benefits to be obtained are remote and contingent, while the outlay is immediate and continuous. It needs no small amount of resolution under such circumstances to undertake to pay a fixed sum for a long period, from which no benefit can be expected except in the distant future. Hence it generally happens that while the ideal time for beginning the life assurance is when a young person is earning an income amply sufficient for his immediate wants, and while he has no one dependent upon him, it is usually deferred until approaching marriage brings home to him new responsibilities. The former point is mostly reached among the middle classes at about the age of 25, while the usual age for marriage is not until about 30. Hence it is very desirable that policies should be taken out earlier than they are at present, because the annual charge which they involve will be thereby lessened. Moreover, it conduces to the early formation of habits of thrift, which for every year they are deferred become more difficult. We would therefore again urge, alike upon the public and upon the various offices, that economies might profitably be effected by antedating the average age at which policies are taken out. The latter especially might do much by organised effort to get into touch with younger people, through parents and employers. It would be well also if the two latter classes realised their responsibilities in this matter to a greater extent than they do at present. Though many large employers are increasingly encouraging thrift, particularly under the stringent conditions now existing, it would be easily possible for them to do more than they accomplish at present in the direction of pointing out the advantages of life assurance to the attention of those they employ, and in directing their attention to the most suitable offices. They might even in many cases secure agencies and, by deducting the commission from the premiums payable, not only lessen the annual cost to those in their service, but also do much to prevent policies lapsing through extravagance or carelessness, as so often happens, to the detriment of the assured. By pursuing such a course they would not only be studying the best interests of those for whom they are, at any rate to some extent, morally responsible, but furthering the efficiency of their business. Thrifty servants are for the most part more valuable than those who live from hand to mouth, if only because they are less free from the monetary worries which so often sap energy and perseverance.

Parents have an even greater incentive to use their power and influence in the same direction, but too often fail to do their duty in this respect. Apart altogether from the ordinary methods of saving for children and encouraging them to handle money wisely, there are now special methods of utilising assurance from a child's very early years. Many offices will now issue policies on the lives of children from birth onwards on terms which secure the repayment of premiums if death should occur during legal infancy, and which provide, further, for the continuance of the policy at the commencing low rate. Thus it is easily possible for almost every parent to insure his children on very low terms while he is responsible for them, and to hand over the policy to the beneficiary when he or she reaches years of discretion. This is an important encouragement of thrift.

We may now consider the question from the point of view of the person who has decided to take out a policy on his own account. Such an one finds the matter of considerable difficulty without a good deal of what may be described as expert assistance. He perhaps obtains prospectuses from the principal offices, only to find complications which, to his inexperienced mind, are most formidable. The first point which probably strikes him is that premiums differ; but if he points out this fact to the agent of an office which charges comparatively high rates, he is told, with perfect truth, that premium rates must not be considered alone, but taken in connection with expected bonuses. The latter vary greatly, not only in amount, but in the method of allotment; and thus further bewilderment ensues. Of course, financial strength is an important matter, but he finds great difficulty in determining which offices are sound and which are otherwise. Confused further with a mass of technical and unfamiliar detail, many find it impossible to reduce the claims of the different offices to a common denominator, and finally make a choice on the advice of a glib agent or from the experience of a private friend. Such a person will find this Supplement of considerable value. It applies a number of tests to the principal offices by means of a varied range of statistics.

The nature of this portion of the Supplement is indicated by the sub-heading, "What an Annual Payment of £10 will Produce," thus in a great measure furnishing a common denominator for the various offices. Before, however, giving details it is desirable to point out that a would-be assurer has the choice between a policy which is not entitled to any share in the profits, and one which will so participate. The former description is, of course, cheaper, but the latter is in the bulk of instances more remunerative in the long run. The share in the profits, when given, is in the form of bonuses, that is, a sum allocated either in the shape of an addition to the amount to be ultimately paid in cash or in the reduction of premiums.

It will conduce to a clearer understanding of the matter if we consider how premiums are fixed. They are divided into two parts: one of these is what is known as the net premium, or the annual sum actuarially calculated to cover the risks involved, on the basis of the mortality figures used. If that mortality proves more favourable than the figures indi-

cated, this net premium may be in itself a source of profit. In fixing it allowance is made for the probable amount of interest which the annual sum will earn during the currency of the policy, and if the actual sum so earned is beyond expectation, this is another source of profit.

The second element in the premium is that of loading, or an addition to the net sum made to cover expenses and contingencies. This loading is usually fixed upon a fairly liberal basis, so that, if the office is economically and wisely managed, a considerable portion of it ultimately emerges as profit. It will, therefore, be seen that great importance must be attached to the fact whether an office is economically managed or not. A rough but fairly trustworthy indication of economy is to be found in the proportion of the total income expended in running the business. It is true that such a test may be occasionally somewhat misleading, because an office doing a large amount of new business may legitimately spend a larger proportion of its income in expenses than one whose business is dwindling. On the whole, however, experience has proved that the expense ratio figures of an office are a good preliminary test of its soundness and desirability, and, therefore, the proportion that expenses bear to income is a matter demanding careful criticism. We devote a later section of this Supplement to showing such expenses in the case of every important office for a period of 10 years. Thus there is furnished an easy method not only of comparing the expansion or otherwise of any particular office with its competitors, but of understanding whether within the last decade the tendency has been in the direction of economy or otherwise. As regards interest earnings, the importance of which has been emphasised above, a succeeding section, headed "Valuation Returns," affords very important data. Careful comparisons are made with regard to each office of the rates of interest earned and assumed at the last two valuations, and the margins are in each case set out. It will be clear that the extent of this margin is an important element as regards bonuses; but it should be borne in mind that while a high rate of interest may conceivably be earned for a time by investment in doubtful securities, the ultimate result will not be favourable.

Such being the nature and use of bonuses, we now proceed to give a number of tables furnishing data by which the merits of individual offices may be tested from various points of view. As already pointed out, no single one of them is in itself conclusive, but taken in conjunction with each other they form a safe and satisfactory guide for a wise selection.

Clearly, the first point to be taken into account is that of the rate of premium charged. Premiums are, of course, a decisive factor so far as non-profit policies are concerned, for it may be safely assumed that practically every company in the following tables may be relied upon to pay the face value of every policy it issues. This may seem a bold assertion, but it is quite within the mark. By the system of valuation described later it is possible to ascertain with practically scientific accuracy the financial position of any organisation, and a consideration of that section will bring home to the minds of everybody that all the companies concerned are in a sound financial position. The variation in the premium rates for every class of life assurance can be eliminated for purposes of comparison by assuming in each case a fixed annual premium of £10, and it is on this basis that we deal with the results achieved by the various offices for whole-life policies without profits, for whole-life assurance with profits, and for endowment assurance.

We append below the premium rates charged by the different offices at the age of 30 for whole-life without profits, whole-life with profits, and endowment, the last-mentioned being payable at the age of 60.

PREMIUM RATES.—AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY, 30.

Name of Company.	Whole Life without Profits. £ s. d.	Whole Life with Profits. £ s. d.	Endowment Payable at Age 60 with Profits. £ s. d.
Abstainers and General (General Section) ...	2 0 0	2 7 1	3 5 4
Abstainers and General (Temperance Section) ...	1 16 11	2 0 11	3 2 1
Alliance	1 18 10	2 8 9	3 6 4
Atlas	1 18 4	2 9 3	3 8 3
Australian Mutual Prov. ...	1 17 9	2 8 2	3 6 4
Britannic (Ordinary) ...	2 2 7	2 8 6	3 8 9
British Equitable	2 1 11	2 8 8	3 7 0
„ General	2 0 2	2 9 5	3 7 7
„ Legal	2 2 1	2 8 10	3 8 7
„ Life	2 4 2	2 9 1	3 2 9
„ Widows	2 0 10	—	3 5 6
Caledonian	1 18 5	2 8 9	3 5 6
Canada Life	1 19 6	2 8 9	3 7 11
Century	2 0 2	2 10 0	3 7 7
Clergy Mutual	1 15 8	2 6 4	3 5 1
Clerical, Med. and General	1 16 5	2 8 7	3 7 8
Colonial Mutual	1 17 6	2 7 4	3 3 3
Commercial Union ...	1 18 6	2 7 10	3 8 9
Confederation	1 17 10	2 8 6	3 7 0
Co-operative	—	2 7 4	3 6 6
Eagle	1 19 1	2 8 7	3 7 10
Edinburgh	1 19 5	2 7 11	3 6 10
English and Scottish Law	2 1 6	2 7 1	3 5 5
Equitable	1 15 9	2 13 5	3 6 10
Equity and Law	2 0 3 1 14 7*	2 8 10 —	3 7 9 —
Friends' Provident... ...	1 17 7	2 8 0	3 6 11
General Accident	2 1 6	2 9 2	3 6 6
General	1 19 2	2 9 10	3 10 0
Gresham	2 0 4	2 8 2	3 5 4
Guardian	1 19 2	2 8 10	3 6 9
Law Union and Rock ...	1 18 0	2 8 4	3 7 6
Legal and General ...	2 2 0	2 10 9	3 7 9
Life Assoc. of Scotland ...	1 19 7	2 8 11	3 7 4
Liverpool & London & Globe	2 1 4	2 9 10	3 9 2
London and Lancashire ...	1 19 9	2 8 9	3 8 4
„ Assurance ...	1 19 2	2 9 0	3 7 2
„ Life	1 13 11	2 7 0	3 4 5
Marine and General ...	1 19 6	2 8 10	3 7 5
Metropolitan	2 1 2	2 9 9	3 9 11
Mutual Life & Citizens ...	—	2 8 9	3 4 4
National Mutual	1 17 2	2 8 4	3 6 4
Nat. Mutual of Australasia	2 0 2	2 6 8	3 3 6
National Provident ...	2 1 1	2 10 2	3 9 11
North Brit. and Mercantile	1 17 7	2 9 10	3 8 8
Northern	2 0 1	2 9 0	3 7 4
Norwich Union	2 0 0	2 11 9	3 6 7
Pearl (Ord.)	2 2 3	2 9 0	3 8 10
Phœnix (late Pelican and British Empire)	2 0 9	2 8 11	3 8 0
Pioneer	2 0 3	—	—
Provident Clerks'	2 0 8	2 6 4	3 7 0
Prudential (Ordinary) ...	1 17 7	2 9 6	3 10 5
Refuge (Ordinary)... ...	2 4 6	2 9 3	3 6 9
Royal	1 16 0	2 8 8	3 7 8
Royal Exchange	2 1 7	2 9 0	3 7 11
Salvation Army	2 1 7	2 7 7	3 7 3
Sceptre	2 1 9	2 8 8	3 9 5
Scottish Amicable... ...	1 18 8	2 11 9	3 9 1
„ Equitable... ...	2 1 3	2 10 0	3 7 5
„ Insurance (late Scottish Accident)	2 0 6	2 8 0	3 5 9
„ Life	—	2 9 5	3 9 2
„ Provident... ...	—	2 2 4	3 10 11
„ Temperance† ...	2 1 6	2 8 6	3 7 3
„ Union & National	1 19 3	2 8 9	3 7 6
„ Widows'	1 19 11	2 11 9	3 8 5
Standard	1 19 6	2 8 11	3 8 9
Star	2 0 3	2 9 9	3 9 1
Sun Life	2 2 2	2 9 2	3 7 6
Sun Life of Canada ...	1 19 9	2 8 5	3 8 2
United Kingdom Provident	1 18 0	2 9 6	3 10 0
University	1 19 5	2 9 11	3 8 6
Wesleyan and General ...	—	2 8 1	3 7 10
Yorkshire	1 17 3	2 9 1	3 7 3

* For policies of a minimum value of £500.
† Reduction of 10% in Temperance section.

WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCE WITHOUT PROFITS.

This form of policy is the oldest and simplest which exists, and presents fewer difficulties to a would-be assurer than any other class of life assurance. Practically the only question to be considered is the rate of premium, as in point of fact all the offices may be regarded as certain to meet their liabilities when the death of the assurer occurs. We have worked out the figures with regard to all the leading companies on the basis of a fixed annual payment of £10 premium. It will be seen from the details below that the sum to be ultimately realised varies considerably according to the office selected, and the discrepancies are larger than is desirable in view of the fact that the risk in each case is the same. At the age of 30, for instance, the benefit ultimately to be secured varies from £470 to over £578. The explanation of this is to be found in the fact that formerly premium rates were much higher than is now necessary, owing to more favourable mortality, to cover the risk involved, and some offices are a great deal slower than others in reducing them to meet present conditions. Every year, however, reductions are being made which tend to popularise this form of assurance, which has perhaps been unduly neglected.

At the present time whole-life assurance without profits is chiefly effected where the maximum amount of protection at the outset is of primary importance, as is usually the case in connection with raising loans. It has, however, undoubted advantages under other conditions. Thus, for instance, a man whose income is at the moment limited, but whose responsibilities are heavy, can, by means of a policy of this description, ensure the maximum protection with the minimum payment. Thus a person with, say, an income of from £250 to £300 a year and several young children can generally manage to pay a sum of £10 per annum without difficulty for the sake of securing in case of his unexpected death a sum of £570, which might make all the difference to his dependents. Altogether we consider that without-profits policies have been unduly neglected in the past, and that now premiums are being reduced they will enjoy more favour. It is possible that one of the effects of the conditions created by the War will be to bring this form of life assurance into increased vogue. One significant development of recent years has been that many offices have found it advisable of late years to guarantee a particular rate of bonuses, and this form of policy is practically a without-profits one, though in a slightly disguised form.

WHOLE-LIFE POLICY WITHOUT PROFITS.

Total Value of Policy Obtainable for Annual Premium of £10 at Various Ages.

Name of Company.	Age of Entry. 25	30	35	40
	£	£	£	£
Abstainers and Gen. (Gen. Sect.)	557	483	414	351
Abstainers and Gen. (Temp. Sect.)	606	525	451	383
Alliance	576	515	429	374
Atlas	600	522	451	382
Australian Mutual Provident ...	612	530	454	383
Britannic (Ord.)	538	470	407	347
British Equitable	549	477	410	345
British General	567	499	430	366
British Legal	536	476	413	351
British Life	520	453	395	339
British Widows	563	490	419	352
Caledonian	590	519	450	385
Canada Life	576	506	436	369
Century	567	498	430	366
Clergy Mutual	645	561	481	407
Clerical, Medical and General ...	625	548	473	400
Colonial Mutual	614	533	447	386
Commercial Union	588	519	449	381
Confederation	603	529	456	387
Eagle	580	513	442	377

REFUGE

ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office - - OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

THE CHILD'S IDEAL POLICY.

An Endowment Assurance with Premiums ceasing on Father's decease, Benefits remaining unaltered. Every Parent should investigate this Scheme.

Premium Income exceeds - - £3,500,000

Funds exceed - - - - £11,000,000

Claims Paid exceed - - - £20,000,000

Name of Company.	Age of Entry. 25 £	30 £	35 £	40 £
Edinburgh	572	499	429	363
English and Scottish Law ...	548	482	417	356
Equitable	624	560	480	408
Equity and Law	558	497	431	367
	668*	578*	—	—
Friends' Provident	614	532	456	385
General	571	511	443	373
General Accident	552	482	416	353
Gresham	561	496	430	365
Guardian	585	511	438	370
Law Union and Rock	593	526	455	385
Legal and General	532	476	416	357
Life Association of Scotland ...	580	506	436	371
Liverpool and London and Globe	547	480	416	357
London and Lancashire... ...	576	503	439	369
London Assurance	587	511	449	373
London Life	681	589	503	423
Marine and General	580	507	435	368
Metropolitan	547	485	425	367
National Mutual	622	538	459	385
National Provident	547	487	427	361
North British and Mercantile ...	603	532	458	387
Northern	569	499	430	365
Norwich Union	571	500	430	367
Pearl (Ord.)	533	478	411	352
Phœnix (late Pelican & Brit. Emp.)	550	490	427	364
Pioneer	566	501	433	368
Provident Clerks'	561	492	427	363
Prudential	615	533	455	383
Refuge	516	449	393	337
Royal	556	500	429	366
Royal Exchange	546	480	417	356
Salvation Army	550	481	415	355
Sceptre†	516	479	424	359
Scottish Amicable	588	517	449	385
Scottish Equitable	551	490	428	364
Scottish Insurance (late Scottish Accident)	570	494	426	364
Scottish Temperance	—	482	—	357
Scottish Union and National ...	584	510	439	374
Scottish Widows'...	571	501	432	366
Standard	567	506	439	370
Star	567	497	429	365
Sun Life	549	474	413	357
Sun Life of Canada	580	503	430	364
United Kingdom Provident ...	602	527	449	379
University	584	508	436	372
Wesleyan and General	549	480	419	359
Yorkshire	614	531	462	391

* For policies of a minimum value of £500.
† Entitled to share in profits when premiums paid with 4 per cent. compound interest amount to sum assured.

WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCE WITH PROFITS.

THE nature of this kind of policy is sufficiently obvious from its name. While it entitles the assured to a definite sum from the outset, it also carries with it contingent but, in most cases, important advantages. The holder of such a policy is entitled to share in the profits made by the company, and, of course, those profits in the future, particularly in the distant future, are necessarily uncertain, and are liable to fluctuation as current rates of interest decline or fall and as mortality experience is favourable or the reverse. Admitting, however, that there is an absence of fixity, it is important to realise two considerations which should always be present to the mind of a would-be assurer. One is that the profits of life-assurance offices are, over any lengthened period of years, mostly a very stable thing, and that their tendency is in the main in the direction of increase. Another is that even the best gilt-edged stocks are liable to considerable variations in market value. In less than two decades we have seen Consols depreciate nearly 50%, but during the same time assurance bonuses have, in most cases, been either constant or on the increase. The reason for this is that the interest earnings of the offices are derived from large accumulated funds, spread over varied investment fields and therefore yielding a more stable return. Investments and re-investments are constantly being made, and the leading officials are experts in such operations. During recent years, and particularly since the outbreak of the War, the comparative dearness of money has made it possible for the companies to obtain a higher rate of interest on new investments, but as the old investments at any particular time are in great preponderance, the average rate earned changes only slowly. Thus bonus prospects are now better than they were, say, 10 years ago, and the actual rates now being paid are likely to increase.

Historically bonuses are accidental in their origin, and are even now almost unknown in fire and accident business. They have arisen because the rates of premium originally fixed have proved in excess of what they require to cover the risks involved. It has been found, in the first place, that people have steadily tended to live longer on the average than was anticipated; that the cost of working expenses has been constantly reduced; and that the profits earned on the accumulated funds have become larger and larger. Hence it is customary even with proprietary offices to divide a very large portion of the profits for the benefit of policyholders, while in what are known as mutual offices they share among them the whole amount.

The way in which the profits of life assurance companies are arrived at is fully explained under the head of "Valuation Returns." Here we need only concern ourselves with the distribution of such profits when they have been determined. Bonuses take three forms: that of cash payments, of reduction of premiums, and of a fixed addition to the sum assured. As regards the first, that of cash payment, it has ceased to be of particular importance. The amount capable of being so divided is usually very small, especially when compared with the larger sum if payment is expected on a deferred basis. Reductions of premium have the advantage of diminishing the cost of a policy as time goes on, and perhaps wiping out the necessity of any payments at all when a fairly advanced age is reached. In theory this is a very sound method of distribution, inasmuch as the share of benefits is allocated according to the age of the policyholder, and the man who dies at 50 obtains considerably less benefit than one who lives until the age of 80. There are, indeed, two first-class offices which allot bonuses in no other form, on the ground that, while the third or reversionary method practically means reinsurance without further medical examination, and irrespective of the health of the policyholder when the benefit is fixed, by the plan of reducing premiums benefits are automatically and fairly adjusted. The third and most important method has been already alluded to. It is the reversionary—that of making a definite addition to the face value of the policy when it becomes payable, maintaining premiums in the meantime at the original rate. Taking all aspects of the case into consideration, this method is as advantageous to the public interest as it is popular, and results in a much larger sum being ultimately paid than would otherwise be the case. There are, however, a good many varieties even among reversionary bonuses. Some offices give a fixed addition to all policies which have been current for a certain period, while others give a different proportion according to the length of time during which the policy has been in force and according to the age of the holder. Some allot bonuses on the original face value of the policy, while others do so on the actual value at the time of allocation, including, that is to say, previous bonuses. It is, therefore, by no means a simple matter to institute an exact comparison between the different offices, but we have for many years adopted a method which will be found to afford a satisfactory guide for all

ordinary purposes, though we are aware it is not entirely free from theoretical objections. It is that of basing calculations on the rates of bonuses now being paid, the reasonable assumption, borne out by many years of experience, being that the offices as a whole will earn larger rather than smaller profits than they do at the present moment. In presenting figures based on this principle, and on the payment of an annual premium of £10, we get a fairly satisfactory indication of which offices are most attractive. We would guard ourselves from saying that these figures are a final test, and they should be taken in conjunction with the statistics given later under the heading "Valuation Returns." If this is done we think the choice of an office can without difficulty be made in a satisfactory way.

In explanation of the letters G and T appended to the figures of certain offices in the table below, we may add that those marked by these letters undertake and discriminate between abstainers and non-abstainers from alcoholic drink, either by paying a higher rate of bonus to the former or by charging them lower premiums. The advantages reaped by abstainers are most decided.

WHOLE-LIFE POLICY WITH PROFITS.

Total Value of Policy at Death at Assumed Ages Obtainable for an Annual Premium of £10, plus Bonuses Accumulated at same Rate as declared at last Valuation.

Name of Company.	Age of Entry — Assumed Age at Death — Date of Last Valuation.	25 — 65	30 — 65	35 — 65	40 — 70
		£	£	£	£
Abstainers and General ...	Dec. 31, '12	G693 T785	581 670	481 554	411 471
Alliance	Dec. 31, '13	820	681	556	479
Atlas	Dec. 31, '14	672	578	483	422
Australian Mut. Provident	Dec 31, '11	1.012	874	655	565
Britannic	Dec. 31, '10	754	628	519	445
British Equitable ...	Jan. 31, '14	653	562	469	405
Caledonian	Dec. 31, '12	736	625	522	450
Canada Life	Dec. 31, '14	693	584	485	415
Century	Dec. 31, '12	792	664	545	472
City Life	Dec. 31, '12	836	690	587	467
Clergy Mutual	May 31, '11	871	723	600	532
Clerical, Medical & General	June 30, '11	822	689	569	494
Colonial Mutual	Dec. 31, '14	666	554	478	412
Commercial Union ...	Dec. 31, '12	761	644	537	468
English and Scottish Law	Dec. 31, '10	780	650	534	459
Equitable	Dec. 31, '14	925	733	579	510
Equity and Law	Dec. 31, '14	713	650	538	473
Friends' Provident ...	Nov. 20, '12	881	714	575	496
General	Dec. 31, '12	671	564	474	410
General Accident	Dec. 31, '10	733	621	518	445
Gresham	Dec. 31, '10	634	542	456	391
Guardian	Dec. 31, '14	812	652	524	454
Law Union and Rock ...	Dec. 31, '14	839	617	589	482
Legal and General ...	Dec. 31, '11	918	744	598	524
Life Assocn. of Scotland...	Apr. 5, '11	739	623	516	446
Liverpool & Lond. & Globe	Dec. 31. '13	792	655	541	466
London and Lancashire ...	Dec. 31, '12	571	491	418	361
London Life	Dec. 31, '14	957	780	629	545
Marine and General ...	Dec. 31, '14	826	689	561	479
Metropolitan	Bonuses allotted only in reduction of premiums.				
Mutual Life and Citizens'	Dec. 31, '10	986	800	643	547
National Mutual	Dec. 31, '13	917	756	610	528
National Provident ...	Nov. 20, '12	813	678	557	518
N. British and Mercantile	Dec. 31, '10	821	665	541	467
Northern	Dec. 31, '10	739	629	526	453
Norwich Union	June 30, '11	773	663	558	502
Pearl (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '13	751	637	527	455
Phœnix (late Pelican and British Empire) ...	Dec. 31, '10	769	652	542	467
Provident Clerks'	Dec. 31, '12	850	697	570	487
Prudential (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '11	796	659	544	467
Refuge (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '10	763	633	524	450
Royal	Dec. 31, '14	723	613	516	452
Royal Exchange	Dec. 31, '10	789	654	534	463
Salvation Army	Dec. 31, '13	678	582	490	419
Sceptre	Dec. 31, '13	G812 T866	670 713	553 585	477 505
Scottish Amicable ...	Dec. 31, '10	842	695	568	499
,, Equitable ...	Mar. 1, '13	793	664	543	472
Scottish Insurance (late Scot. Accid. Life & Gen.)	Dec. 31, '10	G796 T753	598 635	503 531	435 459
Scottish Life	Dec. 31, '10	817	680	563	490
,, Provident	Impossible to state results in this form.				
,, Temperance ...	Dec. 31, '12	G830 T922	684 760	553 620	484 537
,, Widows'	Dec. 31, '13	819	677	553	490
Standard	Dec. 31, '10	744	623	521	450
Star	Dec. 31, '13	725	613	509	438
Sun	Dec. 31, '11	774	645	538	473
United Kingdom Prov. ...	Dec. 31, '10	G886 T1,003	736 824	595 655	508 561
University	Apr. 30, '10	714	611	537	444
Wesleyan and General ...	Dec. 31, '13	778	648	528	451
Yorkshire	Jan. 1, '10	G744 T780	630 657	522 544	454 473

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE WITH PROFITS.

We have already shown, both by aggregate figures and by statistics relating to individual offices, the extent to which endowment assurance has been steadily increasing in popularity for many years past. The great source of its attraction is that it combines two elements which had previously been regarded as quite distinct—that of covering a risk of early death and at the same time forming a means of provision for old age. The special feature of this class of policy is that it ensures payment either on reaching a certain age, or at death, should that occur before the age is reached. Though most offices issue policies of this description on a without-profit basis, the bulk of them are effected on a with-profit basis, and it is this kind of contract into which the investment element enters most decidedly. Mortality tables show clearly two important facts which are more and more grasped by the public at large. One of these is that early death is an exceptional occurrence, and tends to become less and less frequent as time goes on; the other, that provision for old age is of most serious importance. A method, therefore, which covers both contingencies has many advantages. When a man has passed 65 years, or at any rate 70, he may expect to find his earning capacity lessened in some way or another. At that period of life, however, responsibility for dependents has in most cases ceased, except in the case of wives. It is therefore a matter of the utmost importance that a man should have saved capital to supplement his earnings in later years, or even to provide him with an income should they altogether cease. By taking out an endowment policy this can be done to a very satisfactory extent. As shown in the table below, a man can, by the payment of £10 annually from the age of 30, insure at 65 a capital sum of over £630. Even people with quite moderate incomes can usually spare more than £10 a year for life assurance without serious inconvenience, and of course the ultimate benefits are proportionately increased the larger the annual payment. The sum so secured may save both the assurer and his friends considerable anxiety in old age, the former because he has adequate means for his support, and the latter because they are not called upon to assist an aged relative, perhaps for a lengthened period. Take, for example, the case of a man whose average income

between 30 and 60 has been, say, £500 a year, and who at the latter age finds his earning power failing or his health in a declining condition. Such a person, if reasonably prudent, is probably not wholly without independent resources. He may have an interest in the business in which he has spent his life, or he may be entitled to some form of pension for long and faithful service, or he probably owns his house or has some private resources. It is not an extravagant supposition that a man such as we have described would have an independent income of £100, apart from life assurance. To live on such a sum would be comparative poverty, such as would burden his declining years. If, however, since the age of 30 he has paid the sum of £30 a year in premiums—not an excessive proportion of the average income we have assumed—he would come at the age of 65 into possession of a capital sum of nearly £1,900. Such a sum could now be safely invested so as to yield an income of £100 a year, which would nearly double his income and make all the difference in the world between comfort and comparative poverty. Such a sum may, moreover, be utilised in other ways than that of pure investment. It may be employed to secure a share in a business where experience and judgment are required rather than labour, and it may, as we show later, be sunk in an annuity, which would yield an income quite adequate for all requirements, apart from all the anxiety connected with investments. Thus, while all forms of life assurance are very desirable and advantageous, that of endowment assurance is particularly so. A policy which covers not only the risk of early death, but also makes due provision for old age, gives a double incentive to thrift. It is sometimes urged that the object in view would, on the average, be better achieved by a person saving annually the sum set aside to premiums, and invest it for himself, on the ground that under such a plan a larger ultimate capital would result, and that meantime the savings would at any time be at his disposal. In point of fact, however, such a contention is unsound. Even if we ignore the element of protection against early death, there can be no doubt that private savings of the kind indicated would on the average yield much poorer results than an endowment policy. Apart from the compulsion of a contract, it needs more resolution than the ordinary man possesses to save a fixed sum annually. A man may set out with the firm intention of saving £30 a year, but in many years the task would not be accomplished, owing to the pressure of exceptional calls of various kinds. In the second place, even should the task be carried out in its entirety, it is extremely unlikely that the total resultant capital would be as large as that which would accrue from an endowment policy. To invest so small a sum as £30 a year to the best advantage is by no means easy, and there is the risk that, however prudent the choice of securities may be, they might depreciate in capital value, thus considerably reducing the total sum available at the age of 65. Investments require more capable and continuous watching than the ordinary busy man can give, and it is prudent in most cases to entrust them to those who make a special study of using them to the greatest advantage. It is for this reason that many wealthy men who have good opportunities of making investments on their own account prefer to take out endowment policies, and thus to save themselves trouble and risk.

In the table below we give the results likely to be obtained by taking out an endowment policy in various offices for an annual premium of £10, on the assumption that the bonus is maintained at the rate declared at the last valuation. The age taken is 30, and the results are shown at various ages of maturity, on the assumption that the holder lives out the full term.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE

Incorporated by Royal Charter, A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE GLASS Assurances.

Head Office:—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.
West-End Office: 22 PALL MALL, S.W.

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Underwriter. E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments. JAMES OLUNES, Esq.
Actuary. A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

INCOME, 1914.

Life Premiums	£210,235 7 8
Fire Premiums	689,064 12 10
Marine Premiums	465,106 18 1
Accident Premiums	16,379 7 6
Interest	202,009 8 10
Other Receipts	11,205 1 3
	£1,594,000 16 2

FUNDS, 31st December, 1914.

Shareholders' Capital paid up	£448,275 0 0
General Reserve Fund	450,000 0 0
Life Assurance Fund	2,723,180 9 3
Capital & Leasehold Redemption Fund	10,245 18 2
Fire Fund	770,000 0 0
Marine Fund	450,000 0 0
Accident Fund	25,000 0 0
Profit and Loss	167,757 1 11
Investments Depreciation Funds	252,000 0 0
Provision for accrued Liabilities	198,942 12 2
	£5,495,401 1 6

Prospectuses and copies of the Accounts can be had on application.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE WITH PROFITS.

Total Value of Policy at Maturity Obtainable for £10 Annual Premium, plus Bonuses at same Rate as Declared at Last Valuation. Age next Birthday, 30.

Name of Company.	Date of Last Valuation.	Policy Maturing at Age 50 £	55 £	60 £	65 £
Abstainers and General ...	Dec. 31, '12	G246	324	402	480
		T260	341	423	503
Alliance	Dec. 31, '13	271	365	465	565
Atlas	Dec. 31, '14	238	318	390	442
Australian Mut. Provident	Dec. 31, '11	291	396	508	622
Britannic	Dec. 31, '10	252	336	422	505
British Equitable	Jan. 31, '14	244	318	391	462
Caledonian	Dec. 31, '12	256	336	419	497
Canada Life	Dec. 31, '10	243	321	401	—
Century	Dec. 31, '12	271	361	457	553
City Life	Dec. 31, '12	264	360	457	554
Clergy Mutual	May 31, '11	280	382	492	607
Clerical, Medical & General	June 30, '11	260	344	430	518
Colonial Mutual	Dec. 31, '14	252	338	411	479
Commercial Union ...	Dec. 31, '12	273	359	451	545
English and Scottish Law	Dec. 31, '10	263	349	440	531
Equitable	Dec. 31, '14	258	346	436	529
Equity and Law	Dec. 31, '14	273	258	446	534
Friends' Provident ...	Nov. 20, '12	266	352	442	534
General	Dec. 31, '12	234	312	383	446
General Accident	Dec. 30, '10	263	348	436	522
Gresham	Dec. 31, '10	244	324	400	469
Guardian	Dec. 31, '14	270	360	450	540
Law Union and Rock ...	Dec. 31, '14	267	359	457	557
Legal and General ...	Dec. 31, '11	285	392	509	632
Life Assoc. of Scotland ...	Apr. 5, '11	264	348	431	518
Liverpool & Lond. & Globe	Dec. 31, '13	265	329	441	529
London and Lancashire ...	Dec. 31, '12	220	281	342	400
„ Life Association...	Dec. 31, '14	292	399	522	644
Marine and General ...	Dec. 31, '14	274	367	466	571
Metropolitan	Dec. 31, '09	All bonuses allotted in reduction of premium.			
Mutual Life and Citizens...	Dec. 31, '10	275	370	470	573
National Mutual	Dec. 31, '13	286	391	506	625
National Provident ...	Nov. 20, '12	270	363	471	582
North British & Mercantile	Dec. 31, '10	265	354	449	548
Northern	Dec. 31, '10	263	348	435	519
Norwich Union	June 30, '11	263	355	449	537
Pearl (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '13	256	343	431	513
Phœnix (late Pelican and British Empire)... ...	Dec. 31, '10	268	355	444	533
Provident Clerks'	Dec. 31, '12	270	361	455	546
Prudential (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '11	258	344	437	529
Refuge (Ord.)	Dec. 31, '10	258	347	444	540
Royal	Dec. 31, '14	259	341	426	506
Royal Exchange	Dec. 31, '10	261	349	441	536
Salvation Army	Dec. 31, '13	237	312	392	466
Sceptre	Dec. 31, '13	G257	347	447	—
		T262	353	455	—
Scottish Insurance (late Scot. Accidt. Life & Gen.)	Dec. 31, '10	G252	334	418	500
		T262	350	441	500
Scottish Amicable... ...	Dec. 31, '10	277	373	478	587
„ Equitable ...	Mar. 1, '13	269	360	458	558
„ Life	Dec. 31, '10	275	365	458	553
„ Provident ...	Dec. 31, '08	272	365	466	572
„ Temperance ...	Dec. 31, '12	G261	345	431	514
		T267	357	448	537
„ Widows'	Dec. 31, '13	275	371	476	572
Standard	Dec. 31, '10	256	339	422	503
Star	Dec. 31, '13	250	383	420	503
Sun	Dec. 31, '11	265	352	442	531
United Kingdom Prov. ...	Dec. 31, '10	G276	373	490	613
		T276	382	503	634
University	Apr. 30, '10	260	341	423	500
Wesleyan and General ...	Dec. 31, '13	256	344	436	526
Yorkshire	Jan. 1, '10	260	345	433	521

G—General Section. T—Temperance Section.

IMMEDIATE ANNUITIES.

While life assurance is based upon the principle of making small numerous payments regularly for the sake of securing a considerable capital sum ultimately, its antithesis is found in the case of immediate annuities. A large capital outlay is made at the outset with the view of securing a fixed income during the remainder of life. The great objection usually felt to purchasing an annuity is that the purchaser may die at an early date, and so sink his capital without adequate return. As a matter of fact, however, annuitants as a rule get very full value, and so much is this the case that some offices are by no means anxious to undertake contracts of this description. Then, too, it is of course easily possible to obtain a medical opinion before entering into an annuity contract, and if that should indicate that life will not be prolonged, of course such a contract is undesirable. The advantages of immediate annuities are, however, great. The income derived from capital invested in this way is much larger than could be obtained from ordinary sources of investment, while at the same time it is quite secure. It will be seen from the table given below that a man at the age of 60 can get an annual return of 9 per cent. or more without risk. As the expectation of life at that age is about 14 years, if the annuitant lives out the average period he will have received about 36 per cent. more than the sum originally paid. The additional income which an annuity affords may be a very important matter. A man, say at the age of 65, has an available capital of £2,000. By investing this in the ordinary way he can only get a return of from £80 to £100, but if he sink the sum in an annuity he can count on an income of £180 as long as he lives.

The taking out of an annuity on the maturing of an endowment policy may be of very great value to many, as it enables comparatively small payments during the actual working period of life to provide a satisfactory income for old age. Thus, in the case of a man receiving payment of an endowment policy at 65, amounting, with bonus additions, to a capital sum of £2,000, he could by the purchase then of an annuity secure an income for the rest of his life of £180 a year. Presuming, further, that such a man had been for the greater part of his life in possession of an income of from £500 to £600 a year, he would thus secure permanent provision of a fairly adequate character, bearing in mind the fact that his expenses would in the ordinary course of events be materially reduced.

We give below the rates for both male and female lives, those granted on the latter being rather less, owing to the greater longevity of women. It is also possible for an elderly couple to secure a joint annuity payable as long as either party is alive, but for this it is necessary to obtain special rates varying with the ages of both parties.

Scottish Temperance

Life Assurance Co., Ltd.

ABSTAINERS' SECTION with specially reduced rates. Policies issued providing for Sickness, Accident, Death, or Old Age.

BONUSES HANDSOME,
EXPENSES MODERATE,
MORTALITY FAVOURABLE.

SEND FOR GENERAL PROSPECTUS.

Agents will find this one of the most attractive Offices to work for.

Head Office—109 SAINT VINCENT ST., GLASGOW.
London Office—3 CHEAPSIDE, E.C.

IMMEDIATE ANNUITIES.

Amount of Annuity Granted for each £100 Purchase Money. Annuity usually Payable Half-Yearly.

MALES.

	Age 50			Age 55			Age 60			Age 65		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alliance	6	15	2	7	13	5	8	17	10	10	11	3
Atlas	7	1	0	7	19	0	9	3	4	10	16	6
Australian Mutual Prov.	6	12	0	7	9	8	8	13	4	10	5	5
Caledonian	6	18	5	7	16	9	9	1	6	10	15	4
Canada Life	7	3	9	8	2	3	9	7	2	11	0	9
Century	6	18	6	7	17	0	9	1	10	10	15	10
Clergy Mutual ...	6	16	6	7	14	11	8	19	8	10	13	5
Clerical, Med. and Gen.	6	13	8	7	11	10	8	16	2	10	9	2
Colonial Mutual ...	6	19	0	7	16	8	9	0	4	10	12	8
Commercial Union ...	6	12	8	7	8	2	8	11	6	10	4	2
Confederatn. of Canada	7	6	10	8	5	2	9	10	1	11	3	5
Co-operative	6	18	11	7	15	1	8	18	11	10	12	2
Eagle	7	1	8	7	19	10	9	4	6	10	18	6
Edinburgh	6	13	10	7	11	6	8	15	2	10	7	6
English and Scot. Law	6	14	10	7	13	2	8	17	8	10	11	0
Equitable	7	2	4	8	0	8	9	5	2	10	18	8
Friends' Provident ...	6	10	10	7	8	2	8	11	4	10	2	8
General	6	10	0	7	7	6	8	11	1	10	3	4
General Accident ...	6	13	2	7	10	10	8	14	4	10	6	4
Gresham	6	16	8	7	14	2	8	17	9	10	9	11
Guardian	6	12	8	7	9	2	8	13	4	10	6	0
Law Union and Rock	6	15	4	7	11	8	8	15	6	10	8	0
Legal and General ...	7	4	8	8	2	8	9	6	4	10	11	0
Life Association of Scot.	6	15	2	7	13	4	8	17	10	10	11	4
Liverp. & Lond. & Globe	6	8	8	7	8	10	8	15	2	10	8	0
London Assurance ...	6	6	6	7	4	0	8	7	8	9	19	8
London & Lancashire	6	14	6	7	12	6	8	17	0	10	10	2
London Life	7	4	1	8	2	4	9	6	10	11	0	5
Marine and General ...	6	14	6	7	11	8	8	15	0	10	6	4
Mutual Life & Citizens'	6	12	8	7	10	4	8	14	4	10	6	4
National Mutual ...	6	13	0	7	11	0	8	15	2	10	8	2
National Mutual of Australasia... ...	7	1	8	7	19	10	9	4	4	10	17	8
National Provident ...	6	14	6	7	12	8	8	17	0	10	10	4
N. Brit. & Mercantile...	6	16	0	7	13	0	8	18	0	10	11	0
Northern	7	1	3	7	17	3	9	0	11	10	13	3
Norwich Union ...	6	16	1	7	12	4	8	16	4	10	9	1
Pearl	6	7	0	7	2	0	8	3	8	9	13	4
Phœnix (late Pelican & British Empire) ...	6	16	0	7	14	10	8	19	10	10	12	8
Pioneer	7	3	0	7	19	8	9	4	4	10	17	10
Provident Clerks' ...	6	15	10	7	11	9	8	15	1	10	6	10
Prudential	6	16	6	7	13	6	8	18	0	10	12	0
Refuge	6	8	5	7	5	5	8	8	2	9	18	11
Royal	6	19	1	7	17	4	9	1	9	10	14	11
Royal Exchange ...	6	13	2	7	10	8	8	14	2	10	6	4
Salvation Army ...	7	0	2	7	16	8	9	0	8	10	13	2
Scottish Amicable ...	7	14	0	7	19	0	9	0	8	10	10	4
Scottish Equitable ...	6	14	0	7	12	0	8	16	6	10	9	6
Scottish Insurance (late Scottish Accident)...	6	14	6	7	12	8	8	17	0	10	10	4
Scottish Life	6	16	6	7	14	10	8	18	2	10	10	10
Scottish Provident ...	6	18	9	7	17	0	9	1	6	10	15	0
Scottish Temperance	6	15	6	7	12	3	8	16	3	10	7	8
Scot. Union & National	6	17	10	7	16	2	9	0	8	10	13	10
Scottish Widows' ...	6	14	6	7	12	8	8	17	0	10	10	4
Standard	7	0	7	7	18	10	9	3	4	10	16	10
Star	7	0	4	7	18	4	9	2	6	10	15	6
Sun Life	6	14	8	7	12	8	8	17	2	10	10	4
Sun Life of Canada ...	7	8	7	8	7	4	9	12	7	11	4	2
Yorkshire	7	1	2	7	18	0	9	0	0	10	11	0
Post Office (Gov. Ann.)	6	13	4	7	9	10	8	14	0	10	11	0

FEMALES.

	Age 50			Age 55			Age 60			Age 65		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alliance	6	5	8	6	19	3	7	18	8	9	7	1
Atlas	6	11	6	7	5	0	8	4	2	9	12	4
Australian Mut. Prov.	5	19	10	6	12	9	7	11	1	8	17	10
Caledonian	6	8	9	7	2	8	8	2	2	9	11	0
Canada Life	6	14	2	7	7	11	8	7	2	9	16	1
Century	6	8	10	7	2	10	8	2	4	9	11	4
Clergy Mutual ...	6	6	10	7	0	8	8	0	3	9	9	0
Clerical, Medical & Gen.	6	4	4	6	17	10	7	17	2	9	5	2
Colonial Mutual ...	6	10	0	7	3	0	8	1	8	9	9	0
Commercial Union ...	6	0	4	6	14	8	7	15	6	9	5	8
Confederatn. of Canada	6	15	10	7	9	10	8	11	5	10	0	5
Co-operative	6	6	1	7	0	9	8	1	6	9	11	4
Eagle	6	10	8	7	5	2	8	5	8	9	15	4
Edinburgh	6	1	0	6	15	2	7	14	8	9	1	6
English & Scottish Law	6	5	8	6	19	2	7	18	6	9	6	8
Equitable	6	12	10	7	6	6	8	5	10	9	14	2
Friends' Provident ...	6	4	0	6	17	2	7	13	2	9	0	0
General	5	18	8	6	14	0	7	12	8	9	0	0
General Accident ...	6	4	0	6	17	2	7	15	10	9	3	2
Gresham	6	7	7	7	0	7	7	19	1	9	5	6
Guardian	6	0	0	6	15	0	7	16	0	9	5	6
Law Union & Rock ...	6	2	8	6	17	4	7	18	2	9	7	8
Legal and General ...	6	11	4	7	7	0	8	8	0	9	10	4
Life Assoc. of Scotland	6	5	8	6	19	4	7	18	8	9	7	2
Liverp. & Lon. & Globe	5	17	6	6	13	6	7	14	10	9	4	2
London Assurance ...	5	17	4	6	10	8	7	9	2	8	16	6
London & Lancashire	6	5	0	6	18	6	7	17	10	9	6	2
London Life	6	14	7	7	8	1	8	7	4	9	15	10
Marine and General ...	6	5	4	6	18	4	7	16	8	9	3	6
Mutual Life & Citizens'	6	3	4	6	16	8	7	15	8	9	3	6
National Mutual ...	6	3	8	6	17	2	7	16	4	9	4	4
National Mutual of Australasia... ...	6	12	2	7	5	10	8	5	0	9	13	4
National Provident ...	6	5	0	6	18	6	7	17	10	9	6	2
N. Brit. & Mercantile...	6	3	2	6	18	8	8	0	4	9	10	2
Northern	6	5	6	6	19	0	7	18	1	9	6	3
Norwich Union ...	6	3	3	6	18	1	7	18	11	9	8	4
Pearl (Ord.)	5	15	4	6	8	8	7	8	0	8	14	8
Phœnix (late Pelican & British Empire) ...	6	4	10	7	0	0	8	0	10	9	10	6
Pioneer	6	9	10	7	5	0	8	6	4	9	16	6
Provident Clerks' ...	6	3	3	6	17	10	7	18	1	9	7	0
Prudential	6	3	0	6	19	0	8	0	6	9	11	0
Refuge...	5	19	6	6	12	4	7	10	4	8	16	8
Royal	6	9	7	7	3	4	8	2	8	9	11	0
Royal Exchange ...	6	4	0	6	17	1	7	15	8	9	3	0
Salvation Army ...	6	7	4	7	2	4	8	3	2	9	12	8
Scottish Amicable ...	6	8	8	7	4	0	8	3	8	9	8	0
Scottish Equitable ...	6	3	6	6	18	0	7	17	6	9	5	6
Scottish Insurance (late Scottish Accident)	6	5	6	6	18	8	7	17	10	9	6	2
Scottish Life	6	6	6	7	0	6	8	0	6	9	8	10
Scottish Provident ...	6	9	3	7	2	11	8	2	2	9	17	10
Scottish Temperance	6	2	5	6	16	8	7	16	1	9	3	8
Scottish Union & Nat.	6	4	8	6	19	4	7	19	4	9	7	2
Scottish Widows' ...	6	5	0	6	18	8	7	17	10	9	6	2
Standard	6	11	1	7	4	6	8	4	0	9	12	6
Star	6	10	10	7	4	4	8	3	4	9	11	2
Sun Life	6	5	0	6	18	8	7	18	0	9	6	4
Sun Life of Canada ...	6	18	9	7	12	9	8	12	7	10	1	9
Yorkshire	6	8	0	7	2	0	8	2	6	9	12	0
Post Office (Gov. Ann.)	6	11	8	7	5	2	8	4	2	9	12	6

DEFERRED ANNUITIES.

Besides issuing immediate annuities, the conditions and value of which have been already explained, most companies also issue deferred annuities. These do not involve the payment of a fixed capital sum at a particular moment, but an income is provided by means of a yearly premium, to be paid until reaching a certain age, when the annuity comes into force. This is rather a special kind of provision, appealing only to a limited class, though one more numerous than is sometimes supposed. There are not a few who have the prospect of finding themselves during the closing years of life to have outlived the possibility of earning, without having been able to save enough by ordinary methods to provide an income and without having any persons dependent upon them. To women earning their own living deferred annuities should particularly appeal. As a class their ability to save is not great, and when they come to face old age they often do so in very disadvantageous circumstances. By means of a deferred annuity, however, they can secure a permanent income for old age, and in many cases their friends would assist them in so doing. Some men are in a similar position. A deferred annuity of £100 payable on reaching the age of 65 can be obtained for a sum not very large even in relation to a comparatively limited income. Those who know the numbers of cases of elderly persons stranded without possible means of subsistence are aware how important it is that the advantages of deferred annuities should be better realised than they are now.

We give the figures, so far as we have been able to ascertain them, of the terms on which offices will grant deferred annuities. It will be seen that the variations in annual cost are considerable, not merely between the different offices, but according as to whether the premium is returned in the event of death before the annuity may become due. In the case of such persons as we have been considering, it would probably in most instances be better to pay the lower rate and run the risk of death before the age is reached, as this class of the population is usually without dependents, and the premiums, if returned, would practically go to outsiders.

In the following table we give the rates for both male and female lives, assuming the age of entry to be 30, and an annuity of £100 to be paid on reaching the ages of 55, 60, and 65 respectively. We append particulars also as to whether any return of premium is made in the event of death occurring prior to these ages. The difference in rates is so considerable that care should be exercised as to the company selected, though we think we are right in saying any company in the list is sure to fulfil any deferred annuity contract into which it enters.

Male Lives. Age at Entry 30.	Yearly Premium to secure an Annuity of £100 on reaching Age of- 55			60			65		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
†Aust. Mut. Provident ...	30	9	2	19	15	0	12	10	10
*Canada Life	28	1	0	16	14	6	9	10	9
‡Colonial Mutual ...	33	5	0	21	15	10	14	5	10
Commercial Union ...	35	18	4	23	15	0	15	15	0
†Edinburgh	35	3	4	22	9	2	—		
‡Equity and Law... ...	35	3	4	23	11	8	16	0	10
‡Friends' Provident ...	39	6	8	26	4	2	—		
*General		—		18	16	3	—		
‡Gresham	34	3	6	22	19	10	15	6	0
‡Guardian	34	15	5	23	1	7	15	7	10
*Law Union and Rock ...		—		17	15	0	10	2	6
† „ „ „ ...		—		24	4	5	16	9	2
‡London and Lancashire	36	5	0	24	1	8	16	0	0
†Norwich Union	32	4	2	21	0	10	13	15	0
*Pearl	29	3	4	17	5	10	9	15	0
*Refuge	31	19	2	19	5	10	11	4	2
† „	36	14	2	25	8	4	17	2	6
*Royal	32	6	8	21	12	6	14	0	10
*Royal Exchange ...	28	18	4	17	8	4	10	0	0
† „ „	34	19	2	23	3	4	15	6	8
*Scottish Equitable ...	30	1	8	18	2	6	10	10	0
† „ Insurance ...	34	2	6	22	14	2	15	1	8
‡ „ Metropolitan ...	36	5	0	24	1	8	16	0	0
† „ Widows' ...	37	13	4	25	4	2	16	18	4
‡Standard	34	9	2	23	2	8	15	11	8
†Sun	36	6	10	24	2	6	16	2	6
* „	29	4	2	17	10	10	10	1	8

Female Lives. Age at Entry 30.	Yearly Premium to secure an Annuity of £100 on reaching Age of- 55			60			65		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
†Aust. Mut. Provident ...	33	17	6	22	2	6	14	5	0
*Canada Life	30	10	7	18	18	3	11	7	5
‡Colonial Mutual ...	36	8	4	24	5	10	16	1	8
Commercial Union ...	39	10	10	26	3	4	17	5	10
†Edinburgh	38	16	8	25	3	4	—		
‡Equity and Law ...	38	7	6	26	2	6	17	16	8
‡Friends' Provident ...	43	1	8	29	4	2	—		
*General		—		21	6	3	—		
‡Gresham	37	10	0	25	12	9	17	4	10
*Guardian...	34	11	5	21	8	5	13	1	6
‡ „	39	5	2	26	9	7	17	14	9
*Law Union and Rock ...		—		19	3	4	10	16	8
† „ „ ...		—		26	17	6	18	3	4
‡London and Lancashire	39	19	6	27	1	8	18	0	0
†Norwich Union	35	10	10	23	6	8	14	12	6
*Pearl	31	4	2	16	18	4	10	17	6
*Refuge	35	2	6	24	0	0	13	9	2
† „	40	10	0	28	10	10	19	6	8
*Royal	36	14	2	25	8	4	17	2	6
*Royal Exchange ...	31	14	2	19	10	0	11	5	10
† „ „	38	6	8	25	18	4	17	6	8
*Scottish Equitable ...	33	1	8	20	5	10	11	18	4
† „ Insurance ...	37	11	8	25	9	2	17	1	8
‡ „ Metropolitan ...	37	17	6	24	1	8	18	0	0
† „ Widows' ...	37	13	4	25	4	2	16	18	4
‡Standard	37	13	4	25	14	2	17	8	4
†Sun	39	16	8	26	17	6	18	1	8
* „	31	19	2	20	0	0	12	1	8

* Premiums not returned in case of death before reaching appointed age.
† Premiums returned with interest in case of death before reaching appointed age.

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ECONOMICAL OFFICES.

A good guide, and one of the best, as to the results which may be secured from individual offices is obtained from a comparison of their working costs. The office which is able to work at the lower cost should, other things being equal, be able to give the better results to the assurant. There are, however, other considerations to be taken into account in contrasting one company with another. These we endeavour to furnish in the comparisons previously given, and in the subsequent description of each individual office, as well as in our weekly "Insurance Notes," in which we deal in detail with each office. Still, among the best guides to the selection of an office is the proportion of premium income it pays away for commission and management. Consequently we present herewith a series of tables in which the various offices are classified according to the percentage of their expenses of management and commission to premium income. In the first table are offices absorbing less than 10 per cent. of their premium income for expenses and commission. Several in this group pay no commission, and at the same time work very economically; hence their extremely low ratio. In the second table are the offices whose proportions of expenses to premium income range from 10 to 15 per cent.; the third comprises those with proportions of from 15 to 20 per cent.; the fourth, those "ordinary" companies with ratios about 20 per cent.; and the fifth is devoted to industrial companies, whose ratios are necessarily high in consequence of the weekly collection of premiums.

We would point out that the expenses of management and commission include the expenditure connected with the annuity business, and this causes the rates of the offices which conduct annuity business to be higher than they otherwise would be. We show, however, the considerations received by the offices for annuities, so that allowance may be made for this disturbing factor. The expenditure in connection with annuity business is very small, and does not appreciably affect the proportion of expenses of management and commission to the premium income.

As an instance of how small are the expenses connected with annuity business, we would point out that the North British and Mercantile, which is shown in the table to have received £188,677 for annuities, incurred an expenditure in respect of its annuity business of only £5,696. Eliminating the expenditure in connection with the annuity business of this office, the ratio of expenses and commision to premium income would be about 14.5 per cent., instead of 15 per cent.

To indicate the average proportion of expenses and commission to premium income of the whole of the companies we set out below the income received by the whole of the "ordinary" companies from interest and from premiums, together with the expenses and commission and the ratios of expenses to premium income, in each year since 1905, in 1895, and in 1885:—

"Ordinary" Companies.

Year.	No. of Offices.	Interest. £	Premiums. £	Expenses and Commission. £	Ratio of Expenses to Premium Income. %
1915	81	15,208,783	32,313,620	4,196,383	12.99
1914	32	14,916,467	31,501,687	4,338,484	13·77
1913	82	14,221,215	30,396,899	3,961,774	13·03
1912	81	13,670,729	29,703,217	3,960,307	13·33
1911	80	13,153,592	28,977,525	3,903,289	13·47
1910	81	12,640,057	28,313,415	3,844,961	13·58
1909	32	12,288,039	27,408,478	3,677,972	13·42
1908	81	11,861,220	26,862,882	3,604,741	13·42
1907	82	11,349,052	26,014,232	3,633,101	13·96
1906	86	10,860,172	25,332 993	3,431,931	13·54
1905	26	10,456,303	24,547,873	3,313,305	13·49
1895	85	7,393,739	17,637,683	2,584,635	14·65
1885	95	5,918,058	12,555,797	1,775,126	14·13

The high average expenses of the "industrial" offices will be apparent from the following contrast:—

"Industrial" Companies.

Year.	No. of Offices.	Interest. £	Premiums. £	Expenses and Commission. £	Ratio of Expenses to Premium Income. %
1915	19	2,116,794	17,973,981	7,939,006	44·44
1914	19	2,025 049	17,328,255	7,975,582	46·02
1913	18	1,849,061	16,690,937	7,330.005	43·91
1912	18	1,716,876	16,277,509	7,062.437	43·39
1911	16	1,612,457	15.741,053	6,925,247	43·99
1910	15	1,503,372	15 215,860	6 644,137	43·66
1909	14	1,359,943	13,865,785	6,010.126	43·34
1908	17	1,215,055	13,097,109	5,675,707	43·33
1907	16	1,126,549	12,440,868	5,401,288	43·41
1906	18	1,032,835	11,619,303	5,039,357	43·37
1905	19	934,706	11,093,268	4,827,650	43·52
1895	11	396,850	6,382,927	2,788,915	43·69
1885	8	120,296	3,289,181	1,398,791	42·53

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK

OF NEW YORK,

At New York, in the State of New York, at the close of business, November 10, 1915.

RESOURCES.

Loans and Discounts		$290,816,923.30
Customers' Liability under Letters of Credit		6,953,337.56
Customers' Liability account of "Acceptances"		1,981,525.45
Overdrafts Secured and Unsecured		362.15
U.S. Bonds to secure Circulation		1,799,150.00
U.S. and other Bonds Loaned		2,895,500.00
U.S. Bonds on hand		108,442.00
Bonds, Securities, &c.		52,696,862.70
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank		1,500 000.00
Securities purchased with agreement to resell		337,204.70
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures		5,000 000.00
Due from Banks and Bankers		14,944,660.81
Due from Foreign Accounts		485,181.10
Due from Branches		10,620,115.69
Exchanges for Clearing House		40,056,973.40
Checks on other banks in this City		1,481,382.80
Country Checks, other Cash Items and Fractional Currency		227,854.94
Notes of other National Banks		250,000.00
Federal Reserve Notes		963,000.00
Lawful Reserve, viz.:		
Specie in Vault	$110,558,961.00	
Legal Tender Notes in Vault	5,935,000.00	
Deposit in Federal Reserve Bank	31,274.659.68	
	147,768,620.68	
Gold Bullion	4,205,616.44	
Redemption Fund with U.S. Treasurer	116,957.50	
Total		$585,209,671.22

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock paid in		$25,000,000.00
Capital set aside for Foreign Branches		3,000.000.00
Surplus Fund and Undivided Profits (net)		34,658,886.81
National Bank Notes Outstanding		1,799,150 00
Due to Banks and Bankers	$225.059 459.65	
Dividends Unpaid	39,750.00	
Individual deposits subject to check	255.164,510.64	
Demand Certificates of Deposit	4,057,832.30	
Certified Checks	9,254,118.07	
Cashier's Checks Outstanding	9,174 332.28	
Time Deposits	1,117,428.84	
Time Certificates of Deposit	133,716.00	
	504,001,147.78	
U.S. and other Bonds Borrowed	4,752,150.00	
Bills payable, including obligations representing money borrowed	2,057.015.72	
Letters of credit	6,953,337.56	
Acceptances based on Imports and Exports	1,981,525.45	
Other Liabilities	1,006,457.90	
Total		$585,209,671.22

Office of London Representative - - 3 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Tables shewing the Premium Income for the year 1914-15, *the Expenses of Management, including Commissions, the Proportion of Expenses to the Premium Income, and the Amounts received for Interest and Dividends and as Consideration for Annuities.*

TABLE I.—"ORDINARY" COMPANIES WITH PROPORTION OF EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING COMMISSION, TO PREMIUM INCOME LESS THAN 10 PER CENT.

Name of Company	Premium Income	Considerations for Annuities	Interest and Dividends	Expenses of Management Including Commissions	Proportion of Expenses and Commission to Premium Income. 1914	1913
	£	£	£	£	%	%
Itinerant Methodist Preachers ...	11.357	—	14.482	332	2·9	3·2
Edin. Chart. Accts.	4,167	—	2.969	179	4·3	4·3
London Life (Ltd.)...	430.512	11,565	223.091	18.569	4·3	4·2
Clergy Mutual ...	277.409	18,187	174.418	18.951	6·8	7·2
United Kingdom Postal, &c. ...	59.905	—	4.020	4.218	7·0	6·8
Royal London Mut.	37.973	—	7.723	2.706	7·1	7·6
Equitable	221.632	23,055	185.234	16.881	7·6	6·5
Royal Nat. Pen. Fd for Nurses ...	96 073	24.497	63.168	7.500	7·8	8·7
Prudential (Ltd.) ...	5.035.625	46.639	1.900.537	413.229	8·2	8·3
Metropolitan ...	172.864	5.732	92.626	15.180*	8·6	7·0
10 Companies...	6.347.517	129.675	2.668.268	497.745		

* Including £3.656 commutation of pensions, &c., and £250 Donation to War Fund.

TABLE II.—"ORDINARY" COMPANIES WITH PROPORTION OF EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT TO PREMIUM INCOME FROM 10 INCLUSIVE TO UNDER 15 PER CENT.

Name of Company	Premium Income	Considerations for Annuities	Interest and Dividends	Expenses of Management Including Commissions	Proportion of Expenses and Commission to Premium Income 1914	1913
	£	£	£	£	%	%
Refuge (Ltd.) ...	1.308.112	2.985	278.810	130.812	10·0	10·0
Alliance (Ltd.) ...	1.173.136	81.928	716.202	118.829	10·1	10·1
Century (Ltd.) ...	110.264	10.746	31.252	11.357	10·3	10·3
National Prov....	516.341	11.297	293.370	53 560	10·4	11·3
U.K. Prov. Inst.	757.799	—	384.395	79.433	10·5	11·4
Customs Fund ...	21.592	1.360	21.677	2.328	10·8	11·5
Northern ...	294.358	36.452	196.618	31.748	10·8	10·8
Equity & Law ...	346.439	—	164.623	(a) 38.408	10·8	11·1
L'pool., Lon. and Globe (Ltd.) ...	286.674	24.506	184.491	32.161	11·2	11·3
Legal & Gen. ...	1.015.266	96.746	329.307	115.110	11·3	11·7
Clergy Pensions	32.648	12.317	19.943	3.707	11·4	10·8
Lond. Assurance	210.235	9.450	107.481	23.913	11·4	12·0
University ...	69.976	—	39.662	8.013	11·4	11·2
Scottish Widows' Fund	1.453.532	155.632	856.679	(b)167.737	11·5	10·7
Friends' Prov. ...	182.000	8.637	131.848	21.289	11·7	12·9
Commcl. Union (Ltd.) ...	657.887	97.890	245.716	79.813	12·1	12·6
— W. of Eng. Fd.	13.350	—	19.961	1.669	12·5	12·5
— Hand-in-Hand Fund ...	178.965	—	106.230	—	—	—
— Union LifeFd.	229.657	37	156.442	22.966	10·0	10·0
— Liverpool Victoria Fd. ...	21.183	—	1.232	2.119	10·0	—
Cler.,Med. & Gen.	448.967	30.529	236.663	54.869	12·2	13·4
Scot. Amicable...	429.639	31.348	242.763	52.947	12·3	12·0
Atlas (Ltd.) ...	212.942	21.117	90.342	26.952	12·7	13·4
Royal	836.349	52.868	443.326	109.128	13·0	13·5
Scot. Equitable	426.856	26.040	243.161	56.504	13·0	13·5
Salvation Army	84.882	2.793	19.123	11.039	13·0	15·4
Phœnix (Ltd.) ...	727.097	125.621	435.107	98.372	13·5	13·5
Caledonian ...	286.104	23.486	143.045	39.793	13·9	14·7
Britannic (Ltd.)	252.012	—	64.938	35.505	14·1	14·6
Scottish Prov. ...	746.052	83.472	599.870	(c) 105.560	14·1	13·8
Sceptre (Ltd.) ...	74.457	—	48.704	10.745	14·4	12·8
Pearl (Ltd.) ...	590.292	—	142.992	85.533	14·5	(d)18·3
Yorkshire (Ltd.)	210.897	70.001	105.497	(e) 30.573	14·5	14·4
Norwich Union...	1.532.330	67.385	462.446	224.070	14·6	16·2
— Scot. Imp. Fd.	32.179	—	26.646	5.522	17·1	16·9
Scot. Un & Nat.	538.769	115.908	326.753	78.635	14·6	17·2
Prov. Clerks and Gen.	217.895	258	114.885	32 001	14·7	(f) 16·7
Blackburn Philanthropic ...	13.242	—	2.167	1.951	14·7	—
33 Companies	16.540.375	1.200.809	8.034.367	2.004.672	—	—

(a) Including £1.012 donation to War Fund.
(b) ,, £23.483 special expenses quinquennial investigation and centenary celebration.
(c) ,, Special expenses of quinquennial investigation.
(d) ,, £20.202 proportion of L.E. & G. goodwill.
(e) ,, Great Britain and Mutual.
(f) ,, £3,784 expenses of valuation, &c., and distribution of bonuses

TABLE III.—"ORDINARY" COMPANIES WITH PROPORTION OF EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT TO PREMIUM INCOME FROM 15 INCLUSIVE TO UNDER 20 PER CENT.

Name of Company	Premium Income	Considerations for Annuities	Interest and Dividends	Expenses of Management Including Commissions	Proportion of Expenses & Commission to Premium Income 1914	1913
	£	£	£	£	%	%
N. Brit. & Merc....	1.255.857	188.677	696.760	188.385	15·0	14·7
Profits and Inc. (Ltd.)	19.469	—	4.523	2.920	15·0	15·0
Scot. Temp.(Ltd.)	224.033	40.600	85.987	33.619	15·0	15·4
Wesleyan & Gen.	226.220	—	41.794	33.814	15·0	15·7
Scottish (Ltd.) ...	42.884	500	11.709	6.517	15·2	15·3
Sun Life ...	977.051	152.722	429.369	(a)155.158	15·3	16·4
Lond. &Man.(Ltd.	71.445	150	8.199	11.102	15·5	19·7
Guardian (Ltd.) ...	275.194	8.584	146.559	(b) 44.057	15·6	14·2
—Westminster Fd	36.188		29.786	3.619	10·0	10·0
Scot. Life (Ltd.)...	208.920	9.985	85.022	32.859	15·7	15·8
Royal Exchange...	367.540	69.437	183.348	58.043	15·8	16·6
Edinburgh ...	294.982	11.284	196.851	46.810	15·8	16·2
National Mutual...	200.889	1.917	121.747	(c) 31.907	15·9	15·4
Marine & General	166.955	712	88.312	26 714	16·0	16·3
Life of Scotland ...	355.246	15.772	228.241	57.140	16·1	16·7
Brit. Legal (Ltd.)	14.534	—	2.645	2.348	16·2	16·7
Prov. Assoc. of Lond. (Ltd) ...	44.900	4.896	11.637	7.152	16·2	19·0
Star	506.926	34.423	280.814	(d) 82.645	16·3	15·1
Law Union and Rock	590.591	12.618	342.909	99.020	16·7	15·0
Eng. & Scot. Law	232.592	8.441	123.391	39.568	17·0	18·2
Pioneer Life(Ltd.)	16.476	—	3.142	2.813	17·1	22·1
Eagle	165.833	3.316	76.405	28.716	17·3(e) (f)	24·3
Gen. Accident ...	35.424	1.040	6.005	6.211	17·5	17·6
Standard ...	997.992	53.268	535.717	191.898	19·2	19·4
Abst. & Gen. ...	111.507	—	28.215	22.235	19·9	21·3
24 Companies...	7.438.948	618.342	3.769.087	1.215.269	—	—

(a) Including £5,500 to superannuation fund.
(b) ,, £4.000 reserved for expenses of valuation and £1.000 subscriptions to War Funds.
(c) ,, £1.780 expenses of valuation.
(d) ,, £2.986 expenses of 1913 valuation.
(e) ,, £772 provision towards pensions.
(f) ,, £9.914 provision towards pensions and £2,775 expenses re valuation.

TABLE IV.—"ORDINARY" COMPANIES WITH PROPORTION OF EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT TO PREMIUM INCOME OF 20 PER CENT. AND UPWARDS.

Name of Company	Premium Income	Considerations for Annuities	Interest and Dividends	Expenses of Management Including Commissions	Proportion of Expenses & Commission to Premium Income 1914	1913
	£	£	£	£	%	%
Co-operative, Ltd....	48 019	988	9.058	9.833	20·4	20·2
General	176.932	—	75.477	36.057	20 4	19·7
Lond. & Lancashire	399.762	5.571	146.896	85.304	21·3(a)	20·3
Gresham	1.022.817	37.069	422.693	229.891	22·4	23·0
Brit. Widows (Ltd.)...	4.955	—	466	1.113	22·5	20·6
Brit. Equitable ...	108.266	—	59.811	24.479	22·6	23·8
British Life (Ltd.) ...	3.813	—	1 382	875	22·9	17·0
Royal Lon.Aux.(Ltd.)	100.017	814	4.622	29.755	29·7	32·4
National Benefit ...	7.179	—	686	2.163	30·0	75·0
Lond. & Prov. (Ltd.)	12.469	—	6.231	5.504	44·1	39·1
Consolidated (Ltd.)...	28.810	—	3.181	14.417	50·0	21·4
City Life (Ltd.) ...	59.427	—	6.068	30.367	51·1	58·1
Law Integrity ...	2.421	—	—	1.362	56·3	—
Hearts of Oak (Ltd.)	11.893	—	490	7.576	63·7(b)	57·5
14 Companies...	1.986.780	44.442	737.061	478.696	—	—

(a) Including £3.706 for pensions.
(b) Including "National Standard."

TABLE V.—"INDUSTRIAL" COMPANIES;

Name of Company	Premium Income	Interest and Dividends	Expenses of Management Including Commissions	Proportion of Expenses and Commission to Premium Income 1914	1913
	£	£	£	%	%
Co-operative (Ltd.) ...	111.576	842	5.398	4·8	6·5
Prov. Assoc. of Lond. (Ltd.)	61.395	20.717	14.117	23·0	29·5
Abst. & Gen. (Ltd.) ...	4.851	1.754	1.244	25·6	27·8
Prudential (Ltd.) ...	8.176.202	1.469.994	(a) 3.634.450	(b) 40 1	40·5
Britannic (Ltd.) ...	1.068 613	77.473	450.540	42 2	42·1
Pearl (Ltd.)	2.513.423	185.919	1.073.157	42 7	46·3
Lond & Man. (Ltd.)...	663.528	31.854	(c) 287 326	43 3	44·1
Blackburn Philanthropic	124.914	22.987	54.685	43·7	—
Royal Lond. Mut. (Ltd.)	1.336.434	131.838	(d) 591.311	44·2	44·2
Brit. Legal (Ltd.) ...	304.266	12.130	138.614	45 5	50·3
Salvation Army (Ltd.)	295.524	18.028	135.871	46·0	47·7
Refuge (Ltd.) ...	2.215.846	105.204	1.039.323	46 9	51·7
Weslevan & Gen. ...	776.621	34.258	(e) 366.919	47·2	49·7
Pioneer (Ltd.) ...	76.392	869	41.338	54·1	57·4
Brit. Widows (Ltd.)...	72.305	594	41.879	57·9	58·6
Hearts of Oak (Ltd.)	56.924	471	33.138	58·2	59·9
City Life (Ltd.) ...	30.586	660	17.949	58·7	65·5
Lond. & Prov. (Ltd.)	32.156	263	20.827	64·8	59·2
Law Integrity ...	52.425	939	40.920	78·1	76·9
19 Companies ...	17.973.981	2.116.794	7.989.006	—	—

(a) Includes £100.000 bonus to superintendents and agents and £357,416 expended in connection with approved societies.
(b) This ratio is exclusive of the outlay of £357,416 in connection with approved societies.
(c) Includes £104,159 extension and new business charges.
(d) ,, £70.416 ,, ,, ,, ,,
(e) ,, £79.116 ,, ,, ,, ,,

VALUATION RETURNS.

In the case of a life assurance office, as in all other businesses, it is necessary to have a periodical and rigorous stocktaking. Owing to the nature of life assurance, however, it has to be conducted on somewhat different lines from those usual in the case of an ordinary commercial enterprise. To draw up a balance sheet and profit and loss account for an undertaking of the latter class it is a matter of comparatively little difficulty as regards ascertaining the approximate liabilities. Assets are a more uncertain element, and on their being valued rigorously or loosely the value of the ultimate figures largely depends. All this is reversed in the case of a life office. There the assets mostly consist of investments of various kinds, able for the most part to be valued without difficulty, especially so far as they consist of marketable securities. Liabilities, on the other hand, present a somewhat complex problem. Most of them are not fixed, but contingent, and it is impossible to foresee with mathematical accuracy how soon any liability will mature. Hence the stocktaking of a life assurance office properly becomes a valuation. As ordinarily used, the word valuation stands for little more than a mere opinion, which is valuable or not according to the experience and character of the person expressing it. In the case of life assurance, however, the term is used for a computation of liabilities on fixed and scientific principles, which admit of examination and criticism by competent persons.

It will be readily understood that the complexity of this method of stocktaking renders it difficult to conduct it annually, and the ordinary period elapsing between each investigation is five years. The principle on which the examination is conducted is that every policy in force means an annual payment to the office for a period more or less uncertain, and a liability on the part of the company to provide a fixed sum at the end of a period also indeterminate. To deal with this difficulty the law of averages is called into play, and this proves a perfectly satisfactory guide. It is impossible for anyone to say when a particular individual at a given age will die, but the data furnished by long experience shows that if a thousand policies are granted to persons of that age, a perfectly definite percentage will die in each succeeding year. On this basis it becomes possible to calculate with practical accuracy what average amount of premium is likely to be received on each policy in force, and when the ultimate liabilities upon them will fall due. Whether a particular policy will rank as a liability or an asset depends upon circumstances, and also upon the fact of whether the premiums likely to be received are more or less than the present value of the ultimate sum payable. Thus, for instance, if the company has reason to expect to receive £100 a year in the shape of premium for 35 years upon a given policy, and its expected liabilities under that policy are only £3,000, the balance represents an asset. Further, there is the important point of interest earnings. Over a long period compound interest amounts to a very considerable sum, and it is therefore important to estimate what the earnings are likely to be during the continuance of the policy. Of course in this matter, as in regard to the question of mortality, there is no absolute certainty, as the earning power of money varies greatly from time to time, and to a degree which cannot be foreseen long ahead. This difficulty, however, is obviated for practical purposes by assuming a rate of future interest somewhat below the average actually being earned, or what has been realised in the recent past, and it therefore becomes of very great importance, with regard to the continued stability of any company, that the rate of interest assumed should be well below that actually earned. Reference to the tables below will show that, on the average, the margin thus indicated is a very considerable one. While the assumed rate of interest is mostly about 3 per cent., the actual earnings at the present time are somewhere about 4¼ per cent., so that very adequate provision is made for future periods of cheap money. Indeed, it is now averred in actuarial circles that the reduction in the assumed rate of interest of money by some of the best companies some 20 years ago, from 3 to 2½ per cent., erred on the side of undue caution.

How important this margin between interest assumed and earned is, as regards profits, may be seen from some interesting figures published last year. As a rule the offices are not in the habit of giving an analysis of the sources from which they derive their profits, and the following figures are, therefore, of particular interest, especially as they relate to a company of high standing, doing a considerable business, and whose actual interest earnings were about 1½ per cent. above the rate assumed. The figures given show that of the total profits made in the previous quinquennium over 60 per cent. accrued from the access of interest earned over that assumed. and over 25 per cent. from favourable mortality, the remainder being mainly due to profit on loading, which, as previously explained, is the portion of the premium added to cover working expenses.

The information required by law with regard to valuations is of such a character that it is easily possible for those familiar with the matter to determine whether in any particular case the basis is sound or otherwise, and this forms a very important, though indirect, check upon unsound business.

In the tables below we deal with the valuation returns of each company in some detail, and the figures merit very careful examination, especially from the point of view of bonus prospects. It will readily be seen that it is important not merely to know what the results of the last valuation were, but how far those results contrast with those obtained at the previous valuation; whether the estimated rate of interest is stationary, has increased or decreased; and also whether the margin between the estimated and actual rate is less or more. In the large table below the companies are necessarily clasified, as will be understood from what has already been said, according to the date of valuation. From the bonus point of view the more important figures are those relating to interest, and, when considering the probability of the present rate of bonus being maintained or increased, it should be ascertained beforehand whether the rate of interest assumed leaves a good margin below that actually earned, and whether the tendency of the interest earned is in an upward or downward direction. It will be seen that in almost every case there is a very adequate margin, and that, therefore, profits are rather under- than over-valued. The rate of interest lately has tended in an upward direction, though in some cases the effect of this on bonus distribution has been counterbalanced by the necessity of making provision for depreciation in capital value. It has to be remembered, however, that such depreciation in no way interferes with actual interest earnings. If, for example, a first-class security yielding 3 per cent., and originally bought at "par," has lately fallen to 75 per cent. owing to the greater value of money, and the difference of £25 has been written off, the income derived from it has remained unchanged, and the only absolute difference is that that security now appears in the Company's books at the lower figure and shows a nominal yield of 4 per cent. whereas formerly it gave a return of 3 per cent. It will be seen that with few exceptions bonuses are well maintained, and if there was space to consider these exceptions in detail it could usually be shown that special causes have been at work. In many cases bonuses show increases, and the probability is that this tendency will continue. Percentages of

interest margin year by year would be misleading, inasmuch as the companies valuing any particular year do not as a rule value again until five years later; but the following table, which is a summary of the more detailed figures, will be of value as showing that the margin of interest earned over interest assumed is now decidedly over 1 per cent.:—

Last Valuation Year.	No of Companies.	Interest Assumed. Last Valuation.	Interest Assumed. Previous Valuation.	Interest Earned. Last Valuation.	Interest Earned. Previous Valuation.	Margin. Last Valuation.	Margin. Previous Valuation.	Margin. Inc. or Dec.
1910 ...	17	3·00	3·01	4·23	3·98	1·23	0·97	+0·6
1911 ...	9	2·81	2·81	4·10	4·01	1·31	1·20	+0·11
1912 ..	11	3·02	3·05	4·12	3·96	1·10	0·91	+0·19
191 ...	12	3·03	3·03	4·13	3·90	1·10	0·87	+0·23
1914 ...	13	3·02	2·98	4·33	4·05	1·31	1·07	+0·24

One other matter needs explanation in connection with the figures below. It will be seen that the bonuses of certain offices are described as compound, and the meaning of this term may to some be obscure. The ordinary or simple bonus is one declared on the face value of the policy only. Compound bonuses are those payable on the total value of the policy at the date of valuation—including, that is, previous bonuses. Where a policy has been in existence for a long time the difference in the amount ultimately payable is considerable, as will be seen from the following table:—

Policy of £1,000, assuming Quinquennial Bonus at the Rate of £2 per Cent. per Annum.

Value of Policy after	Simple. £	Compound. £
Five years	1,100	1,100
Ten years	1,200	1,210
Fifteen years	1,300	1,331
Twenty years...	1,400	1,454
Twenty-five years	1,500	1,610
Thirty years	1,600	1,771

VALUATION RETURNS.

Name of Company.	Number of Years since last Valuation.	Interest Assumed.		Interest Earned.		Margin between Interest Assumed and Earned.		Inc. or Dec.	Reversionary Bonus (Whole Life) per Cent. per Annum. General Section.		Temperance Section	
Last Valuation Year, 1910.		**1910.**	**1905.**	**1910.**	**1905.**	**1910.**	**1905.**		**1910.**	**1905.**	**1910.**	**1905.**
Britannic	5	3½	3¾	4·40	4·36	0·90	0·61	+0·29	30/-	24/-	—	—
English and Scottish Law	5	3	3	4·14	4·09	1·14	1·09	+0·05	25/-*	20/-*	—	—
Gresham	5	3½	3½	4·22	4·16†	0·72	0·66	+0·06	10/- to 20/-	10/- to 20/-	—	—
London Assurance... ...	5	2¾	3	4·09	3·77	1·34	0·77	+0·57	Various	29/7 and upwards	—	—
North British & Mercantile	5	3	3	4·18	3·91‡	1·18	0·91	+0·27	30/-*	28/-*	—	—
Northern	5	3	3	3·72	3·70	0·72	0·70	+0·05	31/-	31/-	—	—
Phœnix (late Pelican and British Empire) ...	5	3	3	3·95	3·84	0·95	0·84	+0·11	34/-	32/-	—	—
Refuge (Ord.)	5	3	3	5·02	3·42	2·02	0·42	+1·60	32/-	30/-	—	—
Royal Exchange	5	3	3	4·06	3·76	1·06	0·76	+0·30	28/-*	25/-*	—	—
Scottish Amicable ...	5	2½	2½	4·01	3·99	1·51	1·49	+0·02	35/-*	35/-*	—	—
Scottish Insurance (late Scottish Accident) ...	5	3	3⅛	4·14	3·69	1·14	0·57	+0·57	25/-	—	30/-	—
Scottish Life	5	3	3	4·24	4·20	1·24	1·20	+0·04	40/-	40/-	—	—
Standard	5	3	3 & 3½	4·26	4·13†	1·26	0·88	+0·38	30/-	None	—	—
			1906.		**1906.**		**1906.**			**1906.**		
Sun of Canada	4	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	5·42	4·96	1·17	0·71	+0·46	21/5 and upwards	21/5 and upwards	—	—
			1905.		**1905.**		**1905.**			**1905.**		
United Kingdom Provident	5	2½	2½	3·86	3·66‡	1·36	1·16	+0·20	35/-*	35/-*	42/-*	42/-*
University	5	2½	2½	4·15	3·98	1·65	1·48	+0·17	30/-	45/-	—	—
Yorkshire	5	3	3	4·04	4·03	1·04	1·03	+0·01	27/- and upwards	27/- and upwards	—	—
Average, 17 companies ...	—	3·00	3·01	4·23	3·98	1·23	0·97	+0·26	—	—	—	—

* Compound. † Interest for 1905 only. ‡ After deducting income tax.

Last Valuation Year, 1911.		**1911.**	**1906.**	**1911.**	**1906.**	**1911.**	**1906.**		**1911.**	**1906.**	**1911.**	**1906.**
Aust. Mut. Provident ...	5	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	4·50	4·52	1·25	1·27	−0·02	30/- and upwards	26/- and upwards	—	—
City of Glasgow	5	3	3	3·97	3·83	0·97	0·83	+0·14	24/-*	21/-*	—	—
Clergy Mutual	5	2½	2½	4·07	3·94	1·57	1·44	+0·13	29/- to 85 10	29/- to 85 10	—	—
Clerical, Med. and Gen. ...	5	2½	2½	3·99	3·87	1·49	1·37	+0·12	35/7 and upwards	35/7 to 71/10	—	—
Legal and General... ...	5	2½	2½	4·32	4·30	1·82	1·80	+0·02	38/-*	38/-*	—	—
Life Assoc. of Scotland ...	5	3	3	3·99	3·77	0·99	0·77	+0·22	30/-	28/-	—	—
Norwich Union	5	2½	2½	4·27	4·25	1·77	1·75	+0·02	35/7 and upwards	35/7 and upwards	—	—
Prudential (Ord.)	5	3	3	3·67	3·40	0·67	0·40	+0·27	36/-	30/-	—	—
Sun	5	3	3	4·14	4·19	1·14	1·19	−0·05	28/5 and upwards	21/2 and upwards	—	—
Average, 9 companies ...	—	2·81	2·81	4·10	4·01	1·31	1·20	+0·11	—	—	—	—

* Compound.

Last Valuation Year, 1912.		**1912.**	**1909.**	**1912.**	**1909.**	**1912.**	**1909.**		**1912.**	**1909.**	**1912.**	**1909.**
Abstainers' General (Ord.)	3	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	3·69	3·69	+0·44	+0·44	− 00	21/-	20/-	21/-	20/-
			1907.		**1907.**		**1907.**			**1907.**		
Caledonian	5	3	3	4·24	3·91	1·24	0·91	+0·33	30/-	23/6	—	—
Century	5	3	3	4·32	4·01	1·32	1·01	+0·31	30/-*	30/-*	—	—
Commercial Union	5	3	3	4·17	4·19	1·17	1·19	−0·02	29/7 and upwards	29/2 and upwards	—	—
Eagle	5	3	3	4·00	3·93	1·00	0·93	+0·07	None	17/5 and upwards	—	—
Edinburgh	5	3	3	4·19	4·05	1·19	1·05	+0·14	None	20/- and upwards	—	—
Friends' Provident	5	3	3	4·07	3·85	1·07	0·85	+0·22	32/-*	30/-*	—	—
General	5	3	3	3·70	3·72	0·70	0·72	−0·02	20/-*	None	—	—
London and Lancashire ...	5	3 & 3½	3⅓	4·25	4·00	1·00	0·50	+0·50	10/- and upwards	None	—	—
National Provident ...	5	3	3	4·26	4·08	1·26	1·08	+0·18	40/- and upwards	35/- and upwards	—	—
Provident Clerks'	5	3	3	3·90	3·78	0·90	0·78	·0·12	35/-	24/-	—	—
Scottish Temperance † ...	5	3	3	4·17	4·06	1·17	1·06	+0·11	30/-*	28/-*	30/-	28/-
Average, 12 companies ...	—	3·04	3·06	4·08	3·85	1·04	0·79	+0·25	—	—	—	—

* Compound † Premium rates lower in Temperance than in Ordinary Section.

VALUATION RETURNS (*continued*).

Name of Company.	Number of Years since last Valuation.	Interest Assumed.		Interest Earned.		Margin between Interest Assumed and Earned. Inc. or Dec.			Reversionary Bonus (Whole Life) per Cent. per Annum. General Section.		Temperance Section.	
Last Valuation Year, 1913.		**1913.**	**1908.**	**1913.**	**1908.**	**1913.**	**1908.**		**1913.**	**1908.**	**1913.**	**1908.**
Alliance	5	3	3	4·09	4·01	1·09	1·01	+0·08	30/-*	30/-*	—	—
Liverpool & London & Globe	5	2¾ & 3	2¾ & 3	3·92	3·70	1·05	0·83	+0·12	35/-	35/-	—	—
National Mutual	5	3	3	4·44	4·11	1·44	1·11	+0·33	36/-*	30/-*	—	—
			1910.		**1910.**		**1910.**			**1910.**		
Nat. Mut. of Australasia ...	3	3½	3½	4·85	4·81	1·35	1·31	+0·04	23/4 and upwards	23/4 and upwards	—	—
			1908.		**1908.**		**1908.**			**1908.**		
Pearl	5	3	3	3·97	3·51	0·97	0·51	+0·46	32/-	30/-	—	—
Salvation Army	5	3¼	3¼	3·90	3·48	0·65	0·23	+0·42	20/-	20/-	—	—
Sceptre	5	2½	2½	4·23	3·93	1·73	1·43	+0·70	36/-	36/-	42/-	42/-
Scottish Equitable... ...	5	3	3	4·16	4·00	1·16	1·00	+0·16	30/-*	26/-*	—	—
,, Provident ...	5	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	4·05	3·93	0·80	0·68	+0·12	Special plan.		—	—
,, Widows'	5	3	3	4·15	3·96	1·15	0·96	+0·29	34/-*	34/-*	—	—
Star	5	3	3	4·20	3·75	1·20	0·76	+0·44	30/-*	10/-*	—	—
Wesleyan and General ...	5	3	3	3·52	3·66	0·52	0·66	+0·14	32/-	32/-	—	—
Average, 12 companies ...	—	3·03	3·03	4·13	3·90	1·10	0·87	+0·23	—	—	—	—

* Compound.

Last Valuation Year, 1914.		**1914.**	**1909.**	**1914.**	**1909.**	**1914.**	**1909.**		**1914.**	**1909.**	**1914.**	**1909.**
Atlas	5	3	2½	4·25†	3·84	1·25	1·34	−0·09	20/-*	28/-*	—	—
British Equitable	5	3	3	4·22*	3·88	1·22	0·88	+0·34	20/-	None	24/-	None
,, Life...	5	3½	3½	4·91	4·35	1·41	0·85	+0·56	None	20/-	—	—
Canada Life...	5	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	5·64	4·69	2·39	1·44	+0·95	22/6 and upwards	20/6 and upwards	—	—
			1910.		**1910.**		**1910.**			**1910.**		**1910.**
Colonial Mutual	4	3½	3½	**	4·26	**	0·76	—	20/-	25/-	—	—
			1909.		**1909.**		**1909.**			**1909.**		**1909.**
Equitable	5	2½	2½	4·10	3·81	1·60	1·31	+0·29	26 -‡	26/-‡	—	—
Equity and Law	5	2¾	2¾	4·46	4·10	1·71	1·35	+0·36	30/- and upwards	28/- and upwards	—	—
Guardian	5	3	3	4·04	3·85	1·04	0·85	+0·19	21/2 and upwards	21/2 and upwards	—	—
Law Union and Rock ...	5	3	3	4·43	4·34	1·43	1·34	+0·09	30/-*	35/-*	—	—
London Life	5	3	3	4·24	4·42	1·24	1·42	−0·18	All in abatements of premium.			
Marine and General ...	5	3	3	4·17	4·00	1·17	1·00	+0·17	40/-	40/-		
Metropolitan	5	3	3	3·92	3·78	0·92	0·78	+0·14	All in abatements of premium.			
Royal	5	3	3	3·90	3·75	0·90	0·75	+0·15	30/-	30/-	—	—
Scot. Union and National...	5	3 & 3½	3 & 3½	4·00	3·83	0·75	0·58	+0·17	Bonus postponed	30/-	—	—
Average, 13 companies‡‡ ...	—	3·02	2·98	4·33	4·05	1·31	1·07	+0·24	—	—	—	—

* Compound. † Gross. ‡ For every complete year policy has been in force. ** No information. ‡‡ Omitting Colonial and Mutual.

FIRE INSURANCE.

In some respects fire insurance presents very different conditions from life assurance. While all policies of the latter class are for long and indeterminate periods, and their terms depend upon the age and health of the assurant, fire policies are for fixed and mostly short periods—usually a year—and are wholly independent of the personality of the persons to whom they are granted. Further, profit distributed by means of bonuses, which, as we have seen, play a very important part in life assurance, is quite a negligible quantity as regards fire policies; while the premiums of the most important fire offices are the same for each description of risk, but vary according to the class of risk undertaken, their amount being fixed, so far as the tariff itself is concerned, which includes most leading companies, on the basis of combined experience.

Necessarily, risks vary considerably. It is obvious, on a moment's reflection, that a fire in a dwelling-house is a comparatively rare event, but that in a building devoted to the manufacture of explosives it is by no means uncommon; while, further, assuming a conflagration in each kind of building, the resultant damage in the case of the former is likely to be much less than in the case of the latter. Moreover, the charge for any particular kind of risk varies from time to time, according as conditions change which tend to increase it or diminish it. Thus, for instance, the replacing of buildings largely erected of wood with those constructed of fireproof material necessarily alters the rate of premium. Though particular rates alter greatly from time to time, it can safely be said that in most instances the fire offices fix their premiums very justly, because it is their interest to steer a happy medium between unremunerative rates and those which are so high as to cause a diminution in business.

As regards investigation of financial position, there is no method available in connection with fire insurance which corresponds to the life valuations already explained; but it is a pretty safe rule to adopt in regard to this matter that if the funds, exclusive of capital, amount to as much as a year's premium income the undertaking is thoroughly sound. On the average, the claims do not amount to above 50 or 60 per cent. of the premium income; and if, therefore, a company has one year's premium income in hand in the shape of accumulated funds, it is in a position to pay from three to four times the average amount of capital without calling up latent resources in the shape of reserve capital, though, as will be seen from the table below, those latent resources are usually large. As showing the strength of the fire offices, the experience of the San Francisco disaster in 1906 may be recalled. Heavy and unexpected claims were then incurred, but only in a few instances were companies unable to meet them without summoning latent resources. Further, the broad effect of this disaster during the last 10 years has been practically negligible. As will be seen from the table below, the percentage of accumulated funds to premium income is almost as large in 1914 as it was in 1904.

We give a table which sets out in detail the standing of the leading offices at the end of last year, as compared with 10 years previously. It gives first the capital issued, the amount paid up, and that reserved at the end of 1914, the latter column being important as showing the large amount available to meet claims in very exceptional circumstances. The next two columns give the accumulated funds, exclusive of capital, at the end of 1914 and 1904 respectively, with

FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE FIRE OFFICES (000's omitted).

Name of Company.	Capital. Issued.	Paid up.	Reserved.	Funds (exclusive of Capital). 1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.		Premium Income. 1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.		Percentage of Funds (excluding Capital) to Premium Income. 1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%			
Alliance	5,450	1,000	4,450	2,759	2,611	+ 148	+ 57	1,361	937	+ 424	+ 45¼	203	278½	– 75½
Atlas	2,200	264	1,936	1,265	699	+ 566	+ 81	1,040	831	+ 209	+ 25	121¾	81½	+ 40¼
British Law	1,100	150	950	220	92	+ 128	+139	111	80	+ 31	+ 37½	198¼	115	+ 83¼
Caledonian	537	107	430	456	547	– 91	– 16⅔	450	419	+ 31	+ 16¼	101¼	131	– 29¾
Commercial Union* ...	2,950	295	2,655	3,578	2,493	+1,085	+ 43½	3,537	1,968	+1,569	+ 79½	101	126½	– 25½
Co-operative	100	20	80	191	72	+ 119	+165¼	59	27	+ 32	+118½	323¾	266½	+ 57¼
Ecclesiastical	250	25	225	297	99	+ 198	+200	83	41	+ 42	+102½	358	241½	+117½
Fine Art and General†	500	50	450	275	89	+ 186	+209	185	85	+ 100	+117½	148¾	104¾	+ 44
Guardian	2,000	1,000	1,000	825	784	+ 41	+ 5¼	595	508	+ 87	+ 71	137½	157	– 19½
Law Union and Rock	1,575	165‡	1,410	298	385	– 87	– 22½	246	222	+ 24	+ 11	121¼	173¼	– 52¼
Liverpool,Lond.& Globe	2,655	265§	2,390	3,239	3,120	+ 119	+ 3¾	3,099	2,190	+ 909	+ 41½	134½	142½	– 8
London and Lancashire	2,641	264	2,377	2,710	1,863	+ 847	+ 44¼	1,656	1,320	+ 336	+ 25⅓	163¾	141	+ 22¼
London Assurance ...	896	448	448	1,388	1,378	+ 10	+ ¾	689	554	+ 135	+ 24½	201¼	249	+ 47¾
Nat. of Great Britain	250	50	200	143	30	+ 113	+376	69	25	+ 44	+176	207¼	125	+ 82¼
North British & Merc.	4,500	2,437	2,063	3,603	2,977	+ 626	+ 21	2,146	1,938	+ 208	+ 10¾	162	153	+ 9
Northern	3,000	300	2,700	2,118	1,778	+ 340	+ 19	1,318	1,090	+ 228	+ 21	160⅓	163	– 2½
Norwich Union ...	1,100	132	968‖	1,452	1,272	+ 180	+ 14	1,213	1,173	+ 40	+ 3½	119¾	108½	– 11¼
Phœnix	3,211	423¶	2,788	2,100	1,493	+ 607	+ 40½	1,428	1,449	– 21	– 1½	147	103	+ 45
Royal	2,945	442	2,503	6,017	2,867	+3,150	+109¾	4,124	2,996	+1,128	+ 49	146	254	–108
Royal Exchange ...	689	689	—	895	994	– 99	– 99⅓	856	694	+ 162	+ 23⅓	104½	143¼	– 39¾
Scot. Union & National	5,084	300	4,784	725	711	+ 14	+ 2	764	597	+ 167	+ 28	95	119	– 24
State	560	70	490	141	94	+ 47	+ 50	234	151	+ 83	+ 55¼	60¼	62¼	– 2
Sun	2,400	480	1,920	2,511	2,498	+ 13	+ ½	1,502	1,306	+ 196	+ 15	167	692	– 25
West of Scotland ...	175	35	140	78	33	+ 45	+136¼	41	25	+ 16	+ 64	190¼	132	+ 58¼
Yorkshire	846	125	721	747	333	+ 414	+124¼	456	198	+ 258	+129	163¾	168	– 4¼
Total	47,614	9,536	38,078	38,031	29,312	+18,719	+64	27,262	20,824	+6,438	+ 31	139½	141	– 2½

* Not including Hand-in-Hand or Union figures. † Including accident funds and premiums. ‡ Also an issue of £251,276 Debenture stock.
§ Also Debenture stocks in issue for £1,256,495. ‖ Also Debenture stock for £580,000. ¶ Also Debenture stock for £1,277,950.

the actual and proportionate increase during the past 10 years. Next follow columns comparing the premium incomes on the same basis, and, finally, columns indicating the proportion of the funds to premium income. Broadly speaking, the position is very strong, and nearly all the companies mentioned in the table are in a strong position to meet even an exceptional run of claims without serious difficulty.

TRADING RESULTS OF THE FIRE OFFICES.

In order to show the result of the operations of various companies, their amount of interest earnings, and their dividends, we give details below relating to the past five years. This has been on the whole a favourable period, and many of the companies have been able to increase their rate of distribution to the shareholders, while at the same time strengthening their financial position. We take a five years' period as affording a fair average. In the first column we give the trading surplus or deficiency, which is arrived at by deducting from the year's premium income all claims and expenses, and also an allowance of 33⅓ per cent. of the additional premium income to cover unexpired risks at the end of the year, either owing to some policies being taken out so as not to run concurrently with the calendar year, or because they have been effected for a longer period than one year. Interest earnings on the accumulated funds are next shown, and the large proportion which some of them bear to the trading surplus is a matter of great importance as regards the financial stability. Where, for instance, as not infrequently happens, interest earnings are as much as two-thirds of the average trading surplus, the ability to meet unforeseen occurrences without depleting capital reserves will be seen to be very considerable. We next show the rate of dividend paid by each office and the sum required to provide that percentage, arriving finally at the surplus or deficiency in either year after dividends have been distributed. The figures in the last column show for each year the additions to, or, in some rare cases, the deductions from, the funds previously accumulated.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency.	Interest Earnings.	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend.
	£	£			£
Alliance, 1824.					
1914	+257,241	162,748	27 3/11	387,625*	+ 22,364
1913	+272,956	168,168	27 3/11	395,500	+ 45,624
1912	+347,324	161,025	27 3/11	395,500	+112,849
1911	+205,067	157,173	27 3/11	395,500	– 33,260
1910	+327,401	150,093	27 3/11	395,500	+ 81,994

Marine and accident profits contribute to dividends.
* Less income tax.

Atlas, 1808.					
1914	+ 81,731	42,744	33⅓	85,174†	+ 39,331
1913	+163,683	38,284	33⅓	91,960*	+110,007
1912	+116,845	35,102	31¼	81,648*	+ 70,299
1911	+ 89,337	33,924	25	66,000	+ 67,261
1910	+196,185	30,114	25	66,000	+160,299

* Including Debenture interest. † Less income tax.
Life and accident profits contribute to dividends.

British General, 1904.					
1914	– 6,097	4,869	10	3,400	– 2,272
1913	+13,533	3,872	8	1,883	+15,522
1912	+ 7,823	2,393	6	1,412	+ 8,804
1911	+ 1,977	1,894	5	1,177	+ 2,714
1910	+ 39	1,521	5	1,177	+ 383

Figures include accident and general business.
Life profit also contribute to dividend. Capital increased 1914.

British Law, 1888.					
1914	+18,388	17,623	17½	24,225	+11,786
1913	+14,188	17,317	20	28,250*	+ 3,255
1912	+26,287	16,286	20	28,250*	+14,323
1911	+15,707	16,156	20	28,250*	+ 3,613
1910	+21,378	15,051	20	30,000	+ 6,429

* Less tax.
Accident profits contribute to dividend.

Caledonian, 1805.					
1914	– 6,959	11,773	24	23,818*	– 19,004
1913	+ 35,922	12,158	24	25,800	+ 21,280
1912	+ 28,631	9,340	24	25,800	+ 12,171
1911	+ 39,097	8,752	24	25,800	+ 22,049
1910	+ 50,206	9,227	24	25,800	+ 33,633

* Less tax.
Life and accident profits contribute to dividend. Interest on profit and loss account not included.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Century, 1885.					
1914	+10,918	See Accident Section.			
1913	+ 4,398				
1912	+ 5,616				
1911	+ 1,832				
Commercial Union, 1861.					
1914	+350,709	310,406*	100	267,561†	+393,554
1913	+444,095	280,169*	100	277,792†	+448,492
1912	+464,125	252,007*	80	222,233†	+493,899
1911	+268,820	230,902*	80	236,000	+263,722
1910	+472,580	230,317*	75	221,250	+481,647
Consolidated Assurance, 1903.					
1914	+ 26,179	4,476	5	2,500	+28,155
1913	+ 8,456	5,061	5	2,500	+11,017
Co-operative, 1869.					
1914	+25,067	5,586	5	4,772	+25,881
1913	+11,947	5,045	5	4,680	+12,312
1912	+15,119	4,409	5	4,701	+15,007
1911	+12,815	4,057	5	3,922	+12,950
1910	+14,636	3,814	5	2,826	+15,624
Drapers' Mutual, 1909.					
1914	+ 2,836	1,152	Nil	Nil	+ 3,988
1913	— 1,993	1,173	Nil	Nil	— 820
1912	— 925	1,201	Nil	Nil	+ 276
Ecclesiastical, 1887.					
1914	+27,728	11,554	5	1,250	+38,032
1913	+26,566	11,218	5	1,250	+36,534
1912	+37,625	10,339	5	1,250	+46,714
1911	+31,085	8,918	5	1,250	+38,753
1910	+22,290	7,693	5	1,250	+28,733
Fine Art, 1890.					
1914	+20,025	14,853	27½	13,750	+21,128
1913	+38,574	13,021	25	12,500	+39,075
1912	+31,955	11,620	25	9,250	+34,325
1911	+12,527	11,437	20	7,400	+16,564
1910	+10,762	10,470	17½	6,475	+14,757
General Accident, 1885.					
1914	+ 630	See Accident Section.			
1913	+ 9,581				
1912	+ 6,900				
1911	−11,435				
1910	+13,163				
Guardian, 1821.					
1914	+41,082	73,249	10	100,000	+14,331
1913	+55,854	75,902	10	100,000	+31,756
1912	+45,027	73,344	10	100,000	+18,371
1911	+17,574	73,740	10	100,000	− 8,686
1910	+80,721	72,324	10	100,000	+53,045
Law Union and Rock (late Law Union and Crown), 1854.					
1914	+ 32,582	49,465	66⅔	95,288*	− 13,241
1913	+ 35,641	48,568	66⅔	95,591*	− 11,382
1912	+ 53,388	42,377	66⅔	95,598*	+ 167
1911	+ 30,315	48,265	54⅙	83,999*	− 5,419
1910	+ 49,433	48,532	54⅙	86,994*	+ 10,971
Legal, 1907.					
1914	+ 10,733	1,823	None		+ 12,556
1913	— 3,632	2,089	None		— 1,543
1912	— 25,651	3,180	None		— 22,501
1911	— 11,375	3,944	None		— 7,431
Liverpool and London and Globe, 1836.					
1914	+ 91,308	232,972	120	340,969*	− 16,789
1913	+315,029	203,955	120	347,072*	+171,912
1912	+239,064	240,622	110	322,568*	+157,118
1911	+223,051	211,735	110	296,240*	+138,546
1910	+406,102	216,282	110	254,441	+367,943
London and Lancashire, 1862.					
1914	+164,567	90,373	58	141,384	+113,556
1913	+254,418	96,261	54	134,308	+216,371
1912	+239,963	91,271	50	124,359	+206,875
1911	+269,127	80,398	46	114,410	+235,115
1910	+236,646	68,791	36	95,085	+210,352
London Assurance, 1720.					
1914	+ 48,676	67,871	20	89,655	+ 26,892
1913	+ 90,928	64,193	20	89,655	+ 65,466
1912	+113,623	60,490	20	89,655	+ 84,458
1911	+ 68,889	57,938	20	89,655	+ 37,182
1910	+110,783	53,559	20	89,655	+ 74,687
National of Great Britain, 1897.					
1914	+ 11,454	7,214	15	7,500	+ 11,108
1913	+ 14,112	6,813	15	7,500	+ 13,425
1912	+ 13,169	6,199	15	7,500	+ 11,868
1911	+ 11,228	5,856	15	7,500	+ 9,584
1910	+ 12,885	5,582	12½	6,250	+ 12,217
North British and Mercantile, 1809.					
1914	+ 18,254	235,050	32	234,906*	+ 18,402
1913	+196,896	213,861	32	240,125*	+170,632
1912	+254,115	191,385	32	240,125*	+205,375
1911	+ 80,020	187,980	32	240,125*	+ 27,875
1910	+324,576	164,480	32	220,220*	+268,836
Northern, 1836.					
1914	+ 88,065	83,003	45	124,774*	+ 46,294
1913	+134,167	83,800	45	127,125*	+ 90,842
1912	+115,774	81,567	40	113,000*	+ 84,341
1911	+124,814	79,710	40	113,000*	+ 91,524
1910	+182,737	76,499	40	120,000	+139,236
Norwich Union, 1797.					
1914	+ 53,750	93,556	53⅓	87,705*	+ 59,601
1913	+ 90,522	87,775	53⅓	88,140*	+ 90,157
1912	+109,965	79,321	50	83,997*	+105,289
1911	+ 77,907	74,190	50	83,997*	+ 68,100
1910	+157,985	68,206	50	83,997*	+142,194
Phœnix, 1782.					
1914	+ 71,425	134,240	40	207,074*	− 1,409
1913	+128,006	135,446	40	207,411*	+ 56,041
1912	+130,683	132,820	37½	197,556*	+ 65,947
1911	+ 94,862	117,557	35	139,366	+ 73,083
1910	+160,564	124,575	35	133,693	+154,446
Royal, 1845.					
1914	+252,668	319,509	93⅓	411,627*	+160,550
1913	+458,600	315,420	93⅓	419,990*	+353,030
1912	+472,750	287,195	83⅓	378,396*	+381,549
1911	+395,560	276,234	80	364,532*	+307,262
1910	+545,288	262,750	76⅔	350,668*	+457,370
Royal Exchange, 1720.					
1914	+ 26,638	58,824	10	68,922	+ 16,540
1913	+ 62,765	52,305	10	68,922	+ 46,148
1912	+ 75,196	50,682	10	68,922	+ 56,956
1911	+ 38,722	49,732	10	68,922	+ 19,532
1910	+112,293	62,556	10	68,922	+105,927
Scottish Insurance, 1877.					
1914	+ 418	268	See Accident Section		+ 686
1913	+ 1,341	216			+ 1,557
Scottish Union and National, 1824.					
1914	+ 28,479	53,092	20	60,000	+ 21,571
1913	+ 83,761	54,369	20	60,000	+ 78,130
1912	+ 87,012	51,624	17½	52,500	+ 86,136
1911	+ 33,916	51,489	17½	52,500	+ 32,905
1910	+ 73,218	49,110	17½	52,500	+ 69,828

* Includes interest on accident and marine funds.
† After deduction of income tax.
Marine and life profits contribute to dividend.

Includes employers' liability business. Capital increased 1913.

* Including Debenture interest.
Life and accident profits contribute to dividends.
Amalgamated with Rock, 1909.

Figures include business of accident and profits departments.

* Includes Debenture interest.
One-twelfth of above dividends contributed by life profits.
Accident, employers' liability and marine dividends also contribute to profits.

Marine and accident profits contribute to dividend.

Life, accident and marine profits contribute to dividend.

* Includes Preference dividend.
Life, accident and marine profits contribute to dividend.

* Less income tax.
Life and accident profits contribute to dividend.

Accident profits contribute to dividends.

* Including Debenture interest.
Capital increased 1911.
Life, marine and accident profits contribute to dividend.

* Including Debenture interest.
Life, marine and accident profits contribute to dividend.

Life, marine and accident profits contribute to dividend.

Life and accident profits contribute to dividend

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
State, 1891					
1914	– 7,842	8,050	12½	8,750	– 8,542
1913	+ 12,783	8,061	12½	8,750	+ 12,094
1912	+ 10,097	7,419	12½	8,750	+ 8,766
1911	+ 10,783	6,756	10	7,000	+ 10,539
1910	+ 24,161	6,086	10	7,000	+ 23,247
Accident profits contribute to dividend.					
Sun Fire, 1710.					
1914	+110,307	125,132	35	155,050	+ 80,289
1913	+128,925	134,484	35	158,200	+105,209
1912	+186,612	124,993	70	158 200	+153,405
1911	+127,554	113,831	60	135,600	+105,785
1910	+277,123	110,271	120	135,600	+131,794*
* After applying £120,000 to making shares £1 paid.					
Accident, employers' liability and burglary profits contribute to dividend.					
Paid-up capital increased from £240,000 to £480,000 in 1913.					
West of Scotland, 1886.					
1914	+11,987	4,179	15	4,847	+11,319
1913	+ 4,811	4,043	15	4,944	+ 3,910
1912	+ 3,377	3,768	15	4,944	+ 2,201
1911	+ 3,568	3,604	15	4,944	+ 2,228
1910	+ 5,512	3,409	12½	4,375	+ 4,546
Capital increased 1907.					
Accident, employers' liability and burglary profits contribute to dividend.					
Yorkshire, 1824.					
1914	+32,797	34,683	50	62,676	+ 4,804
1913	+55,105	34,442	50	48,226	+41,301
1912	+58,813	24,313	50	37,829	+45,297
1911	+27,083	22,465	50	37,829	+11,719
1910	+46,675	22,823	50	37,829	+31,669
Life and accident profits contribute to dividend. Paid-up capital increased in 1913 from £75,657 to £96,452, and further in 1914 to £125,289.					

ACCIDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS INSURANCE.

THE different classes of business, now very numerous, which fall under this head are of comparatively recent origin, and date back only about three-quarters of a century, to the time when the risks incurred by travellers on what were then the new-fangled railways assumed prominence in the public mind. More recently, and especiallly during the past 25 years, many new branches have sprung up, including those connected with employers' liability, workmen's compensation, burglary and motor risks. The latest development, though in this case the liability is assumed by the Government, and not by the offices, is insurance against risks from Zeppelin raids, which are not covered by the ordinary fire or accident policies.

We give a summary table, framed on the same lines as that relating to the fire companies, showing the position of the leading offices in 1914 as compared with 10 years previously. It will be seen that many of the fire and life companies now do accident business, and the tendency in this direction is steadily growing. This, of course, means increased stability, as not only individual but groups of risks are thereby averaged. The broad result shown by the Table is that funds are increasing at a considerably more rapid rate than premium incomes. As accident is a much newer development than fire insurance, the offices concerned in this branch are not in quite so strong a position as the fire companies. The percentage, however, of their funds to premium income shows a steadily rising tendency, while policyholders have in many cases the further protection of dealing with large companies, transacting business on such a scale that that concerning accident constitutes a minor branch.

TRADING RESULTS OF ACCIDENT OFFICES.

We have obtained particulars, similar to those furnished with regard to fire insurance, showing the results achieved by various leading accident offices during the past five years, a period which has marked considerable development in business in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Act. With some exceptions business was more profitable in 1914 than in 1913 owing to various causes. Of course the War was only in progress during a portion of last year, but its effect was not really injurious. The amount of business lost in enemy countries was small, while more was done at home. Workmen's compensation premiums were more remunerative than in previous years, and expansion took place in the burglary and fidelity branches.

It will be seen that many of the companies are able to provide the whole or a large part of their dividends out of interest earnings, while the rate of shareholders' remuneration tends on the whole steadily to increase.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Alliance, 1907.					
1914	+68.669				
1913	+55.124				
1912	+41,842	See Fire Section.			
1911	+30.279				
1910	+48.443				
Atlas, 1808.					
1914	+12,273	1.654			
1913	+5.308	1,100			
1912	+6,257	882	See Fire Section.		
1911	+6,488	743			
British Engine Boilers', 1878.					
1913	+15,737	5.729	21½	12.406	– 9.060
1912	+15,849	6.453	21½	12.784	– 9,518
1911	+14,992	6,313	21½	12.784	– 8,521
1910	+14,543	5,918	20	12,240	– 8.221
Business acquired by Royal Insurance Company.					
Car and General, 1903					
1914	+30,548	6 807	10	3,464*	+ 33.891
1913	+25,081	5,359	10	3.476*	– 26,964
1912	+23,283	4,203	7½	2.374*	+ 25,112
1911	+10,056	2,907	7½	1,666	+ 11,297
1910	+16,792	2.079	5	1.111	+ 17,760
* Includes Preference dividend.					
Century, 1885.					
1914	+ 6,088	19,007	32½	11.375	+13,720
1913	+12,329	18,437	32½	11.375	+19,391
1912	+12.734	15.682	32½	11.375	+17 041
1911	+ 4,493	10.880	30	10.500	+ 4.873
1910	+ 7,943	9,073	30	10.500	+ 6.516
Life and fire profits contribute to dividend.					
Commercial Union, 1900					
1914	+426.704				+426,704
1913	+306.793				+306,793
1912	+274.022	See Fire Section			+274.022
1911	+135 867				+135.867
1910	+227.663				+227,663
Acquired business of Accident Insurance Company, 1906, and of Ocean Accident, 1910.					
Employers' Liability, 1880					
1914	+203.410	80.544	40	80,000	+202.866
1913	+ 72 242	78.254	40	80,000	+ 70,996
1912	+172,301	69,756	35	70.000	+172 057
1911	+ 47.518	65.840	30	60,000	+ 53.358
1910	+ 49 913	62,741	27½	55.000	+ 57.654
General Accident, 1886					
1914	+ 89 499	36.513	Nil	Nil	+126.012
1913	+72 695	29 775	10	31.250*	+ 71.220
1912	+49.586	31.098	10	30,617*	+ 50.067
1911	+71,157	30,884	10	27,017*	+ 75.024
1910	+90,597	28,979	12½	29,998	+ 90.578
* Including Preference dividend.					
Paid-up capital increased between [illegible] and 1913 from £[illegible] to £400,000. [illegible]					
Gresham Fire and Accident, 1910.					
1914	–17.865*	7,817	None		–10.048
1912–13	–20,168	7,065	None		–19,400
* [illegible] Including [illegible]					

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Guardian, 1821.					
1914	+34,701	9,853			+44,554
1913	+32,551	8,654			+41,205
1912	+25,813	7,394	See Fire Section		+33,107
1911	+16,559	6,376			+22,935
1910	— 484	5,872			+ 5,388
Horse, Carriage and General, 1868.					
1914	+ 894	2,256	12	2,119	+ 1,031
1913	+ 2,034	2,231	12	2,119	+ 2,146
1912	+ 1,395	2,132	12	2,119	+ 1,408
1911	+ 702	1,986	10	1,766	+ 922
1910	— 347	1,902	10	1,766	— 211
Iron Trades' Employers, 1898.					
1914	+72,336	14,781	None*		+87,117
1913	+38,846	12,378	None*		+50,224
1912	+38,048	8,879	None*		+46,927
1911	+19,539	5,711	None*		+25,250

* Bonuses paid to members.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Law Union and Rock (late Law Union and Crown), 1806.					
1914	+16,702				
1913	+19,312				
1912	+18,215	See Fire Section.			
1911	+10,985				
1910	+ 6,186				
Licences, 1891.					
1914	+45,511	8,884	8	5,617	+48,878
1913	+35,486	9,249	8	5,617	+39,118
1912	— 5,083	8,910	8	5,607	— 1,780
1911	+23,775	8,932	8	5,577	+27,130
1910	+33,162	8,236	8	5,577	+36,821

Including fire and general business.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Liverpool and London and Globe, 1836.					
1914	+ 4,189				
1913	+ 39,507				
1912	—149,906	See Fire Section.			
1911	— 13,706				
1910	+ 5,886				
London and Lancashire Fire, 1901.					
1914	+100,509	16,048			+116,537
1913	+ 79,573	10,072			+ 89,645
1912	+ 63,155	9,013	See Fire Section.		+ 72,168
1911	+ 41,360	8,315			+ 49,675
1910	+ 17,731	7,574			+ 25,305
London and Lancashire Life, 1862.					
1914	+ 5,443	14,996	15	14,815	+ 5,625
1913	— 441	13,179	15	5,058	+ 7,680

Life and fire profits contribute to dividend.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
London Assurance, 1720.					
1914	+ 5,309	735			+ 6,044
1913	+ 5,921	836			+ 6,757
1912	+ 4,880	613	See Fire Section.		+ 5,493
1911	+ 3,726	443			+ 4,169
1910	+ 3,158	296			+ 3,454
London Guarantee and Accident, 1869.					
1914	+75,295	35,616	35¼	19,197*	+93,334
1913	+45,093	31,835	31¼	17,599*	+59,329
1912	— 2,540	29,077	None	1,250†	+25,287
1911	— 3,992	28,432	62½	31,500*	— 7,060
1910	+11,768	26,640	62½	31,500*	+ 6,908

* Dividend amounts include Preference dividend. Figures include fire insurance.
† Only Preference dividend paid.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Motor Union, 1906.					
1914	+56,957	12,076	22½	13,117*	+59,856
1913	+45,613	11,708	22½	11,673*	+45,648
1912	+28,830	6,849	20	4,320*	+31,359
1911	+15,884	4,053	15	3,252*	+16,685

* Dividend amounts include Preference dividend. Paid up capital increased in 1912, 1913 and 1914.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
National Boiler, 1864.					
1914*	+ 8,006	3,396	25⅝†	6,188	+ 5,214
1914	+15,579	6,878	28⅝	15,000	+ 7,457
1913	+16,674	6,239	24⅞	12,000	+10,193
1912	+15,636	6,101	21⅜	11,250	+10,487
1911	+10,196	6,101	21⅜	11,250	+ 5,407

* Half year to December 30, 1914. Company's year ended June 30 last from previous years. † Per annum.

North British and Mercantile (See Railway Passengers).

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Northern, 1836.					
1914	+22,482	4,538			+27,020
1913	+29,334	1,873	See Fire		+31,207
1912	+12,569	1,812	Section.		+14,381
1911	+11,066	1,347			+12,413
Norwich Fire (late Norwich and London).					
1914	+25,667				+25,667
1913	+71,955				+71,955
1912	+51,679	See Fire Section.			+51,679
1911	+36,874				+36,874
1910	+25,190				+25,190

FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE ACCIDENT OFFICES (000's omitted).

Name of Company.	Capital. Issued. £	Capital. Paid up. £	Capital. Reserved. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). 1914. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). 1904. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). Inc. or Dec. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). Inc. or Dec. %	Premium Income. 1914. £	Premium Income. 1904. £	Premium Income. Inc. or Dec. £	Premium Income. Inc. or Dec. %	Percentage of Funds (excluding Capital) to Premium Income. 1914.	Percentage of Funds (excluding Capital) to Premium Income. 1904.	Percentage of Funds (excluding Capital) to Premium Income. Inc. or Dec.
Century	315	35	280	237	131	+ 106	+ 81	66	43	+ 23	+ 53½	359	360½	— 1½
Commercial Union	2,950	295	2,655	1,990	913*	+1,077	+ 118	2,926	1,269*	+1,657	+ 130½	68½	72	— 3½
Employers' Liability	1,000	200	800	1,255	521	+ 734	+ 141	1,932	639	+1,293	+ 202	65	81½	— 16½
General Accident†	1,150	400	750	974	158	+ 816	+ 510	1,297	359	+ 938	+ 260½	75	44	+ 33
Guardian	2,000	1,000	1,000	207	25	+ 182	+ 728	201	20	+ 181	+ 900	103	125	— 22
Horse, Carriage and General ...	50	18	32	49	30	+ 19	+ 63	79	55	+ 24	+ 43¾	61	54½	+ 6½
Law Union and Rock	1,575	165‡	1,410	61	34*	+ 27	+ 79½	86	65*	+ 21	+ 32¼	71	52½	+ 18½
Licences	143	74	69	160	100	+ 60	+ 60	144	102	+ 42	+ 42	111	98	+ 23
London and Lancashire ...	2,641	264	2,377	463	161*	+ 302	+ 188	908	414*	+ 594	+ 143½	51½	40	+ 11½
London Guarantee and Accident	189	110	79	1,067	376	+ 691	+ 184	1,241	316	+ 925	+ 292¾	86	119	— 33
National Boiler and General ...	150	53	97	138	69	+ 69	+ 100	113	55	+ 58	+ 105½	122	125½	- 3½
Norwich Union Fire	1,100	132	968	336	229	+ 107	+ 46½	431	223	+ 108	+ 48½	78	102½	— 24½
Pearl	800	440	360	187	27	+ 160	+ 592½	32	22	+ 10	+ 45½	584½	123	+ 461½
Profits and Income	120	40	80	93	7	+ 86	+1,228½	141	26	+ 115	+ 434½	66½	27	+ 39½
Provident Clerks' and General Guarantee and Accident	209	85	124	214	162*	+ 52	+ 32½	141	59*	+ 82	+ 139	153	274½	—121½
Railway Passengers§	1,000	200	800	282	257	+ 25	+ 4¾	420	292	+ 128	+ 43	67	88¾	— 21¾
Royal Exchange...	689	689		262	45	+ 217	+ 482	108	117	— 9	— 7¾	242½	38½	+204
Scottish Insurance	150	30	120	128	73	+ 55	+ 75⅓	118	62	+ 56	+ 90¼	108½	117½	— 9½
Scottish Life	250	50	200	22	17	+ 5	+ 23⅓	7	7	—	—	314	243	+ 68
Sun Life	480	480	—	1,602	463	+1,139	+ 247	133	120	+ 13	+ 11	1,204⅛	386	+818⅛
Vulcan Boiler	375	188	187	85	43	+ 42	+ 98	157	108	+ 49	+ 45½	54¾	39½	+ 15¼
Yorkshire...	846	125	721	215	10	+ 205	+2,050	430	30	+ 400	+1,333	50	33	+ 17
Total...	18,182	5,073	23,109	10,027	3,851	+6,176	+ 160¾	11,111	4,403	+6,708	+ 152⅝	90¼	87⅜	+ 2¾

* Figures of Offices now amalgamated. † Include Fire Funds and Premiums. ‡ Also Debenture Stock, £251,726.
§ Capital now vested in North British and Mercantile.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Pearl (late London, Edinburgh and Glasgow).					
1914	+ 6,063	2,172	—	—	+ 8,235
1913	+11,329	4,137	—	—	+15,466
1912	+ 3,219	3,695	-	—	+ 6,914
1911	+ 4,121	9,463	—	—	+13 584
1910	+ 4,789	659	—	—	+ 5,448

Bonuses to policyholders out of ultimate surplus: 1913, £2,366; 1912, £2,178; 1911, £2,307; 1910, £2,296.

Phœnix, 1907.					
19 4	+19,557				
1913	+14,237				
1912	+ 5,896	See Fire Section.			
1911	+19,082				
1910	+17,721				
Profits and Income, 1901.					
1914	+13,312	2,688	6	2 200*	+13,800
1913	+ 7,738	3 943	6	2,203*	+ 9,681
1912	— 3,896	3,830	6	2.200*	- 2,266
1911	+ 6,944	2,460	6	2,200*	+ 7,204
1910	— 1,633	3,336	5	2,000*	— 297

* Including Preference dividend. Life profits contribute to dividends

Provident Clerks', 1865.					
1914	+14,290	12.039	20	15,689*	+10,640
1913	+18,735	11,362	20	16.008*	+14.089
1912	+13.052	10.544	20	17,000	+ 6,596
1911	+10,808	10,125	20	17,000	+ 3,933
1910	+10,060	10,039	20	17,000	+ 3,099

* Less income tax.
Marine profits contribute to dividend.

Railway Passengers, 1849.					
1914	+80,742	11,046	—	—	+99,788
1913	+62,608	11,442	—	—	+74,050
1912	+19,495	10,994	—	—	+30,489
1911	+24,650	20,706	—	—	+45,356
1910	— 582	19,721	—	25,500*	— 6,361

* Interest paid to former shareholders for first nine months of 1910.
Business acquired by North British and Mercantile.

Royal, 1845.					
1914	+101,830				+101,830
1913	+154,616				+154,616
1912	+148.183	See Fire Section.			+148,183
1911	+ 6,472				+ 6,472
1910	+ 46,886				+ 46,886
Royal Exchange, 1899.					
1914	+44,489	5,139			+49,628
1913	+47,029	4,463			+51,492
1912	+36,087	3,616	See Fire Section.		+40,703
1911	+19,147	3,317			+22 464
1910	+10,100	3,116			+13,216
Scottish Insurance (late Scottish Accident), 1877.					
1914	+10,312	6,236	20	5,533*	+11,011
1913	+14,297	6,191	20	5,650*	+14,838
1912	+ 4,638	6,030	20	5,650*	+ 4,998
1911	+ 9,356	5,067	20	6,000	+ 8,423
1910	+15,789	4,879	20	6,000	+14,668

Life and fire profits contribute to dividends.
* Less income tax.

Scottish Life, 1881.					
1914	+ 1,918	3,251	10	5,000	+ 169
1913	+ 1,234	3.361	10	5 000	— 405
1912	+ 964	3,410	10	5,000	- 626
1911	+ 1,245	3.372	10	5,000	— 383
1910	+ 2,697	2,707	10	5,000	+ 404

Life profits contribute to dividend.

Scottish Union and National, 1824.					
1914	+14,147	1,660			+15,807
1913	+11.827	1,839			+13.661
1912	+ 6,893	1,569	See Fire Section.		+ 8,462
1911	+ 1,242	1,589			+ 2,831
1910	— 2,639	—			— 2,639
State, 1891.					
1914	+ 6,506				+ 6,506
1913	+ 5,874				+ 5,871
1912	+ 1,420	See Fire Section.			+ 1,420
1911	+ 1,483				+ 1,483
1910	+ 2,009				+ 2,009

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Sun Life, 1810.					
1914	+ 34,357	63,792	10	48,000	+ 50,149
1913	+ 75,111	58,160	10	48.000	+ 85,271
1912	+109,957	52,460	10	48,000	+114,417
1911	+ 56,704	47,060	10	38,400	+ 65.364
1910	+ 58,832	42,616	10	38,400	+ 63,048

Life funds contribute to profits. Figures include sinking fund and capital redemption business. Dividends [illegible]: 1914

Yorkshire, 1824.					
1914	+53,582	9,096			+62.678
1913	+28.586	7,079			+35,665
1912	+15 387	5.148	See Fire Section.		+20.535
1911	+ 4.040	4,055			+ 8,095
1910	— 3,451	3,133			— 318

MARINE INSURANCE.

THE War necessarily had an important effect upon marine insurance business during the closing months of 1914, but the result on profits was by no means detrimental. For one thing rates rose to a more remunerative level, which seems to have more than compensated for the extra risks involved, which, thanks to the vigilance of the Navy, were not so serious as might have been expected. Even the temporary operations of the *Emden* were by no means serious. The effect of the War on marine business this year has still to be revealed, but as rates have again had a downward tendency, profits may suffer somewhat. Apart from war risks the 1914 experience was on the whole favourable.

Apart altogether from inevitable fluctuations in the yearly results, most of the leading offices occupy so strong a financial position that they can pay their dividends largely or wholly out of interest earnings. The large table below contrasts the position of offices in 1914 with that in 1904 on the same lines as that adopted in connection with fire and accident insurance. While some relative depletion of funds have occurred during the last decade, their proportion to premium income is still very high and affords very ample protection to policyholders.

PROFITS OF THE MARINE COMPANIES.

The accounts of marine offices are at first sight rather complicated and confusing. Risks of this character are as a rule undertaken on the basis of a voyage or series of voyages rather than for any fixed period, and this is the reason of the practice, which many companies follow, of placing a considerable sum to suspense account at the end of each year, to provide for indeterminate risks outstanding, and to deal fully with the actual profit and loss of any particular year only some time after it has expired. We adopt, however, for the purpose of the detailed summary, a simpler method, arriving at the trading surplus or deficiency by deducting from the premium income all losses and expenses paid during the year in question, whether they were actually incurred during that year or not, also allowing for any allocation to suspense account necessary to wind up the account for the previous years. By this method the profit and loss account for any given year may be larger or smaller than it ultimately works out, but the average for a period of five years is sufficiently trustworthy.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
***Alliance, 1824.**					
1914	+99.467	20.544			
1913	+26.226	19,032			
1912	+34,089	18 224	See Fire Section.		
1911	+27,500	18,850			
1910	+28.553	18,786			

* Formerly Alliance Marine.
No transfer to Insurance Suspense Account.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
British and Foreign Marine, 1863.					
1914	+ 98,219	79,732	28⅕	70,838	+107,113
1913	+ 70,562	75,151	28⅕	70,978	+ 74,735
1912	+ 88,933	70,421	28⅕	70,978	+ 88,376
1911	+111,112	65,472	28⅕	70,978	+105,606
1910	+ 37,062	65,122	25	67,000	+ 35,184

Now under control of Royal Insurance Company.

Commercial Union, 1861.					
1914	+182,297	*	See Fire Section		+182,297
1913	+100,009	*			+100,009
1912	+ 91,349	*			+ 91,349
1911	+ 89,651	*			+ 89,651
1910	+102,389	*			+102,389

* See Fire Section.

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

Liverpool & London & Globe (late Thames and Mersey, 1860).					
1914	+ 59,078	15,902	See Fire Section.		+ 74,980
1913	− 25,964	36,760			− 10,796
1912	− 5,224	36,424	17½	35,000	− 3,800
1911	+ 33,033	35,642	17½	35,000	+ 33,675
1910	+ 61	35,104	17½	35,000	+ 165

No transfer now to underwriting suspense account.

London and Lancashire (late Standard).					
1914	+ 32,992	7,373	See Fire Section		+ 40,365
1913	+ 52,355	7,337			+ 59,692
1912	+ 51,269	6,932			+ 58,201
1911	+ 42,776	6,149			+ 48,925
1910	+ 30,433	5,223			+ 35,656

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

London and Provincial Marine, 1860.					
1914	+ 63,760	12,176	Nil	Nil	+ 75,936
1913	+ 29,417	9,877			+ 39,394
1912	+ 41,819	8,621	5	5,000	+ 45,440
1911	− 42,236	9,401	6	6,000	− 39,375
1910	− 28,162	10,252	6	6,000	− 23,910

Now under control of World Marine Insurance Company.

London Assurance, 1720.					
1914	+105,591	14,926	See Fire Section		+120,517
1913	+ 42,750	14,300			+ 57,050
1912	+ 72,271	12,430			+ 84,701
1911	+ 21,102	11,610			+ 32,712
1910	+ 26,915	10,657			+ 37,572

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend. %	Dividend. £	Surplus or Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Marine, 1836.					
1914	+182,111		15	90,000	+ 92,111
1913	+ 69,086		15	90,000	+ 20,914
1912	+ 66,866		15	90,000	− 23,134
1911	+125,993		15	90,000	+ 35,993
1910	+103,599		44⅘	80,000	+ 23,599

Premiums and interest earnings not separately stated.
Capital (paid up) increased in 1911 from £180,000 to £600,000.

Maritime, 1864.					
1914	+ 86,493	21,786	17½	*	—
1913	+ 25,489	18,685	12½	11,773†	+ 34,401
1912	+ 23,220	16,989	10	10,000	+ 30,209
1911	+ 12,328	16,229	10	10,000	+ 18,557
1910	+ 32,475	15,822	10	10,000	+ 38,297

* Amount not stated. † Less income tax.
Now under control of Scottish Union and National.

Merchants' Marine, 1871.					
1914	+ 63,578	17,754	7½	9,375	+ 71,957
1913	+ 22,295	15,075	7½	9,375	+ 27,995
1912	− 41,379	13,610	7½	9,375	− 37,144
1911	+ 13,274	13,429	7½	9,375	+ 17,328
1910	− 47,065	13,152	6	7,500	− 40,913

Ocean Marine, 1859 (now a Subsidiary of North British and Mercantile).					
1914	+ 46,572	27,527	20	19,387*	+ 54,712
1913	+ 42,505	27,000	20	19,775*	+ 49,730
1912	+ 32,358	23,539	20	20,000	+ 35,897
1911	+ 56,962	21,934	20	20,000	+ 58,896
1910	+ 23,319	21,313	20	20,000	+ 24,632

* Less income tax.

Phœnix (late Union Marine).					
1914	+169,840	20,045	See Fire Sectn.		+189,885
1913	+ 43,206	33,719	13	21,555	+ 55,370
1912	+ 89,873	31,280	13	21,255	+ 99,898
1911	+ 67,848	27,705	13	21,255	+ 74,928
1910	+ 8,551	25,988	13	21,255	+ 13,284

Provident Clerks' and General, 1865.					
1914	+ 35,500	883	See Accident Section.		+ 36,383
1913	+ 19,304	3 5			+ 19,339

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE MARINE OFFICES (000's omitted).

Name of Company.	Capital. Issued. £	Capital. Paid up. £	Capital. Reserved. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). 1914. £	Funds (exclusive of Capital). 1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Premium Income. 1914. £	Premium Income. 1904. £	Inc. or Dec. £	Inc. or Dec. %	Percentage of Fund (excluding Capital to Premium Income 1914.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.
Alliance	5,450	1,000	4,450	438	399	+ 39	+ 9¾	218	151	+ 67	+ 44¾	201	266	− 65
British and Foreign	1,340	268	1,072	1,983	1,355	+ 628	+ 45	495	387	+ 108	+ 28	400	350	+ 50
Commercial Union	2,950	295	2,655	1,001	552	+ 449	+ 81½	474	248	+ 226	+ 90½	211¼	222⅓	+ 11¼
Liverpool & London & Globe (late Thames & Mersey)	2,655	266*	2,389	1,417	1,149	+ 268	+ 23¼	337	463	− 126	− 27¼	420½	250	+170
London and Lancashire (late Standard)	2,641	264	2,377	194	268	− 74	− 27¼	235	102	+ 133	+ 130½	82½	262¾	−180¼
London and Provincial Marine	1,000	100	900	249	351	− 102	− 28½	303	296	+ 7	+ 2¼	83	118½	− 35½
London Assurance	895	448	448	450	296	+ 154	+ 52	465	248	+ 217	+ 87½	98¾	115¼	− 19½
Marine	1,000	600	400	721	1,080	− 359	− 33¼	458†	305†	+ 153	+ 50¼	157½	354	−196½
Maritime	500	100	400	484	490	− 6	− 1¼	286	273	+ 13	+ 5	169½	180	− 11½
Merchants'	500	125	375	171	269	− 98	− 36¼	264	199	+ 65	+ 32½	64¼	85	− 20¾
Ocean Marine (North British & Mercantile)	1,000	100	900	546	417	+ 129	+ 32	524	172	+ 352	+ 204½	108	242½	−134½
Reliance	500	100	400	299	225	+ 74	+ 33¼	137	120	+ 17	+ 14¼	218¼	187½	+ 30¾
Royal Exchange	689	689	—	309	216	+ 93	+ 43	359	193	+ 166	+ 86	86	112	− 26
Sea	500	500	—	758	793	− 35	− 4½	469	286	+ 183	+ 64	161½	277	−115½
Union (shares owned by Phœnix)	3,211	423	2,788	911	835	+ 76	+ 94½	713	460	+ 253	+ 55	128	182	− 54
World	250	100	150	254	212	+ 42	+ 20¾	244	190	+ 54	+ 28½	104	111⅓	− 7
Total	25,082	5,378	19,704	9,185	8,907	+1,278	+ 14⅕	5 981	4,093	+1,888	+ 46	153½	217¼	− 63¾

Also Debenture stocks for £1,256,495.

† Includes interest.

Year.	Trading Surplus or Deficiency. £	Interest Earnings. £	Dividend %	Dividend £	Surplus Deficiency on Year after Dividend. £
Reliance Marine, 1881.					
1914	+19,974	13,326	17½	16,151*	+17,149
1913	+23,209	12,789	15	14,125	+21,873
1912	+23,044	11,716	15	14,125	+20 635
1911	+23,833	10,616	15	14,125	+20,024
1910	+15,358	9,833	12½	12,500	+12,691

* Less income tax.

Royal Exchange, 1720.				
1914	+74,360	3,923		+78,283
1913	+20,356	3,720		+24,076
1912	+12,312	3,767	See Fire Section	+16 079
1911	+45,604	3,795		+49,399
1910	+18,877	3,852		+22,729

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

Sea, 1875.					
1914	+102,858	42,316	8	36,917	+108,257
1913	+ 30,690	40,190	8	37,666*	+ 33,214
1912	+ 41.691	37,930	8	37,666*	+ 41,955
1911	+ 12,712	36,829	35	35,000	+ 14,541
1910	+ 42,963	35,424	30	30,000	+ 48,387

* Less income tax.

Paid-up capital increased in 1912 from £100,000 to £500,000.

World Marine, 1894.					
1914	+32,094	11,594	5	5,000	+38,688
1913	+13,197	8,827	5	5,000	+16,424
1912	+ 3,556	10,658	5	5,000	+ 9,214
1911	+18,261	7,310	5	3,006	+22,565
1910	−15.145	7.516	5	3.006	−10.645

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.
Paid-up capital increased in 1912 from £60,120 to £100,000.

Yorkshire, 1824.				
1914	+168,972	12,746		+181,718
1913	+170,683	7,169		+177.852
1912	+ 11,851	3,327	See Fire Sect.	+ 15,178
1911	+ 68.334	1,754		+ 70,088

No transfer to underwriting suspense account.

INSURANCE SHARES AS INVESTMENTS.

THE previous contents of this Supplement afford ample materials for judging not merely as to the attractions which insurance shares generally offer to investors, but what the position of any particular company is from this point of view. Speaking broadly, the particulars of various kinds make it clear that companies transacting all classes of business are thoroughly sound financially, while as regards individual concerns the fullest data are afforded for forming a critical judgment. Purely life offices are showing steady expansion and have increasing resources, while their funds are now employed very profitably. The necessity for providing for capital depreciation is the only adverse factor, and even this is not likely to affect dividend distributions, except in special cases. Fire companies have very large resources, and their business is conducted on such lines that the shareholders are likely to receive increased benefits in the future. Accident undertakings have for some years past been steadily improving their position, and have shown great ability to meet new conditions in a way satisfactory both to policy and share holders. Marine companies, whose profits necessarily fluctuate from year to year, are in many cases able to provide the present rates of dividend wholly out of interest earnings; and the increasing number of offices transacting all classes of business are able to show steady general progress. Hence the detailed figures given on the next page deserve the careful attention of all those desirous of at once securing safety, good yields, and increasing remuneration in the future.

The table contains, first of all, the amount of capital, both subscribed and paid up, and then the nominal value per share, with the amount paid up thereupon. The uncalled liability may appear large, but it is really for the most part nominal, and on no occasion for many years have calls been other than very infrequent. Then follow the rates of dividend for the last eight years, which in many cases have shown a decided upward tendency, and approximate present prices and yields. As regards share quotations, the fact that the market is in most cases, and particularly at the present time, a somewhat narrow one renders any figures which can be given no absolute guide as to the terms on which purchases or sales can be effected, as a pressure, either of buyers or sellers, may cause considerable fluctuations. In calculating the yields, allowance has been made for accrued dividends, and also for the full deduction of the present rate of income tax, an important allowance as matters stand at present.

A matter worthy of careful attention from the investment standpoint is the remarkable steadiness of insurance share values. For a long time past securities generally have been steadily depreciating, and during the past eight and a-half years Consols have fallen from 84 to 58½, but insurance shares have varied remarkably little, and in not a few cases have actually appreciated. The following figures are noteworthy in this connection:—

	Share Paid up	Price, July 1907	Price, Dec. 1915
Atlas...	1	5½	6½
Clerical, Medical and General ...	2½	18¾	20½
Equity and Law	5	22	24½
Legal and General	5	16½	17½
Merchants' Marine	2½	2⅞	3⅞
Royal Exchange (stock)	100	185	184½

BRITISH GENERAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Head Office - 66 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.
Managing Director - - NORMAN M. WALKER.

WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED
BY THE GOVERNMENT
TO INCOME TAX PAYERS,

Whereby a considerable proportion of the TAX may be invested at Compound INTEREST for the ultimate benefit of the TAXPAYER or his family.

Particulars of Special Forms of Policy drafted to secure the fullest advantages to be derived from the GOVERNMENT SCHEME to encourage THRIFT may be obtained from the

BRITISH GENERAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INSURANCE SHARES: AMOUNTS, DIVIDENDS, PRICES AND YIELDS.

	Capital Subscribed	Capital Paid Up	Shares Nom. Value	Shares Paid Up	Dividends. * Indicates Dividend is paid Less Income Tax. 1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	Approximate Present Price Per Share	Per Cent.	Yield ‡ £ s. d.
	£	£	£	£	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	£	£	
Alliance Ass. Original shares ...	500,000	350,000	20	21	22.73	22.73	22.73	27.273*	27.273*	27.273*	27.273*	27.273*	9	409	6 17 0
Do. New shares ...	450,000	450,000	1	1	50	50	50	60*	60*	60*	60*	60*	10¾	1,075	5 14 5
Atlas Assurance Shares ...	1,000,000	264,000	10	1¼	20.83	20.83	20.83	25	25	31¼*	33⅓*	33⅓*	6½	521	6 10 0
British General shares ...	200,000	50,000	1	5s.	5*	5*	5*	5*	5*	6*	8*	10*	½	200	5 0 9
British Law Fire Ins. shares ...	1,000,000	100,000	10	1	16	17½	17½	20*	20*	20*	20*	17½*	5⅞	287½	6 5 0
Do. do. do. ...	50,000	50,000	1	1									2⅛	368¾	4 16 10
Caledonian Insurance shares ...	537,500	107,500	25	5	15	20	24	24	24	24	24	24*	16½	322½	7 9 1
Century Insurance shares ...	315,000	35,000	4½	10s.	25	25	25	30*	30*	32½*	32½*	32½*	4⅝	557½	6 2 8
Cler., Med. & Gen. Life shares	500,000	50,000	25	2½	32†	32†	32†	32†	36†	36†	36†	36†	20½	820	5 10 2
Commercial Union Ass. shares	2,950,000	295,000	10	1	60†	60†	65	77.166†	80*†	90*†	100*†	100*†	22	2,200	4 10 11
Eagle Insurance shares ...	1,678,675	167,867	5	10s.	6.63†	6.66†	6.66†	6.66†	6.66†	6.66*	6.66†	5†	4s.	40	16 13 4
Edinburgh Life shares ...	500,000	100,000	100	20	10†	10†	10	10	10†	10†*	8†*	8†*	32½	168¾	4 15 10
Employers' Liability shares ...	1,000,000	200,000	10	2	20	20½	25	27½	30	35	40	40	14½	712½	6 19 6
Eng. & Scot. Law Life shares ...	1,000,000	70,000	50	3½	12½	12½	12½	12½	13½	13½	13½	13½	8	228½	7 11 6
Equity & Law Life shares ...	1,000,000	60,000	100	6	18¾	18¾	18¾	23¼	23¼	23¾	23¾	23¾	24½	412	7 12 1
Fine Art & General	500,000	50,000	10	1	12	15	17½	17½	20	25	25	27½*	6½	650	4 5 0
Gen. Acc. Fire & Life shares ...	1,000,000	250,000	5	1¼	12½*	12½*	12½*	12½*	10*	10*	10*	nil	5⅞	58	—
Do. 5% Pref. shares	153,000	153,000	1	1	—	—	—	—	5*	5*	5*	5*	2⅝	67½	7 8 2
General Life Ass. shares ...	1,000,000	50,000	100	5	10	10	13	10	10	10	10	10	6⅜	127½	9 11 4
Gresham Life shares partly paid	91,320	13,698	5	15s.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3⅛	200	*a*10 11 9
Do. do. fully paid	8,680	8,680	5	5									8⅝	140	*a*8 6 0
Guardian Ass. shares	2,000,000	1,000,000	10	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	7½	136¼	7 15 0
Indemnity Mut. Marine shares	1,005,000	201,000	15	3	20	16.66.	16.66	16.66	16.66	16.66	16.66	16	9½	304	8 2 1
Law Union & Rock Ins. shares	1,500,000	90,000	10	12s.	54.16	54.16	54.16	54.16	54.16	66.666*	66.666*	66.666*	5	833	8 6 8
Do. do. do.	75,000	75,000	1	1	32½	32½	32½	32½	32½	40.000*	40.000*	40.000*	6¼	625	6 12 3
Legal & Gen. Life shares ...	1,000,000	160,000	50	8	10½	10½	10½	10	10	15	15	15	17½	218¾	8 11 4
Life Assoc. of Scotland shares	400,000	87,500	40	8¾	11½	11½	11½	13.428*	13.428*	13.428*	13.428*	13.428*	20	229	6 0 5
Liv. & London & Globe shares	2,655,250	265,525	10	1	90	90	95	110*	110*	110*	120*	120*	19	1,900	6 6 4
London & Lancs. Fire shares...	2,641,250	264,125	25	2½	32	32	32	36	46*	50*	54*	58*	25½	1,015	5 15 5
Lon. & Lancs. Life & Gen. shares	333,825	66,765	5	1	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	2	200	9 9 0
London Ass. Corp. shares ...	896,550	448,275	25	12½	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	12¾	320	6 9 3
London Guar. & Acc. shares ...	125,000	50,000	5	2	45	55	55	62½*	62½*	Nil	31¼*	31¼*	14½	515½	6 2 6
Do. do. 5% Pref. shares	25,000	25,000	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	5*	5*	5*	4¾	105	4 16 5
Marine Insurance shares ...	1,000,000	600,000	25	15	44.4*b*	44.4*b*	44.4*b*	44.4*b*	15 *	15*d*	15*d*	15*e*	34⅝	230¾	6 14 4
Merchants' Marine Ins. shares	500,000	125,000	10	2½	6	6	6	6	7½	7½	7½	7½	8¾	155	6 0 0
Motor Union shares	98,000	19,600	10	2	5*	7½*	7½*	10*	15*	20*	22½*	22½*	6¾	348¾	6 13 4
Do. 5½% Cum. Pref.	177,544	172,544	1	1	—	—	—	—	5½*	5½*	5½*	5½*	1⅝	90	6 5 9
Nat. Boiler & Gen. Ins. shares	150,000	52,500	10	3½	20	20	20	20	21.428	22.857	28.571	27½	17	485¼	5 13 4
Nat. Ins. Co. of Gt. Britain ...	250,000	50,000	5	1	10	10	12½	12½	15	15	15	15	3⅛	344¼	5 9 1
N. Brit. & Mercantile shares ...	2,750,000	687,500	25	6¼	28*	28*	28*	32*	32*	32*	32*	32*	23	464	6 17 11
Do. 4% Preference stock ...	1,750,000	1,750,000	100	100	—	4*	4*	4*	4*	4*	4*	4*	77½	77½	5 6 0
Northern Assurance shares ...	3,000,000	300,000	10	1	30	37½	37½	40.925	40*	40*	45*	45*	6¾	681¼	6 13 9
Norwich Union Fire shares ...	1,100,000	132,000	25	3	41½	41½	41½	50*	50*	50*	53⅓*	53⅓*	29⅝	996	5 10 0
Pearl Life Assurance shares ...	100,000	100,000	5	5	40	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	40	800	7 19 0
Do. partly paid	400,500	40,500	5	½									8¾	1,750	3 10 9
Do. 6% Cum. Pref. ...	300,000	300,000	1	1	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	1 3/16	130	4 14 6
Phœnix Assurance shares ...	3,097,550	309,755	10	1	30	30	30	35*	35*	37½*	40*	40*	5⅞	587½	6 17 4
Do. Pelican shares... ...	113,100	113,100	1	1	30	30	30	35*	35*	37½*	40*	40*	6¾	681¼	5 18 6
Provident Clerks' & Gen. Guar. &	3,880	3,104	10	8	20	20	17½	20	20	20*	20*	20*	13	325	6 5 9
Accident shares	204,740	81,896	10	4											
Prudential Assurance shares ...	1,000,000	1,000,000	1	1	52½	53½	55	56½	57½	59	60	60*dd*	9¾	975	*dd*6 16 7
Reliance Marine shares ...	500,000	100,000	10	2	12½	12½	12½	12½	15*	15*	15*	17½*	6⅞	318¾	5 12 11
Royal Exchange Ass. stock ...	689,220	689,220	100	100	8	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	184½	184½	*g*5 13 10
Royal Insurance shares ...	2,944,080	441,702	10	1½	66.66	66.66	71.66*	76.66*	80*	83⅓*	93⅓*	93⅓*	24½	1,650	5 13 1
Scottish Insurance shares ...	150,000	30,000	5	1	15	15	17½	20	20	20*	20*	20*	3⅛	312½	6 10 1
Scottish Life Assurance shares	250,000	50,000	5	1	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	1⅝	175½	7 4 2
Scottish Temp. Life shares ...	100,000	25,000	1	5s.	13	13	13	13	13	15	15	16*	¼	310	5 7 5
Scot. Union & Nat. Ins. "A"	4,956,900	247,845	20	1	17½	17½	17½	17½	17½	17½	20*	20*	2¾	275	7 5 6
Do. do. do. "B"	139,080	52,155	10	3¾									10¾	287	7 4 5
Sea Insurance shares	500,000	500,000	10	10	30	30	30	30	35*	8*f*g*	8*g*	8*g*	17½	172½	4 14 11
Standard Life Ass. shares ...	500,000	120,000	10	2½	10	10	10	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	4⅞	203	7 9 6
Star Assurance shares	100,000	5,000	1	1s.	5*h*	5*h*	5*h*	5*h*	200*j*	200*j*	233⅓*j*	233⅓*j*	2½	4,250	5 14 3
State Insurance shares... ...	560,000	70,000	8	1	5	7½	7½	10*	10*	12½*	12½*	12½*	1⅝	187½	6 14 9
Sun Insurance shares	2,400,000	480,000	10	2	100*k*	100*k*	100*k*	120*k*	60*m*	70*m*	35*m*	35*m*	11½	567	6 7 3
Sun Life Assurance shares ...	480,000	480,000	10	10	10.66†	10.66†	10.66†	10.66†	10.66†	10†*o*	10†*p*	10†*p*	21¼	212½	4 16 5
Trustees Ex. & Sec. Ins. Ord. Stk.	525,000	525,000	100	100	5	4½	4½*	5*	5*	5½*	5½*	5*	82½	82½	6 4 3
Do. 4½% Cum. Pref. stock	525,000	525,000	100	100	4½*	4½	4½*	4½*	4½*	4½*	4½*	4½*	90	90	5 2 7
Vulcan Boiler & Gen. shares ...	375,000	187,500	5	2½	18	20	20	24.496*	25*	25*	25*	25*	8⅞	355	7 6 0
West of Scotland Ins. shares...	175,000	35,000	5	1	12½	12½	12½	12½	15*	15*	15*	15*	3⅞	312½	4 19 2
World Marine Insurance shares	250,000	100,000	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1⅓	90	6 16 6
Yorkshire Insurance shares ...	800,000	80,063	5	1s.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	4½	900	6 15 9
Do. do. (£1 paid) ...	45,226	45,226	1	1									10½	1,012½	6 0 6

† Includes proportion of quinquennial bonus.

‡ Yield allowing for accrued dividend, and subject to income tax at 6*d.* in the £ in all cases.

(*a*) *Gresham*: In arriving at these yields account has been taken of the quinquennial life bonus of 31*s.* 6*d.* paid May 1911.

(*b*, *c*, *d*) *Marine Insurance*: (*b*) Div. *free* of income tax on shares £4 10*s.* paid. (*c*) In Aug. 1911 div. of £10 10*s.*, *free* of tax, paid out of reserve fund and applied to meet a call of same amount. (*d*) Div. *less* income tax on shares £15 paid.

(*dd*) *Prudential*: Yield on div. of 55 % paid in 1915.

(*e*, *f*, *g*) *Sea*: (*e*) Dividend on shares £2 paid. (*f*) In 1912 a bonus of £8 per share was paid. (*g*) Dividend on shares £10 paid.

(*h*, *i*, *j*) *Star*: (*h*) Dividend on shares 25*s.* paid. (*i*) In addition a bonus of £6 13*s.* 6*d.* per share was paid in 1909. (*j*) Dividend on shares 1*s.* paid. Beyond dividend of 2*s.* per share (200 per cent.), shareholders expect to participate in quinquennial bonus.

(*k*, *l*, *m*, *n*) *Sun*: (*k*) Dividend on shares with 10*s.* paid. (*l*) In addition a bicentenary bonus of 100 per cent. was paid. (*m*) Dividend on shares with £1 paid. (*n*) Dividend on shares with £2 paid.

(*o*, *p*) *Sun Life*: (*o*) In addition scrip div. of 2½%. (*p*) Div. on shares fully paid. Former divs. on shares £7 10*s.* paid.

(*q*) *Royal Exchange*: Interim div. raised 1% to 9%, less tax. Yield on basis of div. of 10½% paid for year to June 1915.

INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES DESCRIBED.

NOTE.—*Prices of shares and yields are given as approximate estimates on basis of recent quotations, allowance being made in yield for accrued interest, and tax being added to dividends at 3s. 6d. in £1 on gross amount, where dividends are declared free of income tax, in computation of yield.*

ABSTAINERS AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 142 Edmund Street, Birmingham; London Office, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C. Founded as the "Blue Ribbon Life, Accident, Mutual and Industrial Insurance Company, Limited," in 1883; name changed in 1890. Capital authorised, £203,125; subscribed December 31, 1914, £97,500; paid up, £22,500, in 120,000 shares of 16*s.* 3*d.* each with 3*s.* 9*d.* paid. A dividend is payable December 31, 1915, at the rate of 8 per cent., as in the previous year.

Transacts life and industrial business, and also fire, accident, and general insurance, a department for these descriptions having been opened in November 1907. In life department premium rates are considerably below the average. The triennial valuation at close of 1912 was made on a net 3 per cent. interest basis by the O^M Mortality Table, and the net interest yield on the life fund in 1914 seems to have been about £3 15*s.* 1*d.* per cent. Bonuses to participating policyholders, triennium to 1912, 21*s.* per cent. per annum, these bonuses vesting in case of new policies in second calendar year. Net new sums assured in 1914, £286,437. Life premium income, 1914, £111,507. Expenses about 19·9 per cent. Death claims, 1914, £15,811; incidence of mortality has been consistently very favourable. Life assurance fund at close of 1914, £804,556. Industrial premium income, £4,851. Industrial fund, £47,969. Fire premiums, £3,212. Fire fund, £8,294. Accident premiums, £320; Accident fund, £1,131. General premiums, £835; General fund, £813. Leasehold redemption premiums, £249; fund, £2,778. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £919,918. List of investments is given, and auditors report that investments in Stock Exchange securities are taken at or less than figures shown in valuation balance sheet on December 31, 1912, or at cost or less where acquired since that date. Establishment expenses for £9,000 are classed amongst assets.

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C. Established 1824. Acquired undertakings of Imperial Insurance Company, Limited, and Imperial Life Insurance Company in 1902, of the Alliance Marine and General Assurance Company in 1905, of the Westminster Fire, County Fire, and Provident Life offices in 1906, the Law Fire Insurance Society in 1907, and the Economic Life Assurance Society in 1911. Capital authorised and subscribed, £5,450,000, and paid up, £1,000,000, in 250,000 original shares of £20 each with £2 4*s.* paid and 450,000 new shares of £1 each fully paid. Both denominations of shares, irrespective of the difference between the amount from time to time paid or credited thereon, carry equal rights to dividend and to participation in assets on a winding up. The shareholders are entitled to one-fifth of the divisible surplus at quinquennial valuations of the Alliance life fund. This is a larger proportion than usual. On the other hand, life policyholders are very liberally treated in other respects; for example, their department is managed at a cost of not more than 10 per cent. of the premiums.

In respect of the years 1910–14 inclusive, dividends have been declared at the rate of 12*s.* per share per annum, less income tax. Price of partly paid shares, £9; yield, £6 17*s.* per cent. Price of fully paid shares, £10 15*s.*; yield, £5 14*s.* 3*d.* per cent. The Company is strong, influential, and excellently managed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The loss ratio in each of the 10 years preceding 1906 was very moderate, lying between 43 and 56 per cent. of the premiums. In 1906 the ordinary losses were under 45 per cent., but there were also heavy losses, amounting to £466,342, paid or provided for in connection with the San Francisco conflagration and earthquakes on the Pacific coast of America. In 1907, 1908 and 1909 the loss ratio was under 43 per cent., in 1910 under 39 per cent., in 1911, 47¼ per cent., in 1912 under 36 per cent., and in 1913 and 1914 about 43 per cent. In 1914 the premiums, increased by £13,245, amounted to £1,360,874; losses and charges in connection therewith, including contributions to fire brigades, to £585,812; and expenses, inclusive of commission, to £513,405 (37.7 per cent.). The surplus on trading amounted to £261,657, while the net interest earnings credited to this department were £84,784, and after transfer of these sums (£5,298 being added to reserve for unexpired risks) to profit and loss account the fire fund on December 31, 1914, amounted to £2,121,357, this representing about 156 per cent. of the year's premium income, or about four times the amount usually set aside in a fire office as a specific provision for unexpired risks.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 in this department the net new sums assured amounted to £1,440,424; the total net premium income to £1,173,135, of which expenses absorbed £115,901, or about 9·9 per cent.; claims by death £1,035,293, and by survivance £191,157; and life assurance funds at close of year to £16,706,112. The net interest yield on these funds seems to have been about £4 0*s.* 8*d.* per cent. These figures are inclusive of those of the Imperial Life, Provident Life, and Economic funds. The annuity fund at close of 1914 amounted to £1,548,006, a sum of £81,928 having been received as consideration for new annuities.

The quinquennial valuation at close of 1913 (excluding Imperial and Provident policies) was made for assurances on a strong basis: O_M Mortality Table, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest, with additional reserves for various purposes. The total divisible profit was £839,951, and the policyholders' share gave bonuses on Alliance "New Series" participating policies at the excellent "compound" rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum. The surplus on December 31, 1913, in the Economic fund enabled the directors to allot a compound reversionary bonus of 27*s.* per cent. per annum. A valuation of the Imperial Life fund on January 31, 1911, disclosed a profit over preceding quinquennium of £313,359, of which £215,818 was treated as divisible profit, and of that amount the Alliance shareholders' proportion was £40,000, which was carried to the profit and loss account for 1911. Imperial securities were written down in that year by £12,939. The quinquennial valuation of the Provident Life fund at December 31, 1912, showed a surplus of £320,924, of which £11,602 was carried to the Alliance profit and loss account as the shareholders' proportion, the balance being divisible amongst the Provident participating policyholders. Provident securities were written down at the valuation by £54,241.

LEASEHOLD, &C., DEPARTMENT.—The fund in this department amounted on December 31, 1914, to £821,432. Premiums in 1914, £82,167.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.—The marine insurance premiums in 1914 amounted to £290,064, and the marine fund at end of year to £466,584. The marine underwriting surplus was £70,744, which was carried to profit and loss account, together with interest earnings on the marine fund amounting to £20,544.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—This department for personal accident (including workmen's compensation) and burglary insurance business was opened in 1907 The personal accident premium income in 1914 amounted to £10,996, and the personal accident fund on December 31, 1914, to £19,041. Employers' liability premiums on business transacted within the United Kingdom amounted to £126,916, and the relative fund at end of year, including £57,218 in respect of outstanding claims, to £282,012. Miscellaneous insurance premiums amounted to £68,439, and the relative fund to £184,606.

The general account showed receipts of £14,996 and a fund of £99,346.

GENERALLY.—After providing for dividend rates mentioned a balance is carried forward to 1915 in profit and loss account of £638,191, as compared with £556,403 in the previous year. The total assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £24,835,288.

ARMY, NAVY AND GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 217 Piccadilly, London, W. Established 1901. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed, £25,000, in cumulative Preference shares of 5*s.* each, the paid-up capital on December 31, 1914, amounting to £20,000.

The Company transacts accident, fire, burglary and miscellaneous (including horse) insurance business, and specially provides in such matters for the requirements of military and naval officers and officials of the Indian Civil Service. It has agencies in the principal British military and naval stations at home and abroad. It also acts as agent for the National Mutual Life Assurance Society for life assurance business, and possesses the sole agency for that Company in India.

The accounts for the year ended December 31, 1914, show that the net premiums amounted to £17,574, and the assets at close of year to £26,100 (including purchase of business account, £10,800, and development and branch organisation account, £4,000).

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 92 Cheapside, London, E.C. Established 1808. Capital subscribed, £2,200,000, in 220,000 shares of £10 each, £1 4*s.* paid; paid up, £264,000. In 1904 the Company acquired the goodwill and undertaking of the Manchester Assurance Company, and the absorption was completed in 1905. In 1911 a controlling interest in the Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurancee Society was acquired, and in this connection the Company has outstanding £98,922 "Essex and Suffolk" Four per Cent. Debenture stock. The Company transacts life, leasehold, and fire insurance, and a department for accident, burglary and fidelity business was opened in 1907. A dividend of 8*s.* per share, less income tax, was declared in respect of the year 1914. Price of shares, £6 5*s.*; yield, 6¼ per cent.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Net premiums in 1914 amounted to £1,039,954; losses (including contributions to fire brigades) to £583,619; and expenses, including commission and taxes, to £402,717. After adjustment of the reserve for unexpired risks on the basis of 40 per cent. of the premium income, as in the previous year, the fire underwriting of the year showed a profit of £87,354, which was carried to profit and loss account. Interest earnings on the fire fund amounted to £41,151. The fire reserves (including reserve for unexpired risks) thereafter amounted to £1,219,064, or to 117 per cent. of the year's departmental premium income, as compared with 111 per cent. at close of 1913.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—New business, 1914, £598,583, after deduction of reassurances. Net life premium income, £212,942. Claims by death, £135,915 ("well within the expectation"). Expenses, about 12·6 per cent. of premiums. Life funds at close of 1914, £2,279,946, including life investment reserve fund of £60,000. Interest yield, after deduction of income tax, about £4 0*s.* 10*d.* per cent.

A quinquennial valuation was made at December 31, 1914. Mortality table used, $O^{M(5)}$; interest assumed, 3 per cent. Total profit ascertained for quinquennium, including £1,147 brought forward, £297,821, of which £37,277 had been paid during the quinquennium as interim bonuses and in reduction of premiums. After writing down securities by £93,503 and setting aside an investment reserve of £60,000, the available cash surplus amounted to £106,797, out of which "compound" reversionary bonuses were declared on participating policies of 20*s.* per cent. per annum, leaving £244 to be carried forward. Life policyholders are treated with

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

35 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: NATDIS, STOCK, LONDON. Telephones { No. 1484 AVENUE (2 lines). No. 11948 CENTRAL.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

Subscribed Capital	...	**£4,233,325**
Paid-up Capital	...	**846,665**
Reserve Fund	...	**505,000**

Directors.

EDMUND THEODORE DOXAT, Esq., Chairman.
SIGISMUND FERDINAND MENDL, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

LAWRENCE E. CHALMERS, Esq. | WALTER JAMES HERIOT, Esq.
FREDERICK WILLIAM GREEN, Esq. | The Hon. SIDNEY PEEL.
F. LEVERTON HARRIS, Esq., M.P. | CHARLES DAVID SELIGMAN, Esq.

Manager.
PHILIP HAROLD WADE.

Sub-Manager.—FRANCIS GOLDSMITH.

Secretary.
CHARLES HENRY GOUGH.

Bankers.
BANK OF ENGLAND.
UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

Approved Mercantile Bills Discounted.

Money received on Deposit at Call and Short Notice, and Interest allowed at the Current Market Rates; and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

Loans granted upon Negotiable Securities.

Investments and Sales of all descriptions of British and Foreign Securities effected. All communications on this subject to be addressed to the Manager.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK LIMITED.

Capital, 156,250 Shares of £50 each, £7,812,500.
Paid-up Capital, £1,250,000. Reserve Fund, £650,000.

Directors:

CHARLES SUMNER HOARE, *Chairman.*

CAPT. GERARD POWYS DEWHURST, *Deputy-Chairman.*
WILLIAM BARROTT MONTFORT BIRD.
WILLIAM FRANCIS COURTHOPE.
GEORGE REYNOLDS DAVIES.
JOHN FRANCIS WILLIAM DEACON.
MAJOR E. A. J. JOHNSON-FERGUSON.
JOHN WANKLYN MCCONNEL.
WILLIAM ALDAM MILNER.
HENRY GARWOOD SEAMAN.
COL. SIR ROBERT WILLIAMS, BART., M.P.
BENJAMIN GEORGE WOOD.
GEORGE HERVEY WOOD.

Joint General Managers { J. CRAIG. R. T. HINDLEY.
Assistant General Manager: JOHN MOODIE.

London Office:—20 BIRCHIN LANE, E.C.
Manager: J. J. MEAGHER.

Manchester Office:—MOSLEY STREET.
Manager: HAROLD BRADBURN. *Secretary*: E. A. WILLIAMS.

Metropolitan Branches:

BROMPTON AND EARL'S COURT—Coleherne Court, Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, S.W.
CHARING CROSS—2 Cockspur Street, S.W.
CHEAPSIDE—127 Cheapside, E.C.
MARYLEBONE—Hôtel Great Central, Marylebone Roa N.W.
ST. MARY AXE—22 St. Mary Axe, E.C.
WESTMINSTER—21 Victoria Street, S.W.

111 Country Branches, including BAKEWELL, BLACKBURN, BLACKPOOL, BOLTON, BURY, BUXTON, CHESTERFIELD, CHORLEY, FLEETWOOD, LYTHAM, MATLOCK, ORMSKIRK, PRESTON, ROCHDALE, ROTHERHAM, SALFORD, SHEFFIELD, ST. HELENS, SOUTHPORT, STOCKPORT, WIGAN, &c.

liberality, as the shareholders take no portion of a valuation surplus, contenting themselves with a small annual contribution, which in 1914 amounted to £6,085, less than 3 per cent. of the year's life premiums.

Sinking Fund and Capital Redemption Account.—Premiums in 1914, £16,559; interest, &c., £3,744. Departmental fund increased from £103,806 to £113,387.

Employers' Liability, Accident and General Account.—Premiums, £55,791. Fund at close of year, £57,950, including £11,551 in respect of outstanding liabilities.

Generally.—After provision for the dividend for 1914 the funds of the Company (apart from capital and Debenture stock) amounted to £3,762,640. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £4,474,372, certified in the directors' belief as in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less the amounts of the investment reserve funds.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Broad Street Corner, Birmingham; London Office: 1 Finsbury Square, E.C. Formerly known as the British Workman's and General Assurance Company, Limited. Established 1866. Capital subscribed December 31, 1914, £179,992; paid up £82,497, some shares being fully and others partly paid. Amount of each share, £1. Dividends and bonuses paid to shareholders in 1914, £35,617.

This Company transacts both ordinary and industrial life business. In its ordinary department in 1914 the new sums assured amounted to £403,042; the total premiums to £252,012; claims by death to £65,611, and by survivance to £83,556; expenses of management, inclusive of commission, to £35,505 (about 14·1 per cent.), and funds at close of year to £1,595,499. Annual valuation was made December 31, 1914, and after making an addition of £50,000 to the investment reserve fund and a special provision of £40,000 for exceptional liabilities arising under the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, 1914, a reversionary bonus at 26*s.* per cent. was declared. The net interest yield in 1914 was about £4 5*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

In the industrial department in 1914 the total premiums amounted to £1,068,613, claims and surrenders to £529,992, commission and expenses to £450,540 (about 42·1 per cent. of the premiums), and funds at close of year to £1,883,216. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £3,817,351.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARINE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

(*See also* **Royal Insurance Company, Limited.**)

Head Office: 5 Castle Street, Liverpool; London Office: 1 Old Broad Street, E.C. Established 1863. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,340,000; paid up, £268,000. Shares £20 each, on which £4 is paid up and added. Dividend for 1914, £1 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, being equivalent to 28½ per cent., less income tax, was more than covered by interest earnings, irrespective of trading profits. The Company does one of the largest marine insurance businesses in the kingdom. An agreement was entered into in 1908 whereby the Royal Insurance Company, Limited, purchased and assumed the control of this Company.

The underwriting account of 1913 was closed in 1914 with a profit of £78,514. The earnings from interest, less income tax, amounted to £79,732. The premiums received in 1914 amounted to £495,343, and the first year's settlements absorbed 26·5 per cent. of this sum, as compared with 33·8 per cent. in the 1913 account. After provision for dividend and income tax on profits, there was a balance of £203,065 at the credit of profit and loss account. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £2,444,472.

BRITISH CROWN ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

Chief Offices: 183 West George Street, Glasgow; 110 Cannon Street, London, E.C. Established 1907. Capital authorised, £500,000; subscribed, £250,000; paid up on December 31, 1914, £100,000, in 50,000 shares of £5 each with £2 paid. No dividend was declared in respect of the year 1914.

Transacts fire, accident, marine, and general insur-

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital, £31,304,200.

Paid up Capital, £5,008,672. Reserve Fund, £3,600,000.

Chairman: RICHARD VASSAR VASSAR-SMITH.
Deputy-Chairman: J. W. BEAUMONT PEASE.

(*June, 1915.*)

Deposit and Current Accounts	£134,524,366
Cash in Hand, at Call and at short notice	38,475,209
Bills of Exchange	18,478,619
Investments	23,321,715
Advances & other Securities	59,740,811



THIS BANK HAS OVER 880 OFFICES IN ENGLAND & WALES.

Colonial and Foreign Department: 17, Cornhill, E.C.

Head Office:
71, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

FRENCH AUXILIARY:—
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED, 26, Avenue de l'Opéra, PARIS,
with Branches at BORDEAUX, BIARRITZ and HAVRE.

ance business. During the year ended December 31, 1914, the net premium income in all departments amounted to £129,343, the interest and fees to £2,654, the net losses to £85,327, and the expenses, inclusive of commission, to £56,097. The revenue account showed a balance of £5,148, subject to unexpired risks. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £105,148.

BRITISH DOMINIONS GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 1 Royal Exchange Avenue, London, E.C. Established 1904. Capital on December 31, 1914: authorised, £600,000; subscribed, £580,002; paid up, £345,002, in 50,000 Ordinary shares of £3 with £1 paid, 42,667 Ordinary shares of £3 fully paid, 60,000 Ordinary shares of £3 with 15*s.* paid, and 40,667 Preference shares of £3 fully paid. Since the close of last year the authorised capital has been increased to £1,000,002. The Company acquired in 1914 the business of the North Western Insurance Company, Limited, and the figures of that Company's business are included in the B.D.G. Company's accounts for 1914. In 1915 the Company acquired the business of the United Dominions Insurance Company, Limited, and the subscribed capital of the B.D.G. Company thereafter will be £779,481, with £381,780 paid up. The principal figures are as follows for the year to December 31, 1914: Marine Revenue Account—Premiums, £104,110; losses, £263,228; carried to balance sheet: reserve fund, £70,000; investments reserve fund, £3,500; revenue account balance, £281,739. Fire and General Revenue Account—Premiums, £206,033; to balance sheet, £87,306. Balance sheet shows reserve fund of £100,000, investment reserve fund of £42,000, fire and general fund of £87,306, marine fund, £265,851. Dividends were declared on Preference shares at 6 per cent., less tax, on January 1, 1915, and on the Ordinary shares at 6 per cent., less tax, for the year 1914, at the annual meeting in March 1915. In respect of the year 1915 interim dividends for first half-year have been paid at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Preference shares, and 7 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Ordinary shares. Assets, December 31, 1914, £872,112.

BRITISH ENGINE, BOILER AND ELECTRICAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

In 1912 the Royal Insurance Company (*q.v.*) acquired the shares of this Company.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 1–3 Queen Street Place, London, E.C. Established 1854. Capital authorised, £500,000, and subscribed, £300,000; paid up, £34,500. Shares are for £10 each with £1 3*s.* paid up, 3*s.* of which was provided by a special dividend in respect of 1913. From and after the valuation on January 31, 1909, when the amount of the shareholders' undivided profits (£33,786) was transferred to the life assurance fund, a new arrangement, in accordance with new memorandum and articles of association, came into force, whereby 2*s.* 6*d.* per share per annum is payable to the shareholders, and in addition they are to receive 10 per cent. of the surplus disclosed in the life department and 50 per cent. of the divisible profits arising in the other departments. The dividend during the current quinquennium has been fixed at 3*s.* per share per annum.

The quinquennial valuation on January 31, 1914 was made for assurances by O^M Mortality Tables, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. The profit for the quinquennium was £154,986, to which has to be added £10,684 brought forward from the last valuation, making a total of £165,670. Of this sum, £42,223 was applied to writing down securities, £1,250 to valuation expenses, £7,815 to dividend to shareholders during quinquennium, £5,469 was paid in interim bonuses to policyholders, and £3,800 was set aside to commence a staff pension fund. After deducting these amounts there was an available balance of £105,113, of which £88,750 was divided among policyholders, £6,501 hypothecated to provision for early payment of claims, and £9,862 carried to profit and loss in respect of the shareholders' share of profits. The reversionary bonus declared was

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA,

38 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

CAPITAL - - - £1,200,000
RESERVE FUND - £1,800,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.
Sir HENRY STEWART CUNNINGHAM, K.C.I.E.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
The Right Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
T. H. WHITEHEAD, T. FRASER, *Managers.*
W. E. PRESTON, *Sub-Manager.*

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

AMRITSAR	HONG KONG	PENANG
BANGKOK	ILOILO	PUKET
BATAVIA	IPOH	RANGOON
BOMBAY	KARACHI	SAIGON
CALCUTTA	KLANG	SEREMBAN
CANTON	KOBE	SHANGHAI
CEBU	KUALA LUMPUR	SINGAPORE
COLOMBO	MADRAS	SOURABAYA
DELHI	MALACCA	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
FOOCHOW	MANILA	TIENTSIN
HAIPHONG	MEDAN	YOKOHAMA
HANKOW	NEW YORK	

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
THE LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts payable at the above Agencies and Branches, and transact general Banking business connected with the East. Deposits of money are received for fixed periods at terms which may be ascertained on application; interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below £200.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ESTABLISHED IN 1817.

Head Office:
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.
London Office:
29 THREADNEEDLE STREET.

Paid-up Capital	**£3,500,000**
Reserve Fund	**2,600,000**
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	**3,500,000**
	£9,600,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji, and Port Moresby and Samarai in Papua (British New Guinea), and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on Terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian Banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

21*s.* per cent. per annum on ordinary with-profit policies, and 24*s.* per cent. per annum on policies in the life abstainers' section. With-profit policies becoming claims in the current quinquennium will receive interim bonuses at the rate of 15*s.* per cent. per annum.

The Company in 1905 commenced the transaction of fire, burglary and accident insurance. The fire business is confined to non-hazardous risks.

In the year ended January 31, 1915, in the life department, the net new sums assured amounted to £162,532. Total life premium income amounted to £108,266; the claims to £172,879 (the amount of those arising by death, £92,041, being 90 per cent. of the "expectation"); expenses in life department to about 22.6 per cent. of life premiums; life fund at close of year to £1,559,544, and net interest yield to about £3 17*s.* per cent. Fire, accident and general premiums (net) of £27,401 and employers' liability premiums of £2,849 were received. Fire, accident and general fund, £45,212. Employers' liability, &c., fund, £1,737. These funds are irrespective of further provision for outstanding claims. Total assets on January 31, 1915, £1,705,987. About two-thirds of assets were invested in ground-rents.

BRITISH GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 66 Cheapside, London, E.C. Established 1904. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £200,000; paid up, £50,000, in 200,000 shares of £1 with 5*s.* paid. In July 1914 an issue of 100,000 shares of £1 each, 5*s.* paid, was made at a premium of 5*s.* 6*d.* per share. Dividend for 1914, 10 per cent., less income tax, was more than covered by interest earnings. Price of shares, 10*s.*; yield, £5 0*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

The Company transacts life, fire, burglary, accident and miscellaneous insurance. Premium income from fire, accident and general departments in 1914 after deduction of reinsurances, £150,875; interest earnings, &c., £4,869; claims and bonus to assured, £71,560; balance of profit and loss account at close of 1914, £43,812, of which £5,000 was placed to investment reserve, £10,000 to special life reserve, £20,000 to general reserve, and £1,000 written off furniture and stationery. Assets, December 31, 1914, £202,872.

BRITISH LAW FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 5 Lothbury, London, E.C. Established 1888. On December 31, 1914, the nominal capital was £1,100,000; subscribed, £1,050,000; paid up, £150,000. There were at that date 100,000 shares of £10, with £1 paid up, and 50,000 fully-paid shares of £1, the fully-paid shares having been issued in 1907 at a premium of £2 15*s.*, producing a premium of £137,500. Dividend for 1914 was 17½ per cent. less income tax. Price of partly paid shares, £2 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, 6¼ per cent.; price of fully paid shares, £3 13*s.* 9*d.*; yield £4 16*s.* 10*d.* per cent.

During the 26 years of its existence this Company has been well managed. It has a strong legal board, all the directors being past or present members of leading London firms of solicitors. The business is mainly in non-hazardous risks, consequently the premium income is not so large as it might easily have been made, but it gives a high proportionate profit. In 1914 the fire premium income amounted to £110,526, after deduction of reinsurances, showing an increase of £1,923, and the losses, including charges for fire brigades and salvage corps, amounted to £39,748, or to 36 per cent. During the past 13 years the loss ratio has always been under 40 per cent. Expenses are somewhat high—in 1914 about 46·8 per cent.; but the general result was satisfactory, for last year's trading profit may be estimated to have amounted to about 16·5 per cent. of the premiums, irrespective of interest. The Company a few years ago opened an accident department. The employers' liability account is separately shown in accordance with the form prescribed under the Act of 1909. The premiums in this section amounted in 1914 to £12,782, and the relative fund at end of the year was £17,535, including £2,422 reserved

THE
UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS BANK,
LIMITED.
(Established 1830.)

Authorised Capital . . . £25,000,000 Paid-up Capital . . . £3,554,785 10s.
Subscribed Capital . . . £22,934,100 Reserve Fund . . . £1,150,000 0s.
Number of Proprietors—upwards of 10,500.

DIRECTORS.

Sir FELIX SCHUSTER, Bart., Governor. LINDSAY ERIC SMITH, Esq., Deputy Governor.

ERNEST W. BARNARD, Esq.
THEODORE BASSETT, Esq.
ALFRED F. BUXTON, Esq.
CHARLES C. CAVE, Esq.
JOHN ALAN CLUTTON-BROCK, Esq.
JOHN DENNISTOUN, Esq.
HORACE GEORGE DEVAS, Esq.
H. W. DRUMMOND, Esq.
A. B. LESLIE-MELVILLE, Esq.
JOHN MEWS, Esq.
ROBERT FENTON MILES, Esq.
HENRY W. PRESCOTT, Esq.
KENNETH L. C. PRESCOTT, Esq.
BERTRAM ABEL SMITH, Esq.
EUSTACE ABEL SMITH, Esq.
GERALD DUDLEY SMITH, Esq.
HERBERT FRANCIS SMITH, Esq.
Rt. Hon. C. B. STUART WORTLEY, K.C., M.P.
ARTHUR M. H. WALROND, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Sir ALGERNON WEST, G.C.B.
CHARLES H. R. WOLLASTON, Esq.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE—2 PRINCES STREET, E.C.

MANAGERS.
H. H. HART (Town and Foreign). L. E. THOMAS (Country).

F. W. ELLIS, Assistant Manager.
H. G. HOLDERNESS, Deputy Assistant Manager.

H. R. HOARE, Secretary. L. J. CORNISH, Assistant Secretary.

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT—2 Princes Street, E.C.
LOMBARD STREET OFFICE (SMITH, PAYNE AND SMITHS), 1 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
CORNHILL OFFICE (PRESCOTT'S BANK, LIMITED), 50 CORNHILL, E.C.

The Bank has numerous Branches in London and the Suburbs and Branches or Agents in all the principal Cities and Towns in the United Kingdom, and Correspondents throughout the World.

TERMS.—Current Accounts.—These are kept according to the usual custom of London and Country Bankers.
Deposit Accounts.—Deposits are received at Interest, subject to notice of withdrawal, or by special agreement in accordance with the usual custom.

GENERAL BUSINESS.—The Agency of Country and Foreign Banks, whether Joint Stock or Private. Circular Notes and Letters of Credit issued for all parts of the Continent of Europe and elsewhere. Purchases and Sales effected in all the British and Foreign Stocks and Securities. Dividends on Stocks and Shares, the half-pay of Officers, Pensions, Annuities, &c., received for customers without charge.
The Officers and Clerks connected with the Bank are required to sign a Declaration of Secrecy as to the transactions of any of its customers.

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS.—The Bank, having the necessary powers, is prepared to undertake the Office of Executors, Trustees and Custodian Trustees, on terms particulars of which can be obtained from the Head Office or at any Branch of the Bank.

NOTE.—In pursuance of the Treasury Regulations it is hereby stated that no liability attaches to the Consolidated Fund of the British Government in respect of any act or omission of the Bank.

for outstanding claims. The general insurance account shows premiums of £9,757 and a fund of £3,903. The receipts from interest and fees, less income tax, amounted to £15,060. On December 31, 1914, after provision for dividend, the balances and reserves, exclusive of investment reserve funds, amounted to £261,718, representing over 197 per cent. of the year's premium income, and disclosing a very strong position. Assets, December 31, 1914, £482,807. The Stock Exchange securities held on December 31, 1913, were valued at the price on that date and those since acquired at cost price. The depreciation shown on this basis was more than provided for by the investment reserve fund of £24,431.

BRITISH LEGAL AND UNITED PROVIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office: 78 New Oxford Street, London, W.C.; Registered Office: 89 West Regent Street, Glasgow. Established 1863. Authorised capital, £250,000. On June 30, 1915, paid-up capital £196,128, in 169,850 shares of £1 fully paid and 52,557 shares of £1 with 10*s.* paid.

This Company represents an amalgamation (in 1909) of the "British Legal" and "United Provident" offices.

Transacts life and industrial business. In the financial year to June 30, 1915, premiums and funds were as follows: Industrial premiums, £304,266; funds, £358,056; ordinary life premiums, £14,533; funds, £85,020; sickness, &c. premiums, £198; funds, £3,434. Assets, June 30, 1915, £731,631, include £297,734 in respect of "organisation expenses and extension, including purchase of businesses."

BRITISH LIFE OFFICE, LIMITED.

Head Office: 154 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow. Established 1896. Capital authorised, £100,000; subscribed and paid up, £25,000, in fully-paid £1 shares. No dividend was declared in respect of 1914.

The Company transacts life and bond investment business and makes advances on security of house property in combination with life policies. It issues policies of £25 and upwards.

In 1914 the premiums in the life account amounted to £3,813, and the life fund at close of year to £29,136. In the "annuities certain account" the fund at close of year was £51,028. In the "bond investment and endowment certificate account" the premiums were £11,587 and the fund was £76,635. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £193,976, including £5,035 "establishment and extension of business account." Investments in mortgages of property within the United Kingdom amounted to £151,780. The last quinquennial valuation took place on December 31, 1914, when the unappropriated surplus in the life branch was £720, after transferring £2,500 to the Investment Reserve Fund.

BRITISH WIDOWS' ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 1 Old Street, London, E.C. Established 1902. Capital authorised, issued, and paid up December 31, 1914, £100,000, in 20,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, 6,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, issued as fully paid in respect of goodwill, and 2,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each.

The Company "transacts industrial and ordinary life assurance business, and also grants industrial assurances, specific premiums for which, included in the price of tea supplied by the Company, are carried to the life assurance fund."

Industrial premiums in 1914, £72,305; industrial fund, £31,585; ordinary life premiums, £4,955; life fund, £14,901. Trading account: sales, £44,943; purchases and expenses of distribution, £44,571; stock at end of year, £1,852.

Assets, December 31, 1914, £241,585, include goodwill (£60,000) and establishment account and provision of life assurance fund (£128,062).

THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts, and in New Zealand by Special Act of the General Assembly.

HEAD OFFICE:

17 Moorgate St., London, E.C.

Authorised Capital - -	**£3,000,000**
Subscribed Capital - -	**2,250,000**
Paid-up Capital - -	**750,000**
Reserve Fund - - -	**685,000**
Uncalled Capital - - -	**1,500,000**

DIRECTORS.

ROBERT LOGAN, Esq., *Chairman.*

JAMES H. B. COATES, Esq. | Hon. W. PEMBER REEVES.
Hon. HENRY STUART LITTLETON. | THOMAS SEABER, Esq.
EDMUND CHARLES MORGAN, Esq. | LINDSAY ERIC SMITH, Esq.

Secretary and London Manager—HENRY F. FRESHWATER.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND. LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.
THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Chief Office in New Zealand, WELLINGTON.

D. W. DUTHIE, *General Manager.*

Branches and Agencies in New Zealand.

Alexandra South
Auckland
Auckland, Symonds St.
Auckland, Newmarket
Auckland, Newton
Balclutha
Kaitangata Agency
Owaka Agency
Blenheim
Christchurch
Cromwell
Dargaville
Aratapu Agency
Kaihu Agency
Ruawai Agency
Te Kopuru Agency
Dunedin
Dunedin, North
Dunedin, South
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Gore
Waikaka Agency
Greymouth
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Invercargill
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CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Offices: 19 George Street, Edinburgh; 82 King William Street, London, E.C. Established 1805. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed, £537,500; paid up, £107,500. Amount of each share, £25, whereof £5 paid. An issue of £100,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures, repayable in 10 years, was made in 1907, the amount outstanding at December 31, 1914, being £30,000. Dividend declared in 1915, 24*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £16 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £7 9*s.* 1*d.* per cent. Originally the shareholders were entitled to one-sixth of the divisible life profits, but at the annual meeting in 1903 a resolution was passed reducing their share to one-tenth.

The Caledonian transacts life, fire, employers' liability, burglary and personal accident business, and is the oldest Scottish insurance Company. The quinquennial valuation of the life department at end of 1912 was made on the net premium system as before, the table of mortality used for the valuation of assurances having been the British Offices' O^M Table, except for survivorship assurances, where the Carlisle Table was employed. Annuities were valued by the Government Annuity Tables, 1883. The rate of interest assumed was 3 per cent. throughout. The surplus for the quinquennium amounted to £273,475, from which, however, £27,517 was deducted, £7,517 being written off marketable securities and £20,000 being carried to a reserve account. The net surplus accordingly amounted to £245,958. The sum of £207,157 was treated as divisible surplus, of which £12,436 had already been allocated to participating policyholders during the quinquennium in the form of interim bonus. The shareholders' proportion of the divisible surplus was £20,716, leaving £174,005 to be distributed as quinquennial bonus to participating policyholders. The reversionary bonuses to whole-of-life policies were at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, and on endowment assurances the rate was 25*s.* per cent. per annum. A balance of £51,237 was carried forward to the next valuation.

In 1914 the net new life business amounted to £702,980. The total net life premium income amounted to £286,104 (of which expenses absorbed about 13·6 per cent., allowing for annuities), death claims to £150,976, endowment claims to £60,144, and life funds at close of year to £3,462,827. The net interest yield on the life funds was about £4 6*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

The fire premiums in 1914 amounted to £449,704, and the fire losses (£289,457) and expenses (£168,166, including taxes) to £457,623. Interest earnings (including rents) on the fire funds amounted to £11,773. A sum of £4,834 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the fire funds at close of year amounted to £352,899, of which £200,000 was reserve fund and £152,899 a reserve for unexpired risks. A balance of £79,808 was carried forward to 1915 in profit and loss account, after provision for dividends. As the result of the operations above referred to the fire funds and balance of profit and loss account (after dividend) carried forward together represented over 96 per cent. of the fire premium income. In employers' liability department premiums in 1914 amounted to £24,103, and fund at close of year, less provision for outstanding claims, to £15,667. Personal accident, &c., premiums, £2,613; fund (exclusive of outstanding claims), £3,154. Leasehold redemption premiums, £2,864; fund, £13,807. General insurance premiums, £4,325; fund, £2,379. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £4,274,672.

CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

Head Office: 83 Pall Mall, London, S.W. Established 1903. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed at January 1, 1915, £125,000, in shares of £1: 90,011 shares with 5*s.* called and 9,989 with 1*s.* called; also 25,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, fully paid; the paid-up capital amounting to £48,002. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was declared for the year on the Ordinary shares. The net premiums for 1914 amounted to

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(Established 1817.)
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Rest, $16,000,000. **Undivided Profits, $1,252,864.**

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London Committee:
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£348,452, interest and sundry receipts to £8,503, claims paid to £188,863, and expenses and commission to £126,273. In addition to capital, the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, showed reserves and balances, after provision for dividend (exclusive of reserve for claims outstanding, £75,000), aggregating £142,023. Expenses incurred in establishing offices and agencies amounting to £15,000 appear in balance sheet amongst assets aggregating £294,823.

CENTRAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co.)

CENTURY INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Offices: 18 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh; 27 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. Established in 1885 as the "Sickness and Accident Assurance Association, Limited"; name changed as above, 1901. Capital subscribed at December 31, 1914, £315,000; paid up, £35,000. Shares for £4 10*s.* each with 10*s.* paid. Dividend for year 1914, 3*s.* 3*d.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £2 13*s.* 9*d.*; yield, £6 2*s.* 8*d.* per cent. Shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the profits in the life departmnet.

This Company transacts ordinary life assurance business, in addition to fire, burglary, sickness and accident insurance. The life department is increasing in importance. In 1914 life policies were issued for £357,033 in net sums assured; the net life premium income amounted to £110,264 (increased by £11,154), and the life funds at close of year (increased by £108,768) to £818,932 (including £10,000 reserve fund). Net interest yield on life fund in 1914, about £4 3*s.* 5*d.* per cent.; expenses about 9·9 per cent. of life premiums.

A quinquennial valuation was made at December 31, 1912, on a strong basis (O^M Table of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest), and bonuses were declared at the excellent compound rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum.

In the fire, sickness, employers' liability, accident and general departments in 1914 the fire premiums amounted to £92,517, and the other premiums to £65,740; fire claims paid and outstanding, £61,171; other claims, £31,262; and at close of year the sickness fund amounted to £163,360, the accident and general fund to £44,262, employers' liability fund to £29,498, and the fire fund to £102,007. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £1,273,747.

In November 1912 an agreement was entered into whereby the business of the Anglo-Scottish General Commercial Insurance Company, Limited, was brought under the supervision and control of the Century Insurance Company, Limited.

CITY EQUITABLE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 38 Old Jewry, London, E.C. Established 1909. Capital authorised and subscribed, £250,000; paid up, £50,000, in 200,000 Preference shares and 50,000 Ordinary shares, both of £1 each with 4*s.* paid.

The annual report, for 14 months ended February 28, 1915, shows a premium income of £154,086 and assets of £126,514. After provision for a dividend on the Ordinary shares of 9*d.* per share and transferring £5,000 to additional reserve fund, a balance of £11,851 is carried forward. Fire fund, £67,770. Investment reserve, £5,000.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 6 Paul Street, Finsbury, London, E.C. Established as the "British Homes Assurance Corporation, Limited," in 1907. Name changed to above, 1909. Capital authorised, December 31, 1914, £500,000; paid up, £108,265.

The Company transacts ordinary and industrial life business and makes advances on house property.

For the year ended December 31, 1914, the life assurance account, ordinary branch, shows premiums, £59,427, and life fund, £143,476. The industrial life premiums amounted to £30,586, and relative fund at close of year to £15,513. The bond investment premiums amounted to £33,358, and the fund to £339,142.

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CAPITAL FULLY PAID - F. 32,000,000

RESERVE FUND - - F. 8,600,000

COLLECTIONS.
LETTERS OF CREDIT.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Assets, December 31, 1914, £757,032, include "purchase of business and extension expenses," £99,000.

CITY OF GLASGOW LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

(*See* Scottish Union and National Insurance Company.)

CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 2 and 3 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London, S.W. Established 1829.

This Society is one of the four mutual non-commission-paying life assurance societies, and is one of the most attractive life offices in the country to those persons who are qualified to be policyholders. Its membership was formerly restricted to the clergy of the Churches of England and Ireland and of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, their relatives, and its own officials. A special Act of Parliament, which received the Royal Assent in July 1914, provides that assurances may also be effected by "persons who are or have been members of or on the staff of any university, public school, college, or kindred institution in the United Kingdom which the directors may from time to time approve for that purpose." Clergymen as a class show remarkable longevity, and the incidence of mortality in this Company has always been exceptionally favourable. The bonuses have been at a very high standard, and the reserves are strong. The rates of premium are below the average.

The last quinquennial valuation for assurances, on May 31, 1911, was made by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table combined with net premiums and interest at 2½ per cent. This combination represents one of the most stringent standards of valuation employed in life assurance business. The total bonus distribution over the quinquennium was £553,995, representing over 40 per cent. of the premiums received. The reversionary bonuses declared ranged from about 30*s.* per cent. to above £4 per cent., according to age at entry and duration of policies.

In the financial year which ended on May 31, 1915, the new assurances (no reassurances having been effected) amounted to £253,303; the total net premium income to £277,409; the claims by death to £306,502 (about £47,000 below expectation); and the funds at close of year to £4,818,126, after payment of bonuses in cash or by reductions of premium amounting to £42,531. Interest produced about £3 13*s.* 10*d.* per cent. on the funds after deduction of income tax. The expenses of management absorbed only £6 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent. of the premiums.

The reduced annual premium system of this Society gives a large amount of immediate assurance for a fixed premium. Only four-fifths of the tabular rates are payable thereunder, the other one-fifth being automatically liquidated by bonuses, should they prove sufficient. Under a recent bye-law the application of the non-forfeiture system has been adopted to the fullest extent.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Chief Office: 15 St. James's Square, London, S.W. Established 1824. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000. Shares for £25 with £2 10*s.* paid. Shareholders are entitled annually to a dividend limited to 5 per cent., which is all but met by the earnings of the capital itself, and quinquennially to a share of the profits—originally one-sixth, and now restricted to one-tenth (if not less than £62,500). The last valuation, as at June 30, 1911, produced a profit for shareholders of £75,607, including £25,000 paid during the quinquennium as interim bonus, and enables dividends and bonuses to be distributed in equal half-yearly payments of 9*s.* per share, free of income tax, in January and July annually until the next quinquennial declaration of profits. Price of shares, £20 10*s.*; yield, £5 10*s.* 2*d.* per cent.

This strong and influential life office is one of the most attractive in the country to new entrants, for recent valuations have been made on a most stringent

Union Bank of Canada

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PAID-UP CAPITAL, $5,000,000.

REST AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS, $3,600,000.

TOTAL ASSETS, OVER $80,000,000.

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basis, and amply provide for the automatic manufacture of large profits. The basis adopted in 1911 was a combination of the $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Table, net premiums, and 2½ per cent. interest. Further special reserves amounting to over £370,000 were also made. Bonuses declared to policyholders have been at an exceptionally high rate. In 1911 the reversionary additions in the case of whole-life policies varied from about £1 15*s.* to over £4 per cent. per annum, according to age at entry and duration of policy. Bonuses on endowment assurances are at four-fifths of the whole-life percentage. The Society has recently introduced (1) a new option policy with a low rate of premium during the first five years, at the end of which time the tabular non-profit premium for the age then attained becomes payable, while at any time thereafter by payment of an additional premium the policy can be converted into a profit assurance; (2) educational endowments with premiums ceasing at the death of a parent, spreading the expense of children's education over a series of years; and (3) deferred assurances for children on a profit basis. A speciality is made of assurance of "under-average" lives at adequate and reasonable rates. For non-participating assurances the rates were recently reduced to the level of those charged under the discounted bonus or "prime cost" system, which appeals to persons who require the largest amount of immediate assurance in return for a fixed payment. Thus those seeking assurance at low rates of premium have the option of a definite contract or a policy subject to increase or diminution according to the amount of the declared bonuses.

The net new life business for the last financial year, ending June 30, 1915, amounted to £672,732 in sums assured; total net life premium income (increased by £10,901), £448,967; death claims (the mortality being described as well within the amount expected, although claims of £65,417 were "directly due to the War"), £349,052; claims by survivance, £14,607; expense ratio, 12·1 per cent. of premiums. Life assurance fund at close of year, £6,223,406, showing an increase of £222,270. Redemption assurance fund, £178,887. Total assets, £6,570,612. The interest yield was about £3 17*s.* 1*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

During the year ending June 30, 1913, the Society purchased 4,954 of the 5,000 shares of the General Reversionary and Investment Company, Limited, at a price of £150 per share. The General Reversionary and Investment Company was founded in 1836, and its capital amounts to £500,000, in fully-paid shares of £100. Dividends for a long series of years had been at the rate of 5 per cent.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 24, 25 and 26 Cornhill, London, E.C. Established 1861. Capital authorised and subscribed, £2,950,000; paid up, £295,000. Shares were formerly or £50 with £5 paid, but in 1907 were subdivided into shares for £10 with £1 paid. Dividend declared for year 1914 was 100 per cent. (20*s.* per share, less income tax). Price of shares, £22; yield, £4 10*s.* 11*d.* per cent. The shareholders were formerly entitled to one-fifth of the divisible profits in the life department, but their share is now limited to one-tenth. There were issues of £1,929,379 Four per Cent. Terminable Debenture stock on December 31, 1914 ("West of England," £281,034; "Palatine," £253,880; "Union," £564,950, and "Ocean," £829,515).

The Company took over the Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life Insurance Society in 1905. The Hand-in-Hand was the oldest insurance office in the country. Both new and renewal "Hand-in-Hand" fire and life business continues to be transacted at the Hand-in-Hand chief office, 26 New Bridge Street, E.C., and at all its branches throughout the country, and these offices also transact accident and fidelity guarantee business. The business of the Union Assurance Society (established 1714) was purchased in 1907, a separate Company, entitled Union Assurance Society, Limited, being established; but the whole of the fire and accident

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HAMILTON HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, E.C.

business of that Society and other subsidiary or controlled companies is included in the Commercial Union accounts.

In 1906 the Company acquired the business of the Accident Insurance Company, Limited.

As from January 1, 1910, the Company acquired the business of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, which had the largest accident business of any British insurance company. A working agreement, under which the Company guarantees certain insurance contracts of the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation, Ltd. (*q.v.*), was entered into in May 1912. In 1912 the Company purchased the business and assets of the Imperial Accident Insurance Company, Limited.

The Commercial Union has seven departments, these being fire, marine, life, general accident, personal accident, employers' liability, and leasehold, &c., insurance. The accident, employers' liability and leasehold departments are of recent origin and show satisfactory results. The other departments have for many years been managed with a consistent and conspicuous success in each case that for an office doing so miscellaneous a business is quite phenomenal. The combined total premium income of the Company in 1914 exceeded eight millions sterling, being greater than that of any other British insurance company not transacting industrial business.

Fire Department.—In 1914 the fire premiums (increased by £176,945) amounted to £3,537,279, the losses to £1,961,259 (55·4 per cent. of the premiums), and the expenses to £1,233,062. Through the year's operations the fire fund, after transfer of £160,000 to profit and loss, was increased by £182,568 to £3,578,275, and at close of the year represented over 101 per cent. of the fire premium income. In 1906 the Company paid £794,974 for San Francisco losses.

Marine Department.—The Commercial Union has a very profitable marine insurance business. In 1914 the net marine premiums amounted to £474,007, and losses and expenses to £290,632. A sum of £65,000 was transferred to profit and loss, and the marine fund was increased by £117,297 to £1,001,094, representing over 211 per cent. of the premium income, showing an immensely strong position.

Life Department.—In 1914 the net new sums assured were £2,433,948. Excluding the acquired "West of England," "Hand-in-Hand," and "Union" business, the total net life premiums amounted to £657,887, in addition to £107,557 received as consideration for annuities; expenses to about 11·7 per cent. of the premiums, a moderate proportion, especially considering the large extent of the new business; claims by death to £329,546 (within "expectation"); and the life fund during the year was increased by £453,715 to £6,048,630, exclusive of investment reserve fund of £3,747. Interest produced a net return of about £4 6*s.* 2*d.* per cent The last quinquennial valuation (at close of 1912) was made on a strong basis: O^M Table, 3 per cent. interest, and net premiums. The surplus amounted to £559,497 (including £62,146 brought forward from 1907), of which £454,115 was divided, in addition to £26,662 paid during quinquennium as interim bonuses, and £78,720 was carried forward. Cash bonuses to participating policyholders (participating for the first time, or who had commuted previous bonuses in cash) averaged 27 per cent. of the premiums paid during the quinquennium. Bonuses in reversionary form on whole-life policies ranged from about 29*s.* per cent. per annum to much higher amounts, according to age at entry and duration of policies. In 1914 the Hand-in-Hand premiums amounted to £178,965, and funds at close of year to £3,563,010, exclusive of investment reserve fund of £7,189; premiums and funds in West of England section were £13,350 and £508,908 respectively; in the Union life fund £229,657 and £3,941,964 (exclusive of investment reserve of £3,513) respectively; in the Liverpool Victoria Life Fund, £21,183 and £127,981 respectively.

The Company on December 2, 1911, concurrently with the fiftieth anniversary of its formation, introduced

BARCLAY & COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

CAPITAL - - £9,000,000.

Capital Issued and Subscribed, £9,000,000, in 450,000 "A" Shares of £4 each, fully paid, and 450,000 "B" Shares of £16 each, having £4 per Share paid up.

Paid-up Capital - £3,600,000. Reserve - £1,600,000.

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25 Old Broad Street, E.C.

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Payments may be made through any Branch of the Bank to the credit of Customers' Accounts at any other Branch.
Orders for the purchase or sale of Stocks, Shares, &c., executed through London Brokers.
Dividends, Pensions and Annuities received for Customers of the Bank.
The Bank undertakes all classes of Foreign Business, including the collection of Foreign Bills and the remittance of moneys abroad.
Circular Notes, Circular Letters of Credit and Fixed Letters of Credit issued, payable in the principal Cities and Towns of the world.
The Bank undertakes the office of Executor and Trustee on terms, particulars of which may be obtained at Head Office and Branches.

as a special feature in its life department what is described as its "Jubilee policy," full particulars of which are given in a published leaflet. The main idea of this scheme is as follows: A policy is effected at non-profit rates (which are lower than the average charged in British life offices) offering the following facilities: (1) for limiting future premiums by odd payments made by the policyholder whenever convenient to him; (2) for making the sum assured payable in the policyholder's lifetime by similar odd payments, and (3) for changing at any time from the non-participating to the participating system.

General Accident Department.—In 1914 the general accident premium income amounted to £1,764,580. After transference of £190,000 to profit and loss account, £255,640 being transferred to the general accident fund from the accident insurance and employers' liability accounts, the general accident fund at close of year amounted to £1,215,144.

Accident Department.—In 1914 the accident premium income amounted to £443,755. After transferring £74,656 to the general accident account the fund at the close of the year amounted to £204,755, including £56,837 for outstanding claims.

Employers' Liability Department.—Premiums in 1914, £718,651. After transferring £180,985 to the general accident account the fund at end of year was £569,640, including provision of £282,179 for outstanding claims.

Leasehold Department.—Premiums in 1914, £34,188. Fund at close of year, £302,873.

Assets.—The total assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £26,774,505, after transferring £316,185 to investment reserve and contingency fund. After provision for dividend for 1914 a sum of £160,115 is carried forward in profit and loss account. The balance sheet shows an investment reserve and contingency fund of £550,000 and a guarantee and pension fund of £190,202

CONSOLIDATED ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Life Office: 9 Fleet Street, London, E.C. Fire and General Office: St. Swithin's House, St. Swithin's Lane, London, E.C. Established 1903. Capital authorised and issued, £500,000, in 50,000 Ordinary shares of £10 each, on which various amounts are paid up. On December 31, 1914, the paid-up capital amounted to £75,875. Dividend for 1914, 5 per cent., free of income tax.

The Company transacts life, accident, fire and contingency insurance and reinsurance business, and its operations extend to several European countries.

In 1914 the net life premium income was £28,810; the life fund at close of year, £84,035; the fire and general net premium income was £239,091, and the relative fund at close of year £106,329. Balance carried forward in profit and loss account to year 1915, after provision for dividend, £7,793. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £396,919, included "organisation expenses" amounting to £31,891, and "expenditure in suspense," £3,390.

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 109 Corporation Street, Manchester. Incorporated, 1867, under the Companies Act, 1862. Re-incorporated, 1899, under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893. Capital subscribed, December 31, 1914, £100,000, in shares of £1 each with 4*s.* paid. Capital paid up, £20,000.

The Company transacts life (ordinary and industrial), fire, accident, employers' liability and general insurance business. The following figures are taken from the annual report for the year 1914:—

Ordinary Life Assurance: New sums assured, £82,068; total premiums, £33,188; fund (increased during year by £25,285), £214,210. *Special Branch* for small ordinary assurances: new sums assured, £74,167; premiums, £14,831; fund, £51,320.

Industrial Life Assurance: Premiums, £4,467; fund, £11,722.

Collective Life Assurance: Premiums, £107,109; claims by death, £[illegible]; bonuses in cash, £16,058;

ROYAL LONDON
INSURANCE OFFICES.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.
Accumulated Funds upwards of £4,250,000.

ROYAL LONDON AUXILIARY INSURANCE CO., LTD.
Authorised Capital - - £500,000.
Subscribed Capital - - £130,000.
Paid-up Capital - - - £90,000.

LIFE ASSURANCE, ENDOWMENT,
FIRE, FIDELITY GUARANTEE,
PERSONAL ACCIDENT,
BURGLARY, PLATE GLASS, ETC.

Agents Wanted. *Special Terms.*

HEAD OFFICE:
ROYAL LONDON HOUSE,
FINSBURY SQUARE, E.C.

JOHN PRICE, } Managing
HORACE DUFFELL, } Directors.

Established 1821.

GUARDIAN
ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital £2,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - £1,000,000
Total Assets - - - £7,205,000
Total Income - - - £1,391,000

ALL THE PRINCIPAL
CLASSES OF INSURANCE
BUSINESS TRANSACTED,
EXCEPT MARINE.

Head Office:—
11 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

fund, £7,658. Policies in this section, assuring lives of their members and husbands and wives, were held by 462 societies.

FIRE INSURANCE: Premiums, £58,649; fund (increased by £28,569), £167,990, after transfer of £8,000 to profit and loss account.

ACCIDENT BUSINESS: Premiums, £349; fund, £946.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY: Premiums, £31,824; fund (including provision of £16,482 for outstanding claims), £41,886.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Premiums, £14,860; fund, £27,083.

Assets in balance sheet, December 31, 1914, £595,414. These include provision for departmental funds as above shown, profit and loss balance of £9,985, general reserve fund of £11,360, expenses reserve fund of £1,400, and investment reserve fund of £3,099. Out of the profit and loss balance directors recommend payment of interest on paid-up capital at rate of 5 per cent.; also payment to members, and to societies eligible for admission as members, upon the amount of the fire and fidelity premiums received from them in 1913 for insuring their own risks, of a dividend of 2*s.* in the £ to members, and a dividend of 1*s.* in the £ to non-members.

The actuarial valuation of the several branches of the Society's life assurance business for the five years ended on December 31, 1910, was made on a 3 per cent. basis, the tables of mortality employed being the H^M for the ordinary branch and the English Life Table No. III. (Males) for the special and industrial branches. The profit made in the quinquennium was as follows: ordinary branch, £18,192; special branch, £10,788; industrial branch, £2,770; collective branch, £17,180.

COUNTY FIRE OFFICE, LIMITED.

(*See also under* **Alliance Assurance Company, Limited.**)

Head Office: 50 Regent Street, London, W. Founded 1807.

This Company was reconstituted in 1906, under the same title, all policies and contracts being guaranteed by the Alliance Assurance Company, Limited.

DRAPERS' MUTUAL FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 154–6 Cheapside, London, E.C. Established 1909. Capital authorised, £500,000, in 100,000 shares of £5 each. On December 31, 1914, subscribed, £201,530; paid up (£1 per share), £40,306. The Company was formed by the "Drapers' Chamber of Trade," an important association operating throughout the United Kingdom. All the directors are connected with the drapery trade. Although, however, the Company originated with a particular body, it is open to accept business from any quarter. It transacts insurance on independent lines in the following classes: fire, consequential loss, burglary, accident and sickness, third party, fidelity guarantee, motor-car, plate-glass, and employers' liability, on bonus system giving assured special advantages. For year ending December 31, 1914, net premium income amounted to £37,583, and funds on that date, apart from capital and reserves for outstanding claims, were as follows: reserve for plate-glass bonus, 1914, £1,000; reserves for unexpired risks, £8,280. Total assets, £66,618, including £4,000 in respect of preliminary expenses and £1,524 "establishment and organisation account."

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office: 79 Pall Mall, London, S.W. Established 1807. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,678,675; paid up, £167,867. Amount of each share, £5, with 10*s.* paid up. The shareholders' share of quinquennial profits is limited to one-fifth, with a maximum of £22,000 until the sum of £22,000 shall equal one-tenth of the profits, after which the proprietors' share will be fixed at one-tenth. At the valuation made (on a net premium basis at 3 per cent. interest by the H^M Mortality Table, as on the two preceding occasions) as at December 31, 1912, after applying £13,630 as a specific reserve for

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(REGISTERED IN JAPAN.) ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital - - - Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up - - - „ 30,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - „ 20,000,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES AT

ANTUNG-HSIEN.
BOMBAY.
CALCUTTA.
CHANGCHUN.
DAIREN (Dalny).
HANKOW.
HARBIN.
HONG KONG.
HONOLULU.
KOBE.
LIAO YANG.
LONDON.
LOS ANGELES.
LYONS.
FENGTIEN (Mukden).
NAGASAKI.
NEWCHWANG.
NEW YORK.
OSAKA.
PEKING.
RYOJUN (Port Arthur).
SAN FRANCISCO.
SHANGHAI.
SYDNEY.
TIELING.
TIENTSIN.
TOKIO.
TSINANFU.
TSINGTAU.

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

LONDON OFFICE:
7 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

early payment of claims, there was a surplus of £14,632, which it was decided to carry forward, no quinquennial bonus being declared. The directors point out that but for the heavy sum of £145,921 written off the life assurance and annuity fund in respect of depreciation there would have been a handsome surplus. The rate of interim dividend to shareholders was fixed at 5 per cent. Price of shares, 4*s*. It was stated in annual report for 1912 that during current quinquennium interim bonuses would be paid, in cases of claims arising under participating policies which had been five years in force, at the rate of the cash bonus declared at December 31, 1907, in respect of each premium paid during the said quinquennium.

The Eagle is an influential Company with a large West-End connection. In 1914 the net new sums assured by life policies amounted to £421,471; total net life premiums to £165,833; consideration for new annuities to £3,316; expenses to 16·5 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death £185,041, by maturity £19,971; life fund at close of year to £1,919,611, and capital redemption funds to £36,999. The net interest yield was £3 19*s*. 5*d*. per cent. Total assets December 31, 1914, £2,316,770.

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

Head Office: 11 Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C. Established 1887. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed, £250,000; paid up, £25,000. Shares for £10 with £1 paid. Maximum dividend allowable is 5 per cent., which has been steadily paid. Surplus profits are allocated for benefit of clergy and Church purposes. Besides fire insurance the Company transacts employers' liability (in respect of Church workers and domestic servants), burglary, plate-glass and personal accident insurance.

In financial year to February 28, 1915, premiums (increased by £2,423) amounted to £83,210, and losses and expenses to £55,341. Interest produced £11,553, over nine times the amount required for the shareholders' dividend. Out of year's profits a sum of £20,000 was granted to various Church societies. At the close of the year the investment fluctuation fund (increased by £2,500) amounted to £30,000, the fire insurance fund to £165,329, and the employers' liability and other reserve funds to £101,976. Assets amounted to £352,189. Funds, excluding investment fluctuation fund and capital, amounted to more than three times the premium income. Since its establishment £192,480 has been paid over to Church institutions, and the Company well deserves the support of clergy and churchwardens.

The good work done by the Company has been recognised by the Lower Houses of the Convocations of Canterbury and York, which have passed resolutions recommending that ecclesiastical buildings should be insured for the amount which it would cost to replace them in case of their destruction by fire, and appreciative of the advantages of this institution.

ECONOMIC LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(*See* Alliance Assurance Company, Ltd.)

EDINBURGH CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' ANNUITY, &c., FUND.

Office: 34 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. The twenty-eighth annual report of this Society, for the year ended December 31, 1914, shows contributions and fees received amounting to £4,167, and funds at end of year amounting to £80,730. Claims and annuities paid during the year amounted to £2,277. Total number of contributors at close of 1914, 501.

EDINBURGH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Offices: 26 George Street, Edinburgh; 3 Birchin Lane, London, E.C. Established 1823. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £100,000. Amount of each share, £100, with £20 paid. Dividend declared in 1915, £1 12*s*. per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £32 15*s*.; yield, £4 15*s*. 10*d*. per cent. The shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the profits

CALEDONIAN
INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE OLDEST SCOTTISH OFFICE. Estd. 1805.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.
ASSURANCES WITH OR WITHOUT MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

RATES FOR WITHOUT-PROFIT POLICIES CONSIDERABLY REDUCED.

INCOME TAX AND ESTATE DUTY POLICIES ISSUED AT VERY LOW PREMIUMS.

ANNUITIES GRANTED ON MOST LIBERAL TERMS.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.
Losses Promptly Settled. Moderate Premiums.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT and ILLNESS.
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY. BURGLARY.

PROSPECTUSES WILL BE SENT ON APPLICATION.

HEAD OFFICE: 19 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH.
LONDON OFFICES: 82 KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.
14 WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, S.W.

PROFITS & INCOME
Insurance Company, Ltd.
9 FLEET ST., LONDON, E.C.
Established 1901.

ASSETS EXCEED - - £300,000

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

YEAR.		FUNDS.	YEAR.		FUNDS.
1911.	...	£201,826	1913.	...	£246,478
1912.	...	£221,087	1914.	...	£267,506

PERMANENT SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Policies are granted, renewable at the option of the Assured, up to a selected age, not exceeding 65, insuring against loss of income or appointment.

The new "P. and I." Policy provides, in addition to the ordinary weekly benefits, a Capital Sum when incapacity has lasted for 52 consecutive weeks.

Policies are also issued combining Sickness and Accident Insurance with Endowment Assurance, Life Assurance, or a Deferred Annuity.

"Perfected" Sickness and Accident Policies insure payment of Premiums, Income Tax, Rent, and other fixed charges during incapacity.

AGENTS WANTED.
CHAS. WINDETT,
Actuary and Secretary.

in the life fund, in addition to interest earnings on their own funds.

The second annual valuation was made at close of 1914 on the same strong basis as at the previous quinquennial investigation: O^{M} Mortality Tables for assurances, and 3 per cent. interest. For the annuity contracts the Government tables published in 1912 were adopted as the mortality standard. Stock Exchange securities were valued as far as possible at the latest official quotations, and the investment reserve fund was increased from £60,000 to £107,459, to cover the depreciation shown on this basis and to allow for future depreciation. The proportion of surplus due to policyholders was £39,288, which was sufficient to provide a bonus of £1 per cent. on whole-life and endowment assurances with profits effected after December 31, 1912, and a bonus ranging from 17*s.* to 35*s.* per cent. on whole-life assurances effected prior to that date.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £384,257; total net premium income to £294,982; expenses, including commission, to about 15·5 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death to £245,023, including £15,315 due to the War (the total amount being well within expectation), and by survivance to £90,873; consideration for new annuities to £11,284; life funds at close of year to £4,309,360. Proprietors' fund, in addition to paid-up capital, £922. Reserve fund, £107,459. Total funds, £4,517,741. Interest yield on total funds after deduction of income tax, about £4 9*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORP., LTD.

Head Office: Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, London, E.C. Established 1880. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000, of which paid up £200,000. The shares are for £10, on which £2 is paid up and added. The dividend declared for 1914 was 40 per cent. (16*s.* per share), free of income tax (as for the previous year), earned from interest alone. Price of shares, £14 5*s.*; yield, £6 19*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

This is one of the most important companies of its class, transacting general accident, workmen's compensation, fidelity, and health, &c., and also fire insurance.

The net premium income in 1914 amounted to £1,932,177, showing an increase of £197,210 over that of the previous year, whilst claims and expenses cost £1,665,029. Interest, fees, profits on exchange and investments, &c., produced £85,954. The assets at the close of the year amounted to £2,658,235. Apart from capital the reserves and balance in hand, after provision for dividend, and excluding reserves for outstanding losses and investments, amounted to £1,717,396, representing about 88·8 per cent. of the year's premium income. A valuation of investments was made, based on the prices of June 30, 1914, and the depreciation was more than covered by the investment reserve fund. With its large funds and capital the Company appears to be in an excellent position to attract the best classes of business.

ENGLISH & SCOTTISH LAW LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOC.

Chief Offices: 33 St. James's Square, London, S.W.; 41 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. Established 1839. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £70,000. Amount of each share, £50, with £3 10*s.* paid up and added. A dividend of 9*s.* 6*d.* per share, free of income tax, is payable annually during the current quinquennium. Price of shares, £8; yield, £7 11*s.* 6*d.* per cent. The shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the profits in the life assurance fund and to the whole of the profits from the annuity business. The Company has a strong legal connection, both in England and Scotland, and is well managed.

The last quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1910, on a strong basis: for assurances, the O^{M} Table of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. Reversionary bonuses were declared at the compound rate of 25*s.* per cent. per annum over the last quinquennium, representing in simple reversionary form bonuses varying from 25*s.* to 48*s.* per cent. per annum, according to duration of policies.

In 1914 the net new sums assured by life policies amounted to £395,481; total net life premium income to £232,591; life expenses to about 16·7 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death to £177,610; claims by survivance to £53,461; life fund at close of year to £2,839,918. The annuity fund amounted to £218,273, the general fund to £116,178, and the total assets to £3,319,384. The interest yield on the funds was £4 0*s.* 11*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: Mansion House Street, London, E.C. Established 1762.

The Equitable is the oldest of the four mutual non-commission-paying British offices. Throughout its unique and splendid career it has played a great part in insurance history, and in this respect the whole world is its debtor, for much of the scientific development of life assurance is due to its initiation. It has yielded magnificent results to its policyholders in the past, and there are now few contemporary institutions that can rival it in bonus-earning capacity.

Distributions of profits in the Equitable used to be made decennially, but are now quinquennial. The third quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1914, on the very strong basis employed on the previous occasion: O^{M} Table of Mortality, net premiums, and 2½ per cent. interest. The distribution gives increasing bonuses according to the age of the policies. The bonuses declared on whole-life policies range from 26*s.* per cent. per annum on a policy five years in force to £7 3*s.* per cent. per annum on a policy 55 years in force. With-profit endowment assurance bonuses arising from the 1914 valuation are at the rate of £1 10*s.* per cent. on the sum assured and previously declared bonuses for each complete year during which the policies had been in force since the date of the previous valuation. After writing down the book values of securities by

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

PAID-UP CAPITAL £2,000,000
REST AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS £800,986

Head Office - - - ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
Cashier and General Manager: ADAM TAIT. *Secretary*: A. K. WRIGHT.

London Office - - - 3 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
WM. WALLACE, *Manager*. ALEX. DICK, *Deputy-Manager*.

Glasgow Office - - EXCHANGE SQUARE.
A. DENNISTOUN, *Agent*. THOMAS LILLIE, *Sub-Agent*.

166 Branches throughout Scotland.

Banking business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques and other documents collected. Deposits received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

£337,987 and adding £30,498 to the valuation liability to meet the extra liability in respect of the assured on active war service, the divisible surplus was £831.579, of which £300,000 was carried forward as a general reserve.

What the Society has achieved in the way of bonus may be estimated from the fact that, taking the claims arising during the 100 years ended December 31, 1900, the total additions by way of bonus (including bonuses previously surrendered) more than equalled the original sums assured. In the case of nine claims paid in 1914 the sum assured and declared bonuses actually exceeded three times the original amount assured. In cases of surrendered policies, which in a Company of its bonus attractions are less numerous than usual, the Equitable treats its policyholders with great liberality.

During 1914 the net new life business amounted to £401,053 in sums assured; the total net life premium income to £221,632, in addition to £2,577, sinking-fund premiums, and £23.054 received as consideration for new annuities; the claims by death (including bonus additions) to £299.002, and the total funds at close of year to £5,233,776, consisting of life assurance fund of £4,911,511, sinking fund and capital redemption fund of £22.265, reserve of £300,000 (representing the amount carried forward as undivided profit at the 1914 valuation). The interest yield on the total funds was £4 4*s.* 11*d.* per cent. before deduction of tax, which gives a large profit over the rate assumed for valuation purposes. The expenses—no commission being payable—absorbed only about 7·6 per cent. of the premium income, including valuation expenses.

It is not, perhaps, of great importance to the existing policyholders in this Society that it should do a larger business, but there are not many offices in which new entrants can expect to get as much for their money as they are likely to obtain in "the old Equitable."

EQUITY AND LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 18 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C. Established 1844. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £60,000. Amount of each share, £100; paid up and added to each, £6. Dividend paid in 1914, £1 8*s.* 6*d.* per share. Price of shares, £24 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £7 12*s.* 4*d.* per cent. Shares can only be held by members of the legal profession. Shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of valuation profits.

A high-class life office with influential legal connections, which has always yielded good results, both to shareholders and policyholders. It is excellently and economically managed. A quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1914, on a strong basis: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Tables of Mortality, in combination with net premiums and 2¾ per cent. interest. Reversionary bonuses then declared ranged from 30*s.* to 78*s.* per cent. per annum, according to age at entry and class and duration of policies. The Society issued in November 1915 new tables for non-participating assurances at exceptionally low rates of premium.

In 1914 the net new sums assured by life policies amounted to £443,052, and by policies not relating to life contingencies to £27,793; total net life premium income to £346,349; expenses to about 10·4 per cent. of premiums—a small proportion for a commission-paying office; claims by death (the mortality having been reported as "very favourable," apart from war claims) to £333,210, including £70,000 from war fatalities; and the life fund at close of year, after valuation adjustments, to £4,987,118. Excluding reversions and stock of Law Reversionary Interest Society the invested funds were calculated at close of year to produce £4 9*s.* 3*d.* per cent. per annum, presumably before deduction of tax. In 1910 the Company acquired the assets and goodwill of the National Reversionary Investment Company, Limited, and in 1912 it acquired the business of the Law Reversionary Interest Society, Limited.

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK EQUITABLE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

(*See* Atlas Assurance Company, Limited.)

EXCESS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 3–4 Royal Exchange Buildings, London, E.C. Established 1894. Capital authorised and paid up, £50,000, in shares of £1 each fully paid. Dividend for 1914, 10 per cent., and a bonus of 5 per cent. in addition.

The Company undertakes fire, burglary, marine transit, accident, credit and employers' liability insurance. Net premiums, 1914, £573,248. Claims, £483,807. Underwriting balance carried forward, £453,314. Reserve fund, £117,000. Reserve against depreciation, £44,313. Profit and loss balance, after provision for dividend and bonus and adding £33,000 to reserve fund, £1,968. Assets, December 31, 1914, £724,569.

FINE ART AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 89–90 Cheapside, London, E.C. Established 1890. Capital authorised, £500,000, all being subscribed; paid up on December 31, 1914, £50,000. Amount of each share, £10, with £1 paid. Dividend for 1914, 27½ per cent., less income tax, was more than earned from interest, and prospects of maintenance and steady increase seem favourable under normal circumstances. Price of shares, £6 10*s.*; yield, £4 5*s.* per cent.

The Fine Art and General Company transacts fire business on non-tariff lines, as well as burglary, accident, employers' liability and transit insurance. In 1914 in the fire and general account the net premiums amounted to £130,084; interest earnings to £8,358; losses to £77.011; and expenses, inclusive of commission and bad debts, to £43,364, while £16.734 was transferred from this account to profit and loss. The fire and general fund at close of year amounted to £202,034. In the employers' liability account premiums amounted to £55,129, interest to £2,164, losses to £27,627, expenses to £22.867, and the employers' liability fund at end of year to £73,451, including liability for outstanding

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £2,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £2,000,000. DEPOSITS, £24,630,539.

DIRECTORS.

SIR FREDERICK GEORGE BANBURY, BART., M.P.
JOHN WOODROW CROSS, ESQ.
EDWIN HENRY GALSWORTHY, ESQ.
ALFRED GILBEY, ESQ.
THE RT. HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., F.R.S.
RICHARD COBDEN MITCHELL, ESQ.
SIR JOSEPH SAVORY, BART.

Joint General Managers WILLIAM CARRUTHERS, ESQ., WILLIAM JOHN STOKOE, ESQ.

Secretary—REES GRIFFITH THOMAS.

Head Office—3 BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.

Branches—229 Metropolitan and Provincial, and 128 Agencies.

DRAWING ACCOUNTS are opened upon the terms usually adopted by other Bankers.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.—Deposits are received from Customers and others, and interest allowed thereon at such rates and for such periods as may be agreed upon reference being had to the state of the Money Market. Deposit Books are issued when required; these are specially convenient for small Deposits.

Copies of the last Report and Annual Balance Sheet of the Bank and List of Branches, also terms and particulars on which the Bank is prepared to act as Executor and Trustee, can be obtained at the Head Office and Branches.

losses estimated at £26,400. The balance of profit and loss account at close of year amounted to £68,449, and after provision for full year's dividend and a grant of £2,500 to the staff provident fund £56,782 remained to be carried forward in this account. On December 31, 1914, the total assets amounted to £481,554. Apart from capital and sums required to meet outstanding liabilities, the funds carried forward together amounted to £305,868, representing about 165 per cent. of the year's premium income in all departments, disclosing a remarkably strong position.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

Chief Office: 45 Darley Street, Bradford; London Office, 17 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. Describes itself as "a mutual assurance Association for the Society of Friends and those connected therewith." Founded in 1832. Is one of the most economically managed of life offices employing agents in the United Kingdom, and is specially attractive to those eligible for membership. A new rule as to eligibility adopted in 1915 is as follows:—"The following persons may effect assurances on their own lives or on the lives of any other persons, or any other assurance granted by the Institution:—

"(*a*) Any person who is or has been a member of the religious Society of Friends, commonly called 'Quakers.'

"(*b*) Any person who holds, or at some time has held the same religious profession or persuasion as the members of the said Society.

"(*c*) Any person, corporation or company whom in the opinion of the directors it is desirable to admit as a member of the Institution, having regard to the interests of persons qualified as above mentioned."

As in most "class offices," the incidence of mortality has been specially favourable. The last quinquennial valuation was made on November 20, 1912, on a strong basis, the O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Tables of Mortality being employed in conjunction with interest at 3 per cent., and the whole net premium loading on an O^M Table basis being reserved for expenses and profit. This basis is more severe than that adopted in 1907, strengthening reserves by about £8,000. The valuation surplus amounted to £324,586, of which £302,149 was treated as divisible, in addition to £3,891 paid as interim bonus during the quinquennium, making a total distribution over the period of £306,040, which is equivalent to an average return of nearly 35 per cent. of the premiums received, notwithstanding the fact that a depreciation of £129,495 in securities was provided for. Reversionary bonuses on whole-of-life policies issued under tables in force prior to the division of surplus in 1902 are calculated in accordance with a scale of participation which increases with each year of age. On policies subsequently issued the profits are allotted on the uniform compound reversionary bonus plan. Ordinary participating policies thereunder receive bonus additions at the compound rate of 32*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, and endowment assurances thereunder receive compound bonuses of 27*s.* per cent. per annum. These bonuses are higher by 2*s.* per cent. per annum (compound) than were declared five years previously. Interim bonuses on New Series policies becoming claims by death during the current quinquennium are to be provided at 25*s.* per cent. per annum, compound, and endowment assurances becoming claims by survivance will receive the full valuation rate in their section.

In the last financial year, ended November 20, 1914, the net new sums assured amounted to £234,772, of which £224,022 related to life policies and £10,750 to sinking fund assurances. The net life premium income was £182,294 (including single premiums of £7,575), in addition to £8,638 received as consideration for new annuities. The ordinary expenses of the life business were about 11·7 per cent. of the premium income. Claims by death amounted to £147,135, the mortality of the year being described as "well within the expectation." The average age of the Society's policyholders who died in 1914 was 63. The life funds at close of financial year amounted to £3,433,236 (inclusive of investments reserve of £92,126). The interest yield, after deduction of income tax, was £3 19*s.* 2*d.* per cent. Sinking-fund premiums for 1914 amounted to £4,785, and relative fund at end of year to £21,631. Total assets, November 20, 1914, £3,467,999.

GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Offices: Perth, N.B.; Aldwych, London, W.C. Established 1885. Capital authorised, £1,250,000; subscribed as at December 31, 1914, £1,153,000; paid up, £403,000, in 200,000 Ordinary shares of £5 with £1 5*s.* paid up and 153,000 Preference shares of £1 each fully paid. No dividend on the Ordinary shares was declared for 1914. Price of Preference shares, 13*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £7 8*s.* 2*d.* per cent. Price of Ordinary shares, 14*s.* 6*d.*

This Company transacts both fire and accident business in the United Kingdom, accident business in America, and one or other of these descriptions in India, the Colonies, and foreign countries, and also industrial business. It opened a life department in February 1906. The net accident premiums for 1914 (decreased as compared with those for 1913 by £378,039) amounted to £1,335,086, of which £410,902 represented cash collections in the monthly payment and other short-period insurances, under which there is practically no unexpired liability. Losses £817,059, and expenses £554,538. The net fire premiums amounted to £161,525, as compared with £160,483 in the previous year. Claims in connection with fire business are given as £80,521; expenses and other charges, £59,816. Interest and fees produced £36,551. £10,434 was brought forward from the last account, £20,376 transferred to accident and general account, and £19,313 from fire account, and the balance in the profit and loss account for 1914 amounted to £19,987. From this sum £7,631 is appropriated to payment of Preference dividends, leaving £12,356 to be carried forward. On December 31 last the fire fund amounted to £120,277, including £14,178 reserved for outstanding claims; the accident

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LTD.
ESTABLISHED 1810.
Head Office:—EDINBURGH.
Paid-up Capital ... ... £1,000,000. Reserve Fund ... ... £800,000.
ALEX. ROBB, General Manager. MAGNUS IRVINE, Secretary.
London Office:—62 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.
GEORGE S. COUTTS, Manager. JOHN F. SANDEMAN, Asst.-Manager.
GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS transacted. CIRCULAR NOTES, DRAFTS, and LETTERS OF CREDIT issued, payable at Banking Houses in all parts of the world.
With its 173 Branches located all over Scotland the Bank is in a very favourable position to deal with remittance and all other Banking transactions on the best Terms.
The Bank undertakes AGENCY BUSINESS for Foreign and Colonial Banks.

fund to £834,163, including £502,437 reserved for outstanding claims; the reserve for depreciation of securities to £34,510; and the surplus reserve to £50,000. In the life department policies were issued in 1914 for £133,036 after deduction of reassurances. The life, annuity, and capital redemption funds at close of year amounted to £181,786, the total life premium income having been £35,424. The first quinquennial valuation was made as at December 31, 1910, on the following basis: For assurances, the O^M Table; for annuities, the O^A Table; combined with interest at 3½ per cent. The gross surplus disclosed amounted to £9,173; £8,973 in the life assurance and annuity funds and £200 in the capital redemption fund. Of this the directors resolved to carry forward £1,057 as a special reserve towards the reduction of the valuation rate of interest, and the balance of £8,116 was applied as follows:—£792 (one-tenth of the life profit) and £200 (the capital redemption profit) to profit and loss account, and £7,124 to provide reversionary bonuses of £1 10*s.* per cent. per annum (from the commencement) on "General" policies, £1 per cent. per annum (from the commencement) on "Industrial of South Africa" policies, and 10*s.* per cent. per annum (from date of transfer to the Corporation) on "Life and Health" policies. Total assets in balance sheet, December 31, 1914, £1,849,033.

GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office: 103 Cannon Street, London, E.C. Established 1837. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £50,000. Amount of each share, £100, with £5 paid. The shareholders are entitled to the profits of the non-participating business and to one-fifth of the profits of the participating business. At the valuation as on December 31, 1912, the shareholders' profits for the quinquennium were sufficient to provide dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum over the ensuing quinquennium, and a dividend at that rate, free of income tax, was declared for 1914. Price of shares, £6 7*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £9 11*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £505,755; the total net life premium income to £176,931; expenses to about 20·3 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death to £121,115 (less than "expected" by £32,646), and by survivance to £46,163; and the life fund at close of year to £2,043,319. Net interest yield on life and annuity funds about £3 15*s.* 9*d.* per cent. It is stated in the report that interest at the rate of £3 17*s.* 10*d.* per cent. per annum was realised on the investments as a whole. The investment reserve fund amounted to £133,531, and during the year securities were written down by £3,419. Proprietors' fund, £66,156.

The quinquennial valuation of assurances at close of 1912 was made by O^M and H^M Tables of Mortality, on a net premium basis, at 3 per cent. interest. The surplus ascertained amounted to £86,902. Bonuses in Series 2 of policies (effected subsequently to 1897) were declared in reversionary form at £1 per cent. per annum, "compound," over the quinquennium, and in Series 1 the bonuses were apportioned in accordance with amount of premiums paid.

GRESHAM FIRE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE SOC., LTD.

Head Office: St. Mildred's House, Poultry, London, E.C. Established June 1910. Authorised capital, £500,000; issued capital, £200,000, in 100,000 Management shares (held by the Gresham Life Assurance Society) of £1 fully paid, and 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each with 10*s.* paid. 100,000 Management shares and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each are authorised, but as yet unissued. The Society is distinct from the "Gresham Life," but has the same directorate. The accounts for the 17 months to December 31, 1914, show a fire premium income of £63,846, employers' liability, accident and general premium income of £70,240, and assets of £285,239, inclusive of preliminary expenses, £6,453, and establishment of business account, £56,362, and a debit balance of £35,793 in profit and loss account.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

Head Office: St. Mildred's House, Poultry, London, E.C. Established 1848. Capital authorised and subscribed, £100,000; paid up, £22,378. Amount of each share, £5; 1,736 shares being fully paid and 18,264 having 15*s.* paid. Dividend paid in 1914 by way of interest was 5 per cent. Price of fully paid shares, £8 10*s.*; price of partly paid shares, £3 10*s.* A quinquennial life bonus of 31*s.* 6*d.* per share was paid in May 1911. The shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the divisible valuation profits.

The Gresham has throughout its entire history been a very enterprising Company, and has a large foreign business. The quinquennial valuation at the close of 1910 was made as regards assurances by the H^M Table, in combination with 3½ per cent. interest and net premiums, after giving effect to expenses of the first year of assurance. Annuities were valued by the Government Annuity Tables of 1882, also at 3½ per cent. interest. The surplus amounted to £372,705, of which £315,000 was divided.

In 1914 the net new life assurances amounted to £1,763,407; the total net life premium income to £1,022,817; expenses of the life business to 22·0 per cent. of the premium income; claims by death (within the actuarial estimate) to £422,573, and by survivance to £610,117; consideration for annuities granted to £37,069; and the life and annuity funds at close of year to £10,309,986, exclusive of investment reserve fund of £120,000. Leasehold premiums, £3,681; fund, £21,058. The interest yield on the funds was £4 3*s.* 5*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

GUARANTEE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

(*See* **Yorkshire Insurance Company, Limited.**)

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 11 Lombard Street, London, E.C. Established 1821. Capital authorised and subscribed, £2,000,000; paid up, £1,000,000. Amount of each share, £10, with £5 paid. Dividend paid for 1914 was 10*s.* per share, free of income tax, and prospects for its maintenance seem favourable, for only a small profit on the large turnover in the fire department is required

WEST YORKSHIRE BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Authorised Capital	**£1,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital**	**£400,000**
Subscribed Capital	**£1,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£400,000**

DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN:—JAMES HENRY HOWARTH, Esq., J.P., Holly Bank, Halifax.

GAMALIEL SUTCLIFFE, Esq., J.P., Stoneshey Gate, Hebden Bridge.
RICHARD MOORE, Esq., Colston House, Burley-in-Wharfedale.
JOSEPH HENRY KAYE, Esq., J.P., Norwood, Huddersfield.
WILLIAM FOSTER, Esq., J.P., White Shaw, Denholme, near Bradford.
ROBERT WHITWORTH, Esq., Southwood End, Halifax.
J. HERBERT L. BALDWIN, Esq., J.P., The Hall, Thornton-le-Dale, near Pickering.
JOSEPH BLAMIRES, Esq., J.P., Bradley Lodge, nr. Huddersfield

General Manager: J. H. HOWARTH. Deputy General Manager: V. W. WANKLYN.

Head Office - - - PRINCESS STREET, HALIFAX.

BRANCHES in LEEDS, BRADFORD, and HUDDERSFIELD, with 29 other Offices.

Every description of Banking Business transacted. Foreign Exchange. Trustee and Executorships. Savings Bank Department

for that purpose, in addition to interest earnings and the profits from the life department. The shareholders are entitled to one-fifth of the divisible life profits. Price of shares, £7 16*s.* 3*d.*; yield, £7 15*s.* per cent. This strong and influential Company transacts fire, life, burglary, fidelity, accident and other miscellaneous insurance business. The Company does not transact business in the United States, and was, consequently, not affected by the San Francisco disaster.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the net fire premiums amounted to £595,315; the losses to £362,835; and the expenses and charges to £219,461. The surplus transferred to profit and loss account in 1914, including £31,648 received from interest on the fire funds, was £38,506. Securities were written down by £28,935, and there was an investment reserve fund of £22,000 at the end of the year. The fire insurance fund (exclusive of investment reserve) at close of year amounted to £825,250, or to about 138 per cent. of the year's premiums, indicating great financial strength.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—A quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1914, on a strong basis: for assurances, O^M Table of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. Bonuses to policyholders were at reversionary rates varying from about 21*s.* per cent. per annum to much larger amounts, according to age at entry and duration of policies. In 1906 the Company acquired the business of the Westminster and General Life Assurance Association.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £479,548. Exclusive of the "Westminster" life account, the total net life premium income amounted to £275,194; expenses to about 15·4 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death (below "expectation") to £227,114, and by survivance to £37,756; and the life fund at close of year (exclusive of investment reserve fund of £100,000) to £3,602,707. The interest yield was about £4 2*s.* 5*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—The accident department seems in a strong position, the fund, after transferring £29,555 to profit and loss account, having amounted at close of 1914 to £207,394, as compared with a premium income of £201,460. Since 1908 the Company has included among its operations the insurance of plate glass, in connection with which it acquired the business of two companies which exclusively undertook that class of risk.

In 1909 the Company acquired the fidelity guarantee business of the Law Guarantee and Trust Society, the cost of purchase being charged to profit and loss account.

GENERALLY.—After provision for dividend and writing £45,286 off for depreciation in securities the balance in profit and loss account at end of 1914 was £89,777. The "Westminster" life premiums amounted to £36,188, and the relative fund at close of 1914 to £707,427, excluding investment reserve fund of £27,000. Total assets of Company, £7,370,442.

HEARTS OF OAK LIFE & GENERAL ASSURANCE CO., LD.

Head Office: 40–44 Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. Established 1903. Transacts life and industrial, fire, employers' liability and miscellaneous insurance. Capital, December 31, 1914: Nominal, £150,000, in shares of £1 each; issued, 120,075 shares with 12*s.* 6*d.* paid and 1,500 shares with £1 paid; forfeited, 338 shares with 10*s.* paid; paid in advance of calls, £6,685. Five per Cent. Debentures, £8,000.

Premium income, 18 months to December 31, 1914: Life, £11,893; industrial, £56,924; fire, £11,073; personal accident, £457; employers' liability, £3,214; plate-glass and miscellaneous, £4,502. Life assurance fund, £18,866; industrial fund, £20,962; fire fund, £2,959; personal accident fund, £116; employers' liability fund, £782; plate-glass, &c. fund, £1,023. Assets, £150,241, include "establishment and extension of business account," £89,965, and "debit balance of profit and loss, £25,595."

HIBERNIAN FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD

Head Office: 49 Dame Street, Dublin. Established 1908. Capital authorised, £200,000; subscribed, £106,000; paid up, £21,200. in shares of £1 with 4*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914, 5 per cent., free of income tax.

For the year ending December 31, 1914, net premiums amounted to £15,680, and earnings from interest and fees to £962; whilst claims were £4,703, and expenses £6,764. After writing off £470 for various purposes and provision for dividend, a balance of £4,219 was carried forward to 1915. Fire insurance fund, £5,327. Assets, December 31, 1914, £41,078, include preliminary and organisation expenses, £782.

HORSE, CARRIAGE & GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 21 Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C. Established 1868. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed, £50,000, in shares of £5; 800 shares are fully paid, on 2,974 shares the amount paid is £2 10*s.*, and on 6,226 shares issued in 1907 (at a premium of 10*s.* per share) £1 per share was paid up on December 31, 1914, at which date the paid-up capital accordingly amounted to £17,661. Dividend for year, 12 per cent., free of income tax.

In the revenue account of 1914 net premiums amounted to £78,736; interest, less tax and bad debts, to £2,050; claims to £43,230; expenses, inclusive of commission, to £31,012, and balance to profit and loss, £3,592. After taking into account balance brought forward from last year, and after provision for dividend, a balance is carried forward of £2,419. The additional reserves amount to £49,279. Assets on December 31, 1914, £79,072.

IMPERIAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO., LTD.

(*See* Commercial Union Assurance Company)

INDEMNITY MUTUAL MARINE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 1 Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Established 1824. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,005,000; paid up, £201,000. Amount of shares, £15 each, with £3 paid. Dividend paid for 1914, 12*s.* per share, free of income tax, costing £40,200. Price of shares, £9 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £8 2*s.* 1*d.* per cent.

The Company's balance sheet as at December 31, 1914, discloses, in addition to capital, a reserve fund amounting to £450,000, a balance of underwriting

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.

RESERVE FUND, £800,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, GENERAL MANAGER. GEORGE A. HUNTER, SECRETARY.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, MANAGER. DUGALD SMITH, ASSISTANT MANAGER.

Every description of banking business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its customers.

account amounting to £440,640, underwriting suspense account £113,239, building reserve account £5,000, investment depreciation account £50,000, and balance of profit and loss account, after provision for half-year's dividend payable in February 1915, of £83,233. The earnings from interest and fees amounted in 1914 to £44,503, and the trading profit on the winding-up of the 1913 underwriting account at the close of 1914, after transferring £60,000 to underwriting suspense account, was £90,025. The net premium income in 1914 was £617,734, of which first year's settlements absorbed 25 per cent. The assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £1,377,127.

IRON TRADES EMPLOYERS' INSURANCE ASSOC., LTD.

Head Office: 82 Victoria Street, London, S.W. Founded 1898. This is practically a mutual office, the capital being limited by guarantee, every member in event of winding-up being liable for £1. The business is limited to employers' and public liability insurance.

In 1914 premiums amounted to £306,095. Compensation paid and provided in that year, inclusive of incidental expenses, £228,940. After providing for outstanding claims, balance on revenue account amounted to £77,932 from which £30,000 was transferred to reserve fund (thereafter £135,000) and £13,500 to investment reserve fund. Bonuses of 10 per cent. on premiums to members entitled thereto were declared. Assets, December 31, 1914, £391,805, being certified as fully of value stated in balance sheet, after taking investment reserve fund into account.

ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITANT SOCIETY.

Founded 1798. Office: 24 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. Secretary, Rev. Jabez Parkyn, Wesley House, Bury St. Edmunds.

During the year ended February 28, 1915, premiums of £11,407 were received and annuities of £23,797 were paid. Fund at that date, £385,188.

Subscriptions of members, £6 each, and of probationers £5 5*s.* each annually. Marriage fees, according to scale, from 2½ to 15 guineas, with an additional premium in certain cases. An annuity is provided whenever through ill-health a minister is declared a supernumerary, whether temporarily or permanently, and during payment of an annuity no subscription is charged. Annuities vary in amount according to years of work, and (less one-eighth) are paid to widows. Payments are made in special cases to ministers' orphan children. The number of annuitants on February 10, 1915, was 880, 464 being supernumeraries and 416 being widows.

LAW ACCIDENT INSURANCE SOCIETY (1907), LTD.

The business of this Company is included in the accounts of the London and Lancashire Fire Company (*q.v.*).

LAW FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

(*See* **Alliance Assurance Company, Limited.**)

LAW INTEGRITY INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Church Street, Liverpool. Registered 1906. Nominal capital, £100,000; issued capital, £16,524, of which £15,482 was paid up on June 30, 1915, in 1,000 Preference shares of £1 each, fully paid, and 15,524 Ordinary shares of £1 each upon which various amounts have been paid. Dividends at rate of 5 per cent. on capital paid up in each year were paid in respect of 1908-09, 1909-10, and 1910–11; but no dividend was paid for 1911–12, "in consequence of arrangements having been completed for making the statutory deposit of £20,000 with the Paymaster-General to enable the Company to transact life business." For each of the years ended June 30, 1913 and 1914, a dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid. No dividend was declared in respect of the year ended June 30, 1915.

The report for year ended June 30, 1915, shows a premium income of £58,026, which includes life, £2,421, and industrial life, £52,425. Assurance funds, June 30, 1915, £39,789 (industrial life, £38,469; life, £965; sickness and accident, £223; fidelity guarantee, £72; fire, £60). Profit and loss balance, £956. Assets, £57,525, including "establishment account, £25,099."

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(*See* **Phœnix Assurance Company, Limited.**)

LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: Old Serjeants' Inn, Chancery Lane, London, W.C. Established as the "Law Union Fire and Life Insurance Company," 1854; name changed in 1892 to "Law Union and Crown Fire and Life Insurance Company," in 1898 to "Law Union and Crown Insurance Company," and in 1909, on absorption of the Rock Life Assurance Company, to the above. Capital authorised, £2,000,000; subscribed, £1,575,000; paid up, £165,000, in 150,000 shares of £10 each, on which 12*s.* is paid, and 75,000 fully-paid shares of £1. There is an issue of Four per Cent. Debenture stock, of which £251,726 was outstanding on December 31, 1914. This stock was issued to the shareholders of the Crown Life Assurance Company, is secured as a first charge on the profits of the Company applicable to the payment of dividends, and is redeemable on December 31, 1942, at par. Dividend declared in 1915, for the current year, at 8*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of partly paid shares, £5; yield, £8 6*s.* 8*d.* per cent.; price of fully paid shares, £6 5*s.*; yield, £6 12*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

Fire Department.—In 1914 the fire premiums amounted to £246,001; claims to £117,060 (47·6 per cent.); and expenses to £94,362 (38·3 per cent.). The surplus on the fire operations of the year, amounting to £44,071, to which interest contributed £11,888, was transferred to profit and loss account, £200,000 was maintained in the fire account as a general fire reserve, while the premium reserve for unexpired risks amounted to £98,400.

Life Department.—In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £1,239,370; the total net premium income to £590,591; consideration received for new annuities to £12,618; claims by death to £500,925 (described as "within the expectation"), and by survivance, £83,818; and expenses, including commission, to about 15·2 per cent. of premiums. Total

THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

NOMINAL CAPITAL - £2,500,000.

Issued, £1,250,000, in 50,000 Shares of £25 each. Paid up, £550,000.

RESERVE FUND - £355,000.

DIRECTORS.

GEO. C. HAWORTH, Esq. (Chairman). Sir CHARLES BEHRENS (Deputy-Chairman).
J. R. OLIVER, Esq. MICHAEL CABABÉ, Esq.
ALLAN H. BRIGHT, Esq. (Liverpool). Sir JOSEPH VERDIN, Bart., D.L.
The Right Hon. Lord ROCHDALE.

General Manager—P. FORRESTER.

Head Office: YORK STREET, MANCHESTER.

Liverpool Branch: 45 Castle St., LIVERPOOL. 88 Branches in Manchester District and the adjoining Counties of Lancashire and Cheshire.

life assurance funds of the Company on December 31, 1914, were £7,984,516. Net rate of interest realised, £4 6*s.* 2*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

A quinquennial valuation of the life department and of the Crown and Rock funds was made at December 31, 1914. The Law Union and Rock policies were valued by the O^M Tables of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. In this section the whole of the divisible profits go to the policyholders, less a sum not exceeding 5 per cent. of the premiums received during the valuation period. The Crown policies were valued by the H^M Tables at 3½ per cent., a rate assumed since the series is being wound up, regard being had to the fact that more than 4 per cent. was earned on the fund during the quinquennium. Participating Crown policyholders take two-thirds of profits in cases of policies issued prior to 1860, and five-sixths of profits in cases of later policies. The Rock policies were valued on the $O^{M(5)}$ Table with 3 and 3½ per cent. interest. On Law Union and Rock policies bonuses were at the satisfactory compound rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum, giving large reversionary additions, especially in the case of policies of long standing.

Employers' Liability Department.—Premiums (1914), £35,903. Fund at close of year (after transfer of £10,240 to "profit and loss"), £31,152, including £16,790, estimated liability for outstanding claims.

Accident Department.—Premiums (1914), £16,272; claims, £5,347; expenses, £5,248; transfer to profit and loss account, £4,811; accident fund at close of year, £9,425, including £2,916 in respect of outstanding claims.

General Account.—Premiums, £35,436; transfer to profit and loss, £5,662; fund, £21,325, including £7,150 for outstanding claims.

Fixed-term Premiums in 1914 amounted to £13,221, transfer to profit and loss £10,470, fund at close of year to £273,744.

Profit and Loss Account.—The balance of this account at close of 1914 was £263,194. The Company's assets amounted to £9,739,637, and the report states that the investment reserve funds are sufficient to reduce the values placed on the Stock Exchange securities to the estimated prices of December 31, 1914.

LEGAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 10 Fleet Street, London, E.C. Established 1836. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £160,000. Amount of each share, £50; paid up and added to each, £8. Shares can only be held by members of the legal profession. Shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the divisible surplus arising from the quinquennial valuations. Their annual dividends for the years 1912 to 1916 inclusive are £1 4*s.* per share, free of income tax. Price of shares, £17 10*s.*; yield, £8 11*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

The Legal and General Life Office is one of the strongest and most enterprising in the country, and is very attractive to new entrants. It has a very powerful legal board and a most influential connection. Its new business of late years has been increasing by leaps and bounds. Its policies are models of simplicity. Its bonuses are amongst the best declared by British life offices. Its reserves are on a most conservative basis. The valuation of assurances at December 31, 1911, was made by the O^M Table of Mortality, in combination with 2½ per cent. interest. The premiums valued were in the with-profit class 82 per cent., and in the non-profit class 90 per cent. of the actual premiums payable. The reversionary bonuses declared were, as on the last three preceding quinquennial occasions, at the rate of 38*s.* per cent., on the compound system—excellent in the case of young policies and exceptionally high in that of policies of long duration.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £2,736,063. Of this sum, £2,660,492 represented purely life business, and the balance sinking-fund and other kinds of policies. The total net premium income, increased in 1914 by £69,824, amounted to £1,055,820, about one-seventh of this sum representing premiums on new assurances. Consideration for annuities granted yielded £96,745. Expenses in the life business absorbed about 11·3 per cent. of the total premiums, a very small proportion considering the vast extent of the new business. This is making no allowance for the cost of management of the considerable annuity business. The net claims on the life fund amounted to £548,369, including endowment policies. The incidence of mortality in the last quinquennium was favourable, the amount of the death claims having been 13 per cent. less than "expectation." The total assets at close of year amounted to £10,658,920. The aggregate book value of Stock Exchange securities exceeded the estimated market value at December 31, 1914, after allowing for the investment reserve fund and unappropriated profit, by about 4 per cent. It is reported that, excluding the amounts invested in the purchase of reversionary interests, the remainder of the Society's assets, productive and unproductive, yielded an average rate of £4 10*s.* 3*d.* per cent. before deduction of income tax, giving a very large margin over the valuation rate.

LEGAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 231–2 Strand, London, W.C. Established 1907. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £100,000, in shares of £5 with £1 paid.

The Company transacts fire and accident business, and has an influential board, all the members of which belong to the legal profession. It took over that portion of the business of the Profits and Income Insurance Company, Limited, relating to consequential fire losses. The net premiums in 1914 amounted to £200,046. At the close of the year the balance of revenue account, subject to liability for unexpired risks, amounted to £43,111. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £236,538, include the following item: purchase of goodwill of Profits department, £35,000.

LETTERS PATENT INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Prospectus of this Company was issued in June 1912. The capital proposed amounted to £250,000, in 125,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference shares

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER
SOCIETE ANONYME
(Filiale de la Société Générale de Belgique)

CAPITAL ... ... **Frs. 30,000,000**
RESERVES ... ... **Frs. 2,023,000**

LONDON OFFICE: 2 Bishopsgate, E.C. (P.O. Box 537.)
BRUSSELS OFFICE: Rue des Colonies 66.

Branches at: ROTTERDAM, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, PEKIN, CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA.

Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the World.

Undertakes all kinds of Banking Business. Opening of accounts bearing interest. Encashment of clean and documentary Drafts, Opening of cash and documentary Credits, Letters of Credit, Collections and Negotiation of Coupons, Drawn Bonds, &c., &c.

Special attention given to Exchange and Transfer business with all Countries.

Apply to the Management, 2 Bishopsgate, E.C.

of £1 each, 2,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference shares of £50 each, and 500,000 Ordinary shares of 1*s.* each. Subscriptions were invited for all the Preference shares and for 225,000 Ordinary shares, it being proposed to allot 275,000 Ordinary shares to vendors as part of the purchase price.

The special business particularly proposed to be undertaken was the insurance of liability of patentees, guarantee of patents, and assurance of lives of patentees.

No accounts of this Company have yet reached us, although repeated applications for information have been made to the Secretary.

LICENSES INSURANCE CORPORATION AND GUARANTEE FUND, LIMITED.

Head Office: 24 Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Established 1890. Capital authorised, £1,000,000. On December 31, 1914, subscribed, £144,060, of which paid up £73,850 (£3,640 being in fully-paid Founders' shares). Amount of each share, £10; £5 paid up on Ordinary shares. Dividend on Ordinary capital for year 1914 was at rate of 8 per cent., free of income tax.

The Company occupies a useful sphere of its own in the insurance world, its main object being the insurance from year to year of the renewal of licences in connection with licensed property. The net premium income in 1914 was £139,906. Claims and expenses amounted to £105,119. Interest and fees produced £8,888. At close of year, after provision for dividend, general reserves and balances (apart from reserves for claims in suspense and contingencies, depreciation in investments, and for doubtful debts) amounted to £115,139, or to about 82·7 per cent. of the year's premium income. The amount of the assets, according to the balance sheet on December 31, 1914, was £306,134, the directors certifying that in their belief the assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less the reserve for depreciation, which amounted to £50,848. In arriving at this conclusion the Stock Exchange securities were valued at the middle market price on December 31, 1913, less accrued interest.

LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.

Chief Office: 82 Princes Street, Edinburgh; London Office: 28 Bishopsgate, E.C. Established 1838. Capital authorised and subscribed, £400,000; paid up, £87,500. Shares for £40, upon each of which £8 15*s.* has been paid and added. Dividend paid in 1915, £1 3*s.* 6*d.*, subject to deduction of income tax. Price of shares, £20; yield, £6 0*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

The last quinquennial valuation was made on April 5, 1911, by the O^M Table, in combination with net premiums and interest at 3 per cent. Surplus amounted to £402,757, of which £377,745 was divided, £339,971 being allocated to policyholders. Reversionary bonuses were at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum on both whole-life and endowment assurances, under Class A^3 series of policies.

In financial year ending April 5, 1915, the net new sums assured, all within the United Kingdom, amounted to £487,408; the total net life premium income to £355,246; consideration for annuities granted, £15,772; claims by death, £371,836, the amount of death claims being less than the "expectation"; expenses, about 15·8 per cent. of the premiums; and the life assurance and annuity fund at close of year £5,928,675, in addition to investment reserve fund of £100,000. The interest yield, after deduction of income tax, amounted to £3 18*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Chief Office: 1 Dale Street, Liverpool; London Office: 1 Cornhill, E.C. Established 1836. Capital authorised, £3,000,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £2,655,250; paid up, £265,525. Shares are for £10 each, of which £1 is paid up. There were also on same date an issue of £805,800 Four per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock and an issue of £450,696 Four per Cent Thames and Mersey Debenture stock. Dividend declared in 1915 was 24*s.* per share (less income tax). Price of shares, £19; yield, £6 6*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

The Liverpool and London and Globe Company transacts fire, life, marine, and accident business. The business of the Central Insurance Company, Limited, was acquired as from December 31, 1906, and that of the Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Company, Limited, in 1911.

Fire Department.—The Company's operations in this department are world-wide in scope. In 1914 the Company's total net fire premiums amounted to £3,098,721, losses to £1,888,743 (60·9 per cent.), and expenses to £1,141,960. After transferring £172,141 to profit and loss account the fire fund amounted to £2,239,488.

Life Department.—Life policyholders are treated in this Company with great liberality, the expenses of this department being strictly limited to 10 per cent. of the premiums. Bonuses have hitherto been declared on a high scale. Participating policyholders are entitled to nine-tenths of the divisible surplus in their section. At close of 1913 the quinquennial valuation on a strong basis (O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Tables for assurances, net premiums, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest), produced reversionary bonuses of 35*s.* per cent. per annum, after providing £50,000 towards the investment fluctuation fund. This rate of bonus has been declared since the opening of the participating section in 1875, and its maintenance is particularly satisfactory looking to the increased stringency of the valuation through the reduction in the rate of interest assumed. In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £538,654, the net life premium income to £286,674, the claims to £231,517, and the life and annuity funds at close of year to £4,953,406. Interest on the life funds yielded about £3 15*s.* 7*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

Accident Department.—The personal accident account for 1914 shows a premium income of £136,336, and after providing for claims and expenses, and inclusive of interest earnings of £3,208, and after adjustment of provision for unexpired risks, £12,194 was transferred to profit and loss account. Reserve at end of year amounted to £71,576, exclusive of £16,425 set aside for outstanding claims.

MUNICIPAL MUTUAL INSURANCE, LIMITED

(ASSOCIATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES)

Is the IDEAL System of Insurance for all Public Authorities.

BECAUSE . . .

An immediate Saving is effected in Premiums. The Large Profits made belong to the Policyholders.
The Accumulated Funds belong to the Fire Policyholders, but no liability is incurred.
Only Public Authorities are eligible for these benefits. The Association is purely municipal in character.

Annual Revenue exceeds £24,000
Reduction in Premiums made to Fire Policyholders exceeds £14,006

The Funds, Resources and Revenues of the Company and its Guarantors exceed

£5,000,000.

16 and 17 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

The premium income from EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY business within the United Kingdom amounted to £128,794. After payment of claims and expenses and adjustment of provision for unexpired risks £20,407 (including £3,262 interest) was carried to profit and loss account. The relative fund at close of year amounted to £77,276, exclusive of £57,978 provided for outstanding claims.

The MISCELLANEOUS INSURANCE ACCOUNT shows premiums of £853,615, whilst claims and expenses absorbed £728,323, and after adjustment of reserve for unexpired risks £33,315 (including £18,180 interest) was transferred to profit and loss account. At the end of the year the funds amounted to £491,446, apart from £217,603 provided for outstanding claims.

LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION ACCOUNT.—Premiums in 1914, £1,414; fund at close of year, £4,184.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.—Premiums, 1914, £337,017. The account after providing for claims, £246,778, and expenses, shows, with the addition of interest earnings of £15,902, a surplus of £74,980, of which £11,128 has been left in the marine account to increase the reserves, and the balance of £63,852 transferred to profit and loss account. Marine fund at close of year, £391,047.

GENERALLY.—Profit and loss account in 1914 showed a balance brought forward from 1913, after provision for balance dividend for that year, of £868,869. Transfers in 1914 from other departments, including instalment of £19,914 from the shareholders' life valuation profits of 1908, amounted to £321,823. Interest not carried to other accounts, after deduction of interest paid on Debenture stock and of various debits charged to profit and loss account, amounted to £74,773, giving a total surplus of £396,596. Adding to this the balance of profit and loss brought forward from 1914, the disposable balance was £1,265,465. Out of this £73,932 was transferred to investment fluctuation fund, £15,000 to staff pension fund (thereafter amounting to £79,551), while the dividend for 1914 required £294,069. The balance carried forward in profit and loss account to 1915 thereafter is £882,465.

The general reserve (£1,000,000) and fire reserve funds amount to £3,239,488, and the balance and funds referred to (together £4,121,953) exceed last year's fire premium income by over 33 per cent., disclosing a very strong financial position. The Company's total assets amounted at close of 1914 to £14,146,852. The balance sheet includes the figures relating to other insurance companies owned and controlled by the Company, and the auditors certify that in their belief the assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated therein, after deducting the amount (£755,000) set aside in investment fluctuation fund.

LIVERPOOL MORTGAGE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 6 Castle Street, Liverpool. Established 1887. Capital subscribed, £250,000; paid up, £100,000, in shares of £10 with £4 paid on each.

In 1914 the premiums amounted to £6,513, and the earnings from interest and fees, less tax, to £2,700. Claims, £1,213. Expenses, £1,998. It is announced in the annual report for this year that the suspense account against provision for losses was strengthened by the addition of a further sum of £6,000, and thereafter stood at £34,380. The balance carried forward to 1915 in profit and loss account amounts to £3,588. Assets, December 31, 1914, £222,002.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA INSURANCE CORP., LTD.

(In Liquidation.)

Registered Office: 14 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. Established 1907. On May 29, 1915, capital subscribed, £421,408; paid up, £125,352, in shares of £1, 200,000 having 2*s.* 6*d.* paid, 161,408 having 5*s.* paid, and 60,000 being fully paid.

This Company, which transacted life, fire, accident and miscellaneous insurance business, is now in liquidation.

THE CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£10,000,000**
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	**£8,750,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL	**£1,750,000**
RESERVE FUND	**£800,000**
DEPOSITS	**£47,885,909**

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM GARFIT, Esq., Chairman.

CAPTAIN CHARLES BATHURST, M.P.
MAJOR ELIOT G. BROMLEY-MARTIN.
SIR LIONEL E. DARELL, Bart.
SIR RICHARD C. GARTON.
SIR JOHN T. GOLDNEY.
GEORGE A. HARVEY, Esq.
EDWIN HENTY, Esq.
HERBERT J. W. JERVIS, Esq.
SIR HENRY KIMBER, Bart.
GEORGE BUTLER LLOYD, Esq., M.P.
SAMUEL SAMUEL, Esq., M.P.
SIR GRIFFITH THOMAS.
ERNEST DENT VAISEY, Esq.

G. A. HARVEY and E. D. VAISEY, Joint General-Managers.

Head Office: 39 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON.

Telegraphic Address, "ELMFIELD STOCK, LONDON."

Current Accounts opened in London on terms usual among London Bankers.

Deposit Receipts issued and Deposit Accounts opened in London, interest being allowed thereon at rates as advertised from time to time.

At the Country Branches, Current and Deposit Accounts opened, Deposit Receipts and Drafts issued, and all other Banking Business transacted on the usual terms.

Dividends and Coupons collected. Investments in and Sales of Home and Foreign Securities effected. Moneys received and advised for customers free of charge between all the offices.

The Bank has Agents throughout the United Kingdom, to whom credits can be paid by or on behalf of its customers for transmission.

The Agency of Foreign, Colonial and Country Banks is undertaken.

The Bank is prepared to undertake the duties relating to Executorships, Trusteeships, &c.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.—The Bank issues Drafts, Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes payable in all parts of the World; effects Mail and Cable Transfers; collects Foreign Bills and Bonds; purchases approved Foreign Bills and Coupons payable abroad; receives Foreign Bonds and Scrips for registration; makes arrangements abroad for receiving moneys for its customers, and undertakes generally all Foreign Exchange Business.

It was announced in May 1912 that, under a working agreement between this Corporation and the Commercial Union Insurance Company, the latter guarantees all life policies issued by the Liverpool Victoria, and all fire and accident policies issued or renewed in the United Kingdom after the date of the agreement. It was stated in the annual report for year ending March 31, 1913, that a valuation of the life policies was made by the O^M Table (excluding the first year of assurance) for the quinquennium ended December, 31, 1912, the rate of interest employed being 3½ per cent., except for sinking-fund contracts and deferred assurances, for which the rate assumed was 3 per cent. The valuation showed a deficiency of £3,352, and it was stated that assets to that extent had since been transferred to the life fund.

The balance sheet of the Company, in liquidation, on May 29, 1915, shows a total deficiency in the statement of assets as compared with liabilities (paid-up capital of £125,352 being included amongst such liabilities) amounting to £167,074.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Chief Offices: 45 Dale Street, Liverpool; 155 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. Established 1862. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised, £3,000,000; subscribed, £2,641,250; paid up, £264,125, in 105,650 shares of £25 each with £2 10*s.* paid. During 1907 the Company acquired the business, assets and liabilities of the Law Accident Insurance Society, Limited, and the Standard Marine Insurance Company, Limited. The Company acquired in 1909 a controlling interest in the Australian Alliance Assurance Company of Melbourne. At an extraordinary general meeting on April 25, 1912, it was resolved that the Company be registered as a limited liability Company, with power to transact other (including life) insurance business if and when considered desirable.

Dividend for 1914, 29*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £25 7*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £5 15*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

Fire Department.—The fire premiums amounted in 1914 to £1,655,713, and the losses (£918,633) and expenses (including taxes, £591,755) to £1,510,388. Interest earnings on the fire fund produced £29,837, and the sum of £98,661 was transferred from the fire account to profit and loss, the departmental fire fund thereafter (increased by £76,500) amounting to £862,500 at close of year.

Accident and General Department.—The premiums (increased by £224,677) amounted to £908,074; losses (£385,181) and expenses, inclusive of commission and taxes (£347,482), together amounted to £732,663. Interest produced £16,048, and, after transferring £101,459 to profit and loss account, the accident fund was increased by £90,000 to £463,500.

Marine Department.—Net marine premiums, increased by £16,886, amounted to £235,256, and departmental interest earnings to £7,373; net losses to £180,849, and departmental expenses, including taxes, to £21,414. The sum of £33,366 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the marine fund at end of year, increased by £7,000, amounted to £194,500.

After adjusting reserves for unexpired risks in the various funds, the profits in the year 1914, exclusive of interest earnings on profit and loss account, less expenses charged to that account, seem to have aggregated £362,587. The amount required for distribution of the dividend was £141,384. £110,000 was written off investments, £10,000 was added to the staff pension fund, and the balance carried forward in profit and loss account was £847,666, after increasing the funds as above stated, as compared with £846,463 at close of 1913.

On December 31, 1914, the funds, after provision for dividend, in addition to paid-up capital of £264,125, amounted to £3,466,343 (reserve fund, £1,000,000; fire fund, £862,500; accident fund, £463,500; marine fund, £194,500; staff pension fund, £98,177; balance, £847,666). The assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £4,923,121, and the aggregate market value of the

THE
Excess Insurance Co.
LIMITED.
Managers - C. E. HEATH & Co., Ltd.
ESTABLISHED 1894.

CAPITAL (fully paid up) - - £50,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - £117,000
Reserve for Unexpired Liability - £453,314

Directors:
CUTHBERT E. HEATH. GEORGE HEATH.
ARTHUR BURNS. MONTAGUE EVANS

Head Office:
WATERLOW HOUSE, 25 BIRCHIN LANE, E.C.
Credit and Fidelity Insurance Department:
WATERLOW HOUSE, 25 BIRCHIN LANE, E.C.
Motor Car Department:
1 ROYAL EXCHANGE AVENUE, E.C.
Underwriting Office:
10 ROYAL EXCHANGE, E.C.
Paris Branch Manager:
Mons. LOUIS HELBRONNER,
29 BOULEVARD DES ITALIENS.

The Company accepts all classes of Risks except Life.

PHŒNIX
Assurance Company, Ltd.
Head Office: LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.



Total Funds Exceed £16,000,000
Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000
Chairman: Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE · LIFE · MARINE
ACCIDENT · BURGLARY
Annuities are granted on specially favourable terms, and are a form of Investment particularly advantageous at the present time, owing to their freedom from fluctuations and the high return per cent. on the Capital sunk.
General Manager: SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

securities was certified by the auditors to be in excess of the amounts appearing in the balance sheet.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE AND GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 66 and 67 Cornhill, London, E.C. Established 1862. Capital authorised, £350,000; subscribed, £333,825; paid up, £66,765. Shares of £5, with £1 paid. Dividend and bonus for 1913 together amount to 3*s.* per share, free of income tax. Price of shares, £2; yield, £9 9*s.* 1*d.* per cent. Shareholders are entitled to one-fifth of the profits made on the life fund in respect of policies effected before January 1, 1898, and to one-tenth of the profits in respect of other policies.

In accordance with resolutions passed at special meetings of shareholders, the Association was registered in 1910 as a limited Company, and obtained the sanction of the High Court to alteration in the memorandum and articles of association empowering the Association to carry on every description of insurance business (other than marine insurance).

An agreement was entered into on August 1, 1912, with the Scottish Metropolitan Assurance Company, Limited, for the purchase of the shares of that Company by the London and Lancashire Life, &c., Association, and the combined figures of both companies are given in the accounts.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—The valuation on December 31, 1912, was made by the H^{M} Mortality Tables, with 3½ per cent. interest, with the exception of participating policies effected since 1907, which were valued on the more stringent basis of the O^{M} Table with 3 per cent. interest. Annuities were valued by the British Offices' Annuity Tables with 3½ per cent. interest. A net surplus of £140,086 was disclosed, after applying £57,992 to strengthening the valuation basis, of which £5,000 was applied in increasing the investment reserve and £4,212 carried forward. On the balance of £130,874 the first charge is the cumulative dividend of 5 per cent. per annum to shareholders, amounting to £9,476, leaving £121,398 as the divisible surplus. Of this £18,641 was the shareholders' proportion, on account of which £17,044 had been paid to them during the quinquennium. The policyholders' proportion was £102,757, less £11,221 previously distributed as interim bonus, leaving £91,536 for further distribution. £50,851 was divided amongst participating policyholders in the form of a reversionary bonus of 10*s.* per cent. per annum for each full year's premium paid in the quinquennium, this bonus being increased to 11*s.* 3*d.* for policies effected since December 31, 1897. The balance of £40,685 was carried to the bonus reserve fund of the contingent profit series of the Association's business, increasing this fund to £81,158.

The Company operates in its life department in Canada, as well as in the United Kingdom, and prior to 1908 did a considerable new business in India. In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £767,733; the total net life premium income to £399,761; the claims by death to £202,819 (an amount stated to be "within the expectancy"); claims by endowments maturing to £113,879; life expenses to £81,597 (20·4 per cent. of premiums), and life funds at close of year to £3,903,688 (London and Lancashire, £2,996,939; Scottish Metropolitan, £906,749). The net interest yield on the life fund was about £3 17*s.* 8*d.* per cent.

Sinking fund premiums, £3,163; fund, £26,969. Fire premiums, £47,568; fund, £19,027. Accident premiums, £24,151; fund, £10,572. Employers' liability premiums, £20,649; fund, £12,247. General premiums, £47,759; fund, £15,920.

Total assets, December 31, 1914, £4,292,248.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 50 Finsbury Square, London, E.C. Established 1869. Authorised capital, £100,000, in shares of £1. Paid up on March 24, 1915, £20,583. Dividend and bonus to shareholders together amounting to £3,087 were paid in 1914–15.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

Subscribed Capital - - - £15,900,000.

CAPITAL—Paid	**£3,000,000**
Uncalled	**2,300,000**
Reserve Liability	**10,600,000**

Reserve Fund (invested in English Government Securities), **£2,000,000.**

DIRECTORS.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
MAURICE O. FITZGERALD, Esq.
W. H. N. GOSCHEN, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD INCHCAPE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.
FRANCIS ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, Esq.
CLAUDE V. E. LAURIE, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LICHFIELD.
F. C. LE MARCHANT, Esq.
G. F. MALCOLMSON, Esq.
SELWYN R. PRYOR, Esq.
THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq.
ROBERT WIGRAM, Esq.

T. ESTALL, Esq.
D. J. H. CUNNICK, Esq. } **Joint General Managers.**
F. ELEY, Esq.

EDWARD HUGH NORRIS WILDE, Esq. } **Solicitors.**
WALTER EDWARD MOORE, Esq.

Head Office: 15 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, having numerous Branches in England and Wales, as well as Agents and Correspondents at home and abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have money transmitted to the credit of their Accounts through any of the Branches free of charge.

At Head Office and Branches DEPOSITS are received, CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened, and all other Banking business transacted.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Bank, Lists of Branches, Agents and Correspondents may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Bank's Branches.

Transacts life and industrial business. Life premiums in year to March 24, 1915, £71,445; claims, £10,106; expenses, 15·5 per cent. of premiums; fund, increased by £55,602, £251,559; net interest yield, £3 14*s.* 8*d.* per cent. Annual valuations are made.

Industrial premiums, £663,528; claims, £316,245; expenses, 43·3 per cent. of premiums; fund at close of year, £992,453. Total assets, March 24, 1915, £1,320,997.

LONDON AND MIDLAND INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 213 Piccadilly, London, W. Established as the "Midland Insurance Company, Limited," in 1908. Name changed, 1910, to Midland and Textile Insurance Company, and again in 1913 to above. The businesses of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada (established 1859), the Imperial Fire Insurance Company (of Ontario), and the Canada Hail Insurance Company were absorbed by the Company in 1913. Nominal capital, £452,204, in 500,000 Cumulative Five per Cent. Preference shares of 10*s.* each and 808,814 Ordinary shares of 5*s.* each. Subscribed on December 31, 1914, £143,383, and called up, £113,537, there being 191,111 Preference shares of 10*s.*, 149,233 fully paid Ordinary shares of 5*s.* with 1*s.* called up, and 42,078 fully paid. There were also £46,000 Five per Cent. Debentures outstanding at the end of the year. During the year £39,000 profit-sharing bonds were sold at par to provide the cash required in connection with the closing of the foreign accounts of the Company.

Transacts fire, accident, sickness, burglary, plate-glass and miscellaneous insurance, and commenced the transaction of workmen's compensation insurance in April 1911.

For the year ending December 31, 1914, the net premiums amounted to £52,374, and the claims paid and outstanding to £39,653; expenses, £38,997; debit balance (subject to provision for unexpired risks) carried to balance sheet, £3,886. Assets, December 31, 1914, £204,799, include £70,885 in respect of shares of three Canadian insurance companies acquired, £3,886 debit balance of revenue account referred to above, and £60,803 loss on closing of foreign and other accounts.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: Cleveland House, City Road, London, E.C. Registered January 24, 1906.

Capital authorised, £150,000, in 75,000 Deferred and 75,000 Preferred shares of £1; issued, £90,123 (paid up on December 31, 1914, £82,994). Further liability on Deferred shares, 5*s.* per share (callable). The Preferred are entitled to a preferential dividend of 5 per cent., and thereafter the Deferred shares are entitled to a like dividend, after which the balance of profits available for dividend is to be apportioned so that each Deferred share shall take four times as much as each Preferred share. No dividend has yet been paid.

The Company has acquired the whole of the share capital of the Provincial Homes Investment Company, Limited, and the Irish Provident Assurance Company, Limited. It undertakes, life, endowment, house purchase, accident, and fire insurance.

The accounts for the year to December 31, 1914, show ordinary life premiums, £12,469, and fund at close of year, £137,008; industrial life premiums, £32,156, and industrial life fund, £5,629; bond investment and endowment certificate premiums, £15,221, and relative fund, £108,276. Fire premiums, £278; fund, £923. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £372,271, include formation and extension expenses, £31,110; Provincial Homes Investment Company, £1,369, and cost of businesses acquired, £50,137.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 3–4 Royal Exchange Buildings, London, E.C. Established 1860. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £100,000. Shares for £10, with £1 paid. No dividend was declared for 1914.

THE
YORKSHIRE
INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
Established 1824.
Reserve Funds exceed Four Millions.

ANNUITIES.
Specimen Rates for £100 Purchase Money.

	40.	50.	60.	70.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
MALES.	5 19 8	7 3 8	9 6 0	13 5 2
FEMALES.	5 16 0	6 14 2	8 6 8	11 16 6

FIRE. ACCIDENT. LIFE.
Endowments for Children, and Leasehold Insurances.
Loss of Profits through Fire.
Trustee and Executor.
Employers' Liability (including Domestic Servants).
Fidelity. Personal Accident. Burglary.
Plate Glass. Motor Car. Live Stock.
Boiler. Marine, &c.

Chief Offices YORK: ST. HELEN'S SQUARE.
LONDON: BANK BUILDINGS, PRINCES ST., E.C.
Branches and Agencies throughout the Kingdom.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.
Every Description of Life Assurance and Annuity Business Transacted.
REVERSIONS PURCHASED.
Invested Funds - £90,000,000
Claims Paid - - £118,000,000

During 1913 the shares were acquired by the Yorkshire Insurance Company.

Premiums, 1914, £303,388; first year's settlements, £64,628; balance of 1914 underwriting account carried forward to 1915, £229,294. Reserve fund, £20,000. Balance of profit and loss account carried forward, £36,667. Assets at close of year, according to the balance sheet, amounted to £432,730.

LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Head Office: 7 Royal Exchange, London, E.C. Established 1720. Capital authorised, £2,000,000; subscribed, £896,550; paid up, £448,275. Shares for £25 with £12 10*s.* paid. Shareholders were formerly entitled to the entire profits of the non-participating section of the life business, and to one-third of the profits of the participating section, and paid thereout the expenses of management (but not inclusive of commission) of the life department. At the quinquennial valuation on December 31, 1910, however, a new system came into force. In the case of participating policyholders entering after January 1, 1911, they are to receive 90 per cent. of the divisible surplus in their series. The distribution of bonus prior to the coming into force of the new regulations was based on a cash allotment representing a percentage of the premiums paid during the quinquennium, which in reversionary form provided decreasing bonuses at death, according to the advancing ages of policyholders. But under the new system the more popular method of uniform compound reversionary bonuses will be adopted in cases of policies effected after January 1, 1911, and this system will apply to endowment as well as whole-life assurance. It is not proposed to alter the method of bonus distribution in the case of those whose policies were in force at the end of the last quinquennium, but it is officially estimated that their prospects of bonus are improved through the reforms introduced. Dividend to shareholders paid in respect of 1914 was 20 per cent., or 50*s.* per share, free of income tax, as for each of the previous 30 years, with the exception of 1905, in respect of which 60*s.* was declared. Price of shares, £12 10*s.*; yield, £6 9*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

The London Assurance is one of the oldest and most influential of Metropolitan companies transacting a miscellaneous business. Like its near neighbour, the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, which was also founded in 1720, it carries on life, fire, accident and marine insurance. It paid nearly a million sterling in settlement of claims arising from the San Francisco disaster in 1906.

Fire Department.—In 1914 the fire premium income amounted to £689,065; the losses to £368,109; and the expenses to £274,285. Interest earnings on the fire fund produced £26,548. A sum of £53,197 was transferred to profit and loss from the fire fund, which on December 31, 1914, amounted to £770,000, as compared with £750,000 at the beginning of the year. The fire fund, apart from other reserves applicable to this section of the business, represented about 111·7 per cent. of the year's premiums, as compared with 108 per cent. at December 31, 1913.

Life Department.—The last quinquennial valuation of the life business was made at end of 1910 on a very strong basis: O^M Mortality Table, net premiums, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest. Bonuses to participating policies represent in cash form $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the premiums paid during the last quinquennium. See above for description of new system of bonus distribution to be henceforth adopted. In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £494,238; the total net life premiums to £210,235; life expenses to 11·3 per cent.; the claims by death, inclusive of bonuses, to £170,789, and by survivance to £17,520; and the life funds at close of year, increased by £82,994, to £2,723,180, after allocating £52,000 to an investments depreciation account. Net interest yield on life fund, £4 1*s.* 10*d.* per cent. A new life prospectus was issued by the Company in 1911, containing new rates of premium those for non-participating policies being reduced

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL
INSURANCE COMPANY.

Established 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS - - - £10,250,000.

FIRE, EXPLOSION, AND LIGHTNING (including LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE AND ENDOWMENTS, ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESSES, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD AND CAPITAL REDEMPTIONS, BURGLARY AND THEFT, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE-DRIVING ACCIDENTS, GLASS BREAKAGE, MOTOR-CAR, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

THE COMPANY'S BONDS ARE ACCEPTED BY **THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE** IN ALL ITS DIVISIONS, **THE BOARD OF TRADE, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, INLAND REVENUE, &c.,** FOR

RECEIVERS in CHANCERY, and TRUSTEES and SPECIAL MANAGERS in BANKRUPTCY, &c., &c.

EDINBURGH ... ... **35 ST. ANDREW SQUARE.**
LONDON ... ... **5 WALBROOK, E.C., and 55 PALL MALL, S.W.**

and those for participating policies being revised to meet new conditions.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the net marine premiums amounted to £465,107; the losses to £299,984; the departmental interest earnings to £14,926; and the marine fund, after transference of £90,516 to profit and loss account, to £450,000, being increased by £30,000.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—Accident premiums in 1914 amounted to £16,379, and accident funds at close of year to £25,000, after transferring £1,954 to profit and loss account.

CAPITAL REDEMPTION ACCOUNT.—Premiums, £1,636; fund, £10,246.

GENERALLY.—Interest, dividends, and fees not carried to other accounts (less income tax) amounted to £34,227. The amounts transferred to profit and loss account were as follows: from life account, £15,000; from fire account, £53,196; from marine account, £90,516, and from accident account, £1,954. On the other hand, dividends to shareholders were paid in 1914 to the amount of £89,655. The sum of £100,000 was transferred to investments depreciation fund from profit and loss account. The general reserve fund at close of year was £450,000 and the investments depreciation account, £252,000; whilst the balance of profit and loss account, after provision for the dividend to be paid in 1915, amounted to £78,102 at close of the year. Apart from shareholders' paid-up capital (£448,275), life fund (£2,723,180), capital redemption fund and investments depreciation account, the total reserves and balances, after provision for dividend, amount to £1,773,102, representing about 151 per cent. of the combined fire, accident and marine premium income; so that the financial position is very strong. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £5,495,401. All the quoted securities were valued at middle prices in London and New York on July 27 and June 30, 1914, respectively, and on this basis the depreciation is more than covered by the investments depreciation fund.

LONDON, EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* Pearl Life Assurance Company, Limited.)

LONDON GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT CO., LTD.

Head Office: 20–22 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. Established 1869. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £189,253; paid up, £109,886. 5,000 Five per Cent. Preference shares of £5 each are fully paid up, and on 25,000 Ordinary shares of £5 each £2 per share is paid up. There are also 39,253 Five per Cent. Preference shares of £1 each, on which £34,886 has been paid up. On the Ordinary shares for the year 1914 a dividend of 12*s.* 6*d.* per share (less income tax) was declared, representing 31¼ per cent. on Ordinary share capital. Price of Preference shares, £5 5*s.*; yield, £4 16*s.* 5*d.* per cent.; price of Ordinary shares, £10 6*s.* 3*d.*; yield, £6 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

In 1914 the net premium income, increased by £169,193, amounted to £1,241,587, apportioned as follows: Accident, £107,212; employers' liability within United Kingdom, £49,084; other classes, £1,085,291. Claims and trading outgoings of every kind cost £649,183 (accident, £56,306; employers' liability within United Kingdom, £23,646; other classes, £569,231). Interest, &c., less expenses of issue of new Preference capital, &c., produced £36,104. At close of year, excluding sums set aside for outstanding losses, the accident fund amounted to £62,761; the employers' liability fund to £15,851; the general fund to £330,545; the reserve fund to £170,000; and after provision for dividend £38,894 was carried forward in profit and loss account. Assets amounted to £1,357,135.

LONDON LIFE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 81 King William Street, London, E.C. Established 1806. Founded on the mutual non-commission-paying principle, this life office has throughout its entire history been very successful in earning profits

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

ESTABLISHED 1869

Chief Office:

50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000
CLAIMS PAID exceed £3,750,000

AMPLE SECURITY FOR POLICYHOLDERS.

LIFE & ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES EFFECTED.

PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

Prospectus, last year's Balance Sheet, Valuation Returns, and every information can be had on application to the Managing Directors.

Norwich Union Mutual Life Office

Founded 1808.

Because of its

AGE. It is a Centenarian in its own right, and, by its absorption of the Amicable Society, THE OLDEST LIFE OFFICE IN THE WORLD.

MAGNITUDE. Its annual volume of New Business is very much larger than that of any other British Life Office not transacting industrial business. In 1914, notwithstanding war conditions, £2,857,193 was completed in the United Kingdom (as against £2,794,738 in 1913) and £1,786,331 in the Colonies and abroad.

RESERVE STRENGTH. Its Valuations are made on a Reserve Basis of 2½%—a rate attained, or even aimed at, by very few Offices.

PROFIT YIELD. Notwithstanding the severity of the Reserve Basis, the 1911 Valuation showed a Profit of £727,153, and the handsome scale of Bonuses of 1906 was maintained.

ALERTNESS. Its special Tables are designed to meet all the needs of the Twentieth Century, and have done much to popularise Insurance.

ECONOMY. The ratio of expenditure to premium income, always low having regard to the volume of new business, in 1914 was 1½% lower even than in 1913.

THE OUTSTANDING BRITISH LIFE OFFICE.

Write for Prospectus and Annual Report to the Secretary,
NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE, NORWICH,
or to any Branch Office of the Society.

for its policyholders. Its ordinary profit system (*but see below*) is to reduce the premiums after seven years' payments have been made. There are several series of policies, entitled to reductions at varying rates, presently ranging from 52 per cent. to 121 per cent., in the latter case no payment being made by the assured, but the equivalent of 21 per cent. of the premium being accumulated at compound interest as an addition to the sum assured.

A system under which amounts given as reduction of premiums may be accumulated for the benefit of members at 10*s.* per cent. less than the net rate of interest earned on the funds was introduced in 1912.

New entrants after July 1, 1914, are offered an alternative scheme of participation in profits, viz., an allotment of a compound reversionary bonus, a minimum bonus of 30*s.* per cent. being guaranteed for each year up to June 1925. The reversionary bonus declared in this series for the year beginning July 1, 1915, was 35*s.*per cent. The rates in force for such participating assurances are considerably below those usually charged.

Under a system of minimum premiums, policies for guaranteed amounts are issued at less than average non-profit rates, which, nevertheless, have the prospect of eventually participating in profits. The scheme is particularly attractive to those who desire the maximum amount of assurance from the outset of their policies in return for such a premium as they can afford. The following announcement appeared in the annual report for 1907 : " During the year the directors have arranged a system of children's deferred assurances or endowment assurances without medical examination, but entitled to full participation, premiums being payable during the term of the policy, or only until age 21, but returnable at any time, before age 21, with compound interest at 2½ per cent., on surrender of policy. These and the fixed endowments granted by the Association, which, however, are non-participating, but have similar provisions as to return of premiums with interest on surrender, seem to provide all necessary facilities for parents, godparents and others who are concerned for the education, starting in life, and future welfare of children."

Valuations are made annually, in which full provision is always made with the view of there never being any diminution of rates of reduction once declared. The valuation as at December 31, 1914, was made by the $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Table, with interest at 3 per cent., The Association claims to be managed at a lower ratio of expenditure to premium income than any other life office in the world.

In 1914 the net new sums assured by life policies amounted to £814,958 ; total net life premium income to £430,512, of which the expenses absorbed £4 4*s.* 9*d.* per cent. ; and claims by death to £283,112 (less by £90,557 than " the estimated amount according to the table of mortality used in the valuation "). Reductions in premium were granted to policyholders to the extent of £218,018 (nearly 51 per cent. of entire premium income). The amount of net liability brought out by the valuation was £5,299,541, while the reduction of premium and reversionary bonus funds amounted to £5,368,341, including reserve funds £65,000, and unappropriated balances of £3,800. " Endowments certain " fund (premiums, £13,248), £69,485. Interest yield on total funds, £4 4*s.* 11*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

MARINE & GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOC.

Head Office : 14 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. Established 1852. This life office, which has throughout been excellently managed and has yielded large profits to its participating policyholders, who are entitled to the whole divisible surplus, was originally a sort of domestic institution for the assurance of officers connected with the " Peninsular and Oriental " and " Royal Mail " Steamship Companies. Since 1880 the Company has largely extended its sphere of operations. It does not transact much marine insurance in the ordinary sense, but it does a small amount of business, in addition



to life assurance, in the insurance of passengers' and mariners' effects.

A quinquennial valuation was made as at December 31, 1914, by the O^M and O^{M5} Tables, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. After setting aside £128,022 to meet the depreciation in securities, the surplus ascertained was £222,126, of which directors declared £217,700 to be divisible net profits. Reversionary bonuses were at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum on sums assured for each year's premium due and paid in the quinquennium, excepting only the first year's premium in the case of policies participating for the first time. Interim bonuses on policies now participating which become claims during the current quinquennium are at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum; but endowment assurances which mature receive interim bonuses at the rate of £2 per cent. per annum.

During 1914 the net new assurances amounted to £258,046, and the total net premium income was £166,954 (on life policies, £155,875; on deferred annuities, £5,787; and on transit insurances of baggage, £5,293). Expenses absorbed 16 per cent. Claims by death amounted to £71,649 (stated to be "within the expectation under the mortality tables" (and by survivance to £22,021. At the end of the year the funds amounted to £2,080,457. Net interest yield on funds invested and uninvested, £4 3*s.* 10*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 20 Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Established 1836. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up on December 31, 1914, £600,000. Shares for £25, with £15 paid. Dividends paid in 1914, £2 5*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £34 12*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 14*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

This Company does a large and select marine insurance business, on which a consistently high rate of profit has been made for many years past, and prospects of maintenance of dividend seem favourable. The Company does not publish a revenue account, but from its statement of affairs at end of 1914 it appears that the reserve fund then amounted to £470,000, and the balance of underwriting account to £545,618. Premiums and interest were received in 1914 to the extent of £457,600, of which first year's settlements and expenses absorbed £163,687, leaving a balance (included in above sum of £545,618) of £293,913. Assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £1,635,115.

MARITIME INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Offices: 35–45 Brown's Buildings, Liverpool; 11 Royal Exchange, London, E.C. Established 1864. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £100,000. Shares of £10 each, with £2 paid. These are held by the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, which purchased the undertaking in 1914. Dividend for 1914, 17½ per cent., less income tax.

Premiums were received in 1914 amounting to £286,461, of which first year's settlements absorbed 25·5 (as compared with 31·9 in the previous year) per cent. The reserve fund stood at £180,000, and the balance in profit and loss account, after provision for the dividend above referred to, at £51,790. Total assets at close of 1914, £673,408.

MERCHANTS MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 37 Cornhill, London, E.C. Established 1871. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £125,000. Shares, £10 each, with £2 10*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914 (7½ per cent., free of income tax) was much more than provided out of interest, which, after deduction of income tax, produced £17,754, while the amount of the dividend was £9,375. Price of shares, £3 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, 6 per cent.

The underwriting account for 1913, closed in 1914, showed a balance of £45,208 after transfer of £40,000 to the underwriting suspense account, which amounted to £46,440 on December 31, 1914.

The net premiums received in 1914 amounted to £264,483, whereof about 18·7 per cent. was absorbed in

ESTABLISHED 1862.

LONDON & LANCASHIRE LIFE & GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

Funds Exceed . £4,000,000

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

LIFE - FIRE ACCIDENT

INSURANCE TRANSACTED.

PROSPECTUSES ON APPLICATION.

HEAD OFFICE:
66 & 67 Cornhill, LONDON, E.C.
W. ÆNEAS MACKAY, General Manager.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, Ltd.

11 NORFOLK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

FIRE.
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.
PERSONAL ACCIDENT.
BURGLARY AND THEFT.
GLASS.

Minimum Rates of Premium.

For Forms and further Information apply to the Manager at the Joint Offices of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, Limited, and the Clergy Pensions Institution, 11 Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.

The Surplus Profits are devoted to Institutions, &c., which are for the Benefit of the Clergy and of Church objects.

first year's settlements. The reserve fund amounted to £125,000, and the balance of underwriting account for 1914 to £197,207. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £644,192.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 13 Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Established 1835.

This, one of the four British mutual non-commission-paying offices, is a very excellent institution, which has consistently returned large profits to its select class of policyholders. In 1914 the net new assurances amounted to £226,563; the total net premium income to £172,864; the claims by death to £101,397 (about 55 per cent. of the amount expected), and the funds at close of year to £2,428,580, of which £35,000 represented general reserve fund and £100,000 investment reserve fund. The interest yield was about £4 2*s.* 10*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax. Expenses absorbed about 6·5 per cent. of the premium income—a very small proportion.

Annual valuations are made in this Society. The valuation at the close of last year was made by the O^{M} Table of Mortality, in combination with 3 per cent. interest. The surplus ascertained was sufficient to maintain the large reduction of premiums previously granted on policies entitled to participate, which now range from 34 to 79 per cent. of the premiums, leaving an unappropriated balance of £18,424, after adding £25,000 to the investment, reserves and writing £25,000 off the value of certain securities. Policies are entitled to participation after payment of five years' premiums. The Society deserves a larger share of new business. The incidence of mortality has always been very favourable. A special feature of this Society is its discounted abatement system, under which, in order to give policyholders the immediate benefit of future reductions in premiums, and to meet the wishes of those desiring the largest assurance at the least cost, the directors have adopted tables of exceptionally low premiums for whole-life policies and endowment assurances. The total assets amounted on December 31 last to £2,443,354.

MOTOR UNION INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 10 St. James's Street, London, S.W. Established 1906. On December 24, 1914, authorised capital, £300,000; issued, 200 shares of £10 each fully paid, 9,800 shares of £10 on each of which £2 was paid, and 172,544 Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, fully paid; paid-up capital thus £194,144. Dividend declared in respect of 1914, 22½ per cent. (less tax) on the amount paid up on the Ordinary shares. Price of partly paid Ordinary shares, £6 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent.; price of Preference shares, 18*s.*; yield, £6 5*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

Company was formed to insure motor-car and other risks (including employers' liability insurance), and also undertakes fire, burglary and personal accident risks.

A Marine Department was opened in 1914.

The Company entered into an agreement to purchase as from December 25, 1912, the goodwill of the National British and Irish Millers' Insurance Company, Limited. The assets and charter of the "Eagle Insurance Company of New York" were purchased in 1912, with the view of possible future developments, although it was stated at the annual meeting on March 31, 1913, that there was no immediate intention of commencing active operations in America or in connection with that Company.

In the year to December 24, 1914, net premiums amounted to £191,235, and claims on 1912, 1913 and 1914 policies to £89,426. Assets at end of financial year, £543,846. Reserve for unexpired risks, £88,907, and reserve for outstanding claims, £31,304. Balance carried forward, £5,153, after provision for dividend, transfer of £8,417 to investment reserve fund (thereafter amounting to £25,000), and transfer of £1,301 to income tax reserve (making that reserve £3,000).

ESTD 1836

ASSETS EXCEED £14,100,000

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS PAID OVER £79,000,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

ANNUITIES, LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEE, SICKNESS, PERSONAL ACCIDENT, MOTOR CAR, PLATE GLASS, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, LIVE STOCK, LOSS OF PROFITS, &c.

Head Office: 1 Dale St., Liverpool. London, Chief Office: **1 Cornhill, E.C.**

MUNICIPAL MUTUAL INSURANCE, LIMITED.

Head Office: 16 and 17 Finsbury Square, London, E.C. Established 1903. This Association was formed for the purpose of insuring against fire the property of municipal and other public bodies, and to undertake their other insurance risks. The chief business transacted is that of fire insurance, but recently non-hazardous casualty risks have been written, such as burglary, fidelity guarantee, plate glass, accidents to scholars, &c. The Company arranges other descriptions of insurance for its members with other companies on favourable terms. There is no share capital, but the funds appear at a high proportionate standard as compared with the net premium income, and it is stated that a binding agreement has been made with a group of important and substantial British insurance offices whereby these companies guarantee the solvency of the Association to an unlimited extent. The profits are divisible among the fire policyholders, and a reduction not exceeding 20 per cent. of premiums was declared in 1915 on policies on which four years' premiums had been paid, and a further additional reduction on policies of nine years' standing subject to renewal for five years. Net fire premium income, 1914, £11,671. Fire fund, December 31, 1914, £14,484. Net miscellaneous premium income, 1914, £726. Miscellaneous fund, December 31, 1914, £176. General reserve fund, £7,500. Profit and loss balance, £1,242. Assets, December 31, 1914, £33,611.

NATIONAL BENEFIT LIFE AND PROPERTY ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 27 and 28 Newgate Street, London, E.C. Founded in 1890 as the National Benefit Trust, Limited; name changed to above in January 1912. Capital authorised, £120,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £104,715; paid up, £45,946. Dividend for 1914, inclusive of bonus, 10 per cent.

Formerly the Company's operations were restricted to house purchase and bond investment, but life and endowment assurances of all descriptions are now transacted, and new departments for fire, accident and general insurance were opened in 1912. In the life section there are some special features, including an arrangement by which all whole-of-life policies become automatically payable in event of survivance to age 80. Life assurance can be effected in combination with house purchase, loans thereon being repaid by the policy in case of the borrower's death.

In 1914, life premiums, £7,179; life fund, £3,265; fire and general premiums, £61,190; fund, £7,493; bond investment and endowment certificate premiums, £56,499; fund, £534,000; investment reserve fund, £15,000; profit and loss balance, £6,538; general reserve fund, £6,000. Assets, December 31, 1914, £688,919.

NATIONAL BOILER & GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Chief Office: National Buildings, St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester; London Office: 60 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. Established 1864. Capital (on December 31, 1914): subscribed, £150,000; paid up, £52,500, in 15,000 shares of £10 with £3 10*s.* paid up. Dividend for six months to December 31, 1914, 9*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £17; yield, £5 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent.

Premiums, sales and fees in six months to December 31, 1914, £56,823; interest receipts, £3,396; claims and expenses, £45,299.

Current risk and reserve fund (increased by £5,000), £143,000; balance carried forward after provision for dividend, £7,636. Assets, December 31, 1914, £216,651

NATIONAL GUARANTEE & SURETYSHIP ASSOC., LTD.

The business of this Company has been transferred to the Northern Assurance Company (*q.v.*).

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO. OF GREAT BRITAIN, LTD.

Head Office: 184 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow; London Office: 81 Cannon Street, London, E.C. Established 1897. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; sub-

AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF SAVING

SMALL SUMS (with an absolute certainty of their ultimate return with added interest) and incidentally creating IMMEDIATE CAPITAL is to invest a small proportion of income in an

INVESTMENT POLICY.

The possession of this Policy not only provides an independence for those whom the assured desires to protect, but it also gives him A MOST VALUABLE ASSET which may prove to be of great service to him in his business.

There is no Better Form of Saving.

Until the termination of the War it is proposed to invest all new premiums received by the Star Assurance Society in British Government Securities.

Apply for full particulars of the above mentioned policy to

THE STAR ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

Head Office, 32 Moorgate Street, LONDON, E.C.

J. DOUGLAS WATSON, General Manager.



scribed on December 31, 1914, £250,000; paid up, £50,000. Shares of £5 each with £1 paid. This statement of capital includes 5,000 shares issued in 1908 and 1909 at a premium of £1 10*s.* per share. The dividend declared in respect of 1915 was 15 per cent., free of income tax. Price of shares, £3 8*s.* 9*d.*; yield, £5 9*s.* 1*d.* per cent.

A successful and well-managed non-tariff fire Company, transacting also burglary, accident and plate-glass insurance. Has shown in each year from establishment consistent trading profits, which have been but little drawn on for dividend purposes, so that the reserves are now at a high standard. In 1914 the net premium income amounted to £69,035; interest earnings and fees to £7,232 (covering over 96 per cent. of the dividend); losses to £31,780 (46 per cent.); expenses to £25,654 (37·2 per cent.). After addition of £145 to reserve for unexpired risks, which is brought up to £23,011, representing one-third of the year's premium income, the credit balance, including balance brought forward from 1913, amounted to £24,991, of which £7,500 is applied to dividend, £5,000 in addition to general reserve fund (thereafter amounting to £100,000), and £12,491 carried forward. After provision for dividends and outstanding liabilities the balance and reserves, apart from capital and of investment reserve fund, amounted to £140,503, exceeding 203 per cent. of the year's fire premium income, showing a very strong financial position, and specially so for so young a Company.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 39 King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. Established 1830. A mutual life office, formed by the fusion of the old "National" and "Mutual" Life Offices. A well-managed and attractive institution.

In 1914 the net new business amounted to £402.645 in sums assured (£388,090 life and £14,555 other business). The total net premium income amounted to £210,736, of which life premiums were £200,888, the expenses of management (life) being 15·8 per cent. thereof. The net claims paid amounted to £162,497 by death and £49,912 by survivance. The interest yield was good, after deduction of income tax representing £4 13*s.* 2*d.* per cent. on the funds, excluding reversions. The accumulated funds were increased during the year by £42,514 to £3,139,517, of which £3,020,746 represented the life fund and £118,771 the capital redemption fund. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £3,364,718.

A quinquennial valuation was made at the close of 1913. The life assurance fund amounted to £2,986,833, and, although Stock Exchange securities had been written down during the quinquennium by £103,579, and were taken at selling prices on December 31, a satisfactory surplus was ascertained, sufficient to provide larger bonuses than were declared at the previous distribution and to permit the carrying forward of a large balance. The valuation was made by the O^{M} Mortality Table, in combination with 3 per cent. interest, the net premiums only being valued, leaving a reserve of nearly 20 per cent. of the ordinary actual premiums for expenses and contingencies. The surplus amounted to £341,098, of which a sum of £235,934 was divided among participating policyholders, and, after applying £3,000 to the estimated expenses of the valuation, a balance of £102,164 was carried forward. The reversionary bonuses were at the rate of 36*s.* per cent. per annum, on the compound principle (*i.e.* on sums assured and previous bonuses), in cases of all policies effected since July 1896, whilst the average rate of bonus on policies issued prior to that date was 46*s.* per annum.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

For mutual life assurance. Head Office: 48 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. Established 1835. This is one of the largest and most attractive of English mutual life offices. It is economically managed, the funds are profitably and well invested, and the incidence of mortality has always been favourable. The last quin-

LIVERPOOL:
1 North John Street

LONDON:
24-28 Lombard Street

ROYAL
INSURANCE
COMPANY
LIMITED

TOTAL FUNDS £20,409,644.

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED.

The Company has experienced and fully empowered Representatives at all important centres throughout the World.

quennial valuation was made on November 20, 1912, by the O^M Table for assurances, in combination with net premiums and 3 per cent. interest. Out of a surplus of £910,307 (apart from £42,771 paid as interim bonus during the quinquennium) the sum of £856,788 was divided amongst policyholders, and £53,519 was carried forward as undivided surplus. The profit divided, notwithstanding the fact that a sum of £135,594 had been applied in writing down securities, was sufficient fully to maintain the average rate of bonus declared at the three preceding quinquennial valuations, which represented more than 35 per cent. of the premiums received during the quinquennium. The bonus additions to policies were at rates of 34*s.* per cent. per annum and upwards, according to ages at entry, duration of policies, and system. On whole-of-life policies the additions were 40*s.* per cent. per annum and upwards.

The report for the last financial year, which ended on November 20, 1914, shows net new assurances for £589,475; a total net premium income of £516,341, in addition to £11,297 in consideration for annuities granted; expenses (after allowing for cost of annuity business) amounting to 10·2 per cent. of the premiums (a very small proportion); claims by death, £319,140 (72½ per cent. of the amount "expected"); claims by maturity, £217,099; payments for reductions in premiums, £43,289; and life funds at close of year (increased by £139,062), £7,390,678, in addition to superannuation fund of £13,817. The interest yield was about £4 1*s.* 10*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax. Total assets, £8,072,917.

During its existence up to November 20, 1914, the Society had issued 93,144 policies, and had paid over £17,985,000 in claims on the death and survivance of members.

NORTH AND SOUTH INSURANCE CORP., LTD.

Chief Offices: 5 Chapel Street, Liverpool. Established 1909. On December 31, 1914, the nominal capital amounted to £100,000, in shares of £1; issued capital, less shares forfeited, £31,763, of which called up, £19,852 (12*s.* 6*d.* per share), and paid up, £17,096. The Company is authorised to transact every class of insurance business (other than life, employers' liability, and workmen's compensation insurance). It was stated on issue of prospectus that powers would be taken to issue policies of insurance against employers' liability and workmen's compensation as soon as the £20,000 required by the Act of 1907 had been deposited. The business is conducted on non-tariff lines.

The directors' report for the year ended December 31, 1914, shows that the net premiums amounted to £7,119. Assets, £22,577, inclusive of organisation account, £7,610, preliminary expenses, £1,333, and debit balance of revenue account, £6,726.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERC ANTILE INSURANCE CO.

Head Offices: 61 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and 64 Princes Street, Edinburgh. Established 1909. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised, £6,000,000; subscribed, £4,500,000; paid up, £2,437,500, of which £687,500 is represented by 110,000 shares for £25 with £6 5*s.* paid and £1,750,000 by Four per Cent. Preference stock. Dividend on Ordinary shares in 1915, £2 per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £29; yield, £6 17*s.* 11*d.* per cent.; price of Preference stock, £77 10*s.*; yield, £5 6*s.* per cent.

The North British and Mercantile is one of the most important of British companies, both as regards fire and life insurance, and deservedly enjoys a world-wide reputation for financial strength and liberal treatment of its policyholders. The Company acquired the undertaking and assets of the Ocean Marine Insurance Company as from January 1, 1908, and the directors exercised their option under a special Act of Parliament to preserve the corporate existence of that Company as a subsidiary concern. *See* OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

As from January 1, 1910, the Company took over the assets and business of the Railway Passengers Assurance

HIGH BONUS ADDITIONS

The Bonus Additions granted by the SCOTTISH AMICABLE have been consistently high throughout the history of the Society. The rate declared at the last Division of Profits represented additions varying, according to duration of Policy, from £1 15s. 0d. to £4 4s. 7d. per cent. per annum on the original sum assured.

Scottish Amicable
Life Assurance Society

For Mutual Life Assurance. No Shareholders.
FUNDS £6,200,000. CLAIMS PAID £10,000,000.

HEAD OFFICE:
ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW.

LONDON OFFICE:
1 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

All classes of Assurance and Annuity contracts effected.

INCOME TAX.

HOW TO REDUCE IT WITHOUT REDUCING YOUR INCOME.

Write for Leaflet—A Few Words of Wisdom on the Subject of Paying Taxes.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL & GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
15 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.

Corporation, and the directors exercised their option to take over the shares of that Company and continue its corporate existence. *See* RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the fire premiums amounted to £2,146,290. The losses by fire, including contributions to fire brigades, amounted to £1,416,617, and the expenses and commission to £852,356. After transference of £90,391 to profit and loss, representing an underwriting surplus of £9,831 and interest earnings (net) of £80,560, and adjusting the specific reserves for unexpired risks to £858,516, the ordinary (additional) reserve remained at £1,550,000, and the total fire reserves at the close of the year thus amounted to £2,408,516, thus considerably exceeding the year's premiums. This is a very satisfactory position, especially considering the large amount of the balance carried forward, as undernoted, in profit and loss account.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—The last quinquennial valuation was made at close of 1910 on a strong basis: O^M Mortality Tables, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. The shareholders take the moderate proportion of one-tenth of the divisible surplus in the life assurance department, and the amount divided amongst participating policyholders produced bonus additions on the compound system (that is, on the sums assured and previous bonus additions) at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. in respect of each premium paid during the quinquennium. This is equivalent to reversionary bonuses on the original sums assured ranging from £1 10*s.* to £3 13*s.* per cent. per annum.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £2,259,061; the total net premium income, increased by £40,467, to £1,243,664; claims by death to £820,278; claims by survivance to £217,422; expenses of the life business to about 13.7 per cent. of the premiums; interest to about £4 2*s.* 3*d.* per cent., after deduction of tax; life fund to £14,573,414; consideration for new annuities to £188,677; annuities paid to £312,396, and annuity fund at close of year to £2,994,176.

SINKING FUND ACCOUNT.—Premiums in 1914, £26,796, and fund at close of year, £128,230.

GENERALLY.—The balance brought forward from 1913 in the profit and loss account was £1,126,816, after provision for the dividends to stock and shareholders. The total profits taken into profit and loss account were as follows, amounting altogether to £263,976: from fire department, trading surplus, £9,831, and interest earnings, £80,560; proportion of shareholders' life profits applicable to the year, £37,738; interest earnings not departmentally credited, less charges not departmentally debited, £135,847. The sum of £266,715 is required for Ordinary and Preference dividends payable in 1915, and the balance of profit and loss account carried forward thereafter was £1,161,815. The total assets on December 31, 1914, amounted to £25,517,294, exclusive of those appertaining to the Ocean Marine (£889,278) and Railway Passengers (£781,083) Companies.

For the Ocean Marine Company's accounts and for the Railway Passengers Assurance Company's accounts, which are appended to those of the North British and Mercantile, see OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY and RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY, respectively.

NORTH WESTERN INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The business of this Company has been acquired by the BRITISH DOMINIONS GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED (*q.v.*).

NORTHERN ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

The business of this Company has been transferred to the ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY (*q. v.*).

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Offices: 1 Union Terrace, Aberdeen; 1 Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Established 1836. Capital authorised and subscribed, £3,000,000; paid up, £300,000. On September 1, 1908, the Company was

NORTHERN
ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.
Established 1836.

FIRE,
ACCIDENT,
EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY,
"HOUSEHOLD,"
MOTOR CARS,
TRANSIT,
LIVE STOCK.



LIFE,
BURGLARY,
FIDELITY GUARANTEES,
PROPERTY OWNERS,
PUBLIC LIABILITY,
LIFT ACCIDENTS.

LONDON OFFICES.
Head Offices: LONDON—1 MOORGATE STREET.
ABERDEEN—1 UNION TERRACE.
Accumulated Funds (1914), £8,323,000.

registered as a Company limited by shares, as provided for in the Northern Assurance Act, 1908. The shares are now for £10, with £1 paid up. Dividend declared for 1914, 7*s.*, together with ordinary bonus of 2*s.*, both less tax, costing £124,594. Price of shares, £6 16*s.* 3*d.*; yield, £6 13*s.* per cent.

During 1914 the directors made arrangements for the purchase of the whole of the shares of the following companies:—

National Guarantee and Suretyship Association, Ltd., of Edinburgh, transacting fidelity business.

Royal Scottish Insurance Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, transacting all classes of business except life and marine.

White Cross Insurance Association, Ltd., transacting motor insurance business, but with powers to undertake all classes of insurance except life.

The figures of the "National Guarantee" since May 31, 1914 (the close of its financial year) and of the "Royal Scottish" for the whole year are included in the Northern accounts for 1914. The "White Cross" Company's figures are not included, as its purchase was made towards close of the year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the premiums amounted to £1,318,338. The losses incurred amounted to £765,939, or 58·1 per cent. of the premiums. The general average loss ratio of the Company from the beginning is now 57.3 per cent., or, including its provision for unexpired risks, 59·2 per cent. of premiums received. The departmental expenses of management in 1914 were £495,900, and, after adjustment of the provision for liability under current policies on the unusually high basis of 50 per cent. of the year's premiums, a profit was made on the year's trading of £27,348. After transferring this amount of profit, together with interest of £68,068, to profit and loss account, the fire fund amounted to £1,859,169 (including £659,169 set aside as provision for unexpired risks); while the balance in profit and loss account, after provision for dividends and bonuses, amounted to £258,633. Thus the funds available as security for fire policyholders, apart from paid-up capital and excluding investment reserve fund, life and annuity funds, accident, capital redemption, and employers' liability funds, on the assumption that these funds are adequate for the purposes to which they are assigned, and staff funds of £169,091—amount to £2,117,802, representing about 161 per cent. of the fire premium income.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—The Company opened an accident department in 1907, and purchased the business of the Compensation and Guarantee Fund for £22,536. In the *Employers' liability section* the premiums in 1914 amounted to £70,089, trading profit, £12,846. Fund at end of year, £56,951, including £16,906 for outstanding claims.

Accident section. Premiums, £7,337, trading profit, £497; funds, £4,424, including £756 for outstanding claims.

General Section. Premiums, £48,065, trading profit, £4,376, fund, £39,179, including £10,146 for outstanding claims.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—The surplus of the non-participation branch belongs to the shareholders, and the surplus of the participation branch to the participating policyholders. The assured in the participating section have practically all the benefits of mutual life assurance, for not only do they receive the entire profits on their fund, but their expenses are limited to the very moderate proportion of 10 per cent. of the premiums. Very good bonuses are paid, as might be expected. The last quinquennial valuation, on December 31, 1910, was made on a strong basis: the $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Table, 90 per cent. of the gross premiums, and 2¾ per cent. interest for the non-participation fund, and O^{M} Table, net premiums, and 2½ per cent. interest for the participation branch, and bonuses were declared at the rate of 31*s.* per cent. per annum, as on four previous quinquennial occasions. Prospective intermediate bonuses at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum were declared on all policies becoming claims during the now current quinquennium. In 1914 the net new sums assured in the life department amounted to £377,307. The total net

THE
CONSOLIDATED
Assurance Company
LIMITED.
ESTABLISHED 1903.

Subscribed Capital - -	£543,666
Paid-up Capital - - -	£119,541
Accumulated Funds - -	£203,970
Total Funds - - -	£323,511

FOR REINSURANCE BUSINESS
BY TREATY OR OTHERWISE.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT.

Fire Department.
St. Swithin's House, St. Swithin's Lane,
LONDON, E.C.
Fire Manager: J. HERBERT E. LANE.

Life and Accident Department.
9 Fleet Street, LONDON, E.C.
Actuary and Secretary: CHAS. WINDETT.

DO YOU WISH TO APPOINT EXECUTORS OR TRUSTEES?
IF SO
THE TRUSTEES EXECUTORS AND SECURITIES
INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED
(INCORPORATED 1887),
whose extensive practical experience specially qualifies them to undertake these duties, can relieve you of obligations to private friends and risk of loss through careless or defaulting Trustees.

CAPITAL (fully paid up) £1,050,000
RESERVE FUND - - £185,000

SAFE DEPOSIT.—Safes and Strong Rooms at Annual Rentals from £1 1*s.* Plate Chests, &c., stored at moderate charges.

RECEIVERS' BONDS AND SINKING-FUND POLICIES ISSUED.

Further particulars are given in the Pamphlet which may be obtained free on application at the Corporation's Offices—

WINCHESTER HOUSE,
OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Telephone: London Wall No. 660.
Telegraphic Address: "EDIFICE, AVE, LONDON."

life premium income amounted to £294,358; expenses, as arranged, to one-tenth of the premiums, except in the endowment and capital redemption account, where expenses are only 5 per cent. of the premiums; claims to £385,241, of which £126,323 arose through survivance; and the life and annuity funds at close of year to £5,384,003. Interest on the participation life funds, after deduction of income tax, yielded about £3 14*s.* per cent. The Company's non-participating life premium rates were reduced in 1908. Capital redemption premiums, £8,683; fund at close of year, £110,472.

The Company's total assets amounted on December 31, 1914, to £8,909,751. The market values of securities, taking the lower price as at December 31, 1913, for those then held, and cost price for those subsequently purchased, show a depreciation of £408,780 compared with ledger values in balance sheet.

NORWICH & LONDON ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOC.

The business of this Company has been transferred to the NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD. (*q.v.*).

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.

Head Office: Norwich; Chief London Office: 50 Fleet Street, E.C.; City Office, 71 and 72 King William Street, E.C. Established 1797. Capital authorised and subscribed, £1,100,000; paid up, £132,000. Four per Cent. Debenture stock, £580,000. The Society was registered as a limited Company in 1908. Shares are for £25, with £3 paid. Dividend declared in 1915, 32*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £29 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £5 10*s.* per cent.

A well-managed insurance Company, the elder brother of the Norwich Union Life Office, with which it is closely associated for business purposes. The business was formerly limited to fire insurance, but the Company now transacts accident business also, and the business of the Norwich and London Accident Insurance Association was transferred to it as from January 1, 1908, in terms of agreement sanctioned by the Court of Chancery on July 26, 1909.

In 1912 the operations of the Company were extended to marine insurance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the net premium income amounted to £1,212,611, showing an increase of £24,942. Losses in 1914 and contributions to fire brigades together amounted to £725,227, or about 59·8 per cent. of the premiums. Expenses, including colonial and foreign taxes, £425,321. The trading profit seems to have amounted to £52,087, or to about 4·3 per cent. of the premiums. Fire insurance fund at close of year amounted to £1,284,356, thus exceeding the year's premium income, after transfer of trading profit to profit and loss.

ACCIDENT AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 premiums, increased by £16,848, amounted to £433,192, claims to £251,442, and expenses, including commission, to £151,467. Transfer to profit and loss, £55,338. Fund at close of year, £335,750, including £162,473 for outstanding claims.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.—Premiums in 1914, £108,859, and fund at close of year, £105,575.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, &c.—There was no balance brought forward from 1913, after provision for dividends and bonuses payable in 1914. Profits amounting to £52,086 and £55,338 were transferred in 1914 respectively from fire and accident accounts, as above shown. Interest earnings and fees, less Debenture interest, income tax, and bad debts, £56,667. Profit on sale and maturity of stocks, £4,029. The balance of £168,120 thus resulting in this account at close of year was carried to the balance sheet to meet the dividends, and to provide for depreciation of Stock Exchange securities and other war contingencies.

BALANCE SHEET.—Assets, December 31, 1914, £2,802,980.

MAKE GOOD

WASTAGE IN CAPITAL by an ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE.

SHRINKAGE IN INCOME by a LIFE ANNUITY.

The **New Capital** created by an Endowment Assurance and the **Increased Income** produced by a Life Annuity alike enjoy **absolute security against depreciation and fluctuation.**

THE

STANDARD LIFE

Established 1825. ASSURANCE COMPANY Funds £13,730,000.

makes a speciality of schemes carrying **guaranteed** benefits. The Company offers special facilities for Short-Term Endowment Assurances without Medical Examination, and plans under which **Bonuses** and **Surrender** and **Loan Values** are **guaranteed.** Its recently revised **Annuity Rates** are **particularly favourable,** giving a guaranteed return ranging from **5½% at age 40 to 13½% at age 70.**

WRITE FOR LEAFLETS S.S. 5 AND S.S. 7.

Edinburgh (Head Office): 3 George Street.
Dublin: 59 Dawson Street,
London: 83 King William Street, E.C.; 3 Pall Mall East, S.W.
&c., &c.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: Norwich; Chief London Office: 49 Fleet Street, E.C.; City Office: 71 and 72 King William Street, E.C. Established 1808.

A very enterprising and progressive life office, founded on the mutual system. During the last 25 years its progress has been most remarkable, and it transacts one of the largest businesses reported by British offices as far as new assurances are concerned. It is an attractive office to new entrants, and its bonuses indicated in the last quinquennial valuation report well maintain the former high standard of excellence. In 1909 the Society took over the business of the Victoria Mutual Assurance Society, Limited, which was correctly described as a "small but financially strong office."

The quinquennial valuation on June 30, 1911, was made by the O^M Mortality Table, as on the former occasion. The rate of interest assumed was 2½ per cent. Securities were written down by £264,022. The bonuses on new series policies issued prior to June 30, 1896, were the reversionary equivalents of 33 per cent. of the premiums contributed during the quinquennium on a whole-life footing, and the reversionary bonuses on new series policies issued subsequent to June 30, 1896, were at rates varying from 36*s.* to 68*s.* per cent. per annum, according to age at entry and duration of policies.

In 1914 the net new sums assured under ordinary life policies amounted to £4,643,525. The total net life premium income of 1914, excluding premiums of £32,178 in the "Scottish Imperial" section, was £1,532,330, of which expenses absorbed about 14·6 per cent., a moderate proportion considering the exceptionally large amount of the new business. Consideration for new annuities, £67,385. Claims by death amounted to £570,773 (£74,196 less than "expected"), and by survivance, £160,820. The increase in the Norwich Union life assurance fund during the year was £925,871. The total Norwich Union life and capital redemption funds at December 31, 1914, amounted to £12,886,762 (life fund, £10,826,755; annuity fund, £1,020,458; capital redemption fund, £1,039,549); the Scottish Imperial fund (additional) to £669,897. The net interest yield on the mean funds in 1914, after deduction of tax, was about £4 2*s.* per cent., indicating a very large profit from interest earnings in excess of those assumed for valuation purposes. Total assets, December 31, 1914: Norwich Union, £13,014,318; Scottish Imperial, £679,021.

OCEAN ACCIDENT & GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LTD.

(*See* **Commercial Union Assurance Company, Ltd.**)

As from January 1, 1910, the business of this Company was transferred to the Commercial Union Assurance Company.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* **North British and Mercantile Insurance Company.**)

Head Office: 2 and 3 Old Broad Street, London. Established 1859. An agreement for the transfer of this Company's undertaking and assets to the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company was approved by the shareholders in February 1908. At December 31, 1914, the Ocean capital, now vested in the North British and Mercantile Company, was as follows: Capital, authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £100,000. Shares, £25 each, with £2 10*s.* paid.

Premiums were received in 1914 to the amount of £309,712, and first year's settlements cost £120,943. The profit and loss account shows dividends declared and paid on account of 1914 amounting to £19,386. The interest earnings, less tax, amounted to £24,356. After transferring £100,000 to reserve fund, the reserves amounted to £735,218, as follows: General reserve fund, £500,000; balance of profit and loss account, £24,318; underwriting reserve, £42,125; balance of 1914 underwriting account, £168,775. Assets, December 31, 1914, £889,278.

AUSTRALIAN
MUTUAL PROVIDENT
Estd. SOCIETY. 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

Funds: £34,000,000. Annual Income: £4,000,000.

MODERATE PREMIUMS.
LIBERAL CONDITIONS.
WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

Every Year a Bonus Year.
(Usual Annual Bonus declared June 1915.)

Whole-Life Policies, 20 Years in force, show average increase of sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

Endowment Assurance Results also unsurpassed.

37 THREADNEEDLE STREET,
LONDON, E.C.

EQUITY AND LAW
Life Assurance Society.

ESTABLISHED 1844.

BONUS REPORT, 1914.

TOTAL FUNDS, 31st December, 1914, £5,160,832.

Stringent Valuation of Assets and Liabilities.

Investments Reserve Fund - £50,000 0 0
Special Reserve - - £32,998 10 2

Surplus divided in Quinquennium

£551,166

(The Largest in the history of the Society.)

Rate of Bonus varies from £1 10s. per cent. per annum to £3 18s. per cent. per annum.

New Scheme of non-profit Assurances for FAMILY PROVISION and to meet DEATH DUTIES at the lowest rates in the Market.

For full Prospectus and Prospectus of Special Scheme write to—THE ACTUARY,
18 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Pearl Buildings, High Holborn, W.C. Established 1864. Capital authorised, £800,500; on December 31, 1914, subscribed and paid up, £440,050 in 20,000 fully-paid £5 shares, £40,050 in 80,100 shares of £5 with 10*s.* paid, and £300,000 in Six per Cent. Preference shares of £1 each, fully paid. Dividends and bonuses paid to Ordinary shareholders in 1914 amounted to £70,025. Price of fully paid shares, £40; yield, £7 19*s.* per cent.; price of partly paid shares, £8 15*s.*; yield, £3 10*s.* 9*d.* per cent.; price of Preference shares, £1 6*s.*; yield, £4 14*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

As from January 1, 1910, the Company took over the business of the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company, Limited.

This Company does an extensive life and industrial business, and the directors have continued the transaction of accident and employers' liability business, in which the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Company operated. In 1914, in the ordinary life department, the new policies issued amounted to £1,891,319 in sums assured and £85,076 in annual premiums. The total premiums amounted to £590,292; claims by death £123,069, and by maturity £109,583; expenses to about 14.5 per cent. of the premiums; and funds at close of year to £3,831,907. The net interest yield was about £3 19*s.* 7*d.* per cent. The valuations are made annually in this department for the Pearl Company's policies by the H^M Mortality Table, on a net premium basis, at 3 per cent. interest, and for the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow policies by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table, in combination with interest at 3 and 3½ per cent., special loadings being reserved.

In the industrial department in 1914 the total premiums amounted to £2,513,423, claims to £1,100,854, commission and expenses to about 42.7 per cent. of the premiums, and funds at close of year to £5,261,418.

Accident insurance premiums in 1914 were £29,111; fund at close of year, £14,555. Employers' liability premiums, £2,750; fund, £2,750.

Total assets on December 31, 1914, £9,868,396, inclusive of £350,000 representing balance of cost of purchase of business, &c., of the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company.

PELICAN AND BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE.

(*See* **Phœnix Assurance Company, Limited.**)

PHŒNIX ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Phœnix House, King William Street, London, E.C. Established 1782. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised and subscribed amounted to £3,210,650; paid up, £422,855, in 309,755 shares of £10 each with £1 paid and £113,100 (Pelican) fully-paid shares of £1. The shares were formerly £50 each, £5 paid, and £5 fully paid, respectively, but were subdivided in 1913; 14,286 of the £5 fully-paid shares were issued on the amalgamation of the Pelican and British Empire Life Office with the Phœnix on January 1, 1908, and a further 8,334 shares on the amalgamation with the Law Life Assurance Society on January 1, 1910. Price of partly paid shares, £5 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 17*s.* 4*d.* per cent.; price of fully paid shares, £6 16*s.* 3*d.*; yield, £5 18*s.* 6*d.* per cent. £1,000,000 Four per Cent. Debenture stock was also issued in connection with the latter amalgamation. An issue of Four per Cent. Debenture stock (1911) to the extent of £277,950 was made in connection with acquisition of the Union Marine business, hereafter referred to. Dividend declared in respect of 1914, 8*s.* per share (less tax).

This Company is one of the most important in the country in the department of fire insurance. The Phœnix has a very large foreign and colonial as well as home fire business. It has also become a great life office through the absorption of the Pelican and Law Life Companies; and in 1907 it commenced the transaction of accident business. The Company commenced to transact marine insurance business on July 1, 1910, and acquired the undertaking of the Union Marine Insurance Company, Limited, above referred to, as on July 1, 1911.

Fire Department. — In 1914 the premiums amounted to £1,428,371, an increase of £24,568, the losses to £800,586 (56.0 per cent.), and the expenses to £558,172 (39 per cent.). The result of the year's fire trading resulted in a profit of £69,614, which, with interest of £64,042, was carried to profit and loss account. The general fire reserve at the end of the year amounted to £1,200,000, and reserve for unexpired risks to £650,000.

Marine Department.—The premiums for 1914 were £712,774, an increase of £114,966 Claims (1914 and previous years) £464,743, and expenses £75,191. Trading profit of £40,000, and interest of £20,045, was transferred to profit and loss account, and the fund was increased by £129,840 to £660,279.

Employers' Liability, &c., Department.—The premiums for 1914 were £97,021, losses £36,913, and expenses £38,237. Trading profit of £11,545 and interest of £3,817 was transferred to profit and loss, and at the end of the year the funds amounted to £104,044, including £27,477 for outstanding claims.

Life Department.—The new life business in 1914 amounted, after deduction of reassurances, to £1,266,743 in sums assured; the total net life premium income to £727,097; consideration for new annuities to £125,621; claims by death (within the expectation) to £622,468; claims by survivance to £122,146; expenses of management of the life business to about 12.9 per cent. of the premiums; and life funds at close of year to £10,994,189, after writing down Law Life fund securities by £232,222. The net interest yield was about £4 0*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

Sinking Fund Department.—Premiums, £35,601; fund, £361,306.

Generally.—The balance brought into profit and loss account from 1913, after providing for the final dividend in respect of that year, was £193,712. In addition to the transfers of trading profit and interest from the fire, accident and marine funds mentioned above, the following amounts were brought into the accounts: interest not carried to other accounts and fees, less income tax and Debenture stock interest, £11,538, and shareholder's proportion of Law Life profits,

NATIONAL BENEFIT LIFE and PROPERTY ASSURANCE Co. Ltd.

ASSETS EXCEED £700,000.

ATTRACTIVE LIFE, FIRE, MARINE, WAR RISKS AND ACCIDENT POLICIES.

Prospectus on Application.

Managing Director: J. FRANCIS, J.P., F.S.S.

Head Offices:
NATIONAL HOUSE, NEWGATE STREET, LONDON.

Agents required in all Distrcts. Special Terms.

£54,852. After setting aside £15,220 for bad debts, and writing down fire, marine, and Law Life guarantee fund securities by £134,000, and providing for the dividend mentioned above, there remained a balance of £163,940 to be carried forward to 1915. This sum, together with the fire reserves of £1,850,000, amounts to £2,013,940, which is equivalent to about 141 per cent. of the fire premium income.

The participating life policyholders of the Company receive the whole of the divisible profits in this section of the business, and thus enjoy the advantages of a mutual life office transacting only participating business.

The Pelican was, prior to the amalgamation referred to, the oldest British joint-stock Company confining its operations to life assurance. It was originally founded in 1797, by the directors of the Phœnix, as a friendly institution, and the two companies during their long independent careers were closely allied for business purposes. It took over in 1903 the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company, which had itself in 1895 acquired the Positive Government Security Life Assurance Company. In 1908 the Pelican was absorbed by the Phœnix, and in 1910 the life department of the Company was further augmented by the acquisition of the Law Life Assurance Society.

The last quinquennial valuation of the policies in the Phœnix life fund, on December 31, 1910, was made by the O^M and O^A Mortality Tables, with interest at 3 per cent., on a net premium basis. The bonus rate was 34*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium on these policies, as against 32*s.* per cent. per annum on Pelican policies at the previous valuation.

The total assets of the Company on December 31, 1914, amounted to £16,457,945.

PIONEER LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 67 Dale Street, Liverpool. Established 1891. Capital (March 31, 1915) authorised and subscribed, £100,000, and paid up, £80,000, in shares of £1 with 16*s.* called and paid up. Dividend for 1914–15, 6*d.* per share.

Transacts life, industrial and accident insurance business in the United Kingdom. The report for the year ending March 31, 1915, shows net premiums of £92,927; claims, £38,819; and expenses, inclusive of commission, £44,180. At close of year the ordinary life fund amounted to £83,686, the industrial life fund to £22,860, and the investment reserve fund to £15,000. Assets, March 31, 1915, amounting to £210,151, include "establishment expenses," £79,420.

PREMIER INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* Yorkshire Insurance Company, Limited.)

PROFITS AND INCOME INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office: 9 Fleet Street, London, E.C. Established 1901. Capital authorised, £150,000; issued, £120,000; paid up on December 31, 1914, £40,000, in 20,000 Five per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, fully paid, and 100,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each with 4*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914 on Ordinary shares, 6 per cent., free of income tax. Transacts life, fire and general insurance.

In 1914 life premiums amounted to £19,469, and fire and general premiums to £141,145. On December 31 last, life fund, £126,375; general fund, £93,384. Balance of profit and loss, after provision for dividends, £1,548. Total assets, £304,355.

The quinquennial valuation of the life business was made on December 31, 1910, by the O^M Table at 3 per cent. interest for assurances, the life fund equalling the liability ascertained.

PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

This Company went into liquidation on November 17, 1913.

PROVIDENT CLERKS' AND GENERAL GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 61 Coleman Street, London, E.C. Established as the "Provident Clerks' and General Guarantee Association, Ltd.," in 1865; name changed as

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society.

Established 1841.

Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament, 1914.

Accumulated Funds exceed £2,400,000.

Annual Premiums exceed £1,000,000.

ORDINARY DEPARTMENT.

All Classes of Life Assurance and Annuity Business Transacted.

Annual Valuation and Division of Profits.

Policies contain the Most Liberal and Up-to-Date Provisions.

Premiums may be paid Annually, Half-yearly, or Quarterly.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

MONTHLY PREMIUM POLICIES, for £50, contain the Option entitling the Beneficiary to take £25 in Cash and £26 in Weekly Instalments of £1.

New and attractive Prospectuses have been compiled, and may be obtained, with Forms of Proposal and other information, from the Principal Office, and from the Society's Agents throughout the country.

ARTHUR L. HUNT, *General Manager.*

Principal Office: BIRMINGHAM.

London Branch Office: HALTON HOUSE, HOLBORN, E.C.

MARINE & GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Funds exceed Two Millions.

During the whole of the Society's existence, extending over a period of 63 years, the

BONUS ADDITIONS

to the Sums Assured under the Life Policies

HAVE AVERAGED £2 PER CENT. PER ANNUM AND UPWARDS.

Head Office:—

14 LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C

above on absorption of the Provident Clerks' and General Accident Insurance Company, Limited, in 1907. Capital authorised, £400,000; subscribed, £208,620, and paid up, £85,000. There are 388 shares of £10 each with £8 paid, and 20,474 shares of £10 each with £4 paid. For 1914 a dividend of 20 per cent. was declared, less income tax. Price of shares, £13; yield, £6 5*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

In 1914 the net premiums (apart from marine) amounted to £140,693, the interest earnings to £12,039, and the claims paid and outstanding to £80,568. Marine department premiums, £59,134; fund, £55,449. At close of year total assets were £412,053; general reserve fund was £85,000; special reserve, £20,000; investment reserve, £18,000; reserve for outstanding claims, £54,674; superannuation fund, £12,671; reserve for unearned premiums, £54,277, and balance, after provision for full year's dividend, £11,703.

PROVIDENT CLERKS' AND GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

Head Office: 27 and 29 Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Established 1840.

This mutual life office draws its customers largely, as its name indicates, from clerks in mercantile houses, and has always been successfully and profitably conducted. The last quinquennial valuation was made at the close of 1912 on a strong basis: O^M Table of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. Bonuses then declared were at the uniform rate of 35*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, as compared with 34*s.* per cent. per annum on the preceding quinquennial occasion. In 1914 the net new business amounted to 3,594 policies for £423,846; the net life premium income to £217,895; claims by death to £118,060, and by survivance to £51,973; expenses to about 14·7 per cent. of the premiums, a moderate proportion considering the low average amount of policy; funds at close of year to £2,877,198, in addition to investment reserve fund of £40,000, staff superannuation fund of £19,821, and capital redemption fund (premiums, £1,755) of £11,965; and the interest yield to about £4 4*s.* per cent., after deduction of income tax. Total assets, £3,021,598.

PROVINCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Provincial Buildings, Bolton; London Office: 6 Old Jewry, E.C. Established 1903. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed, £180,000; paid up, £90,000, in shares of £10 with £5 paid. Dividend for 1914, 5 per cent., less income tax.

Transacts fire and accident business. In 1914, fire premiums, £29,668; employers' liability and accident premiums, £22,665. At close of year, after provision for dividend, general reserve fund amounted to £25,000, fire fund to £11,867, and accident fund to £9,066; balance of £4,253 was carried forward. Assets, December 31, 1914, £156,765.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Holborn Bars, London, E.C. Founded 1848. Capital authorised, £2,000,000; subscribed, £1,000,000. Amount of each share, £1, all of which paid up. Dividends and bonuses paid in 1914 amounted to £600,000, or 60 per cent., free of income tax. Dividends and bonuses paid in 1915 amount to £550,000, equal to 55 per cent., free of income tax. Industrial policyholders and agents participate in profits to a large extent (*see below*). Price of shares, £9 15*s.*; yield, £6 16*s.* 7*d.* per cent.

The Company transacts an enormous business, both in its ordinary and industrial departments, and is by far the largest insurance Company in the United Kingdom, measured by funds and premium income. The life department is very economically managed. In 1914 the new ordinary life assurances amounted to £6,318,843 and the total ordinary life premium income (increased by £115,107) was £5,035,625, or nearly quadruple that of any other British life office. Claims cost £4,014,658, of which those for £2,795,018 were in respect of endowment assurances, in which a large proportion of the business is done. Expenses of management, including commission, absorbed about 8·2 per cent. of the premiums, showing one of the smallest expense ratios in com-

METROPOLITAN LIFE
ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1835.

All Surplus divided by way of REDUCTION OF PREMIUM.

The Rates of Reduction for current year range from 79% to 34%.

APPLY FOR PARTICULARS OF THE SOCIETY'S

DISCOUNTED ABATEMENT SYSTEM.

ANNUAL PREMIUM, FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS reduced in anticipation of future distribution of surplus, for Whole-Life Policies or Endowment Assurances of £100.

Age next Birthday.	Assurance Payable.		
	At Death.	At Death or Age 55.	At Death or Age 60.
25 ...	£1 12 3	£2 10 7	£2 3 1
30 ...	1 16 9	3 3 7	2 12 8
35 ...	2 2 9	4 3 2	3 5 11
40 ...	2 9 10	5 16 0	4 6 0

After Five Years the Premiums under this scheme are subject to FURTHER REDUCTION in respect of any abatement declared in excess of 33 per cent.

NO COMMISSION. NO SHAREHOLDERS.

OFFICES: 13 MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

mission-paying life offices, notwithstanding the vast magnitude of the new business. The ordinary life assurance fund rose during the year from £45,574,580 to £47,024,190, after the transfer of £500,000 to investments reserve fund. The average rate of interest on the ordinary life funds was about £4 3*s.* 8*d.* per cent., after deduction of income tax. Valuations are made annually, that for 1914 having been made on a net premium basis by the H^{M} Table, in combination with 3 per cent. interest. Reversionary bonuses for each of the 10 years ending in 1906 had been declared at the rate of 30*s.* per cent., but this rate was increased in 1907 to 32*s.* per cent., which was again declared in 1908 and 1909, and increased to 34*s.* per cent. in 1910, which rate was also paid in 1911. This was increased in 1912 to 36*s.* per cent., and that rate was also declared for 1913. The Chairman stated that the surplus for 1914 would have provided the same bonus, but in view of the uncertainty of the outlook it was decided to allot a substantial amount to investments reserve fund, to increase the carry-forward, and to declare a bonus of 30*s.* per cent.

In 1914 the industrial premium income (increased by £301,746) was £8,176,202, and the outgo for claims and surrenders £3,588,782, and for expenses £3,177,033, after allowing for £357,416 received from approved societies, Expenses, absorbing 38·8 per cent. of the premiums are high in this department (although lower than in any other industrial office), owing to cost of weekly collection of premiums, the number of policies for small sums being nearly 40 per cent. of the population of the United Kingdom, the average premium being about 2*d.* a week. In 1914, 16,567 agents were employed in the weekly collection of premiums in connection with 18,137,454 policies. A scheme was approved by the shareholders, in July 1907, admitting industrial policyholders and the superintendents, assistant superintendents and agents to specified shares in the profits of the Company. In the industrial branch the bonuses were from 2½ per cent. to 60 per cent. on sums assured, according to number of premiums paid. At the close of 1914 the funds in the industrial branch amounted to £40,649,318, having been increased during the year by £1,747,639, after the transfer of £250,000 to investments reserve fund and £300,000 to Courts (Emergency Powers) Act reserve. The total assets of the Company amounted on December 31 last to the sum of £91,202,344, showing an increase during the year of £4,209,341. The investments reserve fund amounted to £1,750,000, and the directors state that the assets, compared with standards available at the date indicated, were in their belief in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less that fund. The Company's head offices cover three acres, and form quite an architectural feature of Central London. In 1912 the Company formed six approved societies under the National Insurance Act, 1911, relating to (1) men and (2) women not included in other sections, and (3) domestic servants, (4) laundresses, (5) miners, and (6) agricultural and rural workers. A new section of business was opened for supplementary sickness insurance, the premiums in 1914 amounting to £10,315.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

(*See also* **North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.**)

Head Office: 64 Cornhill, London, E.C. Established 1849. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised and subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £200,000, in shares of £10 with £2 paid up, now vested in the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, which acquired this Company's business as from January 1, 1910.

Premium income in 1914 was £420,206. The interest earnings, less income tax, amounted to £23,129. Claims for £182,345 were paid. Departmental funds, apart from provision for outstanding claims, £160,989, and profit and loss balance £255,706, together represent over 99 per cent. of the premium income. The profit and loss account shows dividends of £31,388 paid on account of 1914. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £781,083. The Company has recently introduced some new features in accident, employers' liability and motor-car insurance, as explained in official leaflets. Its "Fireside Policy" gives under one contract a complete indemnity against losses through fire, burglary and accidents to domestic servants.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Oxford Street, Manchester; London Office, 133 Strand. Established 1864. Capital authorised, subscribed and paid up, £300,000. Amount appearing in revenue accounts for 1914 as dividend to shareholders and shareholders' profits, £46,767.

A large industrial and life assurance office. In 1914 in the ordinary life department new sums assured amounted to £2,513,140; total life premium income to £1,308,112; expenses to £130,811 (10 per cent. of the premiums); claims to £552,343, of which £263,047 related to matured endowments; and the life fund at close of year, increased by £725,339, to £7,790,489. The net interest yield was about £3 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent. Policyholders take 90 per cent. of the valuation profits, which on the last annual occasion, at close of 1914, on a strong basis (H^{M} Mortality Table, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest), provided bonuses at rate of 28*s.* per cent. The surplus carried forward amounted to £98,783, after transferring £70,000 to investment reserve fund.

The industrial branch in 1914 showed premiums (increased by £45,297), £2,215,846; claims, £1,034,438; commission and expenses, £1,039,323 (about 46·9 per cent. of the premiums), and funds at close of year (increased by £219,764), £2,717,467. Total assets of the Company, December 31, 1914, £11,082,956, showing an increase during the year of £1,020,103. The directors certify that in their belief the assets were in the aggregate fully of the value stated, less investment reserve fund of £275,000.

RELIANCE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Head Office: Exchange Buildings, Liverpool; London Office: 27 Cornhill, E.C. Established 1881. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £100,000. Shares, £10 each, with £2 paid. Dividend for 1914, 17½ per cent., less income tax. Price of shares, £6 7*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £5 12*s.* 11*d.* per cent.

In 1914 the net premiums amounted to £137,480, of which first year's settlements absorbed about 22·2 per cent., the balance of underwriting account carried forward, after settlements and expenses, being £92,735. Interest earnings, less income tax, amounted to £13,326. The 1913 underwriting account was closed with a profit of £21,444, after transfer of £13,000 to suspense account. At close of 1914 the reserve fund amounted to £150,000; the balance of profit and loss account, after provision for dividend, to £48,367, and the total assets to £431,669.

ROCK LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

(*See* **Law Union and Rock Insurance Company, Ltd.**)

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Head Office: Royal Exchange, London, E.C. Established 1720. Capital stock subscribed and paid up, £689,220. Dividend in respect of 1914, 10 per cent., free of income tax. Price of stock, £184 10*s.*; yield, £5 13*s.* 10*d.* per cent.

A large and varied business in fire, life, marine and accident insurance is transacted by this influential Company, which was established contemporaneously with its neighbour, the London Assurance Corporation.

Fire Department.—In 1914 the fire premium income amounted to £856,038, and losses (£503,048) and expenses (£335,668) to £838,716. The receipts from interest credited to the fire account (less income tax) amounted to £5,077. A sum of £33,579 was transferred to profit and loss from the fire account, and the fire fund at the end of the year amounted to £392,415.

Life Department.—A quinquennial valuation of the life business was made at the close of 1910 on a strong basis: O^{M} Mortality Table, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. Six-sevenths of the divided surplus

was allocated to participating policyholders, and provided a compound bonus of 28*s.* per cent. per annum. In 1914 in this department the net new sums assured amounted to £808,512; the total net premium income to £367,540; consideration for annuities to £69,437; expenses to about 14·7 per cent. of the premiums; claims to £295,659, those by death (£246,786) being "approximately the same as the amount expected"; and life and annuity funds at close of year to £4,627,427. The interest yield on the life fund, after deduction of income tax, was £4 0*s.* 1*d.* per cent.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the marine premiums amounted to £359,008; losses to £248,457; and expenses to £36,191. Interest, less income tax, produced £3,923. £20,000 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the marine fund amounted to £309,524 at close of year.

GENERAL ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—The premiums in 1914 amounted to £262,013; losses to £105,767; and expenses to £104,936. Interest, less tax and bad debts, produced £4,997; the sum of £46,284 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the general accident fund at close of year amounted to £187,588, including provision of £82,783 for outstanding claims.

SINKING-FUND premiums amounted to £30,381, and the fund at close of year to £113,410.

The TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR account showed receipts from fees of £5,045, and expenses, £3,520, the balance of £1,525 being transferred to profit and loss account.

GENERALLY.—The total net amount transferred at end of 1914 to profit and loss account from other departments was £101,387, and interest earnings, &c., less income tax, produced £53,745, but expenses not charged to the departments and defrayed out of this account amounted to £28,215. The balance in profit and loss (also described as general reserve fund) at close of year, after provision of £68,922 for full year's dividend and £135,000 for depreciation of investments, was £462,556. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £7,307,657.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Offices: 1 North John Street, Liverpool; 24–28 Lombard Street, London, E.C. Established 1845. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised, £3,000,000; subscribed, £2,944,680; paid up, £441,702. Shares for £10 with £1 10*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914 was 28*s.* per share, less income tax. Price of shares, £24 15*s.*; yield, £5 13*s.* 1*d.* per cent. Prospects of maintenance and gradual increase of this dividend are favourable, for the reserves are strong and the history of the Company never shows an occasion on which the dividend (apart from early instances of bonus from life profits) has been less than that paid in the previous year. As from January 1, 1909, the Royal acquired control of the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, Limited (*q.v.*). The amount of Four per Cent. Redeemable Debenture stock on December 31, 1914, was £843,800.

One of the most important insurance companies in the kingdom. The fire business of the Royal largely exceeds that of any other British office, and its life business is also extensive. In the Royal are now merged the Queen, Midland Counties, Cumberland and Westmoreland Fire, Kent Fire, United Kent Life, and Lancashire insurance companies, some of which were large institutions themselves. The Company in 1907 acquired the business of the Northern Accident Insurance Company of Glasgow, and established an accident department. Through the acquisition of the control of the British and Foreign Marine Company, above referred to, a valuable organisation was secured, and this new branch of the Company's operations has been extended through the Company's influence, with profitable results. The management of the Royal has always been distinguished by great ability, enterprise, and liberality.

In the course of 1912 the Company acquired the shares of the British Engine Boiler and Electrical Insurance Company (*q.v.*), and in 1913 it acquired control of the Horse, Carriage and General Insurance Company.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

SITES AND PREMISES

SITUATED NEAR TO OR ADJOINING THE

North Staffordshire Railway and Trent and Mersey Canal Systems

Suitable for

BRICKYARDS
CREAMERIES
FACTORIES
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&c. &c.

With or without Siding Connections or Canal Wharves thereto.

In connection with Canal Sites a plentiful supply of Water for Steam or condensing purposes is available.

For particulars, Maps, Plans, &c., apply to the General Manager, North Staffordshire Rly., Stoke-on-Trent.

Telephone, 701. Telegrams, "PHILLIPPS," Stoke-on-Trent Station.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the fire premium income amounted to £4,124,063, the losses to £2,352,711, and the expenses to £1,518,570. The fire trading surplus in 1914 amounted to £252,782, or about 6·1 per cent. of the premiums, which was transferred to profit and loss account. The fire fund amounted at the close of 1914 to £3,300,000. The reserve fund remained at £1,600,000, and balance of profit and loss, after provision for the Debenture interest and dividend, and carrying £300,000 to general contingencies fund and £25,000 to superannuation fund, amounted to £1,117,063. The funds, apart from capital and the life, accident, marine, general, employers' liability and superannuation funds, amounted to £6,017,063, or to about 146 per cent. of the year's fire premiums.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—A quinquennial valuation was made at the close of 1914 on a strong basis: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Tables for assurances, with O^M net premiums and 3 per cent. interest. Participating policyholders are entitled to four-fifths of the divisible surplus, and on the last and several previous occasions bonuses were declared at the satisfactory all-round rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum. In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £1,572,346; the total net premium income to £836,349, and consideration for new annuities to £52,868; expenses to about 12·8 per cent. of the premium income; claims to £722,871; and the life and annuity funds at close of year (increased by £136,197) to £11,445,792. Interest seems to have yielded about £3 18*s.* 8*d.* per cent. on the life funds, after deduction of income tax. Capital redemption premiums, £8,763; fund, £44,974.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.—In the employers' liability section the premiums in 1914 amounted to £223,806, and after payment of claims and expenses the fund on December 31, 1914, amounted to £318,868, including £136,000, the estimated amount of liability for outstanding claims. In the personal accident section the premiums amounted to £108,125, and the relative fund at close of 1914 to £78,903, inclusive of £16,930 for outstanding claims. General insurance premiums, £924,071; fund, £493,185.

MARINE ACCOUNT (*see also* BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, whose figures are included).—Premiums in 1914, £684,364. Transfer to profit and loss, £92,809. Fund, December 31, 1914, £1,030,129.

The total assets of the Company amounted on December 31, 1914, to £22,685,829.

ROYAL LONDON AUXILIARY INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: Finsbury Square, London, E.C. Registered August 8, 1910. Capital authorised, £500,000, in 450,000 £1 shares and 100,000 10*s.* shares. Issued, £130,000, in 80,000 £1 shares with 10*s.* paid and 100,000 10*s.* shares fully paid. Paid up, £90,000. No dividend was paid for 1914.

Formed to act as an auxiliary Company to the Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, Limited. That Society had, in order to transact fire and general insurance business, established an auxiliary fund of £100,000 (of which £20,000 was paid up) by the issue of certificates to its members, who subscribed for the same.

In the 15 months ending December 31, 1914, new life policies were issued for £743,441; the total life premiums were £100,017, life expenses, £29,754, and life fund at end of period, £131,236. An interim bonus at rate of £1 6*s.* per cent. was declared on all fully participating life policies becoming claims in 1915. Fire premiums, £41,819, and fund, £13,892, after transfer of £6,190 from profit and loss. Accident and general premiums, £10,399; transfer to profit and loss, £1,903; fund, £2,496. Capital redemption premiums, £886; fund, £2,646. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £267,274, including purchase of business account, £30,000, and preliminary and establishment expenses, £3,286. Debit balance of profit and loss account carried forward to 1915, after writing off £7,993 in respect of foreign reinsurance business, £7,628.

ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.

Head Office: Finsbury Square, London, E.C. Established in 1861 as the "Royal London Friendly Society." Registered as a limited Company on July 31, 1908. Transacts ordinary and industrial life assurance.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—Life premiums amounted to £37,973; interest earnings to £7,723; claims, £6,933; expenses, inclusive of commission, to about 7·1 per cent. of the premiums. Life fund, December 31, 1914, £219,358. Reversionary bonus for year on ordinary participating life policies was £1 6*s.* per cent.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—Premiums, £1,336,434; interest, £131,838; expenses, inclusive of commission, about 44·2 per cent. of the premiums. Fund, December 31, 1914, £3,665,839, after transferring £50,000 to investment reserve fund and £30,000 to Courts (Emergency Powers) Act reserve.

Sickness premiums, £21; fund, £2,544.

Total assets, December 31, 1914, £4,177,123, being certified as fully of value stated in directors' opinion, taking into account investment reserve fund of £200,000.

ROYAL NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

Head Office: 15 Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C. Founded 1887. Incorporated 1888.

A mutual institution for providing pensions to nurses of any amount, commencing at any age. Sickness and accident policies are issued in connection with pension policies assuring 5*s.* to 20*s.* a week in cases of incapacity from work through the causes indicated. There are no shareholders or directors' fees. Nurses can pay premiums monthly, quarterly, or at irregular intervals as suits their convenience. Under returnable scale premiums are returnable with compound interest, less (except after seven years) a small deduction for working expenses. Profits from working of fund are allocated quinquennially, also from the donation bonus fund. Policyholders who through no fault of their own find themselves in difficulty as to payment of premiums or in pecuniary difficulty or want have a first claim on the "Junius S. Morgan benevolent fund," which is also employed for augumentation of pensions.

ANNUITY ACCOUNT, 1914.—Premiums, £125,120; interest, £63,168; fund, £1,758,832. Sickness account: premiums, £1,404; sick pay, £1,761; fund, £2,876; donation bonus fund, £36,282. First thousand nurses' tontine fund, £7,676. Investments reserve fund, £75,824. Council's investment reserve fund, £5,229. Trust account, £53,217. Junius S. Morgan benevolent fund, £20,063. Total assets at close of year, £1,962,431.

SALVATION ARMY ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 107 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. Established under the Friendly Societies Acts in 1867 as the Methodist and General Assurance Society, Limited, and subsequently registered under the Companies Acts, 1862; whilst in 1904 the name was changed as above. The Company is a branch of the Salvation Army organisation, and there is no share capital. Seventy-five per cent. of the profits go to the policyholders and 25 per cent. to the Salvation Army.

In the financial year ended June 30, 1915, in the ordinary life department, the new sums assured amounted to £163,226, the premiums to £84,882, consideration for new annuities to £2,794, claims to £35,880, expenses to £11,038, and fund at close of year to £553,767. In the industrial department the premiums were £295,524; claims, £115,888; expenses, £135,871; and the fund at close of year, £530,802. Investments reserve fund on June 30, 1915, amounted to £21,585, and total assets to £1,115,768.

SCEPTRE LIFE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 40 Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C. Established 1864. Capital authorised, £100,000; subscribed, £45,425; paid up, £10,485. Amount of each share, £5. Paid up: £1 on 8,735, £5 on 350. Dividend for year ending December 31, 1914, 6 per cent. Last quinquennial bonus to shareholders, paid 1914, 34*s.* 9*d.* per share.

This Company is an excellently managed and pros-

perous undertaking. It makes a special feature of the assurance of abstainers, having both a "Temperance" and a "General" section. During 1914 new sums assured amounted to £100,365, total net life premium income to £74,456, and claims to £87,204, including £17,824 under endowment policies and £37,945 paid under whole-life policies in lifetime of assured through application of profits. Mortality incidence was favourable, ratios of "actual" to "expected" deaths being 70.2 per cent. in "General" and 46.5 per cent. in "Temperance" section. Expenses (including valuation expenses) absorbed 14.4 per cent. of the premium income. The life fund at close of year amounted to £1,219,174, the interest yield being about £4 0*s.* 11*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax.

A quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1913, on a very strong basis, $O^{M(5)}$ Tables of Mortality being used, in combination with interest at 2½ per cent. Divisible surplus amounted to £153,197, shareholders and participating policyholders being entitled to one-tenth and nine-tenths respectively. Bonuses to policyholders were at the same high rate as at last quinquennial valuation: in "Temperance" section, £2 2*s.* per cent. per annum on whole-life assurances and £1 18*s.* on endowment assurances; and in "General" section, £1 16*s.* per cent. per annum on all kinds of participating assurances.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Chief Office: 35 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow; London Office: 1 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Established 1826.

One of the strongest life offices in the country, with very fine and consistent bonus traditions. The Company is founded on the mutual system, and never during its long history have the reversionary additions to the sums assured made by way of profit fallen below the compound rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum over a valuation period, while for the last three quinquenniums (to 1900, 1905 and 1910) they were at the compound rate of 35*s.* per cent. per annum. The bonuses are above the average in cases of recent policies, and are very much so in cases of old policies; and there seems good reason for anticipating their continuance at a high standard under normal circumstances, for the valuation in 1910 was made on one of the strongest bases used by British offices, giving ample scope for the almost automatic accumulation of profits on a generous scale. The $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Table was used for assurances, in combination with O^{M} net premiums and 2½ per cent. interest, a large special reserve (greatly more than an ordinary net premium valuation would give), and representing about 22 per cent. of the annual premium income, being made for expenses and contingencies.

Few offices are so attractive to new entrants as the Scottish Amicable. Its "minimum premium" system is worth the attention of proposers who wish to obtain the largest possible immediate assurance for such a premium as they can afford. Under this system bonuses at the compound rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum are discounted and applied to reduce premiums. The policies are entitled to share in any bonuses declared above 30*s.* per cent. (as on the last three occasions), and are only liable to diminution in the event of the declared rate of bonus falling below that standard.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £763,886; the total net premium income to £429,639; consideration received for new annuities to £31,348; claims by death to £249,002 (about 75 per cent. of "expectation"); and funds at close of year (increased by £287,072) to £6,492,287. Expenses of management absorbed about 12·3 per cent. of the premiums, leaving a large margin in the reserve carried forward to provide for expenses and contingencies. In comparing the ratio of expense with those of other companies it should be borne in mind that a large part of the business is effected under the "minimum premium" system described above, and if full premiums had been charged on all policies the proportionate expense to premium income would, of course, have been considerably less.

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The interest yield, after deduction of tax, was about £3 18*s.* per cent., and therefore greatly in excess of that assumed for valuation purposes.

SCOTTISH BOILER INSURANCE AND ENGINE INSPECTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office: 174 West George Street, Glasgow; London Office: 128A Queen Victoria Street, E.C. Established 1881. The Yorkshire Insurance Company acquired the shares of this Company in 1913, and reports are not now issued.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 28 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. London Office: 13 Cornhill, E.C. Established 1831. This mutual life assurance Company has been consistently well managed, and has given excellent bonus results to its participating members. The last quinquennial valuation was made on March 1, 1913, for assurances by the O^M Table, on a net premium basis, with additional reserves, at 3 per cent. interest. Although £85,567 was applied in writing down securities to market prices or providing for depreciation, the bonuses declared were at the "compound" rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum, as compared with 26*s.* per cent. per annum on the previous quinquennial occasion. Interim bonuses on policies which become claims before the next quinquennial investigation to be at the rates per cent. per annum of 25*s.* in case of death and of 30*s.* in case of survivance.

During the financial year ending March 1, 1915, the net new sums assured amounted to £634,929; the net premium income to £426,856, of which expenses absorbed about 13¼ per cent.; consideration for new annuities to £9,291; net claims by death to £338,045, being "well within the expectation," and by survivance to £134,330; and the funds at close of year to £6,285,115, showing an increase during the year of £58,110, after carrying £44,252 to investment suspense account. The interest yield was £3 19*s.* per cent., after deduction of income tax.

SCOTTISH INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Chief Office: 115 George Street, Edinburgh; London Office: 14 Nicholas Lane, E.C. Established 1877. Formerly "Scottish Accident, Life and General Insurance Company, Ltd." Name changed to above, 1911. Capital authorised, £500,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £150,000, of which paid up £30,000, in 30,000 £5 shares with £1 paid. Dividend for 1914, 20 per cent., less income tax. Price of shares, £3 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 10*s.* 1*d.* per cent.

Company transacts fire, accident, motor-car and burglary insurance, and also ordinary life business.

The following figures relate to 1914:—

Accident and General Insurance Account.—Premiums, £76,760; interest, £1,719; claims, £37,794; expenses and commission, £30,118; bonus to policyholders, £4,811. After transferring £6,489 to profit and loss account the fund at end of year was £41,735, including £7,956 for outstanding claims.

Employers' Liability Insurance Account.—Premiums, £41,576; interest, £1,171; claims paid, £23,083; expenses and commission, £16,312; fund at end of year, £29,386, including £11,755 for outstanding claims, after transferring £1,378 to profit and loss account.

Fire Department.—Premiums, £14,844; claims, £7,674; expenses, £5,823; fire fund at end of year, £6,938, after transferring £488 to profit and loss account.

Life Department.—In 1914 net new sums assured amounted to £150,568, total net premium income to £42,884, and funds at end of year to £313,257. Expense ratio, 15·2 per cent. Net interest yield, £4 per cent. Quinquennial valuation of life department, December 31, 1910, was made by $O^{M(5)}$ Table, at 3 per cent. (as against 3½ per cent. on the last occasion), on net premium basis. Reversionary bonuses were declared at the following rates: £1 10*s.* per cent. per annum in the "Abstainers'" section, and £1 5*s.* per cent. per annum in the "General" section.

Company's total assets, December 31, 1914, £508,598. The investment reserve fund amounted to £20,000.

After provision for dividend, amounting for the year to £5,720, reserves, excluding paid-up capital and investment reserve, and after deduction of sums set aside for outstanding losses, exceeded 81 per cent. of last year's premium income (excluding life).

SCOTTISH LEGAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 84 Wilson Street, Glasgow. Established 1852. A mutual industrial life assurance institution enrolled under the Friendly Societies Act.

The report for the year ended December 31, 1914, shows receipt of £402,852 in premium collections; interest and other earnings of £46,941; and outgoings of £188,993 for claims, surrenders, &c., and of £178,162 for expenses. Assets, December 31, 1914, £1,278,772.

SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 19 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; London Office: 9 & 10 King Street, E.C. Established 1881. Capital authorised, £500,000; subscribed, £250,000; paid up, £50,000. Shares of £5 each with £1 paid. Dividend for 1914, 10 per cent., free of income tax. Price of shares, £1 15*s.*; yield, £7 4*s.* 2*d.* per cent.

This strong young Company has always been well and cautiously managed, and has a fine bonus record. At each valuation the bonuses declared have been at the rate of £2 per cent. for each year of assurance (except the year of entry) during the quinquennium. In addition to its life assurance business the Company has a small but profitable accident department. The last quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1910, on strong basis: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Tables and 3 per cent. interest, net premiums only being valued, with special reserves for limited payment policies. Under a new arrangement, participating policyholders are entitled to 95 per cent. of the profits from the life and annuity business, subject to the proviso that the directors have the right to make the proportion anything between 92½ to 95 per cent. during the now current quinquennium. It is claimed that under these regulations the Company is placed in a position of guaranteeing to its policyholders a larger proportion of profit than any other British proprietary insurance office.

During 1914 the net new life business amounted to £420,300 in sums assured. The net life premium income was £208,920. Expense ratio amounted to about 15·7 per cent. of premiums, and was decidedly low, especially considering youth of Company and proportionately large amount of new business. A sum of £9,985 was received as consideration for new annuities. Claims by death amounted to £73,632 (the mortality experienced during the year being described as low), and by survivance to £30,005. Life funds rose from £2,035,350 to £2,172,973. The interest yield, less income tax, was about £4 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent. Indications of future profits from economy, interest and longevity are favourable in each case.

Accident premium income in 1914, £6,594. Fund at close of year, £7,175, including £329 reserved for outstanding claims.

Total assets, December 31, 1914, £2,276,660. Investment reserve fund, £10,000. Balance of profit and loss account, after provision for dividend, £9,693.

SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

(*See* **London and Lancashire Life and General Assurance Association, Limited.**)

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

Head Office: 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; London Office: 3 Lombard Street, E.C.; West-End Office, 17 Pall Mall, S.W. Established 1837.

One of the largest life offices in the United Kingdom, admirably managed in every respect, and very attractive to new entrants. The Institution is founded on the mutual principle, all divisible profits belonging to the policyholders entitled to participate, after (except in endowment assurance cases) the premiums accumulated at 4 per cent. compound interest equal in amount the original sum assured. The premiums charged for whole-life policies are considerably lower than average

rates in British offices; as stated in the Company's prospectus, "generally £1,200 or thereby being secured from the first for the same yearly premium as would elsewhere assure (with profits) £1,000 only, with the prospect to those who prove good lives (for whom exclusively the surplus is reserved) of eventually receiving very considerable additions." How large these additions are may be estimated from the fact that during the septennium ended in 1908 more than 70 per cent. of the representatives of members who died were entitled to bonus yielding on an average an addition of nearly 50 per cent. to their policies. Endowment policies are now granted, however, on which bonuses are to be allotted on the compound system, and interim bonuses at 30*s.* per cent. per annum were payable thereon in cases of death before the septennial division of profits at end of 1908. This compound rate has been increased for the current valuation period to that declared at the septennial valuation on December 31, 1908, viz. 35*s.* per cent. per annum.

Valuations are now quinquennial, and the first was made on December 31, 1913, on a strong basis: O^{M} Tables of Mortality, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest, except in cases of some of the oldest policies, which were valued at 3½ per cent. It was reported that after making these provisions the value of the assets as shown in the balance sheet considerably exceeds the amount stated therein. The gross surplus over the quinquennium amounted to £1,609,988, including £51,897 paid during the quinquennium as interim bonuses. The securities were revalued, and the sum of £100,000 was written off the investments, and the investment reserve fund was increased from £140,000 to £300,000. The sum of £304,204 was "reserved for future accumulation," and £853,887 was applied to providing bonuses. Bonuses on whole-of-life policies sharing for the first time ranged from 12 to over 24 per cent. of the sums assured, in reversionary form, and bonuses on policies which had previously participated were at the uniform reversionary rate of £7 10*s.* per cent.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £1,654,664 (the largest amount in the history of the Society, although for more than 30 years the new business in each year has exceeded a million sterling); the total net premium income amounted to £746,052, in addition to £83,472, being consideration for new annuities granted; expenses about 13·5 per cent. of the premiums, which is a lower expense ratio than the average, although the Society's premiums are at considerably lower rates than are usually charged; claims by death to £809,987 (79 per cent. of the "expectation"), and by survivance to £36,607; the funds at close of year to £15,963,692, and the interest yield to about £3 17*s.* 3*d.* per cent. after deduction of income tax. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £16,429,859.

SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: 109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow; London Office: 3 Cheapside, E.C. Established 1883. Capital authorised and subscribed, £100,000; paid up, £25,000. Amount of each share, £1, with 5*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914, 5 per cent. per share, with bonus of 11 per cent. per share in addition, both dividend and bonus being subject to income tax. It was announced in the annual report for 1912 that the sum carried to the shareholders' fund from the quinquennial valuation profits at the close of the year is sufficient to provide a bonus addition to the ordinary dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum during the now current quinquennium. Price of shares, 15*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £5 7*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

The Company is enterprising and well and economically managed; it has a "Temperance section," in which abstainers are allowed special terms, and also an accident department. The last valuation, as at December 31, 1912, was made on a net premium basis by the O^{M} Table of Mortality, combined with 3 per cent. interest, with additional reserves for contingencies. The policyholders' share of the divisible surplus amounted to £176,440, which was sufficient to provide a bonus at the rate of 30*s.* per cent. per annum ("compound" for whole-of-life policies and "simple" for endowments) over the quinquennium in the immediate bonus section, and bonuses of varying amounts on policies entitled to deferred profits. At the last preceding valuation the bonus to immediate profit policies was 28*s.* per cent., with a limitation, now removed, to one half-year's bonus for the first year of assurance. £12,500 was transferred to shareholders' bonus and dividend fund, and a balance of surplus, amounting to £29,948, is carried forward in the life fund.

During 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £574,690, of which £555,890 was life business and £18,800 was capital redemption business; the total net life premium income (increased by £11,361) was £231,279. Claims by death cost £48,243, and claims by survivance, £42,088. Expenses were about 14·5 per cent. of the premiums. The life fund was increased from £2,073,777 to £2,284,074, and the interest yield, after deduction of income tax, was about £4 0*s.* 6*d.* per cent. The incidence of mortality in this Company has always been remarkably favourable, and continued to be so in 1914.

Leasehold redemption assurance premiums in 1914, £4,648; relative fund, December 31, 1914, £23,093.

In 1914 the accident premiums amounted to £4,567, the accident claims to £1,527, and the fund at close of year to £11,713. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £2,397,176.

The Company has a special life assurance scheme in connection with terminable mortgage loans, suitable to persons who desire to become possessors of their own dwelling-houses, or who wish to invest otherwise in heritable property of a good class. Loans are repayable by instalments over a fixed term of years, and in event of the borrower's death before the repayments are completed the balance then remaining is immediately cancelled.

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SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.

Head Office: 35 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; London Office: 5 Walbrook, E.C. This Company was formed in 1878 by the amalgamation of the Scottish Union and Scottish National Companies, which were founded respectively in 1824 and 1841. Capital authorised, £6,000,000; subscribed, £5,086,380; paid up, £300,000. Some of the shares are for £20, with £1 paid; others are for £10, with £3 15*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914 was at the rate of 20 per cent., less income tax. Price of £1 paid shares, £2 15*s.*; yield, £7 5*s.* 6*d.* per cent.; price of £3 15*s.* paid shares, £10 15*s.*; yield, £7 4*s.* 5*d.* per cent. During 1906 the Company acquired the business of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Accident Insurance Company, Limited. The Company took over the whole assets of the acquired Company, and in exchange issued Five per Cent. Accident Debenture bonds, redeemable in 1926, for £133,609. During 1913 the Company acquired the undertaking of the City of Glasgow Life Assurance Company (*q.v.*). In 1914 the Company acquired the shares of the Maritime Insurance Company.

Fire Department.—In 1914 premium income (increased by £6,321) amounted to £764,167, and the claims (£456,138) and expenses (£276,677) to £732,815. The interest earnings on the fire funds amounted to £14,769, and the excess of the departmental income over expenditure, after adjustment of reserve (representing 50 per cent. of the premium income) for unexpired risks, amounted to £42,961, which as profit realised was transferred to profit and loss account.

Life Department.—The net new life business in 1914 amounted to £783,794 in sums assured; the total net life premium income to £538,769; expenses to about 13·9 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death £426,700, and by survivance £93,473; and life funds at close of year to £8,335,443 after writing down investments by £412,944. These figures include those of the City of Glasgow Company. The net interest yield on the life fund seems to have been about £3 19*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

The Company received £115,908 as consideration for new annuities.

The quinquennial valuation of the life department was made on December 31, 1914. Separate valuations of the old "Scottish Union" and "Scottish National" policies were made, the same tables having been used and the same rate of interest assumed as at the last investigation, except that the 1912 Government Annuity Table was used for annuities.

The valuation of the "Scottish Union and National" policies (being those belonging to the present series, dating from the fusion of the "Scottish Union" and "Scottish National" Companies) was made, as on the former occasion, by the O^M 3 per cent. tables. It is stated that "the life funds as reduced would admit of substantial bonuses being declared in certain sections. Having regard to the shrinkage which has taken place in the values of securities since the outbreak of war and the uncertain outlook as to future values, the directors deem it prudent to postpone any declaration of profits until the year following the year in which peace is concluded."

In order, however, that no prejudice may be done to the holder of any with-profit policy in force on December 31, 1914, whose policy becomes a claim before such declaration is made, it was decided to allocate to such policies the following interim bonuses:—

Scottish Union Policies.—A bonus for five years at the same rate as was declared for the quinquennium ending December 31, 1909.

Scottish National Policies.—£1 per cent. on the sum assured for each full year's premium paid subsequent to December 31, 1909.

City of Glasgow Policies.—£1 per cent. on the sum assured for each completed year of assurance subsequent to December 31, 1912.

Scottish Union and National Policies.—(*a*) Early Bonus.—£1 per cent. on the sum assured for each full year's premium paid subsequent to December 31, 1909. (*b*) Deferred Bonus.—The same rate as was declared for the quinquennium ending December 31, 1909, but not exceeding a total of £1 per cent. per annum on the sum assured from date of vesting.

Accident Account.—This includes all transactions in Great Britain in connection with accidents or sickness, other than the liabilities provided for in the employers' liability account. The premiums in this account amounted to £19,382, and the fund at close of year to £11,426, including £1,735 in respect of outstanding claims. after transfer of £3,777 to profit and loss account, of which £412 represented interest earnings.

Employers' Liability premiums in Great Britain amounted to £35,440, and the relative fund at close of year to £32,723, including £15,003 for outstanding claims, after transfer of £8,429 to profit and loss, including interest earnings of £799. Sinking-fund premiums, £8,182; relative assurance fund, £62,823. Profit transferred to profit and loss, £3,749.

The General Account, including transactions not referred to above, showed premiums of £20,777 and a fund at close of year of £12,763, including £2,375 for outstanding claims, after transfer of £5,025 to profit and loss account, of which £443 represented interest earnings. The balance of profit and loss account brought forward from 1913, after provision for net dividend payable in 1914, was £208,774. To this have been added £42,961, balance transferred as above shown from fire account, balance of £5,025 from general assurance account, of £8,429 from employers' liability account, of £3,749 from sickness account, and of £3,777 from accident account. Interest and fees not carried to other accounts (less income tax, interest on accident bonds and irrecoverable agents' balances) produced £32,136; £40,000 was transferred to profit and loss from investment contingency account. Provision for the gross dividend at 20 per cent. absorbs £60,000, the sum of £8,016 is set aside as the cost of acquiring the Maritime Insurance Company, £132,056 was written off investments, £100,000 transferred to investment reserve, and £15,000 set aside for possible bad debts due to the war, and thereafter £26,395 is carried forward in profit and loss account. The general reserve fund at the close of the year amounted to £300,000. The reserves and balances carried forward (apart from capital and the life, annuity, general, employers' liability, sinking-fund assurance, investment reserve, and accident funds) represent over 92 per cent. of the fire premium income. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £10,282,988.

Maritime Insurance Company. — Premiums, £286,461. Losses, 1914 and previous years, £175,756. After transferring £20,625 to profit and loss the underwriting fund amounted to £314,505, including £92,278 for unsettled claims. General reserve fund, £180,000. Profit and loss balance, £69,290. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £673,408.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Head Office: 9 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; London Office: 28 Cornhill, E.C. Established 1815.

This great mutual life office is by far the largest British life assurance institution not possessing an industrial department, measured by premium income and accumulations. It has a splendid bonus history. The bonuses declared had been, for the last five successive septennial divisions ending with 1908, at the very high "compound" rate of £1 14*s.* per cent. per annum, which gives an over-average amount of bonus in the case of the youngest policies and greatly increased bonuses to those of long duration. The original sums assured have in many instances been doubled, in extreme cases they have been more than trebled, through these reversionary additions.

Valuations are now quinquennial and the first was made at the close of 1913 on a strong basis: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Tables for assurances, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. The loading reserved as a provision for future expenses and profits represented 22 per cent. of the premiums. £167,710 was written off sundry investments, and the balance of estimated depreciation in securities was provided by transferring the reserve fund of £400,000 to a specific investment reserve fund. Thereafter the sum of £2,149,000 was

utilised in declaring bonuses at the same rate as that above referred to, and £54,996 was carried forward as undivided surplus to the next division of profits. Interim bonuses will be paid until the next valuation at the full compound rate of £1 14*s.* per cent. per annum.

In 1914 the net new sums assured by life policies amounted to £2,090,861; the total net life premiums to £1,453,531; consideration for new annuities to £155,632; expenses to 9.9 per cent. of the premiums; claims to £1,231,646 (those by death being only 82 per cent. of the "expectation"); and life funds at close of year, increased by £472,367, to £21,995,035, exclusive of investment reserve fund of £400,000. which provided for the difference between the book values and market values on December 31, 1913, of certain bonds which will mature for repayment at par on fixed dates. Capital redemption premiums, £1,931; fund, £7,216. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £22,949,047. Interest, after deduction of income tax, yielded about £4 0*s.* 3*d.* per cent. in 1914.

SEA INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Offices: Exchange Buildings, Liverpool; 31 Cornhill, London, E.C. Established 1875. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £500,000. Shares for £10 each, fully paid. The dividend for 1914 was 16*s.* per share, subject to tax. Price of shares, £17 5*s.*; yield, £4 14*s.* 11*d.* per cent.

On April 15, 1912, the shares of the Company were made fully paid by calling up the balance of £400,000 unpaid, and at the same time declaring a bonus of £400,000, free of income tax, out of the reserve fund.

This Company is one of the strongest transacting marine insurance business, and has been excellently managed. The aim of the directors is evidently to increase the reserve through accumulation of profits. But the effect of this policy is, of course, automatically to manufacture increased profits from interest. The report issued in January last shows that there was a surplus of £34,927 from the closing of the 1913 underwriting account, whilst the receipts from interest and fees, less income tax, amounted to £40,424. Premiums in 1914 amounted to £468,795, of which first year's settlements absorbed 25·9 per cent. The underwriting balances carried forward to 1915 (including suspense account of £106,872) amount to £430,191. After provision for dividend, £165,227 is carried forward in profit and loss. The reserve fund amounts to £145,000. Assets on December 31 last, £1,303,510.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office: 3 George Street, Edinburgh; London Office: 83 King William Street, E.C. Established 1825. Capital authorised and subscribed, £500,000; paid up, £120,000. Shares for £10, with £2 8*s.* paid. Dividend in 1915, 6*s.* per share, free of income tax. Price of shares, £4 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £7 9*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

The Standard Life Assurance Company, whilst transacting a large business in the United Kingdom, is the best-known British office in many other parts of the world. In India its policyholders are more numerous than those of any of its British contemporaries. The Company has also branches in China, Mauritius, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the Philippines, Egypt, Canada, South Africa, the West Indies, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Argentina and Uruguay. In all these countries it has deservedly obtained a high reputation for liberality and honourable dealing.

The last quinquennial valuation was made as at November 15, 1910. The mortality tables used for assurances were the O^{M} Table for home and temperate climate business, and special experience tables for other business. The rate of interest assumed was 3 per cent. For valuation purposes the securities were written down by £120,037. The portion of the divisible surplus allocated to participating policyholders (after payment of £61,433 for interim bonuses) was £772,800, which provided reversionary bonuses of 30*s.* per cent. per annum.

In financial year ending November 15, 1914, the new sums assured, less reassurances, amounted to £1,713,646; the total net life premium income to £997,992; consideration for new annuities to £53,268; claims by death to £746,964; claims under endowments matured to £249,213; expenses were about 18·8 per cent. of the premiums; and life funds at close of year (increased by £123,505) were £13,602,219. Capital redemption premiums, £2,748; consideration for "annuities certain," £1,496; fund, £13,155. Interest on life funds (less tax) produced £535,717, the net yield having been about £4 0*s.* 9*d.* per cent. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £14,112,966.

STANDARD MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.)

STAR ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 32 Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Established 1843. Capital authorised and subscribed, £100,000; paid up, £5,000, in shares of £1 each with 1*s.* paid up. One-tenth of the surplus arising from quinquennial valuations has been appropriated to shareholders. Their proportion of the surplus from the last valuation, on December 31, 1913, was £53,018, equivalent to about 10*s.* 7*d.* on each share of the present denomination. Price of shares, £2 2*s.* 6*d.*

Up to the passing of the special Act of Parliament referred to hereunder the Society was known as the Star Life Assurance Society, and its business was entirely confined to life assurance.

During 1911 the Company obtained enlarged powers through a special Act of Parliament, enabling it to transact practically all kinds of insurance business, but it is understood that these powers will be very gradually and cautiously exercised, and up to the close of last year the only new departure was represented by capital redemption insurance business. For the current quinquennium the annual dividend is 2*s.* 2*d.* per share. The Society has always had a strong Wesleyan connection, and the new articles of association provide that at least seven members of the board shall be accredited members of that community.

F. P. I.

THE FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION was established in 1832 as a Mutual Assurance Association by Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), and originally confined its operations to Friends and their near relatives; but the Directors now have power, and are prepared, to grant assurances to persons not connected with Friends.

LOW PREMIUMS

ECONOMICAL MANAGEMENT

Head Office: BRADFORD, YORKS.

London Office: 17 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

Birmingham Office: 44 WATERLOO STREET.

The quinquennial valuation on December 31, 1913, was made for assurances on a net premium basis by the O^M Table of Mortality, in combination with 3 per cent. interest. The proportion of the surplus ascertained at the valuation applicable to division amongst participating policyholders, notwithstanding the writing down values of securities by £149,700, permitted the distribution of bonuses on policies issued prior to January 1912 at the compound rate of 21*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, representing in individual cases additions varying from 21*s.* to 38*s.* per cent. per annum on the original sums assured. On policies effected after January 1, 1912, a simple reversionary bonus of 30*s.* per annum was declared.

During 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £1,086,574, the net life premium income to £506,926, and the claims by death (said to be in number considerably within "expectation") to £323,279. The expense ratio of the life business was about 16·0 per cent. of the premiums. The total life and annuity funds at close of year amounted to £6,991,411. The interest yield, after deduction of income tax, was £4 1*s.* 9*d.* per cent. Capital redemption premiums, £11,135; fund, £14,796. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £7,264,791.

STATE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: State Insurance Buildings, Liverpool; London Office: 12–13 Nicholas Lane, E.C. Established 1891. Capital authorised, £800,000; subscribed, £560,000; paid up, £70,000. Shares for £8, of which paid up, £1. Dividend for 1914, 12½ per cent., less income tax. Price of shares, £1 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 14*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

Fire Department.—In 1914 in this department the net premiums (increased by £24,125) amounted to £234,176, losses to £150,276, and expenses to £83,799. £7,942 was transferred from profit and loss account, and the fire fund thereafter amounted to £78,059, representing the reserve for unexpired risks at the rate of one-third of the year's premium income.

Accident and General Department (including employers' liability business).—In this section the premiums amounted to £53,143, the claims to £26,185, and the expenses to £19,461. The sum of £6,506 was transferred to profit and loss account, and the departmental fund at end of year (being reserve for unexpired risks at one-third of the premium income) amounted thereafter to £17,714.

Profit and Loss Account.—The balance brought forward in this account from 1913, less provision for dividend and directors' fees for that year, was £7,878. As stated above £6,506 was transferred from accident account, but £7,942 was taken out of this account and added to the reserve for unexpired fire risks. Earnings from interest and fees, less income tax and expenses, amounted to £4,999. Investment fluctuation account, £20,000. General reserve fund, £60,000. After provision for dividend for 1914 the balance carried forward is £2,690. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £303,557.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE.

Head Office: 63 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. Established 1710. On December 31, 1914, capital authorised, £2,500,000; subscribed, £2,400,000; paid up, £480,000, of which £120,000 was provided out of profit and loss account for 1910, and £240,000 in 1912. Shares for £10, with £2 paid. Dividend declared in 1915, 14*s.* per share, less tax. Price of shares, £11 10*s.*; yield, £6 7*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

This leading Office, particularly well known in the Metropolitan district, is senior by a century of its namesake and ally for business purposes, the Sun Life Office. It now transacts accident and employers' liability business, as well as fire, burglary and general insurance.

Fire Department.—In 1914 the net premium income amounted to £1,502,340, the losses to £842,262 (about 56·1 per cent.), and the departmental expenses of management, inclusive of commission, to £572,939. After adjustment of liability for unexpired risks (40 per cent. of the premiums) the trading profit, apart from interest, was £114,818, or about 7·6 per cent. of premiums. The interest credited to the fire account was £68,730, so that the total profit in the fire department was £183,548, which was transferred to profit and loss account. The fire insurance fund at close of year 1914, including reserve for unexpired risks, amounted to £2,100,936.

Accident Department.—The premiums amounted to £7,589 and the credited interest to £287. The accident fund at close of year amounted to £8,980, including £945 for outstanding claims. £12 was transferred from the profit and loss account to accident account.

Employers' Liability Department, &c.—The premiums amounted to £98,774, and the fund at the close of the year to £151,556, including £47,046, estimated liability for outstanding claims. Interest credited was £4,805, the trading profit amounted to £6,180, the sum of £10,985 being transferred to profit and loss account. Burglary and General premiums amounted to £27,022, and after transfer of £6,377 to profit and loss account, inclusive of interest earnings of £815, the relative fund amounted to £25,809.

Earnings from interest not credited to the departmental funds and fees, after deduction of income tax, bad debts, and loss on exchange, amounted to £41,491, and the net profits transferred from departments to £200,898, making a total profit of £242,389, while the dividend at 14*s.* per share, less income tax, required £158,200. £10,000 was carried to war contingency fund, £10,000 to pension fund (thereafter amounting to £62,642), £75,000 to investment suspense fund, and £75,000 applied in writing down investments. The balance carried forward in profit and loss account after provision for dividend was £260,063. Dividend reserve amounted to £150,000; and the total funds, exclusive of capital investments suspense and pension funds, after provision for dividend and outstanding claims, to £2,757,957. This represents about 162 per cent. of the year's total premium income—more than four times the amount set aside on a standard of 40 per cent. to provide for unexpired risks. To maintain the dividend at 14*s.* per share a profit of less than 3 per cent. on the trading, in addition to interest earnings, seems sufficient.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 63 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. Established 1810. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed and paid up, £480,000. Amount of each share, £10, fully paid (*see below*). The shares were formerly for £10 with £7 10*s.* paid, but the directors announced in the report for 1911 that the funds admitted of £120,000 being applied in paying up £2 10*s.* per share, and declared a special dividend of £2 10*s.* per share for that purpose. The dividend (including bonus) for the current quinquennium will be £1 per share per annum. Price of shares, £21 5*s.*; yield, £4 16*s.* 5*d.* per cent.

This Company is closely associated for business purposes with its elder brother, the Sun (Fire) Insurance Company. It is an enterprising and "up-to-date" institution, and has within the last few years broken new ground in accepting proposals, under certain conditions, without the formality of medical examination; also premiums, when required, by monthly payments. These innovations and a rapid development of agency organisation have led to much increase in the business. In the Metropolitan district, in which it has a number of branch offices, the Company is very strongly represented. It has an accident and miscellaneous section, as well as its leading life assurance department.

In 1914 the net new life sums assured amounted to £2,692,862; the total net life premium income to £979,666; the interest earnings on the life fund to £364,614 (representing £4 2*s.* 8*d.* per cent., after deduction of income tax); the claims ("well within expectation") to £567,981, including bonuses; and the expenses (including transfer of £5,500 to superannuation fund) to about 15·1 per cent. of the premium income. The life fund at close of year, increased by £548,990, after transfer of £2,437 to proprietors' fund, amounted to £9,278,833.

The quinquennial valuation was made on December 31, 1911, on a strong basis: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Tables of Mortality, net premiums by the O^M Table, and 3 per cent. interest. The policyholders' share of the profits amounted to £843,306, and sufficed to provide reversionary bonuses varying from 22*s.* to 86*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, according to age at entry and duration of policy.

The annuity account for 1914 shows receipts for consideration for annuities amounting to £152,722. Annuities for £142,453 were paid, and the annuity fund at close of year was £1,633,349. The leasehold fund at close of year was £1,590,084, premiums having been received in this section for £128,082. The accident premiums during the year were £5,126, and the fund at the close of year £11,583 (including £380 for outstanding claims). The total assets at close of year were £12,725,146. The Company acquired as from December 31, 1905, the life assurance business of the Patriotic Assurance Company, whose life funds amounted to £208,619 at the close of 1904, its premium income during that year having been £22,432. Reversionary bonuses are guaranteed to Patriotic participating policyholders of 22*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum.

THAMES AND MERSEY MARINE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

(*See* **Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co.**)

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: Winchester House, London, E.C. Established 1887. Capital authorised and fully subscribed, £1,050,000, £525,000 being in Four-and-a-Half per Cent Cumulative Preference stock and £525,000 in Ordinary stock. There are issues of £400,000 Four-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture stock, and of £350,000 Four-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Consolidated Debenture stock. Dividend on Ordinary shares for year to May 31, 1915, 5 per cent., less income tax. Price of Preference stock, £90; yield, £5 2*s.* 7*d.* per cent.; price of Ordinary stock, £82 10*s.*; yield, £6 4*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

The Company undertakes the duties of trustee and executor under wills, &c., and owns the building known as Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., together with safe deposits there and at Liverpool. Assets, May 31, 1915, £2,081,181.

UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(*See* **Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited.**)

UNION MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*See* **Phœnix Assurance Company, Limited.**)

UNITED DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The business of this Company has been acquired by the British Dominions General Insurance Company, Limited (*q.v.*).

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

Head Office: 196 Strand, London, W.C. Established 1840.

A very successful mutual life office with an excellent bonus history. Lives of total abstainers from alcoholic beverages are assured in a separate section from those of others. The mortality incidence has been satisfactory in both sections, but that in the "Temperance" section has been especially so. Consequently, one of the greatest sources of profit has been the longevity of the members.

The last quinquennial valuation was made at the close of 1910 by one of the strongest standards used in British life offices: O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Tables, in combination with net O^M premiums, 2½ per cent. interest, and special additional reserves. The surplus ascertained amounted to £1,358,969, whereof a sum of £1,235,653 was apportioned as profits amongst participating policyholders and the large balance of £123,316 was carried forward. The declared bonuses were respectively at the compound rates of £2 2*s.* and £1 15*s.* per cent. per annum in the "Temperance" and "General" sections for whole-of-life policies. The bonuses to abstainers were remarkably large, and those to non-abstainers much exceeded average rates in British offices. Being on the compound system, they ranged in the "Temperance" section from £2 2*s.* to £4 13*s.*, and in the "General" section from £1 15*s.* to £3 3*s.* per cent. per annum on original sums assured.

In 1914 the new sums assured amounted to £1,080,551 after deduction of reassurances; total net premiums increased by £17,938 to £757,799; expenses amounted to about 10·5 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death to £419,449 (66·7 per cent. of the "expected" in the "Temperance" section and 77 per cent. in the "General" section); claims by survivance to £189,192; and the assurance funds were increased by £374,249 to £10,337,121. The average interest yield, after deduction of income tax, in 1914 was about £3 17*s.* 2*d.* per cent. The Institution is one of the most attractive to new entrants in the country.

UNIVERSITY LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 25 Pall Mall, London, S.W. Established 1825. Capital authorised, £600,000; subscribed, £598,000; paid up, £29,900. Amount of each share, £100, of which £5 paid up and added. Dividend, 1915, 5 per cent. (5*s.* per share), free of income tax. Bonus from quinquennial valuation at April 30, 1915, £1 4*s.* per share, as on the previous quinquennial occasion. Shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of divisible valuation surplus.

The University is a high-class office in every respect, and has in the past given exceptionally handsome profits to its policyholders. Yet its new business is one of the smallest in the country. This arises partly from the restriction of the business "to the assurance of the lives of past or present members of the universities, public schools, and other approved educational institutions." The restriction as regards policyholders has operated favourably in one way, the longevity of the assured being above that usually experienced by life offices. The incidence of mortality might, however, be better

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still if there were a greater amount of new business, as a considerable influx of recently selected lives is always beneficial. The Society is attractive to persons eligible as policyholders.

The valuation in 1915 was made on a very strong basis: $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Table, in combination with net premiums and interest at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Bonuses then declared on participating assurances were at the rate of £1 10*s.* per cent. per annum. This is considerably less than the average rate declared by the Society, and the decrease is partially explained by the fact that £30,178 was written off securities, and £25,000 carried to investment reserve fund. Bonuses vest at once in case of policies on which six years' premium have been paid, and on payment of the sixth years' premiums in case of more recently effected policies.

During the last financial year, ended April 30, 1915, net new sums assured amounted to £107,557; the total net premium income to £69,976; expenses to about 11·3 per cent. of the premiums; claims by death to £64,355; and total life funds at end of year to £952,120. The net interest yield on the total funds was about £4 0*s.* 2*d.* per cent.

VULCAN BOILER & GENERAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.

Head Office: 67 King Street, Manchester; London Offices, 78 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., and 39 Victoria Street, Westminister. Established 1859. Capital authorised, £500,000; subscribed, £375,000; paid up, £187,500. Amount of each share, £5, with £2 10*s.* paid. Dividend for 1914, 10*s.* 6*d.* per share, and a bonus of 2*s.* per share, both less income tax. Price of shares, £8 17*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £7 6*s.* per cent.

In 1914 premiums and fees, &c., amounted to £163,629, sundry commissions and receipts to £6,169, and losses and expenses to £123,075. Interest and transfer fees produced £10,013, and the balance in the revenue account at the close of year was £66,056. £46,175 of this amount was applied in payment of dividend and bonus; £7,500 was added to the current risk and reserve fund, raising it to £82,500; £1,200 to the superannuation fund, raising it to £7,890; and £10,481 carried forward. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £331,890.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham; London Office: 20-23 Holborn, W.C. Established 1841.

This Society transacts ordinary life, industrial and sickness insurance business. There are no shareholders. In 1914 the total premium income in the ordinary life account amounted to £226,220; the claims to £92,766, including £33,749 for endowment insurances; expenses to about 14·9 per cent.; and the fund at close of year to £1,248,918, the net interest yield on the ordinary fund being about £3 12*s.* per cent. The amount of the new ordinary assurances in 1914 was £459,465.

In the industrial department the premium income was £776,621, of which expenses, inclusive of commission and special new business charges, absorbed about 47·2 per cent. Claims and surrenders, £335,245. Fund at close of year, £998,593. Sickness, &c., premiums, £2,887. Fund, £62,333.

Total assets of Society, according to balance sheet on December 31, 1914, £2,393,818.

The annual valuation on December 31, 1914, was made for industrial policies by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table of Mortality, and for ordinary policies by the O^{M} Table. Net premiums in the ordinary section were valued on the assumption that the policies were effected one year after actual entry at the increased age, and in the industrial department on the assumption that they were effected five years after the date of issue at the increased age. The rate of interest assumed was 3 per cent. The surplus ascertained amounted in the life assurance departments to £67,805, and in the sickness department to £515. Out of these sums £25,000 was set aside as a reserve on account of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act, and £6,000 as an investment reserve fund. A reversionary bonus of 26*s.* per cent. was declared on sums assured on all participating policies in the ordinary class which had been two years in force, this distribution requiring £28,230, leaving £9,091 to be carried forward.

WESTMINSTER AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

(*See* Guardian Assurance Company, Limited.)

WEST OF SCOTLAND INSURANCE OFFICE, LTD.

Head Office: 131 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow; London Office: 3 Princes Street, E.C. Established 1886. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed, £175,000; paid up, £35,000, in 35,000 shares of £5 each with £1 paid. Dividend in respect of 1914, 15 per cent., less income tax. Price of shares, £3 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £4 19*s.* 2*d.* per cent.

This Company now transacts accident and burglary in addition to fire insurance. It has an excellent record, and its business has been profitable throughout. In 1914 the premium income amounted to £47,585 (fire, £41,374; employers' liability, £3,527; burglary and general, £2,684); interest, less income tax, to £3,588; losses to £22,299 (fire, £20,832; employers' liability, £967; burglary, &c., £500); and expenses to £16,572. The fire fund amounted to £36,550; employers' liability fund to £7,304; burglary and general fund to £1,074; investment reserve fund to £4,503, and general reserve fund to £40,000. In addition there was a balance of £2,260 after provision of dividend, the balances and reserves, apart from capital and investment reserve, thus amounting to £87,188, representing about 183 per cent. of the year's premium income. The financial position is, therefore, very strong. Assets, December 31, 1914, £136,453.

WORLD MARINE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 3–4 Royal Exchange Buildings, London, E.C. Established 1894. Capital authorised, £250,000; subscribed on December 31, 1914, £250,000; paid up, £100,000, in shares of £5 each with £2 paid. Dividend for 1914, 5 per cent., free of income tax.

In January 1912 this Company purchased 96,221 shares of the London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Company, Limited (*q.v.*), for £108,248 12*s.* 6*d.* in cash, with a view to closer fusion in the working of the two companies, which will carry on business as heretofore. *See* YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

In 1914 the premiums amounted to £244,073, of which first year's settlements absorbed about 22 per cent. At close of year the general reserve fund amounted to £30,000, and the balance of underwriting account to £178,491. After provision for the dividend £40,975 was carried forward in profit and loss. Total assets on December 31, 1914, £374,315. The Company holds 17,409 Yorkshire Insurance Company's shares of £5 each with 10*s.* paid, which are taken at cost (£5), and represent assets to the extent of £87,045.

YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Offices: St. Helen's Square, York; Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C. Established 1824. Capital authorised, £1,000,000; subscribed (December 31, 1914), £845,856; paid up, £125,289. This consists of 160,126 shares of £5 each, with 10*s.* paid, and 45,226 fully-paid shares of £1 each. The Company was registered as "limited" in 1908, when the original £10 shares were subdivided. Dividend declared in 1915, 50 per cent., free of income tax, giving 10*s.* on the fully-paid £1 shares and 5*s.* on the £5 shares with 10*s.* paid. Price of partly paid shares, £4 10*s.*; yield, £6 15*s.* 9*d.* per cent.; price of fully paid shares, £10 2*s.* 6*d.*; yield, £6 0*s.* 6*d.* per cent. Shareholders are entitled to one-tenth of the profits in the life department, it being, however, provided that their share shall not be less than £15,000.

The Company, which has a strong local connection, transacts fire, life, marine, and accident business. In 1913 certain portions of the business of the Premier Insurance Company and the business and shares of the London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Company and the Scottish Boiler Insurance and Engine Inspection Company were acquired. In 1914 an arrangement

was made with the Guarantee Society for the purchase of that Company's shares by an exchange of Yorkshire shares and cash; the figures relating to the same now appear in the Yorkshire Company's report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the fire premiums amounted to £455,800, losses to £247,147 (54·2 per cent.), and departmental expenses to £173,204. Interest earnings, &c., less tax, in this department amounted to £7,794. £40,091 was carried from fire to profit and loss account. The sum of £182,320 was reserved as a provision for unexpired risks, being 40 per cent. of the premiums, at close of year.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted to £603,843; total net premium income to £209,675; consideration for new annuities to £70,002; claims by death to £82,474; by survivance, £27,160; annuities paid to £59,592; expenses (allowing for annuity business) to about 13 per cent.; total life fund at close of year, after appropriation of £3,000 to profit and loss account as shareholders' profits, and £32,693 to investment reserve to £2,595,435, and interest yield, after deduction of income tax, to about £4 4*s.* 7*d.* per cent.

A quinquennial valuation was made at December 31, 1914, on a strong basis: for assurances, O^M and $O^{M(5)}$ Mortality Tables, net premiums, and 3 per cent. interest. As regards the assets, the Stock Exchange securities were taken at the prices of December 31, 1913, as suggested by the Board of Trade. To meet the depreciation on this basis, £32,693 was transferred to investment reserve fund, and as a further provision for depreciation due to the war a sum of £100,000 was transferred from the general reserve fund of the Company to investment reserve. This was estimated to be more than sufficient to meet reductions in value of all the Stock Exchange securities to the end of 1914. The surplus ascertained in the life and annuity funds was £212,400, of which £135,000 was allocated to participating policyholders and £15,000 to shareholders, while £62,400 was carried forward to the next valuation. Bonus additions to participating policies were on a liberal scale, providing increasing amounts according to duration of policies, varying from about 25*s.* to about 41*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, according to circumstances, and averaging 30*s.* per cent. per annum for both life and endowment policies. In abstainers' section additional reversionary bonuses were allotted of 4*s.* to whole-life policies and 2*s.* to endowment policies per cent. per annum.

CAPITAL REDEMPTION ACCOUNT.—Premiums, &c., £10,077; fund, £52,211.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY DEPARTMENT.—Premiums, £106,174. Fund at close of year, £83,595, consisted of £42,470, reserve for unexpired risks (at 40 per cent. of premiums), and £41,125, estimated liability for outstanding claims. A balance of £25,045 was carried forward in this account.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.—This includes insurance in following sections: Burglary, live-stock, motor-car, fidelity, plate glass, &c. Premiums in 1914 amounted to £308,420; balance carried forward, £41,754; reserved for unexpired risks, £109,732 (after deduction of expired risks).

ACCIDENT ACCOUNT.—Premiums, £14,986; claims, £8,613; carried forward, £5,558, after reserving £5,995 for unexpired risks and £1,347 for outstanding claims.

MARINE ACCOUNT.—Premiums, £430,047; claims, £232,271; fund, £456,550.

GENERALLY.—Total assets, December 31, 1914, including £31,754 in connection with Great Britain Mutual Life Assurance Society's business, £4,717,388. General reserve fund, £487,885. Investment reserve, £100,000. Dividend reserve, £20,000. Pension and guarantee fund, £11,665. Balance in profit and loss account, after provision for dividend to be paid in 1915, and transferring £60,000 to general reserve fund, £76,567

COLONIAL OFFICES.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Head Office: Sydney, New South Wales. Established 1849. London Office: 37 Threadneedle Street E.C. Transacts both ordinary and industrial life assurance business.

In 1914 the net new sums assured amounted in the ordinary department to £6,563,369, and in the industrial department to £968,893. The total net ordinary life premium income was £2,641,566, of which expenses of management and commission absorbed about 13·4 per cent. In the ordinary department, consideration for new annuities granted, £50,587; claims by death, £1,051,549, and by survivance, £761,749; surrenders, £345,553. Ordinary funds rose during the year from £31,173,467 to £32,649,589. Industrial premium income, £248,825; relative funds, £582,167. Interest yield on mean life funds, £4 12*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

Annual valuations are made. The valuation on December 31, 1914, was made for all ordinary assurances, except contingent assurances, by the H^M Table of Mortality, with interest at 3 per cent., excepting that participating assurances for whole life at uniform premiums issued prior to 1903 were valued at 3½ per cent. Net premiums only were valued. The valuation surplus for the year in the ordinary department amounted to £1,139,953, of which £1,026,139 is divided. Since the Society's inception the surplus divided represents in cash form 36·3 per cent. of the premiums received on all policies in the ordinary department. In reversionary form the bonus additions range from 30*s.* to over 60*s.* per cent. per annum, according to class, age at entry, and duration of policies, indicating a very high standard. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £33,736,909.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office: Toronto, Canada; London Office 15 King Street, Cheapside, E.C. Established 1847. Capital authorised and paid up, £205,479 9*s.* ($1,000,000), in 2,500 shares, fully paid, of £82 3*s.* 10*d.* each ($400). Dividends to shareholders per revenue account of 1914 amounted to £16,438. The amount distributed represented £6 11*s.* 6*d.* per share, or 8 per cent. on the capita

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In 1914 the completed new business amounted to £3,098,589, the policies paid for during the twelve months covering assurances for £2,883,860; the total net premium income to £990,880, of which expenses absorbed about 24·4 per cent.; consideration for new annuities to £163,244; net interest earnings, &c., £577,721, yielding about £5 8*s*. 10*d*. per cent. on the funds; whilst gain on sale of securities (£28,030) and decrease in market value of assets on revaluation at end of year (£11,422) were given effect to in revenue account. Claims by death amounted to £442,418, and by survivance to £84,540. The funds, inclusive of paid-up capital, rose during the year from £10,624,619 to £11,183,979, of which £10,947,109 represented the assurance and annuity funds, and £31,390 shareholders' dividend fund.

Valuations for profit-distributing purposes are made quinquennially, the last having been made on December 31, 1914. The valuation was then made on a net premium basis by the H^M Table of Mortality, the rates of interest assumed being 3 per cent. for business written since 1900 and 3½ per cent. for previous business. After providing for all liabilities, for a contingent reserve of £41,096, and after allotment of £270,775 to those entitled to share during 1914, the net surplus is reported as £1,273,765. The report states that the surplus actually earned during 1914 amounted to £315,100, "which shows that the year 1914 was one of the best in the history of the Company." The reversionary bonus declared on quinquennial dividend life policies issued prior to 1900 was £1 10*s*. per cent. per annum. To policies issued in and since 1900 bonuses have been allotted by the "contributory method," and are said to have been "correspondingly satisfactory." Bonuses apparently do not vest until after five premiums have been paid.

COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.

Head Office: Melbourne. Chief Office for United Kingdom: 33 Poultry, London, E.C. Established 1873.

In 1914 the sums assured by new life policies amounted to £1,646,564; the total net ordinary life premium income to £457,276; expenses, inclusive of commission but exclusive of taxes, to about 24·9 per cent. of the life premiums; claims by death to £155,726, and by survivance to £82,767; and the life funds at close of year to £3,783,301. The interest yield is reported to have been £4 12*s*. per cent.

As a result of the valuation made as at December 31, 1914, by the O^M Table of Mortality, in combination with 3½ per cent. interest, a reversionary bonus of £1 per cent. per annum was declared for 1914 with certain stipulations as to vesting of bonus and other provisions (see actuarial report.)

Company opened an industrial department in 1909. Industrial premiums for 1914, £90,591; industrial funds at close of 1914, £125,761. Industrial assets include the following item: "Extension of Organisation Account," £106,494. Accident premiums, 1914, £9,772; fund, £17,426.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

This is a Canadian life office, and was established in 1871. Its head office is in Toronto, and it has a branch in the United Kingdom, with chief offices at Temple Bar House, 23–28 Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Capital: Subscribed, £205,480 ($1,000,000); paid up, £20,548 ($100,000). Shareholders' profit appearing in the revenue account for 1914 amounted to £4,871. Holders of participating policies are entitled to 90 per cent. of the profits from the participating section, and it is stated in the Company's prospectus that for the last 20 years the Company has actually paid to participating policyholders 95 per cent. of such profits.

In 1914 the new policies issued amounted to £2,397,757. The total net premium income amounted to £513,080, of which expenses, inclusive of commission, absorbed about 31 per cent. Claims by death amounted to £132,566, and by survivance to £100,721. The life funds were increased by £216,012, and amounted at the close of the year to £3,995,093. Interest earnings, less taxes, during the year produced about 5½ per cent. on the average amount of funds.

A valuation of the Company's affairs was made for all assurances issued at ordinary rates on December 31, 1914, by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table of Mortality (with exceptions referred to hereunder), in combination with interest at the rates of 4 per cent. for assurances effected before 1896, 3½ per cent. for assurances effected from 1896 to 1899 inclusive, and 3 per cent. for later policies. The American Tropical Experience Mortality Table was employed for all tropical business in combination with similar rates of interest. The reserve liability under assurances and annuities amounted to £3,546,851. The profits earned for participating policyholders since the Company's inception are said to represent 14·6 per cent. of all premiums received from them.

The Company makes a special feature of its guaranteed policy values, which seem to be computed on a liberal basis.

MANUFACTURERS' LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A Canadian Company established in 1887. Head Office: Toronto; London Office: 7 Gracechurch Street, E.C. Paid-up capital stock at December 31, 1914, £61,644. Shareholders' fund at that date, inclusive of paid-up capital, £81,955. Dividends paid to shareholders in 1914, £4,931.

New assurances, 1914, £2,561,468; total net premium income, £647,264, of which expenses, inclusive of commission and taxes, absorbed about 30·8 per cent.; claims by death and survivance and dividends to policyholders (£39,940), £328,623. The death losses were £116,856. Interest earnings, £223,194. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £3,941,176.

Specially low rates of premium are charged on lives of total abstainers.

MUTUAL LIFE AND CITIZENS' ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

Head Office: Sydney, New South Wales; London Office: 1 Arundel Street, Strand, W.C. Established 1887. This Company represents an amalgamation of the Mutual Life Association of Australasia with the Citizens' Life Assurance Company, Limited, which took effect from January 1, 1908. In 1910 the Company absorbed the Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society. The paid-up capital on December 31, 1914, amounted to £108,225. "Bonuses" paid to shareholders in 1914 amounted to £20,641.

In 1914 the net new ordinary life business amounted to £2,003,040; the total ordinary net life premium income to £796,245, of which expenses of management absorbed about 12·2 per cent.; interest earnings, less taxes, to £360,613 (representing about £4 15*s*. 11*d*. per cent. on the funds); claims by death to £186,349, and claims by survivance to £280,737. The ordinary funds amounted on December 31, 1914, to £7,878,549. In 1914 the industrial premiums amounted to £264,821, and the industrial fund at close of year to £1,173,716. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £9,376,370.

A valuation of the ordinary business was made on December 31, 1914, by the H^M Table of Mortality, in combination with interest at 3 and 3½ per cent. The reversionary bonuses in respect of the one year, 1914, were at the rate of £3 per cent. for whole-of-life policies with 10 years or more duration, and £2 5*s*. per cent. with five years' duration. Reversionary bonuses on endowment assurances were at lower, but very satisfactory, rates, ranging from £1 17*s*. to £2 2*s*. per cent., according to specimens given, for policies of five years' duration and longer.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.

Head Office: Melbourne; London Office: 5 Cheapside, E.C. Established 1869.

In the year to September 30, 1914, the sums assured by new policies amounted to £3,576,869; the total net premium income to £1,042,509, of which expenses of management, inclusive of commission and taxes, absorbed about 16·8 per cent.; consideration for new annuities to £26,162; claims by death to £270,477, and claims by survivance or maturity to £189,543. The funds were increased during the year by £705,030 to £8,705,492, and seem to have earned about £4 19*s*. per cent in interest.

The last triennial valuation was made on September 30, 1913. The assurances were valued by the

H^M Table at 3½ per cent. interest, a small addition being made to the net premiums to cover initial expenses. The surplus amounted to £650,024. Reversionary bonuses ranged from 32*s.* to 48*s.* per cent. per annum over the triennium.

SOUTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Established 1872, as the "South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand." Head Office: Auckland, New Zealand; London Office: Jerusalem Chambers, Cornhill, E.C. On August 31, 1915, capital authorised, £2,000,000; subscribed, £1,000,000; paid up, £300,000, in 200,000 shares of £5 each, with £1 10*s.* paid. Dividend for financial year ended August 31, 1915, 4*s.* 6*d.* per share.

The Company is authorised to transact fire, marine and accident insurance business of every description. In year ended August 31, 1915, net premiums amounted to £553,297, interest earnings to £42,898, losses to £287,117, expenses and taxes to £159,064, and balance carried forward (after provision for dividend and transfer to reserve and other funds) to £48,410. Reserve fund, £280,000. Reinsurance fund, £240,000. Assets, August 31, 1915, £1,094,963.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

Head Office: Montreal; London Office: Canada House, 4 and 5 Norfolk Street, W.C. Incorporated 1865. Capital subscribed, £205,479 ($1,000,000); paid up, £51,370 ($250,000). Shareholders' proportion of profits declared in 1914, £8,615.

The new sums assured on policies issued in 1914 amounted to £6,609,727, and the total sums assured at close of 1914 were £44,856,129. Other figures for last year are as follows: Life premium income, £1,855,290, of which expenses and commission, making a small adjustment for cost of annuity business, absorbed about 27 per cent.; consideration received for new annuities, £514,991; claims by death, £380,091, and by survivance, £261,079; life and annuity funds at close of year (increased by £1,532,630), £12,739,750; interest yield, about £6 12*s.* 8*d.* per cent.

The expense ratio, as in most colonial life offices, is higher than is usual in this country. On the other hand, this is counterbalanced to a large extent by the higher interest yield than is obtainable by British life offices.

The quinquennial valuation was made as at December 31, 1912, by the $O^{M(5)}$ Table of Mortality, in combination with net premiums and interest at 3 per cent. for all policies issued since December 31, 1902 (about 79 per cent. of the policies), and 3½ per cent. for all policies issued previously. The reversionary bonuses ranged from about 22*s.* to about 46*s.* per cent. per annum over the quinquennium, according to age at entry and duration of policy, in cases of policies effected at Northern rates. The profit earned during 1914 is reported as £344,445, and the surplus in hand on December 31, 1914, as £1,336,395; or by the Canadian Government standard as £1,612,852.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Established 1851. Head Offices: Toronto, and 14 Cornhill, London, E.C. Capital, £513,698: Preferred, £205,479; Ordinary, £308,219; both being in fully-paid shares. In 1914 3½ per cent. was paid on account of fixed cumulative dividends on Preferred stock.

Transacts fire and marine business. In 1914, fire premiums, £434,812; marine premiums, £217,395; interest, £19,125; fire losses, £290,965; fire expenses, £173,184; marine losses, £153,249; marine expenses, £41,355; loss on fire trading in 1914, £29,337; profit on marine trading, £22,791; balance of profit and loss account, carried to 1915, £145,497. Total assets, December 31, 1914, £767,847, securities being valued at market values as at June 30, 1914, for those in the United States, and as at December 31, 1913, for the remainder. The loss on the fire trading in 1914 is attributed to the effects of the European war and the depression in the Cotton market.

Reference to some of the more important American Offices will be found under Insurance Notes.



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(*Continued from page 732.*)

be made in the coming year will be evident from the appended statement.

Recent Course of Earnings and Expenses of Pennsylvania RR.

(000's omitted.)

Month	Gross Receipts.	Oper. Expenses and Taxes.—Maint. of Way.	Maint. of Equipment.	Cond. Transportation.	Total.	Net Receipts after Taxes.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
10 mos. to Oct. '14	−13,389	−1,083	−4,966	−4,887	−10,975	−2,414
Nov. 1914	− 2,154	− 158	− 715	− 879	− 1,719	− 435
Dec. ,,	− 2,307	− 86	− 171	− 772	− 1,169	−1,296
Year ...	−17,849	−1,307	−5,852	−6,538	−13,726	−3,983
Jan. 1915	− 1,434	− 39	− 66	− 998	− 1,137	− 297
Feb. ,,	− 611	− 191	− 39	−1,026	− 961	+ 350
Mar. ,,	− 1,765	− 381	− 102	− 896	− 1,433	− 332
Apr. ,,	− 465	+ 39	+ 66	− 629	− 482	+ 17
May ,,	+ 52	−	− 90	− 607	− 478	+ 530
June ,,	+ 596	− 25	− 156	− 352	− 253	− 849
July ,,	− 35	− 1	−	− 16	− 22	− 13
Aug. ,,	+ 674	+ 107	+ 1	− 171	− 61	+ 735
Sept. ,,	+ 1,383	+ 115	+ 177	− 130	+ 86	+1,297
Oct. ,,	+ 2,616	+ 222	+ 452	+ 590	+ 1,059	+1,557
10 mos. ...	+ 1,732	− 179	+ 633	− 4,549	− 4,112	+5,874

No railroad in the United States enjoys greater strength, either financially or physically, than the Pennsylvania, and no railroad is better prepared to handle expeditiously and economically the vast traffic that will probably come in 1916. The policy of the road has always been to prepare well ahead for the great cycles of prosperity that visit the United States every few years. Were it not for this policy it would be impossible to handle a largely increased traffic without adding very considerably to the cost of operating. In the next few months the results are anticipated to be exceptionally favourable, inasmuch as comparison will be made with a period when gross earnings were showing large shrinkages.

The Common stock of the *Railroad* is at present quoted about 61½ for the $50 share, at which the return from the 6% dividend is £5 3*s*. 4*d*. per cent.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO'S RECOVERY.

THE VALUE OF EFFICIENCY.

Recently we dealt with the financial condition of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and showed the substantial improvement in its profit already effected, as well as the probable further expansion likely to occur; but there are certain features in connection with the development and operation of the property during the last five years since Mr. Willard became President that seem worthy of special attention at the present time as indicating the really remarkable efficiency with which the railroad is now operated. The stockholders are, indeed, fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. Willard in such a critical period of the Company's affairs.

A good test of the operating efficiency of a railroad is found in the percentage of gross earnings chargeable to the account of "Conducting Transportation." The percentage of gross earnings charged against this account by the Baltimore and Ohio Company during the year just ended was 37.3, as compared with 40.3 the preceding year, and while the ratio for the year was 37.3%, in the month of June it was only 31.1%, in July 31.0%, in August 29.4%, in September it was 30.3%, and in October 30.4%. In short, the operating results for the last few months show that with a subnormal business such as the Company had until quite recently, and with ordinary weather conditions, the railroad can be so operated that conducting transportation will absorb not more than 31 or 32% of the gross earnings, except during the cold winter months, and that ratio, in connection with the low average ton-mile rate which obtains upon the Baltimore and Ohio, indicates a very satisfactory accomplishment, and one that compares favourably with results obtained on other roads similarly situated.

The reduced cost of conducting transportation has been brought about by the increase in freight-train load which has been accomplished during the last five years (made possible by the heavier locomotives purchased) by the additional facilities which have also been furnished during that period, and by the very earnest and efficient efforts of the operating officers to obtain the desired result.

The remarkable chart we present herewith shows the variation in freight-train load and earnings per freight-train mile than has taken place during the last five years. It will be noted that the average train load for the year to June last was 694 tons of revenue and company freight, compared with 466 tons for the year ended June 30, 1910. In the month of July 1915 the average train load was 773 tons for the system, and it is possible that during the present fiscal year the train load will be raised still further, or above 700 tons.

The freight-train earnings for the year just ended at $3.77 per train mile compared with $2.55 for the year ended June 30, 1910. In this connection it should be remembered that the average rate per revenue-ton mile received by the Baltimore and Ohio Company during the year just ended was but 5.64 mills, the lowest rate received by any of the roads in the eastern section and north of the Potomac River.

During the last six years, or from July 1, 1909, to June 30, 1915, over $55,000,000 have been spent for additions and betterments, including the construction of the Sandy Valley and Elkhorn Railway, and over $54,000,000 have been spent for new equipment, a total of $110,000,000. The net book value of equipment, after making adjustments for depreciation, &c., increased $47,000,000, which with the expenditures on road of $55,000,000, makes a total increase in capital cost of road and equipment of about $101,000,000. In addition, the Company has made advances to the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway (on account of which no direct return was received during the year) of about $22,000,000—so that the total capital obligations of the Company have increased about $124,000,000 since July 1, 1909, and this has had the effect of increasing the Company's fixed charges $5,648,708 per annum above what they were at the beginning of the period mentioned.

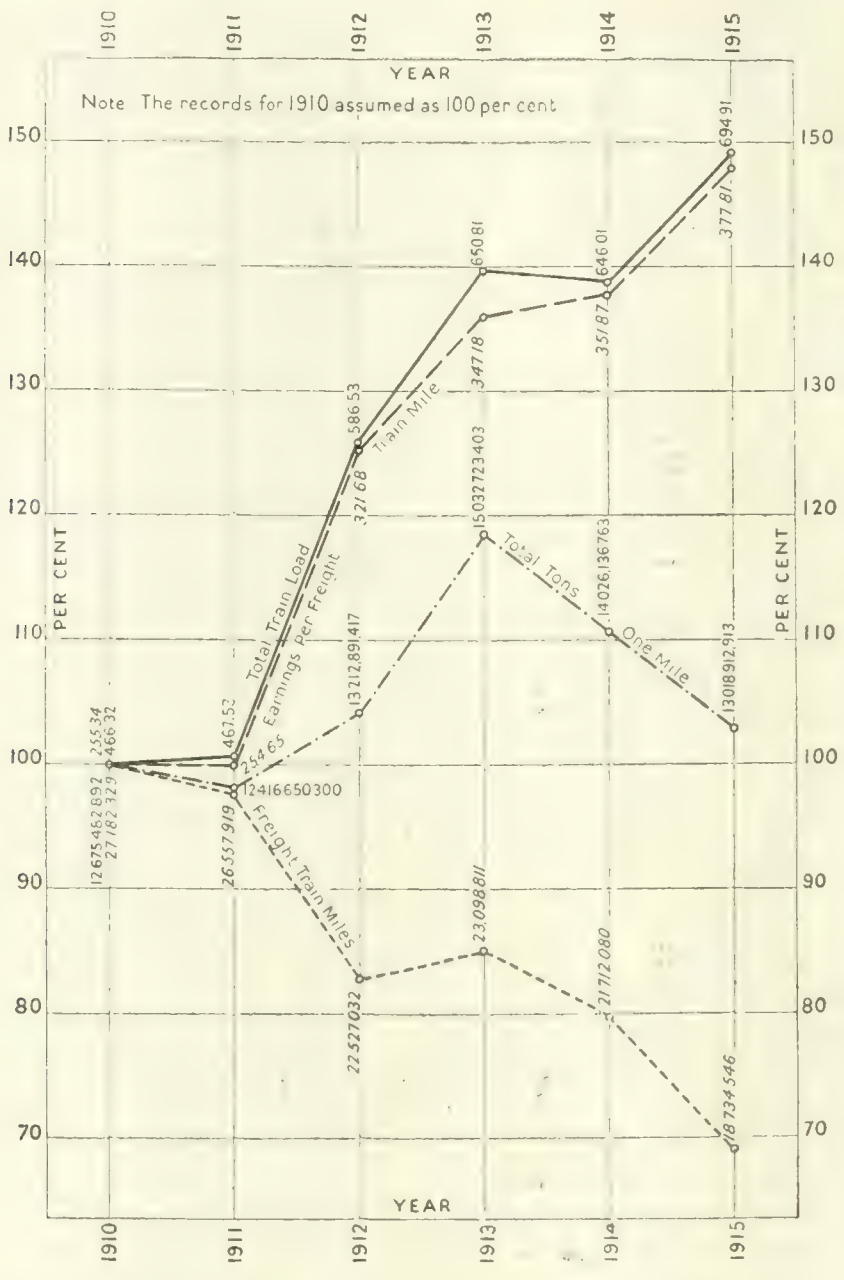
During the same period, and in addition to the increase in fixed charges just referred to, wages have been increased as a result of arbitration, mediation and agreement, so that if the service performed in 1915 had been on the same basis of pay obtaining in 1909, labour charges would have been $4,500,000 less than they actually were. Since June 30, 1909, taxes have also increased $1,230,000 a year, and operating expenses have been further augmented $435,000 per annum as a result of various legislative requirements, such as Full Crew Law, Hours of Service Law, Boiler Inspection Law, &c. The effect of all this has been to increase the total charges and fixed expenses ahead of dividends by approximately $12,000,000 per annum.

The expenditures that have been made during the last five years for new equipment and additional facilities were necessary in order to put the Company in position to fairly meet its obligations as a common carrier. The existing plant of the Company, taken as a whole, is believed to be capable of earning $10,000,000 a month except during severe winter weather, which would be at the rate of $110,000,000 to $115,000,000 per year, and this is at least $20,000,000 more than could have been earned with the facilities as they were before the large expenditures above referred to were made, and although the Company has a capacity at the present time to earn $110,000,000 per annum, its earnings for the year just ended were only about 80% of that amount, or less than $92,000,000. The earning capacity of the property to-day is not considered to be at all in excess of the requirements of a normal business through the territory served, and additional facilities will be required as the business grows.

On January 1, 1910, only 39.6% of the freight equipment owned at that time by the Company was of

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO SYSTEM.

Comparison in Percentage since 1910 in Freight-train Miles, Earnings per Freight-train Mile, Total Tons One Mile, and Total Train Load.



all-steel construction, or of wood construction with steel underframes. At the present time over 86% of the Company's freight equipment is either all-steel or is equipped with steel underframes, and when the programme which has been mapped out for the present fiscal year shall have been completed, over 91% of the freight equipment will be either all-steel or equipped with steel underframes or centre sills and suitable for service in heavy trains and with the heaviest locomotives. In order to accomplish that result 16,766 freight cars have been substantially rebuilt and equipped with steel underframes or new steel bodies, either at the Company's shops or by outside concerns, at a cost of $6,664,000, a large part of which was charged to operation. Over 21,000 freight cars of light capacity and weak construction have been condemned and put out of service since July 1, 1909, making a charge against operating expenses of over $2,500,000, exclusive of depreciation. During the same period over 31,000 new freight cars—all but 500 being of all-steel or steel underframe construction—were purchased at a cost of approximately $31,000,000. The freight equipment of the Baltimore and Ohio Company to-day compares favourably with that of any other company; in fact, it is probably somewhat above the average in its adaptability to present service requirements. The total number of revenue freight cars owned June 30, 1915, was something over 87,000, with a total carrying capacity of 3,700,445 tons, an average of 42 tons per car, or an increase in total capacity of 754,408 tons—over 25%—as compared with June 30, 1909.

Since July 1, 1909, 305 cars for passenger service, of all steel construction, have been purchased at a cost of approximately $3,500,000, and 20 coaches have had steel centre sills and steel ends applied at a cost of $91,600. Twenty-three per cent. of the total passenger equipment of the Baltimore and Ohio Company at the present time is either all-steel or is equipped with steel centre sills and non-telescoping ends. These cars are run in the heavy trains in through service, and 43% of the total passenger-car mileage of the Baltimore and Ohio Company is now made with such improved equipment.

During the period under consideration, 691 new locomotives were purchased, at a cost of $15,854,000, having an average tractive power of 50,656 pounds per locomotive. During the same period 203 locomotives of an average age of 25.8 years, and with

an average tractive power of 18,000 lb. per locomotive, were dismantled, and about $122,000 was charged to operating expenses on that account, exclusive of depreciation. Two hundred and thirty-eight other locomotives have been substantially rebuilt and strengthened at a cost of $618,637, in order to better fit them for service requirements.

During the last five years, 159 bridges, having a total length of 25,018 feet, were reconstructed and strengthened to carry heavier power, and 97 wooden bridges, having a total length of 3,631 feet, were replaced with permanent structures.

The average weight of rail in all main tracks has been increased during the period mentioned from 83.3 lb. per yard to 86.2 lb. per yard.

Two hundred and ninety-five miles of main line have been equipped with electric automatic signals during the last five years, at a cost of approximately $700,000. Total miles of line so protected on July 1, 1915, were 503, being 42% of the distance between Philadelphia and Chicago, *via* Pittsburgh, and 26% of the distance from Philadelphia to St. Louis, *via* Grafton and Parkersburg. Twenty-two new passenger stations, costing $460,000, have been built, and 22 other passenger stations have been remodelled at a cost of $574,228. Eighteen new freight stations have been constructed and three remodelled at a total cost of $1,014,000.

During the same period new track has been constructed as follows:—

	Miles.
First track	58.27
Second track	105.65
Third track	58.00
Fourth track	8.50
Total main track as above	230.42
Side track laid	440.58
Total all track	671.00

Ninety-four miles of narrow-gauge main line have been relaid to standard gauge at a cost of $290,823. Six hundred and thirty-three switches and cross-overs have been removed from the main tracks, eliminating that number of potential danger points from main line; $416,000 has been spent for new shop tools and machinery, and the estimated monthly output of locomotives receiving classified repairs of all the shops at the present time is 215, compared with 190 in 1909.

It may also be remarked in this connection that in the great floods in the Central West in the spring of 1913, 179 miles of the main track of this Company were washed out and made unfit for service; 11 bridges, 3,800 feet long, were washed away, and seven bridges, 1,164 feet long, were so damaged as to be made impassable. The direct expenses of the flood charged against operation and allocated from other charges were $2,744,000. The loss of gross earnings was estimated at over $1,500,000. It is conservative to say that the loss which the Company sustained because of the floods was in excess of $5,000,000, not including the damage done to the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton.

The standard of service which is being maintained to-day is as high as has ever been maintained at any period in the past, and probably, in some respects, higher. This has been made possible by the liberal expenditures authorised during the last two years.

CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY.

PROPOSED NEW ISSUE OF STOCK.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the Cordoba Central Railway Company is called for Wednesday next (December 22) for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the stockholders to the creation of £650,000 6% Debenture stock, ranking in priority to the 4½% Second Debenture stock of the Company. It may be recalled that in December last the directors were authorised to create and issue £500,000 6% Three-year Notes, the proceeds of which were required to meet current liabilities. Only £248,600 of these notes have so far been issued, and as under present circumstances a further issue of notes is impracticable, the directors have decided to raise the funds necessary to provide for outstanding liabilities as they fall due by the issue of £650,000 6% Debenture stock. The new stock will be repayable in seven years at par, the Company having the option to redeem it at any previous time on six months' notice. The necessary sanction to the issue has been obtained from the Treasury, subject to the condition that the £248,600 Three-year Notes already issued shall be immediately cancelled. The new stock is to be applied as follows:—

	£
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	25,000
[illegible] Notes	248,600
[illegible]	1[illegible],400
[illegible]	650,000

The balance of the Three-year Notes—namely, £251,400 authorised, but not yet issued—is to be cancelled.

Last year the capital expenditures amounted to £357,000, of which £129,000 was on the permanent way, &c., and £217,000 on new rolling-stock and improvements. At June 30 there was a credit balance on capital account of £341,000, the whole of which has apparently since been spent. The amount would have been much larger but for the War, expenditure in this connection having been restricted since the outbreak of hostilities to the completion of works which it was not advisable to suspend, to minor works of pressing necessity, and to works required by the Argentine Government.

The Company suffered last year from the effects of the War, and the earnings and profits of the line, already seriously prejudiced by the general trade depression in Argentina, were further considerably depleted by the exceptionally heavy rains which continued during the greater part of the year. The gross earnings were reduced from £1,969,000 to £1,691,000, and, notwithstanding a considerable saving in working expenses, the net earnings declined from £621,000 to £489,000. Indeed, the total net income, including the balance brought forward, amounted to only £492,194, and inasmuch as it required a sum of £552,937 to provide the Company's interest obligations, including 6% on the Three-year Notes, there was a debit balance to be made good of £60,743, which amount has been paid out of the general funds of the Company. The position of the undertaking as at June 30 last will be seen from the income statement appended:—

Cordoba Central Railway.

	Year—1914-15	1913-14	Six Months to June 30, 1913	1912-13
	£	£	£	£
Gross [illegible]	1,691,714	1,969,020	931,425	1,910,053
Working expenses	1,202,162	1,347,998	640,836	1[illegible]
Ratio	(71.08)	(68.46)	(68.80)	(71.40)
Net earnings	489,232	621,022	290,589	54[illegible]
Miscellaneous	1,268	828	7,103	—
From Argentine Railway Co., as traffic [illegible]	—	—	53,985	—
Total net income	490,520	621,850	351,677	
Debenture interest	545,000	490,586	221,736	—
Miscellaneous charges	7,937	9,498	20,388	—
Total charges	552,937	500,084	242,124	—
Net profit	Loss 62,417	121,766	109,553	—
5% [illegible]	—	71,999	[illegible]	—
Balance [illegible] ...	—	49,767	73,554	—
6% [illegible]	—	48,092	24,046	—
Balance for Ordinary	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—
Ordinary [illegible]	[illegible]	Nil	49,508	—
[illegible] ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	1,674	—	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] ...	[illegible]	1,674	—	—

The creation and issue of £650,000 6% Debenture stock and the immediate redemption of the Three-year Notes will mean an increase in interest charges on balance of only £24,000, and having regard to the more favourable outlook the Company should have no difficulty in providing this increased sum. It is true

that the earnings of the line show a further considerable diminution so far in the current year, due to the failure of the sugar crop in Tucuman consequent upon unprecedented frosts. But the prospects for the coming cereal harvests—the movement of which should shortly commence—are, the directors state, excellent, and should enable the Company to quickly regain the loss of earnings shown to date. The variety of produce transported over the system and the importance of good crops to the Company's prosperity will be seen from the appended summary of the freight traffic for the last two years:—

Freight Traffic, Cordoba Central Railway.

Goods.	1914-15 Tons	1913-14 Tons	—Inc. or Dec.— Tons	%
Sugar cane	902,618	834,155	+ 68,463	+ 8·2
Sugar	249,170	164,219	+ 84,951	+ 51·7
Firewood	394,781	381,340	+ 13,441	+ 3·5
Maize	318,494	292,754	+ 25,740	+ 8·8
Wheat	115,674	41,819	+ 73,855	+176·6
Charcoal	97,472	109,468	— 11,996	— 11·0
Flour and bran	78,624	84,404	— 5,780	— 6·9
Linseed	63,179	43,842	+ 19,337	+ 44·1
Wood and posts	58,843	148,022	— 89,179	— 59·6
Stone, lime, &c.	56,784	126,226	— 69,442	— 55·0
Fruit and vegetables	42,748	54,434	— 11,686	— 21·5
Sand and bricks	41,170	47,849	— 6,679	— 14·0
Wine	35,601	45,030	— 9,429	— 20·9
Beer and alcohol	15,575	27,046	— 11,471	— 42·5
Hay	14,674	14,541	+ 133	+ 0·9
Coal	8,459	32,250	— 23,791	— 73·8
General goods	228,585	287,072	— 58,487	— 20·3
Sundries	55,076	146,348	— 91,272	— 62·4
Total	2,778,527	2,880,819	—102,292	— 3·5
Live Stock.	No.	No.	No.	%
Horses	8,245	13,777	— 5,532	—40·1
Cattle	77,325	82,387	— 5,062	— 6·1
Sheep	4,636	14,715	—10,079	—68·5
Pigs	14,574	13,849	+ 725	+ 5·2
Total Live Stock	104,780	124,728	—19,948	—16·0

Moreover, owing to the improvements in traffic facilities which have been introduced of late, and the additional locomotives and rolling-stock which have been provided, the railway is undoubtedly in a position to earn considerably larger receipts at a lower cost of working than was formerly practicable. The increase as from October 1 of 10% in freight rates should also greatly assist the Company in the current year, as all revenue derived therefrom in the coming months will be so much additional net profit.

On the whole, therefore, the immediate future of the Company is not unsatisfactory, and as soon as a change for the better sets in the recovery should be rapid. As to the more distant future, it has to be borne in mind that the Company is still in its infancy as a trunk-line system in direct communication with the City of Buenos Ayres, and, given fair average crops and more normal conditions generally, marked progress should be made. For many years prior to the recent amalgamation the Company worked under great difficulties. It suffered from keen competition, and was at a disadvantage with its competitors owing to the obsolete condition of a large portion of its equipment and the costly nature of its working operations. All this has been changed in the last few years. The line has been extended to Buenos Ayres, and a large amount of money has been spent in reorganising and improving the system. Since 1909 the total amount of cash applied to betterment and additions has been no less than £3,500,000, and whilst the growth in earnings and in profits prior to the outbreak of war was certainly substantial, the full benefit of these large expenditures has yet to be experienced. To show the development of the system in recent years notwithstanding the many disadvantages under which the Company laboured we append herewith a comparison of the main results of working since 1902-03:—

Cordoba Central Railway.

Year to June 30	Miles Open	Gross Earnings	Expenses	Ratio	Net Earnings
		£	£	%	£
1915	1,186	1,692,000	1,202,000	71·08	489,000
1914	1,184	1,969,000	1,348,000	68.46	621,000
1913	1,175	1,910,000	1,364,000	71.40	546,000
1912	1,172	1,644,000	1,199,000	72.95	445,000
1911	1,170	1,530,000	1,000,000	65.36	530,000
1910	1,149	1,320,000	912,000	69.05	408,000
1909	952	1,030,000	685,000	66.33	425,000
1908	952	1,014,000	625,000	61.33	389,000
1907	952	939,000	579,000	61.66	360,000
1906	952	930,000	566,000	60·86	364,000
1905	952	834,000	498,000	59·71	336,000
1904	952	778,000	449,000	57.71	329,000
1903	952	635,000	404,000	63·62	231,000

It will be seen that whilst the gross earnings last year declined £277,000, or 14.1%, the working expenses were reduced by £145,000, or 10.8%, due in large measure to a saving of 16.5% in train mileage. The substantial decrease of £17,000, or 13%, in maintenance of way, works, &c., would undoubtedly have been greater but for the continuous heavy rains experienced during the year. The saving of nearly £80,000, or 9.5%, in transportation expenses is distinctly satisfactory as showing the ability of the Company to effect economies in times of stress and difficulty. To show the savings last year in the various spending departments we give the following:—

Working Expenses, Cordoba Central Railway.

	1914-15 £	1913-14 £	—Difference— £	%
Maint. of way works	118,010	135,030	—17,020	— 13
,, of locomotives	62,434	64,779	— 2,345	— 4
,, of carriages	25,917	18,916	+ 7,001	+ 37
,, of waggons	32,568	33,612	— 1,044	— 3
Total maintenance	238,929	252,337	—13,408	— 5
Running expenses	441,512	496,590	—55,078	—11
Traffic expenses	305,148	329,307	—24,159	— 7
Total transportation	746,660	825,897	—79,237	— 9
General charges	150,529	162,894	—12,365	— 8
Sundry expenses	66,345	106,870	—40,525	—38
Total expenses	1,202,463	1,347,998	—145,535	—11

The set-back caused by the War is, of course, unfortunate, as it means delay in reaping the reward of the recent betterment policy, but now that the tide is turning and the prospects for Argentina are so much more hopeful the prosperity of the undertaking should quickly recover, and not only are interest charges likely to be fully covered in future, but a resumption of dividends upon the share capital may not be long delayed. The fall in the prices of the Company's securities has been heavy, but in several instances there has been some recovery from the lowest point touched. It should be noted that the issue of new stock and the redemption of notes will enable the directors to pay the six months' interest due January 1 on the 4½% Second Debenture stock, the price of which is only 52½. Further, it may be pointed out that interest on the 5% First Preference stock is cumulative, and that the arrears now amount to £72,000. These will have to be paid off sooner or later, and this largely accounts for the stock now standing at the relatively high price of 53.

The capital of the Company and the approximate prices of the various securities at the present time are set out beneath:—

Cordoba Central Railway Company.

Security	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%	£	£ s. d.
4% First Debenture stock	8,000,000	4	69	5 17 8
4½% Second Debenture stock ...	5,000,000	4½	52½	8 11 0
6% Three-year Notes	248,600	6	94	6 11 5
5% Cum. First Pref. Income stock ...	1,440,000	-	53	-
5% Second Pref. Income stock ...	961,895	-	20	
Do. 1916 Scrip (*a*)	700,000	-	20½	-
Ordinary Income stock	3,961,196	—	18	-
Do. 1917 Scrip (*b*)	107,424	-	-	-
Total capital	20,419,115			

(*a*) Does not rank for interest until July 1 1916.
(*b*) Does not rank for interest until July 1, 1917.

RUBBER TOPICS.

The price of rubber has been well maintained this week in the region of 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb. for plantation "spot." Discriminate investment buying continues in the Share market, shares of companies with attractive outlooks, irrespective of the rise in the commodity, being in demand. The tabular analysis of over 140 rubber companies which appeared in our issue of December 4 enables proper selections and comparisons of share values to be made.

The first sign that the rise in the value of rubber is benefiting producers is given by the statement issued this week that the Allagar Rubber Estates has contracted to sell 4,480 lb. per month from January to June 1916 at 3*s.* 4½*d.* per lb., and 13,440 lb. per month from July to December 1916 at 3*s.* per lb. That is to say, the Company has sold forward

107,420 lb. of its 1916 crop at an average price of about 3*s.* 1*d.* per lb. The Allagar's crop for the eleven months of this year has been 240,500 lb. Last year's crop was 226,774 lb., realising a gross price of 2*s.* 1¾*d.* per lb.

RUBBER REPORTS ANALYSED.

KUALA-KLANG ESTATE.

Issued Capital: £25,000 in £1 Shares.

—Results of Year to September 30, 1915—

Total Planted Acres	Area in Bearing Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Bear'g Acre lb.	Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend %
515	515	167,182	324	324	2 5.08	11.57	11,773	8,750	30

Price of Shares, 52/6 c.d. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £117.

This is another Malayan estate to be added to the growing list of companies producing rubber at less than 1*s.* per lb. "all-in" cost. It will be seen above that for the past year from 515 acres of planted area—now all in bearing—an output of 167,182 lb. was obtained, equal to the satisfactory yield of 324 lb. per acre, the "all-in" cost being only 11.57*d.* per lb. The net profit for the year of £11,773 represents £47% on the capital of £25,000, but the total dividend recommended is 30%, requiring £8,750, and £3,000 is carried to reserve. Allowing for the payment of the final dividend the balance sheet shows £6,690 of surplus liquid assets—a relatively strong position. At the present price of the £1 shares of, say, 48*s.* 6*d.* xd, the market capitalisation per planted acre is £117. The estimated output for the current financial year is 175,000 lb., equal to about 340 lb. per acre. On the basis of the past year's conservative distribution of 30%, the shares at present price return the purchaser as much as 12½%, and in view of the increased yield expected for the current year, and the reduction of the "all-in" cost below 1*s.* per lb., they are a satisfactory investment, though at present there is not a very free market in them.

GLEN BERVIE (SUMATRA).

Issued Capital: £50,000.

—Results for Year to September 30, 1915—

Total Planted Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost	Net Profit £	Dividend £	Dividend %
1,457	203,750	140	2 5.4	1,2¼	10,752	6,250	12½

Price of Shares, 1⅜ c.d. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £56.

The report does not state the acreage in bearing in the past year, but at September 30 apparently about 830 acres were being tapped, representing 82,606 trees out of a total of 149,201 planted. The yield of 140 lb. per planted acre is therefore not very good. But a comparatively high price was obtained for the output, and the "all-in" cost worked out from the figures in the accounts has been reduced to 1*s.* 2½*d.* per lb.—a good performance in view of the yield. The net profit of £10,250 represents 20% on the issued capital, and the dividend declared of 12½% absorbs only £6,250, £3,000 being placed to reserve, and £1,500 extra carried forward. The balance sheet shows a strong position with £11,850 of surplus liquid resources in hand. A market capitalisation of £56 per planted acre indicates that the shares are cheap at their quotation of about 1¾ *cum* dividend, notwithstanding the rather poor yield per acre.

NARBOROUGH (F.M.S.) RUBBER ESTATE.

Issued Capital: £59,995 in 2/- Shares.

(7% Debentures: £10,000.)

—Results of Year to June 30, 1915—

Total Planted Acres	Area in Bearing Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Bearing Acre lb.	Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £
814	300	115,906	386	142	2 1½	1 3.3	4,912

Price of Shares, 1/9. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £77.

The yield of 386 lb. per bearing acre is very satisfactory and points to a good production when the whole estate is in bearing, as it should be by the end of 1916. No dividend was paid for the past year, the profits being used to strengthen the financial position, so that at June 30 the surplus liquid assets amounted to £5,187. On account of the current financial year an interim dividend of 2½% is declared. The output for the first five months has been 62,140 lb., so that the 170,000 lb. estimated for the year should be reached. A profit for the current year sufficient to pay a dividend of 10% is, therefore, not unlikely. At price 1*s.* 9*d.* the 2*s.* shares, having regard to the high yield obtained per acre, are decidedly not overvalued.

KRUBONG (MALACCA).

Capital: £24,458 in £1 Shares,

(£842 Debentures.)

— Results for Year to September 30, 1915 —

Total Planted Acres	Area in Bearing Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Bearing Acre lb.	Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend %
501½	236½	99,096	419	197	2 1	1 4½	3,074	2,649	12½

Price of Shares, 32/0 c.d. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £73.

The rubber yield of 419 lb. per acre in bearing obtained in the past year is a decidedly good one, and if an average of, say, 400 lb. per acre is shown when the whole of the planted estate is at full maturity, the yearly output should be more than twice as much as the production of 99,096 lb. for the past year. The market capitalisation of £73 per planted acre is low, having regard to the fact that, though the estate is only at half maturity, the dividend paid for the past year gives a yield of about 8% on the market price of 32*s.* *cum* dividend for the £1 shares. As the output increases the somewhat high cost of production should be reduced. The balance sheet shows £3,444 of surplus liquid assets.

BANTAM (JAVA).

Capital: £150,000 in £1 Shares,

—Results for Year to June 30, 1915—

Total Planted Acres	Area in Bearing Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Bear'g Acre lb.	Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend %
2,272½	1,816½	441,757	243	194	2 3.17	1,5.32	25,930	18,750	12½

Price of Shares, 24 6 c.d. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £73.

The yield per acre, while very low compared with estates in Malaya or Sumatra, is about up to the average for Java. The "all-in" cost is, of course, influenced by the yield. The net profit of £25,930 for the past year in the circumstances is a satisfactory one, being equal to over 16% on the capital. The dividend of 12½% is consequently a conservative distribution, and allowing for its payment the balance sheet shows surplus liquid assets of £19,240. At 24*s.* 6*d.* the £1 shares give a return of about 10% on the past year's distribution, and the market capitalisation per planted acre of £73 is a reasonable one, having regard to the fact that all the area was not producing last year. It will be, however, by the end of 1916. The estimated crop for the year to June 30, 1916, is 495,000 lb., equal to 220 lb. per planted acre. It is to be borne in mind that the advent of a very low price for rubber would place the Company in an unfavourable position in comparison with better-yielding estates.

ASAHAN (SUMATRA).

Issued Capital: £109,096 in 10/- Shares 9/6 paid.

—Results for Year to July 31, 1915—

Total Planted Acres	Area in Bearing Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Bearing Acre lb.	Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	Dividend %
2,464½	7.5½	157,584	195	56	2 2.41	1 4.15	6,435	2,750	2½

Price of Shares, 12/-. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £56.

The yield of 195 lb. per bearing acre is poor, but the market capitalisation of only £56 allows for this.

A 5% dividend could have been paid for the past year, and the limiting of the distribution to 2½% strengthens the financial position, the surplus liquid assets now amounting to £3,657. The estimated crop for the current year is 180,000 lb. As 893½ acres were planted in 1911 and 743 in 1912-13, further large increases of output should be witnessed next year and the year after. The estate has suffered from drought in the recent past, and the possibility of a repetition of this unfavourable influence in the future must not be overlooked.

GAN KEE (F.M.S.).

Issued Capital: £36,785 in 2/- Shares.
(£33,000 Ordinary and £3,785 Part. Preference Shares.)

Total Planted Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised Per lb.	"All-in" Cost Per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	%
593	95,650	135	2 1½*	1,1†	3,866	2,524	7

Results for Year to June 30, 1915.

* Net. † Excluding selling charges.

Price of Shares, 2/3. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £70.

The yield per acre is poor. Balance-sheet figures suggest that it would have been better not to pay a dividend for the past year.

KILLINGHALL (F.M.S.).

Issued Capital: £28,000 in £23,000 Ordinary £1 Shares and 10,000 £1 Part. Preference Shares, 10/- paid.

Total Planted Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield Per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised Per lb.	"All In" Cost Per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend Amt. £	%
1,025	135,677	132	2 1½*	1 2 1†	6,296	1,913	7

Results for Year to June 30, 1915.

* Net price. † Excluding selling charges.

Price of Ordinary Shares, 37/6. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £50.

The yield per acre is distinctly below the average. Of the 1,025 acres, 692 were planted prior to the end of 1910, and over 500 acres prior to the end of 1909. The output for the first five months of the current financial year shows a large increase, 92,847 lb. having been produced, against 48,766 lb. in the same period of 1914. The financial position is weak. The balance sheet shows current liabilities, including dividend, to be £9,608 in excess of liquid assets. There is a loan from Government of £7,916. Callable Preference capital, £5,000.

NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES COMPANY.

TWELVE months ago this well-known Company engaged in the manufacture of explosives was able, for the first time for many years, to distribute a dividend on its Ordinary share capital. The business is one subject to considerable fluctuations, and those engaged in the industry apparently find it difficult to carry it on successfully owing to the very keen competition. The National Explosives Company has suffered severely from this cause in the past, and in 1907 a scheme of capital reorganisation was carried through; but, as already stated, it was not until last year that the position of the Company was such as to justify the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary capital. The Company's financial year ends on October 31, and though twelve months ago a considerable improvement was shown in position, the directors pointed out that the operations during the period covered by the accounts had not materially benefited from the increased contracts arising out of the War. It was announced, however, that since the commencement of the War the factory had been fully engaged on Government orders, and that the contracts entered into would keep the works employed for a considerable time, while at the same time arrangements had been made for a supply of raw materials covering these contracts, and the hope was expressed that the twelve months to October 31, 1915, should show satisfactory results. This hope has materialised in spite of the fact that the year is described as being one of exceptional anxiety, "the operations of the Company having been carried out under considerable difficulties owing to the abnormal conditions ruling."

The Company is able, however, to report an increase in its profits from £27,070 to £86,804. In accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed the board has taken advantage of the satisfactory result to increase the amount set aside for Debenture redemption and appropriated £23,656 for this purpose, as against £5,463 twelve months ago. After making provision for this and for Debenture interest there is a net profit of £49,812, as compared with £12,223, a sum sufficiently large to provide for a dividend of 40%. The actual distribution, however, is restricted to 20%, and of the balance £9,500 is set aside for reserve, &c., and the balance of £15,348 is added to the carry-forward. Herewith we give a profit statement for the past five years:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit	86,804	27,070	21,278	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other income	1[illegible]	540	8[illegible]	701	1,094
Gross profit	87,263	27,610	22,147	1[illegible]	1,124
Expenses	11,710	7,313	9,839*	5,337	4,766
Debenture redemption	23,656	5,463	-	-	-
Debenture interest ...	2,085	2,611	2,363	2,037	1,856
Net profit	49,812	12,223	9,945	2,[illegible]	5,498
Ordinary dividend	24,964	6,241	-	-	-
	(20%)	(5%)			
	24,848	5,982	9,945	2,[illegible]	5,498
Reserve	9,500	5,117	1,382	-	-
	15,348	865	8,563	2,930 Dr.	5,498
[illegible]	865	-	Dr. 8,563	Dr. 11,493	Dr. 5,995
Carried forward	16,213	865	-	Dr. 8,563	Dr. 11,493

* Including [illegible] in connection with Debenture issue.

The issued share capital amounts to £124,820 in £1 shares. There is an authorised 6% Debenture stock of £80,000, of which £44,030 has been issued, but up to the present £13,770 has been redeemed and cancelled. A further amount of £15,896 is available for this purpose, and when this amount has been expended during the ensuing year the total Debenture stock outstanding will be reduced to £14,344. There is a general reserve account of £10,000, and a reserve account for renewals and depreciation of plant of £6,000. Herewith we set out a summary of the liabilities and assets as at October 31 last:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	124,820	Property, buildings, &c....	125,597
Debenture stock ...	30,452	Shares in other Cos., &c. ...	99,178
Reserves	45,667	Sundry debtors, &c. ...	30,102
Sundry creditors	60,303	Treasury bills, &c.	5,145
Profit and loss	28,695	Cash	29,915
	289,937		289,937

During the past year the capacity of the factory has been materially increased to meet Government requirements, and the expenditure incurred therein will fall to be dealt with in next year's accounts. Needless to say, the increased accommodation afforded should also be reflected on the credit side of the profit and loss accounts, and in view of the work in which the Company is engaged there is no doubt that it will continue to be very busily employed for a considerable time to come, and the profits should continue on a large scale, so that the results should be satisfactory to the shareholders even after deduction of the sums that will have to be paid under the Excess Profits Act. We drew attention to the satisfactory outlook for the Company in October 1914, when the £1 share could be obtained at about 6*s.* 6*d.* The present quotation is 19*s.*, and, consequently, on the basis of last year's distribution, the yield is exceptionally large.

MERCHISTON.—Rubber harvested for eight months to November 30, 25,934 lb., of which 13,969 lb. sold to date at a gross average of 2*s.* 7·21*d.* per lb.

The South-Eastern and Chatham Railway announces on another page the special arrangements made for the running of extra trains during the Christmas holidays.

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Insurance Notes.

LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.

A QUINQUENNIAL valuation is due in this life assurance Company on April 5 next, so that the annual report for the financial year ended April 5, 1915, deals with the fourth year of the present quinquennial period. As eight months of that year were war months, a falling-off in the amount of the new business was only to be expected. During the financial year new life policies for £505,108 were completed, of which £17,700 was reassured, the net retention at the Association's sole risk thus being £487,408. This compares with a net retention of £649,388 in 1913-1914, but the amount is little below the average of recent years. All this new business was effected within the United Kingdom. The total net life premium income of the year, £355,246, shows a reduction of only £1,728. The additional sum of £15,772 was received as consideration for new annuities granted, this being evidently a section of the business which the Association is not very much inclined to push. Expenses, inclusive of commission, seem to have absorbed about 15.5% of the premiums, after making a suitable adjustment for the small cost necessitated by the annuity section, and the expense ratio is reported to have been the lowest for several years past. It may be said, however, that a reduction was to be looked for under the circumstances, for the outlay on new business must have been considerably less than in the previous year. Claims by death, including bonuses, amounting to £371,837, included payments of £27,335 which were directly due to the War. Yet their amount, excluding bonuses, was less by £30,880 than provided for under the mortality tables, and that in such a year the incidence of mortality should have continued to be generally favourable is a very satisfactory feature. Endowment assurances for £50,949 matured by survivance. Through the year's operations the funds of the Association were increased by £33,963 to £6,127,362. The life and annuity funds in themselves amounted on April 5, 1915, to £5,928,675. The capital redemption account shows a premium income of £1,161 and a fund of £7,325. The net rate of interest realised on the life funds, after deduction of income tax, is reported as £3 18*s.* 9*d.* per cent. This shows a reduction of 2*s.* per cent. as compared with the net yield in 1913-14, but this is more than accounted for by the heavier tax imposed.

Under the Association's Class A series of policies profits are annually applied to reductions of premiums, and the bonuses in this class were maintained at the same rates as were allocated in the previous year. The other classes of policies are dependent on the results of the approaching quinquennial valuation. It is evident that the Association is making fair profits from the usual sources, but the valuation of the investments will take place under unusual circumstances. At the annual meeting the Chairman stated that while there were really no means at that date of forming a reliable estimate of what the depreciation in the Association's securities was likely to be, it might be taken, looking to the strong reserves, that such shrinkage, even if very substantial, would in no way affect the stability of the Office.

The dividend on the paid-up capital, which amounts to £87,500, in 10,000 shares, is declared, as for each former year of the current quinquennium, at the rate of £1 3*s.* 6*d.* per share.

CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

In our review of the annual report of this life Office for the financial year ending May 31, 1914, it was pointed out that subsequently to that date further powers had been obtained by the Society under a special Act of Parliament, including an enlargement of the qualification of membership. The new rules in this respect entitle not only the clergy of the Church of England and allied Churches, and their relatives by blood or marriage, to effect assurances of every description in the Society (there is no limitation as regards non-participating policies, which may be effected by any person), but they extend such eligibility to "persons who have been members of or on the staff of any university, public school, college, or kindred institution in the United Kingdom which the directors may from time to time approve for that purpose."

It is announced in the annual report for the financial year ended May 31, 1915, that the Society had already received a considerable amount of new business which but for this Act it could not have taken. To some extent this has been a set-off against the check to new business occasioned by the War, and the total amount of the new policies issued, £253,303, is only less by £15,948 than was reported for the previous year. This must be considered a good record under the circumstances, particularly when it is remembered

that the Society employs no agents and pays no commission for the introduction of business or for its maintenance.

The sum assured by policies existing at the close of the financial year, with bonus additions, was £9,720,946, which is less by £191,982 than was shown in the previous annual report. On the other hand, the net premium income was increased by £3,278 to £277,409. The expense ratio per £100 of premiums was £6 16*s.* 8*d.*, as compared with £7 3*s.* 9*d.* in 1913-14, although last year's expenses included the whole of the cost of the Society's Act of Parliament. This ratio is only about half the average in British life offices, and bears a similar proportion to the margin of premiums which was reserved at the last valuation as a provision for costs and contingencies.

Although the claims by death in the last financial year, amounting to £306,502, included claims for £27,463 in respect of policies on members who were killed in action, the incidence of mortality remained favourable, in accordance with the continuous past experience of the Society, which has always derived benefit in this respect from the select character of its business. The total death claims paid during the Society's history up to May 31 amount to £9,614,771. Endowment assurances matured by survivance during the last financial year to the extent of £19,015. The sum of £18,187 was received as consideration for new annuities, and annuities of £26,713 were paid. Surrenders involved an outlay of £29,099, and bonuses allocated in cash or by way of reductions aggregated £42,531.

Through the year's operations the life assurance fund, after transfer of £8,000 to the staff superannuation fund, was increased by £16,417 to £4,818,126. The average rate of interest, subject to deduction of income tax, is reported as £4 3*s.* 3*d.* per cent. This is practically the same rate as was disclosed in last year's report, but owing to increase in the tax the net interest yield must have been somewhat diminished. However, the profit accruing from interest must have been large, seeing that the rate of interest assumed for the accumulation of the funds at the last quinquennial valuation was only 2½%.

A quinquennial valuation falls due at the close of the present financial year. The Society has in the past proved itself one of the most successful producers of profit amongst British life offices, and its bonus-earning capacity under normal circumstances remains exceptionally strong. During the four years of the current quinquennium which were completed up to the date covered by the last report the profits from all the ordinary sources upon which a life office relies for bonus have been large and continuous, the expenses of management having been low, the incidence of mortality favourable, and the interest earnings much in excess of those assumed. But the financial outlook is generally uncertain, and in regard to the forthcoming valuation the directors express themselves in the annual report as follows: "The year just closed is the fourth of the present quinquennium, and since the profit from ordinary sources has been well maintained for four years, it would have been reasonable under more auspicious circumstances for the members to look forward to a distribution of bonus next year at the exceptionally high rates which the Society has hitherto been able to declare. But the general upheaval has greatly disturbed Money markets all over the world, and the issue of the new War Loan at 4½% interest also tends to lower the price of other first-class investments. The inevitable depreciation in the value of securities will call for consideration on the occasion of the valuation of the assets and liabilities due to be made on May 31, 1916. The directors think that it would be unwise to offer to the members any forecast regarding the results of the valuation, and impossible to say how the question of a surplus of profit available for distribution among the members may be affected."

AMERICAN OFFICES.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF U.S.

Head Office: New York; London Office: 346 Strand, W.C. Established 1859.

This Company is practically a mutual institution, as the share capital only amounts to £20,550, and the dividends thereon are limited to 7 per cent., all other profits being apportionable amongst the participating policyholders.

The annual statement for 1914 shows a net new life business of £27,385,669 and a total net premium income of £10,888,044 (apart from £257,169 received as consideration for new annuities), of which expenses, inclusive of commission and taxes, absorbed about 19·5 per cent. Interest, dividends and rents produced £4,877,308. Claims were paid to the extent of £6,203,926, of which £4,206,547 represented death claims, and the bonus paid in cash to policyholders amounted to £1,884,380, apart from £616,028 by way of reduction of premiums. The life funds were increased by £1,970,711, and amounted at close of year to £108,376,796. The interest yield seems to have been about £4 12*s.* 11*d.* per cent.

The valuation at December 31, 1914, was made by the American Experience and other mortality tables for assurances, in combination with net premiums and interest at the rates of 3, 3½, and 4 per cent. respectively for different sections of the business. The surplus on this basis then amounted to £17,710,435, of which £14,323,436 stands to the credit of deferred dividend policies. The actual amount of profits paid during the year was £2,796,272.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

Head Office: New York; London Office: 7 and 8 Norfolk Street, W.C. Established 1843.

In 1914 the new life assurances amounted to £29,485,086. The total net life premiums were £11,181,434. Expenses of management, inclusive of commission and taxes, seem to have absorbed about 19·5 per cent. of the premiums. Claims, annuities, surrenders and bonuses to participating policyholders aggregated £14,530,052. The interest yield on the life funds, which amounted on December 31, 1914, to £123,451,474, seems to have been about £4 15*s.* 3*d.* per cent.

The valuation is made for most assurances by the American Experience Tables, the rates of interest assumed being 3½ per cent. on policies issued before 1907, and 3 per cent. on later policies. The amount of bonuses to be distributed during the current year is £3,478,220.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Head Office: New York; London Office: Trafalgar Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C. Established 1845. No share capital.

New assurances in 1914 amounted to £45,940,861. The net life premium income amounted to £18,736,593, of which expenses and commission absorbed about 15·2 per cent.; consideration for annuities, &c., to £118,753; claims by death to £5,624,819; matured endowments to £2,145,647; surrenders to £3,461,255; annuities paid to £313,372; and cash bonuses to policyholders and reductions of premium to £3,569,531. The funds on December 13, 1914, amounted to £159,246,657, and the interest yield appears to have been about £4 14*s.* 9*d.* per cent.

The valuations are made annually. The valuation as at December 31, 1914, was made for assurances, with some exceptions, by the American Actuaries' Mortality Table in combination with 3 per cent. interest. The amount of profits appropriated amongst policyholders after this valuation was £3,514,666.

Assam Dooars Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

Indianapolis Breweries.—Final dividend of 6 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

Norwich Union Fire Insurance.—Interim dividend of 12*s.* per share.

PEKIN SYNDICATE.

In the report of the directors issued in December 1914 it was pointed out that steps were being taken to improve on business lines the commercial position of the Honan mines by the adoption of co-operative measures between the Syndicate and the Chinese officials and capitalists which it was hoped would "lead to joint enterprises in other directions being undertaken." In June last a circular was issued pointing out that the negotiations which had extended over a considerable period with the Chinese authorities for closer co-operative measures, with a view of facilitating improved working conditions and extending operations then in progress, had been satisfactorily ended, thanks to the active support and unremitting assistance of the British Minister in Pekin, by the conclusion of an agreement entered into between the Syndicate and the representatives of the Chinese Government nominated by the Civil Governor of Honan. A working agreement has thus been entered into, with the approval of both the British and Chinese Governments, whereby an Anglo-Chinese Corporation has been created which is to be known as the Fu Chung Corporation, and is established on almost the same lines as the British and Chinese Engineering and Mining Company (Kailan Administration), which has been eminently successful.

Under the terms of the agreement the Fu Chung Corporation takes over all the coal produced by the Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Mining Company, a concern embodying all the native mining companies in the locality, and becomes the sole selling agents. In addition, the Fu Chung Corporation has been granted the exclusive coal-mining rights in the Hwai Ching Fu Prefecture, outside the areas now operated by the Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company, and further, it is given special facilities for the employment of foreign capital in the two Prefectures of Chang te Fu and Wei Hwei Fu, lying west of the Pekin-Hankow Railway, which concessions are granted to the Fu Chung Corporation for a period of 60 years from the date of the agreement.

The Pekin Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company will each maintain its separate existence, each having its own constitution and its own board of directors. The Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company will each retain the ownership of its respective properties, and will deal as their shareholders may think fit with the proportion of the profits coming to them from the working of the joint undertaking. Further, the Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company will carry on their mining operations within the areas over which they retain exclusive working rights independently of each other, and without interference from the Corporation. The Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company must not take up any new enterprises within the Province of Honan which will in any way compete with the Corporation without first offering the same to the latter.

In consequence of the long drawn out negotiations between the Syndicate and the Chung Yuan Company before completion of this mutual working arrangement both parties passed through a period of keen competition resulting in restricted outputs of coal and reduced selling prices, but the establishment of the Fu Chung Corporation finally eliminated all rivalry between the Syndicate and the neighbouring native mines. As the Corporation was only formed in June last the accounts for the twelve months to June 30 do not reflect the results which are expected to be of benefit to the Syndicate, but it is hoped that the results for the current year will, partially at any rate, reflect the improvement anticipated. The natural result of the keen competition already referred to, plus the outbreak of the European War, resulted in a considerable restriction in the output of coal during the twelve months to June 30 last, but the output has been steadily increasing since the sales have been conducted by the Fu Chung Corporation, so that the production is now nearly equal what it was at the commencement of the War. For the same reasons the sales have also been unsatisfactory, and it was found necessary to restrict activities in this direction pending the completion of the new working arrangement resulting in the establishment of the Fu Chung Corporation. The work of organisation of that Corporation is proceeding satisfactorily, and the sales are now being pushed energetically. The net result is that the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £47,514, as compared with £47,405 for the previous year. After allowing for various expenses and writing off for depreciation of investments a sum of £27,446, as against £63,389 twelve months ago, the debit balance reported last year of £43,508 has been reduced to £5,673, while the undivided surplus is now £409,078. This large carry-forward is due to the uncertainties as to the relative rights of the various issues of capital, and it has been necessary to retain money in hand to provide for capital purposes.

We show the profits made during the last four years:—

Year ended June 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912
	£	£	£	£
Interest on investments, &c. ...	47,468	47,101	50,933	64,286
Transfer fees, &c.	46	304	436	829
	47,514	47,405	51,369	65,115
London expenditure	11,000	12,524	15,150	22,236
French fiscal dues	909	385	998	1,045
Depreciation of investments ...	27,446	63,389		1,750
Paris expenditure	4,142	4,145	2,787	340
China expenditure	9,051	30,857	14,619	11,307
Net profit	Dr. 5,673	*Dr.43,508	17,815	28,169
Brought forward	414,751	458,259	440,444	412,275
Carried forward	409,078	414,751	458,259	440,444

* After allowing for depreciation in value of investments.

The total issued capital is £1,242,822, and the chief asset consists of investments which are valued at £796,560. These are set out in detail in the report.

A summary of the balance sheet as at June 30 last is appended:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued Capital:		Cash	57,967
399,000 Ord. shares, 2s. each	39,900	Investments	796,560
2,000 Defd. shares, 1s. each	100	Sundry debtors	28,745
1,202,822 Shansi £1 shares	1,202,822	Stocks	32,849
	1,242,822	Steam collier	42,669
Shansi shares forfeited ...	773	Concession	133,732
Premium on issue of Ord.	106,023	Land, property, &c. ...	682,933
Sundry creditors	16,759		
Profit and loss	409,078		
	1,775,455		1,775,455

The report points out that "the commercial resources of China, coupled with the enterprising disposition of the inhabitants of the country, will afford great opportunities to the Syndicate, because—notwithstanding the present clear evidence of foreign intrigue in China—of the close co-operation now existing between the Syndicate and the Chinese, and at the conclusion of the War great advancement will probably be made on European lines. Indeed, the Syndicate is even now being approached with railway, mining, engineering, and financial schemes of a sound and attractive nature. The Syndicate's policy in regard to these various propositions will be to act in unison with Chinese business communities and European institutions of neutral or allied countries."

So far, of course, the Company's career has been far from successful, but there are grounds for hoping that with the new arrangements the results will be more prosperous. Much, of course, will depend on the development of China, and whether this will proceed upon peaceful lines or be accompanied by political upheavals. It is certainly to be hoped that German intrigue will receive a quietus, and that the country will be allowed to develop its resources without untoward outside interference. Given such conditions the career of the Pekin Syndicate should be of a more prosperous nature during the future, and the shareholders may indeed be rewarded for their many disappointments of the past. The 2*s.* Ordinary share now stands at 4*s.* 6*d.*, and the £1 Shansi share at 17*s.* 6*d.*

POWER-GAS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

At the meeting of the Corporation in December 1914 the Chairman pointed out that the Company was being worked full time, and expressed the hope that the accounts for the twelve months to September 30, 1915, "will not show any serious diminution from the position we are in to-day." Inasmuch as the profits for the year have amounted to £20,743, as compared with £20,511, it will be seen that Sir Alfred Mond was not far wrong in his prognostication. The results are described by the directors as satisfactory. The business has been further developed during the year, and important contracts made for the supply of plant in connection with the manufacture of munitions. It will be evident that the Company has not only recovered from the depression which occurred some few years ago resulting in a reduction in its capital in 1907, but has made sufficient progress for the shareholders to regard the outlook with considerable confidence.

The Power-Gas Corporation, Limited, was formed in July 1901 to acquire the patents of Dr. Ludwig Mond and Mr. Duff for the production of cheap power and heating gas—known generally as "Mond gas"—with the simultaneous recovery of sulphate of ammonia. In addition to the patents, the Corporation acquired the entire issued share capital of Ashmore, Benson, Pease and Company, Limited, constructional engineers, of Stockton-on-Tees. Under the processes covered by the patent rights acquired the Company is able completely to convert cheap qualities of coal, commonly known as slack or dross, into combustible gas, sulphate of ammonia, and ashes, at one operation, by means of special gas-generators and ammonia-recovery plant, and produce from each ton of slack about 15 times the volume of gas and from three to four times the weight of sulphate of ammonia obtainable in the manufacture of illuminating gas. The processes had been worked successfully at the Winnington works of Brunner, Mond and Company and the Fleetwood works of the United Alkali Company, where about 700,000 tons of slack had been dealt with in gas-producers under the control of the patentees; while installations with ammonia-recovery plant have been erected at a considerable number of places. Thus there are two branches to the business—namely, a general engineering trade, carried on at the works acquired from Ashmore, Benson and Company, and a second representing the trading of the Power-Gas Corporation itself. The necessity for reducing the capital in 1907 was due to the depression in the engineering trade, and substantial losses were made by Ashmore, Benson, Pease and Co., Ltd., and after a revaluation of the land, buildings, plant and machinery of this Company it was decided to write these items down to their true value, thereby reducing the value of the Power-Gas Corporation's interest in the engineering concern. This was provided for by writing down the Deferred shares of the Corporation from £1 to 10*s.* each.

Apart from its natural growth, the basis of the business has been broadened since the formation of the Corporation. For example, in conjunction with the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., the Power-Gas Corporation formed a subsidiary Company, entitled the Langwith By-Product Co., Ltd., for the purpose of installing a large ammonia-recovery plant at the Langwith Colliery. Subsequently the suction gas-producer business of the Mersey Engine and Producer Co., Ltd., was acquired, and later on there was formed the Ammonia Finance Syndicate, Ltd., controlled by the Corporation, for the purpose of financing power schemes, and also schemes dealing with cheap fuel for the production of gas and sulphate of ammonia, the schemes naturally being worked in connection with the Mond process.

As an indication of the manner in which profits have varied during the past six years we set out the following:—

Year ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Profit, &c. ...	—	—	32,786	22,821	24,689	17,582	12,103
Directors' fees ...	—	—	2,780	2,317	2,545	1,891	1,420
Expenses	—	—	13,987	8,652	8,237	7,675	6,903
	20,743	20,511	16,019	11,852	13,907	8,016	3,780
Ordinary dividend	14,977	12,481	12,481	9,985	9,985	9,985	—
	(6%)	(5%)	(5%)	(4%)	(4%)	(4%)	—
	5,766	8,030	3,538	1,867	3,922	—1,969	3,780
Reserve	4,140	4,100	3,120	2,000	2,780	1,600	750
	1,626	3,930	418	—133	1,142	—3,569	3,030
Brought forward...	7,479	3,549	3,131	3,264	2,122	5,691	2,661
Carried forward ...	9,105	7,479	3,549	3,131	3,264	2,122	5,691

The slight improvement in profits reported, coupled probably with the satisfactory outlook, has brought about an increase in the dividend from 5% to 6%. There remains a balance of £5,766, of which £4,140 is carried to the reserve fund, and the surplus added to the carry-forward bringing it up to £9,105.

The issued share capital amounts to £299,940, and there was a reserve at September 30 last of £14,350, which is now brought up to £18,490. We show herewith the liabilities and assets as at September 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital... ...	299,940	Property	167,697
Sundry creditors	21,924	Advances	140,486
Secured loans	26,000	Investments...	37,813
Reserve	14,350	Contracts	43,067
Profit and loss	28,223	Cash	1,374
	390,437		390,437

For the first half of the past financial year the output of the works of Ashmore, Benson, Pease and Company was reduced owing to the suspension of civil contracts, but the works are now very fully employed on the manufacture of war material, and they were declared a controlled establishment as from September 6. It is thus evident that the Company will continue to be busy for some time to come, and the results for the current year should be quite satisfactory to the shareholders even after allowing for the proportion of the extra profits that will have to be returned to the State. The £1 Ordinary share may be obtained at about 12*s.* 6*d.*, at which price on the basis of a 6% dividend a yield of about 10⅜% is forthcoming. The shares, of course, are speculative in character, but in view of the possibilities and of the large yield afforded, they have considerable attractions.

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Div. %	Yield £ *s.* *d.*
249,620	Ordinary shares	1	⅝	6	10 12 5
50,000	Deferred shares	10*s.*	—	—	—

New Issues.

MACFARLANE AND ROBINSON, LIMITED.

This Company is offering for subscription at par an issue of 60,000 7% Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each. The Company was formed in 1909 with the object of amalgamating two businesses carrying on the manufacture of enamelled ware, and since incorporation factories have been erected at Glasgow and at Wolverhampton for the manufacture of all classes of enamelled ware hitherto obtained from the Continent. The present issue is required to enable the manufacturing to be extended by erecting new works at Wolverhampton. The balance sheet as at June 30 last shows an issued capital of £94,536, and a reserve fund of £25,000. Goodwill stands at £20,000. It is pointed out that it is proposed later on to capitalise a part of the reserve fund by the issue of bonus shares to the Ordinary shareholders. The chief adverse feature of the prospectus is the absence of detailed information as to profits, and the only information given is that the annual average profits earned in the 5½ years ending June 30, 1915, amount to £14,787, the profits having been "of a progressive nature." On the average figure given the dividend on the total Preference capital is covered a little more than twice over, but of course it may be anticipated that the new capital will provide its fair quota to the profits.

Scottish Provident Institution.

(ESTABLISHED 1837.)

Funds amount to £16,000,000.

ANNUITIES.

Revised and favourable Rates may be had on Application.

HEAD OFFICE
6 St. Andrew Square, EDINBURGH.

LONDON: **3 Lombard St., E.C.**
WEST END: **17 Pall Mall, S.W.**

Commercial.

LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY.

Business continues irregular, and some sections of the market are meeting with more activity than others. Owing to the uncertain outlook and the high prices which prevail, buyers are not eager to purchase freely, but now and again orders are placed as a result of the belief that values before long will be still dearer. At the end of last week the United States Government published its official estimate of the American cotton crop for the current season, the figure being 11,161,000 bales. It is usual for forecasts from this source to rather understate the position, and a total yield of over 11,500,000 bales is expected. Prices in the raw material are rather easier, and the recent strength of the article has been largely due to the abnormal situation which prevails in Liverpool. Freight charges are very high and numerous difficulties are experienced in arranging shipments from America.

The buying has not been general, but some sellers of cloth have secured rather more business during the past fortnight. An improvement has shown itself in the demand for India, and owing to offers being raised and makers meeting buyers some fairly substantial sales have been put through, chiefly for Calcutta and Madras. Stocks of certain fabrics in the Indian bazaars are getting very low indeed, and it seems absolutely necessary that replenishments should be made, although our customers are very much averse to paying the prices required. As a result of this business some producers of shirtings have obtained a little relief. Developments in connection with domestic affairs in China are being watched very closely, and it is hoped that as a result of the events of the last few days more settled conditions will soon exist in that great Empire. Transactions of any weight for Shanghai have been quite exceptional. The smaller markets, both East and West, have not been active, and buyers are cautious. We continue to ship rather more freely to Egypt. Heavy goods for export are doing badly. Finishing and printing cloths are wanted for early delivery. A rather slow feeling prevails in home-trade circles.

Trade in home American yarns continues rather quieter, but in certain counts and qualities there is a healthy demand if supplies can be sent in at once. Occasional instances are mentioned of looms stopped owing to shortage of weft. Some producers of those numbers which are scarce are enjoying a very profitable margin at the present time. Compared with a few weeks ago, however, general buying has subsided. Shippers to India have been scarcely disposed to pay current rates for lots of quantity in bundles, and top prices have to be paid for 40's mule. Rather less activity is showing itself for the Continent. The lessened production of Egyptian yarns as a result of the shortage of operatives in Bolton and district is having rather a marked effect upon the position of spinners. Better prices are being obtained than for a long time back, especially in the coarser counts, and the undercurrent of demand is encouraging.

SCOTTISH COAL TRADE.

The only change that has taken place in the position of the Scottish coal trade during the last fortnight is the diminution of the available tonnage. It was pointed out in the last notes that there was tonnage available if the coal could be secured. That margin of hulls has now almost disappeared, not so much on account of being used for Scottish freight as of the demand for tonnage from other quarters attracting the ships away to ports where cargoes could more easily be obtained. The shortage of railway waggons is still crippling the output at the mines, and there is not a great surplus of fuel for export after the domestic requirements are filled. Of course it must not be forgotten that Governmental necessities have the first consideration, and anything that has been written regarding restriction of trade applies only to the purely mercantile aspect of the supply and demand. Even were waggons available in great numbers only a fairly moderate proportion could be utilised for mercantile trade, as the output at its best allows but a comparatively small margin for ordinary trade purposes. But that margin cannot be fully utilised owing to the shortage of railway waggons. The miners have decided to curtail their New Year holidays to two days, Saturday and Monday.

RUBBER OUTPUTS.

(Weight in Lb.)

Company	Nov. Crop	Nov. 1914	Inc.(+) Dec.(−)	Financial Year to Date	Total same Period Last Year	Inc.(+) Dec.(−)
Batu Caves ...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bidor ...	[illegible]	22,126	+ 5,874	[illegible]	167,600	[illegible]
Carey Utd. ...	19,344	20,500	− 1,156	38,661(2)	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Travancore ...	28,851	20,610	+ 8,041	160,436(11)	116,110	+ 44,236
Changkat Salak	60,000	31,000	+29,000	485,000(11)	304,454	[illegible]
Chuny ...	16,100	14,137	+ 1,963	162,562(11)	137,139	+ 23,423
Damansara ...	58,823	50,303	+ 8,520	[illegible](11)	521,210	+ 47,467
Edinburgh ...	27,500	22,109	+ 5,391	[illegible](11)	218,508	+ 51,492
Golconda ...	45,085	40,829	+ 4,256	425,120(11)	[illegible]	+ 39,324
Grand Central	307,079*	344,413	−37,344	2,983,996(11)	2,341,960	+642,036
Harpenden ...	36,305	29,400	+ 6,905	367,690(11)	393,300	− 25,710
Johore R. Lands ...	43,997	[illegible]	[illegible]	367,529(11)	206,778	+160,751
Jugra Land & Rubber ...	80,044	48,519	+31,525	450,355(7)	275,733	+174,622
Kuala-Klang	16,293	14,251	+ 2,042	33,086(2)	28,545	+ 4,541
Malacca ...	312,900	325,200	−12,300	[illegible](11)	2,978,475	+217,025
Oriental ...	60.000	30.000	+30,000	[illegible]	300,925	+238,068
Riverside (Selangor)...	36,251	32,279	+ 3,972	291,629(11)	285,321	+ [illegible]
Scottish Malay	40,000	30,030	+ 9,970	356,020(11)	278,888	[illegible]
Seafield ...	81,316	72,886	+ 8,430	764,777(11)	661,686	+103,091
Selangor ...	50,767	45,066	+ 5,701	564,881(11)	[illegible]	+ 1,553
,, Riv.	51,500	25,700	+25,800	399,040(11)	214,863	+184,175
Shelford ...	19,050	11,375	+ 7,775	154,488(11)	143,175	+ 11,313
Sialang ...	80,879	52,866	+28,013	651,274(10)	371,543	+279,731
Strathmore ...	37,794	26,966	+10,828	231,016(11)	215,160	+115,856
Sungei Ulom...	25,863	29,205	− 3,342	303,161(11)	257,171	[illegible]
,, Kapar	66,900	57,800	+ 9,100	[illegible](11)	[illegible]	+ 4,500
,, Krian...	51,515	25,079	+26,436	471,743(11)	232,431	[illegible]
Third Mile ...	37,395	24,750	+12,645	305,105(11)	273,414	+ 31,691
Tebrau ...	76,000	53,000	+23,000	361,949(5)	218,137	+153,812
Teluk ...	20,717	13,025	+ 7,692	[illegible](2)	24,486	+ 13,697
Utd. Temlang	29.620	17,000	+12,620	111,110(4)	65,510	+ 45,600

Figures in ( ) denote months.
* Shortage due continued wet weather.

A meeting of the Debenture-holders in the Municipality of Para, Limited, is to be held on January 10 to consider an arrangement for transfer of the Company's concession to the Municipality in consideration of the handing over to the Company of £400,000 Funding bonds. The provisions are detailed in the advertisement that appears in our early advertisement pages.

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

RUSSO-ASIATIC CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE third annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Russo-Asiatic Corporation, Limited, was held on December 16 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Cater Scott (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The London Manager and Secretary (Mr. J. P. B. Webster) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will take as read the report and accounts. (Hear, hear.) The accounts which are before you I think are very simple and are self-explanatory, and show that the present position of our Company, summarised, is that we own 877,500 £1 shares in the Irtysh Corporation and £27,726 16*s.* 3*d.* in cash. Apart from our interest in the Irtysh Corporation, we also held an option on the Nerchinsk Mining Concession. We have, however, abandoned this venture in view of the negative results of our prospecting and drilling operations. Our present policy, with which I am sure you will agree, is to mark time for the present so far as any new ventures are concerned. We do not consider that it is a time to take up new ventures and to incur fresh responsibilities. (Hear, hear.) Since the formation of the Company I have had the pleasure to address you two or three times, and on each occasion I think you will agree that we have had very satisfactory reports to put before you, and I think you will agree also with me that our position to-day is even more satisfactory than at any previous time in our Company's history.

The Irtysh Corporation.

I should like to remind you that when we met a year ago we had just formed the Irtysh Corporation, Limited, to handle our extensive metallurgical, coal, and railway interests in Siberia, with which you are familiar, under the names of the Ridder Concession and the Ekibastous Coal Property. I am to-day able to make a statement with reference to the affairs of the Irtysh Corporation from information put at my disposal by the directors of that Company, they being of the opinion that this procedure is quite in order in view of the fact that we hold, together with our partners, practically the whole of the issued share capital of the Irtysh Corporation. The Irtysh Corporation, Limited, has recently issued a circular to its shareholders, a copy of which has been sent to you, and which you have doubtless all perused. That circular sets forth the results which have been accomplished during the past year. These results are stated in such detail that there seems but little left for me to say, but I would draw your attention to the more salient features.

Progress of Railway Construction.

In the first place, it is interesting to note that fully two-thirds of the excavation for the railway from Oustkamenogorsk to Ridder was completed as early as September, thus giving strong hopes of completing the balance of excavation before the end of the present year. Rails and rolling stock for this line, in spite of all the difficulties created by war, are in process of delivery, and it is anticipated that the railway will be in operation by the summer of 1916. In a business such as that of the Irtysh Corporation, where large quantities of coal, minerals, timber, and general mining supplies have to be handled, amounting in the aggregate to a very large tonnage, adequate transportation facilities are of the first importance. In that respect they are fortunate in having the Ekibastous railway in good working order. In addition to this, the early completion of the Ridder railway and the increase of the fleet on the Irtysh River to a total of eight steamers and 21 barges places the enterprise in a safe position so far as transportation is concerned for the next few years.

The Comfort of Employees.

Of scarcely less importance than transport arrangements is the question of housing accommodation for workmen and employees which has been carried out on as extensive a scale during this year as facilities would permit. The Irtysh Corporation is continuing the policy inaugurated in other allied mining camps in Russia of organising everything very carefully and looking after the comforts of the men in every way possible. (Hear, hear.) Churches, schools, and clubs have been built; a system of co-operative stores instituted from which, incidentally, the Company makes no profit, keeping down prices to a level which does not exist even in the shops of the large towns; a medical staff has been engaged and hospitals secured, and I am pleased to say that I have it on the authority of the gentlemen who recently returned from the properties that, despite the initial difficulties in looking after the welfare of our employees, difficulties attendant on every new mining enterprise, the problem has been very successfully handled, and everyone is happy and satisfied. I am sure that the shareholders will all realise the vital importance of looking after the welfare of the men if we are going to get the best work out of them, and that the relations between the staff and the workmen should be of the very best. (Hear, hear.)

Metallurgical and Mining Plant.

You will also notice that a great deal of work has been done in the way of building metallurgical and mining plant, both at Ridder and Ekibastous. Although what has been done so far is only a beginning, when considering the ultimate end, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the necessary foundations for this great enterprise have been successfully paid, that the work of expanding the scale of future operations will proceed steadily on safe lines, and that each succeeding year's operations will partake more of the nature of routine and less of the nature of preliminary enterprise.

Ore Reserves.

Turning now to the most important question of ore reserves, you will notice that the past year's work at the Ridder Mine has resulted in a large increase in the ore reserves both in tonnage and in profit value. In November 1914 these ore reserves were estimated by Mr. H. H. Knox at 2,448,000 tons, having a profit value of £7,400,000. A recalculation made in August 1915, and taking into account the new ore proven since Mr. Knox's examination, increases these figures to 3,174,000 tons, having a profit value of £10,800,000. (Hear, hear.) Both Mr. Knox's estimate and the present estimate were based on the same figures of cost. Experience, however, obtained in the mining and the milling of the ores on a commercial scale indicates that the estimate made by Mr. Knox, both as to working costs and recovery of metals, was most conservative, and ultimate higher recovery and lower working cost than those taken by Mr. Knox, are, I believe, therefore assured. But we have not reduced the estimated cost, preferring to work on Mr. Knox's conservative figures. Both estimates are based on the same market prices for the different metals, and take no account of the higher prices at present ruling. In proceeding upon this conservative basis, it is felt that the best interests of the shareholders are being considered. Both Mr. Knox's estimate and the present estimate take into account only ore in the Ridder Mine between the vertical planes of holes "D" on the south and "K" on the north, and includes nothing north or south of these respective planes, and nothing below the plane of the boreholes. (Hear, hear.)

Probable Extension of the Ore Body.

This is not to say, however, that the ore body is limited by these planes, which are 750 feet apart north and south, as at a distance of 375 feet north of the "K" plane, a borehole "N 1" was put down and 17 feet of concentrating ore was found. Again, at a point about 500 feet south of the "D" plane a borehole "P-1" was put down and encountered an ore channel 293 feet wide, containing 58 feet of very profitable ore. (Applause.) Surface indications beyond this drill hole point to a still further large extension to the south. None of the ore shown in these extensions is taken as ore in reserve, pending close boring in the same manner as the Ridder ore body, but I think it is not unfair to believe that we had almost in sight a very large expansion of the ore body. Owing to the scarcity of labour and fuel, it has been possible only to run two drills intermittently during this summer, and, therefore, the prospecting of the Sokolni ore body and of the ground between Ridder and Sokolni has proceeded but slowly. The old workings of the Sokolni Mine have, however, been sampled, and the results obtained are considered very favourable. Further than this, I understand that the preliminary geological work during the year has resulted in throwing considerable light upon the conditions of occurrence of the Ridder and Sokolni ore-bodies, thereby indicating other favourable localities for future prospecting. I am only mentioning this to show you that the ore-producing possibilities of the concession are by no means limited to the Ridder and Sokolni Mines. (Hear, hear.) These figures will serve to show you the extremely valuable nature of the Ridder concession, but you must remember that the estimated figures of profit, large as they are, by no means comprise the whole of the profit to which the Irtysh Corporation may legitimately look forward, for they do not take into account the Ekibastous coal property.

The Ekibastous Coal Field.

Now, it is a very difficult matter to place a value upon a coal mine, and still more difficult to do so in the case of a large coal field like Ekibastous. You will notice from the circular that, granted an adequate supply of labour, 120,000

tons of coal can be produced next year, of which about 65,000 tons will be for sale. When I tell you that, apart from their own industrial requirements, demands already received indicate that 900,000 tons per year can be sold just as soon as the mines are ready to supply it, you will realise what a magnificent asset the Ekibastous property really is. The quantity of coal is, apparently, practically unlimited, and the question of adding to profits from the sale of coal and coke is merely one of providing the necessary preparatory work and equipment.

Estimated Profits for 1916.

Turning now to the question of profits, you will remember that in the prospectus of the Irtysh Corporation it was estimated that profits in the year 1916 would be earned at the rate of £185,000 to £235,000. I am informed that the directors see no reason to modify this estimate, and are of the opinion that, should the high prices for metals at present ruling continue during 1916, the profits will be at a higher rate, and it is estimated that the recoverable value in the untreated stocks of concentrates at the end of the year 1916 will be at least 2,500,000 roubles. It must be understood, however, that the realisation of this position depends on the successful completion of the programme detailed in the Irtysh Corporation's circular.

Shareholders Congratulated.

I think you must admit that the position I have described is one on which we can congratulate ourselves. It is rarely in a new metallurgical undertaking of this magnitude, while the enterprise is still only in the preliminary stages of development, that profits can be earned at this high rate in the second year after the formation of the Company, notwithstanding the great difficulties which had to be overcome owing to the War. The success attained under these difficulties is, to a great extent, due to the help and interest shown in many ways by the Russian Imperial Government, in facilitating our transport arrangements and in supplying our labour requirements by prisoners of war. The Russian Government is greatly interested in the immediate development of the lead and zinc industry in the country, as there is practically no production of these metals within the Empire, and the Government, as well as other consumers, have been obliged to purchase and import all their requirements from abroad. The undertaking is fortunate in having its Technical Committee composed of very eminent engineers, well known to you; these gentlemen are men of large experience and standing in this particular mining and metallurgical industry. The special thanks of the shareholders are due to Mr. A. P. Ivanoff, the managing director for the Russian Companies, a man of great capacity and energy, and whose loyalty in most trying circumstances has conduced to a great measure to the success of last year's work, and also great credit is due to Messrs. Trouschkoff and Lessig, the general managers of the Ekibastous and Ridder Companies in Russia, and to the whole of the staff of these Companies. It is difficult to name every member of the staff, but, none the less, we must all appreciate how everybody connected with the business must have loyally worked under most difficult circumstances, for otherwise the results which are now promised would certainly not have been obtained.

Financial Position.

Now, gentlemen, we come to the question of finance. When the Russo-Asiatic acted as parent to the Irtysh Corporation in December of 1914 there were offered to the Russo-Asiatic shareholders 500,000 6% Convertible Debentures, carrying an option of 250,000 shares at par at £1 per share for three years, or for one and a half years after the War, whichever period be the longer. There were also 250,000 £1 shares given under option to the underwriters on the same conditions. Of the total number of 500,000 option shares, so far only 55,000 have been taken up and paid for by the underwriters. It was stated in the prospectus, on the authority of an independent expert of high standing and experience—Mr. H. H. Knox, who is personally known to many of you in this room—that the sum of £500,000 in cash must be expended to bring the properties to the producing stage. In this estimate Mr. Knox did not and could not, at the time, make any allowance for working capital required to start the Corporation's business operations, but it was expected that this working capital would be provided out of the Option shares which would be called. The directors of the Irtysh Corporation are of the opinion that Mr. Knox's estimate as to capital expenditure will be exceeded by about 10% to 15%, owing to the special difficulties created by the War and the higher cost of labour, machinery, and supplies, prices of some materials having risen in many cases as much as 300% and even 400%. Apart from these reasons, the Irtysh Corporation, in order to make certain of river transport for all their requirements for the next few years, decided to take advantage of an opportunity to purchase a larger fleet than had been intended, to which I have already referred, this being in the vital interests of the business.

Working Capital Requirements.

To provide for the working capital it is estimated that the Corporation will require during the next nine months £150,000 to £200,000 in addition to their present resources. The provision of this money would enable the Irtysh Corporation to accumulate concentrates and coal both at Ridder and Ekibastous to provide for all the material necessary to be carried in large stocks, and thus to guarantee the continuous treatment both of ore and of concentrates at the smelters and to finance their products to the point of sale. In this connection it must be remembered that the cash receipts for metals delivered and concentrates produced during 1916 come in only partly during that year and the remainder in the first half of 1917, whereas all the expenses for 1916 and a portion of those for 1917 have to be incurred during the year 1916.

The Irtysh Options: An Appeal.

As I mentioned before, of the 500,000 shares under option, out of which the working capital has to be provided, only 55,000 have been so far exercised, and I must appeal to all those who hold these options not to wait for one and a half years after the War to put up their money, but to help the Company by doing so now, and not later, when the Company will have large financial resources of its own and will not require this money. Further, by paying for their Option shares now they would be helping the Corporation most materially, as, owing to the high rate of exchange at present ruling between England and Russia, a much larger number of roubles is produced for every pound sterling than would be the case in normal times, and I must again appeal most strongly to all holders of Option shares to support the undertaking at the present time by exercising their Options immediately by calling their shares at £1 per share. The Irtysh Corporation is on the point of reaching the production and profit-earning stage, provided the necessary financial support is forthcoming. As I have endeavoured to show you, the prospects are brilliant—so brilliant that I hesitate to attempt to place a figure on them, and we are anxious to do all in our power to conserve to the Russo-Asiatic and Irtysh shareholders all the profits which will, we believe, come to them in the future, and I have full confidence—now that a definite statement has been made as to the requirements of the Irtysh Corporation—that all those holding Options on Irtysh shares will come forward with the necessary support and so avoid the necessity of making other finance arrangements which must necessarily be more expensive. (Hear, hear.) May I again remind you that probably in no mining venture have shareholders ever held such a unique position—(hear, hear)—for they come in on absolute ground-floor terms, no profits or commission have been paid ahead of them. (Hear, hear.) Surely it is only in the interests of Option holders to support their own undertaking, one of such great promise and value, while at the same time you will be doing a patriotic thing in helping in a very practical way the Allied cause in this great War by developing the production of zinc and lead for the Russian Empire which, at the present time, is forced to buy these metals abroad, and for which I believe at the present moment our own country has to find the gold. I therefore ask members of our Company who hold these Options to support the undertaking by exercising their Options and calling shares from the Irtysh Corporation at 20*s.* per share.

The Great Possibilities of Irtysh.

It has always been our desire and custom to take our shareholders fully into our confidence, and I have to-day endeavoured to state the position as fairly as I can without overstating it, erring, I believe, if anything, on the safe side; but whilst, on the one hand, it would be unfair to you to hold back knowledge of the great possibilities of the venture in which you are engaged, so, on the other, it would be equally unfair to minimise the prospects as we see them. I have endeavoured to give you a true picture of our prospects as they appear to us, and I now leave you to form your own conclusions, believing that the result will be a response to our demands for further capital for the Irtysh Corporation which will at once remove any cause for seeking capital outside our shareholders. Gentlemen, before I sit down I should like to refer to the technical committee, and, as I am speaking as the Chairman of the Russo-Asiatic Corporation, perhaps I am a little infringing on what is properly the duty of the Chairman of the Irtysh Corporation. The technical committee consists of Mr. A. P. Ivanoff, to whom I have already referred, Mr. T. J. Jones, Mr. D. P. Mitchell, and Mr. R. Gilman Brown. They are all closely associated. I do not put them in that order of merit; I simply put them as their names occur to me. We all know them, and we all value their services. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Jones and Mr. Mitchell have spent a great deal of time out on the property of the Irtysh Corporation, and have striven in every way possible to promote your interests. Mr. Gilman Brown has also been out there, and at home watches everything most carefully to protect your interests. I feel that it is due to them, much as I dislike bringing any particular names into prominence, that we, the shareholders of the Russo-Asiatic Corporation, should cordially acknowledge the good work they have done for the enterprise in which we are interested. (Applause.) But there is another name which I wish to mention. It is the name of Mr. Urquhart. (Applause.) I have had the pleasure of the acquaintance of Mr. Urquhart for a great many years, and we have gone through some times of very considerable difficulty, but throughout Mr. Urquhart has stood out as a man of the soundest level sense

and the greatest integrity, and, speaking now, as I say, from my experience of Mr. Urquhart over a great many years, I can confidently state that any company which has him as its managing director can look forward to the future with confidence. (Applause.) I now move the adoption of the report and accounts, and if any shareholder wishes to make any remarks or to ask any questions before I put it I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. Leslie Urquhart (managing director) : Before I second the adoption of the report and accounts I should like to thank you, Sir, for the very kind words you have used about my work, and to thank the shareholders for the kind manner in which they have responded. In doing so, however, it must be understood that in a great undertaking of this size no one man could have carried through the work alone. What has been done is due greatly—entirely, I should say—to the loyal and faithful co-operation of my co-directors, the technical committee, and everybody concerned with the Companies, both English and Russian. (Hear, hear.) I therefore feel that, in showing your appreciation of what I may have done, you are through me expressing appreciation of the work of myself and everybody connected with the Companies, and I thank you, gentlemen. I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

Intrinsic Worth of the Shares.

Mr. Francis Moore : Mr. Chairman, before you put the resolution to the meeting there is one thing that seems to me to stand out pre-eminently before us. Your estimates are extraordinarily conservative, if you really take the results of the boreholes and the developments on Ridder. You have limited yourself to about 750 feet, but according to your own statement made just now you have got another 500 feet to the south and another 350 feet to the north. If that is the case, judging by your estimates of what the ore bodies are (I may be wrong : if I am wrong I shall be glad if you will correct me). Well, now, if that is the case, taking your estimates alone, it seems to me that the value of the Irtysh shares at the present moment is staring us in the face at £6 a share, and you can probably double that. (Laughter.) Gentlemen, you laugh, but I believe I am absolutely on the conservative side when I say that, and you can check the figures yourselves. I believe you can really double that at least, and if that is the case your Russo-Asiatic shares—and after all this is a Russo-Asiatic meeting—have a value which you can estimate for yourselves ; I mean the intrinsic value apart from the market prices which prevail owing to war conditions. Your Russo-Asiatic shares are probably worth as a minimum £16.

A Shareholder : £20 to £25.

Mr. Moore : My friend here says £20 to £25, and I think he is right. In your speech just now, Mr. Chairman, you referred to the coal mine at Ekibastous. I have been over that field, and I went into some very interesting information on the spot as to the number of millions of tons—I have forgotten whether it was not billions of tons—of coal there, calculating on the basis of the coal which has been developed, which is about 200 feet, I think. Taking only two seams, which I think are about 4 feet thick each, it runs into probably billions of tons. You referred just now, Mr. Chairman, to a probable output of 900,000 tons per annum. It seems to me that is gigantic. I hope I am not asking an indiscreet question, but how long do you consider it will be before you can arrive at such a production as 900,000 tons, or can you give us some idea? There is one other point which apparently has not been dwelt upon at all : What is the reasonably probable cost of production and the probable profit per ton of coal? This information, I think, if you can give it to the shareholders would be very interesting. I shall be much obliged if you can possibly give us some reply on those points, Mr. Chairman.

Questions Answered.

The Chairman : I should like to say first of all that I am not a prophet. At the present time it is almost impossible for one to estimate how long it may take to bring up the coal production at Ekibastous to 900,000 tons per annum. It depends on two things. The first is the necessary capital being forthcoming, and the second is the supply of labour. The supply of labour at the present moment, as I have endeavoured to point out to you, is an exceedingly difficult question. We have been helped, as I have also told you, by the action of the Russian Government; but I should be very sorry, and I think all who sit on this side of the board would be sorry, to express an opinion as to the future supply of labour so far as we can obtain it. As to the cost of production and the selling price, I do not think it is quite wise at a public meeting to discuss such figures, and again I would ask you to leave that matter entirely to us. (Hear, hear.) Now when I come to the reserves or the ore body which we have at Ridder, I quite admit the justice of the criticism. We have only taken in the amount of ore comprised between those two points, 750 feet apart, which I indicated. We have limited ourselves to that because we consider that there it has been absolutely and definitely proved. As I told you just now, we believe we have in sight a very much larger amount of ore, but it has not been definitely proved at the moment, and, although we believe it is there, we think it is better not to attempt to estimate it until we can do so with, we think, a little more reliability. (Hear, hear.) Besides, I am afraid some shareholders are greedy. (Laughter.) I should have said that the figures we have given you are amply good enough—(laughter)—and I should prefer to keep to that. This is what we are trying to do. We want to give you all the information we can. We want you to see what a valuable property we believe you have. We do not wish to overstate it, and we wish for the sake of our shareholders to have some little margin behind us so that if perchance anything goes wrong there will be something to fall back upon; and I think the line we are adopting is the line which is most in the interests of the shareholders. (Applause.)

Mr. Moore : Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your answer. I am perfectly satisfied, and with your original estimates I am more than satisfied. I thought I might bring out that little point : that you are really taking practically the minimum of the ore bodies. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman : I have now to propose the re-election of our valued friends Mr. Gilman Brown and Mr. H. C. Hoover as directors of the Company.

Mr. Urquhart seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Board : An Appreciation.

Mr. D. J. Morgan : Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in proposing the reappointment of the auditors, because I know from experience that you have got good auditors who will do their work excellently well. But unless this Company was conducted and worked in the way it is being worked, the auditors would have very little satisfactory business to do. You have got a first-rate Chairman, however, and you have got an eminently good body of directors who thoroughly understand their job—not people who go on simply as figure-heads, but gentlemen who thoroughly understand the work, and I am perfectly certain that, working as they do loyally and excellently with their Chairman, they will have for our auditors as satisfactory accounts as they have to-day, or more satisfactory still. With those remarks I have very great pleasure in proposing that Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co. be re-elected auditors of the Corporation for the ensuing year.

Mr. F. W. Cook seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. S. L. Lazarus : Gentlemen,—The last speaker partly took the words out of my mouth when he mentioned the good work and loyalty of the Chairman and his board of directors. He having said so much, there remains little for me to say except to put to you a resolution which I am sure you will receive enthusiastically, and that is a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding here to-day. (Applause.)

Mr. R. B. Scott seconded the motion.

The Chairman : While thanking you for your kindness, may I suggest that all the duty of the Chairman is to come before you and speak to you and preside over your meetings, but there are many connected with the Company whom I have already mentioned to you who are working continuously in your service, and may I suggest that you should make your vote a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the board of directors, and the staff (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Lazarus altered the form of his resolution accordingly, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman : I can only thank you very much indeed for your kindness.

The proceedings then terminated.

CAPE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting was held on December 15 at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. T. Blair Reynolds (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the working profit for the past year was £33,212, as compared with £17,244 in the previous year. The receipts from copper ores and metal, £105,234, were practically the same in both years. In the balance sheet the Briton Ferry smelting works account showed £15,000 to have been spent during the year, and he was glad to think they were near the end of capital expenditure there. Under the head of the Rakha Hills Mines there was an increase of about £67,000, which included the permanent mine plant and the concentration plant which had been installed during the year. An examination of the year's work, resulting in the payment of Preference interest and a modest dividend of 1s. per share on the Ordinary shares, showed conclusively that the Company had not made any of the so-called war profits. Referring to the Cape mines, he said that at Nababeep the estimated reserves—160,000 tons of 5% ore—were the same as at the end of the previous year, although about 48,000 tons were extracted from the underground workings. The old O'okiep mine, from which the bulk of the Company's profits in the past had been derived, was showing

constantly diminishing returns, and to make good the declining profit therefrom they must now look to the Rakha Hills Mines in India. In Rakha they had a mine of considerable proved and prospective value. They had at the end of August ore reserves of 345,000 tons, showing an assay value of 4%, or a gross copper content of nearly 14,000 short tons. The mine was provided with a complete electrically driven equipment and a concentrating plant to deal with a mine output of 300 tons a day. The quantity of ore in sight thoroughly justified the starting of the reduction plant. The directors were disappointed that the Rakha Hills Mines were not producing to-day. By carrying the reduction process a stage further in India—that was by smelting the concentrates there—the product would be of higher grade, the same copper being contained in a less weight of material, and so freight would be saved. By the use of a smelter at Rakha they were advised that they would make a material profit even under present conditions, and, therefore, when the freight problem became serious the smelter was ordered. They were told that it ought to be working in six months. He mentioned that period under present conditions with all reserve, but he did hope refined copper from Rakha would have been sold when they next met the shareholders, and that thus the new era in the Company's affairs, for which the directors had for a long time worked and the shareholders had paid, would be inaugurated.

Mr. John E. Champney seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

PAN DE AZUCAR NITRATE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourteenth annual general meeting of the Pan de Azucar Nitrate Company, Limited, was held on December 14 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Hon. Herbert C. Gibbs (the Chairman) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. A. H. Short) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: This is the first occasion, in the 12 years' life of this Company, on which the board have been unable to recommend the payment of a dividend. The first full year's working of the Company was from June 1903 to June 1904, and from that year to the year ended June 1914 it had paid 119% in dividends, or at the rate of nearly 11% per annum; it had repaid the issue of £80,000 Debentures, and it had accumulated a reserve of £40,000, so the Company had a pretty good record.

Effect of the War.

Then came the War, and with it a fall in the price of nitrate, which made work for this Company impossible; therefore, we closed the oficina on August 7, 1914, and did not open it again till October 11, 1915, when prices had recovered, so you will observe that except for about five weeks the works have been closed during the whole of the year now under review. The result is that the total production which we have brought into the accounts is only 43,500 quintals, as against 343,221 quintals in the preceding year. You will observe that the loss in working was £5,383, which is a large loss on the small production and calls for some explanation. Those who are at all familiar with nitrate-making will readily understand that it is impossible to judge of the amount of nitrate produced with absolute accuracy. The accuracy of the estimate depends partly on the temperament of the manager and partly on the care which he brings to bear on this important matter; and I regret to say that when the oficina was closed and the nitrate accounted for it was found that there had been an over-estimate of production of 37,000 quintals, all of which loss necessarily fell upon the year under review. Thus, though in the main it is the War which is responsible for the bad results of the year, they are also partly due to the fact that we had taken credit in the preceding year for nitrate which had not been produced. I think we may assume that the new Manager who is now in charge will be careful to see that this error will not be repeated.

Transfer from Reserve.

The total loss for the year, including loss in working, stoppage expenses, income tax, repairs and other debits, is £15,420, and we propose to write off practically the whole of this by a transfer of £15,000 from reserve account, so that the current year may start free from that incubus, and with practically the same carry-forward—namely, £5,356, as that of the year under review. We are the more disposed to recommend this course because the works remained closed, or at all events were not working to their full capacity, for nearly four months of the current year, and, therefore, though the remaining eight months ought to show some profit, there will not be a full year's working to deal with next year, and there will be the expense of maintaining the oficina in an unproductive state during nearly four months. It seems, therefore, not unreasonable that we should anticipate these circumstances in the accounts before you. We have spent a certain amount of money while the oficina was closed in improving the water supply and in erecting a conveyor belt, and though these improvements were necessary we cannot look for any reduction in costs over the year 1913-14, when, as I told you, they were about 6*s.* 6*d.* a quintal. These costs make the various processes for increasing the extraction of nitrate, and thereby reducing costs, of great interest to the Company, and your board are following the experiments with close attention. I do not think that I need discuss the accounts before you in detail, as they are quite clear. I may explain, however, that the amounts of bills receivable and payable, which appear large for a Company which had stopped working, are due to the sale of the stock of nitrate which we had held for a recovery in prices and to the land freight and duty which became payable upon it. You may have noticed also that London office expenses have been reduced; this is mainly due to the reduction in directors' fees. No doubt the year under review has been a bad one for nitrate, but when I look back on the condition and prospects of the industry last year, when I had the honour of addressing you, I am bound to say that producers are exceedingly lucky to have got through their troubles so quickly and with so little permanent damage.

Present Position of the Industry.

The price of nitrate is equal to the average of recent years, and the industry has almost resumed its normal course and rate of production. The only difficulty that still exists—and that, of course, is a serious one—is the scarcity of tonnage, but with the cessation of wheat shipments from Australia and the reopening of the Panama Canal—when these things occur—some relief should be experienced. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended June 30, 1915, now submitted, be received and adopted."

Mr. Brien Cokayne seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Mr. Brien Cokayne) and the auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co.) were re-elected, and the proceedings terminated.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.

The second ordinary general meeting was held on December 15 at the Company's office, London Wall Buildings, Mr. T. J. Milner, the Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the latter covered a period of nine months to June 30, 1915. In view of their limited resources the board decided that the Company's interests would best be served by concentrating work on Forest Reserve, and pushing forward with all possible despatch the further development of that property. The bulk of the work undertaken had been carried out at the western end, and they had in that section an area of approximately 150 acres, which should yield a considerable tonnage of oil. They were told that the lateral extension of the oil-bearing sands in that vicinity would probably be found to be considerably greater than was at first estimated. A well put down on the eastern end of Forest Reserve came in satisfactorily, and that additional information proved the existence of payable oil sands at both extremities of the property on the anticline which ran through its entire length. In the middle of the property indications were not quite so favourable for the presence of oil as in the western and eastern portions. Out of a total of nine wells drilled, or drilling, at June 30 last, seven were yielding a steady and satisfactory production of oil of high quality. Nine wells were now producing oil, and others were in course of drilling. Recent drilling had disclosed the presence of two additional oil sands, making five in all, in the Upper Tertiary formation, and hopes were entertained that the Lower Tertiary would also prove oil-bearing. At Guayaguayare, in January and February last, several of the wells sunk by the former lessees of that property were cleaned out, and during a fortnight's test gave a production of 400 tons of a high-grade light oil. From the little knowledge they possessed concerning the field at the present time the prospects appeared to be favourable. The agreement with the Trinidad Government to lay their pipe-line along the railway was signed in March last, and subsequently they obtained the Government's permission to connect their Forest Reserve field with the railway by pipe-line laid along the public road. When the pipe-line was completed their production was expected to be, in the first instance, at the modest rate of about 1,000 tons a week, but the extent of future operations would be largely governed by the market they found for their oil. From the progress so far made it would appear that the pipe-line should be receiving oil next spring. As to the financial position, at the end of June there still remained £35,000 uncalled against the loan of

£60,000. With their heavy commitments that balance became exhausted. They had been able to arrange with the Central Mining and Investment Corporation for further advances up to £75,000.

The resolution was seconded by Major H. L. Sapte, and carried unanimously.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

The twentieth ordinary general meeting was held on December 15 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. F. A. Gillam (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen,—For the twentieth time in the 21 years during which I have been your Chairman I have the pleasure to preside at the annual general meeting of this Company. I think you will agree that the report and accounts which we submit to you to-day (and which I will ask you to be good enough to take as read) are satisfactory documents when one takes into consideration the abnormal circumstances ruling to-day. You will note that there has been a small decrease in the amount of gold produced, resulting from the fact that the average value per ton of the ore shows a reduction as compared with the previous year. This has been partly offset by a reduction in the working costs of 1*s.* 2*d.* per ton, so that the net decrease in the profit is but 8*d.* per ton. With regard to ore reserves, you will note from the Manager's figures that our fully developed ore reserves remain at very nearly the same tonnage as they were a year previously, but show a slight drop, fractional only, in the average value. Generally speaking, the operations of the mine during the year have run smoothly, and more or less on normal lines.

Good Supply of Labour.

With regard to capital expenditure, you will note with satisfaction that this has been reduced to a minimum, and that we have not had to increase it during the current year. We hope that this item will not figure again very largely in our accounts. In any case, whatever the capital expenditure is, we have made it a practice always to write it off during the year in which it has been incurred. That practice has been adhered to in the accounts before you. The question of our water supply is, I am pleased to say, one which no longer causes us any immediate anxiety. You will see from the directors' report that, owing to copious rains during the last wet season, our dams are full, and will provide the requirements of the mine for some time to come. As to labour, there has been a good supply of natives during the year under review. To some slight extent the supply of white labour has diminished, thus necessitating the curtailing of some of the work done by white workers at the mine. The fact that the supply of native labour has not been interfered with has enabled us, fortunately, to keep up our development, with the result, as already mentioned, that our reserve of developed ore has been maintained. It is always a pleasant thought to dwell on that these ore reserves of nearly two million tons have been paid for out of past profits. While on the subject of development, I take the opportunity of informing shareholders that since the beginning of the current financial year we have reduced from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 1*s.* per ton milled the amount charged to working costs for development. Experience during the past few years has shown us that the amount charged to working costs for development has been more than enough to pay for current development work, while still maintaining our reserves. Consequently, under existing circumstances we felt we were justified, with the concurrence of the Managing Director, in reducing the charge to the figure I have stated. The campaign in South-West Africa, so brilliantly conducted and successfully carried through under General Botha, has naturally involved us in certain heavy charges on the other side. A special war levy has been put upon the mines, amounting to half the ordinary profits tax. The contribution due from this Company under this heading alone will amount to £12,000, and we must also face the possibility of other expenses incidental to the present state of affairs.

Interim Dividend.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to mention that these abnormal expenses have naturally influenced the board in considering the question of the amount of interim dividend we should distribute for the current half-year. Added to this is the important fact that our gross income from gold for the five completed months of the current year is not so large as for the corresponding period of last year by approximately £20,000. Consequently the board has had to decide upon the exceedingly delicate question of choosing between two policies—namely, continuing the old rate by entrenching somewhat seriously on the Company's cash reserves, or adopting the less pleasant, but, in their opinion, sounder one of reducing the interim dividend. After careful consideration they chose the latter, and I am authorised to announce the declaration of an interim dividend of 17½%, or 3*s.* 6*d.* per share, for the half-year. I feel sure that shareholders will appreciate the feeling of prudence which actuated us in making a reduction which brings the amount to be distributed within the actual net profits earned during the period. Shareholders will observe that, according to our balance sheet, we have a large sum invested in the War Loan.

Untiring Care of the Messrs. Albu.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I should like to state what a pleasure it is to me to preside at these annual meetings, more especially when, in spite of all the difficulties and restrictions that hamper operations when a country is in a state of war, we are able to come to you with the results that have been reported. It is our usual custom to pass a vote of thanks to Sir George Albu and his staff for their efforts on our behalf, and I think that on this occasion, more than ever, our thanks are due to him and them for their untiring care of our interests. I now formally move that the report and accounts submitted to you be received and adopted, and I will ask Mr. Burns to second the resolution.

Satisfactory Cable Message.

Mr. L. B. Burns: Gentlemen,—I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts. This morning we have received a cable from Sir George Albu, our Managing Director, which I will read to you. He says: "The number of white employees of the Van Ryn on active service is equivalent to 10% of the underground and 17% of the surface complement. The married men receive half-pay from Company in addition to Government separation allowance; single men with dependants up to half-pay; single men without dependants quarter-pay from Company during active service. Mine continues to develop highly satisfactorily both as regards current developments and indications given by reinvestigation old workings." I think, gentlemen, you will all agree that this is a very satisfactory message to have received from our Managing Director. If I may add a word on my own behalf in support of the resolution, I should like to say that I think it is a matter of satisfaction and congratulation that, notwithstanding the difficult times in which we are living—a world-wide war, in the throes of which we are—the Van Ryn Company is able to make so good a show and to place before you so good a report as that which is submitted to-day. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., Chairman of the Company, presided at the annual general meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, held on July 15 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

He observed that they held extensive areas of oil land and two refineries, and they operated over 175 kilometres of pipe-line and over 50,000 tons of storage. Their petroleum output was 103,920 tons, as against 66,232 last year, an increase of 50%. The gross Roumanian profit was £172,515, against £147,541 last year. The year's net available balance of profit (subject to exchange) was £105,616. Adding £93,866 brought forward (being the net result of the two first years) the balance to credit of profit and loss account was £199,482. This was after writing off ample depreciation, £46,861, and after taking stocks at cost. They then raised the general reserve fund from £60,000 to £100,000. After making other reservations, including over £26,000 for the difference in exchange, they proposed to carry forward £113,451. The increased production and the satisfactory financial results had been achieved in spite of all the difficulties arising out of the War. Having made a running commentary on the accounts, he observed, in regard to the future and immediate prospects of the Company, that Roumania was a rich, self-contained, well governed country with an industrious population. Its wheat and other grain products were second to none. The Roumanian petroleum output had steadily increased year by year and now exceeded 2,000,000 tons per annum. It occupied a commanding position for supplying the ever increasing demand of the Mediterranean Littoral with light, fuel, and motive power. He believed the Company had now attained such a position that, with the return of normal conditions, it might be relied upon as an established dividend-paying concern. He believed that if Roumania joined in the War at all it would eventually join us at the time and under the conditions when it would be most advantageous both for them and for us that they should do so. They had a splendid national army, well equipped and thoroughly loyal, and when they did join their forces with us and our Allies it would be the beginning of the end of this great War. In regard to the safety of the oil wells, his own opinion was that in any event such safety was assured. They were too valuable to be destroyed by either side, and moreover they were protected by being under the shadow of the highest portions of the Carpathian Mountains, only penetrated by four or five passes, each of which he believed had been recently made impregnable. He moved the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

POWER-GAS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting was held on December 16 at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W., the Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and the accounts as submitted, and the payment of the dividend as proposed therein, said: I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the final result of our balance sheet during the very difficult time through which we have been passing. Our balance sheet being made up from September to September, the first few months of the financial year under review taking place just after the outbreak of war were naturally not favourable to an engineering business like ours, and it was difficult to know what the future would hold in store for us. Fortunately, as far as we are concerned, we recovered from the cessation or postponement of orders in hand which took place at the beginning of the year by turning our efforts in directions where they were required. Of course, the labour difficulty has been a source of anxiety [illegible] time in industry, and I sometimes think it would have been better if the number of skilled men who have left our and other works had been induced rather to stop at home than to go to the Front.

The Balance Sheet.

With regard to the balance sheet, taking the assets side first, there is no alteration in the first item. As regards the second item, there is a very considerable increase over last year's figures in the advances made to Ashmore Benson Pease and Company, Limited, for additions to plant and working capital. It is mainly in the latter item that the greater part of the increase has taken place. There are one or two reasons for this—money owing to that firm which ought to have come in has been postponed, owing to contracts which have been interrupted owing to the war conditions not being proceeded with as we anticipated. There are, of course, various other reasons. The turnover of the business lately, in view of our great activities, has been considerably larger, and therefore it is not astonishing that more capital has been required. I am glad to think that all this capital has been remuneratively employed. "Investments in other companies" remains at the same figure. "Contracts partly executed (including an estimate of profits to date, approved by the directors, less cash received on account) and sundry debtors," show a reduction from last year of £15,000, the figures of this year being £45,000, as against £58,000 last year. The usual deduction for depreciation has been made on office furniture, laboratory fittings, &c., and the cash in hand and at bankers this year is £1,300, compared with £3,800 last year—slightly smaller. Turning to the liabilities side of the balance sheet, there is no alteration in the share capital. Our sundry creditors were £27,000 last year, and they are £21,000 this year, showing a reduction of £6,000. Our secured loans from bankers were £3,000 last year, and they are £26,000 this year, showing an increase of £23,000. The reserve fund account now stands at £14,000, against £10,000 last year, owing to the sum which you placed to it from your last year's profits. Regarding the profit and loss account, we brought forward £7,400 from last account, and we made during the year a profit of £20,743. The carry-forward the year before was £3,500, and made a profit of £24,000. Your profits would have remained practically the same as they were for the year before, but owing to the larger carry-forward the total shows £28,000, against £24,000.

As regards the report, I have already stated in my opening remarks that we have recovered from the slump which took place during the first few months of the financial year, and we are now extremely busy night and day on a large amount of engineering work. In view of our profits, the board decided that it would only be fair to the shareholders to somewhat slightly increase our dividend, and we are in a position to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, less income-tax, which is the largest we have paid for several years. We are asking you to place to reserve the same amount as last year—the maximum amount we are entitled to put to reserve according to our articles—namely, £4,140—which will bring your reserve fund up to the substantial figure of over £18,000. We are also increasing the carry-forward from £7,400 last year to £9,100 this time, so that the Company is left in a very sound position.

The Prospects.

As far as the future is concerned, of course it is extremely difficult for anyone at present to hazard any conjectures on the subject. All one can say is that we are very well employed, and there appears every prospect of our keeping our works well employed for some time on contracts which are reasonably remunerative. How much of the profits of these contracts in the future anyone will be allowed to keep is, of course, a question on which we cannot offer any opinion, but as far as I am advised it does not appear that we are liable so far to any excess profits tax under the last Budget. I state that because I see that that question was raised in a financial paper which analysed our balance sheet.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting was held on December 16 at Holborn Restaurant, W.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P. (Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: There are no points of special interest to draw your attention to in the balance sheet, except that I should like to emphasise the strength of our position. Our liquid assets at June 30 last—namely, cash, book debts, and stores—were £178,724; our liabilities amounted to £66,029. We had, therefore, a surplus of liquid assets over liabilities of £112,695. Deducting the dividend declared in July last, there remained a surplus of nearly £60,000, which can legitimately be termed "working capital," as it represented cash in hand here and stores on the mines.

The Year's Profit.

Our income for the year is £4,851 more; the working costs, and charges for royalty, development, depreciation, &c., are £9,073 less than in the previous year. This reduction was effected, although we mined and treated 13,369 more tons and, to some extent, had to bear the increased cost of stores, freight, and insurance, due to the war conditions ruling for 11 months of the financial year now under review. The net result of the year's working, notwithstanding, is shown in an increased profit of £13,924. During the year we paid dividends amounting to 2*s.* 9*d.* per 4*s.* share, absorbing £151,670, and we carry forward to the credit of the current financial year about £8,000 more than was brought into the profit and loss account. In our operations it may be noted that the grade of ore mined agrees very closely with the average shown in the previous ore reserve statement. A drop in yield per ton, as compared with last year, was made up by the treatment of a larger tonnage at a total cost which was lower by 4*s.* 11*d.* per ton; the respective figures of net profit per ton of ore treated being 24*s.* 4*d.* in 1914 and from the lower grade ore in 1915 [illegible]

Improved Ore Reserve Position.

It is, I am sure, a source of great satisfaction to us all that the ore reserve position has again improved very substantially. In point of tonnage the increase is only an insignificant one, but with the increased proportion of Obuasi ore included in the general reserve and a rise of 2 dwt. in the general grade, the gross value of the visible ore shows an increase of £189,000. The profit value of the ore reserve at £829,700 makes the best showing since the year 1909, which was a record in this respect. This excellent position is attributable to the continuance of good values in the Obuasi chute down to the lowest developed levels of the mine—namely, Nos. 14 and 15. It has been possible during the past twelve months further to systematise the work of ore extraction, so that the grade of ore taken out has not exceeded the general average of the mines. As a consequence, the full benefit of the active work of development has made itself felt, and is reflected in the ore reserves. As I have already mentioned, the substantially increased profit values in the ore reserve are contained in, for practical purposes, the same number of tons of ore as the smaller values were held in last year. If the monthly tonnage to be crushed depended on the capacity of the reduction plant, it would therefore appear as if we should necessarily produce a considerably larger output in the future than in the past. But, as explained in the technical report, the chief limiting factor as regards monthly output is the problem of mining a maximum amount of average grade ore in the heavy and dangerous ground in Obuasi chute while still keeping the stopes secure and in good order. It was with this difficulty in view that it was not considered safe, at the time of the Consulting Engineer's inspection, to base a programme of monthly output on an increased tonnage from Obuasi. On the other hand, he was of opinion there was the possibility that, with improved conditions, particularly in the way of better ventilation, it would be found practicable not only to meet the falling off in revenue from Ayeinm, Old Chief, and other outside sources, but actually to increase the monthly output.

The Outlook.

Apart from the effect of the War in further increasing the prices of supplies over those of last year, there is no reason to anticipate that the current year will show any material increase in costs. As to the effect of War prices, it may perhaps be of interest if I give you a rough forecast of how far we may be affected in the next few months—it is, of course, impossible to look far ahead. For instance, insurance on bullion will probably cost about £5,000, War bonus to white staff about £1,900, and rail freight about £1,600 more than last year; there is also the prospect of an increase in price on all engineering stores and supplies generally. We may have to pay something by way of excess profits tax, but cannot say definitely until the details of the Finance Act are finally settled. It is, however, difficult to see how such a tax can be justified in the case of gold mines. So far as this Corporation is concerned, we consider it is contributing a very full share. We pay in royalty over £22,000, and in ordinary income tax, at the present rate, another £22,000. Furthermore, all our gold comes to England, and out of the proceeds we have to provide about £11,000 per month for wages, &c., which have to be paid in silver—the currency of the Colony.

IND COOPE AND CO., LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on December 16 at 65 Aldersgate Street, E.C., Mr. Louis E. Walker (Chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : Although this is the third year of the present Company's trading, it has not been found possible to issue the Ordinary shares, owing to the fact that the Chancery proceedings are not yet completed. Taking the item in the balance sheet of sundry creditors, it will be noticed that this shows a large increase over last year, due in the first place to the increased beer duty and the extra month's credit allowed for payment of duty by the Government—this accounts for the larger proportion of the increase—and, secondly, to the fact that the Company hold larger stocks of materials than in the previous year. I will now ask the meeting to consider the profit and loss account. The trading profit shows an increase of £33,860; interest on loans to customers, &c., shows an increase of £1,557—or a total increase of £35,417. Out of this has to be provided (1) depreciation, in which item there is an increase of £5,858. In the 1914 balance sheet underwriting commission, £40,000, appears as an asset, and we are bound legally to show it separately. Although perhaps the writing off of the entire amount in one year may be considered a drastic proceeding, the directors felt it was justifiable. The balance carried forward is slightly higher at £21,973. During the past year we have paid into the Imperial Exchequer no less a sum than £486,926, which represents beer duty, licence duties, &c.; but had the increased duty been chargeable for the full twelve months the amount would have been considerably higher. On the top of this heavy taxation we have now to contend with restrictions, in various localities, which have been placed upon our trade. I should like to mention as regards these restrictions that the trade has offered no opposition to them. With regard to the outlook, it is full of ominous signs. The prices of materials and every article a brewery has to purchase have increased by leaps and bounds, and it is impossible to anticipate during this current year, whether the War continues or not, any great prosperity; in fact, the stockholders must not feel disappointed if the trading results fall short of what they have been.

Mr. H. W. E. Storey seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY OF INDIA, LIMITED.

THE twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting was held on December 16 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John Taylor, M.Inst.C.E., Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, said : The results of the past year's operations are undoubtedly very satisfactory, showing as they do increases in the profit and dividend and in the reserve of ore in the mine. The increased profit is due not to a larger output of ore, but partly to the higher value of the quartz coming from the current development points in Glen section of the mine, and partly to the improvement in the method of extraction of the gold following upon the installation of the tube mill and classification plant referred to in our previous report as having just come into operation. A total of 129,161 oz. of fine gold was produced, of the net value of £545,338. The royalty payable to the Mysore Government, amounting to £30,693, is deducted, leaving a net revenue from the gold of £514,645. Other receipts bring the total revenue up to £520,178. Deducting the working expenses, as shown in the income and expenditure account, amounting to £310,070, a profit for the year of £210,108 results. This is £8,474 greater than for the previous twelve months, and would have been still larger had it not been for some exceptional circumstances, leading to an increase in the costs equivalent to almost 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton treated. With the additions of dividends on the power-station shares and balance brought into the account from the previous year, the total at credit of profit and loss account is brought up to £215,337. Out of this sum the interim dividends have been paid, and various items set out in the profit and loss account have been debited. You will have seen that the sum of £15,000 has again been transferred to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £75,000, and £1,500 has been added to the insurance and contingency fund, making that fund now £3,520. The debit to buildings, machinery and plant amounted to £18,269. We have written £15,000 off to that account, which has also been credited with sales of machinery to the value of £3,583. The sum of £19,009 spent during the year on Gifford shaft has also been written off, and thus, as you will see, the whole of the expenditure for the twelve months on capital account has been replaced, and the financial position remains very satisfactory. Then, £40,000 of the Company's resources have been invested in the 4½% War Loan; £20,000 of this represents the conversion of the previous issue of 3½% stock. The balance of profit at September 30 amounted to £75,251, and we now recommend the payment of the final dividend for the year of 8*d.* per share, amounting to £69,333, leaving a balance to carry forward of £5,898, which should cover the royalty and percentage on the dividend and our estimated liability for excess profits tax. Now, as to the mine, the reserves of ore which have been added to during the past twelve months, and are estimated at 495,015 tons, are the largest we have yet opened up, and it is evident that the development work of the year has revealed a large quantity of profitable ore. Quite at the end of our financial year, now under review, values in the deepest points in Glen section (where many successive levels have opened up a very fine shoot of ore) began to decline, and Mr. Gifford evidently considers it is not unlikely that the low-grade zone encountered in Carmichael's and Garland's sections may extend through the Glen ore shoot, and that it would be prudent to lower the scale of the monthly returns of gold to some extent. This reduction has already been commenced, the returns for October and November being respectively 10,684 and 10,366 oz. of fine gold, as compared with 11,082 for September and a monthly average for the year of 10,763 oz. It may be noted, however, that the returns for October and November were practically the same as those for the corresponding months of 1914, showing a reduction of only 14 oz. of gold. It will be readily understood that in the case of quartz reef mines it is not possible for anyone to say with certainty what will happen in the future, and in expressing an opinion we can only be guided by what has taken place, in other instances, of a similar change in the condition or value of the vein. Fluctuations in value constantly occur in gold mines of this character, and it may be that we have now to face a leaner period as regards results; but long experience of all the important mines of the Kolar goldfield, and of the many changes which have been noticeable from time to time in the different workings, strengthens me in the belief that if a falling-off does take place it will be only temporary and that an improvement may again be confidently anticipated. We are in an excellent position in respect to finance and mine equipment, as also as to our reserves of ore, for the vigorous prosecution of the development works.

Sir J. D. Rees, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE third annual general meeting of this Company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on December 17, Mr. W. F. Turner presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Alfred W. Berry) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said : Gentlemen,—My first duty is to refer to the paragraph in the report on the death of our late Chairman, General Albert Thys, which expresses very inadequately our deep regret and our sense of the invaluable services rendered by him to this Company and its predecessor. General Thys died in Brussels on February 10 last. He became Chairman of the original Chinese Engineering and Mining Company in the month of June 1901, and had consequently occupied that position for about 14 years. He was largely instrumental in the formation of the original Company; he rendered the most valuable services in the formation of that Company and in the troublous times through which it passed, as well as in the reconstitution of the Company which took place over three years ago. Perhaps no man could have been better fitted for the position which he occupied. He brought a vigorous personality and keen interest to the consideration of the Company's affairs, and it is a matter of satisfaction to us who were his colleagues that he lived to see this Company established on what we believe is a thoroughly sound basis and in a satisfactory and flourishing condition. His death was the more sad in view of the unhappy situation of Belgium at the time. He was an ardent patriot, and in him his native country lost one of its most valuable and distinguished men. We wish again to express our deep sense of his loss and our sympathy with his bereaved family.

The Profit and Loss Account.

A year ago we told you that the sales for the current year, the one which is dealt with in the report and accounts before you, showed a satisfactory increase over those for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The increase for the whole year amounted to 281,000 tons, and there was a substantial increase in the divisible net profit of the Kailan Mining Administration. There was, however, a fall in the average rate of exchange from about 1*s.* 10½*d.* to 1*s.* 7*d.* per dollar, which has had the result of slightly reducing our proportion of the net profit in China. You will see from the credit side of the profit and loss account that that proportion is, in round figures, £156,000; that is about £9,000 less than the previous year. In addition there is interest in China, less some small expenses, amounting to £5,323, which makes a total China credit of £161,428. Interest in Europe amounted to £6,024; this is a considerable increase on the previous year, due to the fact of our having larger funds and to higher rates of interest. The agency fee, £4,000, is unaltered, and minor receipts amount to about £89, making a total to the credit of the profit and

loss account of £171,542. On the other side you have London expenses, which are practically the same. Brussels expenses are a few hundred pounds less, but this is due to the fact that owing to the cutting off of communication with Belgium we have not received the accounts of our Brussels office beyond May 31 last, so that the expenses shown are those for only eleven months of the year. The directors' remuneration is in accordance with the special resolution which was passed at the annual meeting of last year, the odd figure of £27 18*s.* 11*d.* representing the remuneration for the four days from June 27 to June 30, 1914. Then follows the auditors' fees, £230. Subscriptions to relief funds amount to £1,876. We told you at the last general meeting that the board had felt it their duty to vote a sum of one thousand guineas to the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund, £250 to the British Red Cross Fund, and £200 to the Belgian Relief Fund, making £1,500 in all. In addition to this, our Brussels office has made a monthly contribution to the Comité Central de Secours et d'Alimentation in Brussels, which for the year amounted to £376 19*s.* 7*d.* These payments, I am sure, will meet with the full approval of the shareholders.

Net Profit.

The balance carried to the balance sheet is £159,067, as compared with £155,659 a year ago. The net profit is, therefore, £3,408 larger than the year before. This is explained mainly by the fact that, whilst our proportion of the profit in China is somewhat smaller, we have no provision to make this year in respect of preliminary expenses, inasmuch as the balance of that account—viz., £11,914—was written off last year. The balance brought forward from July 1, 1914, was £52,268. Adding the profit I have just mentioned makes a total of £211,335. We paid an interim dividend of 5% on May 15 last, which required £50,000. Income tax to June 30, 1915, amounts to £12,176. Deducting these there remains a disposable balance of £149,159. Out of this we propose to declare a further dividend of 5% free of income tax, making a total of 10% for the year, which will leave £99,159 to be carried forward to next year. This balance is subject to any claim that there may be in respect of the Excess Profits Tax, which is the subject of the Bill now before Parliament, and which will, I suppose, become law in the course of the next few days.

The Balance Sheet.

The balance sheet presents some interesting features. The total due to creditors is £101,773, as against £35,347 in the preceding year. The whole of this increase is in respect of our outstanding dividend and debenture interest coupons and Debentures drawn for redemption up to December 31, 1914, the explanation being that owing to the occupation of Belgium and of a portion of North-Eastern France by the enemy the coupons and bonds have not come forward for payment. These figures will necessarily continue to increase until the end of the war. The next item is the half-year's Debenture interest accruing to June 30 last, £34,560. This is £720 less than in the preceding year, owing to the annual redemption of the sum of £24,000, which is shown in the next item. The 6% Kailan bonds outstanding at June 30 last amounted to £1,152,000, a reduction of £24,000, the amount of the annual drawing. The next item is Redemption of Debentures Reserve Account, £60,000, being an increase of the £24,000 of Debentures drawn during the year. The share capital, of course, is unchanged at £1,000,000, the total of the balance sheet being £2,497,492.

Cash and Investments.

On the other side you have cash at banks in London and in transit, £140,829, nearly the whole of which was on deposit. Then you have Treasury bills for £100,000 at cost, plus interest, to June 30, amounting to £98,584. I might say here that we subscribed for £50,000 of the War Loan which was issued in July last. The next item is cash at bankers and in hand at Brussels on May 31, 1915, £68,842. I have already mentioned that, owing to the absence of communication, we have not received any accounts from our Brussels Office since May 31 last. We told you at the general meeting last year what the position then was; in consequence of the German occupation, a Commissioner had been appointed by the German Government at each of the banks in Brussels, and transactions were confined in our case to making payments to the families or representatives in Belgium of our Belgian employees at the mines in China, otherwise the Company could not draw upon the amounts standing to its credit with its bankers. This position continued until the month of August last. We have received information that on August 6 our Brussels office was sequestrated by the German Government and a Commissioner was appointed; the amounts standing to the credit of the Company with its bankers were taken possession of and sent to the Caisse de Consignation, Berlin. The requisite steps have been taken to register the Company's claim in the Foreign Claims Department of the Foreign Office. There the matter will remain until the conclusion of the War. The next item is debtors, £57,374, which consists mainly of current accounts with the Kailan Mining Administration. The next item, Property, Rights and Undertaking, £1,340,660, shows a variation of some few hundred pounds due to slight adjustments which have been made during the year. The working capital account stands at £84,726, having been increased by the sum of £1,725, the annual amount written off from the expenses in connection with the issue of Kailan bonds. The next item, £63,928, for stores taken over by the Kailan Mining Administration, is the same figure as last year. The loan account to the Kailan Mining Administration, £60,000, is also the same as last year, whilst the value of the shares held in China, £409, is also unchanged. The last item, Expenses of Underwriting and Issue of Kailan Bonds, £81,937, is after writing off the £1,725 which I have already mentioned. This makes the total of the assets side of the balance sheet £2,497,492.

Increased Sales of Coal.

As regards the working of the past year, I cannot do better than quote a passage from the General Manager's report. He says:

"It was intended at the beginning of the financial year to work all the mines at full bore every possible day throughout the year to satisfy existing demands and to make provision for a very large anticipated increase in sales compared with the previous year. In August 1914, however, the War in Europe broke out, and, in view of the uncertainty of the future, and more especially of the effect the War might have on the administration's sales of coal and the general financial situation, all possible expenditure, both capital and revenue, was cut down to the lowest possible minimum at all places."

The sales of coal for the year amounted to 2,692,382 tons, as against 2,411,038 tons in the preceding year. The average daily production of the mines has gone up from 7,318 tons in 1913-14 to 9,165 tons in 1914-15, the daily output on several occasions in the latter year reaching a figure well over 10,000 tons.

Coal in Sight, 16,430,000 Tons.

Development work at the mines proceeded actively, and at the end of the financial year the coal in sight at all the mines is given at 16,430,000 tons, an increase during the year of nearly two million tons. In addition to this, prospecting work has shown that at the Tang-Chia-Chwang Mine there is something like 15,000,000 tons of coal available. The object of the prospecting operations there having been attained, they have now been discontinued.

The Working of the Current Year.

As regards the working for the current year, the sales, as is stated in the report, so far as the year has gone, have been maintained. The General Manager writes that:

"It is not easy to make any accurate forecast of the amount of coal to be produced during the present financial year, but it may be safe to assume, under the present political conditions, that it will not exceed that of the past year, and that the cost of production will be about the same. The mines will be in a position to cope with a demand of over three-and-a-half million tons per annum, after the increase of power has been effected, a work which requires urgently carrying out, even at the present figure of production.

"We have to face a large capital expenditure in this respect during the present financial year, but after completion of the additional requirements the mines will all be in an absolutely safe position as regards the ever-increasing trouble of water."

Power Plant.

The orders for the power plant, to which reference was made at the last general meeting, were placed in the spring of this year. Shipments have now begun, and it is expected that the whole plant will be installed and in operation before the end of the year 1916, and we shall then have abundant power at the mines for all purposes.

Coal Consumption in China.

Speaking on the general question of the consumption of coal in China, the General Manager states in an interesting paragraph that:—

"Generally speaking, the consumption of coal, more especially by the native industries, shows a continuing tendency to increase year by year, and coal as a commercial fuel is now being used in the far-off inland districts in much greater quantities than hitherto. This has been helped to no small extent by the increasing export of various products from North China to European markets. Native boats laden with export cargo, after discharging at sea ports, take back coal inland at very cheap rates of freight, and so distribution of coal becomes general all along the many waterways. There are no signs whatever of the former native fuel being reverted to, the native consumption of coal has come to stay, and will probably continue to increase."

Prospects.

Concluding his report, the General Manager says :—

"It is difficult indeed to make any forecast for the present financial year. I have every hope that our sales may be kept up to the same figure as last year; in fact, at the time of writing there are signs of this figure being slightly increased. Profits will be dependent very largely on the rates for chartering tonnage for overseas markets, but with increased prices in certain ports I trust that the figures of the past year will not be reduced to any appreciable extent, if at all."

Considering the excellent results which have been obtained during the past year, which included eleven months of the War period, we think that the prospect which is held out to us of being able to achieve approximately similar results in the year now current should be regarded as entirely satisfactory. I now move "That the directors' report and accounts at June 30, 1915, be and they are hereby received and adopted, and that a final dividend be declared of 5%, making 10% for the year, free of income tax, payable on December 21, 1915."

Mr. Edmund Davis seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Gildersleeve, seconded by Mr. Caro, the auditors (Messrs. Annan, Dexter & Co.) were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated.

A. DARRACQ AND COMPANY (1905), LIMITED.

THE tenth annual ordinary general meeting was held on December 17 at Salisbury House, E.C., Mr. Norman Craig, K.C., M.P. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that during the whole of the period under review the European war had been in progress, and to a very large extent it was true that for the time being their works had ceased to be a motor factory and had become a munitions factory. They had, however, been able to derive very sensible profits from completing chassis and cars at prices which plainly indicated the demand, even in time of war, for Darracq products and offered the happiest augury for the future. It would not be prudent to enter into any detail as to the projects of the board for the future, except to say that their policy had been, and would be, to render all service possible, consistently with the shareholders' interests, to the British and Allied Governments during the period of the War, and to be in a complete state of preparedness to resume as speedily as possible the normal functions of the Company as soon as peace might come.

Financial Position Strengthened.

Since the incorporation of the Company its financial position had been strengthened to the extent of £385,400, either by the extinction of Debentures or by the reduction of the item of goodwill. He proceeded to explain the circumstances which had led up to the formation of a French company to take over the works at Suresnes, in which A. Darracq & Co. held almost the whole of the capital, and stated that that undertaking had the most gratifying prospects. Shareholders would ask for no greater reassurance as to the wisdom of the action taken if they knew the extraordinary enthusiasm with which their own workmen had sought to secure holdings in the new company. With regard to the investments, he stated a year ago that the directors had made a purchase of Debentures in Argylls, Limited, at a price which would produce one of two results—viz., the acquisition at a reasonable figure of a British factory, of which they stood in need, or the securing of a nice profit to the Company. The latter alternative occurred, but when they last met the profit had not been received, and so was not included in the accounts. These Debentures had now been paid off, and a sum of upwards of £25,000 appeared in the accounts as the profit over this deal. During the year the Company's mortgage on the A.L.F.A. property in Milan had been paid off in full, and their holding in the share capital of that company had been realised at the full price at which it stood in their books. A very satisfactory sale had, since the end of the financial year, also been effected of the Company's Amsterdam property. The Company's investments appeared in the balance sheet at cost. They consisted almost exclusively of Government and trustee securities, and although the depreciation consequent upon the War might have been regarded as temporary the directors had preferred to be in a position to say that the investment figures, in the same way as in regard to all other figures in the accounts, accurately reflected the existing position. They had, therefore, transferred from profit and loss account a sum of £20,000 as a special depreciation reserve, with the result that the investments were in substance written down to current market prices. They had also increased their general reserve fund by £50,000, which was represented in the accounts by their investment in the 4½% Government War Loan.

The Dividend.

The directors proposed, after making the transfers to reserves to which he had referred, and proper allowance for depreciation of plant, to pay a dividend of 9½% on the Ordinary shares, carrying forward £17,144. There were critics who would prefer to see a larger dividend paid and less provision made for the future, and these critics might argue that in reserves or depreciation the directors had diverted over £100,000 from the profit of the year. He wished, however, to point out that under its present management the Company would be conducted for the investing holder, and not for the holder of the moment. The investor was not injured by conservative finance; and the speculator did not interest them. A further consideration was that they must walk warily in the matter of the distribution of dividends. They were in an exceptional position—that of a British Company operating mainly in France. The question of taxation might, therefore, prove acute, and they must make their dispositions accordingly. A further burden, when they resumed their normal manufacturing functions, had to be considered—viz., the imposition of a duty of 33⅓% on imported cars and chassis. The directors had not been, apart from war conditions, oblivious to the fact that such a tax might, and probably would, be imposed, and it was in part to anticipate this event that a bid was made to secure works in the United Kingdom. As he had already stated, they had to content themselves with £25,000 in cash and did not get the works. They were, however, strongly of opinion that the Company should, as soon as opportunity offered, secure suitable British works, not only by reason of the imposition of this tariff, but also that they might meet, by such an extension of factory accommodation, the demand for Darracq cars. These reasons, however, convinced the board that it was in the best interests of the shareholders to show no recklessness in recommending dividends.

Mr. Almeric Paget, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on December 17, at 14 Regent Street, S.W., Mr. Arthur Du Cros, J.P., M.P. (Deputy-Chairman and Managing Director) presiding.

The Chairman said that the total net profit of the year, after deducting a sum of £133,000 in respect of interest on income stock, the parent Company's debentures, commissions, management expenses and depreciations, amounted to £435,000, from which had to be deducted the parent tyre royalty, amounting to £23,500, leaving a net balance of £411,000. That figure exceeded the profits of the previous year by £30,000, although the actual increased trading profit was really £37,000, because of a sum of £7,000 odd, included in the previous year, in respect of premiums on shares issued. The actual increase available for distribution was £61,000, the Company having had to provide a sum of £31,000 last year in connection with the expenses of new capital issues. In normal circumstances the results shown by the balance sheet would have been considerably better. Many exceptional charges had arisen directly out of the War, and had had to be disposed of out of the profits. The directors had not hesitated to deal drastically with those charges, believing that these were times when a cautious and conservative policy of finance was very necessary.

How the Record Results were Obtained.

The shareholders, he was sure, would learn with satisfaction that the record results of the year had not been obtained by taking advantage of the War to squeeze out higher prices. As a matter of fact, the prices of the Dunlop commodities had actually been reduced in the case of cycle tyres to users and consumers alike, and with regard to motor tyres sold to the Government they had been reduced over and beyond the reduction to other customers. In comparing the profits made with those of the previous year, it was important to remember that the Company had worked under the gravest possible disadvantages. Wages and salaries had been considerably higher; freights, fuel, and raw material had all been higher too, and difficulties and delays had been experienced in transport, which continued to this moment. As a matter of fact, they had at the present time large accumulations of manufactured goods in their factories, which the railway companies were unable to take and deliver. The constant labour changes referred to in the report had also been the cause of the utmost delay, confusion, and difficulty in the works. In the circumstances it was a matter of great congratulation that the improved profits were not due to artificially high prices, but to the soundest of all business reasons, namely (1) increased output and sales in conjunction with a high standard of manufacture, and (2) reduced costs, the result of improved organisation and expenditure of capital on improved processes. The Dunlop manufactures held a higher reputation now than ever before in all departments. He could speak particularly of a great advance in the results obtained from their solid tyres. They had ample opportunities for measuring and comparing the results. The Dunlop solid tyres were sold on a mileage basis, and covered nearly 300,000,000 of miles during the year, and the results showed steady improvement month by month.

The Dividends.

Of the profits available for distribution it was proposed to divide 45%, amounting to £194,000, the Preference shares taking £44,800 and the balance going to the Ordinary shares, if the recommendation of the directors of 15% for the year was accepted. The balance of £217,000 retained would be either carried forward or applied in reduction of plant and machinery, against £171,000 last year. If it were suggested that a higher dividend than that recommended should be paid, his reply was "In normal times, perhaps, 'Yes'; but not at this most critical period of the War." The object of the directors was to maintain the present rate of dividend as a minimum, not only during the War, but, if possible, during the lean years which might follow the War. The board were anxious not to adopt an increased dividend until they were practically certain of being able to maintain it. The weak spot of the balance sheet was the stock. In 1913 it was £894,000, and it was then stated that the amount must be increased. In 1914 there was a decrease to £824,000, and in 1915 a further decrease to £781,000. In the opinion of the board, the stock must be increased by £500,000. Their object was to accomplish this by the aid of the new works at the earliest possible moment, but, as the increase would be gradual, no difficulty would be experienced in financing it. The Debentures had been reduced by £117,000, and since August 31 last by an additional £13,000, leaving £104,000 to be redeemed on May 31 next. This item would have disappeared from the accounts next year, and with it a standing charge which took priority over dividends.

Active Demand for Solid Tyres.

The demand for solid motor tyres for traction purposes had been particularly active, and the supply had been proportionately curtailed. The use of motor transport by the Army was great, but this only partly accounted for the demand. There was also a very great demand at home for motor transport, owing to the great railway congestion which at present existed. Manufacturers were becoming more and more dependent on it for the handling of their raw and finished goods. The Company was, therefore, carrying out a service of great public utility, both abroad and at home, and it was very important in the national interest that there should be no interruption of output by labour or from any other unavoidable cause. The buildings which were being erected covered seven acres, and had been designed with a view to further extensions. No further extension would be made at their other rubber mills, nor indeed was it possible to do so. The new mill would be fitted with all the latest labour-saving devices, and would be up to date in every respect. When the mills were absorbed into the general business a most important and substantial addition to their profits would have been made. The directors attached more importance, however, to the undoubted fact that a decided advance would have been made in the quality and durability of Dunlop tyres, and it was in this direction principally that they hoped to reap the reward of their initiative.

The Company's Rubber Estates.

The increase in their interest in the rubber estates of £82,000 was mainly accounted for by the purchase of 1,887 additional acres of planted rubber. The Company, in the process of acquiring those properties, had taken over some four or five companies. These companies had now all been amalgamated into one company—namely, Dunlop Plantations, Limited. The capital of that Company was £300,000 in shares and £271,000 in Debentures, all of which were owned by their Company. Dunlop Plantations, Limited, possessed over 18,000 acres of land, of which 10,547 were planted in rubber up to August 31, and since that date an additional 422 acres had been planted, bringing the total to just 11,000 acres. The capital value of the 10,547 planted acres was £54 per acre, after setting on one side and valuing at nothing at all the other assets, which had an approximate value of £42,000. They were the third largest rubber planters in Europe, and the proceeds of the rubber sold from the estates now far exceeded the amount required for their upkeep, and the undertaking was earning substantial profits, especially as the market price of the commodity had risen by 50% within the past few weeks. The investments in the associated companies had decreased by £85,000, the difference representing a portion of losses on the Continent arising directly out of the War. As a set-off against that reduction, it would be noticed that £160,000 of profit had been retained in the associated companies during the past two years, and that no appreciation was made on that account. The position of their associated companies was becoming infinitely stronger every year. The export trade of the Company had become very important, and could be doubled if the mills could produce and the Government would grant the facilities. As a matter of fact, during the past two years their foreign business had been starved for supplies. The shareholders would, therefore, understand that these investments and the rubber estates were a source of great strength and great value to the Company, and although their value had been increasing from year to year, partly by the retention of profits, but principally by the extension of trade, no appreciation of value had on that account been made in their balance sheet, nor was it proposed to do so. With regard to the fourth and last item of investments there was an increase on balance of £12,000. He had no comment to make upon that except that it included an investment of £25,000 in French Treasury bills. They saw their way quite clearly on finance under existing conditions so far as they were known to the directors, and there was no present necessity for or any intention of issuing fresh capital. The proposal to take powers to issue a further 200,000 Preference shares was merely formal, and was entirely in the nature of a precaution. The figures of the balance sheet showed for themselves that the finances of the Company were perfectly sound. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Albemarle, K.C.V.O., C.B., A.D.C., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held, and resolutions authorising an increase of the capital to £2,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 Preference shares of £1 each, and the issue of the said 200,000 Preference shares at such time as the directors might think fit, were agreed to.

A hearty vote of thanks having been accorded to the Chairman, directors, managers, and staff, the meeting terminated.

PARENT TYRE COMPANY.

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held yesterday at the offices, 14 Regent Street, S.W., Mr. Arthur du Cros, J.P., M.P., presiding.

The Chairman said the net profit of the year of £124,300, including the amount brought forward, was less than that of the previous year by £15,000, accounted for as follows: The amount brought forward from last year was £5,000 less than from the previous year; the dividend received from the Dunlop Rubber Company, although at the same rate as last year, was £5,000 less, owing to the increased income tax deducted; transfer fees and other income were £2,300 less, and management expenses had increased by £2,300, the royalty received from the Dunlop Rubber Company being £700 more than last year. A very slight increase of dividend from the Dunlop Rubber Company (1¼% would be sufficient) would make good the deficit, with the advantage that once such an increase was made it was more than likely to be maintained. He was not taking a possible increase of royalty into consideration. The Ordinary shareholders would no doubt be pleased to know that it was the intention of the directors, all being well, to resume the payment of interim dividends on the Ordinary shares.

The resolution was seconded and carried.

Alldays and Onions' Pneumatic Engineering Company.—Dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year.

Arnold J. Van den Bergh.—Dividend of 5 per cent. and bonus of 2½ per cent. on Ordinary, making 12½ per cent. for year.

Bambrakelly (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company.—Interim dividend, less tax, of 6 per cent. (actual).

Bartholomay Brewing Company.—Dividend of 6s. per share on Ordinary, less tax.

Bayliss, Jones and Bayliss.—Dividend at 10 per cent. on Ordinary for year.

Bogawantalawa District Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 4 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

Boots Cash Chemists (Eastern).—Quarterly dividend at rate of 10 per cent. per annum, tax free, on Ordinary.

British Assam Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

British Steamship Investment Trust.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. on Deferred stock, less tax.

Bristol Wagon and Carriage Works.—Interim dividend at rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Brooke Bond and Company.—Interim dividend at rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Canadian General Electric Company.—Quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent. on Common stock.

Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society.—Dividend for half-year of 9s. per share, tax free.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia.—A branch has been opened at Bendigo, in the State of Victoria.

Cuban Telephone Company.—On and after January 1, 1916, and until further notice, interest coupons on the First Mortgage bonds of the Cuban Telephone Company will be paid on presentation at the banking house of Morgan, Grenfell and Company, London, England, or at the banking house of J. P. Morgan and Company, New York City, New York.

Dejoo Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax.

Newcastle Breweries.—Dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on Ordinary, making 10 per cent. for the year.

RAND GOLD OUTPUT.

Simmer and Jack.— £3,000,000, in £1 shares; 320 stamps and seven tube mills; monthly and quarterly results include sundry revenue.

Year ends June 30	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1913-14	320	769,600	2½	798,339	20/9	475,660	12/4	322,678	8/5	1⅝
[Plus £34,126 additional rental and interest revenue for 1914-15.]										
1914-15	320	808,500	2	869,117	21/6	518,321	12/10	350,296	8/6	11/3
1915 16.										
Sept. qr.	320	209,200	3½	227,823	21/9	142,641	13/8	85,188	8/1	8/6
Oct. ...	-	71,500	—	76,450	21/9	47,881	13/7	29,569	8/2	8/6
Nov. ...	—	66,100	—	76,071	23/0	47,505	14/4	28,566	8/8	9/9

Gold reserve: Sept., 6,500, Oct., 5,800; Nov. 5,080 oz.

Dividends—1914, June, 5; Dec., 5 per cent.
1915, June, 5 per cent.

Unified Main Reef. — £250,000, in £1 shares. Tube-mill plant has been erected

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	60	155,540	15	169,450	21/9	108,122	13/11	61,328	7/10	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	60	39,800	13½	41,088	20/8	25,766	12/11	15,322	7/9	⅜
June qr.	60	39,790	12½	39,979	20/1	25,114	12/6	14,865	7/6	⅜
Sept.qr.	60	41,050	13½	42,235	20/7	26,840	13/1	15,395	7/6	⅜
Oct. ...	—	13,750	—	14,242	20/9	9,235	13/8	5,006	7/1	3⅜
Nov. ...	—	13,750	—	14,193	20/8	9,464	14/0	4,729	6/8	⅜

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 10 per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Van Ryn Deep.—Capital, £1,196,892, in £1 shares. 80 stamps, 8 tube mills, started July 14, 1913. This plant has attained a capacity of about the rate of 530,000 tons a year.

	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	77½	483,090	11½	805,948	33/4	394,912	16/4	411,036	17/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	80	136,530	13½	234,938	37/2	103,193	16/3	131,745	20/11	2⅝
June qr.	80	126,100	13½	234,676	37/2	104,695	16/7	129,981	20/7	2⅝
Sept. qr.	80	128,520	11½	238,018	37/4	106,762	17/0	131,256	20/4	2½
Oct. ...	-	47,260	—	78,749	39/2	35,708	18/2	43,061	21/0	2⅝
Nov. ...	—	43,450	—	82,256	38/1	37,791	17/9	45,045	20/4	2⅝

Dividends—1914, June, 12½; Dec., 12½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

Village Deep.—£1,060,671, in £1 shares. 180 stamps; seven tube mills.

Yr. ends Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	180	601,454	11	839,397	27/10	530,584	17/7	308,813	10/3	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	180	150,100	12½	205,173	27/4	139,008	18/6	66,165	8/10	1⅝
June qr.	180	155,900	14½	226,773	29/1	146,881	18/10	79,892	10/3	1⅝
Sept. qr.	180	157,600	14	226,256	28/9	151,357	19/5	74,899	9/6	1¾
Oct. ...	—	54,420	—	76,971	28/4	51,774	19/1	25,197	9/3	1⅝
Nov. ...	—	52,200	—	73,947	28/5	48,426	18/7	25,521	9/10	1⅞

Dividends—1914, June, 10; Dec., 11½ per cent.
1915, June, 10 per cent.

Village Main Reef.—£472,000, in £1 shares. Six tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	190	378,500	17	685,519	36/3	346,274	18/3	339,245	18/0	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	146⅔	87,900	17	143,667	32/8	83,391	18/10	60,276	13/10	—
June qr.	160	92,450	15½	155,751	33/8	87,917	19/0	67,834	14/8	—
Sept. qr.	160	94,060	14½	161,796	34/5	86,022	18/3	75,774	16/2	1⅛
Oct. ...	—	11,200	—	19,951	35/6	24,240	43/5	4,289*	7/9	1⅜
Nov. ...	—	7,800	—	11,823	36/3	21,388	56/1	14,562*	25/10	1⅔

* "Loss due to curtailment of tonnage owing to the recent accident and heavy expenditure in underground repair work, which is proceeding satisfactorily." November return states it is hoped repairs in main hoist shaft will be completed by mid-December.

Dividends—1914, June, 35; Dec., 35 per cent.
1915, June, 20 per cent.

West Rand Consolidated.—£2,025,000, in 2,000,000 Ordinary shares of £1 and 25,000 Deferred shares of £1 each. £469,730 Convertible Six per Cent. Debentures in issue. Plant capacity about 33,000 tons per month.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	100	310,750	15	377,233	24/3	308,945	19/10	68,288	4/5	—
1915.										
Mar.qr....	100	90,000	13	102,369	22/9	87,169	19/4	15,200	3/5	6/0
Juneqr....	100	92,200	13½	110,321	23/11	87,193	18/11	23,128	5/0	5/6
Sept. qr.	100	93,200	12½	117,354	25/2	86,904	18/8	30,450	6/6	8/0
Oct.* ...	100	31,750	—	41,699	26/3	28,399	17/10	13,300	8/5	7/9
Nov. ...	100	30,750	—	39,622	25/9	28,786	18/8	10,836	7/1	9/0

* Note. "Increased profit due to what is regarded as a temporary enrichment of stores."

Witwatersrand Deep.—£550,000, in £1 shares. £32,200 of Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures now in issue. Four tube mills.

Year to Dec. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	245	517,978	10	671,134	25/2	420,386	16/6	251,148	9/8	—
1915.										
Mar. qr.	245	125,114	10½	161,905	25/10	107,887	17/3	54,018	8/7	1⅛
Juneqr.	245	136,778	11½	176,879	25/11	116,231	16/11	60,648	8/11	1⅛
Sept.qr.	245	126,620	10	159,886	25/3	109,432	17/4	50,454	7/11	1⅛
Oct. ...	-	43,850	—	55,356	25/3	39,306	17/11	16,050	7/4	1⅛
Nov....	—	44,400	—	54,803	24/8	38,172	17/2	16,631	7/6	1½

Dividends—1914, June, 15; Dec., 17½ per cent.
1915, June, 15 per cent.

Wolhuter.—£860,000, in £1 shares. Four tubes.

Year ends Oct. 31	Stps.	Tons Milled	Sorting %	Revenue Amt. £	Revenue Per ton	Expenses Amt. £	Expenses Per ton	Profit Amt. £	Profit Per ton	Price end of Period
1914-15.										
Jan. qr.	120	96,400	17	116,528	24/2	81,610	17/0	34,918	7/2	⅜
Apr. qr.	120	96,350	16½	119,914	24/11	84,985	17/8	34,929	7/3	14/0
July qr.	120	107,000	14	128,347	24/0	86,798	16/3	41,549	7/9	11/3
Oct. qr.	120	106,300	—	129,447	24/4	87,834	16/6	41,613	7/10	12/0
12 mos.	120	406,050	—	494,236	24/3	341,227	16/9	153,009	7/6	12/0
1915-16.										
Nov. ...	—	34,450	—	42,744	24/10	28,793	16/9	13,951	8/1	12/0

Dividends—1914, April, 6¼; Oct., 6¼ per cent.
1915, April, 6¼; Oct., 6¼ per cent.

RHODESIAN MINES.

Antelope.—Capital £348,282, in 5s. shares. The loan from the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Company is now reduced to £30,500.

Period 1914.	Tons Milled	Yield £	Yield Per Ton	Costs £	Costs Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
12 mos. ...	40,566	95,515	46/9	62,671	30/6	32,844	16/1	—
1915.								
Mar. qr. ...	13,268	24,389	36/9	17,210	25/11	7,179	10/10	2/0
June qr. ...	12,090	26,645	44/1	20,193	33/5	6,452	10/8	2/3
Sept. qr. ...	12,294	26,481	43/-	19,805	32/3	6,676	10/10	2/3
Oct. ...	4,240	8,968	40/11	7,047	33/4	1,621	7/7	2/3
Nov. ...	3,950	8,297	41/8	6,806	34/2	1,491	7/6	2/3

Eldorado Banket.—Capital £300,000, in £1 shares. Crushings by stamps and Chilian mills have been as under:—

Year to Mar. 31	Tons Crushed	Value £	Per Ton	Working Expenses £	Per Ton	Profit (est.) £	Per Ton	Price end of Period
1914 ...	80,635	157,091	38/11	89,188	22/1	67,903	16/10	¾
1915 ...	57,073	132,393	46/4	65,890	23/1	66,503	23/3	14/9
1915-16.								
June qr....	12,258	31,146	51/0	16,114	26/5	15,032	24/7	14/0
Sept. qr. ...	12,216	30,578	50/1	15,383	25/2	15,195	24/11	8/6
Oct. ...	4,443	11,226	55/7	5,032	24/11	6,194	30/8	8/9
Nov ...	4,068	11,939	58/11	4,963	24/5	6,976	34/5	11/9

Gold reserve: Nov., 2,301 oz.

Dividends declared—1913, June, 15; Dec., 15 per cent.; 1914, June, 10; Dec., 7½ per cent.; 1915, July, 7½ per cent.

Gaika Gold.—Capital issued, £273,495, in £1 shares.

Year ends June 30	Tons Crushed	Value £	Value Per Ton	Working Costs* £	Working Costs* Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price end of Period
1913-14 ...	36,926	85,206	46/0	49,253	26/8	33,953	18/4	1/6
1914-15 ...	37,514	87,465	46/7	48,229	25/10	39,236	25/9	13/0
1915-16.								
Sept. qr. ...	9,647	21,756	45/2	12,262	25/5	9,494	19/9	13/3
Oct.	3,180	8,574	53/11	4,122	25/11	4,452	28/0	13/3
Nov.	2,956	7,114	48/3	4,200	28/6	2,914	19/9	11/0

* Excluding development.

Dividends—1911, June, 5 per cent. 1912, Oct., 5 per cent. 1913, nil. 1913-14, 10 per cent. 1914-15, Jan., 5; June, 10 per cent.

Rezende.—Capital issued, £118,435, in £1 shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Revenue £	Revenue Per Ton	Expenses £	Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton
1913	156,249	145,977	18/1	15,809	14/4	30,168	3/9
1914	176,400	120,425	13/8	86,641	9/9	33,984	3/11
1915.							
Mar. qr.(a) ...	26,000	29,098	22/4	22,093	16/11	7,005	5/5
June qr. ...	31,100	28 928	18/7	23,173	14/11	5,755	3,8
Sept.qr. ...	28,800	26,809	18/8	22,056	15/4	4,853	3/4
Oct.	12,500	9,060	15/0	7,336	12/2	1,724	2/10
Nov.	12,000	7,973	13/3	7,005	11/8	968	1 7

(a) "Operations were interfered with by heavy rains; conditions are now normal."

Dividends—1912, 7½ per cent. 1913, 15 per cent. 1914, May, 7½; Sept., 6¼ per cent. 1915, May 6¼ per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS

East India and Ceylon Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

Forestal Land, Timber, and Railways Company.—Interim dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

Furness, Withy and Company.—We understand that Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, Limited, who already have a very large interest in the Johnston Line, Limited, have acquired the shares held by the Johnston family, and will assume entire proprietorship on January 1 next owing to the retirement of Mr. William and Mr. Edmund Johnston at that date.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber Company.—Third interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

Hope Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

Imperial Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax.

Jetinga Valley Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., tax free, on Ordinary.

Jorehaut Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., tax free.

Kayser, Ellison and Company.—Interim dividend on Ordinary shares at rate of 5*s.* per share, tax free.

Kong Lee (Perak) Plantation Company.—Dividend of 3 per cent.

Lautaro Nitrate Company.—Interim dividend of 4*s.* per share, tax free.

Limbuguri Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

Lobitos Oilfields.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

Marconi International Marine Communication Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

Meenglas Tea Company.—Interim dividend of 7 per cent. on Ordinary, less tax.

National Bank of New Zealand.—Interim dividend at rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

North British Cold Storage and Ice.—Interim dividend at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

Northampton Brewery.—Dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary for the year.

Ogilvie Flour Mills Company.—Quarterly dividend of 2 per cent. on Common stock.

Pataling Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend, less tax, of 50 per cent. (actual) in respect of 1915.

Royal Brewery, Brentford.—Interim dividend of 3 per cent. on Ordinary.

"Shell" Transport and Trading Company.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent., tax free. The directors state that they have every reason to anticipate, when the completed accounts for 1915 are presented, that the results realised will not be inferior to those of the previous year. This result has been attained notwithstanding the fact that the business has been carried out during the current year under circumstances of extreme difficulty. The Company and its British associates have placed their transport and other resources of all kinds at the disposal of the British and Allied Governments, and the services thus rendered have been cordially acknowledged by the numerous Departments thus served. Owing very largely to the extension of areas operated by the Company in various parts of the world the prospects continue to be satisfactory.

Spiers and Pond announce that the Transfer Books will be closed from the 14th to 31st inst., inclusive, for the Five-per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, and the "A," "B," "C," and "D" Debenture stocks of the Company.

Straits Rubber Company.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax.

Taiping Rubber Plantations.—Final dividend of 9½ per sent., less tax, making 12½ per cent. for the year.

Tamplin and Son's Brewery, Brighton.—Interim dividend of 3 per cent. less tax, on Ordinary.

United Fruit Company.—Dividend of $2 per share on Common stock.

United Indigo and Chemical Company.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on Ordinary shares, less tax.

Waterlow and Sons.—Dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., tax free, on Deferred Ordinary, making 17 per cent. for the year.

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, 125,000 Shares of £20 each	... ...	£2,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	... ...	1,250,000
RESERVE FUND	... ...	1,400,000

Branches in Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, Para, Ceara, Manaos, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Sao Paulo, Curityba, Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre. River Plate.—Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo. United States.—New York (Agency). France.—Paris (5 Rue Scribe). Portugal.—Lisbon and Oporto.

Agents or Correspondents in all the principal cities of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the United States and Europe.

Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Cable Transfers issued on Branches and Agents. Bills of Exchange negotiated or sent or collection, and every description of Banking business undertaken.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).
Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	... ...	£1,078,875	0 0
Paid-up Capital	... ...	539,437	10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	...	539,437	10 0
Reserve Fund	... ...	400,000	0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.
Established 1834. Incorporated in New South Wales

Capital Paid up	...	£2,000,000	0 0
Reserve Fund	... ...	1,825,960	0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders		2,000,000	0 0
		£5,825,960	0 0

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit on Australasia are issued by the London Branch. Bills on Australasia negotiated or collected. Remittances cabled.

London Offices—
18 Birchin Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.
F. A. SCRIVENER, Manager.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Authorised Capital—		
Subscribed	£4,500,000	
Unissued	500,000	
		£5,000,000
Capital Issued and Paid up	...	£2,250,000
Reserve Fund	... ...	1,400,000
Uncalled Liability of Shareholders	...	2,250,000
Total responsibility for Creditors		£5,900,000

Head Office: OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Paris Branch: 19 Boulevard des Capucines and 23 Rue de la Paix.
Hamburg Branch: 3 Adolphsplatz.
New York Agency: 60 Wall Street.

Branches and Correspondents in all the principal places of South America.

Cable Transfers, Drafts, and Letters of Credit issued. The Purchase and Sale of Funds, the receipt of Dividends, the negotiation and collection of Bills of Exchange, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds, and other Banking Business undertaken with all parts of South America.

Current Accounts opened and Deposits received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.
Incorporated 29th July, 1861.
(Bankers to the New Zealand Government.)
LONDON OFFICE:—1 Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £5,500,000.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL:

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock ...	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ...	£2,057,170

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

GRANTS DRAFTS on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa.

Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street E.C.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.
71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	... ...	£1,276,747	10 0
Paid-up Capital	... ...	669,587	10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits		328,317	13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	...	607,160	0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.
Established 1817.
LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Funds	2,600,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,600,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

THE FINANCIAL POST OF CANADA,

"The Canadian Newspaper for Investors,"

is the most widely read and influential financial paper in the Dominion. Its articles are written by men who know Canadian conditions thoroughly, and its forecasts are reliable.

The investor in any class of Canadian security, and those on the look-out for more advantageous investments for their capital, should study its columns regularly. It is an unexcelled medium for the announcements of Banks, Bond Houses, Financial Agents, Trust, Loan, Insurance and Real Estate Companies Mining Equipment, &c., and all advertisements designed to reach the wealthy and influential classes all over the Dominion.

THE INVESTORS' INFORMATION BUREAU

will give reliable and unbiassed advice by mail on any matter of investment interest free to subscribers.

Send 2 penny stamps for Specimen Copy.

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FRANCE and other EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 16s. 6d. per annum.

BRITISH OFFICE—88 FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO, CANADA.

UNION-CASTLE LINE.

South and East Africa
ROYAL MAIL ROUTE.

The Cape, Natal, Transvaal, Rhodesia, East African Ports, Mauritius, etc.

For sailings and other information apply to the Head Office, 3 Fenchurch Street, London. West-end Agency: Thos. Cook & Son, 125 Pall Mall, S.W

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £800,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, GENERAL MANAGER. GEORGE A. HUNTER, SECRETARY.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,293,952.
H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.
R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.
Head Office: Montreal.
General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.
LONDON OFFICES:
47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.
London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.
Manager: George Cyril Cassels.
Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.
The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised -	$25,000,000
Capital Paid up - -	$11,560,000
Reserve Funds - -	$13,000,000
Aggregate Assets -	$180,000,000

Head Office—MONTREAL.
Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, *President.* E. L. PEASE, *Vice-President and General Manager.*
340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.
28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.
BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.
ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS — Bridgetown; DOMINICA — Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.
Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.
Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.
New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.
LONDON OFFICE:
2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.
T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

The Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Established 1864.

Paid-up Capital ($7,000,000) £1,438,356
Reserve Fund & Undivided Profits ($7,245,140) £1,488,727

Head Office: Montreal.
PRESIDENT—SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, C.V.O.
VICE-PRESIDENT—K. W. BLACKWELL.
GENERAL MANAGER—E. F. HEBDEN.

This institution has 206 Branches and Agencies extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific (89 being in the Western Provinces).
Every facility offered to the business of immigrants; Savings Department at all Branches, where interest is allowed at 3 per cent. per annum.
Drafts sold available in any city or banking town in the United Kingdom or United States.

Agents in Great Britain:
The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
The Royal Bank of Scotland.
They issue Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers available at any banking point in Canada.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,
BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1830.

Oldest Business Establishment **in** the River Plate.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,411,983.

GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.
ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.
LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	... £5,00 ,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	... 2,250,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL ...	... 750,000
RESERVE FUND	... 685,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL ...	... 1,500,000

Receives Deposits of £50 and upwards, for 1, 2 or 3 years, at 4 per cent. per annum.
Drafts, Letters of Credit and Wire Remittances granted, and Bills on New Zealand purchased or sent for collection.
H. FRESHWATER, Secretary and London Manager.
17 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital	$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...	3,600,000
Total Assets over	80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.
LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel; F. W. Ashe, Esq.
Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to
LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)
Authorised Capital, £1,000,000. Subscribed Capital, £625,000

Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11 LEADENHALL ST., E.C.
Bills on Australasia purchased or collected.
Drafts issued and **Remittances** cabled.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD. *Manager.*

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.

Capital Authorised ...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up ...	562,500
Reserve Fund	500,000

Branches:
INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS & CHINA.
The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application
Deposits received for one year at 1½ per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.
On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.
HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	$8,808,891.79
Assets -	- $39,077,630.77

$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.
Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.
LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID ...	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY ...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS ...	$6,880,000

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.
Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.
Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.
Cable Address— "FOURBANK." | London Agents— SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.
Bankers to the Government of British East Africa and Uganda.
HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.
BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000
RESERVE FUND £1,175,000
LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England, National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.
The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.
Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD.

Registered in the Transvaal.
(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State.
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.
Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to ...	4,000 000
Reserve Fund	525,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.
Agents at Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and New York.
The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances, to buy and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected, Dividends and Annuities collected, Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application
D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.
London Offices Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra.)
Head Office:
4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Called up	£600,000
Reserve Fund	£55,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£900,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
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BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.
The Bank receives Deposits, issues Drafts and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.
Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and for current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.
P. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

FOUNDED 1829.

THE

CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

2 & 3 THE SANCTUARY, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

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CLERGY AND THEIR RELATIVES,

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which are now issued at exceptionally low rates.

Owing to the fact that the Society

has NO SHAREHOLDERS,

employs NO AGENTS, and

pays NO COMMISSION,

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BANCO DE CHILE.

London Agency—
84 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C.

	Chilian Dollars.
Paid-up Capital	$40,000,000
Reserve Fund	22,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	40,000,000

Head Offices: Santiago and Valparaiso.
Branches in all parts of Chile.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current accounts also opened and deposits received.

BANCA ITALIANA DI SCONTO.

(With which are incorporated the Società Bancaria Italiana and the Società Italiana di Credito Provinciale.)

Authorised Capital	Lires	70 millions
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	,,	65 millions
Deposits and Current Accounts, (October 31, 1915)	,,	300 millions
Cash in Hand and with the Bank (October 31, 1915)	,,	22⅝ millions

Central Management and Head Office:
ROME.

Branches at:—Genoa, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Turin, Venice, Bologna, Busto Arsizio, Florence, Ancona, Biella, Como, Monza, Sanremo, Verona, and 50 others in the CHIEF CENTRES OF ITALY.

Current Accounts and Shipping Credits opened, Letters of Credit Department, Collection of Clean and Documentary Drafts, and every description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted.
Correspondence invited.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

(Established by Khedival Decree, June 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to bearer.)
Capital, £3,000,000 (in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.) Reserve Fund, £1,500,000.

Governor: F. T. Rowlatt, Esq. Head Office: Cairo.
London Committee—
E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G. Hon. Algernon Mills.
Hon. Hugo Baring. Sir Carl Meyer, Bart.
Hon. Sidney Peel.
LONDON AGENCY:
6 & 7 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Manager: J. T. Beaty-Pownall.
Assistant Manager: A. F. Gillbee.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Circular Notes issued. Every kind of Banking business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-El-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah and Zagazig; and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Said and Suakim.

HONGKONG and SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL, all paid up		$15,000,000
STERLING RESERVE held in London at Exchange of 2s. per $ = £1,500,000	$15,000,000	
SILVER RESERVE ...	18,000,000	
		$33,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS...		$15,000,000

Head Office—HONGKONG.
Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

BRANCHES and AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Colombo, Foochow, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.

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Wm. Gair Rathbone, Esq. J. R. M. Smith, Esq.
Sir CHARLES ADDIS, } Managers
H. D. C. JONES, } in London.
JOHN MACLENNAN, Sub-Manager.
W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.
9 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

THE RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£3,703,704
RESERVE FUND	£1,046,960

Petrograd. Moscow. Paris.
And over 100 Branches in Russia.
London Offices:
24/28 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

Telegraphic Transfers and Remittances made to Russia and all parts of the Continent.

Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares. Dividends Collected. Drafts issued on all parts of the world. Also Circular Letters of Credit.

Commercial Credits opened. Foreign Money exchanged, approved Bills negotiated, Bills collected on the most favourable terms.

Current Accounts opened and deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Guaranteed by the Australian Government.
Branches and Agencies throughout Australasia.

Bills Negotiated and Collected. Drafts and Letters of Credit Issued. Remittances cabled or mailed. Current Accounts opened. Deposits accepted for fixed periods, and BANKING BUSINESS of every description transacted with Australia.

SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.
Agencies at 2,034 Post Offices throughout Australia.
Special facilities for the remittance of Settlers' funds.
London Office:
36-38 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.
C. A. B. CAMPION, Manager.

STANDARD BANK of SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL		£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL...		£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND		2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL		4,645,575
		£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

W. R. Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10 CLEMENTS LANE. LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Hamburg Agency: 27 Alsterdamm.
New York Agency: 55 Wall Street.
OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South West Africa Protectorate, and the Belgian Congo, and the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE Business undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of any of its customers.
FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manage.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

HEAD OFFICE: MILAN.
LONDON { City Office: 1 Old Broad St., E.C. / West-End Agency: 12 Waterloo Place, Regent St.
Paid-up Capital, £6,240,000. Reserve, £2,378,800.
Manager—E. Consolo.
Sub-Managers { G. Costa, R. B. Handley, / A. Rossi, G. Zuccoli.

Branches in Italy:—Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Florence, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Palermo, Parma, Perugia, Pisa, Rome, Sassari, Savona, Syracuse, Turin, Venice, Verona: AND AGENCIES IN NUMEROUS OTHER TOWNS.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ITALIAN TREASURY.
Agents in London for:—
BANQUE FRANÇAISE et ITALIENNE POUR L'AMÉRIQUE DU SUD. Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Santos, &c., and
SOCIETÀ COMMERCIALE D'ORIENTE, Milan, Tripoli, &c.
Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world.

BANCO DEL PERU Y LONDRES, LIMA, PERU.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital ...	£P.500,000
Reserve Fund	£P.200,000

BRANCHES IN

Piura,	Callao,	Mollendo,
Chiclayo,	Cerro de Pasco,	Arequipa,
Pacasmayo,	Chincha Alta,	Curco,
Trujillo,	Ica,	Iquitos,
Huaras,	Huancayo,	Huacho.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.
London Agents: The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., Old Broad St., London, E.C.

LONDON BANK of AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	328,317 13 0
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	607,160 0 0

Remittances made by Cable. Drafts, Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued upon Branches and Agents. Bills on Australasia negotiated or sent for collection. Deposits received for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and every description of Banking business conducted with Australia.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

Registered in Japan.) Established 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid up	,, 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	,, 20,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: YOKOHAMA.
Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien	Liao Yang	Ryojun (Port Arthur)
Bombay	London	San Francisco
Calcutta	Los Angeles	Shanghai
Changchun	Lyons	Sydney
Dairen (Dalny)	Mukden	Tieling
Hankow	(Fengtien)	Tientsin
Harbin	Nagasaki	Tokio
Hong Kong	Newchwang	Tsinanfu
Honolulu	New York	Tsingtau
Kobe	Osaka Peking	

The Bank buys and receives for Collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.
London Office—
7 Bishopsgate, E.C.

CONSOLIDATED LANGLAAGTE MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

GINSBERG GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 5 per cent. (1s. per Share) has been declared for year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916 both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

NEW UNIFIED MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 17½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 25 per cent. (5s. per Share) has been declared for the half-year ending 31st December, 1915, payable to all Shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive. The Dividend Warrants will be posted to Shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, London Agents.
T. HONEY, Secretary.

10/11 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

MEYER & CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 52 AND BONUS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Directors have declared a Dividend of 40 per cent. (8s. per Share), and in addition a Bonus of 50 per cent. (10s. per Share), together amounting to 18s. per Share, which, with the Interim Dividend of 40 per cent. (8s. per Share) paid in August last, makes 130 per cent. for the year 1915, and that the same will be payable to Shareholders registered on the 31st inst., and to the holders of Coupon No. 35 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

Dividend Warrants (other than those due to Shareholders resident in enemy territory) will be posted as soon as possible after receipt of transfer returns from Johannesburg, say on or about the 15th February next.

The date upon which Coupon No. 35 will become payable will be duly advertised.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

By Order,
T. FREDK. THORNE,
London Secretary.

63/64 Winchester House,
Old Broad Street, London, E.C.,
18th December, 1915.

NEW GOCH GOLD MINES. LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 7.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Directors have declared a Dividend of 5 per cent. (1s. per Share), which, with the Interim Dividend of 5 per cent. (1s. per Share) paid in August last, makes 10 per cent. for the year 1915, and that the same will be payable to Shareholders registered on the 31st inst., and to the holders of Coupon No. 7 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

Dividend Warrants (other than those due to Shareholders resident in enemy territory) will be posted as soon as possible after receipt of transfer returns from Johannesburg, say on or about the 16th February next.

The date upon which Coupon No. 7 will become payable will be duly advertised.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be Closed from the 1st to the 8th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

By Order,
T. FREDK. THORNE,
London Secretary.

63/64 Winchester House,
Old Broad Street, London, E.C.,
18th December, 1915.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ... £1,500,000.
PAID UP, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £680,000.

BRANCHES: Alexandria, Cairo, Beni-Souef, Mansourah, Port Said, Tantah, Zagazig, Khartoum, Malta, Gibraltar, Paris.

BANKERS: The Bank of England. The London Joint Stock Bank.

The Bank transacts every description of Banking business in Egypt, grants Letters of Credit, and affords facilities to travellers proceeding to Egypt and elsewhere.

Deposits received for one year at 4½ per cent per annum.

On current accounts, Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum allowed on minimum monthly balances provided they do not fall below the sum of £200.

27 Clement's Lane, Lombard Street E.C.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Incorporated 1865. Head Office, WINNIPEG.

Paid-up Capital		$5,000,000
Rest and Undivided Profits ...		3,600,000
Total Assets over		80,000,000

The Bank has over 300 Branches in CANADA and Agents in the principal Cities in AMERICA.

LONDON COMMITTEE: J. Leigh Wood, Esq., C.M.G. Hon. Sidney Peel: F. W. Ashe, Esq.

Deposits received for fixed periods at favourable rates, which may be ascertained on application to

LONDON OFFICES { 6 PRINCES STREET, E.C. 26 HAYMARKET, S.W.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

REVISED NOTICE.—DIVIDEND No. 21.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 5 per cent. (i.e., 1s. per Share) has been declared by the Board of Directors for the half-year ended 31st December, 1915, payable to all shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on the 31st December, 1915, and to holders of Coupon No. 21 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer.

The reduction of the half-yearly dividend to 5 per cent. has been decided on owing to increased gold realisation charges, which equal about 1½ per cent. of dividend, and to the larger amount of stores—approximately £64,000—required to be kept on hand to meet any possible contingencies. Further, the full quota of Debentures due for repayment on 1st March next has been provided for, as well as £15,000 on account of the following year. The proposed dividend leaves the finances of the Company in a satisfactory condition.

The Transfer Registers will be Closed from the 1st January to the 7th January, 1916, both days inclusive.

It is intended to post the warrants in payment of this Dividend on or about the 3rd February, 1916, but irregularity in the mail service may render it necessary to defer the posting by one or even possibly two weeks.

Coupon No. 21 attached to Share Warrants will be payable on or after the 4th of February, 1916, at the London Transfer Agency of the Company, and at the Crédit Mobilier Français, 30 and 32 Rue Taitbout, Paris. Coupons must be deposited four clear days for examination.

Coupons and Dividend Warrants paid by the London Transfer Agency to shareholders resident in the United Kingdom will be subject to deduction of 3s. 7½d. in the £ on account of English income tax.

Coupons and Dividend Warrants paid by the London Transfer Agency to Shareholders resident in France, and Coupons paid by the Crédit Mobilier Français, Paris, will be subject to a deduction on account of French income tax and the French transfer duty.

By Order,
HERBERT T. HAYWARD, London Secretary.
London Transfer Agency—
4 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (Limited).

Head Office: 38 Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875	0	0
Paid-up Capital	539,437	10	0
Further Liability of Proprietors ...	539,437	10	0
Reserve Fund	400,000	0	0

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office or through the Agents of the Bank in the chief Provincial Towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE business of every description transacted with Australia

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1837. INCORPORATED 1880

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid up Capital	£2,000,000	together £3,960,000
Reserve Fund	£1,960,000	
Reserve Liability of Proprietors		4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserve		£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE: 71 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO, CANADA.

BRANCHES:
Montreal, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton.

Paid-up Capital - £308,219 3 7
Reserve Fund - £308,219 3 7

Acts as Executor and Trustee and, as Agent for clients and corporations, invests funds in carefully selected First Mortgages on farms and improved city properties in Canada—Exceptional facilities offered for investing British Capital—Also Guaranteed Trust Investments.

Correspondence invited.

28 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. A. L. NUNNS, London Representative.

Bankers:—
Bank of Scotland. Canadian Bank of Commerce.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES (KAILAN BONDS).

THIRD DRAWING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in conformity with the conditions governing upon the Debentures, the undermentioned numbers of Debentures of the total value of £24,000 were drawn on the 23rd day of November, 1915, at the Offices of the Company, No. 22 Austin Friars, in the City of London, in the presence of Walton Fitzjames Turner, one of the Directors, Alfred William Perry, Secretary of the Company, and John William Peter Jamieson, of 7 & 8 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C., Notary Public.

The said Debentures will be paid off at par on the 31st December, 1915, at either of the following places:

In LONDON: At the Transfer Offices of the Company, No. 5 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

In CHINA: At the General Offices of the Company, Tientsin.

6 BONDS OF £500 EACH, NUMBERED:—

40 55 106 154 157 191

70 BONDS OF £100 EACH, NUMBERED:—

301	319	377	534	637	684	724	772
782	915	1025	1035	1054	1069	1119	1122
1144	1167	1360	1395	1410	1476	1477	1559
1560	1564	1578	1795	1835	1927	1928	1929
1968	2012	2029	2085	2091	2202	2237	2258
2331	2443	2452	2514	2573	2757	2890	2913
2927	2999	3007	3112	3125	3152	3155	3169
3174	3230	3242	3267	3289	3292	3302	3329
3338	3449	3500	3551	3634	3738		

700 BONDS OF £20 EACH, NUMBERED:—

3778	3790	3840	4201	4210	4212	4227	4272
4320	4360	4409	4413	4477	4494	4713	4732
4778	4835	4915	4958	4977	4992	5016	5052
5056	5124	5165	5272	5285	5304	5324	5362
5374	5403	5560	5562	5681	5693	5705	5720
5796	5797	5899	5927	5958	5996	6085	6100
6143	6176	6250	6374	6404	6457	6620	6683
6719	6765	6787	6821	6877	7133	7189	7295
7356	7466	7517	7529	7530	7537	7567	7644
7667	7691	7718	7752	7781	7788	7901	7943
8040	8125	8183	8250	8313	8337	8339	8368
8369	8488	8559	8584	8673	8701	8734	8773
8861	8966	8978	8980	8987	9000	9035	9095
9105	9171	9218	9260	9339	9357	9378	9395
9450	9462	9519	9564	9704	9742	9806	9952
9959	10001	10106	10117	10272	10449	10503	10631
10649	10752	10764	10833	10888	10915	10943	10976
11018	11037	11056	11097	11099	11134	11229	11265
11317	11386	11396	11415	11482	11525	11625	11636
11651	11700	11762	11832	11842	11912	11934	11942
12277	12302	12332	12364	12413	12426	12549	12585
12587	12631	12665	12677	12705	12714	12765	12775
12778	12806	12810	12822	12856	12879	12880	12929
13048	13066	13082	13088	13095	13110	13203	13216
13245	13271	13321	13362	13392	13543	13973	13991
13993	14007	14043	14061	14156	14254	14372	14415
14480	14491	14564	14601	14637	14691	14736	14778
14780	14820	14830	14849	14873	14960	14978	15085
15091	15110	15148	15155	15178	15184	15204	15213
15251	15365	15475	15527	15544	15578	15645	15785
15802	15862	16089	16228	16304	16322	16351	16364
16377	16392	16418	16439	16496	16566	16597	16625
16641	16719	16742	16776	16866	16878	16979	17173
17240	17310	17345	17416	17468	17506	17523	17525
17548	17564	17600	17602	17738	17775	17818	17824
17878	17941	18023	18030	18051	18100	18126	18170
18258	18261	18266	18362	18374	18452	18657	18685
18787	18813	18868	18873	18883	18904	18978	19103
19120	19123	19127	19143	19195	19267	19302	19449
19478	19510	19625	19715	19756	19804	19812	19886
19894	19907	19988	20085	20165	20185	20188	20253
20292	20358	20389	20418	20531	20543	20546	20654
20669	20698	20909	20914	20926	21040	21079	21081
21126	21160	21165	21200	21210	21211	21239	21268
21288	21378	21402	21437	21581	21689	21964	22014
22021	22023	22034	22147	22196	22293	22312	22314
22381	22414	22451	22516	22519	22523	22534	22633
22717	22738	22765	22805	22811	22825	22963	23012
23119	23154	23185	23222	23253	23255	23259	23303
23356	23366	23460	23488	23550	23555	23573	23579
23607	23614	23650	23682	23685	23716	23732	23796
23810	23813	23865	23866	23913	23920	23952	24109
24321	24329	24350	24431	24451	24558	24719	24809
24847	25064	25102	25184	25209	25236	25245	25432
25489	25535	25604	25679	25702	25705	25722	25802
25852	25972	25974	25978	25991	26066	26160	26186
26299	26442	26471	26513	26525	26527	26676	26683
26719	26743	26847	26863	26931	26961	26995	27069
27014	27095	27134	27182	27211	27274	27409	27414
27418	27441	27476	27553	27570	27576	27579	27601
27614	27637	27815	27890	28001	28071	28148	28252
28318	28332	28562	28680	28691	28751	28755	28781
28789	28795	28862	29013	29027	29186	29302	29304
29385	29428	29453	29536	29554	29807	29842	29903
29938	30004	30019	30051	30077	30078	30096	30138
30167	30198	30345	30360	30363	30379	30394	30459
30619	30622	30641	30658	30704	30796	30797	30865
30897	31002	31110	31119	31139	31168	31185	31298
31453	31595	31624	31626	31796	31904	31918	31952
31970	32134	32251	32375	32380	32428	32544	32709
32735	32773	32808	32818	32828	32848	32885	32895
32915	32986	33106	33159	33226	33339	33346	33367
33414	33431	33457	33681	33763	33769	33839	33875
33899	33906	33942	33951	33977	33990	34012	34025
34065	34284	34321	34357	34432	34604	34647	34692
34696	34705	34810	34857	34932	35090	35021	35157
35163	35212	35285	35319	35356	35569	35579	35633
35637	35697	35737	35741	35840	35908	35914	35936
35940	35965	36010	36091	36093	36097	36101	36146
36211	36238	36267	36277	36328	36379	36399	36557
36565	36569	36631	36698	36759	36800	36851	36911
36926	37179	37242	37281	37462	37471	37490	37521
37555	37583	37616	37648	37678	37688	37711	37727
37782	37856	37897	37935	38009	38021	38116	38139
38261	38422	38426	38427	38505	38540	38566	38574
38586	38750	38808	38836	38862	38865	38908	38971
38972	38987	39042	39044	39052	39060	39098	39224
39229	39304	39319	39340				

The drawn Debentures, with Coupons Nos. 8 to 20 attached, must be left four clear days for examination.

By Order,
ALFRED W. BERRY,
Secretary.

Countersigned—
J. W. P. JAURALDE,
Notary Public.

22 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
3rd November, 1915.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES (KAILAN BONDS).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Coupon No. 7, for the half-year's Interest due on the 1st January, 1916, will be paid, less income tax, on and after that date at the following places:

In London: At the Transfer Offices of the Company, 5 London Wall Buildings, E.C.

In Shanghai: At the Russo-Asiatic Bank.

The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

By Order of the Board,
ALFRED W. BERRY,
Secretary.

22 Austin Friars, London,
15th December, 1915.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER.

DIVIDEND No. 6.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dividend of 5% (five per cent.), or 1s. per Share, free of income tax, recommended by the Board, making 10% (ten per cent.) for the year ended 30th June, 1915, was duly declared at the Third Annual Ordinary General Meeting, held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on the 15th day of December, 1915, and that Coupons (No. 6) may now be presented for payment at the Transfer Offices of the Company, No. 5 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.

Listing forms may be obtained on application.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

By Order of the Board,
ALFRED W. BERRY,
Secretary.

22 Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
17th December, 1915.

CITY OF YOKOHAMA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £716,500.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 5th January, 1916, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

STATE OF PARA FUNDING SCHEME.

The State of Para, on the 15th June, 1915, announced that it was unable, from various causes, to meet the payments due on the 1st July, 1915, for the interest in respect of the Loans of the State.

The State has now passed a Law creating a Five per Cent. Funding Loan, out of which will be paid, in lieu of cash, the Interest Coupons on the Loans of 1901, 1907, and 1910 from 1st July, 1915, to 1st January, 1919, both dates inclusive, during which time their Sinking Funds will also be suspended.

Particulars of the Funding Scheme can be obtained at the Offices of Messrs. Seligman Bros., 18 Austin Friars, London, E.C.; or Messrs. Alsberg, Goldberg and Co., Amsterdam; of Messrs. Fonseca, Santos and Vianna, Lisbon; or the Banco Commercial do Para, Para.

THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY

New York, December 7, 1915.

The Board of Directors has declared a semi-annual Dividend (being Dividend No. 35) on the Preferred Stock of this Company of Two Dollars and Fifty Cents ($2.50) per Share, payable February 1, 1916, out of surplus net income, to holders of said Preferred Stock as registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on December 31, 1915. The books will not be closed.

Dividend cheques will be mailed to holders of Preferred Stock who file suitable orders therefor at this office.

C. K. COOPER, Assistant Treasurer.
5 Nassau Street, New York City.

CITY OF REGINA FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

The Coupons falling due 1st January, 1916, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted) at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
23rd December, 1915.

CITY OF CALGARY FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. AND FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURE LOANS.

The Coupons falling due 1st January, 1916, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be presented between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted) at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application.

For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
23rd December, 1915.

THE LEOPOLDINA TERMINAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

ISSUE OF £1,250,000 FIVE PER CENT. DEBENTURES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the half-yearly Interest due 1st January, 1916, on the above Debentures will be paid on and after that date at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C. The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination, between the hours of 10 and 2 (Saturdays 10 and 1).

By Order,
J. H. DRURY,
Secretary.

Offices of the Company—
3 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

THE LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

ISSUE OF £1,600,000 FIVE PER CENT. TERMINABLE DEBENTURES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the half-yearly Interest due 1st January, 1916, on the above Debentures will be paid on and after that date at the Banking House of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67 Lombard Street, London, E.C. The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination, between the hours of 10 and 2 (Saturdays 10 and 1).

By Order,
J. H. DRURY,
Secretary.

Offices of the Company—
3 Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
21st December, 1915.

PHILADELPHIA COMPANY

DIVIDEND No. 137.

PITTSBURGH, PA., December 15, 1915.

The Directors have this day declared a QUARTERLY DIVIDEND of

ONE AND A-HALF PER CENT.

on the COMMON STOCK, payable February 1, 1916, to Stockholders of record January 3, 1916. Cheques will be mailed.

C. J. BRAUN, Jnr., Treasurer.

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, will be Closed on the 1st January, 1916, for that day only, for the preparation of the Dividend payable 1st February, 1916. Proprietors registered in the books of the Company on the 1st instant will be entitled to dividend on the number of shares then standing in their respective names.

A. A. KEMP, Secretary.

41 Lothbury, E.C.,
23rd December, 1915.

PURCHASING ENGINEER,
— U. S. A. —

Electric, Steam, Hydraulic Equipment, Mining Machinery, &c. Tests, Inspections, Investigations, Technical and Financial.

Consulting Mechanical, Electrical and Mining Engineer.
Member A.I.E.E., A.S.M.E.

EDWIN G. HATCH, M.E.,
844 Equitable Building, New York.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

TOTAL ASSETS $77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.
O. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

LONDON BRANCH, 73 CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange. General Banking Business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters

Report of the condition of the IRVING NATIONAL BANK at New York City in the State of New York at the close of business Nov. 10, 1915

RESOURCES			LIABILITIES		
Loans and discounts		$58,023,329.04	Capital stock paid in		$4,000,000.00
Acceptances of other banks discounted		788,715.31	Surplus fund		3,000,000.00
Overdrafts secured and unsecured		1,412.37	Undivided profits	$841,704.02	
U. S. bonds to secure circulation		740,000.00	Reserved for taxes	70,597.00	
U. S. bonds to secure U. S. deposits		1,000.00	Reserved for expense	46,821.63	
Bonds, securities, etc.		1,360,939.18			959,123.58
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank	$210,000.00		Circulating notes		739,000.00
All other stocks	36,300.00		Due to banks and bankers	$43,774,064.12	
		246,300.00	Individual deposits subject to check	33,962,908.24	
Due from banks and bankers		2,618,389.08	Dividends unpaid	1,150.00	
Checks and other cash items		99,052.99	Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days	227,680.86	
Exchanges for Clearing House		4,261,662.13	Certificates of deposit due on or after 30 days	123,300.84	
Notes of other national banks		20,000.00	Certified checks	400,815.68	
Federal Reserve notes		522,155.00	Cashier's checks outstanding	1,244,708.89	
Due from Federal Reserve Bank	$5,505,034.76		U. S. deposits	1,000.00	
Specie in vault	12,927,496.25				79,735,628.63
Legal-tender notes	1,322,250.00		Letters of credit		924,560.00
		19,614,781.01	Acceptances based on imports and exports		192,090.93
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent. of circulation) and due from U. S. Treasurer		137,000.00			
Customers' liability under Letters of Credit		924,560.00			
Customers' liability account of "Acceptances"		192,090.93			
Total		$89,551,398.14	Total		$89,551,398.14

Woolworth Building, New York.

London Representative at Pinner's Hall, Old Broad St.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

Members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise for business purposes or to issue circulars to persons other than their own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are NOT Members of the Stock Exchange or in any way under the control of the Committee.

Members issuing Contract Notes are required to use such a form as will provide that the words "Member of the Stock Exchange, London," shall immediately follow the signature.

A List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance to the Bank of England, or obtained on application to

EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES, SOLICITORS and OWNERS selling Works of Art, Family Jewels, Old Silver, Furniture, Pictures, Prints, Miniatures, China, Coins, Books, Old Lace, Furs, Musical Instruments, Guns, Trade Stocks and other valuables are informed that Messrs.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY'S
Sale Rooms, 20 HANOVER SQUARE, W.
are Open Daily to receive Goods intended for Public Sale

Auctions on Owners' premises in all parts of the country are held as required.

THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK (Limited).

Established 1862.

Authorised Capital	...	...	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	...	...	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	...	...	2,000,000

BRANCHES.

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Sante Fe (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires).

URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency).

BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curityba, Manaos (Agency).

CHILI.—Valparaiso.

FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halevy).

BELGIUM.—Antwerp (22 Place de Meir).

Agency in New York and Agents throughout the World.

Letters of Credit, Drafts and Cable Transfers issued.

Bills Negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection.

7 Princes Street, E.C.

CHARTERED BANK of INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

38 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.
Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Capital, £1,200,000. Reserve Fund, £1,800,000.

Court of Directors.
Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Chairman.
Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, K.C.I.E.
Thomas Cuthbertson, Esq.
Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G.
William Henry Neville Goschen, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I.
William Foot Mitchell, Esq.
Lewis Alexander Wallace, Esq.
Managers, T. H. Whitehead and T. Fraser.
Sub-Manager, W. E. Preston.

BANKERS.—The Bank of England; The London City and Midland Bank, Limited; The London County and Westminster Bank, Limited; The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; The National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts, and Transact General Banking business connected with the East.

Deposits of money are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application; interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid up, £1,000,000. Uncalled, £4,000,000.
RESERVE FUND, £800,000.

Head Office—EDINBURGH.

J. S. COCKBURN, General Manager. GEORGE A. HUNTER, Secretary.

London Office—37 NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

J. FERGUSON, Manager. DUGALD SMITH, Assistant Manager.

Every description of Banking Business transacted, including the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, Securities, &c.; the collection of Dividends and Coupons whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of Remittances to all parts.

The Agency of Colonial and Foreign Banks is undertaken, and the Acceptances of Customers residing in the Colonies or elsewhere abroad domiciled in London are retired on terms which will be furnished on application.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its Customers.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

For FIRE, LIFE, MARINE, ACCIDENT, CAPITAL and LEASEHOLD REDEMPTION, BURGLARY and PLATE-GLASS Assurances.

Head Office—No. 7 ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

West-End Office—22 PALL MALL, S.W.

Governor—COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
Sub-Governor—ROBERT HENRY BENSON, Esq.
Deputy Governor—CHARLES S. S. GUTHRIE, Esq.
Secretary—C. A. DENTON, Esq. Underwriter—E. F. NICHOLLS, Esq.
Manager of the Fire, Life and Accident Departments—JAMES CLUNES, Esq.
Actuary—A. G. HEMMING, Esq.

The Corporation has granted Fire, Life and Marine Assurances for nearly Two Hundred Years, and now also undertakes Capital and Leasehold Redemption, Burglary, Plate-Glass and Accident Business, including Liability to Employers in respect of Domestic Servants, Shop and Warehouse Assistants, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906.

THE **OCEAN** Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

Assets - - £3,000,000
Claims paid - £12,500,000

Accident Insurance of all kinds.
Employers' Liability. Fidelity Guarantees.
Fire and Burglary. Public Liability.
Motor Car. Excess Bad Debt and Credit.
Boiler and Lift Insurance.
Executorships and Trusteeships.

Head Office: MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.
T. M. E. ARMSTRONG, *Manager and Secretary.*

BRITANNIC
ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ORDINARY and INDUSTRIAL BRANCHES.
LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES.
HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Britannic War Bonus Policy is designed specially to meet present conditions, and provides for old age, or for widow and orphans in case of death. Premiums payable for 12 months only.

OVER £10,450,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.
FUNDS EXCEED £3,840 000.

Chief Offices: BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Chief Office - 50 FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society for National (Health) Insurance.

PREMIUM INCOME exceeds ... £700,000
FUNDS exceed £1,250,000

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE STATIST."

TO INCLUDE ALL SUPPLEMENTS.

Payable in Advance.

Inland.

ONE YEAR, £1 10 0 | HALF-YEAR, £0 15 0

(Post Free.)

For Colonies and Abroad (within Postal Union).

ONE YEAR, £1 17 4 | HALF-YEAR, £0 18 8

(Post Free.)

OFFICES: 51 Cannon Street, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Business communications should be addressed to the Manager,

THE STATIST,

51 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY Ltd.

Chief Office: OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER.

Premium Income Exceeds - £3,500,000.
Funds Exceed - - - - £11,000,000.
Claims Paid Exceed - - - £20,000,000.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

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The Money Market.

Thursday Evening, December 23, 1915.

Bank of England and Deposit Rates:—

DATES FIXED.	BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.	DEPOSIT RATES. BANKS. NOTICE.	DISCOUNT HOUSES— CALL.	DISCOUNT HOUSES— NOTICE.
	%	%	%	%
Nov. 29, 1915...	—	—	4	4¼
Sept. 2, „ ...	—	3½	—	—
July 22, „ ...	—	3	3½	3¾
April 8, „ ...	—	—	2	2¼
Feb. 4, „ ...	—	—	1½	1¾
Oct. 9, 1914 ...	—	2	2	2¼
Sept. 17, „ ...	—	2½	2½	2¾
Sept. 4, „ ...	—	3	3	3¼
Aug. 27, „ ..	—	—	3½	3¾
Aug. 8, „ ...	5	3½	4	4¼
Aug. 6, „ ...	6	4	—	—
Aug. 1, „ ...	10	5*	5	5¼
July 31, „ ...	8	4	4½	4¾
July 30, „ ...	4	2½	2¾	2¾
Jan. 29, „ ...	3	1½	1½	1¾

* Head Office and Metropolitan Branches only.

Treasury Bills:—

	3 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.	9 MONTHS.	12 MONTHS.
Price	...£98 15s. 0¾d.	£97 9s. 10½d.	£96 4s. 8d.	£95
Discount Rate	5%	5%	5%	5%

Discount Rates:—

	60 DAYS.	3 MONTHS.	4 MONTHS.	6 MONTHS.
	%	%	%	%
Bank Bills	5-1/16	5⅛-3/16	5¼-5/16	5⅜-⅜
Trade Bills	—	5½-6	5⅝-6	5½-6

MONEY.

SUPERFICIALLY there does not appear to be much change in actual conditions. Gold continues to go out to the States and to many other countries in considerable quantities, and is being replaced by gold received from South Africa and elsewhere. As foreign balances continue to accumulate in London, there is some difficulty in maintaining discount rates and the value of short money, notwithstanding that we are now within a week of the end of the year. Day-to-day loans are still quoted 4% to 4½%, three months' bills 5⅛% to 5⅜%, four months' bills 5¼% to 5⅝%, and six months' 5¼% to 5⅜%. Nevertheless fundamentally there is a substantial change in the situation. The work of assembling British-owned American securities is making good progress, and in

consequence of the official notice issued by the Treasury, which we publish in a subsequent column, considerable amounts of securities are likely to be sold direct to the United States and still greater amounts to be sold or lent to the Treasury. Bankers are known to hold a very large quantity of American securities for safe custody and for the collection of coupons and dividends, and there will be no difficulty in reaching the owners of those securities through the bankers as well as through the brokers. From a calculation made elsewhere, it will be seen that the country will need to sell a great many securities in the coming year in order to pay for the large quantities of munitions, foodstuffs, and raw materials it will probably buy from the United States.

Another fresh factor in the situation is the new issue of 5% Exchequer bonds free of income tax to foreign holders. Anglo-foreign houses are already commending these bonds to their clients in other countries. Having regard to the accumulation of money that is taking place in neutral countries, and the difficulty in finding employment for it, these 5% short-dated bonds ought to become very popular. Doubtless the demand for them on foreign account will be small until the whole of the Anglo-French loan has been distributed to American investors. But the distribution is making good progress, and in a very short time now the whole of the bonds will have been sold by the underwriting banks. When this has been effected the price is likely to recover to par or over, especially having regard to the abundance of money in the United States as well as in other neutral countries. The new 5% Exchequer bonds at par, free of income tax, will then become an attractive security, and their issue should materially assist the country in making payment for the great quantity of goods it is purchasing from neutral States. A British Government 5% Exchequer bond at par is, indeed, a security which should prove attractive to the bankers of all countries, especially as purchasers will assist neutral countries in selling their surplus products at very profitable prices.

Until the sales of American securities and of Exchequer bonds are sufficiently numerous to bring about a substantial improvement in the exchanges any reduction in discount rates or in the value of money is unlikely to occur. Nevertheless, the fact that foreign bankers can employ money at the profitable rates now current in London for short money, for bank bills, for Treasury bills, and for Exchequer bonds certainly warrants the expectation that the sterling exchange on all neutral countries will be maintained.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

On balance for the week the stock of gold in the Bank of England was increased £810,000 to £51,091,000 in consequence of the receipt on balance of £713,000 in gold from abroad and £97,000 from the country. The movement of gold outwards continues, the total sum withdrawn from the Bank amounting to £1,456,000, which was distributed among a great many countries, including the United States, Canada, Egypt, Spain, South America, and the Continent. On the other hand, £2,169,000 in gold was received. To-day there has been a further withdrawal of £433,000 in sovereigns for the United States. The note circulation increased £130,000, and on balance the reserve showed a decline of £20,000 to £34,444,000. The public deposits increased almost £1,000,000, and there was an addition of £4,565,000 to the "other" deposits in consequence of an increase of £5,585,000 in the "other" securities. In the last fortnight the addition to "other" securities has been £10,000,000, which is probably due to the increase in the advances to the Government for Ways and Means. The public deposits are now £53,135,000 and the "other" deposits £98,734,000. The proportion of reserve to liabilities is again slightly lower at 22.68%.

FINANCING THE GOVERNMENT.

Last week the revenue received reached the substantial sum of £7,194,000. On the other hand, the expenditure was £48,005,000. Consequently there was an excess of expenditure of £40,811,000. This money was provided by the receipt of £10,600,000 from the American Loan, by the issue on balance of £13,000,000 of Treasury bills, by borrowing £10,000,000 for Ways and Means, and by the receipt of £1,484,900 on account of the new issue of 5% Exchequer bonds. The remaining £5,600,000 was taken out of the cash balance, which was reduced to £27,234,000. In the period from April 1 to December 18 the aggregate expenditure was £1,051,829,000, or at the rate of just over £4,000,000 a day. Of course this includes the sum of £104,000,000 repaid to the Bank of England, and referred to in the Prime Minister's speech, but it does not include the £160,000,000 repaid to the Bank in July last, which was taken out of the cash balance.

MONEY IN NEW YORK.

The American exchange has further improved this week from 4.72 to 4.72⅞ for sight drafts, and there has also been an advance in the price of the Anglo-French Loan now that the underwriting syndicate has been dissolved. Short money in New York is as abundant as ever and can be readily obtained at 2%. In consequence of the usual end of the year demand for currency, the reserves of the New York Associated Banks were reduced last week £2,360,000. On the other hand their loans expanded £5,300,000 and their deposits £3,200,000. Hence their surplus reserve was reduced £2,850,000 to £32,754,000. In normal years cash comes back from the interior to New York in large amounts, and in the first two or three months of 1916 the supply of money in New York is likely to exceed anything hitherto witnessed. If it has been possible to dispose of 60% of the Anglo-French Loan to investors during the autumn months the remaining 40% should be easily placed in the early months of next year. Indeed, we expect that the loan will recover to par in the not distant future in consequence not only of the course of the War, and the greater recognition of the strength of the Allies, but also in consequence of the enormous quantity of money that will be seeking investment in the United States.

Rates for prime commercial paper and for call loans in New York are as follows:—

Dec. 22, 1915 ...	Prime paper ...	3-3½%	Call money ... 2½%
Dec. 24, 1914 ...	" " ...	4-4½%	" " ... 2½-3%

POSITION IN INDIA.

Exchange from India is steady at 1*s.* 4 1/32*d.*, and the applications for the 50 lacs of Council drafts amounted to 431 lacs. The demand for money in India continues to expand and the stock of coined silver in the Currency Department has this week fallen another 73 lacs to 3,114 lacs. It should be noted that the cash balances of the banks of Bombay and Bengal are substantially lower than they were at this time last year.

The following are the minimum Rates of Discount current in India:—

Bombay ... 6 per cent. (Nov. 4, '15) | Bengal ... 6 per cent. (Sept. 24, '15)

Particulars of the Tenders received and the Allotments made by the India Council on Wednesday last, December 22, are:—

Bills				Telegraphic Transfers			
Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.		Rate.	Tendered.	Accepted.	
s. d.	Rs.	Rs.	%	*s. d.*	Rs.	Rs.	%
1 4 3/32	24,00,000	5,81,000	24	1 4	1,35,00,000*	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/32	1,30,00,000*	31,48,000	24
—	—	—	—	1 4 3/32	90,00,000	—	—
—	—	—	—	1 4 1/16	52,50,000	12,71,000	24
Total ...	24,00,000	5,81,000	—	Total ...	4,07,50,000	44,19,000	—

* Deferred.

	Offered	Tendered	Accepted
Grand Total ...	Rs. 50,00,000 ...	Rs. 4,31,50,000 ...	Rs. 50,00,000

The Amount of Drafts disposed of and the Minimum Rates obtained were as follows:—

	Bills.			Telegraphic Transfers.		
	Rs.	Average.	Minimum.	Rs.	Average.	Minimum
Calcutta ...	35,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	8,11,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32
Bombay ...	4,01,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	9,08,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16
				16,11,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32
Madras ...	1,45,000	1/4.031	1/4 3/32	3,63,000	1/4.062	1/4 1/16
				7,26,000*	1/4.031	1/4 3/32

* Deferred.

The following Special Sales have since been made:—

	Rs.	At
Bills on Calcutta	100,000	1/4 1/16

From April 1 to December 21 inclusive the Council granted remittance for **Rs.11,12,50,377,** realising **£7,421,299.** Up to **December 22** of last financial year the total Bills and Transfers sold was **Rs.6,60,44,861, realising £4,405,091.** The total sales for the week ended **December 21** amounted to **Rs. 51,50,000,** realising **£344,235.** The amount to be offered for tender next Wednesday will again be 50 lacs.

SILVER.

THE Silver market this week has been fairly steady, and from 25 1/8*d.* the price recovered to 26 1/16*d.*, but has since reacted to 25 1/8*d.* The recovery arose in consequence of buying orders from India and from the Continent, and the reaction has been due to offerings by China. The steady fall in the stock of silver in the Indian Currency Department should be noted, the amount being reduced to 3,114 lacs, while the stock of gold has risen to 1,101 lacs. Since August the outflow of silver into circulation has been 900 lacs. Exchange is very much in favour of India, and it is obvious that Indian balances are accumulating on this side. It may be possible to adjust these balances by sales of British-owned Rupee Paper or other securities favoured by the Indian people. But it is clear that as matters now stand London is indebted to India for a substantial sum, and part of this money may be sent out in silver in consequence of the increasing prosperity of the country.

	Dec. 17	18	20	21	22	23
London ...	25 1/8	26	26 1/16	26 1/16	25 15/16	25 1/8
India ...	Rs.67 7/16	67 1/2	66 9/16	67 5/16	66 7/8	66 7/8
Exchange ...	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32	1/4 3/32

Stock Exchange.

	TICKET DAY.	PAY DAY.	CONSOLS.
Settlement Days	Wed., Dec. 29	Thurs., Dec. 30	Wed., Jan. 5

THE following official notice has appeared this week:—

The Stock Exchange Committee has passed the following new rule, which is subject to confirmation on Wednesday, January 5:—

"A candidate of German or Austro-Hungarian birth is ineligible for membership."

The Stock Exchange Committee has issued an official notice that 5% Exchequer bonds will will be a good delivery without any declaration as to physical possession, but a broker before completing any selling order must obtain a declaration from his client, and must fully satisfy himself that such selling order is not on behalf of or for the benefit of alien enemies, either directly or indirectly.

We have pointed out how by the sale of United States securities, or, to speak more comprehensively, North American securities, British holders can assist in our national financing and help to maintain stability of the exchange rate between the United States and this country. Further definite steps have been officially announced this week in detail, and we may here only emphasise the advice we gave our readers last week, that those who hold small quantities of securities should effect their sales through the London or provincial stock exchanges. The important big-holding establishments, such as insurance companies and trusts, will be well aware of what their procedure should be in approaching the Government department here directly.

In the speculative departments of the Stock Exchange the outstanding feature has been the activity and strength of the market for rubber shares. It is reasonably felt that the outlook is one of promise, especially remembering we now have the quotation for the standard quality of plantation rubber at approximately 75% higher than at the beginning of the year. The demand is fully equal to the supply available, and the expectation is held that the demand will be fully maintained and probably appreciably added to. It must, of course, be remembered that the supply, with so much additional area of young companies coming into bearing, is an expanding one. We recently gave particulars showing how some companies had, as to part of expected output, entered into forward contracts at prices far below the current market quotation. Such prices, while above the average of 1914, yet were generally below the price obtained by companies whose year ended June 30, 1915. But, on the other hand, there are many companies which have not engaged in forward contracts at such low prices, or at any rate to any appreciable extent. Many of these are progressively increasing their output and are free to enter into contracts for the New Year upon the improved basis of prices now prevailing. It will have been noticed from the comments we have made upon individual companies that in the main directors are acting with caution in the matter of distribution of profits, and are endeavouring to build up sound financial positions. There are but few instances where a policy of dividing up to the hilt is followed; more often, indeed, appreciable amounts are set aside to reserves. Speaking in general terms, this is very gratifying, and is in distinct contrast to the disposition shown some five years ago, when there was great speculation. Then the pace was forced and profits were distributed on too liberal a scale, and settings aside to reserves were inadequate.

Our readers will be well aware how persistently and consistently in normal times we have urged the Committee of the Stock Exchange to enforce vigilance in considering requests for securing Special Settlements in connection with the shares or securities of newly introduced companies. We have given instances where lâches have occurred, and even premeditated deceit and nefarious devices for marketing shares through the facilities afforded by the London Stock Exchange. Practically it was not until the great stir brought about by the Marconi inquiry that there was the development of a spirit of investigation which had previously been lacking on the part of the officials acting for the Committee. Certainly after that big inquiry there was more care evidenced. We are now living in abnormal times, and the subject of Special Settlements has not been so frequent as prior to the War. We note with satisfaction that what we believe to be an entirely new procedure has been initiated. Quite recently a request has been referred to the Committee to grant a settlement in Ural Emba Oilfields, Limited, a "Special Settlement" being asked for in respect of 100,000 £1 shares, 15*s.* paid, the Company being now in liquidation. In addition to the ordinary formal notice posted up in the Stock Exchange that an application

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of such character had been made, there is appended to the notice, *re* the Ural Emba undertaking—

> "Members having bargains open in these shares are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Committee for General Purposes."

Does this foreshadow a modification of the routine that hitherto has been adopted? Heretofore Special Settlements have been something like marriage banns, and the addendum asking the congregation if they "know any just cause or impediment" omitted.

COLOMBIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.

"The disastrous European war, affecting as it does the economic position of the whole world, acts like a crucible through which all English companies must pass. Thus far your Company has stood the test in a manner for which there is every cause for satisfaction." Such were the remarks of the Chairman of the Colombian Northern Railway Company at the recent annual meeting, and the accounts then presented, covering the twelve months to June 30 last, fully bear out the contention. The gross earnings at £53,864 are within £134 of those secured in the banner year, 1913-14, and whilst the net earnings at £36,714 show a diminution of £2,502, the loss is due almost entirely to extra outlays on the permanent way, and to the thorough overhauling of the rolling-stock—expenditures which in their very nature must increase the strength of the Company and enable greater economy of operation to be exercised as time goes on. The profit for dividend is £7,664 down compared with the preceding year, owing to an increase of £5,213 in miscellaneous charges. Of this increase, £3,172 represents the allocation to a fund for the redemption of the Debentures which now has to be created under the trust deed, and £1,275 preliminary expenses written off. After making these provisions the dividend of 4% has been maintained, £3,000 has been placed to reserve, raising the fund to £18,000, and the balance carried forward has been increased from £27,920 to £31,514.

The income statement of the Company for the last six years is set out below:—

Colombian Northern Railway.

	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11	1909-10
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross earnings	53,864	53,998	48,701	42,182	42,432	41,019
Expenses	17,150	14,782	14,308	15,746	15,661	14,593
Ratio	(31·84)	(27·37)	(29·38)	(37·30)	(36·71)	(35·58)
Net earnings	36,714	39,216	34,393	26,436	26,891	26,426
Miscellaneous income ...	874	825	697	220	3	178
Total net income ...	37,588	40,040	35,090	28,656	26,894	26,604
Debenture interest ...	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Miscellaneous charges ...	2,994	4,781	4,411	3,660	3,987	3,658
Total charges	18,994	13,781	13,411	12,660	12,987	12,658
Net profit	18,594	26,258	21,679	15,996	13,907	13,946
Ordinary dividend ...	12,500	12,000	12,000	9,000	6,000	7,500
Ratio per cent. ...	(4¼)	(4)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(2½)
Balance	6,594	14,258	9,679	6,996	7,907	6,446
To reserves	3,000	12,000	6,000	6,480 *	3,000	3,000
	3,594	4,694	3,679	516	4,907	3,446
Brought forward ...	27,920	23,226	19,547	19,031	14,124	10,678
Carried forward ...	31,514	27,920	23,226	19,547	19,031	14,124

* Discount on issue of Debenture stock written off.

It will be noted that the margin behind the dividend of £6,594 is sufficient to pay an extra 2¼% on the share capital, so that the profit-earning capacity of the line last year was equal to a dividend of about 6¼%, and this too after making provision for the redemption of debt and writing off preliminary expenses. The directors have always pursued a conservative dividend policy, and, while progressive distributions have been made, the wise course has been followed throughout of husbanding resources and building up a strong financial position. The marked improvement in the dividend-earning capacity of the Company in recent years and the conservative manner in which the profits have been distributed will be seen from the following table:—

Colombian Northern Railway.

Year to June 30	Dividend Earned—Sum Available	Dividend Earned—Rate per Cent.	Dividend Paid	Amount Distributed	Margin behind Dividend
	£		%	£	£
1915	18,594	6·20	4	12,000	6,594
1914	26,258	8·75	4	12,000	14,285
1913	21,679	7·22	4	12,000	9,679
1912	15,996	5·33	3	9,000	6,996
1911	13,907	4·63	2	6,000	7,907
1910	13,946	4·65	2½	7,500	6,446
1909	11,567	3·85	2½	7,500	4,067
1908	9,323	3·10	2½	7,500	1,823
1907	7,444	2·48	2	6,000	1,444
1906	4,541	1·51	Nil	—	—

The railway is only 30 miles in length, stretching from Bogota to Zipuquira, but the Company is interested in an extension some 75 miles northward which will open up an extremely fertile part of the country. The concession for the construction of this extension has been vested in a new Company, the Colombian Central Railway, and the line has been partly built, but owing to the War construction operations are for the moment suspended. It is announced that the Government of Colombia have decided to take over the extension and are understood to be desirous of completing it. It is to be feared, however, that during the continuance of the War it may be difficult, if not impossible, to finance the operation, and, as with similar undertakings, it will be necessary to wait until peace has been restored and a more normal Money market has been established. However, the fact remains that the Company undoubtedly owns a valuable property, and that its value will be greatly increased when the extension northward, already commenced, has been completed.

The £10 shares of the Company, although not officially quoted, can be obtained at about 4. At this figure the dividend of 4% yields the investor as much as £10 per cent. The 5% First Mortgage Debenture bonds are a relatively safe investment, the interest being covered by existing earnings fully four times over. The price is 76¼, and a return of £6 11*s.* 7*d.* per cent. is forthcoming. They are redeemable at par on May 1, 1945, or at any time earlier, at the Company's option, on six months' notice, at 105%. From the year 1915, 10% of the profits has to be set aside as a sinking fund for redemption purposes. The capital of the undertaking is as follows:—

Colombian Northern Railway.

Security	Amount	Interest	Price	Yield
	£	%		£ *s.* *d.*
5% 1st Mort. Deb. Bonds	180,000	5	76¼	6 11 7
Ordinary shares (£10)	300,000	4	4	10 0 0
Total capital	480,000			

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY.

The White Pass and Yukon Railway Company did badly last year. The War is of course entirely responsible for this. With the outbreak of hostilities business was completely disorganised; shipments of freight were almost entirely stopped, and hundreds of intending passengers to Alaska and the Yukon changed their plans and did not go. The local companies thus lost a large amount of revenue that would otherwise have been earned, and they were so short of funds that they were unable even to pay the interest due on their bonds. The result is that the total revenue of the Company for the year amounted to only £56,233, and after charging all expenses and the interest and bonus on the Debenture stock and Debentures the profit and loss account shows a loss of £26,182. Summing up his report on the general position, the President of the local Companies in April last stated that the effect of the European War on the world's financial institutions is naturally curtailing the facilities for financing new mining ventures, and though several promising discoveries in the Yukon and in Alaska are spoken of, it is thought doubtful if it will be possible to arrange to raise money for their development until more normal conditions prevail.

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Mining Topics.

BUSINESS in the Mining department during the week has been quiet. A feature has been the hardening in prices of Eastern Rand shares after their recent setback. Modderfonteins have been steadily purchased, improving to 15⅞. A small dividend had been hoped for in respect of the Randfontein Central, and the announcement that no dividend was to be forthcoming in respect of this Company and the Randfontein Estates has caused setbacks in the prices of the shares, which close at just under 10*s.* and 12*s.* 6*d.* respectively. We deal with the Randfontein Central in subsequent remarks; the position has become a serious one. The Langlaagte Estates for 1915 attained an unexpected degree of success. For both half-years of 1914 it distributed 5%, and this year for each half-year it has distributed 7½%. The Consolidated Langlaagte has increased its dividend to 12½%, making an aggregate for the year of 32½%, compared with 25% for 1914. Two decreases are shown by the Barnato group, the Primrose declaring 7½%, against 20% the corresponding period last year, and the Rietfontein makes no distribution against 2½% for the December half of 1914.

Among miscellaneous shares an adverse feature has been the fall in Casey Cobalt shares on the issue of a disquieting circular, the contents of which came as a surprise to the market, inasmuch as apparently no information has been published in regard to the mine since June. The Company belongs to the same group as the Canadian Mining Corporation, in regard to which we recently had to complain of the inadequateness of the information supplied. This week our contemporary, the *Financial Times*, in asking for further information in regard to the Casey Cobalt, says: "It is something to get even the above memorandum from a board so uncommunicative as that of the Casey Cobalt, but it has simply whetted the appetite of those interested for further elucidation of the position." Last year the shares touched 42*s.* 6*d.*; now they are nominally quoted at 5*s.*

The market for copper shares has shown some excitement consequent on violent fluctuations in prices of metal. After weakness, "Standard" copper sharply advanced, and closes at about £84¼ per ton. American shares have been bought in New York and Rio Tintos in London.

Dividends.—In the following table we contrast the South African dividends so far announced in 1915 with the distributions of each half of and full year 1914 and year 1913:—

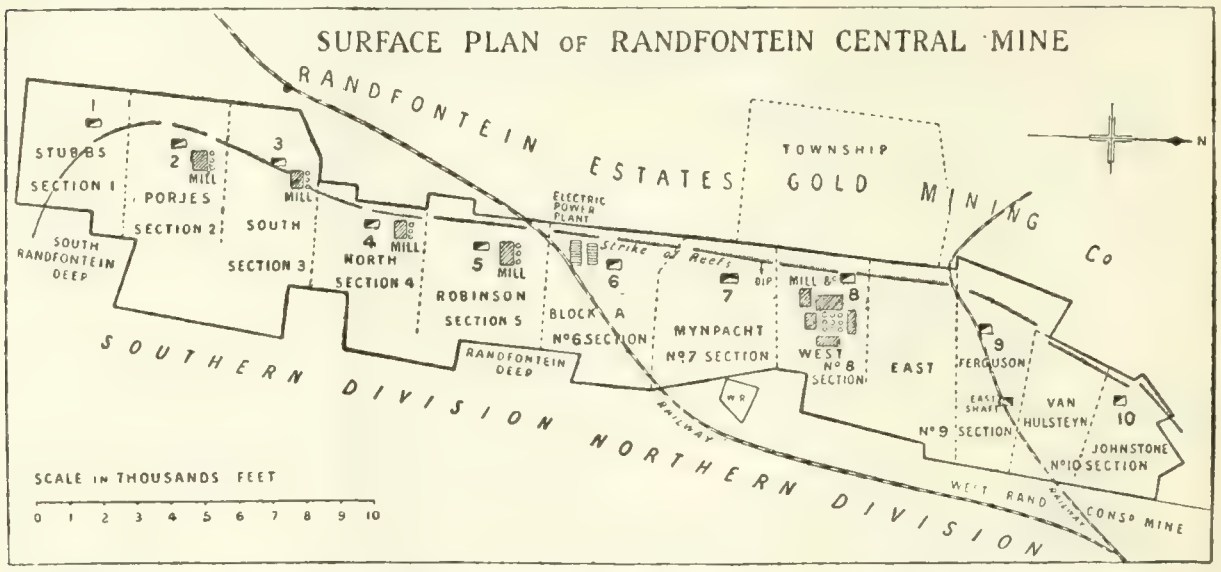
	1913 Total	1914 1st Half	1914 2nd Half	1914 Total	1915 1st Half	1915 2nd Half	1915 Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Apex	—	—	7½	7½	5	10	15
Bantjes Consolidated ...	7½	2½	2½	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brakpan	25	12½	17½	30	17½	22½	40
City & Suburban, £4 sh.	15	7½	7½	15	7½	7½	15
City Deep	17½	11	12½	23	12½	2.	5
Consolidated Langlaagte	10	10	10	20	12½	12½	25
Consolidated Main Reef	10	5	6	11	5	7½	12½
Crown Mines	110	55	30	85	35	30	65
Durban Roodepoort Deep	—	3½	3½	7½	3	4	7½
East Rand Proprietary	25	7½	10	17½	6½	5	11½
Geduld	—	—	5	5	5	5	1.
Geldenhuis Deep ...	17½	8½	10	18½	10	10	2.
Ginsburg	35	10	7½	17	7½	7½	1.
Glencairn	5	Nil	5	5	Nil	5	5
Goch	—	—	—	—	5	5	1.
Heriot	70	30	35	65	40	35	75
Johannesburg Con. Inv.	5	5	—	5	5	—	—
Kleinfontein	7½	5	5	10	5	5	10
Knights Deep	17½	5	5	10	7½	7½	15
Langlaagte Estate ...	10	5	5	10	7½	7½	15
May Consolidated ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	5
Meyer and Charlton ...	70	35	35	70	40	40+50	130
Modderfontein, £4 sh. ...	30	15	15	30	16½	1.	32½
Modderfontein B ...	45	25	30	55	32	35	67
Modderfontein Deep ...	—	—	—	—	10	25	35
New Era	10	—	10	10	—	10	10
Nigel	15	Nil	7½	7½	5	—	—
Nourse	20	8½	8½	17½	5	5	10
Primrose	60	20	20	40	10	7½	17½
Rand Mines, 5*s.* sh. ...	220	110	90	200	80	80	160
Randfontein Central ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	2½	Nil	2½
Randfontein Estates ...	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	2½	Nil	2½
Rietfontein	2½	Nil	2½	2½	Nil	Nil	Nil
Robinson Deep	27½	12½	10	22½	10	Roodeport	
Robinson G.M., £5 sh. ...	15	19‡	9	28	8	6	14
Rose Deep	42½	20	15	35	17½	15	32½
Simmer and Jack ...	13¾	5	5	10	5	5	10
Sub Nigel	5	2½	2½	5	2½	2½	5
Transvaal Coal Trust ...	17½	7½	8½	16½	8½	13.	21½
Unified Main Reef ...	20	10	10	20	10	10	20
Van Ryn	47½	22½	22½	45	22½	17½	4
Van Ryn Deep	7½	12½	12½	25	15	17½	32½
Village Deep	15	10	11½	21½	10	11½	21½
Village Main Reef ...	70	35	35	70	20	Nil	2.
Witwatersrand	50	25	25	50	25	25	50
Do. Deep ...	35	15	17½	32½	15	13½	2.
Wolhuter	10	6½	6½	13	6.	6½	12.

‡ 10% bonus included.

RANDFONTEIN POSITION.

IN THE STATIST a little more than six months ago we forecasted a lugubrious outlook for the Randfontein Central Company in respect of 1915, but the official statement of results for the year is far worse than our Cassandra anticipations of May last. It looks as if in the Far West Rand we have a state of affairs analogous to the dire position revealed in the autumn of 1911 as to the East Rand Proprietary. With the East Rand a strong group, which had investment interests, secured an examination and investigation by high experts, with the outcome that the true position was ascertained. Something of the same nature is apparently requisite in connection with the Randfontein situation, where we have an interminable capital expenditure and financial discomfort of intense character. We may first set out a contrast of the results announced as to 1915 with the figures given in the report for the year 1914:—

	Estimate 1915	£	1914	£
Income ...	£2,175,000 to £2,850,000		£2,084,082	£2,008,082
Expenses		2,034,388		2,000,000
		654,100		877,082
Profits and war tax ...	£[illegible]		£[illegible]	
War charges on gold ...	£7,000		—	
Interest on [illegible]	£8,000		22,881	
Premises, &c. ...	48,000		74,705	
Debenture interest ...	171,048		176,736	
... redemption ...	£1,000		£1,600	
Dividend	(2½%) 108,592		—	
		536,540		471,850
		117,560		405,119
Balance brought forward ...		287,559		
		405,119		405,119
Expended [illegible] on capital account	£217,000		Capital Expenditure	£[illegible]
... on development ...	103,000			
		320,000		[illegible]
	Deficit	100,000	Carried forward	£[illegible]



This surface plan shows the portion of the Randfontein Estate that has been developed upon as mining ground. The boundaries of the former areas of subsidiary companies are indicated. The final fusion of the Randfontein South and Randfontein Central areas was effected in 1911, all the properties merging into the Randfontein Central.

In the March quarterly statement it was announced that the Company had issued at par 150,000 of the reserve shares. This issue brought in £150,000, which this week's statement includes with the profit result of the year!

The following is a condensed statement of the gross profit of five years to 1915 inclusive, and the appropriations that were made:—

	£	£
Profit income of five years' operations to 1915 inclusive		4,176,808
Government profit and war taxes and charges	346,656	
Local taxes, licences, &c.	116,867	
Phthisis, &c.	200,395	
Strike costs (1913)	14,377	
Amalgamation expenses (charged to revenue)	69,433	
Debenture, &c. interest	859,979	
,, redemption (1911 and 1915)	168,000	
Dividends	737,647	
Depreciation written off (1911 and 1912)	16,422	
"Expended on capital account"	1,665,013	
Expended on development (1915)...	103,000	
	4,277,789	

In THE STATIST of March 20, 1915, we dealt comprehensively with the position of this Company as disclosed by the accounts for the year 1914. The balance sheet of December 31, 1914, showed the property, development, shafts, &c., standing at an aggregate value of very near to £5,700,000, and a very large addition—near to a million and three-quarters—had been made to capital outlays out of profits. In respect of total capital outlays the depreciation item must be a very considerable one, yet the direct charge to working costs for depreciation in the past five years has amounted to only £16,422,

		£
1911.	**Depreciation of machinery, spares, &c., taken over from Randfontein South Company ...**	8,146
1912.	**Ditto of live-stock, furniture, and stores ...**	8,276
		16,422

And in the period there has been spent under the head of capital expenditure and charged against working profits:—

	£
1911	610,052
1912	324,181
1913	210,023
1914	303,757
1915	217,000
,, ...	+ 103,000 development
Aggregate	1,768,013

This aggregate included large amounts not represented by assets but comprising commissions and expenses in connection with issue of Debentures, &c.

Investigation of the depreciation position and inquiry into the reasons for the unceasing capital outlays charged against the profits seem imperatively called for. How to bring about such an investigation is a very difficult problem. It is not with this as with other undertakings on the Rand, that the shareholders as a body have control, for a majority of the Randfontein Central shares is held by the Randfontein Estates Company, and in order to obtain an inquiry it would be necessary for shareholders in the Randfontein Estates to come forward and assist the shareholders in the Randfontein Central Company. But then it is a moot point who really holds the majority of the shares in respect of the Randfontein Estates. A very large proportion of the capitals of both undertakings is held in France, a considerable proportion in this country, some in South Africa, and a small proportion on the Continent. Sir J. B. Robinson's interest both in shares and Debentures is an unknown quantity.

As to the wail in the official statement accompanying the figures of results for 1915 about the heavy Government charges in respect of phthisis, profits, and other taxation, we fear that the part of the wail, that would on the face of things seem to be reasonable, arises from the fact that it has been the custom of the directorate of the Company to show big profits to the shareholders by charging as capital expenditure what ought largely to have been debited to working expenses, and then professing to the Government that the profits are really nothing like so large as those presented in the accounts presented to shareholders.

In the early days of the Randfontein group, the individual producing concerns now included in the huge Randfontein Central Company attained success. Then came the policy, or mania, of amalgamations, which ended in the final big amalgamation, and the erection of an extravagantly huge centralised plant, partaking of the nature of a "white elephant," the operation of which has apparently disclosed the erroneousness of the original ideas as to its efficiency and economical working power. The outcome of the mistakes made financially and physically, is the ghastly state of affairs that now exists.

Reference is made in the official statement to an intention to modify the working procedure. Rumours, indeed, have been current recently that there is to be a discontinuance of the use of the separate four 100-stamp mills situated on the southern properties, and, instead, a further concentration of reduction operations at the great Central plant. If this policy be carried out there will be necessity for big writings off for depreciation, and, furthermore, there will be also the necessity for considerable further augmentation of capital outlay for additional plant to be put up. In

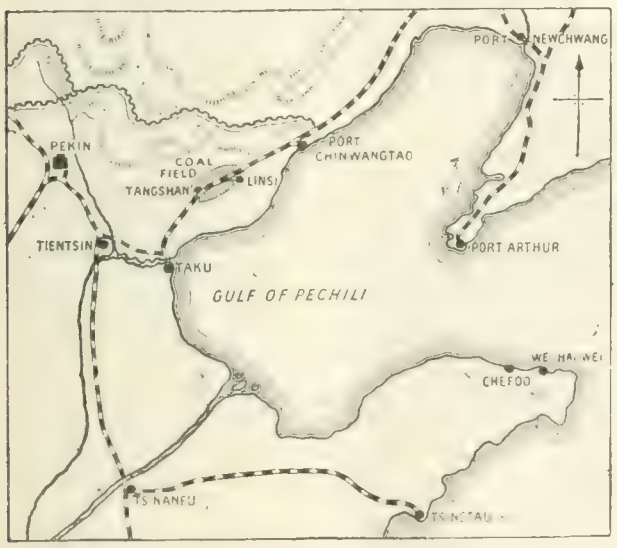
the circumstances, then, it certainly seems desirable that the whole of the undertaking—the physical condition below and above ground and the financial condition—should be subject to complete investigation by independent experts, and a full report made as to what is wrong, with recommendations in regard to the proper working of the several "mines" for the profit of the long-suffering shareholders.

Year after year has gone by without fulfilment of perennially promised improvement; instead, the concern sinks deeper and deeper into the mire as time passes. This cannot go on indefinitely without disaster overtaking the shareholders' interests, for it must be borne in mind that the Company has a large Debenture debt of nearly £3,000,000, in addition to an issued £4,343,700 share capital.

It will be remembered that in the matter of the East Rand Proprietary the South African Government in September 1911 bestirred itself and initiated an inquiry into its state of affairs, consenting in the end to the Central Mining group experts and others carrying out an investigation. In the circumstances of the Randfontein interholding above referred to, it looks as if the intervention of the Government is a necessary and desirable outcome of the present position of the undertaking, the proper conduct of which is of great importance to South Africa. We have heard of numerous expostulations in recent years having been addressed by shareholders to the directors of the Company, and we have also heard of instances of profound dissatisfaction with the answers that have been made to shareholders' complaints. The conclusion is clear. Shareholders, instead of addressing mere complaints to the Company, should go over the heads of the officials of the Company and appeal to the South African Government to take measures for the protection of their interests by itself taking in hand an investigation of the operation and direction of their property.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY.

THE LARGEST CHINESE COAL MINE.



LAST week the meeting was held of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, and was reported in our columns. About this Company the ordinary man-in-the-street knows little. A few know that it is a coal proposition, but very few indeed are aware that it is the largest coal mine in China. The word "Engineering" in the title is superfluous, as the Company's engineering shops and appliances are used for its own requirements only. In the usual primitive methods the coal-field has been mined for centuries, but Western methods were not introduced until about 40 years ago, and then for a long period in only a half-hearted manner. A local company was formed some years ago, and in 1901 its plant and rights were acquired by the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company—an English registered Company with a large proportion of Belgian shareholders. The Company operated in the area, but encountered some five years after it had been formed the competition of a locally-formed enterprise with Chinese capital known as the Lanchow Mining Company, which in 1906 acquired from the Chinese Government a concession to mine part of the area that the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company regarded as included in its Kaiping coal concession. An appeal was made to the Chinese and to the British Governments to investigate matters, and eventually an arrangement was come to and consummated in 1912 for the formation of an administration to work the joint properties of the two Companies.

The modification was taken advantage of to effect a reconstruction of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company which has an issued capital of £1,000,000 in £1 shares, and in 1912 issued at par £1,200,000 6% First Mortgage Debentures known as Kailan Bonds. The bonds are redeemable by 2% annual drawings at par (December of each year). The first drawing was effected in December, 1913, and £24,000 per annum redemption will continue for 50 years.

Before entering into further particulars as to the finance and working results of recent years, we may recall the position of the coalfield is about 70 miles west of the port of Chin Wang Tao, in the Gulf of Petchili, and approximately 160 miles almost due east of Pekin. At the port mentioned, extensive area with wharves, &c., and harbour accommodation, together with a network of railway sidings and six miles of private line are owned by the Company, and the outlay on the port and surroundings has been approximately £500,000. The Company also has accommodation branches at several Chinese and also Japanese, Manilla and other ports. The railway and some canals afford outlets—north, west, and south, and the shipping accommodation to the east, give it internal and ocean outlets for the coal it produces. The output has been a growing one for several years past, notwithstanding the competition so prevalent between 1906 and 1910. The sales of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company alone, prior to the reconstruction of 1912, were as under:—

Years to end of February	Tons
1905	843,000
1906	825,000
1907	914,000
1908	959,000
1909	1,144,000
1910	1,231,000
1911	1,215,000

There are four main "mines" in the coalfield, and at three of them large shafts have been sunk to a depth of 1,500 feet. It has been computed that the known existence of deposits to a depth of 3,000 feet contain some 500,000,000 tons of coal. The four separate deposits in the field are connected by branch railways with the Pekin Mukden main line.

After reconstruction, the Company's financial year was made to end on June 30, and the sales and results obtained for each of the last three years are set out below:—

Year ended June 30—	191[illegible]	1914	1913
	£	£	£
Profit proportion ...	161,428	169,360	99,977
Interest, agency, &c. ...	[illegible]	8,[illegible]	9,778
	171,[illegible]	177,8[illegible]	109,735
Brought forward ...	52,268	5,854	—
	£ 223,[illegible]	£ 183,[illegible]	£ 109,735
Administration ...	12,475	10,236	10,845
Preliminary expenses	—	11,[illegible]	[illegible]
Income tax	12,176	9,245	7,079
Dividends	[illegible] (1 %)	[illegible] (8%)	8[illegible] (8%)
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carried forward ...	99,159	[illegible]	5,854
Total sales of coal produced by both Cos. (tons)	2,692,382	2,411,038	1,728,296

The profits of the 1914-15 period were somewhat marred by the fall in exchange rate to an average of 1*s.* 7*d.* per dollar, compared with 1*s.* 10½*d.* per dollar for the previous twelve months.

The sales of the 24 weeks to December 18, 1915, have been 1,171,744 tons, against 1,139,710 tons for the corresponding period of 1914, of which 19 weeks was war period.

In the circumstances of war, the Chairman at the meeting was guarded in his utterances as to the outlook, but it is satisfactory to take note that in the war period of twenty-four weeks to December 18, sales in 1915, compared with the same period of 1914, averaged an increase of about 1,330 tons per week.

The Kailan Mining Administration is conducted jointly by the representatives of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company and the Lanchow Mining Company. The profits of the two Companies are pooled, and the arrangement as to apportionment between the Company has been officially set out as under:—

"After making provision for the interest on the Debenture issue, the amount required for the purpose of the sinking fund, and for a reserve for depreciation, the profits of the business up to £300,000 are divisible as to 60% to the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Limited, and as to 40% to the Lanchow Mining Company. The profits in excess of £300,000, and the profits from any new business and shafts worked by machinery away from the present shafts are to be divided equally between the two Companies. In addition to the existing mines of the two Companies, the Kailan Mining Administration will have control of the mining rights of the Kaiping Basin, an estimated area of 100 square miles, being 20 miles in length by an average of five miles in width."

At June 30, 1915, the developed reserves of coal were reported as 16,430,000 tons, an increase compared with a year previously of some 2,000,000 tons. Such increase indicates that about 4,500,000 tons were developed in the year against the quantity raised, as 2,411,038 tons were sold.

Balance Sheet as at June 30.

LIABILITIES.

	1915	1914
	£	£
Share capital: 1,000,000 shares of £1 each	1,000,000	1,000,000
6% 1st Mort. Debentures (Kailan Bonds)	1,152,000	1,176,000
Interest	34,560	35,280
Debenture redemption reserve	60,000	36,000
Sundry creditors	101,773	55,348
Profit and Loss Account	149,159	102,268
	2,497,492	2,384,896

ASSETS.

	£	£
Property, rights and undertaking acquired	1,840,860	1,840,017
Kailan Mining Administration:		
Working-capital account	84,727	82,062
Stores taken over by the Administration	63,928	63,928
Loan account	60,000	60,000
Shares held in China	409	409
Expenses of underwriting and issue of Debentures (To be gradually reduced by the Administration during currency of the Debentures.)	81,938	83,662
Debtors	57,374	64,900
Cash, London	140,830	188,978
Cash, Brussels	68,842	—
Treasury bills (£100,000)	98,584	—
	2,497,492	2,384,896

On the basis of 10% dividends being continued, at present price of 1⅝ for the £1 share the yield afforded is about 6⅜%. The Debentures are quoted at 99½-100, which includes just six months' accrued interest.

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ *s.* *d.*
1,152,000	6% 1st Mort. Debs.	—	99¼	6	6 3 9
1,000,000	Ord. shares	1	1⅝	10	6 7 0

Burma Corporation.—We referred last week to a statement in the weekly development report to the effect that a rise 1,292 feet south in the 430-foot level, from 35 feet to 40 feet, averaged 40 oz. silver, 50% lead, and 40% zinc. We are informed that the values should have been stated as 50 oz. silver, 40% lead, and 28% zinc.

CHAMPION REEF.

The year ended September 30, 1914, was the most prosperous experienced by this Indian mine since 1905. A slightly smaller quantity of ore was milled, but the yield per ton, partly owing to the higher gold contents of the ore, and partly on account of better extraction through continuous use of the new tube mill plant, rose to 51*s.* 7*d.* per ton, against 48*s.* 7*d.* per ton in the previous twelve months. This increase in grade considerably more than offset the rise of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton in total working costs—mostly due to the extra development work done—and the working profit consequently improved to £235,269, or 22*s.* 3*d.* per ton, for the past financial year, in contrast with £225,489, or 20*s.* 9*d.* per ton, in respect of 1913-14. The improvement in the operating results since the very low level of 1909, which followed the great prosperity of the years 1900-1905, will be seen from the following:—

	Ore Milled Tons (2,000 lb.)	Waste Rock Sorted %	Total Gold Yield* per Ton *s.* *d.*	Working Expenses per Ton *s.* *d.*	Working Profit† £	Working Profit† per Ton *s.* *d.*
1901 ...	126,045	—	95 10	38 6	360,975	57 4
1905 ...	240,987	—	68 5	26 9	502,420	41 8
1909 ...	193,063	17·5	45 2	31 0	136,613	14 2
1910 ...	209,082	18·2	42 2	28 1	147,411	14 1
1911 ...	205,169	19·1	45 8	27 4	188,055	18 4
1912 ...	220,610	20·5	45 5	26 1	212,882	19 3
1913 ...	220,511	20·2	46 3	26 6	218,001	19 7
1914 ...	216,934	15·2	48 7	27 10	225,489	20 9
1915 ...	211,368	12·7	51 7	29 4	235,269	22 3

* Includes yield from accumulated tailings and slimes treated.
† Before payment of royalty.

After deducting royalty payable to the Mysore Government, the net profit of the past year amounted to £201,634, against £195,273 in the previous financial year. A sum of £15,000 is again put to reserve, and £34,010 is written off for depreciation, &c., out of the past year's profits, against £39,294 in the previous twelve months. The dividend for the year is increased to 56⅔%, in comparison with 53⅓% for 1913-14, and the carry-forward is slightly raised to £4,511. The balance sheet shows a very strong financial position, the liquid assets, excluding 17,050 £1 shares in the Kolar Mines Power Station, Limited, exceeding current liabilities, including the final dividend, by £71,000.

The following table illustrates the conservative manner in which the past profits have been distributed, shows the variations that have previously occurred in the prosperity of the Company and in the price of its shares, and indicates how the ore reserves and the depth of the mine have increased:—

Year to Sept. 30	Net Profit	Amounts Written Off	Divs. Amt.	Divs. %	Ore Reserves Tons (2,000 lb.)	Tons (2,000 lb.) Milled	Lowest Level Feet.*	Price of Shares end of Year *s.* *d.*
	£	£	£					
1902...	288,292	14,824	248,325	105	245,000	150,179	2,050	31 3
1903...	441,341	14,320	404,832	165	366,000	194,464	2,140	37 0
1904...	462,581	24,850	416,000	160	419,895	203,782	2,340	31 0
1905...	467,583	25,740	416,000	160	378,916	240,987	2,640	32 6
1906...	347,609	86,134	234,000	90	383,071	227,555	2,740	16 0
1907...	187,220	65,359	104,000	40	381,285	200,752	3,140	6 6
1908...	143,939	75,644	52,000	20	341,948	192,647	3,440	7 0
1909...	118,822	55,917	52,000	20	306,772	193,063	3,740	10 0
1910...	130,040	64,091	60,667	23⅓	322,513	209,082	3,940	7 9
1911...	168,180	32,843	112,667	43⅓	326,157	205,169	4,140	8 0
1912...	190,201	36,780	130,000	50	400,747	220,610	4,340	12 6
1913...	195,273	39,294	130,000	50	404,125†	220,511	4,640	10 9
1914...	201,634	36,927	138,667	53⅓	477,384	216,934	4,840	10 6
1915...	210,108	34,010	147,333	56⅔	—	495,015	5,040	11 0

* Incline depth.
† Excluding 46,302 tons set aside for the first time as permanent pillars to minimise risk from air blasts.

It will be seen that for the sixth year in succession the ore reserves show an increase, and at September 30, 1915, the quantity of 495,015 tons in sight was a record for the Company, representing nearly 2½ years' supply for the mill. It is very satisfactory that the ore reserve position is strong, for quite recently in the three bottom levels of the mine there has been a marked and persistent falling off in the value of the ore developed. Consequently, the Superintendent says "the prospects for the immediate future are not so favourable," and he considers it may be necessary to reduce the rate of output from the mine. This reduction would appear to have already been com-

menced, the returns for October and November being respectively 10,684 oz. and 10,366 oz. of fine gold, as compared with 11,082 oz. for the month of September and an average of 10,763 oz. per month for the year under review. While taking full note of this situation, shareholders should bear in mind the remarks of the Chairman at the meeting last week, when he said:—

Fluctuations in value constantly occur in gold mines of this character, and it may be that we have now to face a leaner period as regards results; but long experience of all the important mines of the Kolar goldfield, and of the many changes which have been noticeable from time to time in the different workings, strengthens me in the belief that if a falling-off does take place it will be only temporary, and that an improvement may again be confidently anticipated.

The Company has just completed, at a cost of £207,360, paid for entirely out of profits, a new circular shaft for the purpose of opening up the mine at depth. The bottom of this shaft, which was commenced 12 years ago, is 3,860 feet vertical from surface.

The outlook for the Company is obscure for the reasons stated above, but, judging by its own past experience and the varying fortunes of the neighbouring mines which, after encountering poor zones, have invariably got into good ground again, the adversity will quite likely be of temporary character. For a time it is probable that dividend payments will be reduced, but then as at the present price of 9*s.* cum div. the 2*s.* 6*d.* shares afford a yield of nearly 17% on last year's distribution of 56⅔%, the poorer prospects are discounted to a considerable extent. The large cash resources will enable the Company to pursue the development of the mine to greater depths with vigour, and earnings will not need to be unduly depleted for the purpose.

ARAMAYO FRANCKE MINES.

For the year ended May 31, 1915, this large Bolivian tin-producer was handicapped by the difficulties brought about by the War and the very low price ruling for tin. The ore treated during the year amounted to 35,774 tons, against 43,366 tons in the preceding twelve months, and this much smaller rate of working, combined with the fact that a larger proportion of tailings were treated, resulted in the output of black tin falling to 2,060 tons, equal to a yield of 5.8%, against an output for the previous year of 3,442 tons, equal to a yield of 8% tin. The quantity of tin sold declined from 4,218 tons in 1913-14 to 2,314 tons for the past year, and as an average price of only £60¼ per ton was realised, against £83½, the tin sold last year fetched only £139,319, in comparison with £352,048 in the previous twelve months. In view of this heavy decline in revenue from tin, and of the fact that returning charges for smelting have increased from about the normal level of £10 per ton to from £20 to £25 per ton, it is not surprising that the profit in Bolivia for the year ended May 31, 1915, was no more than £3,504, against £135,765 in 1913-14. The severity of the set-back in the Company's prosperity, largely caused by the War, will be seen from the following:—

Year to May 31	Ore Treated Tons	Black Tin Produced Tons	Black Tin Produced Yield %	Tin Sold Tons	Value of Tin Sold £	Value of Tin Sold Per Ton £	Bolivian Profit £	Av. Price of Metallic Tin for Financial Year £
1909 ...	17,522	3,292	19	2,863	180,061	62¾	57,036	131¾
1910 ...	25,882	3,630	14¼	3,678	242,435	65⅞	90,675*	145
1911 ...	36,903	3,805	10¼	2,850	223,173	78⅜	103,194	175½
1912 ...	41,436	3,854	9·3	4,053	355,515	87¾	155,967	195¼
1913 ...	37,660	3,694	9·9	3,353	319,993	95½	153,177	211½
1914 ...	43,366	3,442	8·0	4,218	352,048	83½	135,765	179¼
1915 ...	35,774	2,060	5·8	2,314	139,319	60¼	3,504	—

* Profit after writing off £18,068 for bad debts.

Happily the Company was in a very strong financial position to meet the crisis, having carried forward from 1913-14 the large sum of £90,365. Consequently, despite an actual net loss of £14,245 for the year to May 31, 1915, the directors were able to continue the redemption of Debentures to the extent of £20,000, and at the same time to continue the payment of dividends. Three distributions to shareholders aggregating 7½%, tax free, were made for the year, and the carry-forward to the current year has been reduced to £9,138, as shown below:—

	Years to May 31 — 1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit	14,245*	124,078	147,015	148,005	92,254	79,469
Brought forward ...	99,365	77,971	45,360	16,843	18,915	Nil
Total	85,120	202,049	192,375	164,848	111,169	79,469
Appropriations—						
Written off	2,500	2,500	Nil	Nil	9,750	32,954
Debenture redemption	20,000	20,000	1,000†	1,000†	10,000†	—
Reserve	—	20,000	—	20,000	—	—
Dividends paid ...	44,750	53,084	164,403	94,485	74,576	14,915
	(7½%)	(10%)	(17½%)	(15%)	(12½%)	(2½%)
New issue expenses ...	—	—	—	—	—	13,687
Carry-forward ...	9,138	90,365	77,971	45,360	16,843	18,915
Total	76,120	202,049	192,375	164,848	111,169	79,469

* Loss. † Applied to reduction of property account.

Despite the redemption of Debentures and the payment of dividends, in face of a loss on working for the year, the balance sheet at June 30, 1915, still showed a very strong financial position, the surplus realisable assets amounting to £373,421, against the issued capital of £597,090, plus £20,000 of Debenture stock. True, £278,750 was locked up in tin and other mineral stocks unsold, but with the widening of the market for the metal and the considerably increased prices lately prevalent these stocks, which were taken into the accounts at cost of production, should now have a considerably enhanced value.

As regards the prospects for the current year, and the future, the Chairman stated at the meeting that production had become normal again. The Company has very extensive tin, wolfram, bismuth, copper and silver bearing properties, and it is advised that recent development work at the tin-silver mines of Chocaya has opened up an important field of tin-silver ore. New plants which have been erected for the purpose of improving the results obtained will soon be in operation, and if the market could be relied upon to maintain its recently improved tone, with the maintenance of about the present price of about £165 per ton for metallic tin, there is little doubt that the Company will show considerably better results for the current year than for the year under review. Already two interim dividends representing 5% on the capital, free of income tax, have been paid. In addition, £10,000 more of Debentures have been redeemed, and the balance of £10,000 will probably be paid off next year, when the share capital of £597,090, in £1 shares, alone will remain. However, as the price of the share is 1⅜, the looked-for improvement in the future fortunes of the Company is considerably discounted.

ABBONTIAKOON.—Issued capital, £625,457 10*s.*, in 10*s.* shares. Loans remaining to be cleared off, about £20,000.

Year ends Dec. 31	Tons Milled	Gold Value £	Gold Value Per Ton	Total Expenses £	Total Expenses Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Share end of Period
1912 (6 mos.)	46,415	79,284	34·2	70,409	30·4	8,875	3·8	6·3
1913 ...	109,500	235,628	43·5	146,687	27·0	88,941	16·5	7·6
1914 ...	131,762	253,777	38·6	169,229	25·9	84,528	12·9	—
1915.								
Mar qr....	32,989	59,197*	36·1	42,819	26/0	16,678	10/1	8/9
June qr.	32,621	62,542†	38/3	43,936	26/9	24,596	15/3	8/0
Sept. qr.	32,447	59,191‡	36/6	46,043	28/5	13,148	8/1	8/0
Oct. ...	12,065	20,433	33/10	16,125	26/8	4,308	7·2	7/6
Nov. ...	11,274	20,145	34·7	16,200	27·8	3,945	15/11	7·6

* Includes £[illegible] from tube mill.
† Includes £[illegible] from tube mills.
‡ Includes £13,584 from tube mills.
§ Includes £[illegible] from tube mills.

Dividends—Account 1914, May, 6*d.*; Nov., 6*d.*; Dec., 6*d.*; June, 6*d.* Total, 2*s*

Sudan Gold Field.—Capital £63,874, in 10*s.* shares.

Year ends Dec. 31	Ore Milled Tons	Gold Yield Value £	Gold Yield Per Ton	Total Working Costs Per Ton	Profit £	Profit Per Ton	Price of Shares end of Period
1914 ...	16,456	49,588	60/5	36/5	22,347	24/5	3/6
1915.							
Mar. qr. ...	—	[illegible]	—	—	—	—	7·9
June qr....	4,348	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—	8·6
Sept. qr....	4,188	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—	8·0
Oct. ...	1,375	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—	7·9
Nov. ...	1,500	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—	9·0

Dividends—1915, March, 1/0.

TABULAR APPENDIX. I.—BANK RETURNS.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Weekly Account.

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ended Wednesday, December 22, 1915.

Issue Department.

Notes Issued	£69,363,515	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	50,913,515
	£69,363,515		£69,363,515

Banking Department.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£32,840,075
Rest	3,293,906	Other Securities	102,450,297
Public Deposits	53,134,578	Notes	34,266,065
Other Deposits	98,733,682	Gold and Silver Coin	177,619
Seven-day and other Bills	18,890		
	£169,734,056		£169,734,056

Comparison with Previous Five Weeks.

[In £'s sterling—00,000's omitted.]

Date	Active Circulation	Cash Both Depts.	Deposits Public	Deposits Other	Securities Govt.	Securities Other	Reserve	Ratio Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate *	Three Months' Bills
1914.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%
July 22	29.3	40.1	13.7	42.1	11.0	33.6	29.2	52 40	3	2⅞
1915.										
Nov. 17	33.0	53.6	50.2	91.7	18.9	101.7	39.0	27·49	5	5½
— 24	33.3	52.4	52.1	84.6	18.9	98.1	37.6	27·48	—	5⅛
Dec. 1	34.3	51.2	50.3	93.5	29.8	96.5	35.4	24·61	—	5⅛
— 8	34.1	50.3	52.4	90.0	32.8	92.9	34.6	24·26	—	5⅛
— 15	34.2	50.3	52.1	94.0	32.8	96.9	34.4	23·55	—	5½
— 22	35.0	51.0	53.1	99.0	32.8	102.4	34.4	22·63	—	5⅛

* July 30, '14 + to 4 %; July 31, 8%; Aug. 1, 10 %; Aug. 6, 6 %; Aug. 8, 5%

CURRENCY NOTE ISSUE.—The amount of currency notes issued and in circulation and the proportion of gold to notes are shown below :—

I.—Issue Account.

1915.	Notes Issued	Notes Cancelled	Notes Outstanding	Gold Coin & Bullion	Ratio of Gold to Notes
	£	£	£	£	%
Total to Nov. 17 ...	223,735,893	135,184,617	88,551,276	28,500,000	32·2
Week to „ 24 ...	5,212,867	3,538,486	90,225,657	28,500,000	31·6
„ Dec. 1 ...	5,428,408	3,740,067	91,913,999	28,500,000	31·0
„ „ 8 ...	5,905,079	3,527,378	94,291,700	28,500,000	30·2
„ „ 15 ...	5,801,909	2,948,833	97,144,775	28,500,000	29·3

II.—Balance Sheet, December 15, 1915.

	£		£
Notes outstanding—		Advances—	
One Pound	68,152,444	Scottish & Irish Banks of Issue	—
Ten Shilling	23,442,331	Other Bankers	159,000
Certificates outstanding ...	5,550,000	Trustee Savings Banks ...	249,000
Investments Reserve A/c	734,893	Currency Note Redemption A/c—	
		Gold Coin and Bullion ...	28,500,000
		Government Securities ...	54,620,563
		Balance at Bank of England ...	14,351,105
Total	97,879,668	Total	97,879,668

BULLION.—The Bullion movements at the Bank of England on foreign account have been as follows :—

1915.	*Arrivals.* £	*Withdrawals.* £
Dec. 16, Thursday ...	629,000 bars.	250,000 Spain. 125,000 S. America. 32,000 Canada. 20,000 U.S.A.
„ 17, Friday ...	Nil.	315,000 sovs. U.S.A.
„ 18, Saturday ...	Nil.	100,000 Abroad. 5,000 U.S.A.
„ 20, Monday ...	650,000 Foreign coin.	200,000 Continent.
„ 21, Tuesday ...	7,000 bars.	70,000 U.S.A. 61,000 Canada. 18,000 Continent.
„ 22, Wednesday	883,000 bars.	60,000 U.S.A. 200,000 Egypt.*
Total for week ...	2,169 000	1,456,000
Net aggregate ...	[713,000 *influx* for week.]	
Dec. 23, Thursday ...	Nil.	433,000 sovs. U.S.A

* Set aside.

Comparison of Bank Returns Exchanges, Prices, &c.

Bank of England (in £'s sterling, 00,000's omitted) :	1905	1912	1913	1914	1915
Circulation	£29,2	£29,3	£29.4	—	£35.0
Public Deposits	7,4	12.4	9,4	—	53.1
Other Deposits	45,6	39,1	42,1	—	99.0
Government Securities	12,8	13.0	11.2	—	32.8
Other Securities	38 9	36,8	35 9	—	102.4
Reserve	19,3	19,5	22.2	—	34.4
Ratio to Liabilities	36½%	37·85%	43 02%	—	22·68%
Bullion (both Departments)	30,0	30,3	35,1	—	51,0
Money :—					
Bank of England Rate	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Bank of France Rate	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%
Rate 3 months' Bills London	3⅛%	4⅛-4⅛%	4⅛-4⅛%	2⅛%	5⅛%
Exchanges					
Paris Cheque	25 10½	25 14	25 32	25 03½	27 65
Hamburg 8 days	20 35½	20 39	20 46½	—	—
New York 60 days	4 82⅝	4 81	4 81 25	4 83	4 70
Bombay Telegraphic Transfers	1/4⅛	1/4 3/16	1/4 3/16	1/3⅝	1/4 3/16
Prices :					
Consols 2½ % Cash	89½	75	72	63½	58½
French Rente 3 % Money	98 70	89 32	85 05	70 50	63 75
Silver, London spot oz.	-/30½	-/28⅜	-/26 1/16	-/22½	-/25 13/16
Wheat, *Gazette* average qr.	28/5	30/7	31/2	42/7	53/11
Cotton, Mid Upland lb.	-/6·40	-/7·13	-/6·91	-/4·47	-/7·63
Iron, Scotch pig ton	58,0	73/4½	66/1½	59/9	82/7½

ARGENTINA.—Gold in Caja de Conversion.

Nov. 24, 1915	Pesos 235,448,875
Nov. 17, 1915	235,44 ,006
Dec. 31, 1914	221,703,321
Dec. 31, 1913	233,629,114
July 18, 1913 (maximum)	266,831,800

BRAZIL.—Gold in Caixa de Conversão.

Nov. 20, 1915	£5,015,397
Sept. 25 to Nov. 13, 1915	5,093,284
Dec. 31, 1914	9,230,525
Dec. 31, 1913	18,400,501
Feb. 19, 1913 (maximum)	26,772,300

FOREIGN BANKS. [In £'s sterling—000's omitted.]

† Last Return before the War.

DENMARK.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Balance Abroad	Circulation.	Deposits
July 31, 1914† ...	£4,100	£341	£4,441	£8,197	£786	£8,893	£47
Oct. 30, 1915 ...	5,917	247	6,164	4 030	3,323	12,880	1,215
Nov. 30, 1915 ...	5,931	228	6,159	3,670	3,360	12,267	1,342
Nov. 30, 1914 ...	4,334	189	4,523	6,713	1,186	11,727	377
Nov. 29, 1913 ...	—	—	4,260	4,541	1,265	8,166	112

FRANCE.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Bills.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Private Deposits.
July 30, 1914†	£165,654	£25,013	£190,667	£97,768	£267,327	£15,302	£37,903
Dec 9, 1915...	197,601	14,260	211,861	12,632	567 819	6,234	117,618
Dec. 16 1915...	201,056	14,309	215,365	14,670	537,980	89,470	88 588
Dec. 10, 1914...	165,670	14,041	179 711	154 032	399,442	7,062	106 878
Dec. 18, 1913...	140,984	26,033	167,017	68,886	227,881	8,095	26,862

GERMANY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes of Treasury & of Other Banks	Loans & Discounts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 23, '14†	£87,843	£16,727	£84,570	£5,279	£40,055	£94,545	£47,188
Dec. 7, '15...	121,810	1,798	123,606	23,356	250,275	302,044	83,363
Dec. 15, '15...	121,888	1,860	123,748	16,970	284,504	304,989	88,286
Dec. 15, '14...	102,600	2,246	104,846	32,182	156,781	213,768	85,715
Dec. 15, '13...	60,438	13,844	74,280	4,516	47,407	98,474	34,859

HOLLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts.	Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, 1914† ...	£13,498	£249	£13,745	13,422	£10,332	£35,660	£1,437
Dec. 4, 1915 ...	34,756	291	35,047	8,4 4	7 555	47 399	3,048
Dec. 11, 1915 ...	35,059	335	35,394	8,419	7,432	47,103	3,609
Dec. 12, 1914 ...	16,302	484	16,786	14,227	10 863	39 525	1,284
Dec. 13, 1913 ...	12,458	757	13,213	7,330	8 974	26,187	300

ITALY.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Other Cash.*	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, '14† ...	—	—	£48,456		£25,017	£69,904	£3 887
Nov. 10, '15 ...	£44 659	£4,267	48 926	4,337	27 388	116 682	30 052
Nov. 20, '15 ...	44,338	4,341	48,679	4,981	34 525	115,793	32,379
Nov. 20, '14 ...	—	—	49,628		34 677	84 651	19,823
Nov. 20, '13 ...	—	—	48,536		23,03	69,695	7 080

* Including foreign gold bills, State notes, and small change.

JAPAN.	Gold.	Discounts.	Advances.	Notes.	Deposits. Public.	Deposits. Private.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,867	£1,829	£7,863	£32,722	£13,818	£1,521
Nov. 6, '15...	21,774	484	6,507	31,362	23,206	6,238
Nov. 13, '15	21,774	486	6,750	30,552	23,931	7,037
Nov. 14, '14...	21,412	1,379	8,193	28,306	13,780	3,008
Nov. 15, '13...	21,684	1,823	9,631	31,751	18,808	1,612

N. YORK BANKS & TRUSTS	Reserve. Own Vaults.	Reserve. In Depositories	Reserve. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Deposits.	Circulation.	Surplus Reserve.
Aug. 1, '14†...	—	—	£89,888	£411,238	£387,165	£8,316	£1,720
Dec. 11, '15 ...	£103,918	£43,130	147,048	630,082	674 378	7,022	35,804
Dec. 18, '15 ...	100,970	43,718	144,688	635,364	677,576	7,010	32,754
Dec. 19, '14 ...	67,023	25,147	92,170	435 636	413,232	11,692	24,196
Dec. 20, 13 ...	—	—	79,330	370,354	336 510	8,948	3,222

NORWAY.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	F'r'gn Gov. Securities.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£2,980	£1,678	£493	£4,868	£6,752	£793
Dec. 7, 1915...	3,526	3,788	781	4,314	8,404	1,377
Dec. 15, 1915...	3,641	3,499	781	4,509	8,717	1,147
Dec. 15, 1914...	2,288	1,574	508	6,563	7,140	945
Dec. 15, 1913...	2,605	1,585	504	4,082	5,932	362

RUSSIA.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Notes in Reserve.	Loans & Disc'nts.	Circulation.	Total Deposits.
July 21, '14†	£174,509	£7,383	£181,892	£6,589	£76,081	£163,411	£109,911
Nov. 28, '15...	193,680	2,043	188,723	7,438	481,464	516 482	153,139
Dec. 6, '15...	183,624	3,220	186 844	6,925	474,402	521,974	151 922
Dec. 6, '14...	176,906	4,491	181,397	6,933	159 119	283 066	98 406
Dec. 6, '13...	167,704	6,043	174,347	7,363	100,478	170,137	108,394

SPAIN.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Loans, &c.	Spanish 4 %	Circulation.	Deposits, &c.
Aug. 1, '14†	£21,804	£29,187	£50,991	£40,572	£13,778	£77,557	£18,955
Dec. 4, '15...	34,197	30 010	64,207	41,496	13,777	82 886	27,036
Dec. 11, '15...	34,406	30,117	64,523	41,340	13,777	82,541	27,536
Dec. 12, '14...	22,837	28,253	51,090	48,532	13,777	78,168	23,757
Dec. 13, '13...	19,070	28,942	48,012	42,044	13,777	76,496	17,155

SWEDEN.	Gold.	Balance Abroad.	Swed. & For. Govt. Secs.	Discounts & Loans.	Circulation.	Deposits.
Aug. 1, '14† ...	£5,717	£8,150	£1,555	£7,495	£13,432	£3,903
Dec. 4, '15 ...	8,291	7,980	2,908	4,931	16 883	5 150
Dec. 11, '15 ...	6,342	7,665	2,897	5,689	16 426	5,911
Dec. 12, '14 ...	5,808	2,506	1,472	10,811	15,412	5 368
Dec. 13, '13 ...	5,687	5,013	1,634	8,583	11,830	5,355

SWITZERLAND.	Cash. Gold.	Cash. Silver.	Cash. Total.	Discounts & Advances.	Circulation.	Deposits.
July 31, 1914†	£7,675	£238	£7,913	£10,391	£16,371	£3,128
Nov. 30, 1915...	9,899	2,174	12,073	6,914	16,697	2 368
Dec. 15, 1915...	9,949	2,147	12,096	6,830	16,480	3,857
Dec. 15, 1914...	9,504	939	10,443	8,412	16,042	3,592
Dec. 15, 1913...	8,856	1,000	7,856	4,804	10,312	2,209

U.STATES FED. RES. BANKS.	Cash. Gold Coin and Certs.	Cash. Total.	Loans and Discounts.	Reserve Deposits.	Circulation.	Total Resources	Gold Res. agnst. Net Liabilities
Nov. 19, 1915..	£63,195	£69,630	£9,030	£78,989	£2,686	£94,355	79·8%
Nov. 26 1915..	64,214	71,658	9,795	79,590	2,677	97,068	77·9%
Dec. 3, 1915..	65,036	71,572	10,271	78,593	2,794	97,072	80 9%
Dec. 4, 1914...	46,182	52,586	1,969	50,213	784	54,817	—

II.—FOREIGN BANK RATES OF DISCOUNT.

	Current Rates %	Current Rates Date Fixed	A Year Ago %	A Year Ago Date Fixed
Paris	5	Aug. 20, '14	5	Aug. 20, '14
Berlin...	5	Dec. 23, '14	5	Dec. 23, '14
Amsterdam	4½	July 1, '15	5	Aug. 20, '14
Brussels	5	Aug. 27, '14	5	Aug. 27, '14
Vienna	5	Apr. 12, '15	5½	Oct. 29, '14
Petrograd	6	July 27, '14	6	July 27, '14
Copenhagen	5	July 10, '15	6	Aug. 10, '14
Christiania	5½	Dec. 15, '15	6½	Aug. 20, '14
Berne...	4½	Jan. 2, '15	5	Sept. 10, '14
Rome	5½	Nov. 10, '14	5½	Nov. 10, '14
Madrid	4½	Oct. 28, '14	4½	Oct. 28, '14
Stockholm	5½	Jan. 5, '15	6	Aug. 28, '14
New York (Fed. Res. Bank)	3–5	Feb. 4, '15	—	—

III.—PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

[000's omitted.]

1915. Period	Revenue £	Expenditure £	Excess of Expenditure £	Other Income meeting Loans & Advances £	Other Expend. meeting Loans Repaid £	Treasury Balances Amt. £	Treasury Balances +or− for Period £	Treasury Bills Outstdg. £
7 days to Dec. 4	3,916	70,079	66,263	92,635	18,455	31,332	+7,917	335,394
7 „ Dec. 11	5,813	27,569	21,756	31,567	8,843	32,851	+ 963	336,394
7 „ Dec. 18	7,194	48,005	40,811	41,767	6,572	27,234	−5,617	371,180
255 „ Dec. 18	159,122	1,051,829	892,707	1,240,938	404,498	27,234	−56,217*	+294,030*
1914.								
256 „ Dec. 19	114,532	285,549	170,987	230,861	42,813	27,515	+17,080*	+85,350*

* Increase or decrease compared with April 1.

IV.—FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Course of Exchange.

London on—		Dec. 23, '15	Dec. 17, '15	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15
Holland	3 mos.	11 12½	11 11½	11 31	11 44½
—	Cable	10 94½	10 90½	11 11	11 24½
Italy	3 mos.	31 61	31 48½	31 50	31 20
—	Cable	31 16	31 05	31 05	30 75
Lisbon & Oporto	do.	34½	34½	34½	35½
New York	do.	4 73½	4 72½	4 72½	4 70½
—	Cheques	4 74	4 72½	4 73½	4 71½
Paris	3 mos.	28 07	28 10	28 05	27 97½
—	Cable	27 66	27 67½	27 65½	27 57½
Petrograd	do.	152½	149½	149½	149
Scandinavia	do.	17 20	17 00	17 12½	16 75
Spain (Bank places)	3 mos.	46½	46½	46½	46½
—	Cable	25 08	25 12½	25 15	25 00
Switzerland	3 mos.	26 42½	25 25	25 60	25 65
—	Cable	24 85	24 85	25 20	25 25

Foreign Rates of Exchange on London, &c.

		Dec. 23, '15	Dec. 17, '15	Dec. 10, '15	Dec. 3, '15
Alexandria	Sight	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.	97½pi.
Amsterdam	Sight	10d. 90c.	10d. 90c.	11d. 10c.	11d. 25c.
Bombay	Transfers	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4⅛d	1s. 4⅛d.
Buenos Ayres	90 days	49d.	49⅛d.	49⅝d.	49⅜d.
Calcutta	Transfers	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4⅛d.	1s. 4⅛d.
Hong Kong	Transfers	1s. 10⅞d.	1s. 10⅝d.	1s. 11⅛d.	1s. 11⅛d.
Italy	Sight	31lr. 15c.	31lr. 05c.	31lr. 10c.	30lr. 75c.
Lisbon	Sight	34½	34½	34⅝	34
Madrid	Sight	25p. 10	25p 12½	25p. 10	25p. 00
Montevideo	90 days	65¾d.	54¾d.	54¾d.	54¾d.
Montreal	Cables	$4 73⅜	$4 72½	$4 72½	$4 71
New York	Sight	$4 72½*	$4 72	$4 72½	$4 70½
—	60 days	$4 70*	$4 69½	$4 69	$4 67½
—	Cables	$4 73½*	$4 72⅜	$4 72⅝	$4 71½
—	on Paris	5.84½f.*	5.85f.	5.84¼f.	5.85¼f.
—	on Berlin	77c.*	76¼c.	78¼c.	78¼c.
—on Amst'd'm	Sight	43½c.*	43⅛c.	42½c.	42c
— on Mexico	Silver $	42c. U.S.*	41⅛c. U.S.	42⅛c. U.S.	42⅛c. U.S.
Paris	Cheques	27f. 66c.	27f. 66c.	27f. 65c.	27f 55c.
Petrograd	Sight	152	150	150	149
Rio de Janeiro	90 days	12½d.	12⅛d.	12½d.	12⅛d.
Scandinavia	Sight	16kr. 95	16kr. 80	17kr. 20	16kr. 80
Shanghai	Transfers	2s. 6 5/16d.	2s. 6⅛d.	2s. 7⅛d	2s. 7d.
Switzerland	Sight	24f. 95c.	24f. 90c.	25f. 20c.	25f. 22½c.
Valparaiso	90 days	8 3/16d.	8⅜d.	9 5/16d.	9 1/16d.

* Wednesday's rates.

V.—BANKERS' CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

Name.	Week. 1915.	Amount. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	1915 Agg. £	Inc. or Dec.* £	Inc. or Dec.* %
Birmingham	Dec. 18	1,915,306 +	819,408	87,126,859	+13,140,057	+ 17·7
Bristol	„ 18	879,000 +	219,000	39,153,000	+ 2,959,000	+ 8·2
Dublin	„ 18	4,231,700 +	104,700	188,783,200	+16,087,100	+ 9·3
Leeds	„ 18	596,779 +	138,528	31,858,595	+ 6,294,603	+ 24·9
Leicester	„ 18	467,031 +	130,004	20,044,735	+ 4,813,049	+ 30·0
Liverpool	„ 18	6,057,018 +	2,273,256	282,119,802	+61,116,250	+ 27·6
Manchester	„ 18	7,633,478 +	2,786,332	343,562,985	+28,849,850	+ 8·4
Newcastle	„ 18	1,867,100 +	864,100	73,997,200	+17,819,900	+ 31·7
Nottingham	„ 18	382,030 +	80,212	18,367,938	+ 530,414	+ 3·0
Sheffield	„ 18	551,631 +	221,156	30,619,008	+ 5,959,639	+ 24·6
London—	**1915.**	[000's omitted from the London clearings.]				
Town	Dec. 22	215,944 +	51,235	10,685,078	− 1,583,468	−12·9
Metropolitan	„ 22	18,713 +	2,362	911,573 +	66,778	+ 7·9
Country	„ 22	32,003 +	6,423	1,539,229 +	190,536	+14·1
Total	„ 22	266,660 +	60,100	13,135,880	− 1,326,062	− 9·2

The following special items are included in the London clearings :—

Stock Exchange Settling Days.	£	+ or −*	Consols Settling Days.	£	+ or −*	"Fourth" of the Month.	£	+ or −*
1915			1915			1915		
Nov. 12	48,793	—	Oct. 1	52,016	—	Oct. 4	47,178	+ 8,718
Nov. 26	41,581	—	Nov. 5	47,524	—	Nov. 4	48,924	+ 15,593
Dec. 15	48,457	—	Dec. 1	56,098	—	Dec. 4	41,073	+ 4,650
1915 agg.	974,765	—		589,654	—		549,116	− 83,410

* Compared with a year ago

VI.—FREIGHTS.

— According to Messrs. Farrar, Groves & Co., representative steam freight quotations compare as follows :

Homewards.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Alex. to Lond. or Hull	65 0	13 6	7 6
Australia to U.K.	95/0	—	30/6
Azoff to L.H.A.R.	—	—	—
Bombay to p.p.d.w.	111/3d	w.22/0d.	w 18/0
Burmah o.o.	127/6	31/3	23/9
Calcutta to p.p.d.w.	147 6d.	l.w.32/8d.	w.20/6
Danube to A.R.	—	—	8/3
Odessa to L.H.A.R.	—	—	7/3
R. Plate to U.K. Cont.	120/0	45/0	12/0
U.S. Atlantic Ports to L.H. (cotton)	282/8	90/0	—

Homewards—cont.	1915.	1914.	1913.
U.S. Atl. Ports to U.K. Cont. (grain)	17/6	7/6	1/9
N.O to L.H (cotton&gr.)	—	25/0	12/0
N.O. to U.K. (cotton&gr.)	—	—	—

OUTWARDS.—Cardiff to

	Bombay.	Colombo.	Port Said.	River Plate.	St. Vincent.
1915...	—	—	70/0	40/0	—
1914...	20/0	21/0	20/0	15/6	—
1913...	10.0	9/8	7/0	13/0	7/9

VII.—PRICES OF WHOLESALE COMMODITIES.

Approximate Prices and Position at latest dates for which statistics are available in comparison with quotations at corresponding dates in previous two years :—

DEC. 25.	1915.	1914.*	1913.
METALS, MINERALS, &c.			
Iron—Scotch pig warrants ..ton	82 7½	59 9	58/1½
— Middlesbro' warrants ... ton	76 4	53 7½	50/3
— Hematite warrants ..... ton	115/0	87 0	61/0
— Staffordshire bars, London ton	£13 10	£9	£9
— Common bars ..... ton	£13 2 6	£7 7 8	£7
— Stock, Middlesbro' ..... tons	120,837	103,184	140,374
Steel Rails ..... ton	£11	£8 7 6	£8 10
Copper—Standard ..... ton	£84 5	£57 −£57 5	£64 5−£64 10
— Stock, Europe & U.S.A. ..... tons	30,033	35,743	28,757
Tin—English ingots ..... ton	£167	£152−£153	£170−£171
— Straits ..... ton	£173	£149	£167 15
Tinplates—Coke I.C. ..... box	25 0	13/6 −17 9	13/6−18 0
Lead—Soft Foreign ..... ton	£29	£19 7 6	£17 15
Spelter—Good Foreign ..... ton	£33	£27 2 6 −£27 5	£21 10−£21 15
Quicksilver—(75lb.) ..... bottle	£18 10	£11−£11 5	£7 10
Aluminium ..... ton	nom.	£91 −£93	£81 −£85
Antimony ..... ton	nom.	£19 −£53	£28 −£30
Coal—Steam (best) ..... ton	nom.	20 6	21 0
— — (best) Newcastle ..... ton	22 6	13 3	15 6
CHEMICALS, OILS, &c.			
Nitrate of Soda—Chemical cwt.	14/6−14/9	10 9	10 9
Soda—Crystals ex ship ..... ton	£3 2/6−£3 5	£2 2 6−£2 5	£2 2/6−£2 5
Cochineal—Teneriffe Silver ...lb	1/9−1/10	2/1 −2/6	1/10−2/0
Copra—Malay & Straits ..... ton	£31 5	£24 5−£24 10	£30 17/6−31 2/6
Gambier—Good marks ..... cwt	£8 0	21/3	17 0
Indigo—Bengal good to fine...lb.	14/6−15/0	12/6−14/0	3/0 −3 6
Linseed Oil—Spot, barrels .. ton	£39 5	£22 15	£25 6 3
Linseed—Calcutta, spot .. 410lb.	76 0	47 0	47/3
Olive Oil—Spanish ..... tun	£52	£54	£47−£48
Palm Oil—Lagos ..... ton	£41	£29 15−£29 17 6	£36
Petroleum—American ...gallon	7/0	7½	7⅞
Rape Oil—Refined English ...ton	£45 10	£34 10	£31 5
Soya Oil ..... ton	£35	£23	£28 2/6
Tallow—Aust. mixed ..... cwt.	49 0	31/6−32/6	33/0−34/6
Turpentine—Amer. Spirit...cwt.	43 3	35 3	31 9
Rape Seed—Toria .....416lb.	61 0	41 0	48 0
Rubber—Para, spot ..... lb.	3 3½	2 10	3 1
— Fine plantation (stnd. crepe)lb.	3 7−3 7½	2/0	2 2½
—World's Wisible supply in tons	20,000	21,210	13,907
Shellac—T. N. Orange, fair ..cwt.	79 0 −80 0	62 0 −83 0	84/0−85/0
TEXTILES.			
Cotton—Middling Upland .....lb.	7/63	4/47	6 91
— Egyptian good fair ..... lb	9/60	6 05	9 63
— Pernambuco, fair..... lb.	8 43/0	4 80	7/18
— Mid. Upl. New York ..... lb.	12.10c.	7.40c.	12.60c.
— Stock, Liverpool, Dec. 17 bales	842,400	703,330	889,450
Flax—Petrograd, Yarapol .....ton	£75	£50	£32
Hemp—N. Zealand, good fair ton	£38	£24 10	£28
— Manila, Fair strips ..... ton	£45	£25 10	£28 10
Jute—First Marks, spot ..... ton	£27 15	£19 10	£35
— Red SOO..... ton	£24 10	£18	£32
Silk—Blue Elephant ..... lb.	12/9	9/3	11/3−11/6
Wool—Pt. Philip unwashed av.lb.	1/0−1/1	9½−10½	1/1−1/0
— Lincoln Half Hogs ..... lb	1/7	1/2−1/2½	1/0½−1/0½
Hides—Eng. Ox, best, 65lb. up. lb.	8½	7½−7¾	—
Leather—Dressing Hides ..... lb.	2/1−2/7	2/1−2/7	1/4−1/8
VEG. FOOD, CORN, &c.			
Wheat—Vis.sup. U.S. Dec. 13bus	90,583,000	79,285,000	74,804,000
— Red, price, N.Y. 60lb. ...bushel	140c.	nom.	101c.
— English *Gazette*, aver. 480lb. qr.	53 11	42/7	31/2
Flour—Lond. Whites ex Mill 280lb.	51 0	41 0	29 6
Barley—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 400 lb. qr	47 5	29/8	25/11
Oats—Eng. *Gaz.*, aver. 312lb. ...qr.	30 6	25/9	18/5
Maize—N.Y....(new bushel) 56lb.	nom.	72½	78½
— Amer. mixed, Liverpool ...100lb.	9 5	7 2½	9 3
— La Plata ..... 480lb. qr.	44/9	30 6	24 6
Potatoes—Kents ..... ton	100/0	75/0−80/0	80/0
Rice—Imports since Jan. 1...tons	41,795	28,389	12,095
— Deliveries do. ..... tons	29,243	26,254	14,598
— Stock ..... tons	19,529	6,810	4,884
— Price, Bassein ..... cwt.	18/0	17/0	7/7½−7/10½
Tapioca—Pearl, medium ..... cwt.	20/0	15/0−21/0	14/0−17 6
Hay—Best .....2,016lb. load	120/0−135/0	90 0−97 6	72 6 −80 0
Hops—English ..... cwt.	£5 15−£7	£3 5−£5 5	£3 10−£10
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Beef—Argen chilled hndqrs. 81b.	5/2−5/8	4/9	2/11−3/0
— Scotch sides 81b	5 4−5 8	5 2	4 8−4 10
— English 81b	5 0 −5 6	4 11	4 0−4 7
Mutton—Scotch 81b	5 4 −5 8	4 11	5 4−5 8
— English wethers 81b	5/2−5/8	4/9	4 8−5/0
— New Zealand frozen 81b	4/4−4/11	3/8	3 8 −4 2
Pork—English ..... cwt.	5/8−8/4	4/0−4/8	4/4 − 5/4
Bacon—Irish ..... cwt	93 0−105 0	72 0−78 0	84 0−78/0
— Danish ..... cwt	93 0 −105 0	68/0 −74 0	84/0−74/0
Hams—Amer. long cut .....cwt.	90/0 −95 0	70 0−74 0	84/0−75/0
— — short cut ..... cwt	94/0−98 0	70/0−74/0	86/0−75/0
Lard—Amer. pails ..... cwt.	59 6	58 6 −59 0	58/8−58/9
Butter—Danish ..... cwt.	160/0−163 0	150/0−154 0	130/0−133/0
— Siberian ..... cwt.	98 0 −134 0	120/0−130 0	88/0−114/0
— French ..... cwt.	120/0−130 0	120/0−134 0	110/0−130/0
— New Zealand ..... cwt.	144/0−154/0	132/0−138 0	124/0−128/0
— Australian ..... cwt.	133/0−146/0	132 0 −138 0	100 0 −118/0
Cheese—Canadian ..... cwt.	92/0−95/0	77/0−79/0	85/0−88/0
— New Zealand (white) ..... cwt.	90 0 −92 0	75.0−77 0	84 0−85/0
SUGAR, COFFEE, TEA, &c.			
Sugar—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	622,234	849,633	872,150
— Deliveries do. ..... tons	821,915	776,090	828,429
— Stock ..... tons	23,945	188,791	99,593
— Price, Java, 96° Pol. ..... cwt.	19 6	18 0	10/3
— — Mauritius, crystals ..... cwt.	nom.	28/0−27/0	15/0−15/3
— — Tate's Cubes, No. 1 ..... cwt.	40 6	31/0	17/9
Coffee—Imports since Jan. 1 tons	83,007	47,801	37,894
— Home consumption do. ...tons	19,341	15,284	14,551
— Exports do. ..... tons	23,745	28,933	21,172
— Stock ..... tons	31,932	14,082	10,353
— Price Costa Rica, gd. to fine cwt.	67/0−75 0	75/0−85 0	82/0−92/6
— — Brazil (Santos) spot ..cwt.	39 6	42 6	44 3
Tea—Imports...(for 11 months)lb.	395,980,158	332,849,031	324,178,052
— Home consumption do. .....lb.	292,418,345	295,458,127	280,898,014
— Exports do. ..... lb.	58,328,310	65,415,134	53,128,490
— Stock, Nov. 30 ..... lb.	151,918,000	74,486,000	125,434,000
— Price, Indian, Pek. Soug. good lb.	9½	9	8½
— — Ceylon, Pek. Soug. Ord. ...lb.	9½	9½	8½
— — Common Congou ..... lb.	7	7½	4½−5½
Cocoa—Grenada, good to fine cwt.	88 0−90 0	73/0−74 0	81 0 −82/0

* Prices nominal or not ascertainable owing to conditions prevailing.

VIII.—TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Bel. & C.Down	Dec. 17	80	—	£3.010	+ 10	50	180.654	+ 9.182
CorkBan.&S.C.	Dec. 17	103	—	2.423	+ 17	50	106.127	+ 4.546
Dublin & S.E.	Dec. 17	160	—	5.318	+ 485	50	276.898	+ 2.258
Gt. Northern	Dec. 17	561	—	22.385	+ 436	50	1,169.790	+ 25.090
Gt.S.&Western	Dec. 17	1,130	—	31.691	+ 1,214	50	1,665.917	+ 93.857
Mid. Gt. West.	Dec. 17	538	—	13.929	− 2.012	50	649.414	+ 8.615

*** On August 5, 1914, Government assumed control of railways of Great Britain under warrant, renewable weekly, issued in pursuance of Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.*

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.	Wks	Total. Rupees.	+or−* Rupees.
Assam Bengal	Nov. 13	882	+11	1.30.000	− 2.989	7	8.04.000	− 21.775
Bard Light ...	Nov. 20	116	—	12.100	− 1.000	8	6.23 600	− 71.900
Bengal & N.W.	Nov. 13	2.066	+37	3 38.230	− 66.264	7	19.02-570	− 1.90.773
Bengal Dooars	Nov. 20	153	—	48.187	+ 9.781	8	2.97.553	+ 34.166
Beng. Nagpur	Nov. 20	2.685	+ 9	7.21.000	− 64.000	34	2.54.27.562	+ 4.69.375
Bomb. Baroda	Dec. 11	2.859	+32	13 32.000	+ 1.26.000	11	1.24.28.000	+10.41.000
Burma	Nov. 13	1.342	—	3.34.504	− 22.073	33	1.16 22.904	−11.50.246
East Indian ...	Dec. 18	2.716	—	20.35.000	− 70.000	12	2.26.95.000	− 2.37.000
Gt.Indian Pen.	Dec. 11	3.111½	+132½	23.07.900	+ 7.23.200	11	1.76.95.300	+31.40.436
Madras & S.M.	Nov. 20	3.131¾	−1¼	7.40.000	+ 16.444	8	55.00.000	+ 4.13.323
Nizam's Guar.	Oct. 30	797	—	1.86 847	+ 30.592	4	7.16.429	+ 40 870
Roh.&Kumaon	Nov. 6	545	+ 1	60.072	− 3.822	8	3.24.005	− 11.030
South Indian	Nov. 20	1.763	+10	5.30.368	+ 62.703	8	38.17.935	+ 6.06.667
South Punjab	M.of Aug.	823	—	7.15.774	+ 1.65.843	5†	36.91.893	− 3.83.513

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+or−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Jan. Northern	Dec. 14	7,280	—	£823.700	+ 395.900	10	8.868.000	+3.131.200
Jan. Pacific...	Dec. 14	12.921	+602	3.055.000	+1.348.000	23	59 628 000	+7.661.000
Jd.Trunk Pac.	Dec. 14	918	—	38.255	+ 25.372	23	639 347	+ 188 567
Grand Trunk	Dec. 14	4.008	—	155.466	+ 16.714	49	7.718.153	− 466.059
Grd. Trunk W.	Dec. 14	338	—	40.849	+ 10.828	49	1.538 677	+ 129.378
Det. Grd. Ha.	Dec. 14	189	—	13.979	+ 3.787	49	558.2.7	+ 55.801
Nashonaland	M. of Oct.	751	—	53.911	+ 10.558	1†	—	—
Mid. W. Aust.	M.ofSept.	277	—	5.653	− 2.359	3†	16.721	− 9.720
New CapeCent.	Nov. 20	205	—	1.504	− 103	46	82.183	+ 802
Rhodesia Rlys.	M. of Oct.	1.397	—	75.200	+ 2.697	1†	—	—

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Week to	Miles.	+/−*	Gross.	+or−*	Wks	Total.	+or−*
Alcoy&Gandia	Dec. 18	33	—	Ps. 16.500	+ 6.500	51	624.200	− 33.550
Antofagasta ...	Dec. 19	819	—	£ 35.295	+ 14.376	51	1.266 120	− 239.085
Arauco	M.of Oct.	64½	—	£ 8.225	+ 2.400	10†	67.800	− 6.449
Arg. N. East...	Dec. 18	752	+ 85	£ 5.675	+ 75	25	162 051	+ 48.014
Arg. Transand.	Nov. 20	111	—	£ 690	− 60	21	8.500	+ 650
Bolivar	M. of Nov.	110	—	£ 9.000	+ 4.457	5†	39.634	+ 13.961
Brazil	M. of Oct.	3.428	− 50	M 3.941.000	+ 773.289	10†	33.260.000	+2.637 923
Paulista.....	M. of Oct.	721	—	M 3.100.000	− 183.352	10†	23.250.000	+2.386 637
Mogyana ...	M. of Oct.	1.131	—	M 2.555.000	− 79.628	10†	19.329.000	+2.105 587
B.A. & Pacific	Dec. 18	3.536	+ 1	£ 82.000	− 6.000	25	1.923.000	+ 293.000
B.A. Gt. So....	Dec. 19	3.792	+ 63	£ 129.000	+ 13.000	25	2.304.908	+ 409.967
B.A. Western	Dec. 19	1.887	+ 75	£ 56.000	+ 2.000	25	1.149.000	+ 165.000
Cent.Argentine	Dec. 18	3.307	—	£ 95.000	− 12.700	25	2.710.700	+ 224 700
Cent. Uruguay	Dec. 18	271	—	£ 12.439	− 837	25	285 030	+ 51.203
„ (E. Ext.)	Dec. 18	311	—	£ 4 553	− 958	25	91.436	+ 19.579
„ (N. Ext.)	Dec. 18	186	—	£ 2.136	− 29	25	46 987	+ 11 252
„ (W. Ext.)	Dec. 18	211	—	£ 2 005	− 163	25	45 528	+ 9.220
Colomb. Nat.	M. of Nov.	88	—	£ 10.560	+ 1 560	11†	114 802	+ 2 691
Col. Rys.&Nav	M.of Nov.	65½	—	£ 18 031	− 1.569	5†	100.5.4	− 9.796
Cord. Central	Dec. 18	1,188	—	£ 27.550	− 2.120	25	737.950	− 148.165
Cuban Central	Dec. 18	354	+ 9	£ 10.247	+ 3.564	25	197.943	+ 35.802
Dorada Ext....	M.of Nov.	71	—	£ 6.900	− 600	11†	85.300	− 5.900
EgyptianDelta	Nov. 20	616	− 7	£ 6.687	+ 554	32	107.366	− 14 975
Entre Rios...	Dec. 18	730	—	£ 10.700	+ 1.200	25	237.400	+ 44.800
Gt. S. of Spain	Nov. 20	104	—	Ps. 63.358	+ 10.224	47	2.783.921	− 269.484
Gt. W. Brazil	Dec. 18	1,010	—	£ 11.100	− 5.300	51	498.300	− 123.700
La Guaira&Ca.	M.of Nov.	23	—	£ 6.750	+ 1.750	11†	74.500	+ 19.000
Leopoldina ...	Dec. 18	1.806	+ 20	£ 26.606	− 6.949	51	1.490.620	+ 2.128
Manila North	Dec. 18	315	+ 2	£ 4.357	− 333	51	248.726	− 46.090
„ South	Dec. 18	266	+ 91	£ 1.974	− 2.370	51	179 832	+ 5.148
Mid. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	318	—	£ 8.723	− 999	5†	60.743	+ 9.519
Nitrate(2wks.)	Dec. 15	366	—	£ 26 570	+ 16.130	48	353 407	− 176 795
N.W. Uruguay	M.of Nov.	113	—	£ 22.200	+ 2.810	5†	114.763	+ 28.491
ParaguayCent.	Dec. 18	255	—	c 474.000	+ 188.000	25	11.500.000	+5.204.000
Peruvian Corp.	M.of Nov.	1.059	—	d 751.720	+ 121.176	5†	3,857.777	+ 353.574
Puerto Cabello	M.of Sept.	24	—	£ 2.792	+ 637	9†	32.216	− 306
Salvador	Dec. 18	100	—	£ 21.500	− 3.625	25	473.820	+ 55.164
San Paulo.....	Dec. 12	153½	—	£ 32 634	− 2.342	24	874.206	+ 179.238
Santal	M.of Nov.	184	—	£ 17.318	+ 8.213	5†	82.779	+ 10 861
S. of Havana	Dec. 18	681	—	£ 32.973	+ 8.084	26	622.407	+ 139.060
Drug.Northern	M. of Nov.	73	—	£ 1.857	− 393	5†	8.595	+ 2.215
W. of Havana	Dec. 18	147	—	£ 6.107	+ 374	25	118.204	− 5.776
Tafra & Hva.	M.of Nov.	112	—	£ 9.780	+ 1.819	11†	84.099	+ 39.772

TRAMWAYS.

Company.	Wk. end'd	Miles.	+or−	Gross.	+or−*	Wks.	Total.	+or−*
Anglo-Argentine	Dec. 16	389½	+21½	£ 51.874	+ 240	50	2.555.023	− 132.941
Auckland(4wks)	Nov. 19	25½	—	£ 20.910	+ 1.519	14	104.038	− 482
Brasil'n Tract'n	M of Sept.	—	—	M. 6.494.000	+397.060	9†	57.457.110	+2.287.022
Brisbane El'tric	M. of Oct.	30	—	£ 31.880	+ 3.117	10†	306 954	+ 18.333
Bristol.....	Dec. 17	31	—	£ 10.122	+ 1.681	50	481.495	+ 50.730
BritishColumbia	M. of Oct.	242	+ 5½	$ 538.828	−122.174	4†	3.073.897	− 602.654
Calcutta	Dec. 18	35½	—	R 67.012	+ 4.465	51	32.93.658	− 35.002
Cape Electric...	M.of Nov.	42·3	—	£ 16 980	+ 1.015	5†	85.549	+ 7.606
Carth. & Herr...	M.of Nov.	9	—	£ 2.090	+ 711	11†	19 839	− 4.228
Cork Electric...	Dec. 16	9½	—	£ 1.446	+ 16	51	57 352	+ 194
Dublin United	Dec. 10	54½	—	£ 5.755	+ 260	49	298 785	+ 10.870
Havana Electric	Sept. 26	—	—	$ 48.765	− 1.184	39	1.884.501	− 80.930
Isle of Thanet...	Dec. 11	13½	− 5	£ 236	− 30	9	2.684	− 883
Kalgoorlie	M.of Sept.	20½	—	£ 2.897	+ 133	9†	25.116	+ 1.138
Lanarkshire ..	Dec. 16	28½	—	£ 2.007	+ 334	50	98.964	+ 5.809
Madras Electric	Dec. 15	—	—	R 28.668	+ 4 195	48	6.72.827	+ 37.622
Manila Electric	M. of Nov.	—	—	$ 129.447	+ 447	10†	1.353.983	− 116.711
Provincial	Dec. 18	21½	—	£ 2.028	+ 188	11	23.083	+ 1.423
RangoonEl'ctric	M.of Oct.	25	—	£ 4.886	+ 286	10†	48.215	− 2.442
J.of Montevideo	M. of Nov.	90	—	£ 28.407	+ 1.396	1†	—	—
Yorks.W.Riding	Dec. 19	24½	—	£ 1.459	+ 134	51	80.202	+ 6.656

(a) Net earnings after taxes. (b) Net earnings before taxes. (c) Paraguayan paper dollars. (d) Peruvian soles. (e) Data compiled by *New York Commercial and Financial Chronicle* covering 245.132 miles of road. (f) Aggregate of *N. Y. Chronicle's* monthly compilations. (M) Milreis. (*) Compared with previous year. (†) Months. (‖) Track miles. (¶) Includes Det., Gd. Haven & Milwaukee Ry. (‡) No. of cars.

GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Company.	Period.	Gross	+ or −*	Net.	+ or −*
474 Cos. (000's omitted)	Sept. (e)	$294.241	+ $17.783	$111.728	+ $18.548
3 mos.	to Sept. (f)	837,080	+ 25,380	299,126	+ 38,436
Alabama Gt. Southern b	Oct.	491.000	+ 103.000	181.000	+ 88.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	1,699,000	+ 24,000	632,000	+ 174,000
Ala.New Or. Tex.& Pac.: Ala. & Vicksburg ...a	Nov.	152.000	+ 32.000	37.000	+ 40.000
5 mos.	to Nov.	689,000	+ 18,000	136,000	+ 75,000
New Orleans & N.E. a	Nov.	317.000	+ 47.000	67.000	+ 39.000
5 mos.	to Nov.	1,573,000	+ 73,000	396,000	+ 195,000
Vicks. Shreve. & Pac. a	Nov.	168.000	+ 41.000	44.000	+ 44.000
5 mos.	to Nov.	649,000	+ 46,000	134,000	+ 76,000
Atchison, Top. & S.Fe. a	Oct.	11.385.000	+ 503.000	3,755.000	+ 100.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	43 507,000	+ 2,210,000	14,345,000	+ 786,000
Atlantic Coast Line... a	Oct.	2.572.000	+ 119.000	800.000	+ 223.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,126,000	− 266,000	1,368,000	+ 479 000
Baltimore & Ohio..... b	Nov.	9.234.000	+ 2.354.000	2.750.000	+ 1.176.000
5 mos.	to Nov.	46,876,000	+ 6,411,000	15,677,000	+ 4,370,000
Canadian Northern ... b	Oct.	3.678.500	+ 1,100.200	1.267.000	+ 537.800
Canadian Pacific..... b	Oct.	13.443.000	+ 4.160.000	6.579.000	+ 3.258.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	40,413,000	− 24,000	17 587,000	+ 2,737,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ... b	Oct.	3.977.000	+ 572.000	1.391.000	+ 411.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	15.638,000	+ 1,936,000	6,646,000	+ 1,451,000
Chicago & N. Western...a	Oct.	8.616.000	+ 732.000	2.829.000	+ 558.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	32,150,000	+ 427,000	9,676,000	+ 863,000
Chic. Burl. & Quincy...b	Oct.	9.494.000	+ 515.000	4.383.000	+ 724.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	33,923,000	− 239,000	13,499,000	+ 166,000
Chicago Great Western b	Oct.	1.312.000	+ 5.000	369.000	+ 35.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	4,926,000	− 119,000	1,322,000	− 95,000
Chic. Mil. & St. Paul...a	Oct.	9.516.000	+ 842.000	3.435.000	+ 751.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	35,282,000	+ 1,163,000	12,124,000	+ 1,690,000
Chic.Rock I. & Pacific...a	Sept.	6.573.000	− 308.000	1.401.000	− 360.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	18,626,000	− 959,000	3,328,000	− 1,052,000
Ch.St.P.Min. & Omaha a	Oct.	1.845.000	+ 94.000	381.000	+ 60.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	6,512,000	− 250,000	866,000	− 238,000
Clev. Cin. Chic. & St.L. a	Oct.	3.653.000	+ 415.000	1,139.000	+ 190.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	31,035,000	+ 1,330,000	6,947,000	+ 3,113,000
Colorado & Southern... a	Oct.	1,486.000	+ 94.000	659.000	+ 100.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	5,171,000	+ 234,000	1,225,000	+ 236,000
Cuba Railroad ..... b	Oct.	391.000	+ 114.000	142.000	+ 28.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	1,640,000	+ 322,000	715,000	+ 187,000
Delaware & Hudson... a	Oct.	2,276.000	+ 220.000	920 000	+ 220.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	19,406,000	+ 328,000	6,646,000	+ 824,000
Denver & Rio Grande...a	Oct.	2.554.000	+ 245.000	977.000	+ 149.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,243,000	+ 542,000	3,258,000	+ 776,000
Erie Railroad..... a	Oct.	8.567.000	+ 1.028.000	2.591.000	+ 1.215.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	84,043,000	+ 3,657,000	15,572,000	+ 4,209,000
Grand Trunk Railway¶ a	Oct.	£798.200	+ £24.700	£235.150	+ £28.350
10 mos.	to Oct.	7,251,650	− 479,000	2,004,500	+ 103,100
Grand Trunk Western a	Oc	160.700	+ 25.200	45.100	+ 37.300
10 mos.	to Oct.	1,251,450	+ 49,800	176,059	+ 134,600
Great Northern ..... a	Oct.	$8,986.000	+$1,196.000	$4,801.000	+ $730.000
4 mos.	Oct.	28,868,000	− 759,000	13,830,000	− 699,000
Hocking Valley..... b	Oct.	699.000	+ 14.000	286.000	+ 41.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	2,572,000	− 28,000	1,119,000	+ 185,000
Illinois Central ..... a	Oct.	6.083.000	+ 573.000	1.209.000	+ 130.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	22,258,000	− 33,000	4,191,000	− 114,000
Kansas City Southern a	Nov.	955.000	+ 76.000	331.000	+ 53.000
5 mos.	to Nov.	4,441,000	− 7,000	1,339,000	+ 265,000
Lehigh Valley ..... a	Oct.	4.639.000	+ 528.000	1.370.000	+ 117.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	16 097,000	+ 718,000	4,639,000	+ 215,000
Louisville & Nashville a	Oct.	5.024.000	+ 477.000	1.531.000	+ 605.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	19 000,000	+ 343,000	5,532,000	+ 1,573,000
Michigan Central..... a	Oct.	3.464.000	+ 447.000	1.102.000	+ 397.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	29 658,000	+ 1,376,000	7,428,000	+ 1,574,000
Min. St. P. (Soo) Systema	Oct.	3.805.000	+ 485.000	1.696.000	+ 439.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	11,612,000	+ 636,000	4,546,000	+ 783,000
Miss. Kansas & Texas...a	Oct.	2.946.000	− 183.000	905.000	− 158.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	10,743,000	− 494,000	2,639,000	− 366,000
Missouri Pacific ..... a	Oct.	5.697.000	+ 133.000	1.445.000	− 10.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	20,699,000	− 799,000	4,754,000	− 1,088,000
New York Central..... a	Oct.	16.141.000	+ 2.532.000	5.811.000	+ 2.290.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	135,257,000	+ 7,808,000	38,863,000	+ 12,884,000
N.Y.N. Haven & Hart. a	Oct.	6.533.000	+ 893.000	2.197.000	+ 655.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	25,358,000	+ 2,404,000	8,667,000	+ 2,162,000
N.Y.Ontario & Western a	Oct.	765.000	+ 9.000	188.000	+ 52.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	3,367,000	− 205,000	1,114,000	+ 66,000
Norfolk & Western..... a	Oct.	4.888.000	+ 1,362.000	2.048.000	+ 1.039.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	18,574,000	+ 3,499,000	7,444,000	+ 2,690,000
Northern Pacific..... a	Oct.	7.166.000	+ 517.000	3.379.000	+ 798.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	25,360,000	+ 109,000	10,255,000	+ 1,784,000
Pennsylvania System: E. of Pittsburg ..... a	Oct.	24.090.000	+ 3.066.000	6.506.000	+ 1.854.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	206,664,000	+ 2,228,000	47,834,000	+ 6,743,000
W. of Pittsburg..... a	Oct.	12.116.000	+ 2.183.000	3.699.000	+ 1.729.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	97,758,000	+ 2,140,000	23,018,000	+ 4,795,000
Pitts. C.C. & St. Louis a	Oct.	4.071.000	+ 810.000	1.215.000	+ 510.000
10 mos.	to Oct.	33,537,000	+ 128,000	7,267 000	+ 734,000
Phila. & Reading Ry.... b	Oct.	5.230.000	+ 977.000	2.199.000	+ 753.000
4 mos.	to Oct	18,005,000	+ 1,510,000	6,721,000	+ 1,467,000
Phila. & R. Coal & Iron b	Oct.	3.589.000	+ 847.000	316.000	+ 166.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	9,618,000	− 534,000	87,000	− 183,000
St. L. & San Francisco a	Sept.	3.900.000	+ 225.000	1.060 000	− 26.000
3 mos.	to Sept.	11,203,000	− 133,000	3,168,000	− 189,000
Seaboard Air Line..... a	Oct.	1.898.000	+ 184.000	534.000	+ 124.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	6,796,000	− 15.000	1,660,000	+ 151,000
Southern Pacific..... a	Oct.	14.133.000	+ 2.128.000	5.283.000	+ 1.200.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	53,586,000	+ 6,335,000	19,210,000	+ 4,582,000
Southern ..... a	Oct.	6.028.000	+ 496.000	1.820.000	+ 620.000
4 mos	to Oct.	22,169,000	− 266,000	6,207,000	+ 1,695,000
Union Pacific ..... a	Oct.	10.276.000	− 1.074.000	4 669.000	+ 783.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	35,726,000	+ 1,329,000	14,849,000	+ 907,000
Wabash ..... a	Oct.	2.985.000	+ 406.000	919.000	+ 315.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	11,096,000	+ 428,000	3,017,000	+ 305,000
Western Pacific..... b	Oct.	887.000	+ 133.000	241.000	+ 143.000
4 mos.	to Oct.	2,792,000	+ 526,000	1,067,000	+ 657,000

AMERICAN WEEKLY TRAFFICS.

Company.	Week to	Gross.	+or−*	Wk.	Total.	+ or −*
Alabama Gt. Southern.....	Nov. 30	$154.000	+ $24.000	21	$2.179.000	+$125.000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Dec. 14	921.000	+ 258.000	23	21.134.000	+3.234.000
Chicago Great Western	Dec. 14	251.000	+ 40.000	23	6,764.000	+ 102.000
Colorado & Southern	Dec. 14	—	+ 57.000	23	—	+ 382.000
Denver & Rio Grande	Dec. 14	444.000	+ 84.000	23	12.360.000	+1.085.000
Great Northern	M.of Nov.	8.726.000	+2.689.000	5†	37.594.000	+1.910.000
Illinois Central	M.of Nov.	5.910.000	+ 833.000	5†	28.168.000	+ 801.000
Louisville & Nashville	Dec. 14	1.195.000	+ 213.000	23	26.351.000	+1.793.000
Minn.St. Paul & S. S. M. (Soo)	Nov. 30	1.045 000	+ 430.000	21	15.350.000	+1.931.000
Missouri, Kansas & Texas ...	Dec. 14	647.000	− 12.000	23	15.058.000	− 4 8.000
Northern Pacific	M.of Nov.	7.030.000	+1.382.000	5†	32.390.000	+1.492.000
Southern Railway	Dec. 14	1.365.000	+ 177.000	23	30.755.000	+ 894.000
Wabash	Dec. 14	—	+ 148.000	23	—	—

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W. A. BOWIE, London Manager.

The Statist.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

THE NATION'S NEED.

A MANIFESTO TO THE COUNTRY.

The following manifesto upon the Nation's Need, drawn up and signed by a number of bankers and others in close touch with financial conditions, will, we trust, be most carefully considered by the country. The problem of finance underlies all the other problems. The nation's need in the matter of men and munitions has been, or is in course of being, supplied, but nearly all the money has still to be found with which to maintain the forces and to supply them with arms and equipment in 1916. This is the work that must now be carried on from hour to hour by everyone in the nation with unflagging persistency until victory is secured.

At this time of great national danger it is imperative that every citizen should realise the vastness of the work which Great Britain has to perform and should so act that the full strength of the nation may be put forth. Not only must everyone pull, but, in order that the work may be well within the nation's strength, all must pull together.

The Allied fleets have driven the enemy's ships from the seas, and have established a blockade of the enemy's coasts. The enemy are thus prevented from carrying on their foreign commerce except to a very small extent, their income is seriously curtailed and their financial strength diminished. Moreover, the fleet has enabled both the British people and their Allies to draw abundant supplies of food, of material and of munitions from all parts of the world, to conduct their foreign commerce much as usual, and to maintain their income at a high level. The closure of the Dardanelles and of the Baltic is, indeed, the only remaining impediment to the overseas commerce of the Allies.

On land the Allies have added steadily to their military strength from week to week ever since war began, not only actually but relatively to the enemy. Germany's hopes of victory depended upon a short and swift war. These hopes have been completely dispelled.

In a long war success depends mainly upon the respective financial resources of the combatants, and the consequent power of one of them to maintain, or to add to, its fighting strength when the other's is declining, or is not capable of expansion. It is not in doubt that the financial resources of the Allies, when fully mobilised and wisely controlled, will be vastly greater than the enemy's.

Therefore, the enemy's efforts have been directed to three essential matters:—

(1) To seize victory before the forces of the Allies could be mobilised in overwhelming strength.

(2) To reduce the economic and financial strength of the Allies.

(3) To prevent the Allies from making or purchasing sufficient equipment and ammunition for their ever-expanding forces.

The endeavours of the enemy to accomplish these objects have been completely frustrated by the co-ordination of the armies, of the financial resources, of the equipment and of the munitions of the Allied nations. The success of the Allies in defeating the enemy's efforts to cripple them in men, munitions and money before they could assemble their full strength has now brought the war nearer to its final stage. Indeed, only one thing is now needed to command victory. The Allies have assembled new armies of overwhelming strength in France, in Russia, in Italy, and in Great Britain, and everything needed to equip them and to supply them with munitions has been secured, or is in process of manufacture. **The only thing remaining to be done is to provide all the money needed to support these great armies of new men, and to pay for the vast quantities of arms and munitions now being manufactured in all parts of the world.**

The task of finding the greater part of the immense sums of money needed by the Allies is the special duty of the British people, for they in particular possess the necessary financial resources. Their manufacturing power has not been reduced by invasion, their cities have not been destroyed, their ports have not been shut off from the rest of the world, and their income has not been diminished by the absence of tourists and by other circumstances. Indeed, the income of the British people has been maintained at a very high level. Their exports, though not as great as before the War, are greater than they were as recently as 1909, their income from interest on capital invested abroad has been reduced but little, the earnings of their ships are greater than ever, and their factories are working full time. Moreover, the effect upon the production of the nation of the mobilisation of a great army has been largely neutralised by the more vigorous and effective work of the civilian population in general and of the women in particular. Lastly, the average individual income is much in excess of any total hitherto reached. Thus the power of Great Britain to meet her own expenditures, and the sums needed by her Allies is very great.

What is it, then, that the country has to do? The Chancellor of the Exchequer has informed the nation that the Government expenditure in the current fiscal year will be:—

	£
Navy	190,000,000
Loans to Allies and Colonies	423,000,000
Army	715,000,000
Miscellaneous ...	92,000,000
Interest on Debt ...	67,000,000
Civil Services, Post Office, Local Taxation, &c. ...	103,000,000
Total	£1,590,000,000

And that in 1916-17 the expenditure will reach £5,000,000 per day, or £1,825,000,000 per annum.

Therefore the work that the British people are called upon to perform is to provide out of all their financial resources a sum of nearly £1,600,000,000 in the current fiscal year, and over £1,800,000,000 in the next fiscal year. In the current calendar year (1915) the British people will spend about £1,300,000,000 upon war and government, and next year (1916) will need to spend about £1,800,000,000 in place of a sum of about £200,000,000 a year before the war. To raise this vast sum is a stupendous task, and one that will try the mettle of the nation as it has not been tried for a hundred years. Not only has the nation to find this great sum of £1,800,000,000 next year, but it has to find it with several millions of its most active sons in the fighting line.

No one can realise the vastness of the task before the nation without becoming keenly conscious that it demands the strenuous co-operation of every man and woman, youth and maiden in the country; that the nation's energies must be completely concentrated upon the production of really essential things; and that the production of all non-essentials must be wholly stopped. Moreover, not only must the nation avoid the consumption of all non-essentials, but must even restrict the consumption of essentials to the limits of efficiency. Furthermore, individuals possessing securities marketable abroad must sell them in order to pay for goods and munitions purchased abroad for which no other means of payment can be provided. Lastly, the credit of the nation and of individuals must be employed in order to pay for goods and munitions purchased abroad for which payment cannot be made in goods, services, or securities. Only by all classes, employers and employed alike, adding to, and most carefully husbanding, income, by selling foreign securities and by creating foreign credits will it be possible to provide the vast sum needed by the nation and the nation's Allies.

The work of mobilising the whole of the nation's financial resources must now be undertaken with courage and with vigour.

With everyone anxious "to do his bit," the great task of financing the War can and will be accomplished and ultimate victory assured.

George Anderson.	George Paish.
Robert Balfour.	J. W. Beaumont Pease.
Rupert Beckett.	William Plender.
Henry Bell.	James Roberts.
Faber.	Alexander Robb.
J. S. Harmood Banner.	Gerald H. Ryan.
Frederick Huth Jackson.	Swaythling.
Henry Seymour King.	J. Herbert Tritton.
Walter Leaf.	R. V. Vassar-Smith.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

TREASURY'S INVITATION TO BRITISH HOLDERS.

The official announcement with regard to the sale or deposit of American dollar securities is of special interest to our readers, and consequently we reproduce the notice *in extenso*. It will be particularly noted that holders are requested to sell rather than to lend their securities, and that sales of securities through the Stock Exchange in the ordinary manner are as useful as the deposit of the securities with the Treasury, especially if the proceeds of the sale are invested in the new Exchequer 5% Bonds. In the national interest we trust that as many of our readers as possible will agree to sell their securities and will accept payment in Exchequer Bonds. It will also be noted that it is optional for holders of securities to accept payment for their securities in cash or in Exchequer Bonds. The official notice is as follows:—

On and after January 1, 1916, holders of American (including Canadian) dollar securities are invited to place their securities at the disposal of the Treasury either by sale to the Treasury or, if they are not prepared to sell them, by deposit on loan with the Treasury, in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum printed in the *London Gazette* of December 17. In view of the time required for dealing with the securities now being tendered by Insurance and Trust Companies, the Treasury are not in a position to consider offers from individual holders before January 1.

In order to facilitate the working of the scheme the following explanations are here added:—

1. While it is not possible to compile a complete list of securities which will as a rule be acceptable for the purposes in view, the following general observations will serve as a guide:—

(*a*) No purely sterling securities can be adopted. It is essential that securities tendered either for sale or for deposit shall either be expressed in United States of America or Canadian currency, or, if expressed in sterling, shall be convertible at the holder's option into dollar securities, or carry the right to payment in dollars or sterling at the holder's option.

(*b*) No bonds can be accepted on which dividends or interest have not been regularly paid since the date of issue, and no stock can be accepted unless a dividend of not less than 3% per annum has been regularly paid thereon since January 1, 1913.

(*c*) All securities tendered for sale or deposit must be supported by a statement by a banker, broker, or other responsible party that they have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom or have been in the ownership of the seller or depositor since September 30, 1914, and that they have not since the outbreak of war been in enemy ownership.

(*d*) Provided that conditions (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) are satisfied, first-class securities falling within the following categories may be regarded as being, as a rule, likely to be acceptable:—

(i) Any securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange;

(ii) Bonds of the Government of the United States of America;

(iii) Bonds of a State or municipality in the United States of America;

(iv) Securities of a railway company or a public utility company operating in the United States of America;

(v) Canadian Government, provincial, and municipal bonds;

(vi) Canadian railway securities.

(*e*) Bonds and stocks of industrial corporations will not as a rule be acceptable, except in the case of large corporations, such as the United States Steel Trust, &c. Securities not clearly falling within one or other of the categories named under (*d*) above should not be offered to the Treasury except upon the advice of a banker or stockbroker.

2. Forms for submitting lists of securities offered for sale or loan to the Treasury will be placed in the hands of bankers and stockbrokers, and will be provided upon application to the Secretary to the Treasury, c/o The National Debt Commissioners, Old Jewry, London, E.C., to which address any necessary inquiries should be directed. It is particularly requested that such inquiries should be confined within the narrowest possible limits, in order to avoid unessential correspondence. Lists should not be submitted except upon these forms, and the particulars therein asked for should be carefully filled in. Attention is directed to the fact that four distinct forms are provided for use:—

(*a*) For bonds offered for sale;
(*b*) For stocks offered for sale;
(*c*) For bonds offered for deposit on loan;
(*d*) For stocks offered for deposit on loan.

No list should be forwarded before January 1, 1916, and the actual securities should in no case be forwarded until an intimation has been received of the acceptance of an offer and a request made for the accepted securities to be forwarded.

3. All lists totalling less than $25,000 must be submitted through a member of a Stock Exchange, except in the case of insurance and trust companies, whose lists may be submitted direct. The commission to the member of a Stock Exchange will be paid by the Treasury, and no commission will be chargeable by him to his client in respect of transactions under the scheme.

4. In view of the fact that it will not be possible for the Treasury to accept more than a limited amount of securities under the scheme at the present time, it may prove necessary temporarily to withdraw this invitation at any moment.

5. Holders of American securities are requested to remember that, although they are invited primarily to submit suitable securities to the Government under the present scheme, they can still contribute materially towards the achievement of the objects aimed at in the scheme by selling their securities in the open market and reinvesting the proceeds in British Government securities.

MR. ASQUITH'S SPEECH.

The effect of Mr. Asquith's speech on Tuesday was marred by his inability to inform the House of Commons what had been the exact result of Lord Derby's enlistment policy. We are quite aware of the enthusiastic answer that was given to Lord Derby's appeal. And we quite recognise that the difficulty of collecting, tabulating, and accurately making up the total numbers enrolled was exceedingly great. Yet the fact remains that the desire of the country, and of Parliament, is to know what exactly was the response of the young men of fighting age, and whether it will be necessary to take additional steps. In consequence of the impossibility of giving the information the speech fell rather flat. It will be in the recollection of our readers that Parliament voted for the current year a total military force of three millions of men. And the Prime Minister on Tuesday asked for a vote of an additional million, making altogether four millions of men. It is not quite clear whether in this figure of four millions the Indian troops and the troops of the self-governing Dominions, Commonwealths, and Unions are all included. In any case the Government considers that it requires authority to put in the field four millions of men. The speech of the Minister of Munitions on the preceding day gave us so encouraging an account of the great increase that has taken place since the formation of the Department in the supply of all kinds of munitions that no doubt is entertained that we shall be able not merely to supply the four millions of men now being authorised with everything required by them, but we shall be able, likewise, to assist largely our more backward Allies. It is to be recollected that the wastage of the War is very considerable. Four millions of men immensely exceeds any military force that this country has ever hitherto contemplated raising. It might, therefore, be well supposed that when we have Allies who are making great exertions likewise four millions of men ought completely to suffice. But it is to be recollected that the casualties in the War are very heavy. They have been exceedingly heavy hitherto. And we shall be fortunate indeed if they do not become heavier as the War proceeds. And, therefore, every encounter that takes place will lessen the number of men capable of taking their places in the ranks. As a result, it will be necessary to hold very large forces in reserve. And no doubt it is with the desire to lose no time in securing the requisite reserves that Parliament is asked, even before Christmas, to vote so large an additional force as a million of men. The Government, as the speeches of the Prime Minister and the Minister for Munitions adequately prove, at last recognises that the mere number of men with the Colours in itself affects little the real results of the War. In the beginning our military authorities took an altogether wrong view of warfare under present-day conditions, and therefore gave too little thought to munitions and to the full provision of everything necessary to enable the fighting forces to break down the opposition of the enemy. Now the lesson has been fully learned, and we trust that nothing will be allowed which will delay the outturn of the requisite quantity of ammunition. Mr. Lloyd George on Monday seemed rather to indicate that, in spite of all our experience during the past seventeen months, there is a school of influential military men who are not yet convinced that high explosives are above everything requisite, and that, while shrapnel is not to be disregarded, it must cease to be looked upon as more valuable than high explosives. We note with satisfaction the tone of the Prime Minister in this regard. He seems to have clearly realised the mistakes hitherto made, and to be properly anxious for the supply of the right kind of munitions.

Not only is this so, but it appears clear that Ministers have at last fully recognised the indispensable necessity of the Allies acting upon one policy, to which each member of the Alliance will contribute its best efforts. This has been apparent for some time past, and every day we have additional evidence that the true policy is now clearly understood and is being acted upon. So far as our own Government and that of France are concerned, there appears to be no room for doubt that they are in the closest and most constant communication; that they have threshed out all the various problems; and that they are agreed upon a common policy. It is not equally clear that we have succeeded equally well with both Russia and Italy. Russia, it is to be recollected, has not yet supplied herself with the requisite quantity of munitions. Therefore, she may think it necessary to postpone for some time longer a definite decision. But from the speeches of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George it is clear that our own outturn of munitions is growing so satisfactorily that we shall be able to assist Russia; while it is notorious that Russia is exerting herself to obtain supplies from every possible quarter. The doubts entertained, therefore, whether the Russian Government is in the same close and constant communication with ourselves and the French as the two latter are with one another are probably based on a misconception. Until Russia feels that she can act with effect she is probably devoting her best attention to the supply of munitions and to preparations for taking up an attitude in accordance with the decision of the Allies. The Russian Army, no doubt, is better able to operate in a Russian winter than the soldiers of the two Central European Empires. Therefore it might be supposed that Russia would take advantage of her superiority in this respect. On the other hand, it would obviously be a mistake if Russia were to enter upon a great offensive movement before she is prepared. We must, therefore, clearly recognise that the true policy for Russia is to secure for herself an adequate supply of the requisite munitions, and that only when she has succeeded in that will she be justified in adopting a great offensive movement. Taking all things into consideration, however, there seems room for believing that the Russians are being very rapidly supplied, and that the time will not be long before they are able to move actively.

We have frequently in these columns called attention to the evidence afforded from time to time that the Germans are becoming much more active than they have been for a considerable time past both in France and in Flanders. That may mean simply that the two Central European Empires have persuaded themselves that their adversaries cannot adopt a very active policy either in France, in Flanders, or in Poland; that, in consequence, they may assemble in the Balkans a larger force than at first seemed likely; and that, therefore, it is desirable from the German point of view to give so much to do to the British and the French in the Western theatre of operations that they will not be in a position to afford large reinforcements either for the Balkans or for Constantinople. However, the evidence seems to be accumulating, whatever the interpretation may be, that the Germans are becoming more active both in France and in Flanders than they have been for a considerable time; and, of course, it is the duty of both France and England to be prepared for such a manœuvre. Meanwhile, it looks as if before long we might expect serious movements in the Near East.

The Russians, fortunately, have gained the upper hand in Persia, and practically have defeated the object of the revolutionaries. Furthermore, the Russian Fleet has again appeared off Varna, and though we hear nothing of a landing, that would seem to indicate that preparations are being made for the invasion of Bulgaria by the Russians. If the Russians really have sufficient supplies of munitions to land a considerable army, the whole aspect of things in the Balkans will rapidly change. The British and the French are steadily receiving reinforcements. They must now have strengthened their position at Salonika sufficiently to defy any attacks either from Bulgarians alone or from these assisted by Germans and Austrians. Consequently, if the Italians from Albania and the Russians from Varna, or any such position, should co-operate in an attack upon Bulgaria we might witness a result that would change the whole aspect of the struggle in the Near East. Some of our contemporaries lament the withdrawal of our troops from Suvla and Anzac, and appear to look upon it as a defeat. To us it appears different. Whether the original landing at Suvla was well- or ill-conceived, or whether it was well- or ill-carried out, we need not now inquire. The information before us, for one thing, is insufficient to justify any conclusion. We had better wait, therefore, for fuller reports than we have yet received. Meantime, we must all recognise that, even if the original conception was a good one, it was not carried out efficiently, and that, consequently, the force landed there was in a falso position, which might become under conceivable circumstances a very difficult one. Therefore it seems to us much wiser to withdraw the forces. Under present circumstances they can be better employed in another position, and they will increase the numbers which can be employed either against the Turks or against the Bulgarians.

A LESSON AND A WARNING.

We feel sure that everybody interested in the War—and who is not?—has read with the utmost attention and care the exceedingly frank and clear speech of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons on Monday. Therefore, we will not waste the time and the patience of our readers by summing up what has been so much better said by the Minister of Munitions. We shall, we think, perform a better service to the country and to our readers if we direct their attention to some of the lessons the speech is so well calculated to inculcate, and draw from them certain conclusions. There are many credulous or invincibly sanguine people who hope that this War will end serious strife among the nations. They tell us, firstly, that war has become too destructive to be engaged in once more, and yet they see before their eyes a growing determination amongst all parties to the present hostilities to see the struggle out to the bitter end. They tell us, again, that the destruction of life, more particularly, will be so great that Germany will not be in a position to renew the struggle for a time so long that we need not look beyond it. Yet if they have ever read even a shallow and brief history of Prussia they must be aware that that is not the Prussian characteristic. When Prussia was a very small German State she conceived the idea of collecting for herself a powerful army, and she succeeded. Again, when the Great Napoleon seemed to be the irresistible master of the Continent, and when Prussia lay helpless under his heel, she did not despair, but began the reforms of Stein and Hardenburg which have resulted in what we see to-day. Furthermore, they tell us that humanity is becoming too civilised. Too civilised, forsooth! when almost every superstition and every evil practice the world has ever known lives and flourishes to-day. We are far from being too civilised. Our great grandchildren, and possibly their great grandchildren also, will not be too civilised to outlive war. No! we have to be prepared for a struggle even more desperate than that which we witness at the present moment. We do not aspire to the character of prophets. We have no wish, therefore, to take upon ourselves the rôle of prediction. But as plain men of the world who note what is passing before our eyes we venture to say that this War, unless the greatest care, the greatest judgment, and the greatest statesmanship are exercised, will lead to other wars still more deadly. For, apart altogether from the feelings that will be left behind by this conflict, we have to bear in mind that the nationality idea which has already played so great a part of Europe is far, indeed, from being satisfied, and that it will break the peace many times before it is completely solved.

Without spending more time in warning our readers that war is not out of date, and will not become out of date during the lifetime of any of them, we would proceed to point out that there is only one certain way of preventing war, and that is by full preparation. Germany conceived the idea, as other Powers were growing too fat and too lazy to make adequate preparations, that she alone had the willingness to spend and the readiness to be spent; and, consequently, that if she prepared she must prevail. She spent a whole generation, to say the least, in preparation. And we see that, though she has failed, she has achieved more than anybody thought possible before the struggle began. Even to-day, nearly seventeen months after the outbreak of hostilities, she occupies nearly all Belgium, a large part of France, and practically the whole of Poland. Therefore, we must show to her, and to such as her who aim at disturbing the peace of the world, that they will find antagonists as well prepared as themselves, and when we do they will think many times before they draw the sword. Germany, as Mr. Lloyd George clearly showed on Monday, had thought out the problems of a great present-day war more carefully and more accurately than her opponents. Therefore, she began with a great superiority over them in munitions of all kinds, and particularly in guns of immense calibre, and in shells of extraordinary explosive character. The main topic of Mr. George's speech was to show what the Department over which he presides has done in little more than six months. He tells us that in a very short time we shall be able to finance munitions at such a rate that even the expenditure in a first-class battle will be made good in a single week. That being so, we are growing superior to Germany, firstly, in the supply of munitions, and, secondly, in the supply of men. There is not, happily, the least necessity for us of the British Empire to keep up a great standing army, because we have learned the lesson that the way to attach all parts of the Empire to all the other parts is to give each and all full self-government. Therefore, we have an Empire which contains between a fifth and a fourth of the whole human race; and we need only to continue the democratic policy which has so raised us and to extend to every part of the Empire as each part becomes fitted such a measure of self-government as it is qualified to exercise wisely. But though we shall need a very small standing army—an army merely sufficient to garrison such parts of the Empire as require garrisoning—we ought to be able to call up such an army as even the most reckless of military States will hesitate to challenge. Our Empire is such that it would be out of the question to raise men by conscription for the purpose of garrisoning all parts of the Empire. But our Empire is, at the same time, such that when danger calls every man is ready to answer the challenge, as we have learned since this War began. Consequently, all that we really need is that the male population of the Empire shall be trained in military exercises during their school time, and that their training shall be kept up by periodical summer manœuvres. So far as men are concerned, that is

enough. If we act with even a little part of the success with which Germany acted we can have trained men sufficient to make any Power in the world, or even a coalition of Powers, think a great many times before it, or they, will decide to attack.

In addition to a military system somewhat resembling the Swiss, and a standing Army raised on the purely voluntary system, as of old, we need two other things, and without them we shall be helpless. The first is a separation of what we may call the Munitions Department from the Military Department altogether. In all our history since the fall of the Stuarts we have never been prepared for war when it came upon us, because our Munitions Department was merely a branch of the War Office, and, like all official Departments, had fallen into the practice of red tape. We want, then, some arrangement which will make the Munitions Department quite independent of the dictation of soldiers; which will be managed by men of science and men of business; and which will hold as its first claim to the confidence of the country efficiency in every particular and at every time. If we have an immense body of trained men all over the Empire ready to fall into the ranks when required, and if we have a Munitions Department prepared fully to supply those men with everything they require for warlike purposes, from gaiter-buttons up to artillery of the greatest power, we shall be in a position that will in all reasonable probability deter even the most audacious from attacking us. Even that, however, is not sufficient, if we desire, firstly, to be able to sleep in our beds in full confidence that no war is threatened; and if, furthermore, we know we are in a position that our prohibition will in all reasonable probability forbid war elsewhere, then, indeed, we may look for a long term of peace. To attain that position, we require an adequate body of highly trained officers, commissioned and non-commissioned. The number of officers that could gain any real experience with such an Army as we have just been sketching out would be totally inadequate, and would have no means of properly acquiring experience. We want a great General Staff as scientific and as efficient as any in the world. And we want, in addition, officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, sufficient to take command of the whole body of men who may be willing to give their services in case of danger. If it were known that the British Empire were equipped in this manner, we might rest confident that war would become a very rare thing indeed. Of course, the pacifists will declare that we are no more to be trusted than the militarist Powers. But the pacifists are either weak-minded persons whose arguments do not deserve consideration, or they are dangerous persons who, under an assumed name, are really pushing an objectionable policy. They are either militarists in real feeling, or they are interested in the manufacture of munitions upon an immense scale, and, therefore, are quite willing that fear of war should remain permanent. Or, lastly, they are people who, calling themselves Liberals or Radicals or Democrats, are really military absolutists, who feel that so long as peace is in danger the party of their real preference will attain power. We must not, then, listen to these insidious workers for an evil policy. We must look the plain facts full in the face, and take such measures as will ensure us that if we are attacked we shall be in a position to defeat the enemy without delay.

CAPITAL.

Just now there is naturally very much discussion by persons, ignorant as well as only partially informed, of the losses that will be occasioned by the great War in which so large a part of the world is engaged. It may be well, therefore, to point out what the losses really will consist of, and what surprising misconception is entertained by persons from whom something better might be expected. Often we are told that the destruction of money will be enormous. If by the word "money" actual currency is meant, this is a complete misconception. There will be no destruction of money save in exceptional cases where accidents of one kind or another may lead to it; but there will be no intentional destruction of money. It is quite true that as soon as the War broke out the two Central European Empires suspended specie payments, and that ever since they have, as far as they could manage it, paid for what they have bought in paper, or the equivalent of paper. Nevertheless, a good deal of gold has gone from the two Central European Empires, and a great deal more will go when peace is concluded. They will have, moreover, to recompense by large indemnities those whom they have so wantonly attacked. It is also true that gold has gone, and is going, from the Entente Allies, and that much more of it will go. But that gold passes from certain countries to other countries does not imply any destruction of the metal. It simply means that, because of extraordinary expenditure, some countries have had to buy on an enormous scale, and others, in consequence, have been able to sell on an enormous scale. There has been, then, and there will continue to be during the War, a large transfer of actual cash from the belligerents to neutrals. There will be a still larger transfer when peace is concluded. We may take it, then, that there will be no destruction of money, as such, because of the hostilities; that if there is any, it will be accidental; but that there will be very large transfers. At the end of the struggle some States will possess much more metallic money than they had at the beginning, and others will possess much less. What is generally included under the phrase "wealth" or "money" that will be destroyed is commodities. There has already been some destruction, no doubt, of shipping; and there will probably be much more before peace is restored. But so far, at all events, the destruction of shipping has been much less than the world was prepared to expect. The real destruction will be, partly, the firing away of munitions that cost immense sums; partly, the wearing out by such firing of great guns which are very expensive to construct; and, partly, of all kinds of commodities that are necessary to feed and maintain armies in the field, and to enable them to fight with one another. The real destruction of wealth, or money, or property, or whatever word the reader prefers, will be the destruction of commodities on a vast scale.

Even that description does not convey the full information that is desired. Great armies and navies have been called out, and are being called out, and will have to be maintained as long as hostilities continue. Therefore, there will have to be an immense outlay in feeding, clothing, and generally in supplying them with everything they want. But against this it has to be borne in mind that these same people would have had to be maintained by some means or other if peace had never been broken. It is not the mere consumption of commodities, therefore, which it is the injurious function of war to destroy, but the use of them for useless purposes. If everything that is being consumed for the purposes of war had been consumed for the purposes of peace, there would be cause for rejoicing, and not for regret. But war consumes what would make the world better and happier, and yet helps to produce nothing to take its place. On the contrary, war withdraws from productive industry a vast proportion of the male population in the very flower of its youth when it is most capable of exertion, and when its intelligence ought to be at the highest. It withdraws this most valuable proportion of mankind for destruction. It stops, to a large extent, useful production. And, therefore, while there is a great destruction of wealth or property, or what you please, there is no proper replacement of

that which has been destroyed by useful production in place of what has been spent. This is the really injurious material influence of war. Houses, railways, roads, bridges, canals, harbours, factories of all kinds—in fact, almost everything permanent that has been created by man and is useful to him—is destroyed as far as the destructive abilities of the belligerents go, and exceedingly little is done to produce what is thus made away with. But if matters stood there, the loss would be comparatively trifling. Nature's beneficence reproduces so much food and raw materials every year that man has the opportunity quickly to replace what has been destroyed. The really material destruction of war is, therefore, lamentable indeed, and inflicts great hardship upon those who are rendered homeless. But it would be only a temporary calamity if nothing further was destroyed.

The worst of all the evils of war, beyond any possible comparison, is not the destruction of valuable material wealth, but the destruction of human life. In this Journal we have frequently pointed out that man is the real wealth of the world; that Nature presents him with exceedingly little that can be used by him in the shape in which he finds it; but that man so transforms what Nature gives him that he turns a useless thing into a useful thing, and makes everything that we call wealth. Now, in the course of this disastrous War, the loss of human life, and especially of the young lives of the men of the various combatant countries, will probably be in excess of anything the world has hitherto seen. The wars that followed the French Revolution lasted for very nearly a quarter of a century and destroyed life upon a colossal scale. But it seems reasonably certain now that the loss of life in the present struggle will be greater than in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. Indeed, it is questionable whether, if the War lasts anything like another year, the excess will not be considerable. Already, while the German Government speaks boldly, and the German Press affects to believe in Germany's ultimate victory, we have unmistakable evidence that Germany has passed the zenith of her fighting power. She can still call out the contingents of 1916 and 1917. But they will be boys with smooth faces. All the older categories have probably by this time been called out, and as fighting continues the reinforcements that Germany will be able to call up will be trifling, while the reinforcements of her enemies will be far larger than they have been heretofore. Germany and German Austria will, therefore, if the War lasts another year, be utterly exhausted, not because railways have been derailed, bridges blown up, tunnels ruined, houses burned, and so on, but because the strong young lives which gave value to all those things are being reduced to clay day by day in frightful numbers. By and by the two Central European Empires will be poor because they will have so few young and capable men. On the part of the Entente Allies the losses will be great. In Serbia, Belgium, and in the occupied parts of France they will be very serious. And they will be considerable in Poland and Galicia. But outside of these localities the losses will not be such as to condemn the countries to a long period of impotence and suffering. There will be a few years, even in our own country, of poverty, not because of the material losses, nor even very greatly because of the loss of life, but because productive industry has been thrown out of gear by the War, while immense new industries have been called into existence. It will be necessary to demobilise the latter and remobilise the former. The process will be slow, painful, and impoverishing. Still, the great Entente Allies will suffer little compared with their enemies. It will not be surprising, indeed, if Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey retain traces of the destruction brought upon them a hundred years hence.

BANKING PROFITS.

ANOTHER GOOD YEAR.

Probably the year 1915 will prove to be the most profitable period ever enjoyed by British bankers. It is true, of course, that a part of their great profit will have to be utilised for the purpose of writing down their investments, but inasmuch as this process merely means an increase of income in future years in proportion to the amount of profit devoted to this purpose, the sums written off must be regarded as reserved profits. The great sums of profit which bankers have devoted to depreciation in recent years will not only mean a permanent increase in the profits of the banks, but after the War, when prices of securities will recover to much higher figures, bankers will derive the additional advantage of holding securities in their books written down to abnormally low figures.

The great profits of the past year have been gained in part by the profitable rates of interest and in part by the large additions to the deposits of bankers since war began. How much the increase in deposits has been for the whole year is not yet known, but in the six months to the end of June the addition was a long way over £100,000,000, and in the first twelve months after war began the increase in deposits was over £200,000,000. In the past six months the growth of deposits has been much smaller because the Government Loan was used in part for the purpose of making repayment to the Bank of England of previous advances, a process which prevented the deposits of bankers from showing increases corresponding to the amount of money that bankers subscribed to the Loan. It will be remembered that in July the Bank of England was repaid £160,000,000 of money, and that Mr. Asquith announced a further repayment of £104,000,000 up to the beginning of November. Whether any additional sums have been repaid since that date has not been announced, but it is clear that at least £264,000,000 of the last Government Loan has been used to repay former advances by the Bank of England to the Government, and that these repayments have prevented that expansion in credit which otherwise would have been shown and which would have brought about a growth in bankers' deposits corresponding to the expansion in their investments.

In referring to the diminished rate at which deposits have grown in the past six months, we have not mentioned the influence of gold shipments. As far as bankers are concerned, however, the large amount of gold that has been sent away has had no effect upon deposits, as practically the whole of it has come out of circulation. Between June 30 and December 22 the amount of gold in the Bank of England was reduced only £1,000,000, an export of gold on balance of £16,800,000 having been neutralised by the withdrawal of £15,800,000 of gold from circulation in consequence of the replacement of coin in circulation by Currency Notes. Since the end of June the amount of Currency Notes outstanding has increased from £46,577,000 to £97,145,000, or by 51½ millions. This increase has not only prevented gold exports from having any adverse effect upon bankers' deposits, but has prevented the greatly increased demand for cash for internal circulation bringing about any decline in bankers' deposits. Thus, notwithstanding the effect upon bankers' deposits of the cancellation of the abnormal Government credits at the Bank of England in the last six months, bankers' profits have derived advantage from their substantially greater average deposits in 1915 than in 1914. And beyond the greater amount of funds which bankers have had in their possession for employment, the rates of interest have been very profitable. Throughout the whole year the Bank of England rate has been maintained at 5%,

and in the second half-year the Open-market rates of discount have been close to Bank rate, the average rate for three months' bills working out at £4 18*s.* 5*d.* per cent. Moreover, for some months past the value of day-to-day money has been relatively high in consequence of the policy which bankers have pursued in responding to the desire of the Bank of England to keep rates firm. The average rate for day-to-day money has been as high as £3 14*s.* 2*d.* per cent. in the second half-year, against £1 16*s.* 4*d.* per cent. in the previous year, and for the whole year it has been £2 9*s.* 2*d.* per cent., against £1 17*s.* 11*d.* per cent. Approximately bankers pay no interest upon about one-half of their deposits left with them on current account. With regard to the other half, which consists of fixed deposits, interest has to be allowed, and here the advance has been substantial, although not as great as the rise in discount and money rates. For the half-year the average allowance by bankers for deposits at notice was £3 4*s.* 2*d.* per cent., against £2 7*s.* 9*d.* per cent. in the second half of last year, and for the whole year the average rate allowed was £2 12*s.* 1*d.* per cent., against £2 1*s.* 4*d.* per cent. The following comparison of the average rates of interest current in the Money market in the second half of 1915 with those for the corresponding periods of previous years shows clearly that the period has been a very profitable one:—

Average Interest Rates per Cent. per Annum: December Halves.

Half-Year ended Dec. 31	Bank of England Rate	Open-Market Discount Rate 3 Months' Bills	Day-to-Day Money	Deposit Rates—Bankers' at Notice Rates	Deposit Rates—Discount Houses at Notice
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1915 ...	5 0 0	4 18 5	3 14 2	3 4 2	3 13 4
1914 ...	4 16 8	3 6 7	1 16 4	2 7 9	2 14 1
1913 ...	4 14 11	4 7 8	3 9 10	3 4 11	3 9 11
1912 ...	4 1 8	3 17 10	2 19 8	2 11 8	2 18 3
1911 ...	3 10 11	3 2 10	1 17 8	2 0 11	2 5 11
1910 ...	3 16 4	3 5 1	2 8 7	2 6 4	2 11 8
1909 ...	3 9 7	2 13 6	2 4 5	1 19 8	2 4 8
1908 ...	2 10 0	1 15 2	1 3 5	1 0 0	1 5 0
1907 ...	5 3 1	4 15 5	3 3 7	3 4 1	3 13 6
1906 ...	4 12 7	4 9 2	3 10 6	2 18 8	3 7 2
1905 ...	3 6 7	3 0 1	2 7 5	1 16 7	2 5 11

For the year the profit has in proportion not been as substantial as in the second half, for rates early in the year were much lower than they were in the second half-year, as it was not then considered necessary to keep Open-market rates up to the level of the Bank of England rate. The average rates of interest for the whole year in comparison with those for previous years are shown below:—

Average Interest Rates per Cent. per Annum: Whole Year.

Year ended Dec. 31	Bank of England Rate	Open-Market Discount Rate 3 Months' Bills	Day-to-Day Money	Deposit Rates—Bankers' at Notice Rates	Deposit Rates—Discount Houses at Notice
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1915 ...	5 0 0	3 13 4	2 9 2	2 12 1	2 17 5
1914 ...	4 0 9	2 17 6	1 17 11	2 1 4	2 7 0
1913 ...	4 15 5	4 6 10	3 14 5	3 5 5	3 10 5
1912 ...	3 15 6	3 11 6	3 0 6	2 5 6	2 14 6
1911 ...	3 9 4	2 18 0	2 4 1	1 19 4	2 6 2
1910 ...	3 14 6	3 3 3	2 11 2	2 4 6	2 10 6
1909 ...	3 1 8	2 5 8	1 19 8	1 12 0	1 18 1
1908 ...	3 0 3	2 5 7	1 18 11	1 9 8	1 15 2
1907 ...	4 18 6	4 10 0	3 7 5	3 3 6	3 10 11
1906 ...	4 5 4	4 0 4	3 8 4	2 13 4	3 4 9
1905 ...	3 0 2	2 12 7	2 4 8	1 10 2	2 2 3

To give a still clearer idea of bankers' profits in the past half-year we set out below a comparison of the rates of interest accruing to bankers, first in respect of the deposits upon which they pay no interest, and, secondly, of the deposits on which they do pay interest both for the December half-year and for the whole year:—

Banks' Margins of Profit, December Half-Year.

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Profit on about one-half of deposits—			
Average rate charged to private customers	6 0 0	5 16 8	+0 3 4
Average discount rate, three months' bank bills, allowing for brokers' commission	4 17 2	3 5 4	+1 11 10
Average charge for day-to-day loans ...	3 14 2	1 16 4	+1 17 10
Average bank deposit rates	**3 4 2**	**2 7 9**	**+0 16 5**
Profit on about one-half of deposits—			
Margin of profit between rates charged to private customers and the deposit rates ...	2 15 10	3 8 11	−0 13 1
Margin of profit between discount and deposit rates	1 13 0	0 17 7	+0 15 5
Margin of profit or loss between rates for day-to-day loans and deposits ...	Dr. 0 10 0	Dr.0 11 5	+0 1 5

Banks' Margins of Profit: Whole Year.

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Profit on about one-half of deposits—			
Average rate charged to private customers	6 0 0	5 0 9	+0 19 3
Average discount rate, three months' bank bills, allowing for brokers' commission	3 12 1	2 16 3	+0 15 10
Average charge for day-to-day loans ...	2 9 2	1 17 11	+0 11 3
Average bank deposit rates	**2 12 1**	**2 1 4**	**+0 10 9**
Profit on about one-half of deposits, upon which interest is paid to depositors—			
Margin of profit between rates charged to private customers and the deposit rates	3 7 11	2 1 5	+0 5 6
Margin of profit between discount and deposit rates	1 9 0	0 14 11	+0 5 1
Margin of profit between rates for day-to-day loans and deposits	Dr. 0 2 11	Dr.0 3 5	+0 0 6

The discount houses have not been quite as fortunate as bankers. In the first place they have had to pay high rates of interest for day-to-day loans, and in the second the supply of ordinary bank bills has been greatly reduced. Nevertheless, the discount houses should have done fairly well, although probably the expansion in their profits has not been nearly as great in proportion as in banking profits. The margins of profit obtained by the discount houses in the past half-year and year in comparison with 1914 are set out below:—

Margins of Profit obtained by Discount Houses, Dec. Half-Year.

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Income—			
Aver. discount rate, 3 months' bank bills	4 18 5	3 6 7	+1 11 10
Expenses—			
Average rate, day-to-day loans	3 14 2	1 16 4	+1 17 10
Average deposit rates at notice	3 13 4	2 14 1	+0 19 3
Profit—			
Margin of profit between rates of discount and for day-to-day loans ...	1 4 3	1 10 3	−0 6 0
Margin of profit between discount and deposit rates	1 5 1	0 12 6	+0 12 7

Discount Houses: Margins of Profit: Whole Year.

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Income—			
Aver. discount rate, 3 months' bank bills	3 13 4	2 17 6	+0 15 10
Expenses—			
Aver. rate, day-to-day loans	2 9 2	1 17 11	+0 11 3
Average deposit rates at notice	2 17 5	2 7 0	+0 10 5
Profit—			
Margin of profit between rates of discount and those for day to-day loans	1 4 2	0 19 7	+0 4 7
Margin of profit between discount and deposit rates	0 15 11	0 10 6	+0 5 5

We anticipate that bankers will have no difficulty in maintaining the dividends they paid in the second half of 1914, with perhaps one or two exceptions, where profits have been affected by special circumstances, such as the exceptionally small amount of business transacted on the Stock Exchange. In the first half of 1915 the London County and Westminster, which in normal times enjoys a very large and lucrative Stock Exchange business, reduced its rate of dividend from 21¼% to 18%. In this case doubtless the rate of dividend will again be 18%. The London Joint Stock Bank, which also transacts a very large City business, and whose profits fluctuate with the volume of purely City business, in the first half of the year reduced its rate of dividend from 11% to 10% per annum. Here again the dividend may be again at the rate of 10% per annum. But in spite of these exceptions, due to special influences affecting purely City business at the present time of a very temporary character, Bank dividends should be either maintained at or increased beyond the rates paid in the second half of 1914. For the purpose of showing what the distributions were for the twelve months to June 1915

in comparison with those for former years, we give the following statement:—

	1914-15.	'14.	'13.	'12.	'11.	'10.	'09.	'08.	'07.	'06.	'05.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate ...	**5·00**	**4·04**	**4·75**	**3·77**	**3·47**	**3·73**	**3·10**	**3·01**	**4·92**	**4·25**	**3·0**
B. of England	10	10	9·21‡	9†	9†	9†	9†	9†	9†	9†	9†
Barclay { "A"	10	10	13·33*a*	13.33‡	12½†	12½†	13⅓†	15†	15†	15†	15†
Barclay { "B"	17½	18⅔									
Cap. & Counties	14	15	16	16	16	16	16	18†	18†	18†	18†
Lloyds	18⅓	18⅔	18⅛	18⅓	18⅔	18¾	16⅓†	18⅛†	18⅛†	18⅓†	18⅓†
L. & Prov. ...	19	19	19	19	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†
L. & S.-West. ...	16½	17	17	17	17‡	16†	16†	16†	16†	16†	16†
L. City & Mid...	18	18‡	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†	18†
L. City & West.	19⅝	21½	21½	21½	21½	20†	20†	20†	20†	20†	20†
L. Joint Stock...	10½	11	10⅓	10⅔	10·45‡	10†	10†	10†	11†	11†	11†
Martin's ...	6	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
National ...	10	10	10	10	10½	11·34‡	11†	11†	11†	11†	11†
Natl. Prov. ...	15	16	18	18	18	17†	17†	17†	17†	17†	17†
Parr's	18	19	21	21	21	20†	20†	20†	20†	20†	20†
Un. of London	10	11	12	12	12	11·83‡	10⅓†	10⅓†	11†	11†	11†
Wms.Deacon's...	14	14½	15	15	15	15†	15†	15†	15†	15†	13⅔†
Natl. Discnt. ...	10	10½	10†	10†	10†	10†	10†	10†	10†	10†	10†
Union Discnt....	13	13‡	12½†	12†	12†	12†	12†	12†	11†	11†	11†

† *Free of* income tax. ‡ Method of paying divs. changed during year; 1st half *free of*, and 2nd half *less*, tax. (*a*) Div. on old form of shares.

If it be borne in mind that for some years past bankers have been devoting a very substantial part of their profits to capital purposes in writing down the value of their investments and thus increasing the rate of interest upon their investments and upon their total funds, and, further, if the probable recovery in the prices of securities after the War be taken into account, it is evident that banking shares at their current level of price are attractive investments, yielding as they do returns of over 6% from the dividends distributed in the twelve months to June last. In taking account of the yields afforded by the London County and Westminster and the London Joint Stock, it would be well to assume that the dividends distributed in the June half of 1915 will be repeated in January, and that consequently the yields given by the probable rate of dividend may be somewhat less than shown in these two instances. With regard to the other companies, the yields afforded from the dividends distributed in the twelve months to June last give a very fair indication of the yields that will be given by dividends for the year 1915, and we anticipate that in future years the dividends are not likely to fall below those paid for the current year, and will probably show substantial improvement.

	Value of Shares		Price mid-December		Divs. 1914-15			Yield %
	Nominal	Paid up	Per Share	Per Cent.	2nd Hf. 1914	1st Hf. 1915	Yr. 1914-15	per An.
Name of Bank	**£**	**£**	**£**		**%**	**%**	**%**	**£ s. d.**
Bank of England ..	100	100	230	230	10	10	10	4 8 6
Barclay & Co. "A"	4	4	8¼	203	10	10	10	5 0 6
„ "B"	16	4	11½	278	17½	17½	17½	6 9 8
Capital & Counties	50	10	22⅝	228‡	14	14	14	6 5 6
Lloyds	50	8	23½	289	18½	18½	18½	6 12 0
Lond. & Provincial	10	5	15¼	310	19	19	19	6 6 2
L. & Sth.-Western	10	4	11½	278	16	17	16½	6 2 2
L. City & Midland	12	2½	7⅜	295	18	18	18	6 5 6
L. County & West.	20	5	15¼	315	21½	18	19⅝	6 8 0
Lond. Joint Stock	100	15	21¼	142½	11	10	10½	7 12 8
Martin's	20	10	14½	142½	6	6	6	4 5 9
National	50	10	17⅛	171½	10	10	10	6 0 1
Natnl. Provincial {	75	10½	25½	243	14	16	15	6 7 0
Natnl. Provincial {	60	12	28‡	239½	14	16	15	6 9 0
Parr's	50	10	29‡	297½	18	18	18	6 4 6
Union of London	100	15½	28⅛	154	10	10	10	6 13 4
Williams Deacon's	50	8	16⅔	207‡	14	14	14	6 19 4
National Discount	25	5	6¼	122½	10	10	10	8 9 6
Union Discount ...	10	5	9½	190	13	13	13	7 1 4

"MORATORIUM."—We have received from the Swedish Banks Association a copy of the first part of a work entitled "Moratorium," which is being compiled under the auspices of the Association. The aim and object of the work is to present, so far as possible in the original languages, the legislative measures passed in all the various countries concerning moratoria and subjects closely allied thereto during the progress of the present War. When complete this well-printed and most useful work will embrace three volumes and a supplement. The work can be obtained from Mr. Charles Dickson, Secretary of the Swedish Bankers' Association, Stockholm, who has compiled the work in co-operation with Professor Albert Kôersner.

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Financial Notes.

IN the report of the Secretary of the Treasury presented to Congress at its opening, Mr. McAdoo says: "The policy of providing for the expenditures of the Government by taxation and not by bond issues is undoubtedly a sound one, and should be adhered to. A nation no more than an individual can go constantly into debt for current expenditures without eventually impairing credit. A wise, sound, and permanent policy of raising the additional revenue required for preparedness and the expenditures of the Government should therefore be devised and adopted. With the return of peace in Europe the revenues from customs will undoubtedly increase again, and in time a large part of the customs revenues lost in the fiscal year 1915 will be restored. The entire amount of the deficiency, estimated on the basis hereinbefore stated, for the fiscal year 1917, amounting to $112,806,394 (£22,561,279) . . . can easily be raised by internal taxation without appreciable burdens upon the American people."

Later on, Mr. McAdoo observes: "I desire to renew earnestly the recommendation made in my last annual report that the law be changed, so that each person having a *gross* income of $3,000 (£600) or more for the taxable year shall make a return. Under the existing law each person having a *net* income of $3,000 or over for the taxable year is required to make a return. Consequently, the person who has a *gross* income of more than $3,000 makes his own deductions, and determines for himself without any review on the part of the department, whether his *net* income is more or less than $3,000. I feel confident that this change, if made by Congress, will result in a great increase in the number of voluntary income tax returns, and in the amount of revenue that will be collected by the Government. I am of the opinion that it would be very advantageous to have this law amended, so as to do away with the withholding of the income tax at the source, and in place thereof to require information at the source. If such an amendment is adopted, an exception should be made in the case of non-resident aliens whose tax would necessarily be withheld at the source."

Respecting the yield from the income tax, Mr. McAdoo says: "For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, the total receipts from personal income tax were $41,046,162 (£8,209,232), an increase of $12,792,627 (£2,558,525) over the preceding year. The total receipts from corporation income tax for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, were $39,144,532 (£7,828,906), a decrease of $3,983,208 (£796,642). The increase in the personal income tax receipts was due in great measure to the fact that the collections for the fiscal year 1915 were for a period of twelve months, whereas the collections for the fiscal year 1914 were for ten months."

The total estimated appropriations for the fiscal year beginning with July next Mr. McAdoo put at £257,171,562, including £63,272,976 for the post office, which is reimbursible, and about 18 millions sterling more for the Panama Canal and sinking fund. Receipts for the same year, based on existing law, without extension of the sugar duty or the emergency tax, Mr. McAdoo puts at £116,040,000, and ordinary disbursements at £166,580,200, leaving an excess of expenditure over income, if legislation is not passed to change conditions, of £50,540,200. If, however, the emergency and the sugar tax laws were extended, Mr. McAdoo admits that the deficit will be reduced to about 10 millions sterling.

At a recent meeting of the International Trade Conference a recommendation by the Committee on Banking and Currency of the National Association of Manufacturers was made in favour of the establishment of an independent bank to serve American foreign trade. The Committee proposed that the bank should receive no deposits, and should not interfere in the least with domestic banking affairs. Its business, in the opinion of the Committee, ought to be to buy drafts against bills of lading; to collect drafts and accounts in and from foreign centres; to advance money on foreign accounts; to issue drafts and letters of credit; and to accept drafts against shipments or collections. The Committee argued in support of their recommendation that the banks, as they existed before the recent banking law, could not have fulfilled the functions which they wished to see carried out. They could not have stimulated business between the United States and foreign countries, inasmuch as their functions would have been to take care of themselves more than to protect foreign accounts, thereby inducing exporting interests to extend credit everywhere.

There seems to be no doubt that Peru will obtain a loan in the United States. The amount is not yet fixed, but the well-informed anticipate that it will be about three or four millions sterling. That is a handsome sum, and will help the little Republic, though, of course, it will not make matters quite smooth regarding the public debt. But it is anticipated by those who know the country well that an earnest effort will be made to reform, and increase taxation, and so to put themselves right with their creditors. The Peruvian Government in past times was not as well manned as it might have been, which was a cause of much of the troubles of the country. The present President, however, is a capable and statesmanlike President, and much is hoped from his administration.

"La Guerre de 1914 vue en son Cours chaque Semaine." Deuxième édition. This is a record of the War week by week from its commencement to the end of July 1915, and brings under one cover the series of articles by M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu which have appeared in *L'Economiste français*. Price 3*f*. 50c. (Paris: Librairie Delagrave, 15 rue Soufflot.)



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American Topics.

U.S. FOREIGN TRADE.

Always in the Fall of the year America's exports are large, and greatly exceed the value of her imports. In a normal year the great exports in the autumn months are needed to liquidate debt to other countries, incurred through the generous expenditures of American tourists in the spring and summer. The money expended by tourists is, in fact, borrowed abroad until it is provided by exports of produce after the harvest is gathered in. But in these war times American visitors to Europe and to other countries are few and far between. Consequently, Europe has not even the usual means of paying for the food and raw material it is importing in such great quantities, and has to make payment in gold or in securities. In October America's exports were valued at as much as $334,600,000, and her imports at no more than $148,500,000. There was thus an excess of exports over imports of $186,100,000. In November, a slightly shorter month, America's exports have been worth no less than $331,100,000, or even more per day than in October. Fortunately imports expanded substantially, and were worth $164,300,000. But the excess of exports over imports was still as much as $166,826,000. In two months, therefore, the excess of exports over imports amounted to the great total of $350,000,000, or £70,000,000. On the other hand, the amount of invisible imports, which in an ordinary year would have been nearly enough to

settle this great balance, was exceptionally small. Probably America's invisible imports in the shape of interest that has to be paid upon foreign capital invested in the country, gifts to friends, insurance, &c., are now not more than $400,000,000 a year, or less than $35,000,000 a month, so that on balance for the two months other countries had to find exchange to the extent of nearly $280,000,000, or £56,000,000. In October the imports of gold into the Unifed States amounted to nearly $77,000,000, or over £15,000,000, and probably another £15,000,000 was received in November. This left a balance of about $200,000,000, or £40,000,000 to be met by sales of securities, bankers' credits, &c. Some of this money was provided by the sale of American securities by British holders, and the balance was supplied out of the £100,000,000 Anglo-French loan.

For the twelve months to the end of November the exports of the United States have been worth no less than $3,443,000,000, while the imports have been no more than $1,729,000,000. There has thus been an excess of exports over imports of $1,714,000,000, or about £350,000,000. For the calendar year 1915 America's exports will probably reach nearly $3,530,000,000, while her imports may be £1,780,000,000, and the excess of exports over imports may be $1,750,000,000. Deducting from this sum about $400,000,000 for interest, freights, &c., due to Europe, the balance in favour of America has been $1,350,000,000. Of this amount America has claimed payment as to about $420,000,000 in gold, and the balance of $930,000,000 has been received in securities of one kind or another. During the current calendar year the amount of Canadian securities purchased by the United States is about $140,000,000, while the amount of foreign securities, other than Canadian, is $621,000,000, of which $530,000,000 was for Great Britain and France, leaving $91,000,000 for other countries. Of the latter amount about $40,000,000 was for Argentina, $25,000,000 for Italy, $15,000,000 for Switzerland, and $10,000,000 for Germany. The total amount of the publicly issued loans is $760,000,000.

Beyond the public loans substantial quantities of American securities have been re-sold to New York by British insurance companies and others. But it is obvious that the total amount of money raised in America by France and Great Britain in the past year by loan and by sales of securities does not exceed $700,000,000, or £140,000,000. America's foreign trade for the year 1915 was approximately as follows:

America's Foreign Trade Balance in 1915.

	$
Exports	3,530,000,000
Imports	1,780,000,000
Excess of exports	1,750,000,000
Imports of gold	420,000,000
Net exports	1,330,000,000
Deduct:—	
Interest, freight, insurance, gifts to friends, etc.	400,000,000
Net exports	930,000,000
Foreign loans to Canada	140,000,000
,, ,, France	*290,000,000
,, ,, England	*240,000,000
,, ,, Italy	25,000,000
,, ,, Germany	10,000,000
,, ,, Switzerland	15,000,000
,, ,, Argentina	40,000,000
,, ,, Bolivia	1,000,000
Total loans	761,000,000
Balance	169,000,000

The whole of these sums will not be remitted in 1915, and the balance adjusted by sales of American securities by British investors is substantially greater than $169,000,000.

In 1916 the situation should be still more favourable. Not only were American crops this year abundant, but the country's exports of manufactured goods are rapidly expanding, and we should not be surprised if the excess of exports next year exceeded $2,000,000,000, or £400,000,000. With such a vast quantity of gold in the United States the country will not need to take payment for any part of its exports in gold, and after allowing for its remittances for interest, &c., the amount of securities it will be able to purchase may be in the neighbourhood of $1,600,000,000, or £320,000,000. Doubtless Europe will meet a large part of its purchases by sales of American securities, but it is obvious that American investors will also be in a position to make direct loans to France and Great Britain in the coming year for a much greater sum than the $530,000,000 supplied in 1915.

The enormous value of America's exports in November and the great excess of exports over imports are shown by the following comparison:—

Merchandise (November).

	1915	1914	Inc. or Dec
	$	$	$
Imports	164,319,000	126,467,000	+ 37,852,000
Exports	331,145,000	205,878,000	+125,267,000
Excess of Exp.	166,826,000	79,411,000	+ 87,415,000

The growth of America's exports month by month, and the smallness of the imports since the War commenced, will be evident from the following statements:—

Merchandise Exports from and Imports into the United States.

(In hundreds of thousands of $: 00,000's omitted.)

	Exports			Imports		
	1914-15	1913-14	+ or −	1914-15	1913-14	+ or −
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Dec.	245,6	233,2	+ 12,4	114,7	184,0	— 69,3
Jan.	267,9	204,1	+ 63,8	122,1	154,7	— 32,6
Feb.	299,8	173,9	+125,9	125,1	148,0	— 22,9
Mar.	296,6	187,5	+109,1	158,0	182,6	— 24,6
Apr.	294,7	162,6	+132,1	160,6	173,8	— 13,2
May	274,2	161,7	+112,5	142,3	164,3	— 22,0
June	268,6	157,1	+111,5	157,7	157,5	+ 2
July	269,0	154,1	+114,9	143,2	159,7	— 16,5
Aug.	261,0	110,4	+150,6	141,8	129,8	+ 12,0
Sept.	300,7	156,1	+144,6	151,2	139,7	+ 11,5
Oct.	334,6	194,7	+139,9	148,5	138,1	+ 10,4
Nov.	331,1	205,8	+125,3	164,3	126,5	+ 37,8
Year	3,443,8	2,101,2	+1,342,6	1,729,5	1,858,7	−129,2

Excess of Exports from or Imports into U. States.

	1914-15	1913-14
	$	$
Dec.	Exp.130,976,000	Exp. 49,170,000
Jan.	Exp.145,731,000	Exp. 49,324,000
Feb.	Exp.174,682,000	Exp. 25,875,000
Mar.	Exp.138,630,000	Exp. 4,944,000
Apr.	Exp.134,170,000	Imp. 11,209,000
May	Exp.131,933,000	Imp. 2,549,000
June	Exp.110,852,000	Imp. 457,000
July	Exp.125,730,000	Imp. 5,538,000
Aug.	Exp.119,221,000	Imp. 19,401,000
Sept.	Exp.149,441,000	Exp. 16,342,000
Oct.	Exp.186,109,000	Exp. 56,631,000
Nov.	Exp.166,826,000	Exp. 79,411,000
Year	Exp.1,714,295,000	Exp.242,551,000

RAILROAD REGULATION.

HOW CAN IT BE STRENGTHENED?

THE difficulties of American railroads in the matter of both Federal and State regulation were recently discussed by Mr. A. J. County, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in a most instructive address at the University of Pennsylvania.

After reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of Public Regulation, and emphasising the different status the railroads occupied from other industries, and the necessity for changes in the present regulatory policy, Mr. County presented the following questions and recommendations to business men, statesmen and the public:—

(1) Federal incorporation or some constructive national legislation to free the interstate common carriers from the confusion, delay and expense of State and local regulation, plus Federal regulation.

(2) That the overburdened Interstate Commerce Commission be strengthened by establishing Regional or District Commissions to accommodate the public and facilitate conclusions in rate hearings and other transportation questions, just the same as the country's financing under the Federal Reserve Banking System has been divided into regional or district banks, and similarly the Interstate Commerce Commission has distributed its own railroad valuation work. These commissions, of course, to be subordinate to the Federal Commission located at Washington.

(3) That the Federal Commission should control all rates and practices, having the power to increase rates it regards as non-compensatory, and to prevent reductions in rates it believes to be reasonable.

(4) That the Federal Commission should regulate compensation for carrying the mails and parcels post.

(5) That the duties of detection and prosecution should be separated from the Federal Commission's other functions.

(6) That a longer term of office and greater compensation be paid the Federal Commissioners for one of the most arduous and responsible tasks in the country.

(7) That the Interstate Commerce Commission regulate the issue of railroad securities through a system of publicity such as that advocated by the Hadley Commission. Mr. County regards the present power of the Federal Commission to be almost sufficient to give all necessary public information about these securities, the purposes for which they are issued and for which the proceeds will be used. The only weak point is that such Federal review and publicity would not relieve the railroads from still applying to various State Commissions to approve security issues;

(8) That National and State laws define the duties of Public Service Commissions to be not chiefly correcting and punitive agencies, but agencies to consider and strengthen the position of the common carriers of the country, just the same as the public expect from Governmental Departments dealing with Agriculture and Banking;

(9) The duplication of reports and information—Federal and State—and also for the various departments of the State and Federal Government, with the consequent expense, should be eliminated by conference between the State and Federal Commissions. This includes a repetition of the same character of information year by year.

(10) That railroads must not be regarded as finished works like a bank building or reservoir, and that if the vast undeveloped areas and natural resources of the country are to be opened up, the carriers must have public support;

(11) That Public Regulation should see that no obstacle in business or politics shall exist to discourage private capital from railroad investments. Otherwise the country will be forced to serious economic changes;

(12) That a return on Property Investment in 1913 of 4.87% and of less than 4% in 1914 is not a reasonable return, and is not sufficient encouragement for private capital to continue to flow into railroad enterprises;

Mr. County expects a national conception to be awakened as to what these interstate transportation systems require to make and keep them growing and prosperous, and that, recognising them as the ablest instruments of national prosperity and peace or war, will constructively legislate for them. He expects that just as by the provisions of the National Constitution the trade of the country was freed from State restrictions, and the country has free trade between the States, so the time has come when the railroads, as national instrumentalities for carrying that same national commerce, will, by liberal Public Regulation, be freed from the confusion and expense of over forty different State legislative bodies and commissions, and be subject to one governing body—the Federal Government—and again become the advance guards of progress and prosperity.

ENTRE RIOS RAILWAYS.

Quite a cheerful note was sounded by the Chairman of the Entre Rios Railways Company at the recent meeting. After reviewing the unsatisfactory results of the past twelve months, and referring to the great disadvantages under which the Company has worked for several years, Mr. Follett Holt called attention to the several favourable features in the situation. As he rightly pointed out, it was most unfortunate that the completion of the Company's extension and betterment programme, entailing as it has a large expenditure of capital, should have been followed, first by a period of acute depression in Argentina, and then by the War. But the country is rapidly recovering from its difficulties, and the Company, having completely put its house in order, is in a position to take full advantage of the better times now in store.

With the Company's heavy capital expenditures practically at an end it is interesting to note that the capital cost per mile only slightly exceeds £10,000. This compares favourably with that of other important lines in the Republic, where in some cases the capital cost works out at nearly £17,000 per mile, or 70% higher than that of the Entre Rios Railways. In the particular case referred to, which is one of the most sound and deservedly prosperous railways in the Republic, Mr. Follett Holt, speaking with intimate knowledge of the position, stated that, "mile for mile, I doubt if the capacity for production of the one zone averages any better than that of the other, but the great difference in the prosperity of the two companies to-day lies in the fact that the lands in the zone of the one are better cultivated and more developed than those of the other. To improve our position in this respect our extension to Buenos Ayres has been and will be of the greatest service, as it has opened up our province to new settlers and new energies, and under this influence I have no doubt whatever that the density of our traffic per mile will continue to expand in the coming years until it approximates to that of the prosperous companies in the Argentine, and that our comparatively low capital cost will not fail to count in favour of our shareholders." The following telegram from the General Manager, dated December 7, was read at the meeting: "Cattle traffic continues strong. Fourteen thousand tons of oranges have been carried since last July, the increase coming from Paraguay. Prospects cattle good and camps excellent; harvesting active; every indication record crop. Demand general goods increasing. Traffic outlook generally brighter."

The increase in earnings up to date amounts to £44,800 or 23%.

"Trust Companies of the United States."—The 1915 edition of the annual publication of trust-companies statistics, issued by the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, New York, recently published, contains the names of 2,031 trust companies; and in addition to the statements of condition of 1,777 trust companies throughout the country, it includes lists of officers and directors of the various companies, together with stock quotations, dividend rates, &c. On June 30, 1908, the total resources of trust companies were reported as $3,917,442,000, while the figures for June 30, 1915, are reported as $6,328,454,000, showing a gain of over 61%. Trust company resources are now nearly 54% of the resources of National Banks, reported on June 23 1915, as $11,795,000,000.

CUBAN-AMERICAN SUGAR.

COMMENTING on the position of this Company in January last, we pointed out that there were considerable probabilities that the twelve months to September 1915 would be the most prosperous in the history of the Company, and that there were strong grounds for anticipating that the Preference shareholders would receive the whole of the arrears of dividend on the stock. The report for the past fiscal year, received on this side this week, shows that the anticipation of twelve months ago has been more than realised, and not only have the Preference arrears been wiped out, but the Company has been able to make a distribution on its Common stock.

In its present form this Company dates back to 1906, when it was incorporated for the purpose of amalgamating businesses carried on by five independent companies engaged in cultivating sugar-cane and manufacturing raw and refined sugar in the Island of Cuba. In 1908 another business was acquired, and in 1910 one other company was taken over. The Cuban-American Sugar Company operates the largest sugar-producing business in Cuba, and its importance may be gathered from the fact that it has an authorised share capital of $20,000,000, of which $15,029,400 have been issued, while there are also outstanding Collateral Trust bonds to a total of $9,116,000. The property owned by the Company includes 325,000 acres of land and 225 miles of railroad.

The results for the year to September 30, 1914, were obtained at prices ranging below the average selling prices for the previous five years, a very small proportion of the output remaining being available for disposal at the higher prices ranging in August and September 1914, but for the past fiscal year the Company has received the benefit of the higher prices prevailing for the whole of its crop. Owing to unseasonable weather conditions during the grinding season, especially in the eastern provinces, the yield of sugar from a ton of cane was approximately 10% less than in the previous year, so that while the amount of cane ground was 2,218,168 tons, as compared with 2,213,723 tons, the output of raw sugar was only 236,401 tons (of 2,000 lb.), as compared with 264,745 tons for the previous year. The refined sugar production from the two refineries owned by the Company amounted to 169,667,626 lb., as compared with 147,448,185 lb. for the previous year.

The gross sugar sales for the twelve months brought in $22,502,285, as compared with $14,808,378 for the previous year, an increase of 50%. The sales from molasses brought in $511,803, as compared with $455,011, and miscellaneous income amounted to $352,537, as compared with $296,709, so that the gross income of the Company rose from $15,560,098 to $23,366,625. The expenses rose from $11,113,386 to $16,156,102, so that there was a balance of $7,210,523, as compared with $4,446,712. The directors have taken advantage of the great prosperity by setting aside a sum of $2,000,000 to the depreciation reserve, in addition to the usual amount written off, calling for $788,497. Provision being made for bond discounts and interest, &c., there is a net profit for the year of $3,594,048, and after providing for sinking fund, &c., the whole of the Preference arrears of dividend, calling for $1,105,132, is wiped out, and there is a surplus of $2,391,633, which is added to the sum brought forward, making a total of $6,285,790. Consequently, on November 17 a quarterly dividend of 2½% was declared on the Common stock, payable on January 3 next. Herewith we set out in detail the manner of dividing the profits for each of the past three years:—

Year ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913
	$	$	$
Sugar proceeds	22,502,285	14,808,378	15,045,573
Molasses	511,803	455,011	303,451
Miscellaneous income	352,537	296,709	812,189
Gross income	23,366,625	15,560,098	16,161,213
Expenses	16,156,102	11,113,386	14,120,103
	7,210,523	4,446,712	2,041,110
Provision for depreciation	2,788,497*	764,015	707,173
Discount on bonds	62,352	63,507	69,087
	4,359,674	3,619,190	1,264,850
Interest on bonds	548,860	556,834	569,869
Interest on bills payable, &c.	216,766	356,632	338,093
Net profit	3,594,048	2,705,724	356,888
Collateral Trust bonds cancelled	179,000	149,000	145,249
	3,773,048	2,854,724	502,137
Sinking fund provision	276,283	138,142	138,141
	3,496,765	2,716,582	363,996
Preferred stock (7%)	1,105,132†	552,566	552,566
	2,391,633	2,164,016	Dr. 188,570
Brought forward	3,894,157	1,730,141	1,918,711
Carried forward	6,285,790	3,894,157	1,730,141

* Includes $2,000,000 specially appropriated for depreciation of buildings, machinery, &c. † Including arrears.

To afford a more comprehensive view of the operations of the Company we set out herewith details of the income account for each of the past seven years:—

Comparative Income Account.

Year ended Sept. 30	Gross Sugar Sales	Molasses Sales	Miscellaneous Income	Total Income	Producing & Manufacturing Cost, &c.	Gross Profit	Fixed Charges & Depreciation	Net Income
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1915	22,502,285	511,803	352,537	23,366,625	16,156,102	7,210,523	3,616,475	3,594,048*
1914	14,808,378	455,011	296,709	15,560,098	11,113,386	4,446,712	1,740,988	2,705,724
1913	15,045,573	303,451	812,189	16,161,213	14,120,103	2,041,110	1,684,222	356,888
1912	16,318,836	313,644	609,711	17,242,191	14,851,470	2,390,721	1,521,834	868,886
1911	14,527,681	357,022	512,942	15,397,646	13,854,820	1,542,826	1,269,349	273,477
1910	15,269,758	327,287	220,622	15,817,667	12,971,236	2,846,432	1,069,249	1,777,182
1909	10,918,373	240,193	241,602	11,400,169	9,452,177	1,947,992	797,447	1,150,545

* After allowing for special appropriation for depreciation of buildings, &c.

In detail, the tonnage ground and the annual production of raw and refined sugar for the past three years have been as follows:—

	1914–15	1913–14	1912–13
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Cane ground (tons 2,000 lb.)	2,218,168	2,213,723	1,956,723
Raw Sugar Production—			
(Bags 320 lb.)	Bags	Bags	Bags
Chaparra	525,088	616,179	475,373
Delicias	315,872	492,662	327,438
Tinguaro	236,956	197,240	216,084
Unidad	84,472	66,606	96,816
Mercedita	93,617	88,447	104,836
Constancia	196,055	162,861	120,365
Gramercy, La.	25,447	30,663	22,380
Total	1,477,507 or (Tons) 236,401	1,654,658 or (Tons) 264,745	1,363,292 or (Tons) 218,127
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Refined Sugar Production—			
Cardenas Refinery, Cuba	14,713,144	13,043,392	7,746,155
Gramercy Refinery, La.	154,954,482	134,404,793	123,058,425

The total capital expenditure during the past twelve months has amounted to $1,175,491, the expenditure being made to provide the most approved and necessary devices that may be employed to increase the yield of sugar and lower the cost of production, also to acquire about 35,000 acres of virgin land and construct additional railway lines and equipment in order to care for the increased tonnage of cane and its products. The total assets are valued at $39,893,096, of which the property, plant, &c., stand at $25,529,096. Goodwill is valued at $3,929,340. As against this, however, as already indicated, a large surplus has been accumulated. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at September 30 last.

LIABILITIES.	$	ASSETS.	$
Common stock	7,135,600	Property, plant	25,529,666
7% Cum. Preferred stock...	7,893,800	Goodwill	3,[illegible]
Com. Stk. Colonial Sugars Company	3,100	Investments in Subsidiary Companies	3,100
Collateral Trust Bonds ...	9,116,[illegible]	Work animals, live stock, &c.	751,506
Real estate morts. ...	574,111	Current assets	9,293,069
Current liabilities	3,[illegible]	Deferred charges	386,415
Sinking fund redemption ...	138,142		
Reserve for depreciation ...	5,370,310		
Surplus	[illegible]		
	39,893,096		39,893,096

Extensive new plantings have been made during the past twelve months and a large acreage brought under a system of irrigation, so that, the report points out "our fields to-day indicate a tonnage for the ensuing season of unequalled proportions, assuring a record production and a confident outlook for a prosperous year." As indicated, the Common stock has now been placed on a 10% basis. The undivided surplus at September 30 was $6,285,790; 10% on the Common stock will only call for $713,560, so that it is amply covered. It may be anticipated that the prosperity of the current year will again be taken advantage of by the board to strengthen the financial condition, so that the Company may be placed in the best possible position to meet future competition. In January last the price of the Common stock was $28; it is now $164, at which figure on a 10% basis a yield of just over 6% is forthcoming. On the Preferred stock a return of 6½% may be secured, and on the 6% Collateral Trust bonds the yield is nearly 5⅝%.

Particulars of capital, prices, dividends, and yields are appended:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
$		$	$	%	£ s. d.
9,116,000	6% Collateral Trust bonds ...	1,000	107¼	6	5 11 10
7,893,800	7% Cum. Preferred	100	167	7	6 10 10
7,135,600	Common stock	100	164	10	6 1 11

MEXICAN RAILWAY.

The Mexican Railway was taken over by General Carranza on November 18, 1914, and all applications made for its return have been refused on account of military necessities. Consequently the accounts now presented are in respect of the half-year to December 31, 1914, and cover a period of four and a half months only. The net results are already well known, but the details of working made public this week for the first time are interesting as showing the disastrous effect upon the Company's prosperity of the deplorable conditions then existing in Mexico. The gross receipts decreased $646,000, or 13%; whilst working expenses were raised by $352,000, or 14%, and the net earnings declined $998,000, or over 40%. In part explanation of the increase in expenses it is pointed out that all stores used on the line being kept on a gold basis, the number of dollars charged to operating expenses is considerably increased owing to the great fall in the rate of exchange. The average sterling value of the dollar was, indeed, only 10.372*d.*, as compared with 17.768*d.* in the corresponding half of 1913. This, of course, also explains the further heavy loss on conversion of currency receipts into sterling, the total net income for the half-year coming out at only £41,000, as against £154,000. This was insufficient by £20,000 of the sum needed to pay the half-yearly coupon on the Company's 6% Debenture stock, and an arrangement was come to whereby interest payments for this and next year on both the 6% Debenture stock and the 4½% Second Debentures are being funded as they fall due. The scheme provided that the directors shall have power during the period of suspension to defer payment of interest and to issue certificates in lieu thereof. These certificates, which bear interest at the rate of 6% and 4½% respectively, will be payable in cash on January 1, 1917, in the case of the 6% Perpetual Debenture stock and on April 1, 1917, in the case of the 4½% Debentures. The directors have power at any time to redeem the certificates at their face value, with interest added to date of payment The sinking fund for the Second Debentures is likewise suspended for the period of the scheme.

The income statement of the Company for the half-year is appended:

	[illegible] Half 1914	[illegible] Half 1913	—Inc. or Dec.—	
	Mex. $	Mex. $	Mex. $	%
Gross earnings	[illegible]	[illegible]	— [illegible]	—15·0
Expenses	[illegible]	[illegible]	— [illegible]	—14·9
Ratio	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	—
Net earnings	[illegible]	[illegible]	— [illegible]	—46·6
Rate of exchange	[illegible]*d.*	[illegible]*d.*	— [illegible]*d.*	—
	£	£	£	
Net earnings (sterling) ...	41,000	153,000	— 112,000	—73·2
Miscellaneous income	—	[illegible]	— [illegible]	—
Net income	41,000	154,000	— 113,000	—73·6
Interest on 6% Deb. stock ...	60,000	[illegible]	— —	—
Interest on Second Debentures	13,000	13,000	— —	—
Interest, &c.	1,000	[illegible]	— —	—
Total charges	74,000	77,000	— —	—
Net profit ... ...Loss	33,000	77,000*	— [illegible]	—

* Placed to reserve.

Although the total number of passengers carried shows a decrease of 168,935, the receipts therefrom increased $139,363, principally through the extensive military-train movement made for the Mexican Government; and express traffic receipts increased $113,414 owing to the greater use made of this service on account of the delays to freight traffic. The total increase from passenger-train traffic amounted to $252,777. On the other hand, both in tonnage and revenue, goods traffic shows heavy decrease; national goods declined 81,360 tons and produced $255,609 less revenue, whilst foreign goods were smaller in quantity by 38,563 tons and in receipts by no less than $780,810.

For the whole of 1914 the Company earned a surplus in excess of charges of £27,389, the profit for the first six months having been £50,714, the whole of which was transferred to reserve. This, however, contrasts with a profit of £238,010 earned in 1913 and £337,022 in 1912, so that the set-back in the Company's prosperity up to the time the line was taken by the Government was very severe. The following is the income statement of the Company for the last four years:—

Mexican Railway.

Year—	1914	1913	1912	1911
	$ Mex.	$ Mex.	$ Mex.	$ Mex.
Gross earnings	8,876,085	9,792,301	8,715,019	8,428,468
Expenses	5,551,212	4,784,918	4,021,414	4,045,305
Ratio	(62·54)	(48·86)	(46·14)	(47·99)
Net earnings	3,324,873	5,007,383	4,693,605	4,383,163
	£	£	£	£
Net earnings (sterling) ...	164,406	385,841	478,697	447,944
Miscellaneous income ...	318	1,670	3,825	3,103
Net income	164,724	387,511	482,522	451,047
Int. on 6% Debenture stock ...	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Int. on Second Debentures ...	25,500	25,000	25,000	25,000
Interest, &c.	1,835	4,001	—	—
Total charges	147,335	149,501	145,500	145,500
Net profit	27,389	238,010	337,022	305,547
Div. on First Pref. stock ...	Nil	102,164	204,328	204,328
Rate per cent. per annum ...		(4%)	(8%)	(8%)
Balance	—	135,846	132,694	101,219
Div. on Second Pref. stock ...	Nil	30,359	60,717	60,717
Rate per cent. per annum ...	—	(3%)	(6%)	(6%)
Balance	—	105,487	71,977	40,502
Div. on Ordinary stock ...	Nil	28,184	71,869	42,276
Rate per cent. per annum ...	—	(1¼%)	(3⅛%)	(1¾%)
Balance	—	77,303	Cr. 108	Dr. 1,774
Transferred to reserve ...	50,714	77,303	—	—
Brought forward	—	—	83	1,857
Carried forward	Dr. 33,325	—	191	83

There are at last indications that Mexican politics are steadily righting themselves. Although nothing definite is known as to the immediate future, the recent recognition by the United States Government of General Carranza is undoubtedly an important step towards the restoration of normal conditions in the country, especially as it has been followed by the formal recognition of the *de facto* Government of the Republic by most European countries, including the British Government. Moreover, the report received this week that General Villa had decided to abandon

the revolution, and intends to seek asylum in the United States or in Europe, is another hopeful sign, as it means the removal of a disturbing element which has been one of the chief causes of the long-standing political troubles in Mexico. It would appear, therefore, that serious efforts are at length being made to bring about a peaceful settlement of all outstanding difficulties, and although it may take some little time to completely restore confidence in the country, the position at the moment is certainly more hopeful than it has been for a long while past. The revolution has now lasted for upwards of five years. In its early stages the Mexican Railway Company did well by reason of the fact that Vera Cruz was practically the only port open to business, and a good deal of traffic which in ordinary circumstances would have been forwarded by other routes was diverted to Vera Cruz over the Mexican Railway system. It was, therefore, not until about two years ago that the disturbed conditions of the country really began to be felt, and, whilst during this period the set-back has doubtless been severe, the marked improvements made by the Company in recent years, both physically and financially, is a clear indication that with peace once more restored in Mexico the process of recuperation will be rapid, and that, given normal conditions, renewed prosperity will be quickly apparent. The following retrospect of the main results of working for the past 12 years is instructive as showing the progress made by the Company in recent times:—

Mexican Railway.

Year	Gross Earnings Mex. $	Expenses Mex. $	Ratio %	Net Earnings Mex. $	Aver. Exchange d.	Sterling Net Earnings £
1914 ...	8,876,000	5,551,000	62·54	3,325,000	13·25	164,000
1913 ...	9,792,000	4,785,000	48·86	5,007,000	20·14	386,000
1912 ...	8,715,000	4,021,000	46·14	4,694,000	24·50	479,000
1911 ...	8,428,000	4,045,000	47·99	4,383,000	24·50	448,000
1910 ...	8,448,000	4,311,000	51·01	4,137,000	24·50	424,000
1909 ...	7,623,000	4,088,000	53·62	3,535,000	24·50	361,000
1908 ...	7,386,000	4,513,000	61·10	2,873,000	24·53	294,000
1907 ...	8,034,000	4,595,000	57·19	3,439,000	24·60	353,000
1906 ...	7,111,000	3,821,000	53·73	3,290,000	24·82	340,000
1905 ...	6,293,000	3,763,000	59·79	2,530,000	24·42	258,000
1904 ...	6,104,000	3,489,000	57·16	2,615,000	22·74	252,000
1903 ...	5,516,000	3,320,000	60·18	2,196,000	20·72	191,000

Unfortunately the condition of the property at the moment is anything but good. During the past twelve months, the directors state, the districts served by the line have been in a disturbed state, and considerable damage has been done to the buildings and the rolling-stock. General Carranza controls the main line, Puebla and Pachuca branches, and a service is being run over this part of the system. Seventeen stations have been burnt or otherwise damaged, but no serious injury has been done to the permanent way. The rolling-stock has been allowed to get into a deplorable condition; some is destroyed, and a portion is being used for military operations in the northern part of the Republic. Whilst all this is of course very unsatisfactory, it should be borne in mind that the Carranza Government has promised to indemnify the Companies against loss arising out of the revolution, and has agreed to replace at the cost of the nation whatever railway material is destroyed as a result of political disturbances. The main consideration at the moment, therefore, is the probable early resumption of normal conditions throughout the country and the restoration of the railway to the Company.

Prices of the Company's securities have recovered from the lowest points touched, and the latest quotations are nominally as under:—

Security	Amount £	Int. £	Price £	Yield £ s. d.
6% Perpetual Debenture stock ...	2,000,000	6	85	7 1 2
4½% Second Debentures	481,400	4½	56	8 0 7
8% 1st Preference stock	2,554,100	—	63	—
6% 2nd Preference stock	1,011,960	—	35⅜	—
Ordinary stock	2,254,720	—	19	—
Total capital	£8,302,180			

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Insurance Notes.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE annual report of this Society deals with the year ended June 30, and, owing to this incidence of date, is the last report of any British life office published in 1915. The period covered by the operations includes eleven months of warfare, and the circumstances arising from this condition must have affected the Society's accounts more than those of similar institutions which, for the most part, related to the calendar year 1914. Seeing that the Society's head office and agency staff had been seriously depleted, and that the popular demand for new assurances had greatly decreased, a considerable fall in new business was naturally to be expected. New assurances for £965,345 are, however, reported. Some of them must have been for large amounts, as reassurances were effected to the extent of £292,613. The net retention at the sole risk of the Society was £672,732, as compared with £1,093,798 in 1913-14, when the new business exceeded that of any previous year in the Society's experience. Some expansion of business in force is shown, for the total net premium income, amounting to £448,967, shows an increase of £10,901. A diminished new business in itself tends towards a reduction in the expense ratio, though this may have been counteracted to some extent by increased clerical expenses, for to the salaries of assistants serving with the Colours have to be added those of temporary substitutes. Thirty-nine members of the staff are reported to have been engaged in military or naval service, and the board report, with deep regret, that five of this number have been killed in action. Consideration received for new annuities granted amounted to £30,529. Allowing for the cost of the annuity business, the expenses of management, inclusive of commission, represented £12 1*s.* 5*d.* per cent. of the premium income, as compared with £13 4*s.* 2*d.* per cent. in the preceding year. The proportion is only about two-thirds of the margin of premiums in force at the date of the last valuation then reserved for costs and contingencies, so that a profit from economical working is manifest. The death claim experience during the year was heavier than usual, for the amount paid in this way, £349,052, included claims for £65,417 directly due to the war. Yet it is reported that the total payments through deaths from all causes were well within the amount

expected, and that a moderate mortality profit actually accrued. Care in selection of lives and in adjustment of premium rates to meet under-average cases, which the Society has always been ready to consider, has resulted in the past in a large profit of this description. The board includes a strong infusion of the skilled medical element.

Through the year's operations the life assurance fund was increased by £222,270 to £6,223,406. The gross interest yield during the year was £4 4*s.* 6*d.* per cent., and the net yield, after deduction of income tax, was £3 17*s.* 1*d.* per cent. Compared with the corresponding figures of 1913-14, the gross yield shows a slight increase, but the net yield is diminished by 2*s.* 4*d.* per cent., owing to the heavier rate of income tax. The rate of interest assumed by the Society at the last quinquennial valuation was £2 10*s.* per cent., so that more than one-third of the net interest earnings of the year may be regarded as accruing profit.

The next quinquennial valuation is due on June 30, 1916. It is evident that so far very satisfactory profits have accrued from all the sources which go to the manufacture of bonus, and under ordinary circumstances there would be no doubt as to the maintenance of the very high standards of profit which have always distinguished the Society's distributions. But in these days it does not do to prophesy, and all that can be said on the matter may be expressed in the words of the Chairman at the annual meeting: "If we cannot pay a good bonus I really don't know any office who can."

So far the question of depreciation seems to be within manageable proportions, though much will depend on the condition of the Stock markets at the valuation date. The Chairman estimated the depreciation at the close of the last financial year as being under £250,000, which represented only about 4% of the total assets. As against this, the Society seems to have been at the last investigation in possession of reserves of nearly equal amount, apart from those required by the ordinary valuation standards. Thus there is a bonus reserve fund of £150,000, and a permanent reserve fund of £50,000, while on revaluation the Society's head office premises would show an increase in value, not yet taken credit for, of over £30,000. Meanwhile the last 2½% net premium valuation is the sheet-anchor of the financial position. If it were thought necessary for the maintenance of the bonus standard to adopt a less severe method of valuation, under the circumstance that for a good many years to come the Society may fairly hope to earn at least 3¾% on its investments, the step would be justified in the interests of the older class of policyholders, but it is not at all clear at present that any change of this kind will be called for.

The Society's participating system, looking to the bonus possibilities not of the next valuation alone, but of future investigations, seems to retain its full attraction for new entrants; but to such of the public as are disposed, owing to the uncertainties of the moment, to favour the non-participating plan, it may be pointed out that the Society's rates for without-profits policies are amongst the lowest quoted by British life offices. The Society now charges equivalent rates for non-profit and for discounted bonus policies. In the former case the contract is definitely fixed for an unalterable amount. The latter method has a mildly speculative element, for the sum assured under the discounted bonus plan is subject to diminution in the presently unlikely contingency of actual bonuses being less than those anticipated, whilst in the contrary event being realised the sum assured would be increased correspondingly.

Attention is drawn to two new features. One, of a temporary character, relates to new policies on the lives of persons who may be engaged in war service beyond the limits of the United Kingdom. It is difficult now for any such person to obtain a policy of assurance on any acceptable terms, for, unfortunately, the mortality from the present war has greatly exceeded that of all previous campaigns. The directors of this Society, under these circumstances, offer a policy with a special clause inserted in it, providing that if the assured engage in war service abroad he shall continue to pay the ordinary annual premium, but that the policy shall be in suspense until demobilisation takes place at the end of the present hostilities. Thus the full sum assured will be no longer payable. If, however, the assured should die before demobilisation, while the policy is still in suspense, a return of twice the premiums paid will be made. The special clause will also provide that on demobilisation the life assured shall produce evidence to the directors as to his health, future residence, and occupation. If this be satisfactory, the policy will then become whole world and unconditional, and will enjoy all advantages of bonus, surrender value, &c., as from the original date of entry. If, however, the assurance should not then be acceptable at the ordinary rate of premium, the Society guarantees to return twice the premiums paid, in the form of a special surrender value. It will be seen that under this scheme no loss through death or invalidity caused by the War can be made by the policyholder or his representatives, but, on the contrary, a profit of 100% will stand to his credit.

The new children's deferred assurance scheme provides a policy commencing at a stipulated age, such as 21 or 25 in the case of a healthy child. The premiums paid before the attainment of the age agreed upon are returnable in the event of the death of the child. For a comparatively small premium large benefits are obtainable, carrying valuable options. Thus in the case of a healthy child aged one next birthday an annual premium of £5 will provide an assurance commencing at age 25 of £750, while £50 per annum will provide £7,500. For a description of the various options reference should be made to the Society's explanatory leaflet.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that in the Table which appeared last week on page 764, headed "Financial Strength of the Accident Offices," we did an injustice to the above-named important Company by not including the general and investment reserve funds in the column giving the funds, exclusive of capital, at the end of 1914. The latter were stated as £1,255,000, whereas their total should have been £1,785,000, and their percentage to premium income not 65% but 92%.

HORDEN COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

In December last it was pointed out that a total of over 1,000 out of about 5,200 men employed by the Horden Collieries had joined the Army. This number has been considerably increased during the past twelve months, and since the outbreak of war nearly 2,000 have joined the Forces. This has naturally had a twofold effect. It has reduced the output and has added materially to the cost of coal-getting. For 1914 the output of the Company was 1,346,595 tons, and under normal conditions during the twelve months to September 1915 the output would probably have reached at least 1,500,000 tons, but owing to the shortage of labour the actual output was only 1,075,235 tons. When the development of the collieries is completed the total capacity of output will be something like 2,500,000 tons. Consequently, with the Company so handicapped in the matter of production, it is not surprising to find that the profits for the twelve months to September 30, 1915, show a falling-off as compared with each of the two previous years. Nevertheless, in all the circumstances, the fact that the profits have only fallen from £128,848 in

1914 to £102,503 in 1915 may be considered distinctly satisfactory.

The net additions to capital expenditure in the past year have amounted to £93,651, and there has been written off £102,571, so that the net amount of the expenditure at September 30, 1915, was £1,566,558, as compared with £1,575,478 twelve months previously. The development of the Horden Colliery is complete, and Shotton Colliery, with its coke works, is also a complete undertaking; the Blackhall Colliery is still in the process of development, but it has reached full development so nearly that the directors think that any further expenditure in development may be debited to working expenses, and the board is disposed to regard these three capital accounts as closed.

The various items making up the total capital expenditure of £1,566,558 on September 30 last may be seen from the following:—

	Net Expenditure to Sept. 30, 1914 £	Net Additions £	Total Outlay £	Written Off to Sept. 30, 1915 £	Net Value £
Purchase of leases and Hutton Henry freehold land and minerals	92,922	—	92,922	1,204	91,718
Hardwick, Shotton, and Blackhall minerals ...	46,920	—	46,920	7,112	39,808
Horden colliery	591,827	—	591,827	38,885	552,942
Shotton colliery, coke ovens, and brickworks	274,291	14,528	288,819	52,714	236,105
Blackhall colliery	344,307	55,685	399,992	1,655	398,337
Land and houses (including Blackhall and Hardwick estates)	224,066	23,438	247,504	1,000	246,504
Horden and Shotton social clubs and institutes ...	1,144	—	1,144	—	1,444
Total	1,575,478	93,651	1,669,129	102,571	1,566,558

The steady growth of the Company may be seen from the following comparative statement:—

Year	Share and Loan Capital £	Net Capital Expenditure £	Net Profit £	Dividend %
1915	1,236,979	1,566,558	86,131	7
1914	1,081,246	1,485,379	116,624	8
1913	1,051,934	1,331,131	140,170	12
1912	1,020,046	1,190,505	72,400	8
1911	979,251	1,124,036	36,546	4
1910	928,128	1,047,451	46,173	5
1909	839,544	952,619	45,394	6
1908	799,618	895,449	82,939	10
1907	780,982	839,170	64,797†	7½†
1906	663,976	693,036	14,909	—
1905	521,653	615,434	6,143	—
1904	450,057	544,833	1,498*	—
1903	397,347	455,419	(a)	—
1902	323,766	352,191	(a)	—
1901	246,550	237,317	—	—

* Six months. † Fifteen months to September 30.
(a) Value of coal raised was deducted from capital expenditure.

It is only a little over nine years since the Horden Collieries emerged from the development stage period. Since it has been possible to distribute dividends the distributions have varied between 4% and 12%, and since the beginning of the undertaking the shareholders have received on an average 5¾% per annum, including the years of development, which cannot by any stretch of the imagination be considered an excessive figure. On the other hand, since the beginning of the undertaking wages have been paid to the extent of £2,927,253, this including not only the wages paid in cash to the men but also cottage rents, and coals which are supplied to the men, which are as much part of the wages as the cash they get. As already indicated, the profit from the collieries has amounted to £102,503 for the past twelve months, as compared with £128,848 for the previous year. After providing for depreciation, Debenture interest, &c., there is a balance of £62,755, as compared with £100,928. The Ordinary dividend has accordingly been reduced from 8% to 7%, and the balance of £6,755, together with £3,245 taken from the carry-forward, making a total of £10,000, has been carried to the reserve, the carry-forward remaining at £44,437.

In order to show the manner of distributing the profits of the past six years we set out the following:—

Year ended September 30—	1915 £	1914 £	1913 £	1912 £	1911 £	1910 £
Profit on collieries ...	102,503	128,848	168,242	80,472	45,483	53,151
Sundries & transfer fees	1,393	1,372	1,277	1,209	1,102	986
	103,896	130,220	169,519	81,681	46,585	54,137
Depreciation ...	11,765	9,596	25,349*	8,081	9,039	5,964
	92,131	120,624	144,170	73,600	37,546	48,173
Income tax... ...	6,000	4,000	4,000	1,200	1,000	2,000
	86,131	116,624	140,170	72,400	36,546	46,173
Debenture interest,&c.	23,376	15,696	16,168	16,000	16,313	13,945
	62,755	100,928	124,002	56,400	20,233	32,228
Ordinary dividend...	56,000 (7%)	60,653 (8%)	85,959 (12%)	53,959 (8%)	25,306 (4%)	29,292 (5%)
	6,755	40,275	38,043	2,441	—5,073	2,936
Reserve	10,000	20,000	15,000	—	—	—
	—3,245	20,275	23,043	2,441	—5,073	2,936
Brought forward ...	47,682	27,407	4,364	1,923	6,996	4,060
Carried forward ...	44,437	47,682	27,407	4,364	1,923	6,996

* Includes £16,272 placed to Shotton Colliery depreciation account.

The authorised share capital is £1,000,000 in £10 shares. Of these, 92,340 have been fully paid, while on 7,660 shares £1 per share has been called up, and an amount of £5,918 has been paid in advance of calls, making the amount paid up at September 30 last £936,978. There is also in issue £303,750 of 5% Debenture stock, and the Company has obtained loans of £241,646. The total assets are valued at £1,734,663, of which capital expenditure, as pointed out, stands at £1,566,558. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at September 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	936,978	Capital expenditure ...	1,566,558
5% Debenture stock ...	303,750	Rents	20,164
Loans	241,646	Sundry debtors	62,924
Sundry creditors, &c. ...	87,852	Stocks	39,634
Reserve	70,000	Cash	45,383
Profit and loss	94,437		
	1,734,663		1,734,663

Naturally the Company must continue to suffer from the scarcity of labour, but as a partial set-off it seems probable that it will receive somewhat higher prices for its output than it did during the past twelve months, during which no benefit was received from the higher prices prevailing owing to the fact that large pre-war contracts had to be filled, and the Chairman of the Company, Sir Hugh Bell, is moderately optimistic, pointing out that, while he did not know what was going to happen in the future, "the present outlook of the coal trade in this country is not unsatisfactory." Should this state of things continue throughout the year there should not be much difficulty in repeating the 7% on the Ordinary shares. At the present price of £12 for the £10 share, on a 7% basis a return of just over 6% is forthcoming, while on the Debenture stock the yield is about £4 19*s.* per cent. This may be seen from the following:—

Amount £	Description	Par £	Price £	Div. %	Yield £ *s.* *d.*
300,000	5% Debenture stock	100	101	5	4 19 0
923,400	Shares	10	12	7	6 1 9
7,660	Shares £10 £1 paid)...	1	—	7	—

RUBBER REPORTS ANALYSED.

GARING (MALACCA).

Issued Capital: £76,352, in 67,980 £1 Ordinary and 8,372 £1 Preference Shares.

Results for Year to September 30, 1915

Total Planted Acres	Rubber Output lb.	Av. Yield per Planted Acre lb.	Price Realised per lb.	"All-in" Cost per lb.	Net Profit £	Dividend
1,279	124,935	98	2 4.4	1 3	6,842	Nil

Price of Ordinary Shares, 13/-. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, about £40.

THE Company was formed early in 1910, and the prospectus stated that the 682 acres of plantations were between two and three years old. This acreage should have been all in bearing during the past year, so that the yield of rubber per acre in bearing works out at

the very poor one of under 200 lb. This probably explains the low market capitalisation of about £40 per planted acre. Some 700 acres planted in 1911 should commence to produce next year, and considerable increase of crop is consequently to be looked for, and it is to be hoped that the new plantings will give a better yield than the old. The financial position is satisfactory, the balance sheet showing about £10,000 of cash resources. The Preference shares are entitled to 50% of the profits available for dividend until they receive 200%, when they rank *pari passu* with the Ordinary shares.

TAIPING RUBBER (F.M.S.).

Issued Capital: £204,210 in 2/0 Shares.

(Options on 46,800 Shares expire December 31, 1915.)

	Total Planted	Rubber Output	Av. Yield per Planted Acre	Price Realised	"All-in" Cost	Net Profit	Dividend
Year	Acres	lb.	lb.	per lb.	per lb.	£	£	%
1914	1,990	361,945	182	[illegible]	[illegible]	14,218	Nil	Nil
1915	2,190	484,950	221	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	12½

* Including sundry receipts.

Price of Shares, 3 -. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £131.

The yield per acre in bearing is apparently not very good, as 1,820 acres of the 2,190 acres planted are now six years old. The market capitalisation of the estate per planted acre works out at £131, assuming that the shares under option at par till December 31 are taken up. The market price is quite high enough for the yield per acre. Moreover, allowing for the payment of the 12½% dividend declared, the balance sheet at September 30 shows current liabilities £1,944 in excess of the liquid assets. Against this the exercise of the options would bring in £4,680.

TAMIANG ESTATES (SUMATRA).

Issued Capital: £83,975, in £1 Shares.

7% Convert. Debentures: £70,724 convertible into Shares at Par till September 30, 1918.

	Total Planted	Rubber Output	Av. Yield per Planted Acre	Price Realised	"All-in" Cost	Net Profit	Dividend Amt.
	Acres	lb.	lb.	per lb.	per lb.	£	£
	2,625	315,319	120	2 2½*	—	12,675†	Nil

* Average net price. † Before writing off depreciation.

Price of Shares, 27/6. Market Capitalisation per planted acre, £80.

At the end of the financial year 1,579 acres were in bearing, 812 acres having been brought in during the year. A satisfactory yield per acre in these circumstances is indicated. The crop for the current year is estimated at 450,000 lb. The past year's profit has been entirely appropriated for clearing up the financial position, and the balance sheet now issued shows about £18,000 of surplus cash assets. The Debentures are convertible into shares at par, and when this is done the issued share capital will be £154,699. The price of the shares is about 27*s.* 6*d.*, so that, assuming the conversion of the Debentures, the market capitalisation per planted acre works out at £80—a very reasonable valuation. Dividends should be commenced on account of the current financial year. At full maturity in about three or four years the output of the estate should reach at least 900,000 lb., which, at 1*s.* per lb. profit, would represent £45,000, against an ultimate issued capital of £154,699. The estate then would be worth, say, £150 per planted acre, equal to well over £2 per share.

UNITED SERDANG RUBBER.

This is the latest Sumatra undertaking to be added to the list of producers of rubber at an "all-in" cost of under 1*s.* per lb. The report for the year ended August 31, 1915, shows a record profit to have been made, entirely consequent on increase of output and reduction of cost. Of 9,640½ acres planted, an average area of 6,628 acres, or 69%, was in bearing during the year 1914-15. The crop for the twelve months amounted to 2,474,972 lb., equal to 373 lb. per acre tapped—a high yield having regard to the fact that a considerable proportion of the bearing acreage was young rubber. These figures compare with a crop of 1,827,000 lb., equal to 316 lb. per bearing acre, in respect of 1913-14. A slightly lower price of 2*s.* 2.71*d.* was obtained for the past year's product, in comparison with 2*s.* 3.51*d.* in the preceding twelve months, but this decline in price was more than offset by the reduction of the "all-in" cost of production to 11.79*d.* per pound in the past year against 1*s.* 2.01*d.* in 1913-14. The 1915 low cost of production is all the more satisfactory inasmuch as it includes, in addition, selling and marketing charges and insurance, and £12,850 written off for depreciation against £4,208 in the previous year.

The net profit of the year under review is shown by the accounts to have been £149,874, against £106,630. The sum of £40,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the total dividend for the year is increased to 45%, requiring £112,500, as against 30%, calling for £74,150, in respect of 1913-14. The issued capital has been increased during the year to £250,000 by the issue of 222,730 2*s.* shares at 3*s.* premium, which brought in over £50,000. The net capital expenditure for the year was only £12,242, against £53,072 in 1913-14, and as in addition to the new capital obtained by the share issue £40,000 has been placed in reserve out of profits, the Company's financial position is now very strong, the surplus liquid assets, allowing for the payment of the final dividend for the year, amounting to £57,573 at August 31, 1915, against an excess of current liabilities of £23,000 at the end of the previous financial year.

The following table gives a good idea of the progress of the Company:—

	Years ended August 31— 1915	1914	1913
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Area suitable for rubber	14,140½	—	—
Planted acres	[illegible]	9,599½	9,493½
Average area tapped	6,628	5,773	[illegible]
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Rubber output	2,474,972	1,827,943	1,185,234
Yield per acre tapped	373	316	330
Yield per acre planted	257	190	125
Gross price realised per lb. ...	[illegible]	2 3·51	3/6·67
"All-in" cost per lb.	– 11·79	1 [illegible]	1 7·95
Profit per lb.	1/2·71	1/2·01	1/10·72
	£	£	£
Value of rubber	268,724	[illegible]	210,711
Total revenue expenditure	118,850	102,963	99,474
Net profit	149,874	106,630	111,236
Sundry receipts	[illegible]	1,646	1,577
Brought forward	16,295	16,337	5,714
Total available	167,458	124,613	118,527
Appropriations—			
Transferred to reserve	40,000	40,000	25,000
Dividend paid	112,500	74,150	77,190
	(45%)	(30%)	(35%)
Carry-forward	14,958	16,294	16,337
Net capital expenditure	12,242	53,072	116,313
Issued capital (2*s.* shares)	[illegible]	227,737	226,424
Surplus liquid assets	57,573	[illegible]*	*11,137**

Present price of shares, 11/6. Market capitalisation per planted acre, £142.

* Excess of current liabilities after allowing for final dividend payment.

The crop for the current year is estimated at 2,913,800 lb., towards which 748,532 lb. have been harvested in the first quarter to November 30. Further large crop increases are to be looked for in subsequent years. This will be evident from the following statement of the age of the various plantings:—

	Acres		Acres
1903-04	18	1910	824½
1905	595	1911	825½
1906	1,099	1912	255
1907	3,295	1913-14	253
1908	958		
1909	1,343	Under 6 years ...	2,137½
6 years and over	7,503	Grand total	9,640½

Average acreage tapped, 1914-15 = 6,628 acres.

In view of the fact that the yield of rubber per acre tapped in the past year was 373 lb., a full maturity yield of at least 375 lb. per acre for the whole planted estate seems certain to be attained. Indeed, a full maturity yield of 400 lb. per acre may be witnessed. Assuming for the sake of conservatism, however, a yield of 375 lb. per acre, the present planted estate, when in full bearing, should produce 3,615,000 lb. of rubber per annum. Then the "all-in" cost should be reduced from its present level of 11¾*d.*

to 9*d.* per lb., and assuming a value of 2*s.* per lb. only for rubber, the resultant net profit of 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb. on the estimated maturity crop would be £225,000, or sufficient to pay 80% dividends on the issued capital and leave £25,000 for reserve, &c. The present price of the 2*s.* shares is 11*s.* 6*d.*, and allowing for the dividend the market capitalisation works out at £142 per planted acre. On the basis of rubber at 2*s.* per lb. the planted estate at full maturity would be worth at least £200 per acre—say, 15*s.* 6*d.* per share. At 11*s.* 6*d. cum* dividend the shares yield over 8% on the basis of the past year's dividend of 45%, which absorbed less than 75% of the profit earned from a bearing acreage equal to only 69% of the total planted area. The Company has 4,500 acres of unplanted ground suitable for rubber cultivation, and it has considerable cash resources wherewith to pay for additional plantings.

INDIARUBBER, GUTTA-PERCHA AND TELEGRAPH WORKS COMPANY.

TWELVE months ago very disappointing results were shown by this well-known Company, the accounts showing a net loss of £18,922. A sum of £50,000 was taken from the reserve fund, however, which enabled the accounts to show a credit balance carried forward. The loss was due to a number of causes. The War caused a diminution of sales in England and the entire stoppage of the manufacturing in France. The German Army came within a couple of miles of the French works, which had to be closed and abandoned. But the most serious losses incurred were not due to the War. A loss due to faulty organisation at the French factory previously pointed out fell on last year's results to a considerable extent. Moreover, the foreign agencies incurred a serious loss, partly through bad trading in Australia, South America, Africa, and Japan, and partly through certain unprofitable contracts. But as the outlook was fairly hopeful the directors decided to make a distribution of 5% on the Ordinary shares, necessitating so large a transfer from reserve of the amount already mentioned. For the twelve months to September 30, 1915, a very considerable recovery has taken place, and as against a loss last year, before payment of Debenture interest, of £2,922, there is now recorded a profit of £96,404. This satisfactory result has been achieved in spite of the constantly increasing cost of coal, labour, and raw material, and the dislocation of transport. The branches abroad have also shown much better results. After providing for the Debenture interest and Preference dividend there is a balance of £67,904, the Ordinary dividend is increased from 5% to 10%, and the balance of £17,904 is added to the carry-forward bringing it up to £18,937.

The following shows the manner in which the profits have been distributed for each of the last six years:—

Year ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net profit	96,404	Dr.2,922	67,551	67,247	—39,457	71,414
Deb. interest, 4% ...	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
	80,404	—18,922	51,551	51,247	—55,457	55,414
Preference div., 5% ...	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	7,812
	67,904	—31,422	39,051	38,747	—67,957	47,602	
Ordinary div. ...	50,000	25,000	37,500	37,000	—	50,000
	(10%)	(5%)	(7½%)	(7½%)		(10%)
	17,904	—56,422	1,551	1,247	—67,957	—2,398
Special reserve ...	—	50,000*	—	—	50,000*	50,000
	17,904	— 6,422	1,551	1,247	—17,957	—32,398
Brought forward ...	1,033	7,455	5,904	4,657	22,614	55,012
Carried forward ...	18,937	1,033	7,455	5,904	4,657	22,614

* Taken from reserve.

The issued share capital of the Company is £750,000, and there are also in issue Mortgage Debentures amounting to £400,000. The reserve fund totals £350,000. The total assets are valued at £1,740,193, the main item being the premises, machinery, &c., valued at £554,946. Herewith we summarise the liabilities and assets as at September 30 last:—

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Issued share capital ...	750,000	Buildings, machinery, &c.	554,946
Mortgage Debentures ...	400,000	Sundry debtors	162,595
Reserve	350,000	Bills receivable	1,488
Debts and loans from bank	182,393	Cash with bankers ...	27,970
Bills payable, &c. ...	1,362	Stock in trade	357,933
Profit and loss	56,438	Investments	93,123
		Cash stock, debts, &c. ...	532,138
	1,740,193		1,740,193

Attention is drawn to the fact that the directors cannot now estimate the amount of tax on profits which may become payable under the Finance Act on account of the past year's trading, but they are evidently of opinion that the carry-forward of nearly £19,000 is sufficient to meet the probable demand. It is likely that the Company will continue to be busily employed, and the results therefrom should continue to be satisfactory from the shareholders' point of view. The £10 Ordinary shares may be obtained at about £8, and on the basis of a 10% distribution the yield afforded is about 13⅜%. On the Preference shares a yield of about 6% may be obtained, and on the Debentures one of about 4¼%, as may be perceived from the following statement of the capital, prices and yields afforded:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
400,000	4% Debentures	100	95	4	4 5 1
250,000	5% Cum. Preference... ...	10	8⅔	5	5 19 5
500,000	Ordinary shares	10	8	10	13 12 7

HENRY TATE AND SONS, LIMITED.

THE twelve months to September 30 last were of a much less prosperous time for this well-known sugar Company than the twelve months to September 1914, which, indeed, was the most prosperous experienced by the Company, certainly so far as published figures are concerned. The trading profit for the year was £345,788. For the past twelve months it is less than one half that sum, amounting to £166,993. Up to 1910 the public was only interested in the Debenture Stock issued by the Company, but in the year mentioned £250,000 of the Preference shares were offered for sale. It was not until 1910 that any statement of accounts was published, but from the original prospectus issued in 1903 the profit figures for the seven years before flotation as a public company may be gathered, these covering the period from the formation of the business into a private limited company.

The annual profit before charging interest on shareholders' deposits and on Mortgage Debenture stock, directors' fees and income tax, but after making full provision for depreciation and managing directors' remuneration, were as follows:—

	£
Year ended Sept. 30, 1896	91,012
,, ,, 1897	148,390
,, ,, 1898	104,307
,, ,, 1899	62,161
,, ,, 1900	100,263
,, ,, 1901	215,274
,, ,, 1902	97,582

When the Preference shares were offered for sale in 1910 the auditors pointed out that the annual profits, after charging all working expenses, depreciation, &c., directors' fees, and managing directors' remuneration, but without charging interest on Mortgage Debenture stock, and income tax, for the seven years to 1909 were as follows:—

	£
Year ended Sept. 30, 1903	81,588
,, ,, 1904	106,373
,, ,, 1905	81,109
,, ,, 1906	127,170
,, ,, 1907	113,602
,, ,, 1908	59,932
,, ,, 1909	130,741

Since that time the profits have been as follows:—

	Trading Profit
	£
Year ended Sept. 30, 1910	136,403
,, ,, 1911	286,214
,, ,, 1912	176,721
,, ,, 1913	147,856
,, ,, 1914	345,788
,, ,, 1915	166,993

Naturally, very considerable fluctuations have occurred as the business is such a speculative one. After providing for Debenture interest and Preference dividend there is a balance for the past twelve months of £124,493. This enables a dividend of 25% to be paid on the Ordinary share capital, while a sum of £10,000 is carried to reserve, the carry-forward being denuded to the extent of £10,507.

In the following table we set out the manner of distributing the profits for each of the past six years:—

Yr. ended Sept. 30—	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit ...	166,993	345,788	147,856	176,721	286,214	136,403
Income tax ...	—	4,832	2,699	—	256	907
Directors fees ...	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,500	3,500
Net profit ...	163,493	337,456	141,657	173,221	282,458	131,996
Debenture int....	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
	140,993	314,956	119,157	150,721	259,958	109,496
Preference div....	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
	124,493	298,456	102,657	134,221	243,458	92,996
Ordinary div. ...	125,000	250,000	92,500	115,000	210,000	85,000
	(25%)	(50%)	(18½%)	(23%)	(42%)	(17%)
	— 507	48,456	10,157	19,221	33,458	7,996
Reserve fund ...	10,000	40,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000
	—10,507	8,456	157	— 779	13,458	— 2,004
Brought forward	33,308	24,852	24,695	25,474	12,016	14,020
Carried forward	22,801	33,308	24,852	24,695	25,474	12,016

As already intimated the public is only directly interested in the Debenture Stock and Preference shares, the whole of the Ordinary being held by the directors. Both prior issues are well secured, and the yields afforded are moderately good, ones of 4⅝% being forthcoming on the Debenture stock, and one of 5% on the Preference shares, the former being quoted at 98⅝ and the latter at £11 for the £10 share.

The capital, prices, and yields are as follows:—

Amount	Description	Par	Price	Div.	Yield
£		£	£	%	£ s. d.
500,000	4½% 1st Mort. Irred. Deb. ...	100	98⅝	4½	4 13 6
300,000	5½% Cum. Pref. shares ...	10	11	5½	5 0 0
500,000	Ord. shares	10	—	25	—

RUBBER TOPICS.

THE price of rubber has again been well maintained this week at over 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb., with very firm quotations for forward positions. The recent rather prevalent idea that the market was being rigged has been dropped by those responsible for it. Leaders of the industry view the outlook favourably. For instance, at the meeting of the Asahan Rubber Estates this week, the Chairman, Mr. George Croll, of Messrs. Harrison and Crosfield, said he thought it reasonable to anticipate that something like present prices will continue during the Company's current year to July 31 next.

BANTAM (JAVA).—At the meeting this week the Chairman stated that the "all in" cost for the past financial year was 1*s.* 1.8*d.*, and not 1*s.* 3.32*d.*, as misprinted in the annual report, and, consequently, so given in our analysis last week.

KWALOE RUBBER.—At the meeting this week the Chairman put the maximum yield of this estate at full maturity at 600,000 lb. to be reached in 1920, the estimate for 1916 being 120,000 lb.; for 1917, 240,000 lb.; for 1918, 360,000 lb.; and for 1919, 480,000 lb. He also mentioned that the directors reckoned the estate to have a present value of £75 per planted acre, equal to about par for the Company's shares.

The "Labour Year-Book for 1916," just published, contains over 700 pages, and is published in two editions: card cover, 1*s.* net; cloth cover, 2*s.* 6*d.* net. (London: Co-Operative Printing Society, Limited.)

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MINIMUM TIN STOCKS.

A NEW development has occurred in tin which tends to bring into prominence the determination of the British authorities to keep as closely as possible in their own control during the period of the War the mineral wealth of the Empire. As is well known, the world's main supply of tin comes from the Straits Settlements, the exports thence during recent years having amounted to something over 60,000 tons per annum, or, roughly speaking, about half the total production, the bulk of the remainder coming from Bolivia and the Dutch East Indies.

It is not without some apprehension that the recent reduction has been witnessed in the stocks of tin held in public warehouses in this country; though, fortunately, there has been a very material increase since the end of 1914, when the total stocks in London, Liverpool and Swansea amounted to only about 1,000 tons. During the current year the holdings have been increased to about double this quantity, but even this involves a dangerously depleted state of warehouses and perilously low reserves, in view of various conditions of special nature now operating. The activity of enemy submarines in the Mediterranean, and the persistent reports which have been cabled to America announcing the closing of the Suez Canal, brought about great excitement among United States consumers of tin, who set to work vigorously to cover their requirements; and their anxieties were not allayed by the knowledge that one or two steamers with very large quantities of tin were proceeding to New York through the danger zone, and that the arrival of supplies already purchased would be delayed by several weeks owing to the vessels carrying them having been ordered to proceed to America *via* the Cape. Two thousand tons of tin is quite reasonably regarded by the authorities as constituting an insufficient reserve here, in view of the perils of navigation, the possibility of undue delay in transit, and the other important fact that neutral countries were steadily drawing upon the supply held in English warehouses.

For a long time now there has been considerable delay in the issuing, withholding or refusing of permits necessary to enable shipments of tin to be made from this country to neutrals, and losses have been sustained in many directions owing to these delays, and also to the vacillating policy which seems to have dictated the issuing, withholding or refusing of permits. The announcement that the authorities have decided to require a sufficient stock of tin to be kept in this country to safeguard the requirements of Great Britain and her Allies has, therefore, been welcomed, for it shows that at last there is some attempt at formulating a policy, and that an end is apparently to be made, so far as tin is concerned, of haphazard and shiftless executive work. The new policy necessarily will involve a still closer watch being kept upon the issuing of export licences, but in the circumstances it is felt that an intelligent attitude is now being taken up, while it is some consolation to know that the needs of the Allies are being looked after equally with our own. This is as it should be, but it seems to take us an abnormally long time to get our machinery into smooth working.

As regards the quantity which the authorities believe essential to safeguard the position here, no official statement has been made, but it is understood unofficially that 4,000 tons or so is regarded as the desirable minimum. The immediate effect of the announcement was not only to put the price of tin down sharply in London, and to bring cash delivery to a discount compared with three months, but to put a premium on cash and to advance prices sharply both for near and forward deliveries in America. Opinion is generally divided as to the ultimate effect which the new policy will have upon the market at large, but it seems to be generally expected that the tendency will be to create a higher range of values everywhere. As far as America is concerned, prices there may easily go to a substantial premium over London, because there is bound to be competition in America for supplies direct from the East, in view of the fact that it is exceedingly doubtful whether permits will be issued at all from this country until the stocks have been sufficiently increased. America will probably also turn her attention more and more to Dutch tin, and it is known that plants are being put up both in the neighbourhood of New York and Pittsburgh for the treatment of imported tin ores. The United States produces practically no tin, but more than one attempt has been made to create a tin-smelting industry in the United States by securing regular supplies of tin concentrates from abroad. One such, made some years ago to secure material from the Straits Settlements, broke down owing to the authorities there placing heavy export duties upon the tin ore, while an effort made within the last few months to secure Nigerian material was similarly frustrated. The United States is thus forced into the only market left, namely, Bolivia, in which country there are already important United States interests.

Prior to the War the whole of the Bolivian output came to England and Germany for treatment. The closing of the German market has caused a diversion of the entire shipments to this country, and there are now stored here tin concentrates containing 7,000 tons of metallic tin. This added to the 2,000 tons of metallic tin in warehouse brings the actual tin reserves in this country to about 9,000 tons; but it appears that the authorities are leaving the tin concentrates altogether out of their calculations, although they might have also looked at the matter from this point of view, with possible advantage. If under the new conditions which have been created metallic tin in the United States continues to command a considerable premium over prices in the London market, which is generally expected will be the case, then the United States would also be able to pay much higher prices for their ore than English smelters can do, and this must tend to cut down the importance of the English tin-smelting industry just at the time when its growing power and influence are more than ever desirable. It is well that this aspect of the situation should be considered by the authorities here, who, whilst actuated by the very best of intentions, seem in too many of the steps which they have taken for the safeguarding of national supplies to have been gravely handicapped by a lack of knowledge of the problems which they were attempting to tackle. It is earnestly to be hoped that these well-intentioned tin regulations will not really prove to have inflicted a severe blow upon the British tin-smelting industry.

COLONIAL WOOL SALES.

BOOM PRICES.

THE final series of Colonial sales for 1915 finished in Coleman Street last Thursday. At them there was an intensity of competition which has seldom been exceeded, even when France, Belgium and Germany have had free access to all available supplies, and the year's business has demonstrated that the home trade can very well do without any support from Germany. It is much too early to talk about the attitude of the Board of Trade and other responsible parties towards Germany when the War finishes, but at the present time the fact is emphasised that all supplies have been got through, and the year's auctions finished with practically clean-swept boards. As we write this the final figures showing the actual takings of the various sections of the trade are not available, but up to the end of the seventh series the home trade had absorbed 1,802,000 bales, the Continent 158,000 bales, and America 435,000 bales, making a grand total of 2,395,000 bales. This shows a wonderful clearance of Colonial supplies, and in this one particular expectations of all have been greatly exceeded. In fact, when the year opened everybody felt overfaced with the supplies that were coming forward, but evidently the consumptive capacity of the three sections named has proved equal to the occasion, and if supplies had been allowed out of the country to Continental neutrals there would have been to-day a distinct shortage.

The course of the auctions can be summarised in very few words, but some details are well worth giving. The series began with the tendency of prices distinctly upwards, and everything finished at the top notch. Record figures have been paid for good

greasy merinos, and values here have generally appreciated 2*d.* per lb. compared with the close of the November series. This means that very big figures have been paid for Australian greasy merino wool, up to 1*s.* 9½*d.* being actually realised. No such prices as these were ruling before the War commenced, and even then wool was looked upon as a dear commodity. The advances in the better classes of scoureds is from 3*d.* to 4*d.* All this clearly indicates a remarkably strong market, and there is evidence that the trade has confidence in the future of prices.

Turning to crossbreds, the record here is equally as satisfactory, splendid values having been paid. It is really a little difficult to say what the rise is exactly, owing to their being a great dearth of greasy crossbred fleece wools, but the improvement can be put down at 10%, or, say, about 2*d.* per lb. on the medium and fine qualities and a good 1*d.* on coarse descriptions. Scoureds, too, have shown an improvement of about 1*d.* to 2*d.* The chief supply of crossbreds has been in sliped parcels from New Zealand, and some very good wools have been catalogued. These have formed fully three-quarters of the crossbred offerings, and the various khaki requirements have had some beneficial effect upon the movement of these wools. All the loss seen in July and September has now been recovered; no doubt the recent Russian khaki, together with the three million yards of overcoating ordered, have been more or less covered in wool during the past fortnight in Coleman Street. America has not been a very heavy buyer, it being very evident that her operators have about reached the limit in regard to obtaining licences. There have been developments during the past month which are not altogether satisfactory, and if America would not look so persistently upon Germany, and endeavour to do trade with that country through neutrals, she would shine better, and also establish more confidence in responsible quarters in London.

No one can look at to-day's wool values without being forcibly reminded of the piping times of 1899, which was the previous high-water mark, apart from 1872. The boom culminated at the December series, 1899, being followed by a very serious slump in 1900. Prices then were looked upon as being dangerously high when 64's tops stood at 2*s.* 9*d.*, but to-day they are worth in Bradford all round 3*s.* 7½*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*, or nearly a shilling more. Still, there is not the least evidence of uneasiness in the trade, and current prices for wool and tops are being paid quite as readily as when wool was 1*s.* per lb. and tops 1*s.* 6*d.* In 1899 no doubt prices were very high, but they look very reasonable in the light of those ruling to-day. We give below particulars of buying prices of average classes of wool at the December series in that year and what similar wool has actually realised at the current series of sales, giving both merinos and crossbreds:—

	Dec. 1899	Dec. 1915
	s. d.	*s. d.*
GREASY MERINO WOOLS.		
Victorian: Western, good quality and condition	1 5	1 9
N.S. Wales: Riverina, good staple and condition ...	1 4	1 8
,, N. England, fine, Clush	1 4	1 8
Queensland: Central, good staple and condition ...	1 3	1 7½
S. Australian: Mallands, fair length and condition ...	1 1	1 7
N. Zealand: South Island, fair character	1 1½	1 6
S. African: fair staple, skirty	0 11	1 1
SCOURED WOOLS.		
Victorian: Fair body and colour	2 5	2 11
Queensland: Good quality, colour and condition ...	2 3	2 7
N.S. Wales: Fair pak, rather fatty	2 2	2 6
N. Zealand: Fair body and colour	2 2	2 7
Cape: Kaffrarian, short light	1 11½	2 0
New Zealand: Half-bred: super 50–56's	1 1½	1 9
,, ,, Crossbred: medium 46's	0 10½	1 7
,, ,, ,, coarse 40's	0 8½	1 5½
,, ,, ,, ,, 36's	0 7½	1 5

One cannot leave this subject without showing the effects of khaki upon New Zealand sliped crossbred wools, these being about the most suitable for use in producing the excellent cloths which are being worn by practically all the troops fighting under the British flag. We give below prices actually realised in Coleman Street at the lowest point these wools ever touched, what they were worth a year ago, and to-day, and there is demonstrated very clearly the effect of the great khaki boom upon every class of staple shown:—

Description.	Nov. 1914	Dec. 1914	Dec. 1915
	d.	*d.*	*d.*
Sliped half-bred coarse [illegible]	6	5½	5½
,, Crossbred [illegible]	4½	4	4½
,, ,, 2nd ,, ,,	4½	4½	5½
,, ,, ,, ,,	4½	4½	5½
,, half-bred, combing	6	5½	5½
,, [illegible]	4½	5½	6
,, [illegible]	5	5½	6½
,, 4th ,, ...	5½	19	21
,, [illegible]	4½	4½	5½
,, ,, [illegible]	5½	16	18
,, ,, crossing	4	16½	16½

As far as one can judge the outlook there is certainly a big trade yet to be done, but all the same it behoves everyone to look seriously at where values stand. We cannot see any sign of a fall, but all the same there is no need on the part of any branch of the trade to push prices higher, and a consolidation on to-day's level will do infinitely more good than values being forced still higher. Wool is dear enough.

AMERICAN COTTON.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday.

SINCE our last report prices for American cotton, after declining ¼*d.* per lb. under realising selling by American long interests, and also freer offerings of actual cotton from the South, have since regained about half of the fall. To-night's closing rates show a decline of 14 points for winter months since we last wrote.

The Washington Agricultural Bureau crop estimate was issued on the 10th inst., and figured the crop, exclusive of linters, as 11,161,000 bales, against 15,966,000 last year. A few days later we were furnished with the consumption figures for the United States for the first four months of the season. These show a considerable expansion in the American consumption, and suggest that American mills may consume 6½ million bales this season. In November this year 514,000 bales cotton and 78,000 linters were used, against 420,000 cotton and 27,000 linters last year. For the first four months of the season 1,977,000 bales cotton and 261,000 linters have been used, as against 1,671,000 cotton and 108,000 linters in 1914. Last Monday we had the seventh ginners' report, giving the total number of bales ginned up to December 12 as 10,303,000 bales, against 9,711,000 last report and 13,977,000 in 1914. These statistics we take to confirm the views we have previously expressed, viz., that the crop is round about 12,000,000 bales, rather over than under, and that American mills are likely to consume a good deal more cotton than they did last season.

One of the most remarkable phenomena about the War in its commercial effects is the extraordinary way in which the situation has developed contrary to general expectations. At the outbreak of hostilities one great cause for anxiety was the feared industrial depression in Lancashire, but our textile industry, which had been languishing during the summer months of 1914, revived at once, and has since been profitably engaged. The inability of the Central Powers to obtain their supplies of cotton, more particularly after the contraband declaration by this country, was expected to prelude a fall in price. Instead of this, values have risen ever since the declaration was made. At the outbreak of war, so far as cotton was concerned, its immediate effect was to make everyone foresee a time of extremely low prices; but as soon as the first panic was over, and the market was trusted to find its own level, shorts were badly caught, and the Americans showed to the world that, even when deprived of an important Continental outlet, they could carry a large crop and hold till remunerative rates were obtained. All this experience is a warning as to the difficulty under the present unusual conditions of forecasting the future course of the market.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT—FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30, 1915.

Office of the Northern Pacific Railway Company,
34 Nassau Street, New York, September 15, 1915.

To the Stockholders of the
Northern Pacific Railway Company.

The following, being the Nineteenth Annual Report, shows the result of the operation of your property for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915 :—

INCOME ACCOUNT.

I.—OPERATING INCOME. (SEE NOTE BELOW.)

Railway operating revenues (Transportation and incidents thereof, other than those mentioned below)		$62,171,652 60
Railway operating expenses		37,108,048 88
Net revenue		$25,063,603 72
Railway tax accruals	$4,470,958 70	
Uncollectible railway revenues	4,151 33	
		4,475,110 03
Total operating income		$21,588,493 69

II.—NON-OPERATING INCOME. (SEE NOTE BELOW.)

Hire of freight cars—credit balance	$512,137 20
Rent from locomotives and cars	421,787 31
Joint facility rent income	1,850,275 32
Income from lease of road	273,352 51
Miscellaneous rent income	330,970 61
Miscellaneous non-operating physical property—rents	55,148 88
Separately operated properties—profit	59,194 81
Dividend income	*6,200,952 00
Income from funded securities	235,004 75
Income from unfunded securities and accounts	440,713 01
Income from sinking and other reserve funds	105,245 99
Miscellaneous income	25,467 94
Total non-operating income	$10,442,959 33
Gross income	$32,031,453 02

III.—DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME. (SEE NOTE BELOW.)

Rent for locomotives and cars	$418,552 28
Joint facility rents	493,150 80
Rent for leased roads	61,551 86
Miscellaneous rents	5,772 89
Interest on funded debt	†12,294,400 16
Interest on unfunded debt	54,380 43
Miscellaneous income charges	191,084 17
Total deductions from gross income	$13,208,632 69
Net income	$18,822,820 33

IV.—DISPOSITION OF NET INCOME.

Dividend appropriation of income	$17,360,000 00
Income balance for year—transferred to profit and loss	$1,462,820 33

NOTE.—Radical changes have been made in the Classifications of the Interstate Commerce Commission as of July 1, 1914. The form of Income Account here used is that prescribed by the Commission. The Company does not, however, admit the correctness of the groupings of some of the items of income.

* Includes dividends on stock of Chicago, Burlington & Quincy RR. owned by this Company.

† Includes interest paid on this Company's proportion of joint bonds issued by this Company and the Great Northern Railway Company, secured by C., B. & Q. RR. capital stock as collateral.

MILEAGE OPERATED.

Changes have taken place in the mileage operated during the year as follows :—

There were added :—

		Miles
July 1, 1914.	North Yakima & Valley Lines in Washington, acquired	39·72
July 1, 1914.	Port Townsend Southern Railroad—Southern Division in Washington, acquired	15·00
July 1, 1914.	Oregon-Washington RR. & Navigation Co. in Washington, leased	·13
Aug. 23, 1914.	Spokane Branch, Washington, acquired	9·90
Aug. 23, 1914.	Coeur d'Alene Branch, Washington, acquired	3·74
Nov. 25, 1914.	Spokane Track Branch, in North Dakota, extended	33·85
Dec. 12, 1914.	Edgecomb-Kruse Branch in Washington, constructed	3·80
Dec. 15, 1914.	Point Defiance Line in Washington, constructed	42·95
Dec. 1, 1914.	Seattle South Eastern Railway in Washington, leased	·27
Feb. 19, 1915.	Main Line in Washington (second track constructed)	3·44
May 1, 1915.	Connection with "Soo" Line in Minnesota, constructed	·80
May 1, 1915.	Cuyuna Northern Branch in Minnesota, constructed	·09
May 1, 1915.	Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Ry. in Minnesota, leased	·74
June 1, 1915.	Connection with Great Northern Railway in Washington, constructed	·59
June 30, 1915.	Sundry petty changes and corrections	14·97
	Total additions	169·59

Deductions :

Dec. 15, 1914.	Tacoma-Tenino Line in Washington, track taken up	·61
Dec. 15, 1914.	Olympia Branch in Washington, track taken up	3·55
Dec. 15, 1914.	Port Townsend Southern R.R. (Tumwater Branch), track taken up	5·00
Feb. 19, 1915.	Main Line in Washington, track taken up	5·74
June 1, 1915.	Monte Cristo Branch in Washington, leased	42·12
	Total deductions	57·02
	Net additions	112·57
	Mileage operated June 30, 1914	6,353·60
	Mileage operated June 30, 1915	6,466·17
	Average mileage operated during year	6,416·67

EARNINGS.

FREIGHT BUSINESS.

Freight revenue was $43,833,636.90, a decrease of $4,322,195.89, or 8.98 per cent., compared with the previous year.

5,164,571,432 tons of revenue freight were moved one mile, a decrease of 464,779,995 tons one mile, or 8.26 per cent., less than the previous year.

The average earnings per ton mile decreased from .00855 to .00849.

The revenue train load increased from 566.91 to 573.06 tons. The total train load, including Company freight, increased from 665.76 to 668.45 tons.

The number of miles run by revenue freight trains was 8,107,560, a decrease of 1,081,812, or 11.77 per cent.

PASSENGER BUSINESS.

Passenger revenue was $13,619,113.80, a decrease of $2,087,886.60, or 13.29 per cent., compared with the previous year.

Mail revenue was $1,116,525.39, an increase of $72,804.93, or 6.98 per cent.

Express revenue was $1,225,192.88, a decrease of $86,984.34, or 6.63 per cent.

Sleeping-car, parlour and chair car, excess baggage and miscellaneous passenger revenue was $803,480.28, a decrease of $236,009.92, or 22.70 per cent.

Total revenue for persons and property carried on passenger trains was $16,764,312.35, a decrease of $2,338,075.93, or 12.24 per cent., compared with the previous year.

The number of passengers carried was 8,756,784, a decrease of 1,103,439 from the previous year, and the number of passengers carried one mile was 600,273,153, a decrease of 81,998,277, or 12.02 per cent.

The number of miles run by revenue passenger trains was 10,356,705, a decrease of 1,658,433, or 13.80 per cent.

The average earning per passenger per mile was .02269 and .02302 last year.

OPERATING EXPENSES.

CONDUCTING TRANSPORTATION.

The charges for transportation expenses were $18,987,055.76, a decrease of $2,780,145.56, or 12.77 per cent., as against a decrease of total operating revenue of 10.33 per cent.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT.

The charges for maintenance of equipment were $7,317,074.42, a decrease of $1,121,201.24, or 13.29 per cent.

LOCOMOTIVES.

Total number locomotives on active list June 30, 1914		1,357
Additions :		
Engines repaired with boilers purchased		5
		1,362
Deductions :		
Engine sold during the year, from active list		1
Total locomotives on active list June 30, 1915		1,361
In addition to the engines on active list there were :		
Withdrawn from service and on hand from previous year	123	
Dismantled during year	1	
Leaving on hand engines withdrawn from service which may be sold	122	

PASSENGER EQUIPMENT.

On June 30, 1915, the Company owned 1,287 passenger-train cars, including 129 sleeping-cars owned jointly with the Pullman Company, an increase of 127 cars. The number and kind of cars owned is shown in table on page 40 of Pamphlet Report.

Of the 1,287 cars owned, 969 were not due in shops for two months or more.

FREIGHT EQUIPMENT.

Comparative number and capacity of freight cars :—

	1914. Number.	1914. Capacity (Tons of 2,000 lb.)	1915. Number.	1915. Capacity (Tons of 2,000 lb.)	Inc. or Dec. Number.	Inc. or Dec. Capacity (Tons of 2,000 lb.)
Box	26,508	994,930	25,936	983,150	422	11,780
Furniture and Automobile	747	26,850	672	24,895	75	1,955
Refrigerator	4,080	130,320	4,052	129,855	28	465
Stock	2,702	65,285	2,473	57,435	229	7,850
Flat	8,654	305,195	8,507	301,085	147	4,110
Oil	62	2,555	62	2,555	—	—
Coal	5,336	255,990	5,206	252,065	130	3,925
Ballast and Ore	1,035	43,105	1,252	54,290	*217*	*11,185*
Total	48,974	1,824,230	48,160	1,805,330	814	18,900
Percentage	—	—	—	—	1·66%	1·04%
Average capacity per car	—	37·3	—	37·5	—	—

NOTE—Figures in italics denote increase.

Of the total number of freight cars on June 30, 1915, 2,119, or 4.40%, were in need of repairs costing $5.00 or more per car.

No additional passenger or freight equipment is under contract for construction or is building at the Company's shops.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY AND STRUCTURES.

The charges for Maintenance of Way and Structures were $8,523,657.45, a decrease of $840,166.46, or 8.97 per cent.

Block Signals.

Block signals have been installed and placed in service at the following points :—

Minnesota : Brainerd depôt.
Montana : Livingston-Toston.
Idaho : Paradise-Sand Point and Athol-Hauser.
Washington : Pasco-Alfalfa and Cle Elum-Easton.

On June 30, 1915, on 2,485 miles of important main line there were 1,184.30 miles protected by automatic block signals, and 337.50 miles protected by manual block.

Interlocking Plants.

Interlocking plants have been installed and placed in service at McGregor, Minnesota, and at Ballard and Steilacoom, Washington.

CHARGES TO CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Upon requisition of the Executive Officers, approved by the Board of Directors, expenditures for additions to and betterments of the property have been made during the past fiscal year for :—

REAL ESTATE, RIGHT OF WAY AND TERMINALS :	
Superior, [illegible]	$8,224 [illegible]
St. Paul, Minneapolis [illegible]	[illegible]
Minneapolis, Minnesota [illegible]	42,746 41
Tacoma, Washington, [illegible]	2,[illegible] 4[illegible]
Aberdeen, [illegible]	(Cr. 2,[illegible]0
	$75,706 [illegible]3
BRANCHES, LINE CHANGES, GRADE REVISION AND [illegible] MAIN TRACK :	
Superior, Wis. [illegible]	$201 [illegible]
Cumuru Northern [illegible]	57,335 57
Duluth Transfer Railway, [illegible]	24,923 55
Minneapolis, Minn. [illegible]	[illegible]
Rivulet to Lotus Lake, [illegible]	12,753 81
Golden Valley, [illegible]	134,729 96
Spring Creek Line, [illegible]	592,849 15
Western [illegible]	[illegible]
Bitter Root [illegible]	1,513 00
Camp Creek Branch, [illegible]	2,390 12
Elkhorn Line, [illegible]	[illegible]
Huntley to [illegible]	4,740 38
Edgerton to Kraus, [illegible]	55,313 12
Fremont-Ballard Line, [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	34,[illegible]62 59
Gray's Harbour & Columbia [illegible]	
[illegible]	1,320 84
Lester to Easton, Wash. (grade revision and double track)	[illegible]
M. P. 73 to Yardley (Spokane), Washington (second main track)	3,610 46
North Yakima [illegible]	13,626 29
Spokane, [illegible]	453,605 26
Point Defiance Line, Tacoma to Tenino (construction)	2,287,181 77
Port Townsend [illegible]	[illegible]
Tenino and [illegible]	[illegible]
Tenino to Vancouver, Washington (grade revision and double track)	13,086 47
Sundry [illegible]	983 52
	$1,[illegible]
ADDITIONS AND BETTERMENTS :	
Right of way and [illegible]	$158,786 82
Wrecking outfits and [illegible]	159,643 00
Protection of [illegible]	[illegible]
Grade [illegible]	312,974 8[illegible]
Tunnel [illegible]	[illegible]
Bridges, trestles and culverts	354,087 33
[illegible]	[illegible]
Improved [illegible]	24,160 98
Track [illegible]	504,730 47
Ballast	[illegible]
Additional main tracks	1,579 10
Sidings and spur tracks	311,704 35
Terminal yards	332,639 63
Fencing right of way	27,145 73
Improvement of [illegible]	37,097 68
Planting [illegible]	42,223 89
Interlocking [illegible]	4,349 10
Block and other signal apparatus	357,920 31
Telegraph and telephone lines	[illegible]
Station buildings and fixtures	982,148 11
Shops, engine-houses and turntables	[illegible]
Shop machinery and tools	[illegible]
Water and [illegible]	[illegible]
Docks and wharf property	9,003 37
Snow and [illegible]	[illegible]
Other additions and betterments	[illegible]
Assessments for public improvements	175,722 51
Paving	1,337 63
Roadway machinery and [illegible]	[illegible]
	$1,981,124 46

RESERVE FOR ACCRUED DEPRECIATION OF EQUIPMENT.

[illegible]		[illegible]
[illegible]		
Maintenance of equipment depreciation	$[illegible]	
[illegible]		
Maintenance of equipment, retirements	39,411 01	
[illegible]		
		[illegible]
		[illegible]
Less equipment retired :		
[illegible]	$[illegible]	
		[illegible]
		$[illegible]

CAPITAL STOCK AND DEBT.

[illegible]		
standing during the year, viz. :		$[illegible]
[illegible]		
under Article 4, Section 2 of mortgage		20,000,000 00
[illegible]	$[illegible]	
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]	$[illegible]	
[illegible]		
[illegible]	72,000 00	
		891,000 00
[illegible]		$[illegible]

GENERAL.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING FORMS PRESCRIBED BY INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

Readers of this report will observe that the Income Account for the business year 1915, appearing on page 5 of Pamphlet Report, differs much in form from that heretofore used in these reports; also, that comparison with figures for the next prior year have been omitted.

The form herein used is that at present prescribed by the Commission. While the correctness of totals, and of resulting surpluses, appearing in this form is admitted, that of some of the groupings of revenues from the several sources is not.

Radical differences in the two forms of Income Account have made impracticable the usual comparisons between figures for the year covered by this report and those for the year 1914. Consequently no attempt at such a comparison has been made herein. Should present regulations continue in force comparison can be resumed another year.

IMPROVEMENT IN OPERATION.

Compared with 1914, Freight Revenue decreased $4,522,195, or 8.98%, while Revenue Freight train miles decreased 1,081,812, or 11.77%.

Compared with 1914, Revenues from transportation of persons and property in passenger trains decreased $2,338,075, or 12.24%, while Revenue Passenger train miles decreased 1,658,433, or 13.80%.

Compared with 1914, cost of conducting transportation decreased $2,780,145, largely through the decreases in train mileage mentioned above.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY.

The settled policy of the Company to maintain its railways in a high condition of safety and efficiency was again followed in 1915.

Expenditures under this head per mile of road operated in each of the ten years up to and including 1915 have been as follows :—

Year.	Average Miles.	Total Expenditures.	Per Mile.	Per Cent. of Expenses per Mile.
		$	$	
[illegible]	5,401·14	7,493,729 90	1,387 45	12·22
1907	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,680 03	15·54
1908	[illegible]	8,762,297 33	1,555 44	14·84
1909	5,671·29	[illegible]	1,[illegible] 44	11·46
1910	[illegible]	10,842,955 20	[illegible] 88	14·55
1911	[illegible]	8,065,462 47	1,355 44	13·43
[illegible]	[illegible]	7,861,490 57	1,304 79	12·40
1913	6,259·85	10,188,053 94	1,627 52	14·00
1914	6,325·26	9,363,823 91	1,480 39	13·29
1915	6,460·67	8,523,657 45	1,319 31	12·49

[illegible] pages 10 and 11 of Pamphlet Report, of which the respective weights of rail sections now in the tracks of the system are [illegible].

Among the renewal items of the year were 3,017,499 cross-ties, or sufficient, at the rate of 3,000 cross-ties per mile, for relaying 1,005.8 miles of track.

Some years back the Company began the use in its tracks of ties treated to resist decay, and installed for this purpose tie-treating plants; one near Brainerd, Minnesota, and another near Paradise, Montana.

Since these plants have been in operation the Company has been laying their output in its tracks, so that on June 30, 1915, the total number of treated ties in track was about 7,400,000, or the quantity required for 2,466 miles on the basis of 3,000 ties per mile.

In the year 1915 treated ties put into track numbered approximately 1,456,676 out of a total of 3,017,499 ties of all kinds laid in renewals. Treated ties are considerably more costly than those not treated, but it is considered that increase in initial cost is much more than overcome by increased life in track. As the proportion of treated ties in the tracks increases annual renewal requirements will correspondingly decrease. That tendency manifested itself appreciably in the year 1915, the total tie renewals having decreased 113,959 ties, compared with those of 1914.

On June 30, 1915, there were in the Company's tracks—mostly in main line—1,564.46 miles of 85-lb., 2,092.72 miles of 90-lb., and 47.20 miles of 100-lb. steel rails; or in the aggregate 3,704.58 miles laid with rail of 85-lb. section or heavier. In track laid with 90-lb. section there was an increase during the year of 255.89 miles.

EXPENDITURES ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

The aggregate of these charged up during the year was $11,362,237.27; the details of which, as well as the contra thereto required for accounting purposes, appear on pages 13 and 14 of Pamphlet Report.

Some of the largest of these outlays were as follows :—

Grade revision and double-tracking of the main line at the Cascade Mountain crossing, State of Washington	$664,744 91
Construction of Spring Creek line, in North Dakota	592,849 15
Spokane, Washington, grade separation	453,605 26
Construction Point Defiance line, Tacoma to Tenino, Washington	2,287,181 77
Station and other buildings and fixtures	982,148 11
New steel passenger-train cars	1,182,266 04

Most of the Company's large construction work heretofore undertaken having been finished, outlays on capital account will likely be smaller hereafter.

BOND SALES.

As mentioned in the last annual report, $20,000,000 of the Company's Refunding and Improvement bonds were sold in the month of July 1914, and from the proceeds the Company's one-year notes maturing in that month were paid off; the remainder being used to reimburse the Company's treasury for previous advances of its free moneys for investments on Capital Account.

In the forepart of the present calendar year $1,500,000 of the Company's Prior Lien bonds, available for additions to property, were issued and sold. But $1,000,000 of bonds of that class remain issuable.

The Company is without floating debt at this time, save such as results in the ordinary way from the operation of its properties and the conduct of its business.

FORM OF BALANCE SHEET.

Attention is called to the difference in form of Balance Sheet contained in this report from that heretofore used in the Company's reports.

Such changes have been made to conform with present regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the subject.

The report of the Comptroller gives further details of the Company's transactions.

The Board of Directors especially desires to extend to the Company's officers and employees, as a body, its consideration and thanks for the fidelity and intelligence with which their respective duties have been performed throughout the year.

By order of the Board of Directors,
W. P. CLOUGH, *Chairman*,
JULE M. HANNAFORD, *President*.

LAND DEPARTMENT.

The total net sales for the year of all lands aggregate 1,004,017.77 acres, and the consideration received therefor was $4,124,579.89.

Of this amount $1,005,433 76 was in cash.
and 3,119,146 13 in contracts for deferred payments.

Total ... $4,124,579 89

The cash transactions of the department were as follows :—

Received from sales as above		$1,005,433 76
Received from payments on contracts		781,225 25
Interest collected on deferred payments		309,927 72
Total		$2,096,586 73
Less, for expenses	$130,974 12	
Less, for taxes	565,688 15	
		996,662 27
Net cash receipts for year		$1,099,924 46

The net proceeds credited to the Northern Pacific Estate were made up as follows :—

Total net sales as above		$4,124,579 89
Interest collected		309,927 72
		$4,434,507 61
Less expenses and taxes		996,662 27
		$3,437,845 34

BALANCE OF LAND DEPARTMENT CURRENT ASSETS.

Contracts for sale of lands		$9,916,556 53
Bills receivable		805 86
Accounts receivable		108,868 74
		$10,026,231 13
Less, accounts payable	$263,875 77	
Less, suspense account (collections not taken to account by land agents)	116,986 98	
		380,862 75
Balance Land Department current assets ...		$9,645,368 38
In addition to which there is in the hands of the Treasurer cash turned over by the Land Department		$266,961 92

THOMAS COOPER,
Land Commissioner.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1915.

ASSETS.

Investments :			
Road and Equipment (Northern Pacific Estate) June 30, 1914—			
Road, lands, &c. ...	$412,263,747 51		
Equipment	60,409,442 46		
		$472,673,189 97	
Charges since June 30, 1914		8,977,504 15	
Land Department current assets... ...	$9,645,368 38		
Less—Land Department net receipts...	3,437,845 34		
		6,207,523 04	
			$487,858,217 16
Sinking Funds			972 52
Deposits in lieu of mortgaged property (net moneys in hands of Trustees from sale of land grant lands &c.)			2,553,898 95
Miscellaneous physical property... ...			2,218,114 10
Investments in Affiliated Companies :			
Stocks		*$140,689,640 30	
Bonds		25,431,875 00	
Notes		5,533,119 45	
Advances		1,090,038 86	
			172,744,673 61
Other Investments :			
Bonds			25,000 00
Total Capital Assets			$665,400,876 34
Current Assets :			
Cash		$8,140,008 32	
Special deposits		1,693,176 77	
Loans and bills receivable		30,403 97	
Traffic and car service balances receivable		1,118,112 86	
Net balance receivable from agents and conductors		688,201 78	
Miscellaneous accounts receivable ...		3,721,724 06	
Material and supplies		6,986,625 83	
Interest, dividends and rents receivable...		296,019 68	
			22,674,273 27
Deferred Assets :			
Working fund advances		$27,864 94	
Cash and securities in insurance fund ...		5,803,205 98	
			5,831,070 92
Unadjusted Debits			136,566 29
			$694,042,786 82

LIABILITIES.

Stock :			
Capital Stock—Common		$248,000,000 00	
Less—Held in Treasury		54,000 00	
Actually outstanding			$247,946,000 00
Long-Term Debt :			
Funded Debt		$323,242,000 00	
Less—Held in Treasury		9,149,500 00	
Actually outstanding			314,092,500 00
Total Capital Liabilities			$562,038,500 00
Current Liabilities :			
Traffic and car service balances payable...		$705,592 55	
Audited accounts and wages unpaid ...		4,810,988 32	
Miscellaneous accounts payable		75,301 98	
Interest matured unpaid		1,736,030 00	
Dividends matured unpaid		1,854 50	
Unmatured dividends declared		4,340,000 00	
Unmatured interest accrued		510,015 83	
Unmatured rents accrued		10,518 97	
			12,190,302 15
Deferred Liabilities :			
Other deferred liabilities			185,754 30
Unadjusted Credits :			
Accrued depreciation of equipment ...		$14,113,666 11	
Other unadjusted credits...		13,838,261 24	
Insurance and casualty reserves		5,803,205 98	
Taxes accrued—partly estimated ...		2,327,277 35	
			36,082,410 68
Corporate Surplus :			
Appropriated surplus not specifically invested		$369,578 54	
Profit and loss balance		83,176,241 15	
			83,545,819 69
			$694,042,786 82

* Includes this Company's one-half of $107,613,500 stock of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to secure $215,227,000 joint bonds made and issued by this Company and the Great Northern Railway Company to pay for said stock, costing $109,114,809.76.

NOTE.—This Balance Sheet has been made in accordance with the Revised Form prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission as of July 1, 1914.

FUNDED DEBT, JUNE 30, 1915.

NAME.	Amount Outstanding.	Date.	Matures	INTEREST. Rate.	When Payable.	Amount Charged [illegible] for Fiscal Year.*
ISSUED.	$			%		$
Northern Pacific Ry. Co. Prior Lien Mortgage ...	112,615,500 00	1847	1997	4	Jan., April, July, Oct. ...	[illegible]
Northern Pacific Ry. Co. General Lien Mortgage ...	60,000,000 00	1897	2047	3	[illegible], May, [illegible] ...	[illegible]
Northern Pacific Ry. Co., St. Paul-Duluth Division Mortgage	8,080,000 00	1899	1996	4	June, December ...	323,200 00
Northern Pacific Ry. Co. Refunding and Improvement Mortgage	20,000,000 00	1914	2047	4½	[illegible] ...	[illegible]
Northern Pacific-Great Northern joint Collateral Bonds, Northern Pacific one-half	107,613,500 00	1901	1921	4	[illegible] ...	4,253,700 00
ASSUMED.						
St. Paul & Northern Pacific Ry. Mortgage ...	7,813,000 00	1883	1923	6	Feb., Aug.† ...	472,285 16
St. Paul & Duluth RR. First Mortgage	1,000,000 00	1881	1931	5	[illegible] ...	[illegible]
St. Paul & Duluth RR. Second Mortgage	2,000,000 00	1887	1917	6	April, Oct.	[illegible]
St. Paul & Duluth RR. First Consolidated Mortgage	1,000,000 00	1868	1968	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
St. Paul & Duluth RR. Duluth Short Line Mort.	500,000 00	1886	1916	5	March, Sept.	25,000 00
Washington & Columbia River Ry. First Mortgage	2,620,000 00	1895	1945	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	323,242,000 00					12,294,400 16

* Interest on bonds in treasury not included above, viz.: General Lien Bonds, $5,398,500; Washington & Columbia River Railway Bonds, $2,480,000; Nor. Pac.-Great Nor. Joint Bonds, $[illegible]

† [illegible]

THE CUBAN-AMERICAN SUGAR CO.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1915.

New York, December 8, 1915.

To the Stockholders of The Cuban-American Sugar Company :

Your Board of Directors submit the following report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1915 :—

The total output of Raw Sugar was 236,401 tons (of 2,000 lb.), as compared to 264,745 tons (of 2,000 lb.) for the year ending September 30, 1914. The yield of sugar from a ton of cane was approximately 10 per cent. less this year than the previous year, due to the unseasonable weather conditions during the grinding season, especially in the Eastern Provinces.

The following table presents a detailed comparison of the tons of cane ground and the year's output of Raw and Refined Sugar for the last two years :—

	1914–15.	1913–14.
Cane Ground	2,218,168 Tons	2,215,725 Tons
Raw Sugar Production :	(Bags 320 Lb.)	(Bags 320 Lb.)
Chaparra...	525,088 Bags	616,179 Bags
Delicias	315,872 ,,	492,662 ,,
Tinguaro	236,956 ,,	197,240 ,,
United	84,472 ,,	66,606 ,,
Mercedita	93,617 ,,	88,447 ,,
Constancia	196,055 ,,	162,861 ,,
Gramercy, La	25,447 ,,	30,663 ,,
Total	1,477,507 Bags or 236,401 Tons	1,654,658 Bags or 264,745 Tons
Refined Sugar Production :		
Cardenas Refinery, Cuba ...	14,713,144 lb.	13,043,392 lb.
Gramercy Refinery, La. ...	154,954,482 ,,	134,404,783 ,,

The net profit of the Company for the fiscal year was $5,594,047.97, after charging $788,496.95 for depreciation on buildings, machinery and equipment.

We have continued our policy of amply providing for doubtful Colonos accounts, and have written off the yearly proportion of the cost of plantings and all expenses in the cane fields where renewed plantings were required.

Your Directors have under consideration a readjustment of physical values of all buildings, machinery and equipment by a detailed appraisal, and to provide against every contingency the sum of $2,000,000 has been appropriated and transferred from the Surplus Account to the "Reserve for Depreciation."

Regular quarterly dividends were paid on the Preferred Stock, completing the dividends to September 30, 1914; further, on July 1, 1915, 1¾ per cent., and on October 1, 1915, 5¼ per cent., were paid, being the dividend of 7 per cent. accumulated to September 30, 1915.

On November 17, 1915, a quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent. was declared on the Common Stock to stockholders of record on December 15, 1915, payable January 3, 1916.

$179,000 of the Cuban-American Sugar Company's Six per Cent. (6%) Collateral Trust Gold Bonds were retired by the operation of the Sinking Fund provision of the Collateral Trust Indenture, making a total of $884,000 of these Bonds retired in this manner, and leaving outstanding on September 30, 1915, $9,116,000.

The capital outlay during the year amounted to $1,175,490.95. These expenditures were made to provide the most approved and necessary devices that may be employed to increase the yield of sugar and lower the cost of production; to acquire about 35,000 acres of virgin land adjacent to our holdings in the extensive area of the Chaparra properties, and additional railway lines and equipment in order to care for the increased tonnage of cane and its products. New warehouses for the storage of sugar have been constructed, and suitable buildings for the conduct of our commercial business have added largely to the convenience and profit of this important department.

The improvements and additions stated in the foregoing serve to maintain and strengthen your property in all its parts, and offers our best guarantee for an increased output and continued progress.

Extensive new plantings have been made and a large acreage brought under a system of irrigation.

Our fields to-day indicate a tonnage for the ensuing season of unequalled proportions, assuring a record production and a confident outlook for a prosperous year.

The accounts of the year have been examined by Messrs. Lovejoy, Mather and Hough, Public Accountants, and their certificate is made part of this report.

Respectfully submitted by order of the Board,

R. B. HAWLEY, *President.*

CERTIFICATE OF ACCOUNTANTS.

To the President and Directors of
The Cuban-American Sugar Company:

We have examined the books and accounts of The Cuban-American Sugar Company and its subsidiary companies for the year ending September 30, 1915, and hereby certify that the annexed Consolidated Balance Sheet has been correctly prepared therefrom, and, in our opinion, sets forth the true financial position of the companies as at that date, and that the relative Profit and Loss Account correctly shows the results of the operations for the period.

The Stock of Raw Sugars on hand has been valued at the net price subsequently realised, and the Refined Sugars at cost or at market price at September 30, 1915, whichever was the lower.

LOVEJOY, MATHER AND HOUGH,
Public Accountants and Auditors.

55 Liberty Street, New York City,
December 2, 1915.

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT For the Year ended September 30, 1915.

Raw and Refined Sugars Produced, Less Cost [illegible]	$22,502,285 31	
Molasses Produced	[illegible]	
Profit on Stores, Cattle, &c.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Less :		
Expenses of Production, Manufacturing, Selling, Cost of Raw and Refined Sugars ...		16,156,262 44
		[illegible]
Deduct :		
Provisions for Depreciation	$88,496 95	
Discount on Bonds	62,352 00	
Interest on Bonds	548,859 37	
Interest on Bills Payable, &c.	[illegible]	1,616,474 61
Net Profit for the year		$5,594,047 97

CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS ACCOUNT, SEPT. 30, 1915.

As at October 1, 1914		[illegible]
Add :		
*Collateral Trust Bonds cancelled through Sinking Fund Provisions	$179,000 00	
Profit for the year ended September 30, 1915, per annexed account	5,594,047 97	
	5,773,047 97	
		[illegible]
Deduct :		
Preferred Stock Dividends Paid :		
Paid January 1, 1914, for three months to January 1, 1914	$138,141 50	
Paid April 1, 1914, for three months to April 1, 1914	138,141 50	
Paid July 1, 1914, for six months to October 1, 1914	276,283 00	
Paid January 1, 1915, for twelve months to October 1, 1915	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
Sinking Fund Provisions for the cancellation of Collateral Trust Bonds (see above) ...	[illegible]	
Special Appropriation for Depreciation of Buildings, Machinery and Equipment ...	2,000,000 00	[illegible]
Surplus at September 30, 1915		[illegible]

* In October 1915 bonds of the par value of $[illegible] were retired out of the Sinking Fund for redemption of Bonds which are not included in the figure of $179,000.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET, SEPTEMBER 30, 1915.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
Property, Plant and Fixtures:			Capital Stock:		
As at October 1, 1914	$24,354,174 64		Common (authorised, $10,000,000), 71,356 shares of $100 each	$7,135,600 00	
Additions during year	1,175,490 95		Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Stock (authorised, $10,000,000), 78,938 shares of $100 each	7,893,800 00	
		$25,529,665 59			$15,029,400 00
Goodwill		3,929,340 28	Common Stock of Colonial Sugars Company in hands of the Public		3,100 00
Securities in hands of Trustees		3,100 00	Collateral Trust Bonds Outstanding, six per cent. due April 1, 1918		9,116,000 00
Work Animals, Live Stock and Equipment ...		751,305 79	Real Estate Mortgages and Censos (Cuban) ...		574,110 63
Current Assets and Growing Cane:			Current Liabilities:		
Planted and Growing Cane	$1,172,282 77		Bills Payable	$427,539 13	
Advances to Colonos and Contractors (after deducting Reserve for Bad and Doubtful Accounts)	1,168,294 90		Bankers' Loans	1,264,501 55	
Inventory of Raw Materials, Supplies and Merchandise in Stores	1,718,240 40		Accounts Payable	859,319 17	
Stock of Raw and Refined Sugar	2,150,944 51		Salaries and Wages Accrued	11,771 76	
Accounts and Bills Receivable (after deducting Reserve for Bad and Doubtful Accounts)	1,617,161 51		Interest Accrued	290,545 93	
Cash in Banks and on Hand	1,466,144 65		Dividends declared on Preferred Stock at Seven per Cent. per annum for year ending September 30, 1915	552,566 00	
		9,293,068 54			3,576,243 34
Deferred Charges to Operations:			Sinking Fund for Redemption of Bonds ...		138,141 51
Bond Discount	$145,850 00		Reserve for Depreciation...		5,370,309 75
Improvements on Lease Lands	91,122 41		Surplus per Annexed Statement		6,285,790 14
Unexpired Insurance, Taxes, &c.	149,436 76				
		386,415 17			
		$39,893,095 37			$39,893,095 37

MEETINGS
OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

THE fifty-third ordinary meeting of the London and River Plate Bank, Limited, was held on December 21 at River Plate House, E.C., Mr. E. Ross Duffield, the Chairman, presiding.

The Sub-manager and Secretary (Mr. George R. Hutchinson) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said that the directors were glad to present accounts showing an improvement in the last six months upon those preceding, when the Bank had to cope with extreme depression in all branches of business other than the export trade, which had shown great activity at very favourable prices in Argentina and Uruguay, and in the financing of which the Bank had had a considerable share. Business enterprise, however, was still—and they knew must so continue for some time—greatly fettered everywhere by the clouds cast by the War.

Gradual Resumption of Activity.

There was, nevertheless, a growing impression that appearances pointed to a gradual resumption of activity in those countries where the Bank was chiefly interested—no doubt founded upon the promising state of affairs, agricultural and pastoral out there, which justified looking forward hopefully if the weather continued favourable. At all events, the position of the Bank was sound and strong. They had had to provide again this year for some large losses arising mainly from their South American branches' business; they had also to write down their securities so as to face the general decline in quotations on this side; and they had had some losses in connection with their valuable French business. All of this had been met chiefly out of the year's profit, and, to a moderate extent, out of their useful contingency fund and their balance brought over from last year. They had thus been enabled to improve the final dividend and to show a gratifying carry-forward, while their assets, to the best of the director's belief, might be safely looked upon as representing the value at which they stood in the books of the Bank, for the board's rule continued to be to make ample provision for all known bad and doubtful debts. An important feature, as reflecting upon this value, was the fact that, owing to the failures which had occurred so largely, the position generally had been greatly cleared and benefited.

The Available Profit.

There was an available balance of £497,675 odd to deal with, which included, of course, the balance brought over from last year, and they showed in profit and loss account the amount of income tax incurred—namely, £46,978—and also that of depreciation in the value of securities held in London, provided for by £29,652. As the interim dividend foretold, the directors had at last had to relinquish their time-honoured custom of paying the shareholders' dividends free of income tax; earning power at the present time did not admit of it. The directors were the more gratified, therefore, that circumstances had enabled them, with the devoted help of their managers and staff abroad and at home during a period of marked difficulty and anxiety, to recommend that day a dividend of 9% for the six months, bringing the distribution for the year up to 15%. They regretted that in order to achieve this 15% they had not been able to carry forward to next year an amount equal to that brought forward from last year, but they thought the present £260,975—the amount they had for the purpose—commensurate with the risks the Bank contingently incurred. He hoped the figures shown in the balance sheet pleased the shareholders. An interesting point was that, notwithstanding the War, the total figures showed an increase over those of last year, and so did those of their deposits. It was their custom to be very strong in their cash in hand, so their balance of £9,519,000 was what the shareholders might have expected—very close upon 50% of their total deposits—while their bills receivable and discounted, loans and securities, all of first-class nature, stood out effectively at £20,800,000. There were also the bills receivable which remained over from the large amount held by the Bank when war broke out; they were continually being reduced and gave the directors no uneasiness as regarded eventual payment. With respect to the outlook for their business this next year, the Press was so fully informed in these times upon the state of business affairs and statistics in all well-known countries that there was hardly anything he could say regarding that group in South America which claimed their attention which was not continually put before them in their daily newspapers, and what they had read there recently would have given them an encouraging impression as regarded the general features. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. David Simson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after the Chairman had replied to a few questions, and resolutions were also passed declaring the final dividend mentioned and re-electing the retiring directors and auditors.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the managers and staffs and to the Chairman and directors.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

THE one hundred and forty-eighth half-yearly meeting was held on November 3, 1915, at the Banking House, St. George's Terrace, Perth, Mr. W. T. Loton, Chairman of Directors, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said that, although the State had been suffering from the effects of the long drought and the partial failure of last harvest, the business operations of the Bank had been steadily maintained. Compared with the position for the corresponding half-year, September 1914, they would find that the total deposits then stood at £2,433,352, and at the present time at £2,445,201, an increase of about £12,000. In September 1914 the total amount of advances was £2,462,069, as against £2,456,956 on the present occasion, being a decrease of about £5,000. A year ago the total amount of coin, bullion and Australian notes was £815,284, and at the present time £853,379, an increase of about £38,000. He thought these figures should be considered fairly satisfactory, the most important fact being that the business had been kept so very steady. The result of the half-year's operations showed a profit sufficient for the payment of the usual dividend, and an increase to the reserved profits. The State had been favoured with abundant falls of rain, and the coming harvest gave promise of being a bountiful one. He had noticed accounts of some small failures, caused by red rust, &c., but they hope that this would not prove to be very extensive. In fact, all the State's primary industries—pastoral, agricultural, mining, fruit culture, &c.—should be in a flourishing condition, and there should be ample opportunity for employment for all who could and would work, and the Government having partly or wholly commandeered the shipping

and timber businesses, that ought to be a warranty that there would be no waste or friction in the future in that connection. There was, however, another side to the picture. The terrible war, and he feared he might add, local extravagance and excessive expenditure, were rapidly increasing the taxation, which would be a heavy burden to be borne by all, and it seemed to him that now was the time to avoid waste, luxuries and extravagance, and to practise economy, thrift and industry, if they were to make Australia a prosperous nation.

Mr. H. Hocking seconded the motion, which was put to the meeting and carried.

AMALGAMATED PRESS, LIMITED.

THE ordinary general meeting was held on December 20 at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., Mr. George A. Sutton (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. R. Sumpter (Joint Secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I think the shareholders will agree with me that it is a matter for congratulation that we are able to come before you to-day and tell you that this Company is in a position to pay the same dividend as in previous years, in spite of the trying and difficult times through which the business world is passing, and the journalistic world in particular. As you will have seen from the report, the profits, after writing off depreciation of plant and buildings, amount to £326,836 6*s*. 4*d*. This achievement is one that has not been equalled by any other publishing firm in the country. Most publishing businesses, if they have not passed their dividends altogether, have, at any rate, reduced them.

Pre-eminence Maintained.

I ventured last year to suggest that this business, which is the largest periodical and magazine publishing firm in the world, backed by its enormous paper-mills, would maintain its pre-eminence. So far it has done so, and I hope and believe that during the coming year it will continue to occupy the premier position. It should not be forgotten, however, that the task of conducting the business has been a difficult one. In addition to shortage of staff and labour, your directors have been faced with a great increase in the cost of everything necessary for the production of your journals—paper, ink, carriage, labour, everything in fact, has advanced, and the longer the War continues the more these expenses must advance. In former years the permanent nature of your periodicals and magazines has often been referred to. The fact that many of them have increased in circulation during the past twelve months proves that there is nothing ephemeral about them. Our advertising revenue, of course, has suffered, in common with every periodical and newspaper in the country, but the papers themselves have maintained their position, and this fact has done a very great deal to convince advertisers that home journals like ours appeal to the very people they desire to reach. As a result, advertisers will, I hope, devote more of their expenditure to this class of medium in future.

The "London" Magazine.

Here I would like to say a word to advertisers about the *London Magazine*. The *London Magazine* has jumped into the very front rank of British magazines. We have recently made public the chartered accountants' certificate showing the circulation for a period of twelve months, and we believe that the *London Magazine* has now the largest certified circulation of any magazine in this country. Two hundred and forty-seven thousand copies of the Christmas Number were sold, a record not accomplished by any other Christmas magazine. Advertisers who wish to have these figures can obtain them from us on application. Another of your magazines, the *Premier*, has become the most popular story magazine in this country. Though it was hardly established when the War started, the circulation is steadily increasing. Your other magazines, the *Red Magazine* and *My Magazine*, are doing equally well, I am glad to say.

Employees Enlisted.

When I had the pleasure of meeting you last year I mentioned that over 300 of our employees had joined His Majesty's Forces. Since then a further 177 have done so. We have already paid out between £15,000 and £16,000 in allowances. I am happy to say that our colleague on the board, Mr. W. F. Mildren, who, together with many of our employees, has been at the Front practically ever since the start of the War, has recently been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. (Applause.) In addition, two employees have received Distinguished Conduct Medals, and another the Military Cross. Having regard to the large number who have enlisted you will recognise that the carrying on of the concern in the past year has not been an easy one for the directors, and it is due to the splendid organisation of your business that we are again able to show such satisfactory results. We regret that during the year under review Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere retired from the board, but we are happy to say that the benefit of their counsel and advice will still be at the disposal of the Company with which they have been so long associated. Under the Articles of Association Lord Northcliffe was entitled to retire from the board twelve years ago, and Lord Rothermere nine years ago.

The Supply of Paper.

Our programme for the starting of new publications, of course, had to be abandoned owing to the War, and must remain in abeyance; but we shall neglect no opportunity of strengthening the business whenever possible. Apart from the uncertainties and increasing cost the labour difficulties alone make it impossible at present to embark upon new ventures, and the best we can do is to solidify existing publications. We are fortunate in possessing such valuable investments as the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company Limited, and the Imperial Paper Mills at Gravesend. The latter, as you know, are the second largest mills in this country. Backed by these Companies, and foresight in securing large stocks of raw material, there has never been any anxiety in the past year as to the enormous supplies of paper and pulp required for the production of your publications, a position in which no other similar organisation has found itself.

Confidence in the Outlook.

I said last year that it would be most unwise to make any prophecy regarding the financial year upon which we were then entering, and I can only repeat this statement to-day. But I will add that I look forward with the same confidence to the ensuing twelve months as I did at this time last year to the financial period that has just closed. At any rate, you can rely upon your directors devoting that energy and enthusiasm to their work which has always been one of the strongest assets of the business. In this connection it will be my pleasure presently to ask you to confirm the election to the board of Mr. Tod Anderson. He has been associated with our organisation for a period of about 20 years, and has thoroughly earned his promotion. We are constantly endeavouring to strengthen the staff by the introduction of new blood. Applications from ambitious men and women for either editorial, commercial, or advertising positions always receive our careful consideration. I now beg to propose: "That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the Company's account at October 31, 1915, be now received, approved, and adopted, and that a dividend be now declared on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 50% per annum for the six months, making 40% for the year."

Mr. Arthur E. Linforth (Vice-Chairman) seconded the motion.

Tribute to the Management.

Mr. Hartley Aspden, J.P.: May I be permitted, as one of the oldest shareholders, to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the board on the magnificent report which you have presented to us to-day? I am sure it has been a pleasant surprise to many of us to find that, after passing through a year of stress and storm, the Amalgamated Press has been able to maintain the same rate of dividend it has paid for the last 10 years. Such a record is, I think, unexampled in the whole history of journalism. We all remember the dark and troublous days of last year, when every business was trembling in the balance, and few of us, I think, would have been bold enough to predict at that time that the Amalgamated Press would not only maintain its splendid dividend of 40%, but actually be in a better financial position this year than it was at the end of 1914. Well, as an old member of the Amalgamated Press, and as one of its directors for over 12 years, I am quite certain that this grand result has only been achieved by hard and strenuous work on the part of the board and of the splendid staff under its control, and I am sure we shall all join in thanking the board for the way in which they have held the fort during one of the most trying years that any business has ever gone through. It only shows, ladies and gentlemen, if the Amalgamated Press can accomplish such wonders in times of war, that when the days of peace come round we can fairly hope that the Company will go on paying the same dividend for many years to come.

The Founders of the Business.

But while we are all glad to have such a good report, I think there is one touch of sadness in the fact that during the year we have parted with two of the most-honoured members of the board, Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere. Those who, like myself, were associated with them in the early days of "Answers, Limited," know the magnificent work which they put into the business of this Company. They laid the foundations of this great business, they built up the superstructure, and if you want any monument of their work you have it in the position this Company has attained as the greatest publishing house in Great Britain, if not in the whole of the world. Well, as one who worked side by side with them in those early days, and who knows the vast amount of work they put into this enterprise, I think they have both earned a well-deserved leisure, for, as the Chairman pointed out, they were entitled to retire several years ago, but they stuck to the Company longer than they were obliged to do, and the fact that they retire now, whilst we are in the midst of a great European war, shows that the foundations of this

business have been well and truly laid and that we can safely place our confidence in the men whom they have trained to follow them. As that well-known newspaper, "Truth," said the other day, "Nobody who knows Lord Northcliffe can suppose for a moment that he would relinquish the chairmanship of the Company if its position were in any way unsatisfactory," and so we must take comfort in the thought that this business will remain in safe and efficient hands. I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming the new Chairman and wishing him as long and prosperous a career as his predecessor. I told him privately the other day that so long as he keeps up the dividend to 40% he will have a very easy time as far as the shareholders are concerned. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am not going to propose any resolution, as there is already one before the meeting, but I hope I am voicing your sentiments when I say that we all thank Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere very cordially and warmly for the high, honourable and successful manner in which they have managed this Company from its commencement to the present day, and I hope the board will convey to them the expression of our great regard and appreciation of their work.

"Stronger Position than Ever."

Mr. J. H. Panting: As one who has been connected with this Company since its inception, perhaps you will allow me to say "ditto" to everything that has fallen from the lips of Mr. Hartley Aspden. The remarkable thing that has always struck me in connection with this Company has been that, ever since it was first incorporated, it has never looked back; it has always gone forward, until now, on the occasion of the presentation of the nineteenth balance sheet, we find it, as Mr. Aspden and the Chairman have already said, in a stronger position than ever. We might well have looked forward to some decrease in its revenue during this terrible year, when we have been faced with a cataclysm such as the world has never before seen; but what do we find? We find that it has not only maintained its position, but even improved it, so that, in addition to the handsome dividend of 40% which we are receiving, we see that a most substantial addition has been made to the reserve fund, which now stands at £250,000. I think that is a very proud achievement on the part of any company. These results have been mainly due to a remarkable combination—a combination which you rarely find in so marked a degree in one family—the far-sighted genius and ability of Lord Northcliffe on the one hand, and the keen financial ability and genius of Lord Rothermere on the other. Sir, in common with every other shareholder present, I cordially welcome you as Chairman of our board. You know all the ramifications of this Company, because I suppose you have been associated with it for a longer period, perhaps, than any member present. The same may be said with regard to Mr. Linforth. I am sure every member cordially welcomes him to the position which he has so well earned. You, Sir, will have a very difficult task to follow in the footsteps of so distinguished an example; but we all feel perfectly confident that, difficult though the task may be, you will be perfectly sure to be successful.

The Chairman: I am extremely obliged for the kind words which have been uttered by Mr. Aspden and Mr. Panting concerning myself, and I can only say that I am sure the board will do their very best in the coming year, as they have done in the past. We shall endeavour to live up to the wishes expressed by Mr. Aspden with regard to the 40% dividend.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed that the election of Mr. T. Anderson to the board be confirmed.

Mr. J. Horace Newton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. F. Bowater, seconded by Mr. Steele, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Company and Messrs. E. Layton Bennett, Sons and Company were re-elected auditors of the Company for the ensuing year.

The proceedings then terminated.

URUGUAY EAST COAST RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE seventh ordinary general meeting of proprietors of this railway was held at the offices of the Company, 1 Broad Street, Place, E.C., on Monday, December 20. Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne (Chairman of the Company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. W. Worsley) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that with regard to accounts No. 1—share capital and Debenture stock and bonds—£10,080 of the First Mortgage Gold bonds had been redeemed. The receipts and expenditure on capital account showed an amount of £68 19*s.* 7*d.* which was devoted to capital expenditure in the past year, and the balance of £1,788 15*s.* 2*d.* was carried to the balance sheet. As to the portion of the revenue account which was kept in Uruguay this showed on the debtor side that the severe economies which had been made had resulted in decreases in every item except maintenance of way and works, which was $3,400 up. Of course they could not afford to let the line get out of repair.

The Accounts.

On the credit side of the account, passenger traffic was down by about $10,000 and goods traffic by $22,000. Those losses in earnings reflected the condition of affairs in the country during the twelve months they were discussing. The balance brought down—$19,327—was some $21,000 less than the balance of last year. The revenue account, so far as it was dealt with in London, was kept in sterling. The first item of special interest on the debtor side was income tax—£2,256 14*s.* 1*d.*—a large figure, for which the War was responsible, and this compared with £927 7*s.* 2*d.* in the previous year. The French taxes also showed an increase, being £1,536 1*s.* 3*d.*, as against £1,280 odd in former years. The directors had obtained a reduction of the amount subject to taxation, but a rise in the rate made the result worse than before. On the credit side they started with $19,327, which was brought down as £4,112 4*s.* 9*d.*, instead of £8,721 2*s.* 4*d.* in 1914. This showed a falling-off of some £4,600, and the loss in revenue account was £2,679 13*s.* 7*d.*, and this sum was transferred to the balance sheet. Turning to the balance sheet on the debtor side, the figure of £3,428 18*s.* 11*d.* sundry creditors in London was made up of French taxes £1,607 17*s.* 10*d.*, income tax £1,446 12*s.* 9*d.*, and the balance of about £400 was comprised of amounts owing to the trustees, the Société Générale, &c. The renewals fund stood at the same figure as last year. On the credit side of the account, the cash in hand in Uruguay had since been remitted to London. The item of sundry debtors, Uruguay, £1,521 2*s.* 10*d.*, was made up of freight owing by the Government, some £773; amounts due by the Central Uruguay Railway £533 odd; and a balance of about £200 off represented small current debtors. The stores in Uruguay and in transit amounted to £4,568, and were about £3,000 less than last year. The usual reference to £10,966 "B" Debentures of the Railway and Works Company, Limited, still stood in the balance sheet, but the board hoped that the future time should see some further payments on account of that security.

Conditions in Uruguay.

Under the circumstances prevailing in Europe and South America, he thought the shareholders would not have been surprised at receiving an unsatisfactory report on that occasion. With regard to Europe, he need say nothing more; but the conditions in Uruguay during the period they were considering were worthy of a moment's attention. One might roughly gauge the prosperity of a country by a glance at the Customs returns. The Customs returns for Uruguay for 1914-15 showed a revenue of £2,275,000, as against £3,302,000 in the previous twelve months, being a reduction of 28%. The trade, as indicated by those figures, had fallen away to a very large extent, and was, in fact, in a state of extreme sluggishness, caused largely by the feeling of uncertainty resulting from the European War and the consequent financial stringency. Large decreases were noticeable in the figures of most articles exported from Uruguay, including even live cattle; but the frozen meat proved a great exception, that being the form in which the European belligerents took the Uruguayan cattle. The report referred to the complete failure of the wheat and barley harvest resulting from the very unfavourable weather which had prevailed in the country. Serious attention had been given to agriculture by the State, and it had been sought to encourage it in a scientific manner, which should give it an impetus in the future. The figures of shipping tonnage in and out of the Republic showed considerable decreases, and prices had risen. The wool farmers had experienced disappointment in the loss of sheep owing to epidemics. In spite of the depressing conditions in Uruguay, the directors had hoped to avoid the relatively large deficit—the first deficit which the Company had shown—but they regretted they had been unable to do so. As they showed a deficit of £2,679 13*s.* 7*d.*, they failed to expend £2,590 in the redemption of bonds under the terms of the Sinking Fund. The directors had approached the larger holders of the First Mortgage Gold bonds and the Debenture stockholders, and a scheme would shortly be laid before the parties interested. Reports up to the latter part of November showed signs of returning improvement in the general traffic, and there were sensible increases in some of the Company's sources of revenue. The new President, Dr. Feliciano Viera, had already given active attention to the trade and agriculture of the country, and the Company's relations with the Government had always been and continued cordial. The improvement in economic conditions should be a guarantee for the continuance of increases in traffics, and a recent cable informed the board that the Uruguayan Senate had passed a Bill sanctioning the construction of a line from San Carlos on the Company's road to Rocha, but this was hardly a propitious time for financing railroad extensions.

Mr. Guy Hannaford seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The retiring director (Mr. B. H. Binder) was re-elected, the auditors re-appointed, and the proceedings terminated.

RONEO, LIMITED.

THE eighth ordinary general meeting was held at the offices, 5 11 Holborn, E.C., on December 21, Mr. W. T. Smedley presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, notwithstanding that the year's accounts included a period of 11 months of the War, the trading profits had been £30,135, as compared with £39,368 1*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year, and that the diminution was apparent rather than real. During the previous year upwards of £6,000 had been properly charged to capital account for additions to plant, &c., but during the year under consideration all expenditure had been borne by the revenue account. Moreover, the accounts had been charged with payments to the extent of £1,606 to the wives and dependants of employees who had joined the Army. The net profits were ample, without encroaching on the amount brought forward from the previous year, to provide for the payment of the usual dividends on the Preference and Ordinary shares and provide a substantial increase to the reserve fund, but the directors had felt it incumbent on them, in these times of financial stress and danger, to adopt a policy of extreme caution and to devote all their resources to strengthening the position of the Company. With the balance brought forward there was a sum of £31,426 3*s.* 1*d.* of undivided profits available. There were also surplus profits which had been set aside in previous years, represented on the balance sheet as general reserve £20,000, and special reserve against interests in allied and proprietary companies £10,000, making a total of £61,426 3*s.* 1*d.* Two years ago, after the Balkan wars, the directors had grave misgivings as to the future of the Austrian and Hungarian companies, which had suffered severely, and it was on this account that the special reserve was commenced. The business of those countries was placed in the hands of a substantial and experienced agent, and this Company thereby reduced its responsibility. But the outbreak of the present War had rendered it necessary to deal drastically with the situation, and the directors had therefore provided to write off, if necessary, the whole of this Company's investment in and the debts due to it from both these companies, without putting any value on the stock and book debts existing when war broke out, to the estimated value of upwards of £20,000. The items appearing on the asset side of the balance sheet as expenses attending increase of capital (£9,000) and new branch establishment fund (£5,176 2*s.* 5*d.*) would also be written off, and the item of patterns, patents, &c., reduced. These alterations would have the effect of making the balance sheet exceptionally sound. The dividend on the Preference shares had been paid, and there would remain £955 18*s.* 3*d.* to be carried to the next year's account. There was no need to carry forward a larger sum, for, with the five months' experience of the present year, there was no doubt but that the year would establish a new record for profits.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE TANALYK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE third ordinary annual general meeting was held on December 21 at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. Leslie Urquhart (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. P. B. Webster (London Manager and Secretary) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I do not think that the accounts before you call for any special comment from me. The interest and other receipts, principally in connection with our advances to the South Urals Company, have been sufficient to cover our London charges, including Debenture interest. During the year covered by the accounts now before you the capital of the South Urals Company was increased by the issue of 19,200 shares of Rs. 250 each, and the whole of that issue was taken up by this Corporation. As a result the shares in the South Urals Mining Company now stand on our books at a figure of £695,263. There is one item in the balance sheet, namely, Loan from Discount Bank, Petrograd (£30,969), to which I will refer later.

The Labour Supply.

At our last meeting I told you of the difficult time through which we were passing owing to the effects of the War. The position in this respect has not improved, and especially in the matter of labour we have been greatly affected. When the War broke out we had almost completed our construction programme and had hoped to obtain from the surrounding districts the additional labour necessary for exploitation work. Not only has this been impossible, but we have lost one-half of our workmen and employees. Although our copper goes to assist the Russian Government, it is not sold by us direct but through the medium of a refining company; consequently at the outset we were handicapped by not receiving that support which the Government afforded to other copper producers. In view of the nature of our work the Government has now allowed certain of our employees to be freed from military service, and has also supplied us with 250 Austrian prisoners of war, who are working at the copper and cyanide plants; but with these men we have to contend with the difficulty of language; the majority of the men are quite unskilled, and, moreover, we can hardly expect them as prisoners of war to put their hearts into the work, whereas the men taken from us had been properly trained during the previous years at Tanalyk. The whole of the Russian machine works have been mobilised by the Government, causing great difficulty in fulfilling machinery orders, and the preference which is naturally given on the railroads to military supplies causes delays in delivery of goods for private enterprise. Despite this I am pleased to say that since last meeting we have not only kept the copper reverberatory furnace in continuous operation, but have completed the cyanide plant for the treatment of our gold ores, and have also erected and put into operation a second copper-smelting plant, consisting of two small blast furnaces.

Transport.

As you know, our mines and smelters are some 250 miles distant from the railway, and we are therefore dependent on horse transport for the delivery of materials, coke, &c., necessary for our mining and smelting operations. The Orenburg Government is to a large extent populated by Cossacks and Bashkir. The Cossacks were mobilised early in the War, and, being cavalry and under their terms of service obliged to supply their own mounts, large numbers of horses were taken. In addition to this, the Government mobilised and took away for army purposes very large numbers of horses from our district. The Bashkir Mussulman population is extremely thriftless; the horses are allowed to keep themselves alive by what they can feed on underfoot on the Steppe, and were therefore only available to a limited extent for local carting. All this has very greatly hampered our transport of goods from the railway. We have to an extent met the difficulty so far as our local transport is concerned, and also the transport of more important goods from the railway, by purchasing some 350 horses for our work. The shortage of horse transport prevented the delivery of regular supplies of coke, and we have been unable to keep the blast furnaces in continuous work; and I fear we must look forward to irregular operations of this part of the plant until we can make certain of a continuous supply of coke. Another difficulty with which we have to contend is the shortage of staff in the accountancy departments. The chief accountant was called up at the beginning of the War, and also many of the office employees; consequently, the accounts are some months behindhand, and we cannot quote actual book figures to cover the more recent work.

Results of Prospecting Work.

To deal first of all with the prospecting work. As you know, our right to take up claims under the original 70 years' lease contract expires next spring, and our efforts have been almost entirely confined to the examination of the more promising outcrops, with a view to bringing them into our lease, so that they can be further dealt with at our leisure. With the small geological staff available we have of necessity limited our programme to this, and but little has been done in the important work of studying the continuation of the present known ore bodies. Further work on the North Euluke Outcrop, to which I referred at the last meeting, has not met with success, for, although our head geologist was most optimistic regarding the possibility of a large ore body, we have not so far found the continuation of this outcrop in depth. At the South Euluke Prospect certain promising indications have been found, justifying further work. Considerable progress has been made with the development of the Ulali Prospect referred to at the last meeting. This is now a mine of considerable value, the ore averaging about 6% copper, with valuable gold and silver contents, and will increase the output from our copper plants and reduce the cost of the product. We are now opening up the 210-foot level at the mine, and there is reason to anticipate that further work here will permit us to quickly block out a quantity of valuable ore, which we have not brought into our proven reserves at the present time.

A Prospect of Great Promise.

Another prospect of, I must say, great promise is that of the Tuba Mountain, which lies 25 miles north of Tanalyk in a district hitherto unexplored. Here we have an outcrop of over 1,000 feet in length, on which we have driven so far for some 300 feet, at a depth of 60 feet to 65 feet below the outcrop. The width of the drive is about 6 feet, but does not anywhere touch either the foot or hanging walls, and two cross-cuts show widths of 12 feet and 40 feet respectively. The oxidised ore, where driven on, has been sampled for 160 feet, showing very regular tenor, and averaging 1.1% copper, 76 dwt. gold, and 23 ounces silver per ton. Advice received since the date of Mr. Brown's report states that the first borehole, at 160 feet vertical depth, cut the vein, showing a width of 26 feet, the ore still being oxidised; no core was recovered, and therefore I cannot give you the assay values. A second borehole has now been started to cut the sulphide zone. In order to give you some idea of the possibilities of this mine, I may state that a solid sulphide ore body, only 300 feet long by 10 feet wide, would give 30,000 tons per 100 feet of depth. This prospect was only discovered during last season's geological work, and it is too early to make any definite statement, although it will not require much

ore of the value so far shown in the oxidised zone to make this a very valuable mine. The Managing Director of the South Urals Company intends to treat, during 1916, 5,000 tons of the oxidised ore which we are developing at present. You will realise how valuable the ore is when this small quantity alone represents over £100,000 in gross value, the greater part of which is profit. Mr. Gilman Brown, in his report, taking quite correctly the engineer's point of view, implies that we can hardly expect sulphide ore of this value in precious metals, though the copper content is likely to be higher. I do not wish to raise false hopes, but our opinion is that we have fair reason to believe that we have here encountered an ore body more important than any we have yet discovered on our properties.

Ore Reserves.

The position at the mines is satisfactory. The shortage of labour has only permitted ore production for current requirements, and but little has been possible towards development of new ore reserves. Nevertheless, the latest estimates of ore reserves show that we have 108.000 tons of copper ore and 140,000 tons of gold ore, a total of 248,000 tons of developed ore. This compares most favourably with the position a year ago, when our net ore reserves stood at 185,000 tons. When it is remembered that during the year we have treated 32,000 tons of ore, the position must be deemed most satisfactory, for the small amount of development work which shortage of labour permitted during the year added more than 50% to the developed ore and increased the net ore reserves developed by more than one-third. As I have told you at previous meetings, the friable nature of the ore does not permit of our accepting diamond-drill results as conclusive. The figures of reserves given are, therefore, of ore actually proven and developed at the present moment, and are subject to addition as development proceeds. In stating the present reserves no allowance has been made for extension in depth of the Mambet mine, where a borehole 100 feet below the bottom level shows that the ore continues. Only part of the ore in the Ulali mine has been included, and Tuba Mountain has been entirely excluded.

The Smelting and Cyanide Plants.

The copper-smelting plant now consists of the reverberatory furnace and two small water-jacketed blast furnaces, which have been purchased and erected since the last meeting. It was our original programme to add a second reverberatory furnace, but the opening up of ore in the Ulali mine eminently suitable for treatment in blast furnaces caused us to alter our plans and to instal the water-jacketed furnaces, as providing a much more flexible plant. The total capacity of both plants is 150 tons of ore daily, but while the War continues we cannot rely on reaching this figure of through-put, owing to the difficulty, which I have already mentioned, in obtaining regular supplies of coke for the water-jacketed furnaces. I feel that this change in our programme was well warranted, and that the advantage of this will be shown when we return to normal conditions. Owing to the difficulties in the delivery of machinery and materials, the cyanide plant was only completed in July last. It has since been running intermittently, as we have not yet been able to obtain the requisite stock of materials to ensure continuous working, but the results so far obtained from the plant are considered quite satisfactory. Certain experiments which have been made recently lead us to expect that the capacity of the plant and the recovery of gold can both be materially increased by certain alterations, but these alterations involve small machinery additions to the plant which cannot be obtained at the present time.

Coming Year's Programme.

With regard to our programme for the coming year, the Managing Director of the Russian Company estimates to produce about 1,000 tons of copper, with the usual high gold and silver values; but the difficulties we are experiencing in the supply of fuel and materials have led us on this side to reduce this to the still more conservative estimate of 600 tons output. The former average of precious metal values will be materially increased if we include ore from the Tuba Mountain. Efforts will be made to keep the cyanide plant in continuous operation, but here again allowance must be made for difficulties in supplies. At our last meeting I stated that with the cyanide plant in operation we should be earning profits at the rate of £100.000 per annum. This estimate still holds good, and, despite intermittent working of the cyanide plant, we are justified in looking on Mr. Gilman Brown's estimate of 1,000,000 roubles profit during next year as a conservative statement, and this does not include any profit from the 5,000 tons of phenomenally rich ore from Tuba Mountain which will be treated next year.

The Financial Position of the Corporation.

It is necessary for me to say a few words regarding the financial position. At the present moment, owing to the conditions of which I have told you, the working of the plants is only intermittent, but the receipts are sufficient to pay all our current expenses, including preparation of new stocks of materials, and to leave a surplus. When we embarked on our new construction programme we had every reason to anticipate that the necessary funds would be provided from the issue of reserve shares and from the full and continuous operation of our plants, but the War made this impossible. In order, therefore, to finance the completion of the cyanide plant, the purchase and erection of the blast-furnace plant, and the capital locked up through the War in our gold slimes, arrangements were made in Russia for a credit of Rs. 700,000, of which a part has been brought into our balance sheet as loan from the Discount Bank, Petrograd, this loan being guaranteed by us. Other than ordinary current supplies accounts, this is our only indebtedness. I would mention that against this credit of Rs. 700,000 we have an amount of some Rs. 400,000 held up in the gold slimes, which, owing to the embargo laid on export of all gold by the Russian Government, we were unable to realise during this year. Arrangements are being made for the realisation of these slimes as soon as possible. The surplus from operations next year should permit of this indebtedness being cleared off and leave a good balance on the right side. Before concluding my remarks I wish to say how much we appreciate the services of the Managing Director of the South Urals Company, Mr. Kabanoff, who, as you all know, was the founder of the undertaking. Mr. Kabanoff is a shareholder with us in this enterprise, and since the War broke out he has unreservedly and at great personal sacrifice placed his services at the disposal of the business. I feel that to a very large extent Mr. Kabanoff has been responsible for keeping things going in these very difficult times through which we are passing, and I am sure you will agree with me that we owe him a very hearty vote of thanks. I now beg to move that the report and accounts now before you be received and adopted.

Mr. R. Gilman Brown, E.M , seconded the motion.

The Tuba Mine.

Mr. Francis Moore said it seemed to him that on the present occasion the Chairman had given the shareholders a great *bon bouche*, namely, the Tuba Mine, about which they knew nothing last year. Judging from what the Chairman had stated with regard to the extent to which this mine had been proved, it appeared to be an enormous mine, and one of which it was at present impossible to realise the prospects.

Mr. Gilman Brown, in reply to the last speaker, said he was very unwilling to say much more about the Tuba than he had said in his report. It had undoubtedly a very fine prospect indeed, and was certainly the best he had seen in the Tanalyk district, but so many points were uncertain—



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such as what would be the tenor of the original sulphide below, and how much they would find the gold value exaggerated in the gossan, as it always was—that any estimate of costs and profits could only be a matter of guesswork, and as an engineer he did not like to guess. (Hear, hear.) It was a smelting ore of high value, and there was undoubtedly a handsome profit in this gossan, which should roughly represent, above the shallow 60-foot level, 10,000 or 15,000 tons of ore probably.

The Coal Mine.

In reply to Mr. Reid, the Chairman stated that the coal mine had been a great disappointment. At first it looked quite a favourable proposition, and they proved sufficient coal, as they thought, to last them as fuel for a number of years, but very great difficulties were experienced in mining the coal. There was an overlying bed of quicksands, which at first was comparatively small, but afterwards increased in thickness until it became very dangerous to continue mining operations. They therefore thought it well not to take any further risks, as it would have been a very costly matter to continue work there, but they were now opening another prospect about 30 miles from Tanalyk. It was, however, only a prospect so far, and they did not care to say anything further about it at present.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors, as well as to the staff in Russia, concluded the proceedings.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting was held on December 20 at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. C. Greenway (Chairman and Managing Director of the Company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Starting with the balance sheet, you will see on the liabilities side that the amount of paid-up capital stands at £2,750,000, as compared with £1,900,000 in the previous year, this augmentation of £850,000 being represented by £751,000 received from His Majesty's Government on account of the 2,000,000 Ordinary shares and 1,000 Preference shares subscribed for by them and by £99,000 received from the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, in payment for the 99,000 Preference shares issued to that Company.

Cost of Tank Steamers.

The only other item on the liabilities side of the account to which any reference need be made is, I think, that of bills payable. The amount of £70,489 1*s.* 7*d.* includes £46,450 for bills accepted in part payment for the fleet of tankers which is being built for the transport of our oil; but as a separate tanker company has since been formed to work the fleet this liability has since been transferred to that company. You will be pleased to learn that the prices at which we were fortunate enough to secure these boats are very little in excess of the average of pre-War prices, and that they are relatively fully £80,000 per boat lower than prices which we have recently had quoted to us for similar boats to be built in the United States. Turning now to the assets side of the account, the first item calling for remark is "Purchase price for concessions, &c." The addition to this item during the year has been £103,239 19*s.* 9*d.*, representing almost entirely further shares taken up in the Bakhtiari Oil Company, Limited. Under the next heading, "Refinery, tank installations, pipe-lines, &c.," you will see that we have again, owing to the difficulty of correctly allocating expenditure while so much work is in progress, reverted to the system of incorporating various items of expenditure which last year were shown separately. The new expenditure for the year under this more comprehensive heading was £431,631 16*s.* 1*d.*, which amount it is perhaps needless to remark almost entirely represents outlay in connection with the new programme of extensions now being carried out. £40,000 has been deducted for depreciation, this amount being, in the opinion of the board, a sufficient sum to write off in view of all the circumstances.

Result of the Year's Operations.

I will now ask you to turn to the profit and loss account. The balance of our trading account, as you will see, is £171,083 7*s.* 4*d.* This amount would have been about £74,000 greater had we included in it the amounts due to us by the Turkish and Persian Governments, but, although we have every reason for anticipating that the greater part, if not the whole, of these outstandings will sooner or later be realised, we have decided not to take credit for them in the meantime. After making allowance for these outstandings which may be regarded as purely adventitious we have, I think, every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year under review. The balance of the trading account would have been about £245,000, and, omitting the loss of £26,711 3*s.* 10*d.* carried forward from the previous year, since it will not be a recurring item, there would, after paying Debenture interest and home charges, have been a balance of about £200,000 available to meet depreciation and further payment of dividends. What the result may be for the current year it is still too early to prognosticate with any certainty in the present unsettled condition of Southern Persia. But notwithstanding the diminution of revenue resulting from our pipe-line having been out of use for two and a-half months of the present financial year, we may, I think, failing of course the happening of any untoward event, count upon being able to present at least as good a result as that now before you in our next annual accounts.

The Cutting of the Pipe-Line.

As mentioned in the report, our pipe-line was cut by some Persian tribesmen on February 5 last. This damage was perpetrated by a small tribe who inhabit a district which is traversed by our line for a distance of about 12 miles, and the damage was limited to the destruction of a few sections of pipe within this length of line. It took some time to repair the damage to the line, owing to the unsettled state of the country and to the whole of our transport being required for the military operations, but it was restored to full working order by the middle of June, and since then has been worked continuously. The amount of excess oil which had to be burnt, owing to lack of sufficient storage tanks and to avoid pollution of rivers in the four and a-half months during which we suffered from this enforced shut down, was, I am sorry to say, about 36,000,000 gallons, or 144,000 tons, but, as you will have gathered from the terms of the concession which I have just quoted, the Persian Government are liable to make good to us, and to the producing companies, the whole of the losses consequent upon the destruction of this large quantity of oil, and also for the extra expenditure to which we shall be put in consequence of the general interruption to our work which has been caused by this act of folly on the part of Persian subjects.

Mr. John T. Cargill seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ASAHAN RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

The third annual general meeting was held on December 20 in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38 Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. George Croll, Chairman of the Company, presiding.

Mr. J. M. Kemp, on behalf of the Secretaries, Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Our authorised capital remains at 260,000 shares of 10*s.* each and our issued capital remains at 229,803 shares, of which 229,722 have now been paid up to the extent of 9*s.* 6*d.* per share, and 81 are fully paid. If anything like the present prices continue during the current year—and I think it reasonable to anticipate that they will—we shall in all probability be able to postpone the calling up of the remaining 6*d.* per share until we enter the 1916-1917 period. The capital expenditure for the period under review amounted to £10,351 3*s.* 4*d.*, against an estimate of £12,179. The capital expenditure spread over the average immature area of 1,759 acres represents £4 14*s.* 9*d.* per acre, which shows a satisfactory reduction on the previous year, when the figure was £6 10*s.* 5*d.* The total capital expenditure on the properties to July 31, 1915, was £105,349 6*s.* 11*d.*, which, spread over the 2,464½ acres of cultivated land, gives us the figure of £42 15*s.* per acre. On July 31 we had a surplus at credit of capital account of £3,809, and if you approve of the proposal we make in regard to the disposal of last year's profits, we shall have £1,037 of undistributed profits to add, giving us £4,846 to meet an estimated capital expenditure of £11,264. This would leave a deficit of £6,418, against which we have our uncalled capital, but as our crops are increasing the proceeds of these should enable us to get through the current year without making any further call.

Low Capital Cost per Planted Acre.

I might mention that, when this company was reconstructed and came under its present management, it was anticipated that the then issued capital would be insufficient to complete the capital account and that it would be necessary to issue at least a portion of the 30,000 unissued shares, but as things have gone I think that, without calling upon the shareholders to forgo more than reasonable allocations to reserve out of profits, we should be able to bring the present acreage into bearing without any further issue. If this forecast proves to be correct the capital cost of our property at par would be £46 per acre—that is, when the capital account is closed and the acreage planted brought to maturity. This is not only a very low cost, but it is very much less than we could plant up and bring to maturity a similar property for to-day. A statement of the acreage is given in the report, and the only changes from that given last year are that the 318 acres then given as early 1912 planting are now included with the 425 acres then given as 1912-13 planting, and that a further 44 acres are added as 1913-14 planting, making our total planted acreage 2,464½ acres.

Output Increased: Costs Reduced.

The crop for the period amounted to 177,235 lb., against an estimate of 95,000 lb. This very substantial increase was mainly due to a larger number of trees coming into tapping than was anticipated. This crop corresponds

with 62,531 lb. harvested in the preceding year. The all-in cost, including war risk insurance, was 1*s.* 4.13*d.*, a reduction of 1.28*d.* on the preceding year, which, considering the large number of trees tapped for the first time, is, I think, very creditable to the management. The average gross price realised for the crop was 2*s.* 3.41*d.*, which is 2.75*d.* per lb. more than was secured for the previous crop. The profit for the year amounted to £6,412 12*s.* 8*d.*, and, with your permission, we propose to deal with that as follows: by writing off the balance of the preliminary expenses, amounting to £1,121 6*s.* 1*d.*; by writing off the balance of the underwriting commission, amounting to £1,525; by payment of a dividend of 2½%, less income tax, amounting to £2,728 19*s.* 3*d.*, and carrying forward £1,037 7*s.* 4*d.* At the beginning of the year 56,978 trees were being tapped, and by the end of July this number was increased to 90,745. The first latex is manufactured into smoked sheet, the quality of which is excellent. This represents 68%, and the balance of the crop is manufactured into crepe. The labour force has been satisfactory and the health good.

State of the Property.

The property is clean weeded and well drained, and our visiting agent, Mr. Ris, reports that the estate is all over in the best condition, and, from the growth of the trees and the yields which the tapped trees have given, has an excellent future before it. The crop estimated for the current year is 180,000 lb., and for the four months ended November we have harvested 74,134 lb., so that it would appear that our estimate is again on the very conservative side. Of this crop we have to date sold 11,404 lb. at an average price of 2*s.* 8.64*d.*, and we have to deliver under forward contracts 44,800 lb. at an average price of 2*s.* 4½*d.*

Mr. Payler: Is that London?

The Chairman: Yes. Both those prices are London. We have just received a telegram from Medan which states that the properties are in good condition throughout, and that the estimated crop will be fully secured.

Sir William Erskine Ward, K.C.S.I., seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

KWALOE RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the Kwaloe Rubber Estates, Limited, was held on December 21 at the offices of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38 Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Richard J. Arnold (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. O'Neill, on behalf of J. A. Henderson and Company, Limited (the Secretaries), read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: We informed you last year in September that we expected to start tapping at the commencement of this year. This was done, and to March 31 last we harvested 2,238 lb.—a small beginning, but that is all there was for the period covering the accounts. Since then you will see that steady progress has been made and that we have never looked back during any single month, our last return—that for November—being 7,655 lb. This is, of course, no criterion of what our yield will be, for we shall now go steadily on adding fresh trees each month to the total of trees tapped; in fact, it is safe to say that our yield will steadily increase until our maximum yield is reached some five years from now. I put down this maximum yield at 600,000 lb. per annum, and I think it would be very fair to suggest that the yields will be 120,000 lb. for 1916, 240,000 lb. for 1917, 360,000 lb. for 1918, 480,000 lb. for 1919, and 600,000 lb. for 1920. This is approximately correct, and I shall be curious to see how nearly this estimate is achieved. I have been asked to estimate the "all-in" cost, but this is a great deal more difficult than to estimate the yield, for so many of our charges are percentage charges, which are naturally higher when rubber stands higher in the market, so that I cannot predict "all-in" costs without at the same time fixing the sale price. Moreover, there are at the moment several abnormal charges, such as freight, war risk insurance, and other charges, which are very different to what they were in the piping times of peace. I will therefore confine myself to giving you an estimate of what our rubber should cost f.o.b. Sumatra, gathered from experience on other estates and the special conditions of labour and other factors applying to our particular estate. I put our f.o.b. cost at 1*s.* 2*d.* for 1916, 1*s.* for 1917, 10*d.* for 1918, 9*d.* for 1919, and 8*d.* for 1920—perhaps even slightly less. Rubber prices, however, I must decline to forecast, as we all have different views, and in any event any estimate would be blind guessing. It becomes doubly difficult with the recent enormous rise in the price. I venture, however, to suggest that we might make 1*s.* per lb. profit on the 1,800,000 lb. of rubber which we shall harvest during the next five years. This would mean £90,000 for that period, or an average of £18,000 a year. Worked out on a percentage basis, this is an average of over 14% on our capital. Another way of estimating the value of our estate is on an acreage basis, and in conjunction with my colleagues we have arrived at a figure of £75 per cultivated acre. This would make our property worth about £130,000, which means that our shares are worth slightly over par. We are already making rubber of most excellent quality, so we need have no fear of our goods not being saleable at a fair price. With the labour market, too, I think we are quite safe. We have still to spend something on equipment and factory as our crop increases, but this will not be very much, and hardly makes any impression on the figures I have quoted. You will notice that I have given you figures for calendar years. Unfortunately, our financial year ends on March 31. We are here in good company, as it is the Government's financial year, but it makes many estimates, comparisons, and calculations very difficult, and your Board have decided to alter this and close our books again on December 31, which means that we shall have another meeting in the spring or early summer, and then we shall be in line with other rubber companies. This is all the more desirable, as you will see that we have yielded to the pressure of several of our large shareholders to alter our shares to 2*s.* shares. Why this should make a difference it is difficult to say, but I predict that your shares will be worth considerably more when the change is made. Believe me, they are worth very close to par, and remember also that he who buys now has no income tax to pay on the rise between now and par which must assuredly happen; if not, half the rubber companies in the list would have to decline to under their par denomination.

Commander A. J. Farquharson, R.N., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

NEW SCHIBAIEFF PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED

The second annual general meeting was held, on December 22, at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Turning to the balance sheet on the debtor side, there are no new items and there is little to explain. The entry, "Interest suspense," represents interest owing to us by the Russian Company, S. M. Schibaieff and Company, but not yet paid. On the credit side of the account you will note that preliminary expenses have been written off to the extent of £3,824 1*s.* 10*d.*, and now stand at £11,472 5*s.* 6*d.* I would call your special attention to the item "advances to S. M. Schibaieff and Company, £60,109 8*s.* 4*d.*," and to the fact that this loan to the Russian Company has been reduced from £205,163 5*s.* 5*d.*, at which it stood in the accounts submitted to you last year.

Cash Position.

On the other hand, the cash on loan in Russia, London, and at bank in London now amounts to £196,869 5*s.* 8*d.*, as against £2,664 14*s.* 8*d.* in the previous year's accounts. Thus the cash figure is not only increased by the sum of about £145,000 repaid to us by the Russian Company, but by some £46,000 of profits for the year. I would call your particular attention to the note at the end of the balance sheet referring to the starred item £108,000 on loan in Russia. As will be seen, we have ample funds in London, and therefore do not require to remit this amount, but the auditors very properly call attention to the fact that if this necessity had arisen at the end of the financial year the yield in sterling would have been some £18,000 less than that shown in the balance sheet. To-day, as you are aware, the value of the rouble has still further depreciated, so that the yield on a transfer at the moment would be correspondingly less. Turning to profit and loss account, on the debtor side, directors' fees, salaries, stationery, &c., and 25 of preliminary expenses written off require, I think, no further explanation. On the credit side the first item, interest on Debentures, £11,000 odd, represents the interest on these Debentures of S. M. Schibaieff and Company, which, as you are aware, came into the possession of this Company on the reconstruction. The dividend on shares of S. M. Schibaieff and Company, 390,000 roubles, or £33,913 0*s.* 10*d.*, would, at the normal rate of exchange, have stood to the credit of profit and loss account as £41,000 odd. We have, however, taken it at the "exchange of the day," April 13, at 11.50 roubles to the £, thus reducing the sterling equivalent by over £7,000. On the other hand, you must not forget that, before arriving at this dividend, a large sum was set aside as reserve by the Russian Company for depreciation of its properties in Russia.

Production Well Maintained.

The production from our oilfields has been well maintained during the year under review, but, as we have indicated more than once, we do not desire to depend for our future on these old and, in most cases, diminishing sources of production. We are, therefore, as you are aware, looking in other directions for further supplies of crude oil. The new fields acquired in the Shirvan Steppe, and mentioned in our last year's report, are extremely interesting, but, in consequence of the calling up for military service of many of our best men, we stopped work on our own wells in that district. We have, however, a half interest with the Société Bnito in the other two wells referred to, and on these work has been continued. In the first of these wells oil indications were met with at about 1,800 feet, and it is hoped that payable oil will be obtained at a greater depth. The present depth is, as the report states, about 2,550 feet. In the other well, which has already reached

the depth of 2,700 feet, we are waiting for the arrival of a suitable drilling rig—rotary system—in order to sink to a depth of some 500 or 600 sagenes, in accordance with the advice of our geologists. I would particularly call your attention to the list of oil lands on page 9, most of which are old fields, from which production has been hitherto obtained, but Sea plot No. 32, which has not yet become productive, is one of some interest.

Current Year's Operations.

You may be interested to hear some figures of the working of the present year 1915 since March. Our production for seven months to the end of October was 3,029,620 poods, against 2,890,886 for the same period of 1914. Our profits for five months are quite good, and compare well with last year. We have drilled 74 sagenes, against 155 in 1914, with a shortage of labour. As stated in the notice of the meeting and in the report, we propose paying a dividend for eighteen months on the Cumulative Preference shares, say, up to the date of the accounts, and if the necessary resolution is passed the warrants for this dividend will be issued to-morrow. At the same time we regret we are not in a position to pay anything to the Ordinary shareholders, but we hope they will find some small consolation in the report we put forward to-day and in the considerably improved position which our accounts show as compared with those presented a year ago.

Mr. H. N. Benjamin seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that the dividend on the Preference shares for the period October 14, 1913, to April 13, 1915, at 5% per annum, be paid.

Mr. E. Hume seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS

Allynugger Tea.—Interim dividend of 5%, less tax, on Ordinary.

Assam Dooars Tea.—Interim dividend of 5%, on Ordinary, less tax.

Assam Frontier Tea.—Ad-interim dividend of 4% on Ordinary.

Badulipar Tea.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax, on Ordinary.

Barrait and Co.—Dividend at the rate of 14% per annum (making 12% for the year) on Ordinary.

Batu Caves Rubber.—Interim dividend of 25%, less tax.

Batey and Co.—Dividend of 3% on Ordinary.

[illegible]'s Brewery.—Dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, on Ordinary.

British Eastern Investment Trust.—Interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax.

California Petroleum.—Interim of 1% on Preferred stock.

Canada Landed and National Investment.—Dividend at rate of 9% per annum for quarter.

Clay (Henry) and Bock and Co.—Dividend of 16% on Preference shares, being 8% for 1908 and 8% for 1909.

[illegible].—Interim dividend of 2 per cent., less tax.

Crossley (John) and Sons.—Dividend of 2*s.* per share (less tax) on Ordinary shares.

Davy Brothers.—Interim dividend at rate of 5% per annum, less tax, on Ordinary.

[illegible] Steam Shipping.—Interim dividend of 2[illegible] per £1 share.

Evans (Richard) and Co.—Interim dividend of 4%, tax free.

Fabr and Spottiswoode.—Interim of £1 1[illegible], less tax, on Preference shares for the half-year, making 3½% for the year.

Hollins (Wm.) and Co.—Dividend of 3[illegible] per share, being at the rate of 5% per annum, for quarter.

Hope Tea.—Interim dividend of 10% on Ordinary, less tax.

Imperial Tobacco of Canada.—Interim dividend upon Ordinary of 1[illegible].

Kelly's Directories.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at the rate of 5% per annum.

Lochgelly Iron and Coal.—Interim dividend on Ordinary of 15*s.* per share, less tax.

Makum (Assam) Tea.—Interim dividend of 6*d.* per share, less tax.

Mexican Eagle Oil Co.—Interim dividend of 3% on the Preference share capital in respect of the year ending June 30, 1916; also a final dividend of 4% on the Ordinary share capital in respect of the year ended June 30, 1915.

Mitchells and Butlers.—Interim dividend on Ordinary at rate of 6%.

Mond Nickel Co.—Interim dividend of 2[illegible] per share on Ordinary shares, less tax.

Montgomery Ward and Co.—Quarterly dividend of 1¾% on Preferred stock.

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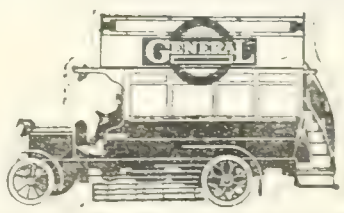
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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SERVICES.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, 1915.

The ordinary Sunday services will run until about 4 p.m. with the following exceptions, which will not work on Christmas Day:

Routes Nos. [illegible] 28A, 29A, 30A, 54, 59A, 77A, 105A, 107A, 107, 118.

The following Routes will work as under:

Route Nos. 33 (Liverpool St. & Richmond), 35 (Elephant & Walthamstow), 37A (Herne Hill & Teddington), 38A (Walthamstow & Victoria), 49 (Shepherds Bush & Streatham Common), 103 (Cubitt Town & Blackwall Tunnel), 106 (Finsbury Park & Clapton Pond), 34 (Liverpool St. & West Norwood), 107 (Clapham Common & Epsom), 152 (Stockwell & Caterham).

After 4 p.m.

The following routes will run their ordinary journeys, except where otherwise shewn:

Routes Nos.: 3 (Brixton Station & Crystal Palace), [illegible] 21A (New Cross & Shooters Hill), 25 (Seven Kings & Barks), 33 (Hammersmith & Richmond), 37 (Richmond & Herne Hill), 41 (Archway Tavern & Muswell Hill), 49A (Streatham Common & Clapham Junction), [illegible].

Boxing Day, Dec. 27th, 1915.

The ordinary week-day services will be in operation.

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Messrs. Kelly's Directories, Limited, are to be congratulated on the promptitude with which, in spite of the general disturbance caused by the War, they have managed to bring out at its due date the 117th edition of the "Post Office London Directory with County Suburbs." There is a slight decrease in the number of the pages of the present volume. Sixty-two new trade headings have been introduced. An examination of the number of streets in the more distant parts of the Metropolitan area shows that no inconsiderable number of small tradesmen have during the past year given up business; though, as the publishers remark, it is curious that there has been no increase whatever in the number of cases of bankruptcy or liquidation in the last two years. Price: One vol. 40*s.*, two vols. 43*s.* 6*d.* The "London Directory," bound separately, can be obtained for 32*s.*

We have received Messrs. F. C. Mathieson's "Highest and Lowest Prices, and Dividends and Crushings" of shares of mining and kindred companies for the past six years, with position of the properties, capital, &c., price 1*s.*; also "Mathieson's Handbook for Investors for 1916," price 2*s.* 6*d.*

"*Dividend Income-tax Tables.*"—For the use of Secretaries, bankers, accountants, &c., price 6*d.* (London: Effingham Wilson.)

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PERRY'S GAZETTE & LIST OF CREDITORS are published Weekly, and are valuable to everyone in business.

Debts recovered and paid over promptly.

The "Stock Exchange Year-Book" for 1916 has been issued this week. Such a well-known and useful work needs little commendation. It condenses into the smallest amount of space a great deal of information relating to the origin, history, and present position of each of the public securities and joint stock companies known to the markets of the United Kingdom. There is very little addition to the number of pages in the present edition; they now total 2,278. Copies can be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Thomas Skinner and Company, 76-81 Gresham House, E.C., price 35*s*.

PELMADULLA RUBBER.—Interim dividend of 10%, less tax, on Ordinary.

PHILADELPHIA COMPANY.—Quarterly dividend of 1½% on Common stock.

PORTSMOUTH UNITED BREWERIES.—Dividend of 10% on Ordinary, making 20 per cent. for the year.

PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES WATERWORKS.—Final payment at the rate of 4% per annum on Ordinary "A" (Extension) shares.

ROBURITE AND AMMONAL.—Interim dividend at rate of 10% per annum.

ROYAL DUTCH.—Interim dividend of 15%.

SANDERSON MICHAEL AND SON.—Dividend of 5%, less tax, on Ordinary for year.

SELANGOR RUBBER.—Third interim dividend of 8*d*. per share, less tax.

TILBURY CONTRACTING AND DREDGING.—Dividend of 3 for year.

WITBANK COLLIERY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the Year ended 31st August, 1915: to be submitted to the Fifteenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Company's Board Room, Cullinan Building, Johannesburg, on Friday, 28th January, 1916, at 12 noon.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Directors beg to submit their Report, together with the Reports of the Consulting Engineer and the Manager, for the year ended 31st August, 1915, and the Financial Statements made up to that date.

PROPERTY.—Your Company's property holdings remain as last reported, viz.:—

Witbank, Freehold	2,428 morgen.
Joubert's Rust, Freehold	1,057 morgen.
Uitspan, Freehold	225 morgen.
Portion of Blesbokkaagte, Mineral Rights ...	506 morgen.
	4,216 morgen.

equal to about 8,920 English acres.

MINING OPERATIONS.—The Reports of the Consulting Engineer and Manager give full details of the past year's operations.

From the attached Statements it will be noticed that the output reached a total of 791,323 tons, being a decrease of 79,782 tons upon that of the preceding year.

FINANCIAL.—The Appropriation Account for the twelve months under review may be summarised as follows:—

Balance brought forward from previous year ...		£76,658 7 6
Profit realised during the year		67,396 4 9
Interest, Rents and Sundry Revenue		1,428 3 4
		£145,482 15 7
Less—		
Audit Fees for previous year	£262 10 0	
Government Tax on Profits for previous year	3,691 7 0	
Income Tax to 30th June, 1914 ...	1,841 15 6	
Capital Expenditure for past year...	1,681 17 1	
Dividends Nos. 20 and 21, declared during the past year	42,000 0 0	
Directors' extra remuneration ...	1,500 0 0	
Tar Contract Settlement	10,000 0 0	
Sundry Items	805 11 10	
		61,784 1 5
Leaving a balance to be carried forward of		£83,698 14 2

The following items of Capital Expenditure have been incurred during the past year:—

Buildings	£742 0 5
Machinery and Plant	2,271 9 0
Reservoirs, Surface Works, &c.	94 18 10
Uitspan Equipment	2,376 16 5
	£5,485 4 8
Less—	
Received by sale of Freehold Stands in Witbank Township	£1,242 0 0
Furniture, Livestock, Vehicles and Harness written off	184 11 .
	1,426 11 2
	£4,058 13 6

DIVIDENDS.—On the 28th February, 1915, your Directors declared an Interim Dividend No. 20 of One Shilling and Sixpence per share (7½ per cent.) for the first half-year, and on the 31st August, 1915, a Dividend No. 21 of Two Shillings and Sixpence per share (12½ per cent.) for the second half-year, making 20 per cent. for the year.

You will be asked to confirm your Board's action in the matter.

WITBANK TOWNSHIP.—It will be observed from the Notice to Shareholders embodied in this Report that a Special General Meeting of Shareholders has been convened to follow immediately after the Annual Meeting on the 28th January, 1916, for the purpose of considering and if thought fit passing a Resolution authorising the extension of the objects of the Company. This Special Meeting has been convened, as your Directors wish to enter into an arrangement with the Company's Township at Witbank for the supply of electric light, which can be done at a small capital cost and a profitable basis, but are advised that there is a doubt as to whether, from a strictly legal point of view, they have the necessary authority under the Company's Articles of Association.

In the event of such Resolution being adopted it will be submitted for confirmation at a subsequent meeting called for the 19th February, 1916.

MANAGEMENT.—Your acknowledgments are due to your Consulting Engineer, Mr. D. Wilkinson; to your Manager, Mr. J. K. Addie; to your Business Manager, Mr. F. A. Gillam, and to the Staff generally, for the zealous and able manner in which they have carried out their duties during the past year.

DIRECTORATE.—In accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, three of your Directors, Messrs. E. A. Wallers, A. G. Gill, and W. H. Dawe, retire from the Board by rotation, but, being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—The retiring Auditors, Mr. J. P. Ablett and Messrs. C. L. Andersson & Co., being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. You will be asked to appoint Auditors for the current year, and to fix the remuneration for the past audit.

We are, Gentlemen, Obediently yours,

W. H. DAWE, Chairman.
J. H. RYAN,
H. A. ROGERS,
E. GOLDMANN,
J. JEPPE,
C. MEINTJES,
P. DREYFUS,
W. H. B. FRANK,
} Directors.

Johannesburg, 5th November, 1915.

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET, 31st August, 1915.

Dr.		
To Capital—210,000 shares of £1 sterling each, fully paid ...		£210,000 0 0
Share Premium Account		10,412 10 0
Funds Transferred from Appropriation Account—		
As per last Account...	£93,886 10 1	
For Capital Expenditure for year ended 31st August, 1915	1,681 17 1	
		95,568 7 2
		£315,980 17 2
Sundry Shareholders—		
Dividend No. 21 declared and unpaid (£26,250) ...		26,369 3 10
Sundry Creditors, &c.		11,786 0 1
Balance—Appropriation Account		83,698 14 2
Contingent Liability on shares, £123 12 0		
No provision has been made for the Government Tax on Profits for the year ended 31st August, 1915, and Income Tax.		
		£437,834 15 3
Cr.		
By Property—Freehold, Mining Rights, &c., as per last Account ...	£126,722 7 4	
Less Stands sold in Freehold	1,242 0 0	
		£125,480 7 4
Buildings		34,837 2 4
Machinery and Plant		129,549 7 5
Railway Sidings and Equipment		9,385 2 0
Shafts and Development		6,185 9 6
Reservoir, Surface Works, &c.		4,834 18 11
Furniture, Live Stock, Vehicles and Harness		1,754 10 2
Investments		3,693 19 6
Uitspan Equipment Account		40,838 9 8
		£356,819 6 10
Stores on hand, &c.		9,232 4 0
Stock of Coal, Tar and Bricks on hand		2,401 5 7
Sundry Debtors, Payments in Advance, &c.		22,489 15 7
Cash		46,892 2 3
		£437,834 15 3

H. G. L. PANCHAUD, Secretary. W. H. DAWE, Chairman.
J. H. RYAN, H. A. ROGERS, Directors.

To the Shareholders, Witbank Colliery, Limited.

We have audited the Balance Sheet of the Witbank Colliery, Limited, dated 31st August, 1915, above set forth. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Company's affairs to the best of our information and the explanations given us and as shown by the books of the Company.

C. L. ANDERSSON and CO.,
Incorporated Accountants (Eng.), Auditors.
J. P. ABLETT, F.C.P.A.

Johannesburg, 2nd November, 1915.

ABRIDGED APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st August, 1915.

Dr.		
To Auditors' Fees for year ended 31st August, 1914		£262 10 0
Government Tax on Profits for year ended 31st August, 1914		3,691 7 0
Income Tax paid on 30th January for period ended 30th June, 1914		1,841 15 6
Capital Expenditure during year ended 31st August, 1915...		1,681 17 1
Dividend No. 20—7½ per cent. ...	£15,750 0 0	
Dividend No. 21—12½ per cent. ...	26,250 0 0	
		42,000 0 0
Directors' Extra Remuneration		1,500 0 0
Township Expenses		81 12 6
Income Tax paid in London		7 2 2
Amount paid for [illegible] Municipality in respect of claim re Tar Contract		10,000 0 0
Amount written off		717 17 2
Balance—To Balance Sheet		83,698 14 2
		£145,482 15 7
Cr.		
By Balance—Appropriation Accounts, 31st August, 1914 ...		£76,658 7 6
Balance, being profit for year ended 31st August, 1915 ...		67,396 4 9
Sundry Revenue		1,428 3 4
		£145,482 15 7

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established in 1817.
Capital Paid up, $16,000,000.
Reserve Fund, $16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, $1,293,952.

H. V. Meredith, Esq., President.

R. B. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenshields, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hosmer, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., William McMaster, Esq.

Head Office: Montreal.

General Manager: Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, LL.D. Assistant General Manager: A. D. Braithwaite, Esq.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States, and at Mexico City.

LONDON OFFICES:

47 Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W.

London Committee: Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., A. Macnider, Esq.

Manager: George Cyril Cassels.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes monetary business with all parts of Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, and issues Sterling and Currency Drafts and Cable Transfers.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Capital Authorised	-	**$25,000,000**
Capital Paid up	-	**$11,560,000**
Reserve Funds	-	**$13,000,000**
Aggregate Assets	-	**$180,000,000**

Head Office—MONTREAL.

Sir HERBERT S. HOLT, *President.* E. L. PEASE, *Vice-President and General Manager.*

340 Branches in Canada and Newfoundland.

28 Branches in Cuba, Porto Rico and Dominican Republic.

BRANCHES IN BRITISH WEST INDIES.

ANTIGUA—St. Johns; BAHAMAS—Nassau; BARBADOS — Bridgetown; DOMINICA — Roseau; GRENADA—St. George's; JAMAICA—Kingston; ST. KITTS—Basseterre; TRINIDAD—Port of Spain; San Fernando.

Branch in British Honduras—BELIZE.

Branches in British Guiana—GEORGETOWN, NEW AMSTERDAM, ROSE HALL.

New York Agency, Corner William & Cedar Streets.

LONDON OFFICE:

2 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.

T. R. WHITLEY, *Manager.*
J. MACKIE, *Joint Manager.*

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

HEAD OFFICE ... ... TORONTO.

Paid-up Capital	...	$15,000,000 (£3 082.192)
Reserve Fund	...	$13,500,000 (£2,773,972)

President: SIR EDMUND WALKER, C.V.O., LL.D., D.C.L.
General Manager: JOHN AIRD.
Assistant General Manager: H. V. F. JONES.

Over 370 Branches throughout CANADA, and in NEWFOUNDLAND, THE UNITED STATES and MEXICO.

LONDON OFFICE: 2 LOMBARD STREET, E. C.

A general Banking Business conducted with ALL POINTS IN NORTH AMERICA.

C. CAMBIE, Manager

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED	... ...	$10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	... ...	$7,000,000
RESERVE FUND	... ...	$7,000,000

Branches in the Provinces of ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SETTLERS and others going out to any of the Provinces named afforded exceptional Banking facilities.

Agents: ENGLAND—LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 17 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Branches.

Agents: SCOTLAND—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, and Branches.

DRAFTS issued upon and remittances cabled to any point in **CANADA** by the Agents of the Bank in England and Scotland, through whom inquiries regarding Canadian securities and business generally can be made and will be promptly attended to.

CANADA.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Established 1836.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1840.

PAID-UP CAPITAL £1,000,000. RESERVE FUND £920,000.
Head Office: 5 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

F. R. S. Balfour.	E. Geoffrey Hoare.
J. H. Brodie.	F. Lubbock.
J. H. Mayne Campbell.	C. W. Tomkinson.
E. A. Hoare.	G. D. Whatman.

Deposits received at rates which may be obtained on application.

Bills of Exchange negotiated. Dividends and Coupons collected. Purchase of Stocks and Shares.

ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE MECHANICS AND METALS NATIONAL BANK

OF THE

CITY OF NEW YORK.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

CAPITAL (FULLY PAID) $6,000,000
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS ... $9,000,000

THIS BANK RECEIVES ACCOUNTS OF BANKS, BANKERS, CORPORATIONS, FIRMS, AND INDIVIDUALS ON FAVOURABLE TERMS, AND GRANTS TO ITS DEPOSITORS EVERY FACILITY CONSISTENT WITH PRUDENT AND CONSERVATIVE BANKING METHODS. CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Finances Exports and Imports, buys and sells Foreign Exchange, Telegraphic Transfers, &c., and makes Collections on all parts of the world.

LONDON BANKERS:
LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK LTD.
LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LTD.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED.

Bankers to the Government in British East Africa and Uganda.

HEAD OFFICE:
26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCHES:

Calcutta	Cochin (S. India)	Newera Eliya	
Bombay	Chittagong	Zanzibar	
Madras	Rangoon	Mombasa	British East Africa
Karachi	Mandalay	Nairobi	
Cawnpore	Aden and	Nakuru	
Lahore	Aden Point	Kisumu	
Amritsar	Colombo	Entebbe	Uganda
Delhi	Kandy	Kampala	
Tuticorin		Jinja	

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	...	£2,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	... ...	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND	... ...	£1,175,000

LONDON BANKERS—Bank of England; National Provincial Bank of England, Limited; National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

The Bank conducts every description of Eastern Banking business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application. Interest payable June 30 and December 31.

Current accounts are opened, and provided they do not fall below £200 interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES.

Established 1817.

LONDON OFFICE: 29 Threadneedle Street, E.C.

Paid-up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,600,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,600,000

The London Office issues Drafts on demand on its Head Office and Branches in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Fiji and Papua, and on its Correspondents in Tasmania. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for fixed periods on terms which may be known on application; and conducts every description of Australasian banking business.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital (25,000 shares of £10 each)	... ...	**£250,000 0 0**
Reserve Fund	... ...	**£680,000 0 0**
Reserved Profits	...	**£24,087 0 0**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all Banking and Exchange Business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents,

The Bank of Adelaide, 11 Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BANCO ESPAÑOL DE LA ISLA DE CUBA.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

HEAD OFFICE - - HAVANA, CUBA.

Capital, Reserve and Profits	**$8,808,891.79**
Assets - -	**$39,077,630.77**

$5 equals approx. £1.

41 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT CUBA.

Special attention paid to the collection of Foreign Drafts.

LONDON AGENTS:
SWISS BANKVEREIN.
KLEINWORT, SONS & Co.
LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE FOURTH STREET NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID	...	$3,000,000
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITY	...	$3,000,000
SURPLUS AND PROFITS	...	$6,880,000

President—E. F. SHANBACKER.
Vice-President—JAMES HAY.
Vice-President—FRANK G. ROGERS.
Cashier—R. J. CLARK.
Assistant Cashier—W. A. BULKLEY.
Assistant Cashier—W. K. HARDT.
Assistant Cashier—C. F. SHAW, Jr.

Bills of Exchange issued and Telegraphic Transfers made to all parts of the world. Letters of Credit issued in Sterling, available throughout the world, in Dollars throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, &c.

Travellers' Checks issued. Collections made everywhere. Act as Agents for Foreign Banks to draw on the United States. Correspondence solicited.

Cable Address—"FOURBANK." London Agents—SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LTD. LLOYDS BANK LTD.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

(Bankers to the Government of India at Basra).

Head Office:

4 CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	... ...	**£1,500,000**
Called up	... ...	**£600,000**
Reserve Fund	... ...	**£55,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders		**£900,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (Chairman).
Sir JACOB E. SASSOON, Bart. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASELL, Esq.
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. J. LEIGH WOOD, Esq., C.M.G.

Branches:

BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, BAGDAD, BASRA.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be had on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years at 4½ per cent. per annum, and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD.

Registered in the Transvaal.

(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa Ltd., and the Natal Bank, Ltd.)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State. Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa.

Head Office—PRETORIA.
New York Agency—6 WALL STREET.

Subscribed and Paid-up Capital	...	£2,788,040
With power to increase to	...	4,000 000
Reserve Fund	... ...	525,000

Branches and Agents in all parts of the Union of South Africa.

Agents in Hamburg, Paris and New York.

The Bank is prepared to grant Drafts, issue Letters of Credit, to make Mail and Telegraphic Remittances, to buy and collect Bills, and to undertake every description of Banking Business in connection with South Africa, the South-West Africa Protectorate, the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York and elsewhere. Purchase and sale of Stocks and Shares effected, Dividends and Annuities collected, Current Accounts opened and Deposits received on terms which may be ascertained on application.

D. CUNNINGHAM, Manager.

London Offices { Circus Place, London Wall, E.C. 117 Cannon Street, E.C.

Ernesto TORNQUIST & Co.

LIMITADA,

BUENOS AIRES.

Established 1830.

Oldest Business Establishment in the River Plate.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID UP AND RESERVES, £2,411,983.

GENERAL FINANCIAL, BANKING AND COMMERCIAL BUSINESS.

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